

Edited by Aditi Nambiar and Kamila Kurbanova

The Husky Herald



New Year, New News!

Cover art by McKenna Davies

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National Human Trafficking Awareness Month: Increasing Awareness on Modern-Day Slavery

Written by: Aditi Nambiar- **Editor-in-Chief**
January 2022



Photo Credit: Unsplash

In 2010, President Barack Obama declared January as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness Month (also commonly known as National Human Trafficking Awareness Month) with the purpose of dedicating time towards raising awareness about human trafficking, providing resources to identify and prevent this criminal offense, while combating domestic and international human trafficking.

Since this declaration, every January, America supports international organizations, law enforcement officials, survivors, survivor advocates, anti-trafficking entities and global citizens in their efforts to raise awareness about modern slavery, and investigate and prosecute human trafficking operations.

So, what exactly is human trafficking? According to The U.S Department of Homeland Security, “Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act.”

The National Human Traffic Hotline shares that the top industries/venues for labor trafficking in 2020 include domestic work, agriculture construction, illicit activities and traveling sales crew. As for sex trafficking, the top industries/venues include pornography, illicit massage/spa businesses, hotels and motels, residence-based commercial sex and online ads.

Beyond posing a serious threat to national and international peace and security,

trafficking robs millions of victims of their human rights, exploiting their dignity, freedom, and lives. Human trafficking is a notoriously booming industry that generates “an estimated \$150 billion per year in profits, about two-thirds of which is commercial sexual exploitation.”

The U.S Embassy shares that an estimated 24.9 million adults and children are subjects of human trafficking around the world, including in the United States. With the pandemic, the situation with human trafficking has only gotten worse with criminal workers taking advantage of victims facing vulnerable situations, such as financial instability and health issues.

Furthermore, a recent study by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) illustrates how measures to curb the spread of the virus have had a devastating impact on victims of human trafficking. With limitations, curfews, lockdowns, and international borders being closed, it’s been extremely difficult for victims to return home as they are forced to remain in trafficking shelters for dangerously extended periods of time.

In order to fight against this heinous crime, over 189 countries have implemented the 3P Anti-trafficking Policy which entails the paradigm of preventing crime, protecting victims, and prosecuting traffickers. Currently, 178 parties are participating in the UN human trafficking action plan/protocol

to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons.

These are just some of the preventative steps that nations and governments have been taking to combat modern slavery. But the truth of the matter is that nations need the support of citizens to be aware and educated on human trafficking in order to form the best solutions to this large-scale issue.

Human trafficking is happening in our communities, from states, to large cities, small towns, and yes, even our own neighborhoods. Victims of human trafficking often blend in with the crowd and can be out and about in public places like bus terminals and airports. To be more conscious and informed about human trafficking, it’s crucial to be aware of the potential signs.

Here are some common and significant indicators of human trafficking/modern slavery, as relayed by international anti-trafficking organization and charity, Hope for Justice:

- Limited freedom of movement and dependency on others
- Fear of police/authorities/law enforcement
- Unwilling or anxious to tell others about their situation
- Signs of physical or psychological abuse/trauma (including but not limited to: bruises scars, and signs of anxiety, fear, confusion, memory loss)
- Poor health, malnutrition, or untreated physical/mental conditions
- Unstable living situation
- Having previously experienced past forms of violence (such as sexual violence, domestic abuse, manipulation, etc.)
- Facing poverty or economic need
- No control over their own property (phone, mail, car, living space, etc.)

Remember, every victim can have a different experience, but it’s important to be on the lookout for someone who may be in danger in any way, shape or form. If you suspect a case of human trafficking, here are a few local WA and national trusted resources to reach out to:

- 1. WA Trafficking Help: watraffickinghelp.org
- 2. National Human Trafficking Hotline:

Phone: 1-888-373-7888
Text: 233733
Website: <https://humantraffickinghotline.org>

- 3. U.S Department of Homeland Security:

Phone: 1-866-347-2423

- 4. Local FBI office (FBI Seattle) to Submit a Tip:

Phone: (206)-622-2904

- 5. For suspected exploitation of a minor, contact The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children:

Phone: 1-800-THE-LOST
Website: www.cybertipline.com

For urgent situations where someone is in immediate danger, call 911.

Through community empowerment and educating each other on this important issue, we as

a society have the responsibility to help all people (especially those in vulnerable situations) to be informed about human trafficking and its dangers. We can only fight for justice through persistent advocacy and active participation through taking preventative measures for safety and security, learning more about modern slavery and reporting suspected cases, so that we can ultimately prevent it from happening altogether.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service: Continuing the Legacy

Written by: Kamila Kurbanova - Assistant Editor
January 2022

January 17th 2022

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Photo Credit: Kamila Kurbanova

This year will mark the 27th anniversary of the national holiday dedicated to the service of Dr. Martin Luther King. On this day we honor this life legacy and take time to reflect on the injustices and disparities that suppressed the American people. On Monday, January 20th, 1986, Congress appointed that every year, on the third Monday of January, the national holiday would be remembered. This day would be dedicated as the National Day of Service or as the official Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service.

While the history and significance of Martin Luther King is well known to most Americans, it is important to revisit the message on this day and Dr. King's work on this day. Martin Luther King was a social advocate that practiced nonviolent resistance in order to combat and diminish the apparent racial oppression against the African American community. The methods that Dr. King practiced, inspired change and acknowledgement of the horrible treatment under the oppressive racial injustice. By the means of marches, peaceful protests and organized sit-ins, Dr. King was able to attain the respect and attention of those in power to hear those suffering that would later on spawn the change.

Martin Luther King was one of the youngest people to win the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, all due to his dedicated efforts for change. It is important for all Americans to continue this dedication to ending inequality and racial injustice. To honor his memory it is important to continue spreading the word of any injustices we face, to organize ourselves and volunteer our time to continue his legacy.

Below are listed some of the ways that individuals can help in understand and combating racial injustice in their own communities:

- 1.) Recognize your own privileges.

The first step of helping those oppressed with fighting for inequality and injustice is through understanding and recognizing our own privileges. By doing so we are able to comprehend and acknowledges all the implications of our privileges.

- 2.) Tackling our biases.

By auditing our surroundings, our lives, and communities we are able to recognize and tackle our biases. It is often difficult to acknowledge and notice our biases from the way we grew up, to the belief patters that were instilled in us. In doing so, we can understand better the subtle implications of our behaviors and our hidden biases.

- 3.) Seek out, validate, and listen to the experiences of individuals of color.

The best way to understand and empathize with individuals who have gone through oppression is to listen to their stories. One of the most important things we are able to do

is to recognize their feelings and experiences and their impacts. By taking a simple action of learning more and listening, we are able to tackle injustice.

- 4.) Calling out racist behaviors and statements.

One of the worst things we are able to do is recognize racist behavior and act indifferent to it. It is important to let others know that racist jokes or statements are not okay. A way that racism perpetuates in our society is through microaggressions, which can often look like racist jokes and remarks.

- 5.) Incorporate intersectionality in advocacy.

While racial injustices is one of the most prominent issues in our society, it is also a link to other forms of oppression. There are many different type of oppression that are interlinked through racial injustice. Becoming aware of those issues and acknowledging their ties is a big step in achieving justice.

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”

– MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Photo Credit: Kamila Kurbanova



Photo Credit: Unsplash
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. speaking at the Civil Rights March at Washington D.C, Aug.28, 1963



Photo Credit: Unsplash
Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in San Fransisco, CA



Photo Credit: Unsplash
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, Independence Avenue Southwest, Washington D.C

UWB Alumnus and Former Husky Herald Writer, Dhruv Verma, Reflects on Past Experiences at UWB

Written by: Dhruv Verma- **UWB Alumnus, Former Husky Herald Contributor**



Photo Credit: Dhruv Verma
I’m Dhruv Verma, a recent graduate (class of 2021) from the University of Washington Bothell. My major was Media and Communication Studies. I wrote for the Husky Herald during my sophomore, junior, and senior year. The topic that I covered was campus events. Some of the articles I wrote for the issue include “Beyond the Ballot with ACT & ASUWB: Student Activism and Civic Engagement” and “Student Engagement on Campus: Activities and Campus Events”.

As a post-grad, I spend my time volunteering at the Overlake Medical Center, writing blogs on Medium, and looking to take up

an immersive UX Design course starting in January of 2022. I haven’t let go of my passion for writing, it is one of those hobbies that I can never give up on. You can find me playing soccer during the end of the week and drinking a warm cup of tea during the winter season.

College can be the most exciting period of your life if you allow it to be that way. For myself, I tried my best to expose myself to many different resources, activities, and experiences. But not everything turned out to be the way I expected it. There were many experiences that I could not participate in because of my lack of awareness. Luckily, I came across organizations that paved the way for an enriching experience such as Clamor - UWB’s Literary & Arts Journal. Contributing to Clamor was an exciting period since I got to review plenty of art work.

My last year and-a-half as an undergraduate went by remote learning during the pandemic, which I did not expect to happen. I thought I’d finish off my last year with major anticipation. However, I tried my best to make the most of it with my fellow peers and professors on zoom and whatnot.

To any current UWB students who may not be utilizing their time well during college and who are feeling like they don’t know what to do, know that this period might only come once, and it is up to you how to approach it. Find something that interests you on campus and go for those experiences.

I’m grateful for participating in other activities like The Husky Herald! I started off as a student reporter for this student-run organization in 2018 (Sophomore year) where I published stories on campus events. This was a very enriching experience because I got to collaborate with my senior editors and meet with exciting club leaders.

The Husky Herald allowed me to hone on my current skills and translate that into other courses. To anyone who wishes to contribute to The Husky Herald, go ahead and follow your instinct. You will not regret any moment of your participation with them.

I have a lot to say for the current members of Husky Herald, but I’ll try my best to fit all of it in this one block. Your current contributions to the newspaper are brilliant. And the brand awareness on social media is very exciting. I’m glad to see the current students’ willingness to be involved in this organization and the interest they are taking to showcase amazing work in the newspaper. Additionally, it is inspiring to see writers publish stories on topics which they might think need more awareness on. Their confidence is truly motivating!

This is my first piece as a UWB alumni and I’m so excited to share it with you. The January 2022 issue of the Husky Herald is going to be just as exciting as the December 2021 issue: “Home for the Holidays-Husky Edition”. I hope everyone enjoys reading it!

The Mariners Make Big Moves Right Before The Lockout

Written by: Liam Schenfeld- **CBLR Student**



Photo Credit: Unsplash

After both a surprising but unfulfilling year for the M’s, they look primed to make their first playoff berth in the better part of twenty years. The Mariners, who boast the best farm system in baseball, have been eyeing this moment for the past three seasons ever since we traded second baseman Robinson Cano and then elite closer Edwin Diaz.

This trade, which at the time looked like a complete tank job was actually the spark the club needed to make that next step. Although it wouldn’t be until now that we all agree that Jerry Dipoto, Mariners President, is turning the tide for baseball in Seattle.

Mariners fans were understandably upset and frustrated that their team failed to make the playoffs for the twentieth season which is the longest drought by a decade in baseball. But it wasn’t long after the season was over that Mariners fans

began to get their hopes up for years to come, after the Mariners announced acquisitions of reigning CY Young Award winner Robbie Ray and first time All Star second baseman Adam Frazier.

Robbie Ray, who comes off an excellent season winning the AL CY Young award, was given a 5 year, 115 million dollar contract by the M's. Last season Ray had 13 wins with a 2.84 ERA. This gives the Mariners a definite ace in the rotation, something they were missing last year with the absence of James Paxton. Now, instead of going to our young prospects in lose or go home scenarios, we have an experienced arm to take over instead.

The Mariners also picked up Adam Frazier, a consistent hitting second baseman from the Padres in exchange for two minor league players. The Mariners infield situation is currently up in the air right now as third baseman Kyle Seager doesn't seem to be returning, so a switch to third base isn't out of the question right now with Frazier. Overall, as the worst batting team in terms of average in 2021, the Mariners undoubtedly get better by picking up an above average bat while giving up next to nothing.

Things are looking bright for a young Mariners squad who have tons of upside. These

recent moves by Jerry Dipoto seem like just the start of what seems like a fun off season for Mariners fans. Big names like Kris Bryant and Trevor Story are still without a home and the Mariners have plenty of money to go after one of them.

Sadly for baseball as a whole, things are currently shut down as contract negotiations between the MLB and the players union have dried up and a work stoppage has occurred. For now we will likely have to wait until next year until progress can be made. The Mariners must wait before they can continue to build next year's squad but nothing changes, they continue to get better every day.

Power and Knowledge Analysis of Voting Rights and Voter Suppression

Written by: Jason Mattis- **CBLR Student**

In the discourse analysis of voting rights being suppressed, we can view the varying power structures through the modern institutional apparatus of the GOP and its techniques in the contemporary episteme. The basis for voter suppression has been the white male hegemony of political supremacy, which has had a historical context based on the exclusion of voting representation throughout American history.

One instance of discourse through power and knowledge that can be viewed is in the Republican National Committee, as well as other conservative groups, who have helped Republicans "gerrymander and make sure the same people were redrawing the maps in many states so they could do it as effectively as possible," per Ari Berman, senior reporter at Mother Jones.

There has also been a large, concerted effort to implement a variety of legislative measures of voter suppression by Conservatives, as there have been 389 voter restriction bills proposed in a total 48 states in 2021. What's more, 17 states have enacted 28 new laws to restrict voting, per the Brennan Center for Justice.

By looking at the strategies, laws, and discourses, we can deduce the constructionist approach of how institutions and power have shaped the context of voting suppression through exclusion. As Ari Berman stated in an interview at Jacobin magazine, the Republican Party came at a crossroads after Obama's election in 2008 with the influx of 5 million voters, including "2 million [who] were African American, 2 million [who] were Latino, and 600,000 [who] were Asian American."

They opted to use legislation in Texas, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania to implement voter ID laws through a collective effort at the state level with the intention of suppress-



Photo Credit: Unsplash

ing voters starting in 2010, one group example being the American Exchange Council (ALEC). In 2013 the Supreme Court also gutted the Voting Rights Act, stating that "states didn't have to approve their voting changes with the federal government," per Berman.

The GOP enacted policies on state levels to instill its hegemony amongst anyone who is a threat the party's positions, which includes voting prevention measures through the exclusion of the undocumented and the displacement of the working class. Tom McCarthy, from the Guardian, states how there has been a precedent of restrictions and unethical endeavors enacted recently as of 2021, including "requiring notaries to sign absentee ballots, denying water to voters waiting in line, and excluding [them] from early voting."

Voting by mail, for example, has been barred in Georgia by the Republican governor. Arizona Republicans have also introduced restrictions to mail-in-voting, removing 100,000 people from early voting access, making it a "potential felony to forward a ballot to a relative" (McCarthy, the guardian).

While Republicans have made it a priority to undermine democratic efforts, such as making it more difficult to vote by mail and

suppressing traditionally non-Republican constituencies, the ideology of white supremacy is the pivotal factor of voter suppression that goes beyond the Republican Party of the last 40 years.

From the Post-reconstruction period throughout most of the 20th century, both the Democratic (e.g. the old Dixiecratic south) and Republican party has had a history with voter suppression. A campaign of white supremacists used methods such as "poll taxes, literacy tests, and grandfather clauses" to control the South until the Voting Rights Act in 1965 (Berman, Jacobin).

The constitution has also been written as a means to exclude the representation of minorities as it does not include the participation of everyone's vote and partake in self-government, going against the notion of a true democracy.

It is through this historical context of issues, such as Jim Crow voting laws, the modern apparatus of the GOP, the constitution, and the decisions of institutions that we can see discourse, representation, knowledge, and what is deemed as 'truth' in discursive practices.

It's Time to End "Major Shaming" on Campus

Written by: Joe Lollo - **Student Contributor**

How many of you have ever witnessed a conversation like this:

"What are you going to do with that degree?"

"You're so lucky to be in such an easy major."

"Honestly, if it's not STEM — it's a waste of money."

These comments are just a few examples of major-shaming I have had directed at

me. In case you were unaware, major-shaming is the act of making a college student feel embarrassed by insulting their field of study, their "major," if you will.

Many students in the School of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences (IAS) have heard many similar comments to the ones above, surrounding their choice of major.

At UWB, this is becoming a real problem, and this does not only strip students of their voices and self-esteem, but it also discredits the amount of effort and work that it takes to succeed in that field. Major-sham-

ing is wrong, and has no place on a college campus, on a Facebook groups, or anywhere else. Though many different majors pursue degrees related to social sciences and humanities are disproportionately targeted. As a dual major in Culture, Literature & the Arts and Media & Communication Studies in IAS, I was surprised by the sheer number of students in my field who were able to share stories of friends, family members, co-workers and even fellow students shaming them for their chosen major.

I have even heard many things sur-

rounding my own choice of major. This is a shame, because all academic disciplines are beautifully broad, and you should be given many options and opportunities to explore while in college.

The beliefs that come with major-shaming’s defenders are baseless: while not all students may be solving equations, conducting experiments, or writing code, they may spend time thinking about big things (the biggest things— life, love, etc.) and then finding a way to articulate them.

In the humanities, we deal more often with abstract concepts than with anything concrete, and are being forced to be creative on demand. Creativity isn’t easy, even for creative people, and the constant demand to be creative and to then be graded

on your creativity can be draining as – we’re all students, so being drained is a given when you’re just overwhelmed with assignments.

The reduction of a college student’s background, interests, and decisions to a simple “good” or “bad” binary based on their choice of major is unfortunate, because there is room for all fields of study to co-exist — one is not just “better” than the other. College should be a space where students can learn and build upon their strengths — not fear of the criticism that they’ll face for pursuing their true passions.

Major-shaming is a major problem for many colleges and universities. While it will be very hard to end, students must put an end to it before it ruins the diversity and open atmosphere that has always

made college so appealing. Major-shaming can ruin students’ growth, and can lead to many students feeling burnt out, stuck in pathways they are simply not passionate about, or afraid of embracing their passions and taking advocacy for their learning.

The reduction of a college student’s background, interests, and decisions to a simple “good” or “bad” binary based on their choice of major is unfortunate, because there is room for all fields of study to co-exist — one is not just “better” than the other. College should be a space where students can learn and build upon their strengths — not fear of the criticism that they’ll face for pursuing their true passions.

Student Photography

Photography by: Kiele Gardiner- **CBLR Student**



Beautiful Rainbows on Campus

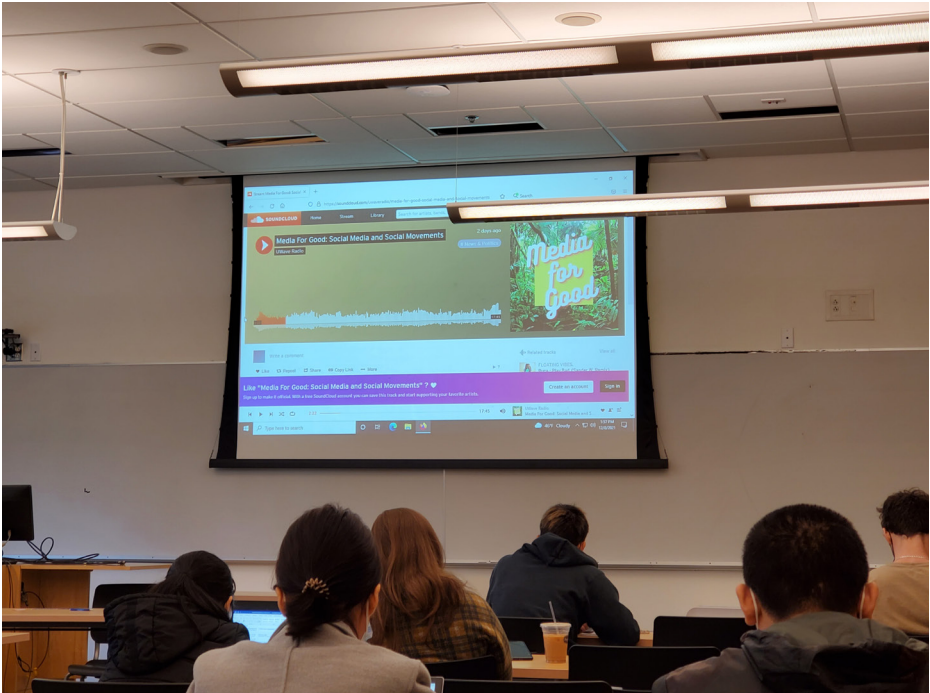


Construction at UWB



Apple Cup 2021

Photography by: Youzhi Feng- **CBLR Student**



Huskies in Action

Photography by: Cyan Fuehr- **CBLR Student**



Decorated W Sign



Inside UWave Radio Station

Cynthia’s Declassified Mental Health Survival Guide

Written by: Cynthia Malta - **CLBR Contributor**



Photo Credit: Unsplash

After completing fall quarter, I feel it’s important to reflect on the beginning of it. I remember the first day vividly, and it’s crazy to think of how much has changed. I was in my second class of the day, and the room was packed with students. It’s a core class, so I wasn’t surprised by this, but it did make me extremely nervous.

As I sat there quietly freaking out inside and wanting to leave, a classmate I later became friends with started asking me about myself and slowly took my mind off of my growing anxiety. I told him how I was feeling, and he echoed my concerns.

So how do college students feel about going back to in person classes, and how has

the pandemic affected their mental health and society comfort? What ways can you boost your mental health in these times? During quarantine, and the entirety of this pandemic, I was feeling like a soggy, barely battered onion ring, and I know many of you had similar feelings, and those feelings have stretched to college students everywhere.

According to an article written by The Washington Post, “College students nationwide are more stressed — with the coronavirus pandemic adding loneliness, worry about illness, economic distress, relentless uncertainty and churn to a time of life that is already challenging for many.

Demand for mental health services had

already been high, but a recent study of college students found increased levels of anxiety and isolation during the pandemic.” The article even went on to say that 25% of 18-24 year olds surveyed in June 2020 had begun to really consider suicide. I know I don’t even need to say how sad that is, and how important it is to try and preserve a life!

So, to combat these feelings of hopelessness, sadness, and boredom, I went looking for ways to make life feel normal again and get my brain some proper serotonin. I started looking around for ideas since it felt like my life was falling apart after breakdown number 7 and I think it would be a nice idea to share what I found. Some of these things may appear obvious, but it’s easy for us to forget how to act in difficult times like these.

Tip #1: Create a routine for yourself. Try to make a habit out of getting up, getting out of pajamas, making your bed, cleaning up a bit, or even making small to-do lists for yourself. I am someone who wouldn’t be able to survive without to-do lists, as they keep me centered and focused. It also feels so good to check things off the list, even if they’re small things!

Tip #2: For staving off bad vibes, break up your day by keeping yourself stimulated. Try not to stay in one room the entire day watching

TV so negative thoughts don't seep in. When I feel tired of the room I'm in, I like to go upstairs and sit in a spot I never sit in, such as the couch where the most daylight seeps in. It makes me feel like a happy, little sunflower, soaking up the sun (when it's there- damn you winter).

Tip #3: It's important to try to eat better and exercise a bit. I know it's way easier to just eat those comfort foods and lay around, but I found that when it came to my daily workout, I would feel so full of dopamine and good feelings for hours after my workout. It's harder to feel depressed when you realize that you abso-

lutely KILLED that workout, am I right? It also helped my eating issues by making me hungrier and forcing me to eat, which some of you may deal with too. My love of smoothies only grew larger, as well.

I know I probably don't need to give you the tip of reaching out and checking on your friends.

Right now it might be hard for you to even talk to people that you love, and I found it was hard for me, too. But try to check on them when you can, and don't feel guilty if you aren't in the mental zone to keep up conversations with ev-

eryone. Your friends will still be there for you when the bad feelings and anxieties pass!

And last but not least, do fun things to fight off your boredom and try to focus on positives in your life. Play that video game you love, do puzzles, make time for your hobbies, read books, watch funny videos, tell your loved ones that you care for them. There's always something to look forward to, and there's always another day to try again. Share these tips with people you think would enjoy them, and good luck to everyone!

Eternals Breaks the Marvel Formula, But Is It Really For the Better?

Written by: Joe Lollo- **Student Reporter**



Photo Credit: IMDb

After over a year of movie delays, Marvel is back on schedule. Only a few short months after the last theatrical installment (Shang-Chi, in September), the Marvel Cinematic Universe continues with Eternals. Based on the characters in the Marvel comics of the same name written by Jack Kirby and directed by Academy Award-winning filmmaker Chloé Zhao, Eternals follows a group of super-powered beings who have been on Earth for centuries.

Eternals has an ensemble cast of heroes, each with their own unique ability. There's Ajak (Salma Hayek), the leader of the Eternals, who has the ability to heal. Sersi (Gemma Chan) an Eternal who can manipulate and change matter, is in love with humanity. Ikaris (Richard Madden) has the ability to shoot lasers out of his eyes and fly.

Thena (Angelina Jolie) is a warrior Eternal who can create any weapon out of thin air. Kingo (Kumail Nanjiani) can project energy projectiles from his hands and becomes a Bollywood star on Earth. Sprite (Lia McHugh) is

an Eternal who can create lifelike illusions, and she has the physical appearance of a child. Phastos (Brian Tyree Henry) is the inventor of the group, and the first gay superhero in an MCU film.

Makkari (Lauren Ridloff) is the first deaf superhero in the MCU and has super speed. Druig (Barry Keoghan) is an Eternal who can control others' minds. And finally, Gilgamesh (Don Lee), the strongest Eternal, has a deep connection with Thena. After centuries apart, this team is forced to reunite to defeat an ancient threat that has reawakened.

Eternals takes full advantage of the time that its characters have been around for, delivering a journey that spans centuries and continents. Zhao delivers some spectacular landscape shots and does an incredible job showcasing each of the Eternals' unique powers.

The Eternals themselves have an elegant beauty in their costumes and weapons. Each weapon and illusion is shimmering gold and gives an aura of ancient magic. Each character

has a unique color for their outfit, all in rich jewel tones. Their costumes identify them as a team, while still defining each character as their own hero.

The theme of humanity shines strongly throughout the story, as the Eternals are present for all the ups and downs humans have experienced since the dawn of time. Despite seeming to be above humanity, the Eternals have their own flaws that make them deeply relatable despite their long lifespan and larger-than-life presence.

Even with the ensemble cast of characters, several actors give standout performances. Gemma Chan dominates as Sersi, captivating the audience by showcasing elements of the character's quiet strength and compassion. Chan brings a sensitive side to the role that female superheroes hardly ever get the chance to show. Kumail Nanjiani also stands out as Kingo, showcasing a lot of emotional complexity with regards to following your dreams and being with a new culture – this is rare in superhero movies.

A fan of Marvel and the cinematic universe they've been building for over ten years, like myself, will appreciate the work that Eternals is doing to set up the next stage in the epic saga. Many characters and locations are introduced that are sure to be important in a later Marvel film.

However, new and old fans alike are likely to get lost in the expanse of lore crammed into a two hour and thirty-seven minute runtime. Marvel fans who don't want to miss a second of the story should absolutely add Eternals to their watch list. Casual viewers may just want to skim a plot summary on the way to the theater of whatever the next big crossover film is. Either way, don't be surprised when "Eternals movie explained" ends up a Google suggested search.

One Meme Later, Kim Petras Releases Her New Single “Coconuts”

Written by: Joe Lollo- **Student Reporter**

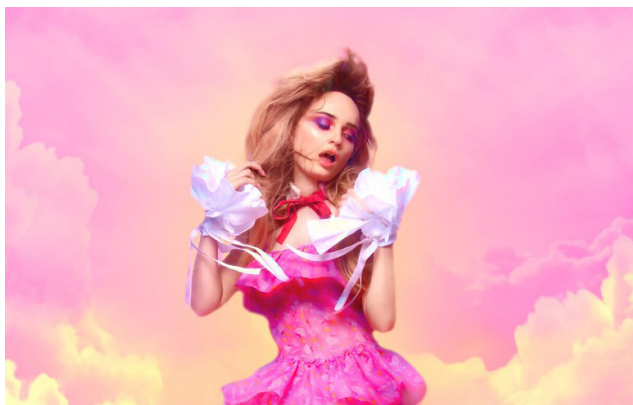


Photo Credit: Shutterstock

After becoming a meme at the MTV European Music Awards, and gaining worldwide notoriety through her TikTok posts, German singer Kim Petras has finally dropped her long-awaited, long-teased song “Coconuts.” And as expected, it's a very ripe take on the mainstream pop genre she has spent a few years deconstructing.

Petras has already been teasing this song for a few weeks, posting references to it on social media and previews of the chorus on TikTok and Instagram. But despite announcing a release date in January 2022, demands for a full release over social media have been gaining traction, and because of this, she has released it over a month early.

On its surface, “Coconuts” is a breezy ode to Petras' “coconuts” (breasts) over tropical house beats that are not unlike those in Ed Sheeran's “Shape of You,” making it a seemingly better fit for summer than the upcoming onset of winter. What makes this song different, however, is Petras' status as a bisexual trans woman, singing freely about both her body and her sexuality, which you almost never hear in music from any genre or era.

Trans folk, much like queer musicians, have had a hard time finding their footing in the contemporary music space, and Petras is certainly changing the mainstream through

songs like this. Songs like this may seem innocuous for casual music listeners, but the implications definitely run much deeper – she is offering visibility for transgender people looking to enter the popular music industry, which can help other aspiring trans singers and musicians find someone like them.

This is a huge step forward for the music industry, with lesser-known artists like Shea Diamond and Against Me! (a punk rock band led by trans singer Laura Jane Grace) also finding visibility through recent releases, and Petras's new stardom should not be unaccompanied from other trans and non-binary musicians.

It's hard to not enjoy her music or become a fan, as she's pumping out many genuine bops while also achieving her dreams as a transgender pop star. Both “Coconuts” and Petras's previous recent release “Future Starts Now” will be released on her upcoming (and presently unnamed) album, which is set for a 2022 release.

Game Review: The “Emily Is Away” Trilogy Turns Talking to Your Crush Into an Anxiety-Inducing Experience

Written by: Joe Lollo- **Student Reporter**



Photo Credit: Shutterstock

Last summer, I completed the Emily Is Away trilogy, a series of text-based indie games about social media. Each one ripped out my heart. I played all three games in a row, which meant I got my heart broken by Emily via AIM in the first game, got another heart-stomping from Evelyn on AIM in the next game, and then got dumped yet again by Evelyn on 2008 Facebook in the final game.

The three games are set inside of early-'00s social media. Emily Is Away (2015) and Emily Is Away Too (2017) are both text adventures set in a series of AIM chat logs, with the third game set in the early days of Facebook.

You're playing as a classmate of Emily and Evelyn, and your interactions with both girls feel intimate and direct. You can fill in your own screen name and select some details for your profile. You pick through dialogue trees to define your character and their choices in life and romance. Your gender is not speculated in any of the three games, although you are presumed to be attracted to girls. In the third game, you can choose among both feminine and masculine profile photos, each rendered in an abstract silhouette.

For those of us who experienced childhood internet from the old Windows interface, the trilogy will trigger micro-flashbacks and sense memories. The AIM sound effects are placed perfectly, and the clever imitation of Facebook's interface and notifications works really well. Era-appropriate song lyrics are on your friends' profiles, as are a selection of cringeworthy lyrics to add to your own – I'm talking about Yellowcard, Papa Roach, Evanescence, Alien Ant Farm, and many other of “those” kinds of bands.

In the same way I like going on the Wayback Machine and looking at websites and memes from the mid-2000s as if I was using computers from that time, I loved navigating

through little details on characters' profiles in the game. These were what made them seem real: their AIM surveys and their links to curated YouTube playlists reflecting each fictional teen's tastes in music and movies.

With each passing game, the series' dialogue also feels more natural – Emily as a character felt hollow in the first game, but by the time I finished Emily Is Away 3 (2021), both Emily and Evelyn seemed like real teenage girls with real teenage girl problems.

In fact, the realness is eerie. In Emily Is Away 3, the tense social media fights I had with Emily, Evelyn, and the other new characters raised my heart rate just like real-life fights I've had on social media with friends, crushes, and partners. After completing the trilogy, I genuinely felt as though I'd gotten dumped three times in a row. Since I used my real name and attempted to play “as myself” to the extent that it was possible, the rejections did not feel that different from getting dumped by a real person via the internet. But while the rejections felt familiar, even real, they did not feel personal.

The third game introduces more nuance and depth to the characters and dialogue compared to the prior two games, but this increased realism made one particular failing stick out all the more: I kept talking like a straight guy in these games. And that's how other characters kept perceiving me. Except I'm a queer and non-binary person, and I used to be a queer, gender-confused teenager, and that's the person I wanted to be when playing this game.

The games do indeed leave many interactions open to interpretation, and at times that's the games' strength, allowing any player to see a little of themselves within the protagonist. But even as I became more invested with each entry, I kept fantasizing

about an alternate version of the protagonist who's more clearly defined. The drama in my high school friends group about “who was dating who” got way more stressful once some of us came out of the closet (and sometimes headed back in again, depending on our insecurity levels that day).

In Emily Is Away 3, Evelyn had never dated prior to dating me (as far as the game tells me), and she broke up with me to date a guy (okay, so Evelyn told me she wasn't leaving me for Steve, but c'mon, it was so obvious). Nobody in the game comments on this. Trust me, it would've made a lot more sense if these 2008-era characters had commented on Evelyn's relationship history, especially if I'm supposed to be Evelyn's first-ever partner. I don't know what teens were like in 2008, but they must have been somewhat similar to me.

What fascinated me more, while also breaking my immersion, was the way that my player character talked to these girls in the game, as well as how they perceived me. The ways that a teen girl might come off as creepy or annoying tend to differ from the ways that a teen boy would. Not always, of course – but there is a wealth of academic scholarship about how different people are socialized to communicate in different ways, depending on how other people perceive them.

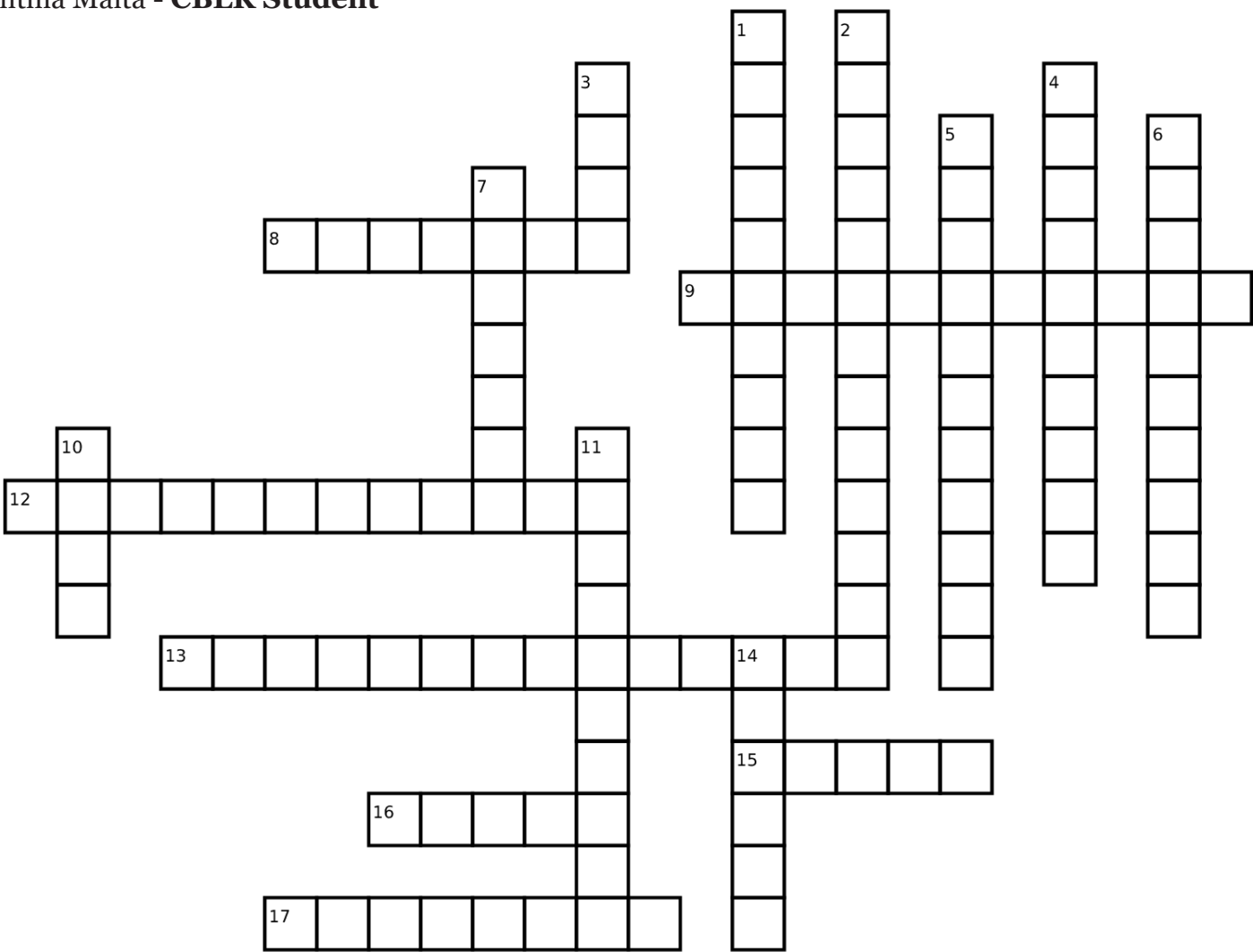
In the first two Emily Is Away games, I'd often find myself with a string of dialogue options that didn't sound like anything I'd ever say in my life. In the third game, that still happened, but less often. It might sound here like I think that the series needed to include even more dialogue to allow for the life experiences of someone like me. And while I do think that the ups and downs of a teen queer social circle would make for a devastating game, that isn't something I think Emily Is Away should necessarily attempt to do.

The strength of these games is that the protagonist is a defined character, a person who gains more definition with each successive game. Entering in my own personal information and attempting to play as myself, rather than coming along for the ride as a character who isn't that much like me, resulted in me enjoying these three games more than I would have otherwise.

The Emily Is Away series doesn't tell social media stories that everyone will be able to relate to. These games tell a specific story about characters who feel real and make tough decisions that are understandable, including the player character. I just wish I hadn't spent my time with them imagining what a teenage version of myself would do.

Crossword Puzzle: Reasons for Why Life is Nice

Created by: Cynthia Malta - CBLR Student



- DOWN:**

 - 1. The feeling of unity and agreement among people
 - 2. Warm spiced dessert that is covered in cream cheese frosting or glaze
 - 3. A way to show affection with loved ones (opposite of kisses)
 - 4. The relationship that you have with people outside of family
 - 5. After hanging out with family and friends, you could say you had this
 - 6. Examples of this would be Fallout or Halo
 - 7. Delicious creamy drink most notably
- taken with with tapioca pearls
 - 10. The Beatles once said that this was all you needed
 - 11. Considered the most beautiful word because of its phonaesthetics
 - 14. Bulb flower that symbolizes purity and fertility

ACROSS:

 - 8. Babies with wet lil’ noses that bark
 - 9. You cover your self with this to keep warm when you sleep
 - 12. Warm beverage that can be enjoyed with marshmallows (popular in the holiday
- season)
 - 13. The company Yankee sells these
 - 15. Fabric made from flax plant fibers
 - 16. Instrument with keys that plays calm-ing music
 - 17. Article of clothing worn when it’s cold and used to describe the season, “_____ weather”

Fun Riddles!

Created by: Kenesha Mistry - CBLR Student

How many of these can you solve?

Number 1:
What has a face and two hands, but no arms or legs?

Number 4:
What has many hearts but no other organs?

Number 3:
What starts with a T, ends with a T and is full of T?

Number 2:
What do Alexander The Great and Winnie The Pooh have in common?

Number 5:
I am a ball that does not bounce. What am I?

Sudoku

	2	9		5	3		7	
			9	6		5	1	
		5	7				9	
1	4			7	8	9		6
2		8	5	1			3	7
	3				7	2		
	6	2		4	1			
	8		6	2		3	4	

Sudoku puzzles are provided by www.sudokuoftheday.com

How to Play SUDOKU!

Each row, column and square (9 spaces each) needs to be filled out with the numbers 1-9, without repeating any numbers within the row, column or square.

1	4	3	5	2	9	7	8	6
6	8	7	1	4	3	2	9	5
5	9	2	7	6	8	1	3	4
7	3	4	6	1	5	8	6	2
8	2	1	9	3	4	6	5	7
6	5	9	8	7	2	3	4	1
2	6	9	4	8	7	5	1	3
3	1	5	2	9	6	4	7	8
4	7	8	3	5	1	6	2	9

Word Search

Created by: Aditi Nambiar- **Editor-in-Chief**

New Year

N	N	T	D	T	C	T	T	T	W	L	S	F	H
O	N	Y	R	S	A	S	T	L	M	A	U	O	R
I	E	R	E	A	R	T	T	K	J	A	S	W	B
T	W	R	A	Y	T	A	C	O	F	S	R	I	L
U	Y	E	M	F	E	S	N	M	L	E	R	S	E
L	E	F	B	I	N	S	H	A	T	U	I	H	S
O	A	L	I	R	N	A	O	S	T	K	E	E	E
S	R	E	G	E	A	G	M	H	E	R	S	S	I
E	S	C	I	W	T	S	S	L	S	R	E	T	R
R	R	T	R	O	A	R	H	A	S	E	F	R	O
R	E	I	E	R	R	Y	R	A	U	N	A	J	M
A	I	O	U	K	U	E	A	E	S	R	D	T	E
T	L	N	F	S	S	E	S	B	A	E	E	K	M
C	E	L	E	B	R	A	T	I	O	N	I	E	U

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/3204747/>

FIREWORKS
MEMORIES
FRESH START
JANUARY
GOALS
RESOLUTION
WISHES
NEW YEAR
DREAM BIG
CELEBRATION
REFLECTION

Home of The Huskies

N	E	S	H	U	S	K	Y	H	E	R	A	L	D
E	H	U	S	K	I	E	S	L	V	I	E	P	N
W	T	I	S	U	N	I	V	E	R	S	I	T	Y
I	S	M	D	L	L	L	P	P	H	I	O	W	M
N	W	T	A	R	W	H	U	P	H	L	C	A	R
T	C	L	W	T	Y	T	R	T	A	L	U	S	E
E	O	N	G	S	T	I	P	W	U	E	M	H	U
R	M	P	S	L	T	P	L	S	G	H	I	I	E
H	M	P	I	K	N	U	E	B	E	T	P	N	R
S	U	A	S	W	R	U	D	P	D	O	H	G	R
N	N	O	D	L	G	E	H	E	I	B	U	T	N
L	I	H	M	E	O	N	S	K	N	Y	S	O	E
T	T	D	W	D	L	T	H	H	D	T	T	N	E
N	Y	S	N	H	D	N	U	O	S	E	S	H	H

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/3204368/>

GOLD
STUDENTS
PNW
UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON
DAWGS
PURPLE
HUSKY HERALD
WINTER
BOTHELL
HUSKIES
COMMUNITY

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