

THE LEDGER

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA

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- First and last name
- "Dear Editor," as the opening of your piece
- Word count between 150 - 300 words
- Respond to one of our articles or happenings on campus

Huskies in the hallway:

COMPILED AND PHOTOS BY ANDREW BROWN

How do you keep social media positive?



Sydney Horen
Junior
Psychology

“I try to stay away from following pages that promote negative topics and put out only positive vibes through my posts!”



Vincent Da
Junior
Healthcare Leadership

“Be authentic with yourself and follow others who are positive.”



Chris McBride
Senior
Electrical Engineering

“The best way to keep social media ‘positive’ individually is to pause before responding to something you find inflammatory or charged. Pausing can bring down or remove sudden emotions or knee jerk reactions. Over time the transient response will fade and steady state takes over.”



Kristen Orth
Graduate Student
Master of Library and Information Sciences

“I’m careful to curate my social media to people I know and/or like. Or at the very least people with cute pets.”



Emily Swanson
Faculty
Teaching and Learning Center Tutor

“I never post anything on social media that I wouldn’t be comfortable with my mom or a future employer seeing.”

The Ledger

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When weather gridlocks the Puget Sound

A look into what it takes to close the UWT campus due to snow, and how the decision is made.

By MITCHELL FERMO
News Editor

While the snow has yet to cancel classes this year for the UW Tacoma campus, in February of 2019 the campus was closed for at least five days due to inclement weather. But who decides whether the weather will close down the campus, or if operations will continue as planned? These are the “who,” the “how” and the “when” of campus delays and closures due to inclement weather.

Campus cancellations happen on a campus-by-campus basis. UW Bothell can be closed down due to snow, while UW Seattle will only have a delayed start and UWT will proceed with business as usual, as was the case for this year’s snowstorm already. For UWT, the decision-making process starts well before the snow starts falling.

“In this last round of things, north of here, they knew there was going to be substantial snow, but they didn’t know exactly where it would be,” said John Burkhardt, director of Communications. “Was it going to come into Tacoma? Was it going to be east

of Tacoma? Was it going to be in Seattle? Was it going to be north of Seattle? ... In this last round of weather, we were aware there was a top possibility of greater snowfall than we’d end up having here in Tacoma.”

Administrators keep an eye on whether or not there is a winter or wind weather advisory placed on Tacoma by the National Weather Service. If there is, — or more than two inches of snow falls — the director of Campus Safety and Security has the on-duty lead provide ground reports of the campus. The on-duty lead provides information such as if there is ice on campus, if the roads around the campus are clear or if there are any power outages in nearby buildings. If the lead notes anything which might be a problem, the issue then goes to the chancellor and his administrators to come to a decision.

“The night before the expected weather situation, Susan [Wagshul-Golden], who is the primary convener, will send us an alert,” said Vice-Chancellor of Student Affairs Mentha Hynes-Wilson. “We then, as that time approaches ... all jump on the phone. We being myself, Chancellor Pagano,

Jill Purdy, Susan, facilities — which Stanley [Joshua] was representing — and ... John Burkhardt ... [Pagano] asked lots of questions, because ultimately the decision is going to rest with him.”

The chancellor takes into consideration a couple of things, such as the time of day and how many students and faculty will be impacted by the closure. If this is happening overnight, then a decision will have to be made by 5:30 a.m. the following morning for the newsletter to come out at 6 a.m., as well as online on the website, over UWT’s social media, the emergency blog and through UW Alert, which provides alerts on all major events which impact campus operations.

“We encourage everyone to sign up for UW Alert,” Burkhardt said. “UW Alert automatically automatically goes to all faculty, staff and student email address ... but in order to receive text messages, you have to sign up ... We do encourage everyone to sign up if they have a cell phone to receive those [alerts].

In addition to monitoring the National Weather Service, UWT administrators also look at localized reports,



PHOTO BY NATALIE PEYTON

Things like road conditions around campus and public school closings influence whether UWT administrators will also close the campus.

such as public school closures in Tacoma and the Washington State Department of Transportation’s live traffic cameras.

Even when campus does not close due to weather, administrators have made it a point that no one should be putting themselves at risk to get to campus.

“Safety is always at the heart of it all,” Hynes-Wilson said. “No student, no member of our community should ever

feel like they have to risk their well-being to get here for class during inclement weather. Please be in touch with faculty members, and faculty members can work towards an alternative.”

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To receive UW Alert text messages, you can find out how to sign up on the UWT Campus Safety and Security page at www.tacoma.uw.edu/updates.
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Huskies on the Hill: A day to lobby for student interests

Join Huskies from every campus down in Olympia on Jan. 31.

By ANDREA NADAL
News Reporter

Huskies on the Hill is a yearly event hosted by the Associated Students of the University of Washington, which gathers students from all three UW campuses to lobby legislators around not only general issues, but specific bills that affect UW students. This year it will take place on Jan. 31. The event is free, transportation will be provided for those that need it, and lunch is also provided. The bus will be leaving the UW Seattle campus at 7:00 a.m., picking up UW Tacoma students at 8:00 a.m. and arriving back into Seattle at around 6 p.m. Students who signed up for the event by Jan. 24 should be sure to attend one of the two scheduled lobby trainings on either Jan. 27 or Jan. 28, as these are mandatory to participate in lobbying.

Shelton Wright, the director of legislative affairs for ASUWT, discussed why the event is important for students to participate in.

“I just think that it’s a great opportunity,” Wright said. “I know a lot of students on campus are passionate about our local issues, so being able to actually make change on a state-wide level — I think that doesn’t really come around too often. And legislators are really moved when a large number of their constituents show up, especially

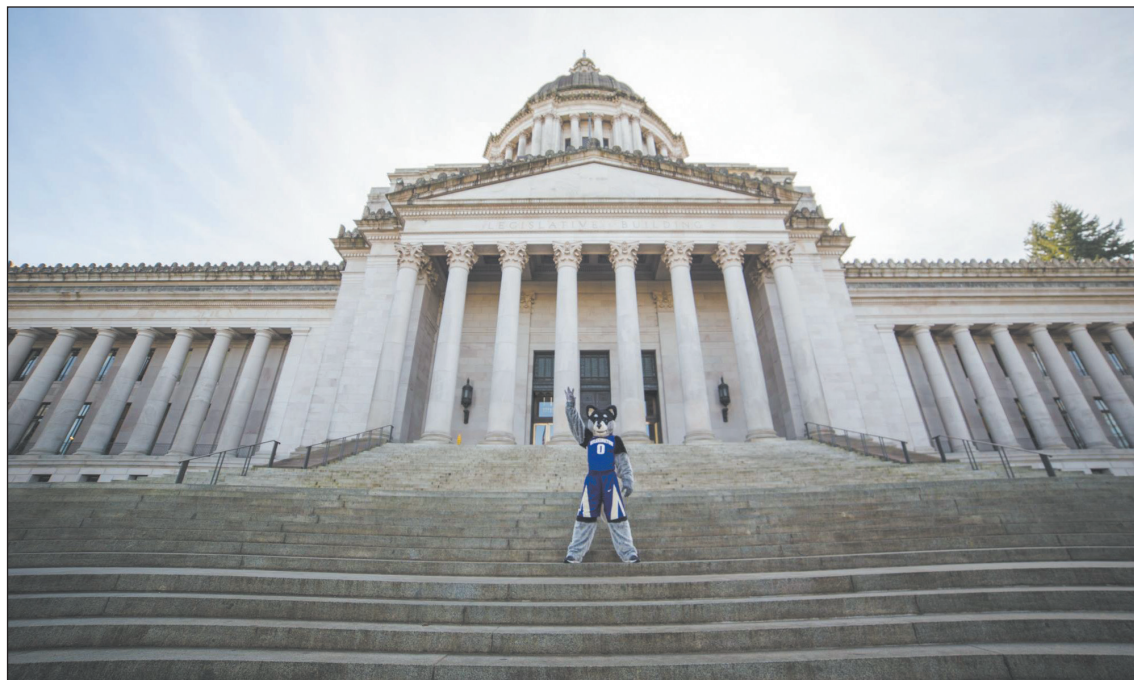


PHOTO BY @ASUWOG

Join Huskies from every campus down in Olympia on Jan. 31.

to advocate for the same ideals, so if we got even 300 people or 100 people from all three of our campuses — which is aiming pretty low — then that still makes a pretty good impact on the things that we care about.”

The legislative priorities for this lobby day all have bills attached which are currently in the Washington Congress. The primary lobbying focus will be on health care, specifically concerning mental health, a

comprehensive K–12 sexual education bill, undocumented student loans, and food and housing insecurity, which is House Bill 1893.

Wright went into further detail regarding the Huskies’ priorities.

“These priorities — this isn’t anything especially new — these are things that we’ve been working toward, but sometimes while things are in the house they die and don’t ever get the chance to become a bill,” Wright stated. “But

this time around we are trying to take those that died from the last session and the session before and revitalize them.”

Wright discussed the motion to thank our legislators for HB 2158, then going on to discuss the need for further improvement.

“We want to increase funding for the Working Connections Childcare Program. Last session’s House Bill 2158 — that’s the Working Connections Childcare work requirement exemption

— so basically it exempts those who are earning a bachelors in an advanced degree from the 20-hour workweek requirement and they will still receive the funding. Unfortunately, there is an RCW from last sessions bill that limited it to technical and two-year universities, so we are trying to get it to include four-year universities this year ... The reason that they did not want to include four-year colleges initially was because there wasn’t enough funding for it to do that.”

Recognizing that this event may seem daunting to students who have never lobbied before, Wright assures students that the finalized legislative agenda will be disbursed at the trainings, and will be simple and easy to read. Finally, Wright wanted to drive home the accessibility to all UW students to participate in this event. Transportation and food will be provided. “Students will be taken care of,” Wright assures. It will be an all-day event - the bus will be leaving at 8 in the morning. Students will have the option to leave early. Mid-day there will be a bus that will arrive to take students back from Olympia. And if they need to leave prior then ASUWT has expressed that they are also open to getting U-cars, for students who need to go back.

Wright concluded by reiterating “We don’t want it to seem like it isn’t something that wouldn’t be able to access.”



BSU Officers hosting the MLK Unity Breakfast pose for a picture on the stage.

PHOTO BY LAUREN ZENT

BSU on upholding honor and the mission of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Black Student Union hosts MLK Jr. Unity Breakfast recognizing King's messages regarding economic justice.

By LAUREN ZENT
NEWS REPORTER

On Jan. 20, the UW Tacoma Black Student Union hosted the Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Breakfast. This event aimed to recognize and honor King's legacy battling the nation's inequality. The theme for this year's annual breakfast was "Economic Empowerment: On Our Terms," which sought to bring to light ways on combating economic disparities. Denise Fairchild, inaugural president of Emerald Cities Collaborative, was the keynote speaker.

"Our economic, environmental and social justice challenges stem from the same problem: an extractive market economy," Fairchild said during her speech.

Fairchild claims the economy's focus on trade and exploitation is a multi-generational issue that spanned over several revolutions. She believes asking for bigger roles and wages in the current economy will not minimize any of the aforementioned challenges. The next economic system must be built carefully.

"Every 100 to 50 years our economy changes," Fairchild said, "We've moved from the agricultural to the industrial economy. We've moved from industrial to suburban economy... We are now transitioning to the green economy, right? But in every

"Every 100 to 50 years our economy changes," Fairchild said, "We've moved from the agricultural to the industrial economy. We've moved from industrial to suburban economy.."

one of those transitions low-income kids have been kicked to the curb, on the sidelines picking up the crumbs. We cannot afford this next, and probably last, transition to the green economy to allow that to happen."

Fairchild expressed that universities have a critical role to create a pipeline of sustainable jobs. They must

provide education on the intersections of community and economic development to ready their students for high demand and high growth jobs.

The UWT BSU remains hopeful that this event will inspire the campus community to continue King's dream to create an equal and equitable nation of opportunities. The MLK Jr. Unity Breakfast had a positive turnout and response selling over 300 seats.

"[The event is] about bringing us all together, giving us a place where we can discuss these things, giving us a place to learn," said Amari Hill, president of BSU. "Its purpose is to bring people of different entities to celebrate MLK's work."

King, who was assassinated in Memphis while advocating for sanitation workers rights, argued that the government spent more money on warfare than on anti-poverty programs. While in Memphis, King gave a speech known as "All Labor Has Dignity."

In his Memphis speech, King stated, "It is a crime for people to live in this rich nation and receive starvation wages. Do you know that most of the

poor people in our country are working every day? And they are making wages so low they cannot begin to

"...We are now transitioning to the green economy, right? But in every one of those transitions low-income kids have been kicked to the curb, on the sidelines picking up the crumbs. We cannot afford this next, and probably last, transition to the green economy to allow that to happen."

function in the mainstream of the economic life of our nation. These are facts which must be seen, and it is criminal to have people working on a full-time basis and a full-time job get-

ting part-time income."

The 2018 US Census states that 38.1 million people — 11.8% of the American population — is on or below the poverty line. For each race the poverty rate differs; for African Americans is 20.8%, Asians at 10.1%, Hispanics at 17.6% and Caucasians at 8%. This is similar to the 1969 census with 23.4 million people, where 12.2% of the population was at or below the poverty line. During this time, people of color in poverty was at 31%, while Caucasians in poverty were at 8.1%.

Ushalla Dunn, marketing director of BSU, agreed with Hill that knowledge of history is important in assessing current injustices. Dunn's stated events like theirs help create solidarity to power resilience against inequality.

"We are not going to forget how realistic these problems are... [This day] stops us from growing complacent," said Dunn. "People would like to think that we've made a lot of progress, but when you really get down to the numbers we haven't... The fight is never over. There is always room to grow."



PHOTO BY LAUREN ZENT

Feeding the soul and their stomachs, attendees dish up breakfast before they sit down and listen to some inspiring speeches.



PHOTO BY LAUREN ZENT

Members of the audience were given time to contribute to the discussion.



ILLUSTRATION BY BRUNO MARQUEZ

5 things to appreciate about social media

We shouldn't just focus on the toxic side of social media all the time.

By MEGHAN RAND
OPINION EDITOR

Ever since our entire lives began to be online, the incessant critique of social media has emerged in tandem. There are a lot of reasons to be aware of as to why people don't like it — it leads you to compare yourself to others, we become more isolated, and so on. But I argue that there are plenty of very compelling reasons why social media does more good than it does harm.

KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH PEOPLE

This is an extremely obvious reason why social media is great. You are able to provide an endless amount of people with updates to your life, and digest updates about other people's lives in an efficient way. You can maintain a larger number of relationships

than maybe you would be able to without social media. For someone who might be really busy, or far away from their loved ones, this helps them maintain connections with minimal effort.

SPREADING INFORMATION

I've seen this happen in so many ways on social media, especially in regard to safety. Police departments will often create social media pages and post updates to the community about a missing person, a criminal at large, or explaining a big public spectacle like a car accident on a main road. Also, community members will sometimes post things that spread around the community, such as pictures of somebody they saw breaking into their car or reporting hazards from inclement weather. A cool thing I've seen is volunteer-run pages where a group of

people will take turns listening to police scanners to provide updates to the public through social media.

A lot of other useful information is spread through social media, from lists of organizations to donate to during crises, to infographics about etiquette in different countries, to self-help advice, and a million other things. Access to this information helps people make better choices and to be more informed in many different areas. For example, I once found an infographic from a reputable organization that explained the various stages of a migraine. As someone who gets chronic migraines, this helped me better identify when I feel one coming on. Additionally, I can send the infographic to people close to me to help them better understand the

symptoms and effects.

CONNECTING TO NEW PEOPLE

Over time on social media — whether it happens because you are in a dedicated group with these people — or because you follow them over time, social media allows you to meet people that have similar interests to you. For instance, I'm part of a large Facebook group where everyone basically just talks about coffee. I've met some great internet friends through groups and common interests that I speak to every day that are always there to vent to and to cheer me on.

ENTERTAINMENT

This is far from the most pragmatic reason for supporting social media, but it's still valid. There is a lot of value in having an app such as TikTok where you can be instantly con-

nected to content that makes you laugh. Or with a website like Youtube, you have access to an infinite supply of videos that range from helpful tutorials to funny things to watch.

NETWORKING

To round off this list, networking is another great use of social media. While this concept is similar to meeting new people, it differs in purpose. Networking is forming professional relationships. Some websites like LinkedIn are definitely more appropriate for this type of activity. These contacts can be helpful in dozens of ways, from providing professional recommendations to helping you land a job. Social media makes this process much easier, and it's also easier to keep in touch with these connections in a streamlined fashion.

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Women imprisonment in Turkey

As the Turkish government shows solidarity to human rights violations in other countries, it covers up the fact that they still have thousands of innocent people detained since its 2016 military coup attempt.

By **BENGISU CICEK**
OPINION COLUMNIST

The 2016 military coup attempt was one of Turkey's bloodiest coups the country has witnessed. Thousands of citizens on the streets, chaos erupting, and over 240 people were killed according to AlJazeera, The Independent and NPR.

Since then politics, governmental affairs, and anything concerning the coup or the system have been dangerous for citizens to openly speak about in Turkey. According to the Guardian, about 6,000 people were detained including 29 top generals. This number has escalated over the years, and although the coup attempt is being covered up by the government today, the detainees still remain imprisoned and are in need of justice. From the detainees, there are lawyers, professors, doctors, teachers, government officials, military officers, students, fathers, elders, mothers, and, horrifically, children and babies.

According to Vocal Europe in an article written by Leighann Spencer in 2017, 668 children under the age of six have been imprisoned along with their mothers, as well as 149 under the age of 12 months. This violates law 5275 of the Turkish Penal Code, "the sentence of imprisonment is to be left behind/postponed for women

who are pregnant or have not passed six months since the conception of birth." Many women have been arrested shortly after birth. This is one of many violations the Turkish government has crossed. Advocates of Silenced Turkey reported 17,000 women to be detained, which they held a protest in Chicago to raise awareness.

In addition there have been witnesses of rape, sexual assault, and torture committed to the women. "Attorney Öykü Çakmak, a member of the Prison Watch Commission, said that the most fundamental rights violations at prisons included 'physical and psychological pressures, sexual violence, mistreatment and torture,'" said Uzey Bulut from the Gatestone Institute.

Haberdar had a report on their site of 70,000 university and high school students detained in Turkish prisons. "...many of them do not even know what they are accused of, since their lawyers are not allowed to see their indictments," said Bulut.

It is clear to say that this is happening under the authority of the Turkish government and that they must be held accountable for their actions. They have violated their own laws, put their citizens and residents in unjust conditions, removed children from their families, students away from their education, and obliterated the dignity of their people.



ILLUSTRATION BY BRUNO MARQUEZ

Television is dying and it's our fault

How the mindless became the mindful — streaming services are taking over the television industry.

By **NICOLAS LUNA**
OPINION COLUMNIST

In 2007, Netflix turned its attention to streaming services rather than mail-order DVDs. It was a brilliant business model as it changed the lives of those who frequently miss their favorite TV shows, but it unknowingly changed the course of the television industry. Slowly but surely, Hulu came onto the scene, as did HBO NOW and FOX NOW. However, Netflix was merely just a medium for the majority of the world's favorite TV shows.

However, as more streaming services slowly began to pop up, content began to be removed from Netflix. For example, HBO's "The Sopranos" was available to stream on Netflix years ago, but has since been relocated to HBO NOW. While the departure of numerous shows continued, it plateaued at a slight annoyance. HBO now had a spot to put their hit off-air shows, and consumers were happy to get rid of their looming DVD collections. During this time, Netflix mere-

ly acted as a TV program purgatory, offering a home for the content that had nowhere to be streamed from. This was all changed when Netflix produced its first original piece "House of Cards" in 2013. This caused panic among television companies, as Netflix made the first move in the war of streaming services.

Fast forward to 2020, and consumers can now choose from HBO NOW, FOX NOW, Hulu, Netflix, Amazon Prime, Youtube's service, Apple TV, and Disney+. These same consumers are awaiting the release of NBC's streaming service Peacock, launching this summer, among others. Now consumers are given a myriad of choices, and a fear of missing out on the content they haven't paid for. We are now all in "horror" that we may miss developments on things like Disney+'s "The Mandalorian," Netflix's "You" and Hulu's "Wutang: An American Saga." While all of these shows are a few exceptions that are deserving of high praise, the average consumer should be concerned about the future

of quality television.

Jonah Weiner wrote an article for NYT magazine, discussing the conversation between HBO's former CEO, Richard Plepler, and the current CEO of WarnerMedia, John Stankey, during the acquisition of the latter company by the former. Stankey explained to Plepler that the content on HBO had to be more instantaneous, and that it had to be comparable to the media consumed by people on their cellphones. Weiner went on to discuss this concept with Nick Weidenfeld, the current president of programming for Viceland. Weidenfeld said that TV is no longer about making compelling artistic programs, but about competing with the innumerable makeup tutorials and gaming videos that are so easily accessible.

Because of this, you end up with what Weidenfeld called the "low-cost, high-margin stuff." The discussion of morality we were given in "The Sopranos" and the display of hubris and evil we saw in "Breaking Bad" is ultimately and unfortunately no match for make-

over reality shows, "Minecraft" playthroughs, and mindless game shows. As this battle for the average attention span

rages on, the main casualties are not only our wallets and time, but the overall quality of television.

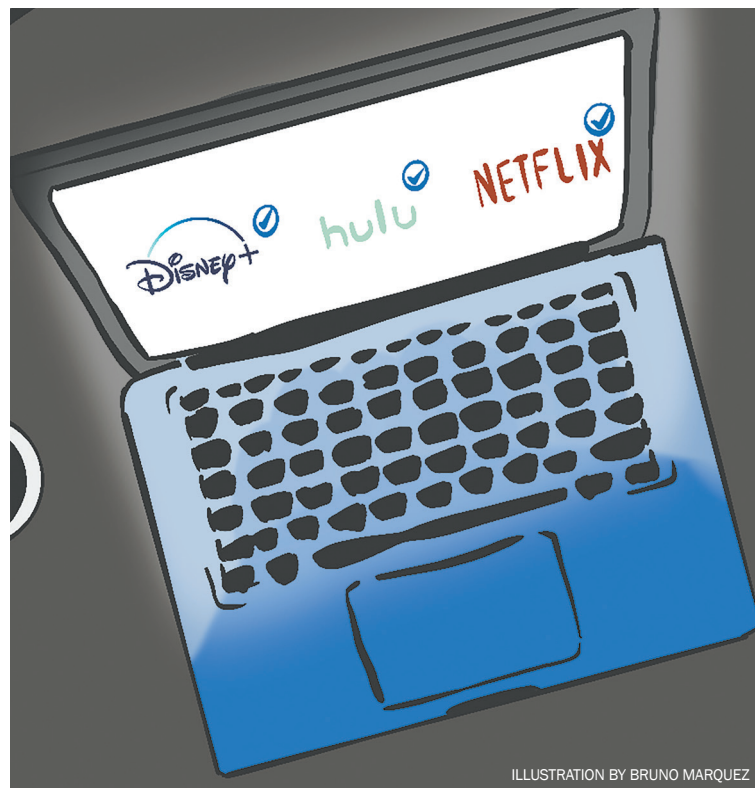


ILLUSTRATION BY BRUNO MARQUEZ



PHOTO BY TALIA COLLETT

The Shivas kick off the third day of their 5-week tour in Tacoma at Alma Mater.

The Shivas bring a new rock n' roll experience to Tacoma

The Shivas return to Tacoma and deliver an impressive show at Alma Mater to mark the beginning of their latest tour in the United States.

By TALIA COLLETT
A&E EDITOR

Since releasing their fifth and latest album “Dark Thoughts” on October 25, The Shivas — who have been rocking the stage since 2006 — have decided to take their music on the road again. On the third stop of their five week-long US tour, the Portland natives made a stop in Tacoma for the first time in multiple years.

Accompanied by the two Wash-

ington-local bands Reverse Death and Baywitch — both of whom are based out of Seattle — the show presented well over two and a half hours of rock to please its audience inside of Alma Mater’s Fawcett Hall concert venue.

Reverse Death, the psychedelic-rock solo act that switched between playing the drums and guitar while also singing, was first to take the stage on Jan. 19 and played for roughly 30 minutes before passing the platform over to Baywitch. Baywitch, the Toon Doom/ Smurf-Rock trio contrived of

the bassist and singer Sicily R., guitarist and singer Lila B., and drummer Daniel O., who introduce themselves as a “surf coven,” proceeded to play another short 30 minute set as the second opener of the evening.

Following both of the opening performances, the room’s anticipation was running high as the audience was eagerly waiting for the headlining quartet to take the stage. Contrived of guitarist/singer Jared Molyneux, bassist Eric Shanafelt, drummer/singer Kristin Leonard, all of whom

have been with the band since their debut in 2006, and guitarist Jeff Boyardee, the most recent addition to the group in 2017.

Despite having a new member travel with the band on this tour, The Shivas opted to play music they’ve produced throughout their 14 year long career as a band rather than solely focusing on their most recent album. Ranging from old favorites such as “You Make Me Wanna Die” and “So Far out of Control” to their newer album releases like “Gloria”

and “Turn Me On”, the band catered to a crowd full of day one supporters and new fans alike.

With heavy rock hitters, surf rock, and slower psychedelic songs of the evening, all being complemented by an impressive display of colorful lights and strobes as well, The Shivas, Baywitch, and Reverse Death delivered an exciting show that left everyone in the room feeling impressed and in high spirits. Next time The Shivas make an appearance in Tacoma, it won’t be one to miss.

Snow day activities

Snow days don’t have to be boring they can be fun and exciting.

By MADI WILLIAMS
A&E COLUMNIST

Snow days can be some of the best days during winter. Doing your schoolwork in pajamas with a steaming mug of coffee can be fun and relaxing, but living in a part of Washington that doesn’t acquire snow often means that locals are left clueless on how to spend their day off. Here are a few ideas on how to make the best out of a snow day.

NATURE WALK

Yes, the temperature outside is freezing and if you don’t own the appropriate clothing, it can be even colder. However, going outside in the snow can still be pretty amazing. Seeing the place you live in a different way can be appealing as well as surprising, and the fresh crisp air doesn’t hurt much either. Whether you go around your block or walk along the waterfront, you will get a glaze of a

winter wonderland.

TAKING PICTURES

You don’t have to be a professional photographer to get that perfect picture for Instagram — you don’t even have to travel far. Sometimes, the best pictures can be right outside your door plants covered in snow or the street you live on during the day or night. One of the best types of pictures though are of animals experiencing the first snowfall of the year. Plus, making people think you went out and adventured into the cold is an added bonus.

PARK SHENANIGANS

Going to your neighborhood park and seeing it through a new lens can be quite an experience. Watching dogs run around excited for something new and finding something to go sledding with down the park hills always guarantees a good time. If you’re lucky, you just might find yourself in the middle of a

neighborhood snowball fight, too.

MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE

If you’re feeling brave and in the mood to deal with snowy road conditions and lousy drivers, the mountains are a good place to spend a day full of snow related activities. Afterwards, making your way to a cafe nearby with hot drinks and comforting food can be a perfect way to warm up and provide the full mountain day experience.

STAYING HOME

For some, cold weather is just not something they enjoy. Staying in and reading a good book with a comfy blanket and warm tea, or watching a new hit Netflix series with some good food and hot chocolate is a perfect way of spending the day. Staying snuggled up and warm inside while watching the snowfall out of your window rather than being in it is as good a way to spend the day as any other.



PHOTO BY NATALIE PEYTON

Snow dusted the campus on January 13th.



Robert Downey Jr. is Dr. John Dolittle, the famed doctor who can talk to animals.

PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL STUDIOS

Call the doctor — ‘Dolittle’ is bad

Universal Studios’ reboot of the well-known animal doctor isn’t so bad that it’s good — it’s just bad.

By **ANDREW BROWN**
FILM CRITIC

The January dumping ground for major movie releases continues this week with “Dolittle.” Like our previous issue’s movie “The Grudge,” it’s another third iteration of a familiar franchise. Yet, despite it being a new interpretation of a classic book series with a new star in the title role, “Dolittle” is ironically named as it does little to excite, induce wonder or entertain.

It’s been seven years since the famed veterinarian Doctor John Dolittle, played by Robert Downey Jr., lost his wife due to a shipwreck. Since then, he’s retreated from public life and isolated himself in his home with only animal friends as company. But when the Queen of England suddenly falls ill and the only cure is a rare tropical flower, Dolittle is called to embark on an epic sailing journey to retrieve it and save her before it’s too late.

While it’s refreshing to see the plot

take a different approach than the familiar story — rather than retreading the ground of a doctor uncovering the ability to talk to animals — in this version, Dolittle has already discovered his gift. However, his fame and relationship with his wife are all rendered as backstory and are established in a rushed, but visually gorgeous, animated prologue.

This new revitalized plot could have been an interesting spin on the old franchise, but instead the movie opts to have a normal character, Tommy — played by Harry Collett — be the protagonist of the adventure. He’s as dull as dirt, and from a story standpoint is essentially pointless. He’s clumsily introduced at the beginning of the movie by being forced to shoot a squirrel by his hunter dad and takes it to Dolittle out of desperation to save it. He then immediately decides he’s found a true home, and self appoints himself as Dolittle’s apprentice.

Granted that he did adopt a strange accent for the role and obviously dubbed all of his lines in post-production, it is

Downey’s show, and his charisma is able to carry the movie to a limited degree. If not a negative for the immersion factor since it constantly reminds you as a viewer that they’re not real, the CGI on the animals is decent and while hardly recognizable by voice alone, many of the animals are played by celebrities you’d recognize by name.

Movie fans will remember that Downey’s historic 11 year run as Iron Man came to a close last year in the epic “Avengers: Endgame.” With this being his first post-Marvel movie, one can only infer that he opted to make something that his young children would enjoy. This seems to be the target demographic for the film, which panders to the cheap seats with bad jokes and cliché villains.

Once Dolittle, Tommy, and the animals embark on their ship to find the flower, the movie’s sense of adventure works to lift the otherwise dull plot line. Visually, the sea and tropical island they visit provide beautiful scenery, but every aspect of the story is tired, predictable,

and repetitive.

The film’s behind the scenes troubles have received more headlines than the movie itself, as the project required numerous rewrites by “The LEGO Batman Movie” director Chris McKay. Following poor test screenings of a rough cut, three weeks of reshoots were undertaken and the release date was pushed back by nine months. If this was the ‘fixed’ version, I’d hate to see what it was like before.

Visually stuffed, blandly directed, and full of tepid humor, “Dolittle” might please children in the crowd but hardly anyone else. Collett is a bore as the audience surrogate protagonist while merely following Dolittle around like a lost puppy. Plus, his parents never seem to worry about his unannounced extended absence. One would think that going on a boat trip to a tropical island with a strange man, that surely must have lasted for weeks, would grab attention and spark a parent’s apprehension.

If the whole movie was like the opening animated segment it might have

given the project a cohesive visual identity. Not only this, but with a \$175 million budget it’s shocking the movie looks so monotonous. Given the ballooned budget, “Dolittle” appears to be the first big flop of the year and decade.

REVIEW

“Dolittle”

★★★★★

The Good:

- Impressive CGI animal effects.
- Downey’s charisma is infectious.
- The adventurous aspects are appealing.

The Bad:

- Poor humor.
- Predictable plot.
- Dull story.

SPORT REPORT

Seahawks season comes to a bitter end

By *Brooks Moeller*

People often say that football is a game of inches and the Seahawks have proved this theory throughout this past season. Multiple plays throughout the year suggested that if even one play went slightly different it could have changed the course of the whole season — the Divisional Playoff game against Green Bay was no exception. The Hawks could not recover from an eighteen point halftime deficit and were eventually eliminated by the Packers. This leaves fans asking the question: what needs to change during the offseason if this team wants to see themselves back in the Super Bowl?

Down 28–23 with less than two minutes left in the game, the Packers faced a 3rd and 8 where a first down would end

any chances for a Seahawks comeback. Aaron Rogers would find former Seahawk Jimmy Graham on a crossing route. The call could have gone either way — even though he was clearly short — but it was determined he crossed the line to gain. This resulted in a Packers first down and in turn looked very similar to the scenario during the final play that contributed to the Seahawks’ loss against San Francisco a few weeks prior — they came inches short of scoring a game-winning touchdown.

Although a Seahawks comeback win was what hopeful fans were looking for, it was surprising they were even in this situation after falling behind 21–3 in the first half. If the team were to come out of the locker room with the same fire and intensity as they do in the second half, then this game would’ve had a completely different outcome.

“Well, we’re real disappointed that we put ourselves in a position where we had to come flying back into this game,” said

head coach Pete Carroll in his postgame press conference. “And as crazy as it seems, when we went in at halftime, these guys were jacked up to take on the challenge of coming back.”

Simply emerging with a greater sense of urgency would be a straightforward answer as to why the Seahawks always seem to fall behind so quickly. While it’s clear they had the talent to match with the Packers, the Seahawks started playing to their potential far too late to recover. With the addition of some tenacity to their game, as well as improvements in certain areas of the team during the off-season, fans should see the Seahawks take things even further in 2020.

One of the first areas of improvement the Seahawks ought to address is the defensive back position. Overall, the defense held up well against Rogers and the rest of the Packers’ offensive attack. But with this being said, all-pro wide receiver Devante Adams tore up the Seahawks secondary and tallied eight

catches for 160 yards — well over half the Packers’ receiving yards. Cornerback Shaquill Griffin has solidified himself as the #1 guy on the depth chart, but finding someone to complement him on the other side could make this defense top tier. While Tre Flowers has shown his ability to handle the #2 spot duties, he still shows signs of struggle when matched up with top players like Adams.

The injury bug was prevalent in the Seahawks over the course of the 2019 season and hit the offensive line especially hard. At one point, three of the five starting offensive linemen were all sidelined with injuries. The biggest loss being center Justin Britt, who tore his ACL during a week eight win over the Falcons. The solution to a loss like this would be simply adding offensive line depth to the roster; this could include adding veteran players or drafting players out of college who have shown solid durability over their career. Most importantly, while he ages and the chances of a serious injury

are increasing, protecting Russell Wilson should always be the #1 concern.

After starting the season with a record of 10–2, the team lost four of their next six games ending any hopes for another Super Bowl. While the current roster is showing fans that it has a lot of young talent, adding another year of game experience should give them what they need to accumulate more wins. And as long as the team has #3 under center, they’ll have a chance at another Super Bowl title.

“I think that we can go somewhere that not many people have ever gone,” said quarterback Russell Wilson the following day after the loss. “That’s where I want to go. That’s where I believe we can go, and that’s where I think we’ve got to go. It would be a shame if we don’t. So let’s make sure that happens. That’s my mentality today.”