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## The Ledger

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# Teacher Spotlight: Meet professor Yi Jenny Xiao!

A social psychologist, researcher and art enthusiast, professor Yi Jenny Xiao enjoys the diverse perspectives students at UWT have. She encourages students to take responsibility for their education and become more mindful of the learning process.

By LETICIA BENNETT  
NEWS EDITOR

Dr. Yi Jenny Xiao is an assistant professor of psychology at UW Tacoma. Dr. Xiao is a new faculty member and came to UWT in fall 2018. She enjoys all of the courses she teaches, ranging from Social Psychology to her Fundamental Methods of Psychological Research class. Dr. Xiao took some time to tell the Ledger about her academic background, challenges as a professor, hobbies and her advice to students.

**Q: WHERE DID YOU ATTEND COLLEGE AS AN UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENT?**

A: I went to Bard College — a small liberal arts college in New York — for my undergrad. I entered college planning to major in Biology. I took an Introduction to Psychology course during my first semester, and fell in love with psychology! I ended up graduating with [a] double major in Biology and Psychology. After [my] undergrad, I went straight to a Ph.D program in Social Psychology at New York University.

**Q: HOW DID YOU DECIDE ON YOUR FIELD OF STUDY? WHAT DREW YOU TO THE SUBJECT?**

A: I knew very little about what psychology was really about before college. I went to high school in China where psychology was not one of the subjects regularly taught. I was very fortunate to have amazing professors and role models in college. I got to work closely with a mentor, who is a social psychologist by training, and she had a lot of impact on my academic path. This is also why I have always aspired to be a mentor and role model for my own students. When I was in college, I was very interested in both cognitive and social psychology, and was able to find a way to synthesize the two sub-disciplines in my work.

**Q: WHEN DID YOU DECIDE THAT YOU WANTED TO BE A PROFESSOR?**

A: Ever since I was little, I would tell others I wanted to be a teacher! I probably didn't realize what it really meant to be a professor, but I've always been interested in education. I started seri-

ously thinking about working towards becoming a professor when I was in college after learning a bit more about what it means to do research and what it means to work in academia. One thing that attracted me to UWT was the diverse students I get to work with here. I very much appreciate the diverse backgrounds, identities and ideas students bring to the campus here.

**Q: WHAT CLASSES DO YOU TEACH HERE AT UW TACOMA? WHICH ONES DO YOU MOST ENJOY TEACHING?**

A: I am currently teaching Social Psychology and both of the courses in the Fundamental Methods of Psychological Research sequence. This is my first year at UWT, and I certainly hope to offer more courses in my area of expertise [in] the future. I have previously offered courses on Stereotyping, Prejudice & Discrimination, Attitudes & Social Influence, etc ... It's hard to say which ones I enjoy teaching the most. These courses are all very different in terms of the topics, structure, chal-

lenges and I appreciate having the opportunity to offer all of them!

**Q: WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT TEACHING AT UWT?**

A: It is a fulfilling and humbling experience teaching at UWT. Students here have a lot of significant responsibilities — family, jobs, etc. — outside school, more than anywhere else I have previously taught. I am impressed by the level of motivation, commitment and perseverance of our students.

**Q: WHAT IS THE HARDEST PART OF BEING A PROFESSOR?**

A: Balancing teaching, research, [and] other responsibilities with the limited amount of time and energy I have! As a relatively new faculty member, I'm also trying to be better at setting boundaries and having a better work-life balance. As a professor, it's easy to be working or thinking about work all the time.

**Q: WHAT ADVICE CAN YOU OFFER UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS?**

A: Take more initiative of your edu-

cational journey. Your professors and advisors are a great resource and will be there to guide you through this journey, but ultimately, you are crafting your journey and experience here. Instead of seeing your courses as courses you need to pass and get good grades in — these are certainly important! — be more mindful of the process of learning, and not just the outcome. Think about how your knowledge and skills will transfer, and how your education can contribute to what you hope to accomplish after you graduate.

**Q: WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO WHEN YOU ARE NOT TEACHING? WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR HOBBIES?**

A: I like art a lot! I enjoy visiting art museums, and seeing music and dance performances. Now I spend a lot of time with my young daughter when I'm not working. I'm trying to get outdoors more since moving to the Pacific Northwest. I had not been a particularly outdoorsy person, but I'm hoping this culture will grow on me!



Dr. Xiao had many role models in college that helped her decide on her field of study and aspires to be a role model for all of her students. PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. YI JENNY XIAO

## Fun Facts:

**Dr. Xiao's first language was Mandarin Chinese.**

**Her favorite park is Bryant Park in New York.**

**While she doesn't play any sports, her favorite sport to watch is tennis.**

# Students return for another year of lobbying at Huskies on the Hill 2019

UW Tacoma, as well as UW Seattle and UW Bothell, sent student lobbyist to the state capitol to support bills and resolutions in favor of higher education.

By **MITCHELL FERMO**  
NEWS REPORTER

Around one hundred UW students travelled to the state capitol in Olympia to lobby congress on behalf of several issues April 8. The annual Huskies on the Hill event had students from all three UW campuses partake in lobbying Washington State's congress, speaking with lawmakers, representatives and the office of the governor.

In previous years, Huskies on the Hill has taken place in late-January or early-to-middle February. However, the first attempt on Feb. 11 for Huskies on the Hill 2019 was thwarted by the snow storms which closed down the three UW campuses and stalled Western Washington. For the second time, however, students visited Olympia unhindered by the rainy weather.

This year, huskies primarily lobbied for higher education by advocating for the approval of House Bill 2158, which would fully fund the Washington College Grant Program by 2021. This was Washington State Governor Jay Inslee's focus when he visited UWT this past January. Associated Students of UW Tacoma Legislative Liaison Adán Espino Jr. explained

the importance of passing this bill through congress.

"One big reason ... is that we [UW Tacoma] get funding for two new engineering degree programs in that bill," Espino said. "One of the big things is that for the State Need Grant, it does a bunch of stuff and then some ... It creates a dedicated higher education funding source."

HB 2158 covers a wide range of issues concerning higher education and is set to better train Washington State students for Washington State jobs through the use of higher education funding and programs. Within the 89 page bill, UW Tacoma would specifically receive roughly \$1.8 million by 2021 to establish programs in civil and mechanical engineering — something Chancellor Mark Pagano stated that he hoped he would be able to secure funding back in his February town hall meeting.

"I want to secure the funding for the new engineering programs," Pagano stated during the town hall. "That is a heavy lift, but we are working on it."

Additionally, HB 2158 would ensure that all students have access to some sort of grant awarded to them, regardless of



UW President Ana Mari Cauce and huskies from all three campuses discussed higher education and the importance of House Bill 2158, which would provide financial support to all students in higher education.

PHOTO BY ANA MARIE CAUCE

median family income. Further, students making only 70 percent of the median family income would be eligible to receive up to 100 percent of the maximum grant.

In fully funding the Washington College Grant Program, which as of right now is known as the Washington State Need Grant, a business and operation surcharge would be added to advanced computing businesses as well as select businesses. Essentially, if an

advanced computing business were to generate income between \$25-\$100 million dollars from services and other activities, they would see an increase of 33.33 percent on their business and operating tax, which currently sits at 1.5 percent. For businesses that make over \$100 million in the same category, the surcharge would be 66.66 percent. Certain, select businesses would only see an increase of 20 percent.

"I think having the students there and saying 'Hey, HB 2158 is a priority,' and not just having me and other lobbyists call in ... goes a long way and the students will make an impact," Espino said.

*If you are interested in reading the bill summary, the full bill or watch the open public forum on HB 2158, go to <https://bit.ly/2Gjcijh>*

## UWT Tioga library now offering extended hours



UWT's library open hours now allow for more late-night study sessions.

By **MEGHAN RAND**  
NEWS REPORTER

If you're in need of a good late-night study spot, then you're in luck. UW Tacoma's library has recently made an extension to the hours that they are open to students. This project was motivated by popular demand from the student body and was made possible by Dr. Jill Purdy, Executive Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs.

Megan Elizabeth Saunders, a library services technician explained the reason for extending the library's hours.

"Our goal was to support our students during the times they need most

in a place that provides the largest number of resources for students of all disciplines," Saunders said.

To support the increased need in library staff, UWT recently hired a few new staff members to support the increase in hours.

"The extension means students have a safe, well established and staffed location in [both library buildings] to meet to work on group projects after other school, job, or personal commitments," Saunders said. "Overall, the extension means students have more resources and opportunities to succeed in their educational goals."

The extended library hours replaces

the Late Night Study program coordinated by the Associated Students of UW Tacoma in collaboration with Student Engagement that allowed students an access card that gave them admission to a specific building on campus for late night study sessions.

In an email sent by Ed Mirecki, dean of Student Engagement earlier this month, the late night study program was cancelled due to low use of the program.

The library will now be open until 12 a.m. from Monday through Friday. If you plan to utilize the extended hours, please note that a UW student ID is required for entry past 9 p.m.

"As long as our desks are open, we can check out laptops, course reserve textbooks, movies, headphones, chargers and more," Saunders said. "As we have limited staff in the evening, the technology support and research help is more limited than during daytime hours."

The extended hours allows students a greater opportunity to take advantage of library resources. Saunders encourages students to take advantage of these, including utilizing the help offered by the library staff.

"If you need something, we're here to help," Saunders said. "All students need to do is ask"

### Library Hours

**Monday-Thursday:**  
7:00a.m. - 12:00a.m.

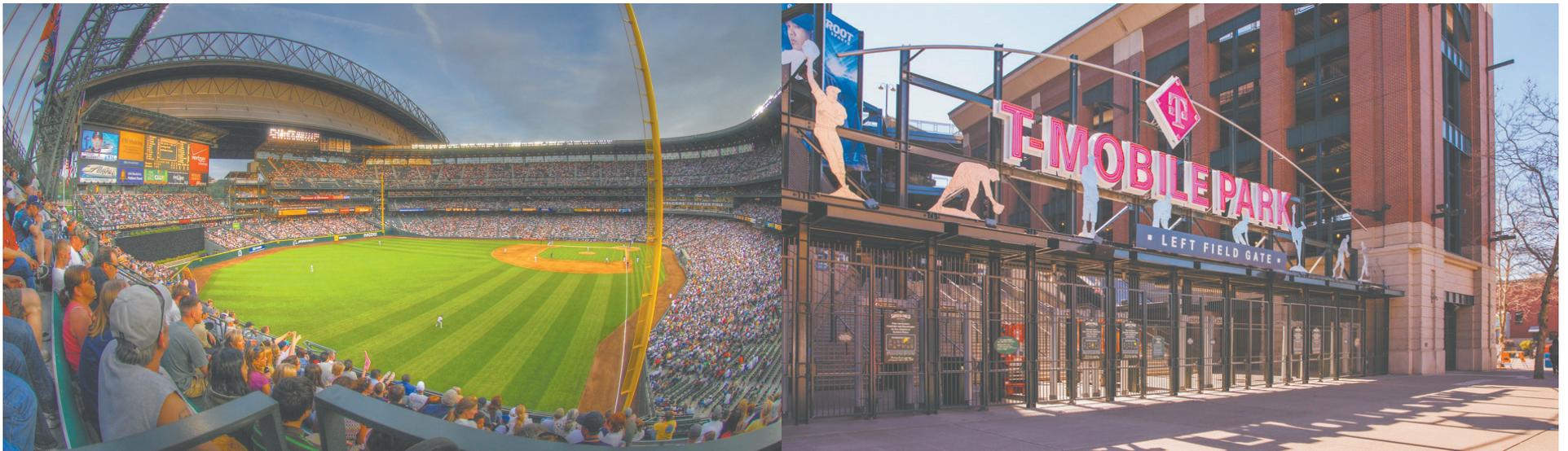
**Friday:**  
7:00a.m. - 5:00p.m.

**Saturday:**  
9:00a.m. - 5:00p.m.

**Sunday:**  
9:00a.m. - 9:00p.m.

# Mariners ride winning streak to best start in franchise history

The Mariners have turned what was dubbed a “step-back” season into an offensive explosion.



COURTESY OF PIXABAY AND KOMO NEWS

Fans enjoy a game at T-Mobile Park, formerly known as Safeco Field. The Mariners homestand runs through April 17.

By **TYLER WICKE**  
NEWS REPORTER

Question marks loomed over the Seattle Mariners as Opening Day approached on March 28. In the midst of what front office management deemed a “step-back,” countless fans prematurely forfeited a 2019 season after the team traded away their best talent.

Boy, were those fans wrong.

In what was doomed to be another year of mediocracy for the Mariners, the team shocked all of baseball en route to a scorching 12–2 start. While the Mariners now sit atop the American

League standings, a fan base that once considered 2019 as a throwaway season is now reignited with excitement for the future of the team.

What made the start most impressive was Seattle’s strength of schedule, and the ease in which the Mariners took care of their opponents. After sweeping the Oakland Athletics in two games to commence the season, Seattle took three of four from the defending champion Boston Red Sox.

If it weren’t for the scrappiness of their young hitters, the Mariners would likely dwell below their divisional rivals in the standings. To

reach the 12–2 plateau, Seattle has banked on their explosive offense to bail out inexperienced pitching. In both losses, relief pitchers blew leads of at least two runs.

But through nine games, Seattle led the league in runs scored, runs per game, home runs, on-base percentage and slugging percentage.

When asked about the elite start, shortstop Tim Beckham praised his teammates and their ability to score runs.

“We have really good hitters that control the strike zone well,” Beckham said. “It’s a good ball club. The energy is real right now.”

Beckham has been at the forefront of the Mariner hit parade — batting .400 through his first 11 games with four home runs. He was awarded the American League Player of the Week for his performance throughout March.

But to counterbalance the club’s incredible offensive start, defensive blunders have haunted the Mariners early throughout the season. Though no specific mistake has cost Seattle a win, their 19 errors lead all of baseball by a wide margin.

While scoring seven runs per game is not sustainable in baseball, the Mariners continue to crush op-

posing teams as they leave fans wondering when the offense will inevitably cool.

If Seattle can strengthen the bullpen and clean up their sloppy defensive play, the Mariners will continue to scare opponents and leave fans wondering if the team isn’t a fluke after all.

Maybe the Mariners will continue the hit barrage. Maybe the Mariners will tweak the pitching staff and fix the defensive mistakes. Maybe the Mariners will contend for a playoff spot that was once considered a pipe dream.

Just maybe — these guys are for real.

## Huskies in the hallway:

COMPILED AND PHOTOS BY MEGHAN RAND

### What do you think the new Seattle NHL team’s name should be?



Helen Huynh  
Freshman  
Marketing

“The Seattle Emeralds or the Seattle Seals because they both connect to Seattle really well.”



Finn Malmgren  
Sophomore  
Politics, Philosophy and Economics

“The Seattle Kracken.”



Athena Brewer  
Junior  
Politics, Philosophy and Economics

“The Seattle Sockeyes.”



Sydney Cortez  
Senior  
Politics, Philosophy and Economics

“The Seattle Salmon.”



Dr. Katie Baird  
Faculty  
Professor of Economics

“The Seattle Amocats.”



## Student investigators tackle problems from parking to potholes to public schools.

**INSTRUCTOR LINDA BYRON**  
FORMER KING 5  
INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER

This January, 12 students enrolled in TCOM 482 and became investigative reporters, devoting an entire quarter to examining the complex public issues of their choice.

Traditionally, we think of investigative reporting solely as the work of professional journalists, but these students came from a variety of majors ranging from history to writing studies, to communication. What they had in common was curiosity and the desire to learn the skills and techniques seasoned journalists employ to produce high-quality stories. They developed enterprising ideas, dug for information, filed public disclosure requests, analyzed data, accessed public records, contacted and interviewed sources, and finally, wrote journalistically sound stories.

It's a big challenge to conduct a full investigation in just 10 weeks. These students stepped up. The results of their hard work and dogged determination are contained in this special section of the Ledger.

# Textbook trouble: Students across the country struggle under the rising prices of textbooks

Textbook prices are higher than they have ever been, yet used books — once an affordable alternative — are becoming increasingly obsolete.

**By GABRIELLE BEARDEMPHL**  
STUDENT INVESTIGATOR

Textbook prices have risen dramatically over the past decade and have become an economic strain on college students across America.

High textbook pricing, according to a Student PIRG Education Fund survey conducted in the fall of 2013, led 65 percent of the 2,039 students surveyed to forgo purchasing a required textbook. Of those students who did not purchase a textbook, 94 percent were concerned their grade in the course will suffer as a result.

This may not be a simple case of students cutting corners to save a buck. The research shows textbook prices have risen considerably. From January 2006 to July 2016, consumer prices for college textbooks increased 88 percent, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

A December 2018 story on Business Insider's website found that the majority of the textbook publishing industry was owned by just five publishers: Pearson Education, Scholastic, McGraw-Hill Education, Cengage Learning and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. These publishers control 80 percent of the industry — establishing a monopoly on the market that allows them to set high prices for booksellers and, ultimately, the book buyers.

"Being a retailer, we don't sell at cost, so our prices are ultimately determined by how much the publishers charge us for the books," said Joe Wright, the manager of University Bookstore's Tacoma location.

"Textbooks will often differ in prices between the hard sciences and the humanities," Wright said as he pointed out a loose-leaf Biological Science textbook that ranges from a used copy at \$101.85 to \$135.75 for a new one.

Comparatively, texts in literature courses often run below \$20.

Some textbook publishers have managed to keep students paying large sums for their materials by bundling their new textbooks with access codes. These codes provide materials that professors are encouraged to integrate into their courses. However, the access codes can only be used once, making used textbooks obsolete and forcing students to buy new, expensive editions instead.

Brittany Walth, a junior at UWT, remarked that when she attended Tacoma Community College, "classes would require the ac-

cess codes," and then they "never even used" the programs. Walth said the courses which required access codes were science-based disciplines.

When asked about her experience with textbook requirements at UWT, Walth explained that she has not had as many difficulties with course materials or textbooks.

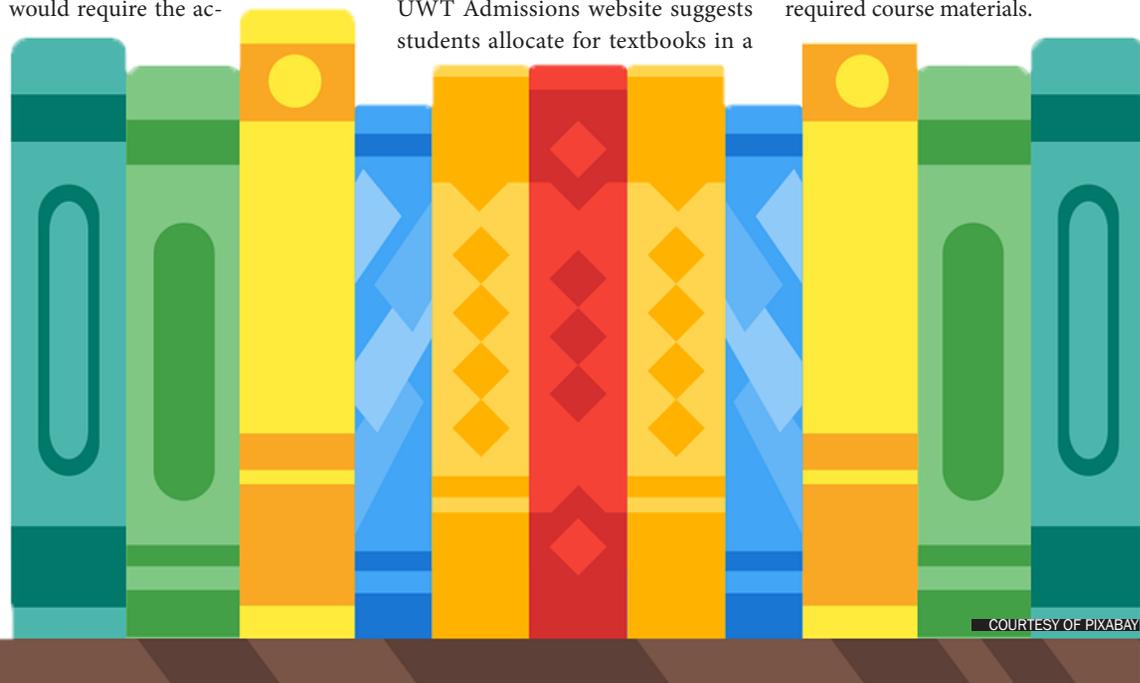
"I haven't had problems with textbooks here," she said. "Teachers also go out their way to find the information in different ways, such as academic articles."

According to Walth, she spent only about \$50 on textbooks during the winter quarter. In the fall, she spent about \$300 on textbooks, but received \$100 from the buyback program at the University Bookstore. So far, she is well under the \$1,206 budget the UWT Admissions website suggests students allocate for textbooks in a

nine-month academic year.

Access code embedded textbooks can potentially affect students experiencing economic instability and hardship and stymie programs created to reduce costs. The UWT library purchases textbooks over \$75 for the purpose of loaning them out to students for periods up to four hours, but it explains on its website that it cannot provide books with single-use codes.

When faced with traditional textbook price frustration, there are ways to avoid paying top dollar for textbooks. In addition to library rentals, the University Bookstore offers used textbooks and rentals at a fraction of the cost of new editions. If these options are unavailable or too expensive, online retailers like Amazon offer new, used and electronic versions of many required course materials.



COURTESY OF PIXABAY

## Is parking on UWT's campus failing to meet the needs of students and faculty?

On-campus parking has not kept up with UWT's enrollment pushing commuters onto city streets — now the most ticketed in all of Tacoma.

**By MIA BELTRAN**  
STUDENT INVESTIGATOR

Where are you most likely to be ticketed in the city of Tacoma? Public records point to streets around the University of Washington. Four of the five most ticketed locations in the entire city are at UW Tacoma.

In 2018 alone, more than 4,300 tickets were issued to cars parked along Jefferson and Pacific avenues on the edge of the UWT campus, according to municipal court records obtained through a public disclosure request. Two blocks of Pacific Avenue that border UWT's campus generated 2,783

tickets. Just west, Jefferson Avenue accumulated 1,518 tickets.

It is an open secret that parking woes cause UWT students and faculty to arrive late to classes, meetings and seminars. With more and more students enrolling each quarter, and fewer paid and free parking spaces to go around, the situation becomes more chaotic.

UW Tacoma's Transportation Services department is responding by encouraging students to find alternatives to driving. Recently, the department moved to make the UPASS — a \$45 per quarter public transit pass that works across six Puget Sound transit agencies — a mandatory program that

students are required to pay for starting in spring quarter 2019.

The "Universal UPASS" came about as a way to avoid a doubling of the cost of the optional pass, which received pushback from students who identified as low-income.

Fifty percent of the student population lives only seven to 10 miles away from campus, according to statistics provided by Transportation Manager James Sinding. If students living within that range used public transit, it would free up spaces for those that live farther than 30 minutes away from campus.

As much as Sinding said he would like to include a parking structure in

UWT's plans for the upcoming years, he added it was impossible — at least for now. Transportation Services lost \$173,193 in fiscal year 2018. The university is looking for revenue generated by the mandatory Universal UPASS — which just went into effect — to help fund future renovation and construction projects to expand parking.

UWT conducted a parking survey in January 2017 that recorded permit and unrestricted parking stalls and information based on observations that told how full all the lots are at certain times of the day. Since then, this information has changed quite a bit.

For example, much of the parking

below the Court 17 apartments was once open to all. Now 90 percent of those spots are designated permit only, with only one row of stalls accessible for residents and commuting students.

Alex Dogbe, a resident of Court 17, ran into trouble with the garage's new rules. In the middle of the quarter, Alex bought a car but had trouble finding it a spot on campus because the garage permits were sold out for the quarter. She usually parked behind the University Y Student Center before receiving the permit. Then she received a ticket.

"You have to move your car every seven days even though there's no parking [infraction] rules that say so," Dogbe said.

# Parking Ticket or Lost Education?

A look inside how paid parking is costing UWT students more than money.

By **MARISSA McDOWELL**  
STUDENT INVESTIGATOR

The University of Washington Tacoma enrolled a record number of students in autumn 2018, according to the University's Office of the Registrar. But while the student population for this commuter campus is expanding, parking has not.

Ninety-four percent of all UWT students commute to campus, resulting in a daily battle for parking. There are only 2,350 spots available to serve the 4,042 students who commute, according to the Office of Admissions.

UW Tacoma has seven parking lots, six of which require a parking permit to park all day. Parking passes average around \$129 a quarter but sell out fast. There is a waitlist.

The 617 students who were lucky enough to snag a parking pass typically pay less than students who scramble for spots on campus or on streets surrounding the campus. Students who were un-

able to purchase a parking permit are forced to find a parking space off-campus and leave mid-class to avoid running afoul of 90-minute limits on City of Tacoma street parking.

This metered on-street parking consists of a 90-minute limit around campus, and a two hour limit outside of campus. To avoid a \$25 parking viola-

**94% of all UWT students commute to campus, resulting in a daily battle for parking. There are only 2,350 spots available to serve the 4,042 students who commute.**

tion from the city, students are often forced to leave their classes midway to renew their meters.

"The 90-minute limit does not even fulfill the average class time of two hours

and that's what's frustrating," Cook said.

Generally speaking, the closer students are to campus, the more they pay, campus Transportation Services officials say. But viewed as a matter of time, as well as money, the costs look quite different.

Students who leave mid-instruction to renew their parking estimate miss an average of six minutes per class. Assuming three classes a quarter that meet twice per week, this comes out to 36 minutes lost each week. With 10 weeks in the quarter, that is six hours of class time lost per quarter — 18 hours of class time per year. In dollar terms, the loss translates to \$1,125.

That is frustrating to student Amy Young, who said she chose a commuter campus to stay home with her parents and save money.

"I'm still spending well over the amount I think I should have to spend on parking," Young said.

Auxiliary Services Manager James Sinding, who oversees campus park-

ing, said the cheapest areas to park are off-campus entirely, and there are multiple free on-street parking sites just a few blocks away. Although free and without time restriction, these spots are not as easily accessible or convenient for students.

Jan Carlton returned to UW Tacoma this year to continue her education. At 55 years old, she says that the hills she has to walk to obtain free parking are challenging.

"Although I wouldn't mind the exercise some days, I still don't feel safe walking alone to these unincorporated parking areas," Carlton said.

Sinding encourages students who do not need a car immediately before or after class to take advantage of the Orca U-PASS bus pass or the Rideshare Ride-match Program, which pairs students with similar schedules into carpools. Not only does this help open up some spots on campus, but it helps to reduce commuters' carbon footprint.

According to the 2015 Campus

Implementation Plan, "the campus and city of Tacoma is [sic] prepared to respond to additional parking needs as they arise on campus." The plan predicts that by 2020 the university will need to add more than 2,000 new parking spots to campus.

The university has partnered with the City of Tacoma to lease out a floor of the proposed parking garage that will be built as part of the 2020 Yareton hotel project, adjacent to the Tacoma Convention Center on Broadway and South 17th Street. The number of spaces that will be available to students has still not been decided.

The plan also calls for parking fees and fines to rise over time to discourage commuters from traveling alone by car.

Cook and Young expect to graduate this year. They hope parking will improve for future students.

"Being a college student alone is enough pressure," Young said. "Parking shouldn't be another source of stress and anxiety."

## Do UWT's graduation rates tell the full story?

Less than half of the high school students entering UWT in 2012 graduated within four years. However, that number jumped to 58 percent over six years and the news is even better for transfer students.

By **MADISON COOK**  
STUDENT INVESTIGATOR

Students have many factors to consider when looking at which college to attend. Knowing what a university has to offer is important before committing to a two, four and sometimes even six-year journey. But what if the choices in a state school system are dissimilar — in size, income and diversity of its student body?

UW Tacoma's graduation rates look low compared to its Seattle and Bothell sister campuses. For full-time students entering UWT directly from high school in fall 2012, 58.2 percent graduated in six years, compared to 62.3 percent of students at UW Bothell and 84.2 percent at UW Seattle, according to UW Public Profiles.

The numbers improve when considering full and part-time students transferring to UWT from two-year community colleges and other programs. Then the six-year graduation rate jumped to 83 percent for UWT, compared to 86 percent for students attending Seattle or Bothell.

It is the four-year graduation rate that raises the most concern. For full-time students entering UWT directly from high school in fall 2012, just 46.5 percent graduated in four years. That number was slightly lower, 45.9 percent, for students who graduated in 2018.

"Why work so hard for something you might not even get at the end?" UWT senior Connor Mckearnan said.

What the statistic does not explain is that much of the UWT campus is filled with nontraditional students. More than 90 percent of UWT students commute to campus, and many hold down full-time jobs while they attend classes.

When Senior Marissa McDowell was deciding between UWT and UW Seattle, she knew what she wanted from her college experience. McDowell considered quality of life factors, such as tuition cost, her ability to work, and her commute.

"UW Tacoma has allowed me to experience university life but not have to leave home or stop working," McDowell said.

But then she looked for graduation rates to find out if she would be able to get what she and her parents were paying for. McDowell found that these rates aren't always easy to find.

"We really don't mention graduation rates to students," Senior Admissions Adviser Noelle Wilson said.

When Wilson is talking with prospective students she always explains how UWT can be whatever students make of it.

"We really try to find a good fit for students at UW Tacoma and want them to be able to get what they want out of a college experience," Wilson explained.

For many students, a good college experience includes graduating with a degree. But when comparing Tacoma to other universities, it is important to consider the school's history.

Tacoma only began accepting four-year students in 2006. The first class's six-year graduation rate — ending in 2012 — was just 43 percent. But UWT spokesman Mike Wark said that number was likely affected by the relatively new experience of having students on campus for the entirety of

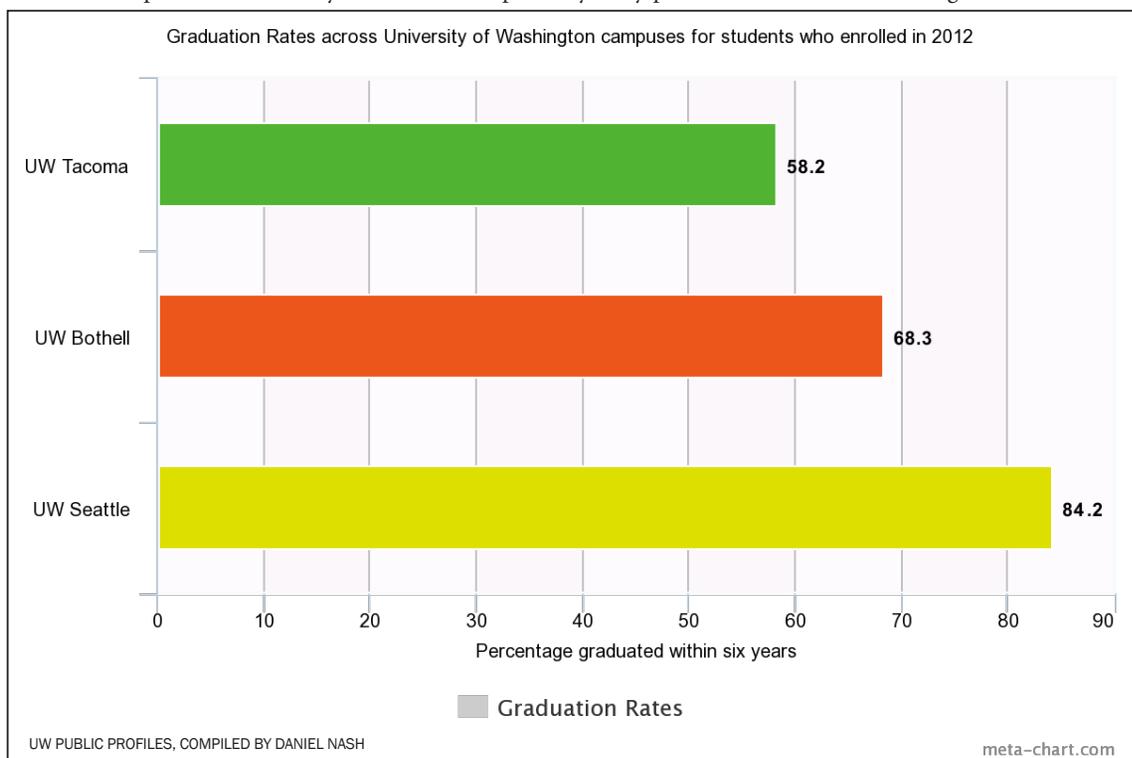
their schooling. The graduation rate has risen with time, to its current rate of 58.2 percent.

Alice Few, Director of Institutional Research, explained that graduation numbers alone do not tell the whole story. UWT far outpaces both Bothell and Seattle on a number of diversity measurements. Thirty-two percent of Tacoma students are classified as "underrepresented minorities," compared to 21 and 14 percent for Bothell and Seattle, respectively. Fifty percent of

all UWT students are eligible for Pell grants indicating greater financial need and nearly a third of Tacoma students are first-generation with no immediate family members with college experience.

"UWT is looking for a better set of peer institutions to compare rates with a similar size of commuter students and diverse students," Few said.

This would allow for an even playing ground for students to look at when considering schools.



# iPads: Learning tool or learning distraction?

Bethel plans to continue funding personal iPads for students. Teachers and students find the technology convenient but are iPads the right choice?

By **JESSE COWARD**  
STUDENT INVESTIGATOR

Five years ago, Bethel School District passed an initiative to place an iPad in the hands of every student. According to the district's financial reports, the "1:1 Technology" initiative has cost roughly \$12 million to date.

Following the outcome of a 2018 levy — approved in special election — the district will continue to fund the \$22 million initiative over the next four years. But is it worth the investment? What are students and teachers really getting?

"Direct correlation to test results, negative or positive, are difficult to draw," said Bethel School District Chief Technology Officer Michael Christiansen. However, he added that access to curriculum and resources directly supports the district's equity goals.

"Awesome initiative for access to extended learning," Spanaway Lake High School teacher Ryan Baker said. "Fantastic in theory. In practice, it can waver."

According to Baker, the iPads are used for testing, accessing reading material, research and to submit assignments outside of the classroom. But teachers said that they're not always used for the intended purpose. Multiple teachers have said that YouTube is a considerable distraction from the classroom.

"Kids [are] using technology for kid-like stuff, but at inappropriate times," Baker said. He imitated a common situation: "OK everybody let's read this article ... oh wait, you three are watching Fortnite."

The school does not have to have a system to monitor the time usage on YouTube compared to school-related activities.

"The need for entertainment in the classroom has increased because they can so easily access games and videos online, meaning that as a teacher I have to come up with more and more ways to make class fun when the truth of the matter is not always fun," said Megan Larson, who teaches seventh-grade humanities at Elk Plain School of Choice.

"I think if I had the choice I would prefer laptops to iPads, because laptops are closer to the technology that students will most likely be using in their later lives," Larson continued. "iPads are an Apple specific system which means that students are learning a very specific skill that might not be applicable to other operating systems they may be required to use in the future."

"Technology-rich curricula [sic] is changing learning for the better, but I'm not sure if that's because of iPads or if the same benefits could be seen with other devices," said Scott Birdseye, who teaches multi-grade STEAM classes at Spanaway Middle School.

A group of students interviewed at Cedarcrest Middle School said they frequently use iPads to access YouTube at home and at school. One student said they do not use the iPad for school purposes when at home. When the students were asked if they prefer laptops or tablets, the majority said laptops.

According to the district, since the implementation of the 23,654 iPads purchased with Technology Levy

Funds, over 700 iPads were lost, damaged or stolen. A log of iPad tickets at Cedarcrest Middle School shows that there have been over 500 issued in that school alone since 2014, with each iPad being sent to the technology support annex to be fixed.

According to Christiansen, the district conducted a year-long comparison in 2014 in order to determine which piece of technology to use for the 1:1 initiative. He also said that teachers and parents were brought into the discussion when deciding. Birdseye was a part of the discussion on which piece of technology to use.

He said that ultimately the Director of Institutional Technology, hired when the technology levy passed about six or seven years ago, chose iPads over Chromebooks.

"She made the choice because she personally preferred iPads. To this day, you will not get a clear reason why from any member of the instructional technology team," Birdseye said.

According to the Bethel website, the district was awarded the Distin-

guished District Achievement from Apple for innovative use of iPads in the school system. For other districts around the country, the cost has been the main deciding factor of which piece of technology to provide students.

The iPads cost around \$329 each while a Chromebook can cost around \$180. Apple announced during an education event in Chicago that they plan to get the price down to \$300 for the newest wave of iPads for schools. According to Futuresource Consulting, Apple devices are being used by around 11 percent of schools in the country, with Chromebooks around 60 percent — mainly due to Chromebooks being cheaper.

While disagreement amongst teachers and students over which device is better, there is widespread agreement that the principle of 1:1 Technology is important for public school education.

"In order for the iPads to be helpful, the students need to use them properly as a tool, as opposed to as a distraction," Larson said.

## Pricey potholes plague Tacoma motorists

Last year, Tacoma paid \$16,000 to motorists whose cars were damaged by potholes on top of spending \$250,000 for street maintenance. So why aren't the roads better?

By **MEGAN FRICKE**  
STUDENT INVESTIGATOR

Tacoma is infamous for its unmaintained and often bumpy roads. In 2015, a contractor

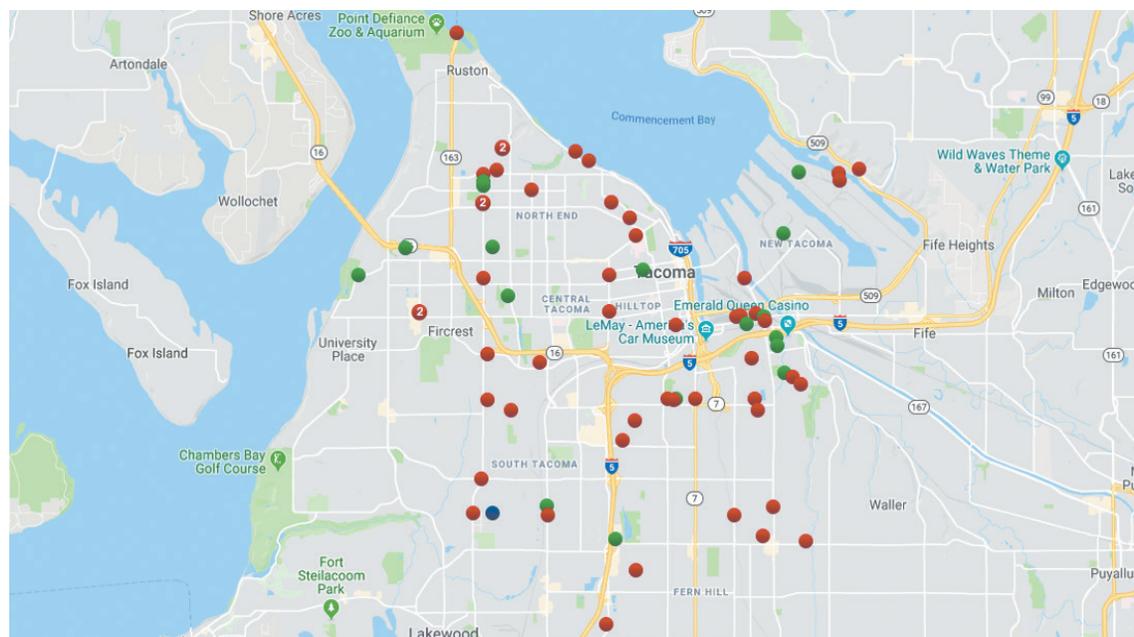
hired by the city's street maintenance crew classified 33 percent of Tacoma's streets as poor or failing. A Citizen Survey conducted in 2018 showed that Tacoma citizens rate street maintenance the worst out of the city's services.

The roads' effect on cars can be costly and even dangerous. In 2017, a source who asked to be identified as Vanessa C. hit a pothole which damaged her tire, rim and alignment. She was not aware of the city's claim process, which would have allowed her to file for compensation for damages. She paid out of pocket — which, despite policy, appears to be the rule rather than the exception.

Even among those who file claims, it is rare to come across someone who receives significant compensation. One of these cases is claimant Roderick V., who hit a pothole near East Fairbanks Street. The city compensated him \$3,895 for damage to his tire and rim.

"I don't live in Tacoma and it was some of the worst damage to my car," Roderick said. "I definitely agree something needs to be done."

Data obtained by a public disclosure request shows that the city of Tacoma spent nearly



The map shows the incident locations from 2018 damage claims. Green dots show location of incident in which driver received compensation. Red dots show incidents that did not receive compensation.

\$16,000 of taxpayer money to compensate claimants for vehicle damage in 2017 and 2018. This \$16,000 was on top of the \$250 million of taxes paid for street maintenance in Tacoma in the same period. So why is so much money being spent on street maintenance with little to show for it?

Simply put, Tacoma roads are old and need permanent repair. Permanent repairs are more expensive than band-aid fixes so street maintenance crews focus on temporary repairs which enables them to fix more roads for cheaper.

In a 2017 interview with the Tacoma News Tribune, head of the street maintenance crew Rae Bailey said some streets are so destroyed they are referred to as "dead." So-called dead streets are unable to be maintained until completely rebuilt.

Erik Sloan, pavement manager for the city of Tacoma, said that streets are classified and prioritized for repairs. The city uses a pavement condition information system that classifies streets as: very poor, poor, marginal, fair, good, very good or excellent. The

system takes into account street roughness and surface distress.

Sloan said the priority of repairs aren't always based on the severity of the street damage.

"Another important factor is coordination with utilities and development," Sloan explained. "Almost all utilities are under our streets so it wouldn't make sense to repave a street that might be dug up the next year in order to upgrade or repair utilities."

There are two ways that the street maintenance crews repair those roads

that make the cut.

For older roads that require a permanent fix, chip seal is used. It is a more expensive repair and only allows the crew to fix eight to 12 potholes a day. So, more often than not, the crew opts to use crack seal. Crack seal allows 80-120 pothole repairs per day and costs less money and time. This maximizes the amount of streets repaired within allotted funding.

When asked if Sloan believes street maintenance is allotted enough money in the city's budget, he replied: "the short answer to that question is probably always going to be 'no' from me."

But Sloan does not fault the city exclusively.

"Maintenance of all of our aging infrastructure across the nation is not adequately funded," he said. "Until we allocate enough funds to maintain the infrastructure we have at an acceptable level, I'll say we're not funded appropriately."

What is there to do? The Tacoma Citizen Survey made clear the desires of Tacoma citizens: allocate more money toward infrastructure or focus on improving public transportation. This is something Sloan says the city has already made progress on.

"Tacoma has come a long way over the last couple of years when it comes to funding," Sloan said. "We're a lot closer to being adequately funded in Tacoma than we have been in my time at the city."

PHOTO BY MEGAN FRICKE

# A tale of two districts: \$100 million funding inequality

Washington's new funding formula hurts low-income school districts forcing large budget cuts.

The funding formula takes into account property values, giving more money to affluent cities despite having the same number of students as low-income districts.

By JACOB ROMNEY  
STUDENT INVESTIGATOR

In 2012, the Washington State Supreme Court ruled in *McCleary v. Washington* that the state was not providing quality education to all students. They ordered lawmakers to rectify the situation. The *McCleary* decision required lawmakers to fully fund K-12 public schools in accordance with the state constitution and to report back on their progress.

After struggling for six years, the court found the state to be in compliance with the *McCleary*

decision in 2018. But critics have argued the new funding allocation is based on a formula that penalizes poorer school districts.

"The funding formula put in place by the legislature created winners and losers," Tacoma Public Schools Superintendent Carla Santorno wrote on the district's website. "Some school districts — mostly those in wealthy communi-

ties — won big financial windfalls. Districts like Tacoma and Yakima with high-poverty urban neighborhoods actually lose funding in both the short-term and the long-term."

In other words, Santorno argued that her district was one of the losers.

Located only 43 miles apart, Tacoma Public School District and Lake Washington School District each serve about 30,000 students, yet Tacoma Public Schools receives \$100 million less than its more affluent counterpart, which serves the Seattle Eastside suburbs of Kirkland, Redmond and Sammamish. To complicate the comparison further, Tacoma has 12 more schools, 172 fewer teachers and a poverty rate that is 51 percent higher than Lake Washington's rate.

The recent funding formula caps the amount of levy money Tacoma Public Schools can collect at \$40 million a year. That is because the formula is based on local property assessments and only allows districts to

collect \$1.50 per \$1,000 of property value — a figure much lower in Tacoma compared to Lake Washington.

Districts in higher property value communities can collect \$2,500 per student while districts with lower property value, like Tacoma, may only collect the lesser amount of \$1,500 per student.

In addition to the cap, state law now requires school districts to obtain approval from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction on their plan to spend the money gained from so-called "enrichment levies.

"We also believe the Legislature needs to restore local levy flexibility, which is how voters meet the unique needs of the students in their district beyond state-funded basic education," Washington Education Association spokesperson Rich Wood wrote in an email. "This is a huge issue right now in the legislature. It affects Tacoma and many other school districts. Levies help fund ad-

ditional teachers, support staff and student Programs."

The new formula adopted by the legislature did not raise the amount of money spent on education but simply changed the way in which each district receives funding. Overall, the Lake Washington School District will receive a 29 percent increase in state and levy funding while Tacoma Public Schools will only receive an increase of 5 percent.

Tacoma schools have worked hard over the last several years to increase their graduation rate, with great success. However, Tacoma Public Schools has much lower assessment scores than Lake Washington, and remains consistently below the state average in language arts, math and science. Meanwhile, Lake Washington scores consistently above the state average.

Tacoma Public Schools is working with state legislators to fix inequities in state funding and fight to collect

the full amount of their voter-approved levy. They are not alone in their battle. The Washington Education Association is pushing for the same.

In an email regarding the funding formula, the Association stated that, despite the Supreme Court's ruling that the state legislature is fully funding basic education according to the *McCleary* decision's standards, the state funding still falls short.

"Our local legislators ... have fought for our district, our students and our staff members," Santorno concluded in her statement on the Tacoma Public Schools website. "They can't do it alone. The solutions for Tacoma and other districts statewide require legislators from across the state to come together to fix the inequities."

Administrators are working hard to keep the budget cuts as far away from the classroom as possible, Santorno said. But if a portion of the district's levy money remains off-limits, that may not be easy.

## Scooters land in Tacoma head first

Trial period extends permits for Lime and Bird to operate scooters in Tacoma for a year.

By PETER PENDRASW  
STUDENT INVESTIGATOR

Motorized foot scooters have shown up in cities across the United States since 2017. Advertised as an eco-friendly solution to the "the first- and last-mile dilemma in public transportation" — how transit riders make it to bus and train stops — e-scooter use comes with a host of other challenges.

Scooter vendors Lime and Bird started operation in Tacoma last September. Each vendor began with 60-day trial permits to place 250 scooters in the city. Those permits have since been extended to September 2019 while doubling the number of allowable scooters to 500 per company. The vendors can add more if scooter use increases above four rides per scooter per day.

Tacoma is still in the early stages of its scooter experiment. It is easy to see their appeal: with little more than an impulse and a credit card number, anyone with a smartphone can take a ride within seconds.

"It's a perfect spot down here," said Tacoma resident Ken Woods, who was trying out a scooter with his daughters. "Everybody I've seen on them has a big smile on their face. We'll probably come back in the summer and rent a bunch."

Rules for scooter use in Tacoma are covered under Municipal Code 11.06.040. Anyone who rides must wear

a helmet. Anyone who does not gets a ticket — in theory.

"When the scooters arrived, the PD told us the time period and gave us handouts to make sure we were following the right ordinances," Tacoma Police spokeswoman Lorretta Cool said. "At first we did not issue tickets because it was a trial period."

That trial period has been extended into September 2019. When asked if the Tacoma PD was going to start issuing citations for scooter violations, Cool responded, "With a civil infraction, it's always the officer's discretion. Officers can choose to issue a ticket or not."

Since e-scooters arrived last fall, the Tacoma Fire Department has tracked incidents involving scooter-related injuries.

"In 2018 there were nine incidents involving scooters reported," Medical Services officer Mary Hallman wrote in an email. "Seven resulted in transport to local hospitals. The other two incidents did not result in transport. Two of the nine incidents involved cars striking the scooter at low rates of speed. All other incidents were due to rider error."

There have been no reported incidents involving scooters in 2019. It is possible that there have been incidents since October 2018 that did not require activation of 911 Emergency services.

The most serious injuries included

one rider who lost consciousness for 10 seconds and another who fractured their leg. None of the injured riders wore helmets, Hallman said.

There have been no reported incidents involving scooters in 2019. It is possible that there have been incidents since October 2018 that did not require activation of 911 Emergency services.

Other cities with a longer history of scooter use have hit some speed bumps. Over an 18-month period, 360 people in Atlanta and 250 people in Nashville were injured in scooter-related accidents. Consumer Reports estimates that since late 2017 over 1,500 people have been injured in e-scooter incidents across the United States.

Dr. Tarak K. Trivedi, writing for the journal *Emergency Medicine*, conducted a year-long study of incidents in two ER departments in Southern California. Of the 249 cases reported, only 4.4 percent of users wore helmets, which were legally required at the time. Over 40 percent of the injured suffered head injuries, nearly a third suffered fractures, and more than a quarter sustained soft tissue injuries.

The study revealed that few people paid heed to laws dictating helmet use and age limits on scooters. California recently suspended the helmet requirement for riders of e-scooters over the age of 18. Representatives from Bird who lobbied for changing the law said

they sought to make regulations consistent between bicycle and scooter laws.

When e-scooters are not in use they are parked in rows or left standing solo where the last ride ended. Sometimes they appear in clusters, seemingly abandoned.

"I remember seeing a pile of scooters down by Bates College," Cool said. "I was looking for parking and several minutes later somebody was picking them up. I thought it was going to be horrible with piles of scooters everywhere. But they seemed pretty quick."

The location of these scooters changes every day. An unseen army of freelance contractors round up the two-wheeled devices in their pickup trucks or SUVs to recharge and replace them in the field for another day of service.

But who checks the brakes? Who makes sure the throttle is not sticky and the lights work?

"Our team in Tacoma has 10 full-time employees and they are laser-focused on ensuring safe, reliable transportation," said Lime's Tacoma Operations manager, Gabriel Sheer. "Scooters are brought in once a month at a minimum. Our Lime Juicers (people charging the e-scooters) let us know if a particular one needs to be brought offline or replaced."

Both Lime and Bird are quick to point out that safety is their number one priority and deflect criticism of



PHOTO BY PETER PENDRASW

This line of Lime scooters can be found around the Ruston waterfront.

their own safety records by pointing at the high number of automobile collisions and fatalities involving cars. Both companies also remind everyone they have given away up to 75,000 free helmets, but people rarely use them.

When the Woods family took their first ride, they knew they were supposed to wear helmets.

"Yeah, you see that on the video when you first start up," Woods said. "I've not seen one person wearing a helmet."

None in his family did either.

# Opinion: Major shaming on campuses must end

Learn how major shaming is a big problem on college campuses.

By **CHRISTIAN BELL**  
OPINION EDITOR

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

“Writing Studies? What are you going to do with that degree?”

“You don’t look like a computer science major.”

“You’re so lucky to have the easy major.”

“Honestly, if it’s not STEM — it’s a waste of money.”

These comments are just a few examples of major shaming. In case you were unaware, major shaming is the act of making someone feel less than or embarrassed by their field of study. Not only does it strip students of their voices and self-esteem, but it also discredits the amount of effort and work it takes to succeed in that field.

Major shaming is wrong, and has no place on campus or anywhere else. Yet, it is still an incredibly common phenomenon on college campuses. For example, in her recent article on major shaming, a student from John Hopkins University, Jacqui Neber, wrote that students at John Hopkins University nicknamed the university’s prestigious Krieger School of Arts and Sciences the “School of Arts and Crafts.”

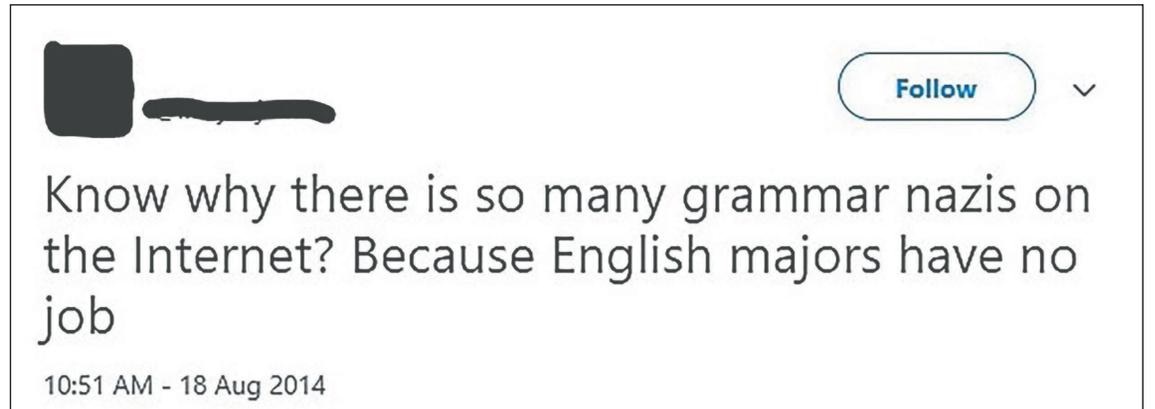
Though all majors can experience shaming, those who pursue degrees related to social sciences and humanities are disproportionately targeted. As a Writing Studies major, I was surprised by the sheer number of students in my field who were able to share stories of friends, family members, co-workers and even fellow students shaming them for their chosen major.

This is unfortunate, because there is room for both fields to co-exist — no one field is better than the other. College should be a place where students can learn and build upon their strengths — not fear of the criticism they’ll face for pursuing their interests.

College is like a garden: As students, we are the gardeners and our majors are the unique flowers we’d like to grow. Major shaming is like a weed — it suffocates the sprouts and growth of the respective flower. Though it may start with killing off

certain flowers first, pretty soon, the weed will ruin the entire garden.

Major shaming is a major problem for universities. We must put an end to it before it ruins the diversity and open atmosphere that makes college so appealing.



One of the many insulting tweets used towards English majors.

COURTESY OF TWITTER

# Opinion: Why students should participate in Interfaith events

The importance of student interaction through campus after global racist incidents is crucial in developing a stronger community at UW Tacoma.

By **BENGISU INCETAS**  
OPINION COLUMNIST

March 15 was a Friday — one of the holiest days out of the week for Muslims, as many religious events have taken place on that day. On this blessed day, Muslims go to the Mosque — their holy home of prayer — for the purpose of cleansing one’s heart and giving thanks to their God. March 15 is also the day that a supremacist decided to take the lives of 51 Muslims as they were in their mosque — a place they saw as their safe haven.

These 51 lives each held a story behind them. In those stories were their goals, dreams, ambitions and faith. These people were human beings. But on March 15, they were forced to take their last breath.

This inhumane terrorist attack is now being broadcasted globally, where many countries, communities and leaders are showing their support and condolences. Jacinda Ardern, the prime minister of New Zealand, was especially devastated by the attack and took full action to make sure that it would not happen again. Within a five day period, she banned military style semi-automatic and assault rifles from New Zealand.

“Speak the names of those who were lost rather than the man who took them,” Arden said. “He may seek notoriety, but we in New Zealand will give him nothing, not even his name.”

There is also ongoing support through the media, and countless students internationally are finding ways to get involved. Since the tragedy, there has been vigils conducted

by student organizations on many campuses, including the University of Washington.

There has also been more vigils at Mosques, such as the vigil hosted by the Muslim Association of Puget Sound, where a staggering number of people from every community attended to express their empathy.

Just by the appearance of the crowd at these vigils, it shows that we are one, and that we are there for each other in time of need. This is important because the terrorist’s objective through his attack was to divide people — instead, this tragedy has united them even better than before.

This is the time to reflect what we — as the next generation — can do to be inclusive of all crowds. People learn through speaking with each other — not just watching the news, which can sometimes corrupt the image of a certain religious or ethnic group.

Students must view this tragedy as a sign that communities, despite differences, must be closer together to dissipate hatred. In this case, more students on campus need to interact more frequently with religious or ethnic led organizations to be able to create that strong diverse community that new incoming students in the future should see.

This may be through dual event planning together, participating in interfaith discussions about each other beliefs, and/or even sharing traditions and customs from the religion and ethnicity. By doing so, the students not only show that they are united, but it shows that the University truly values these types of bonds

created by students.

This is absolutely necessary to meet the goal of combining students as a whole. We must set aside stereotypes and learn from unfortunate hate crimes.

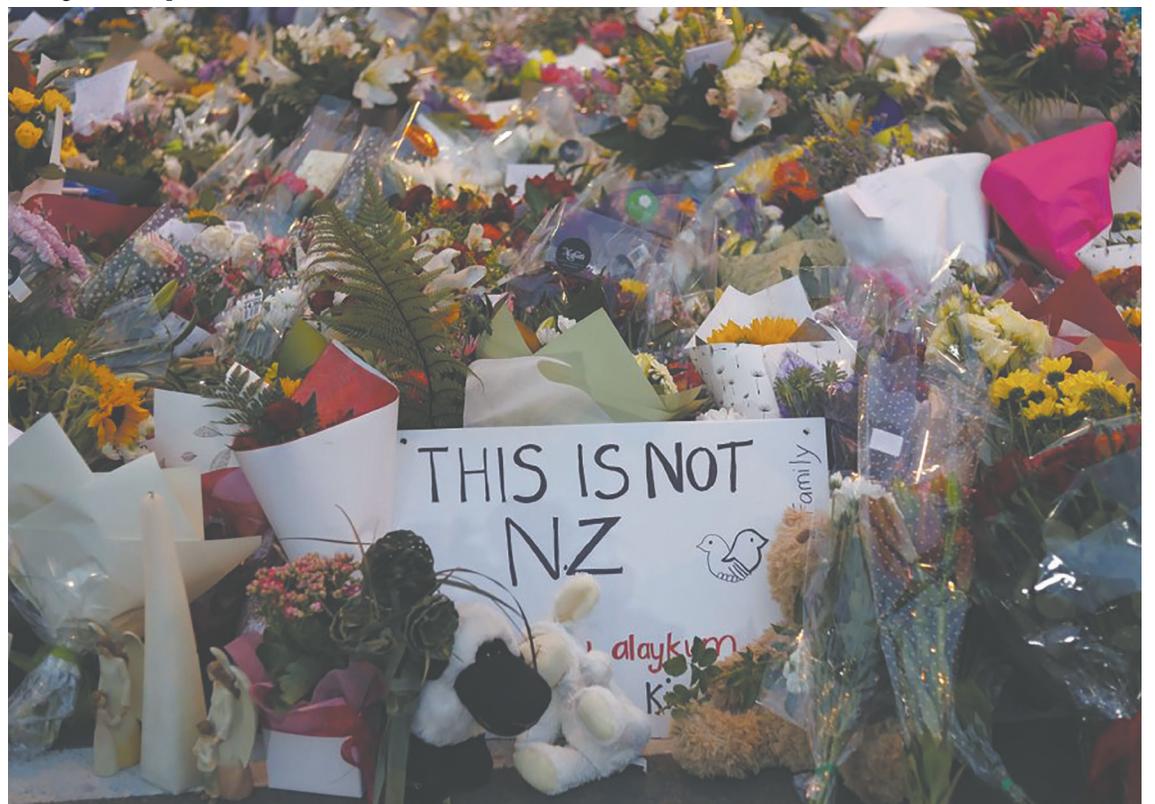
As Dr Martin Luther King Jr. once said, “In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.” Now is the time to create the moments we wish to see at the UW Tacoma. If you need any help contacting clubs, visit Dawgden where they have numerous unique RSO’s.

Keep a look out for events that help build bridges between students as well through our campuses event calendar!



Picture of flowers at the mosque with drawing.

PHOTO COURTESY OF REUTERS



Flowers are gathered for the victims of the New Zealand tragedy.

COURTESY OF VINCENT YU NEWS 3 CHANNEL



PHOTO BY MILES CAMERON

Wave to the daffodils princesses!

## Tacoma's annual Daffodil Parade signals the kickoff of spring

Spring is upon us! The annual Daffodil Parade celebrated the new season and the local community.

By MILES CAMERON  
A&E EDITOR

If you are a Tacoma/Seattle area native, you might have attended the annual Daffodil Parade which celebrates the community, history, traditions and growth of Pierce County. Being one of the earliest flowers to show its blossom and signify the beginning of spring, the daffodil flower has been worthy of celebration within Pierce County. Making its way through the four cities of Tacoma, Puyallup, Sumner and Orting, people lined the streets to partake in the an-

nual commemoration. In Tacoma, the parade carried right through the UW Tacoma campus, as Pacific Avenue was one of several locations for the various festivities. Among the festivities were a series of floats, marching bands, classic cars and cheerleaders — who are all celebrated by local patrons that woke up early enough to watch the parade.

The origins of the Daffodil Parade began in 1926, originally taking place in the more rural parts of Sumner, where daffodils were in full bloom. Starting off as a neighborhood garden party, the viewing of daffodils became

highly coveted and eventually became an annual affair on the streets of Sumner. People from all over Pierce County would flock to witness the fields of bright yellow flowers, welcoming the spring season into motion. In 1934, this annual event became more parade-like, as automobiles, horses and bicycles travelled down the main road, which would be covered in fresh-cut daffodils so that the folks lining the street could all partake in the fun. Over the years, this parade came to represent a celebration of local agricultural success and the upcoming harvest.

While, the Daffodil Parade still

features the beautiful daffodil flower as a symbol for the event, the true celebration is about the community in which it takes place. The local residents who line the streets cheer for their local community as high school bands, floats, businesses and local organizations all stroll along in the parade to be recognized and honored. Along the streets, there was also a constant sound arising from the various student marching bands that go up and down the corridor. Among the high schools partaking were Lincoln High School, Stadium High School, Puyallup High School and

Sumner High School. Between each marching band were different local businesses and organizations — both wishing to advertise their causes as well as join in the celebration, often featuring daffodils lining their commercial vehicle. Though, the biggest attraction by far were the flamboyant floats that sauntered down the streets, often featuring high school girls dressed in yellow gowns waving at the crowd. For this reason, it was a huge hit for families and those who still appreciate some joyful recognition for businesses that resides within the community.

## UW Tacoma prepares for spring performance of 'Mojada: A Medea in Los Angeles'

UWT presents 'Mojada,' a play that nods to the Ancient Greeks and sparks critical thinking surrounding identity, culture and what it means to be a 'good' woman.

By ALEX ALDERMAN  
A&E COLUMNIST

UW Tacoma's School of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences is starting off spring quarter strong with their rendition of Luis Alfaró's "Mojada: A Medea in Los Angeles." The play is to be directed by UWT professor Maria-Tania Bades B. Weingarden, with the cast made up of both UWT students and local community actors. "Mojada: A Medea in Los Angeles" is set to be performed on May 24, 25, 26, 31 and June 1, with the location to be announced soon.

Alfaró's "Mojada: A Medea in Los Angeles" re-imagines the Ancient Greek play "Medea," written by Euripides in 431 BC. The Greek tragedy follows Medea, a former princess of the Colchis kingdom. Medea's life and status as a princess enters a whirlwind as she seeks revenge on her cheating husband Jason and his new wife. "Medea" puts forth themes of femininity, vengeance and love. Al-

though spinning an entirely new story, Alfaró's re-imagined "Mojada" grasps onto several key parts of the "Medea" plot, characters and form.

"Mojada" takes the core of an Ancient Greek woman's plight and applies it to contemporary times, adding themes surrounding immigration and what it means to be a traditional Latinx woman in our current society. Translating to a slur for Mexican-Americans, the title "Mojada" speaks to the discrimination endured by many Mexican-Americans and Latinx people in the United States. As the modern day Medea navigates life, she finds herself stuck between the traditional ways of her village in Mexico and her new life in fast-paced LA. As she fulfills her roles as mother and wife to husband Hason and son Acan, she finds herself haunted by her past and troubled by her new life in her new country.

Because issues surrounding immigration are such a hot topic in our current political climate, now is as good a time as ever to tell authentic

stories of the experiences people have when immigrating to the US. "Mojada" not only tells a tale that many undocumented, newly immigrated, first, second and third generation Latinx people can identify with, but also moves to explore how the intersection of gender, ethnicity and culture shapes a person's experience. Medea, — caught between her Mexican upbringing of being a dotting mother and virtuous wife — clashes with Hason's desire to pursue his "American Dream" and shun the traditional ways of his home country.

"Mojada: A Medea in Los Angeles" is setting itself up to be a performance that showcases UWT's talent, as well as a clear reflection of the campus' devotion to diversity and inclusion — which is done so when a group of people are able to identify with and see themselves and their stories on stage. Be on the lookout this spring for "Mojada" — a refreshing, modern take on an Ancient Greek tragedy in a time where true expressions of identity are needed.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

"Even in a barrio like this, Medea, someone always wants to be king."

# Spring: The season to get involved and explore the community

Warmer weather and longer days are the perfect storm for a spring season filled with fun activities.

By **ALYSSA TATRO**  
OPINION COLUMNIST

Sunnier days and blooming foliage have solidified the presence of spring. As the weather warms up, it's time to plan for the adventures ahead. The Puget Sound region is home to a number of great outdoor recreation and spring events to keep you busy and inspired. The following guide will offer a range of recommendations for fun activities that you can add to your spring bucket list this year!

## TOUR FORT NISQUALLY LIVING HISTORY MUSEUM

Located in the five mile drive at Point Defiance park in Tacoma, Fort Nisqually is a fun and educational activity that the entire family can enjoy. Fort Nisqually was the first European settlement of the Puget Sound. Visitors can come view the museum and participate in interactive learning, tours and events. Admission prices vary depending on the activity one plans to attend, and hours of operation are Wednesday to Sunday, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

## THE SKAGIT VALLEY TULIP FESTIVAL

The Tulip festival takes place from April 1–30th and has been a Pacific Northwest tradition for 34 years. This is designed as a driving tour through the fields and continues to connect our communities to the agricultural land around us. The festival offers a beautiful, scenic experience in the heart of Skagit valley and is a great activity to celebrate the blooming of spring. When visiting, you will need a map of the tulip fields to navigate,

as the fields do not have addresses and locations change annually due to crop rotation.

## HIPPY HIKE

Hippy Hike is a group founded and based in Tacoma by a former UW Tacoma student, Eva Natalie. This group meets twice a month to pick up trash, enjoy nature and build community in parks around Tacoma. This is a great activity to add to your spring bucket list, as it allows for you to be an engaged community member whilst exercising. Hippy Hikers welcome dogs and friends of all ages to join in on the fun, so bring a friend and wear some hiking shoes! Join Hippy Hike on April 20 for the Celebrating Earth clean up on Earth Day at Puget Creek Natural Area and follow the Hippy Hike facebook page @Hippy Hike to stay updated on upcoming park cleanups!

## VOLUNTEER WITH PIERCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The Pierce County Conservation District is looking to gather some volunteers interested in assisting with conservation and protection efforts across Pierce County. Volunteering is a perfect way to help out your neighborhood and make friends with like-minded people. The Pierce County Conservation District is hosting a public event on May 4th from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. at Adriana Hess Wetland Park located at 2917 Morrison Rd W University Place, WA 98466, where people can come at their convenience. This open house event includes nature walks, nature demos and a Q&A session. Throughout the event, volunteer



COURTESY OF KOMO NEWS

A breathtaking field of tulips at the festival.

and stewardship opportunities will also be discussed.

## SEATTLE CHERRY BLOSSOM & JAPANESE CULTURAL FESTIVAL

This celebration of Japanese and Japanese-American culture begins April 26 and goes through the weekend, starting at 10 a.m. each day and ending at 6 p.m. The festival includes dancing, crafting, music, martial arts and traditional ceremonies such as a chado or a tea ceremony. The festival is held in the Seattle center at the Armory and Fisher Pavilion, the exact address is 305 Harrison St, Seattle, WA 98109.

## TACOMA NIGHT MARKET

Alma Mater Tacoma hosts a community night market where friends are made and unique items are bought. This free event is open to all of Tacoma and includes art, music, food and drinks. The Tacoma Night Market is — located at 1322 Fawcett Ave, Tacoma — is held 5–10 p.m. on the third Saturday of each month. The next upcoming market will be held April 20.

## GO HIKING

The abundance of nature makes it easy to get some fresh air and hit the trails in Washington regularly, but this spring try getting out and appreciating what many of us take for granted. We

have the mountains, the sound, and the sea all within our grasp here in the South Sound region. There are thousands of trails and nature spots in this region that are catered to all ages and skill levels, so hop on alltrails.com and search for the perfect destination in your area!

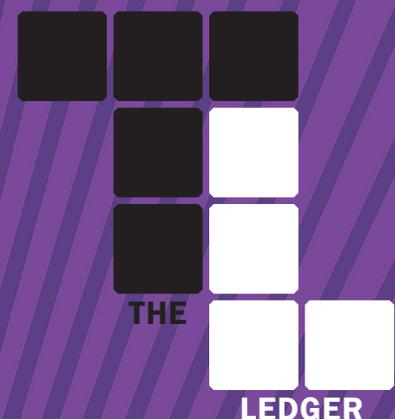
Every year we should strive to grow and experience more, which is why spring is the perfect time of year to seek new opportunities. This spring I challenge you to find a new hobby, attend new events, help others and forge community. I guarantee this will bring fresh habits and positivity to your 2019.

## The Ledger is now accepting letters to the editor!

Submit to: [ledger@uw.edu](mailto:ledger@uw.edu)

Include:

- Your first & last name
- "Dear Editor," as the opening of your piece
- Respond to one of our articles or happenings on campus





COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES

## Jordan Peele's 'Us': Another social commentary about Trump's America, but with a twist

"Us" is not your typical horror movie with cliché serial killers or vengeful spirits — it's the monsters inside of us that's the real horror.

By **JENNY LAM**  
A&E COLUMNIST

Jordan Peele's second feature "Us" may not be as trim and polished as his groundbreaking directorial debut "Get Out," but the attempt to broaden his canvas and deepen his psychological insights within film is something to respect. Peele kept his famous promise to make a film focusing on the racial aspect of the United States — diving into symbolism, allegories and theories that convey more than just a twisted nightmare of a home invasion by doppelgangers. Hence the title, "Us" isn't just about us, but plays as a double entendre, also pointing to the U.S.

"Us" tells the story of Adelaide Wilson (played by Lupita Nyong'o), a wife and mother with a traumatic childhood experience that eventually comes back to haunt her while on a summer beach trip

to Santa Cruz with her family. Nyong'o killed it as both Adelaide and Red — her doppelganger —, and the range of emotions she displayed was incredible and definitely deserves at least an Oscar nomination. Adelaide's husband Abraham (played by Winston Duke), also did an incredible job lightening up the plot with his occasional jokes, which are clearly influenced by Peele's past Comedy Central's days.

Without revealing too much, it is obvious that Peele loves horror and is deliberately revitalizing the genre as a whole while also paying homage to the OGs, such as Stephen King's "It" and "The Shining."

However, Peele isn't one to stick with a linear storyline of those generic paranormal activities, cliché serial killers, or the abandoned haunted house and vengeful spirits seeking revenge. Peele switches up the horror genre with aspects of

everyday life — things that we usually gloss over, so when we hear and see them in movies, it becomes very real. He kills the comforting feeling that we have always associated with our home, families, friends, and even ourselves to become our worst nightmare — creating an ominous and uncanny feeling that leaves audience suspicious.

Similarly, "Us" does mirror the social commentary of "Get Out," involving the current state of xenophobia in Trump's America.

"We're a country that is afraid of the outsider. We're afraid of the other, whether it's within our borders or outside," Peele said. "And I think we fail to point a finger inward, we're capable of really messing up in big ways."

Peele even hints at a disturbing conspiracy in "Us" that has been circulating for a while now, which regards the government secretly making clones of us to

use in unauthorized activities. With the new trend of DNA genetic test kits like "23andMe," these companies might be selling human DNA and data to the government. Maybe this is Peele trying to subtly warn us about something bigger without too much government suspicion.

While "Us" is frightening, there were some weak spots along the way. The main stand out was the third act, which mostly consists of Red explaining everything to Adelaide, telling her the whole story. The doppelganger twist is pretty obvious from the first act and ultimately just repetitive to mention — at least in their world. Having the audience interpret what they saw is way more powerful than an expository overload — it allows their minds and curiosity come out to play. While Peele could have done better, it seemed that he may have needed more time and wasn't given enough to make "Us" really stand out.

### REVIEW

#### "Us"



#### The Good:

- The whole cast is phenomenally creepy.
- The cinematography and musical score were beautiful.
- Frightening, with a bit of humor here and there.

#### The Bad:

- Some parts felt rushed and lazy.
- Logistically, the shadow society doesn't make much sense and left audiences with questions.

## NHL has finally made its way back to Seattle

Seattle will be the home of a professional hockey team for the first time since 1924.

By **BROOKS MOELLER**  
SPORTS COLUMNIST

If you haven't heard already, Seattle has been granted a NHL franchise for the 2021 season. The excitement is real for a city that hasn't had a major professional sports team in the winter since the Seattle Supersonics relocated to Oklahoma City in 2008.

The Seattle Metropolitan were the last time a professional hockey team called Seattle home, playing in the Pacific Coast Hockey Association from 1915–1924. In 1917, the Metropolitan became the first American hockey team to win the Stanley Cup — 11 years before any other American team to do so. There is rich hockey history in this city so it was only a matter of time before the NHL finally decided to award Seattle an expansion franchise.

franchise.

One of the requirements for approval by the NHL is a season ticket drive, where the team must show that there is interest in the area for a hockey team. Seattle's ownership set a goal of 10,000 season ticket deposits. They reached that goal in under 12 minutes and ended up with 25,000 deposits in the first hour. This number is especially impressive when compared to Las Vegas's drive when they were trying to receive an expansion franchise, only reaching 5,000 deposits in two days.

On Dec. 4 2018, the NHL approved the proposal made by the Seattle partners to officially grant the city an expansion team. This comes just two years after the league gave Las Vegas the 31st NHL franchise. For scheduling purposes, most leagues do not stay at an odd number of

teams for long. Therefore, the NHL was looking to expand in the near future and Seattle jumped at the opportunity. NHL commissioner Gary Bettman has expressed his excitement for the expansion to the Pacific Northwest.

"Today is an exciting and historic day for our league as we expand to one of North America's most innovative, beautiful and fastest-growing cities," Bettman said. "And we are thrilled that Seattle, a city with a proud hockey history that includes being the home for the first American team ever to win the Stanley Cup, is finally joining the NHL."

In order for this to happen, Seattle had to settle its ongoing arena problem since the Sonics left over 10 years ago. The two options were either to remodel the aging Key Arena, or build a brand new state of the art arena in a different

location. The new arena proposal never gained any traction, leading to an unanimous approval by the Seattle City Council to begin a \$700 million renovation of Key Arena to be ready by the year 2020.

With the arena problem being settled, the real debate has now been what the new team's name will be when they begin to play in 2021. The owner group have kept their list confidential — giving the public no idea of what name will be chosen. Some have suggested that they go the historical route and bring back the Seattle Metropolitan. However, due to the fact that there is a division in the NHL named the "Metropolitan Division," that idea has been shot down by the executives part of the team. Other popular name ideas have been the Steelheads, Krakens, Sockeyes, and Totems.

The NHL's move to Seattle is hoped

to have sent a message to NBA commissioner Adam Silver and the rest of the league that the city is ready for a return of the Sonics. The success of the season ticket drive is just a taste of how big of a hockey city Seattle can be, and also shows the NBA that Seattle can support multiple professional sports teams at once. Tod Leiweke, the CEO of NHL Seattle, says the fans are a big part of why this was accomplished.

"I woke up today thinking about the fans," Leiweke said. "What did they feel on March 1 when they put down deposits without knowing anything? No team name, an ownership group they didn't know very well, a building plan that was back then somewhat defined but fairly vague. Today is a great day for the fans and we owe them so much. That's why today happened."