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THE LEDGER

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA



CSL hosting spring BreakAway trip to Oregon

Students will volunteer, learn about environmental justice and grow connections during a trip to Buford Park.

By MITCHELL FERMO
News Editor

For the past few years, the Center for Service and Leadership has hosted a trip over spring break to get students engaged in environmentalism. This year's Spring BreakAway continues previous years' tradition of taking students to Buford Park, near Eugene, Oregon. Students will team up with the CSL's partner organization Friends of Buford Park and work with local community partners. The trip will take place between March 21–26.

Jessy Wolff, this year's BreakAway coordinator, explained that coordinators choose the primary focus for the trip, and this year student volunteers will be focusing on environmental justice.

"Environmental justice is a pretty wide ranging topic, so the conversations we have will touch on a lot of subtopics that sort of sit underneath that umbrella term," Wolff said. "Some of the bigger issues I know I want to talk about are climate change, individual, government and corporate responsibility — to the environment — environmental racism, global impact and the future of state and national parks. With several days to talk about these things, I hope we can also begin to understand the interconnection between these issues."

Students who are interested in going still have time to sign-up. There is a \$50 fee, and space is limited to fifteen students. So far, eight have signed up. There will be two mandatory meetings before the trip on Feb. 22 and March

7 where students will go in-depth about this year's plans.

The BreakAway trip represents one way in which the CSL gets students involved with community outreach and work. The CSL also organizes the Husky Volunteers, where students can get involved with volunteer work, or if they are already volunteering, they can reflect upon their service and time.

Students who go through the Husky Volunteer process and complete at least 100 hours of volunteer work will be eligible to receive a Silver Husky Medallion. Students who do 200 hours of work are eligible for a Purple Husky Medallion, and for those who complete 300 or more hours of volunteer work or service can receive the Gold Husky Medallion. Students participating in the trip will earn

around 80 hours of community service which can count toward the medallion.

"There is a reflective aspect of it," Wolff said. "There's developing a connection to the issues that hopefully continues long past the day you say farewell. It is really important at the CSL to build community. It is one of the key aspects of the office. We all have had experiences around not knowing exactly where we fit on campus, in being a commuter campus. I personally am a non-traditional student, and there's others in our office as well."

Wolff added how the CSL is there for volunteer work and community outreach as well as serving as a place to build the UW Tacoma campus and community.

"The CSL is the place where we found a sense of family, and on BreakAway, and



PHOTO BY ALYSSANDRA GOSS
Last year's BreakAway trip was also to Buford Park, where students planted trees, dug an irrigation ditch and made connections with each other.

the CSL in general, really work hard to provide that community feeling and a place that is welcoming and supportive, not just in connection to service, but relationally and personally."

Huskies in the hallway:

COMPILED AND PHOTOS BY LAUREN ZENT

How should campus solve the parking issue?



Hailey Jenster
Junior
Psychology

"It doesn't really affect me personally as I live nearby. I'd say make additional floors on court 17, more stalls could alleviate parking issues."



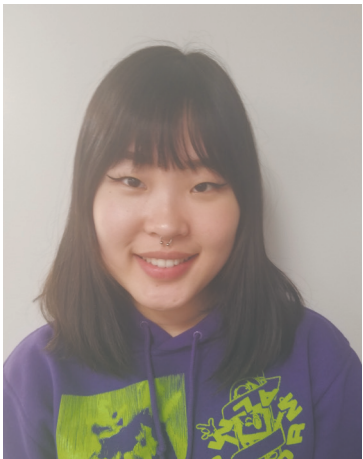
Jasmine Meggo
Junior
Accounting

"Oh, make the parking limit longer, as well as promoting carpooling put up a poster for it. Or provide free parking. UPS has free parking, although it is a private campus."



Raihab Baig
Senior
Business Management

"I struggle with it. I have a permit but I was unable to find parking for 45 minutes. The campus should buy different areas of parking or do additional levels of court 17 garages."



Seonhwa Pak
Senior
Psychology

"Personally, I would say to collaborate with the city of Tacoma and buy land to build more parking lots and make it more affordable for parking. And remove the three hour limit to make it unlimited again."



Dr. Sarah Chavez
Faculty
Lecturer in Writing Studies

"I think that they should have better more frequent public transit, so students should be able to get to campus more easily. There also should be a parking structure away from school that can transport students to school on a regular basis."

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Urban agriculture in the cold Washington weather

A new greenhouse means more opportunities for the Giving Garden.

By **ANDREA NADAL**
NEWS REPORTER

The Giving Garden is adding an on-site greenhouse. In partnership with Christine Stevens, they received funding through the Strategic Initiative Fund for a small 8-by-10 greenhouse.

“We want to figure out the logistics for a larger greenhouse,” said Garden Coordinator Mikel Pircey. “Our growing season is relatively short here in Washington and we can’t get our plants started until pretty late because it’s so cold. A greenhouse would allow us to start seeds indoors and move them outdoors when they’re ready. It would also allow us to grow more varieties of plants.”

The Giving Garden at UW Tacoma works to eliminate food insecurity among students through hands-on experience with fresh food that is grown by students, for students. Further, this works to connect them back to their food system and allows students the opportunity to have a sense

of power over their food choices. Through its partnership with The Pantry, the university’s on-campus food bank, the garden is able to deliver local produce directly to students in need.

“Any excess produce goes to St. Leo’s food connection,” Pircey said. The Giving Garden creates a sense of community through their volunteer opportunities, events, and by connecting people living within Tacoma’s urban scene to nature and agriculture. The Giving Garden is a symbol of sustainability and connection to nature in an ever urbanizing world. It shows that Urban life does not need to be devoid of the natural world.

“We have added 20 more raised beds total, nine just over this weekend. We are expanding pretty fast, the greenhouse will take longer due to logistics, but there is a spot for it on-site already planned out,” said Pircey.

The Giving Garden occupies 18,000 sq. ft in downtown Tacoma. This includes 33 raised beds, a 2,000 sq. ft native plant walk, 8 fruit trees, and a Sustainable Hub for Education

and Demonstration with a living roof and hempcrete wall.

The Giving Garden was established in 2009 and is located at the corner of 21st and Fawcett. It is an example of affordable urban gardening, beyond that it serves as an educational research plot for determining best practices and also as a community resource for fresh produce.

A community partnership with Clover Park Technical College yields the Giving Garden's new Sustainable Hub for Education and Demonstration (SHED).

For more information follow:
<https://bit.ly/2PaClrR>

All are welcome to stop by and visit the garden or volunteer. If you've never been to the garden before, please schedule a short orientation by emailing:

uwgarden@uw.edu



PHOTOS BY NIKOLUS PATRASZEWSKI
Giving Garden Coordinator, Mikel Pircey, along with a flat bed of artichoke that has been sprouting in the garden.

UWT students face food accessibility challenges

Students discuss affordable food options on campus.

By **LAUREN ZENT**
NEWS REPORTER

Associated Students of UW Tacoma’s President Vincent Da’s primary initiative this year is to bring affordable food options on campus. Currently, on-campus options include West Coast Grocery and the Pantry as food resources, along with allowing Charles and Terry to operate in the Mattress Factory. While there is an ample amount of eateries on Pacific Avenue, students are concerned about healthiness and price.

“Besides the Pantry, I feel like we do have a lot of restaurants on campus,” said Cassandra Green, a senior in major-

ing in Business Administration. “But for a full time student who has bills it’s difficult to find food that I can purchase with nutritional value. The Pantry does offer a variety of food, but it’s also not always my first pick because most of it is processed food or snacks that won’t fill me up.”

Their meal’s nutritional value is a primary concern for students, a few commented on how nutritional value can harm their academic life and career.

“It’s been scientifically proven that healthy lunches make people process and focus better, so not being able to eat on campus guarantees academic struggles as well,” said junior Politics, Philosophy

and Economics major Robyn Levin.

Levin also argues that while UW Tacoma does provide some healthy foods, it is often unavailable.

“Our most affordable hot food option is only open for extremely limited hours, and when my club meets during lunch hour I can’t get the only cheap lunch on or near campus, which skyrockets the price of food or limits me to snack items from vending machines,” Levin said.

Monetary concerns are echoed throughout the student body regarding food expenses.

“It’s important because most of us are cash strapped and rely on financial aid to such a large extent,” said Zoe LeBeau,

a senior Writing Studies major. “Financial Planning 101 says the first thing is to eliminate when you’re on a shoestring budget is eating out, which is literally the only food option available on campus.”

Students have heard varying information on solutions to the affordable food issue on campus. However, most students show favor of having a cafeteria on campus compared to having food trucks parked on site.

When asked about their preference, Green said, “A cafeteria, because we need space to eat the new food provided ... Food trucks might not be good because it rains a lot and students will have to wait outside.”

LeBeau also expressed concern over the nutritional and economic value of having food trucks available on campus.

“Food trucks are not going to be more affordable than a cafeteria. Food trucks are just fast food on wheels. The point is we need to stay away from fast food,” said LeBeau.

Foods that LeBeau and Levine recommend on campus would include salad bars, fruits, pastas, sandwiches and cheeseburgers. Green would also like to see more vegetarian and organic options, as well as Asian style dishes.

Students hope food options on campus will change in their favor soon.



UW Tacoma provides food resources such as Charles and Terry, The Pantry, the University Bookstore, and West Coast Grocery.

PHOTOS BY NIKOLUS PATRASZEWSKI

Teacher Spotlight: Meet Dr. Ben Meiches

A professor of politics and Global Honors, Meiches works diligently alongside the campus community.

By **MADELINE HILLER**
News Reporter

Benjamin Meiches teaches a variety of courses and programs at UW Tacoma, from debate to politics, and even Global Honors. He loves being able to work closely with the campus community. In doing so, he hopes to establish a relationship built on openness so students can reach out and interact with their professors.

WHERE DID YOU ATTEND COLLEGE?

"I completed my undergraduate degree at Whitman College and received a B.A. in Politics. I completed my doctorate in Political Science at Johns Hopkins University."

WHEN DID YOU KNOW YOU WANTED TO PURSUE YOUR FIELD OF STUDY?

"My first instinct is to say when I was 14 or 15 years old. I spent a fair amount of time participating in debate during high school and I think I knew then that I wanted to study politics broadly understood. I work really hard to learn something about a lot of different areas because the boundaries between types of knowledge or study can be quite contrived.

If you come to my office, you'll find books on politics, sociology, history — things you might expect — but also odd works of literature, a few books on topology and plenty on complexity science and physics. I've always kind of let my curiosity dictate my direction. I suppose I study politics because I often don't really understand why people act in the ways that they do."

WHAT CLASSES DO YOU TEACH?

"I teach in three areas. First, a bunch of courses about international politics including Introduction to International Relations, Theories of Political Violence, Genocide, Politics of Security, International Organizations and Human Rights and the Use of Force. Second, a couple of courses on public presentation and debate including Debate and Political Rhetoric. Third, I teach in the Global Honors program. Each is rewarding in different ways."

WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT UWT?

"Funny story. Sometimes in my debate course I have students do an introduction activity where they partner up and argue about whether UWT is the



PHOTO BY NICKOLUS PATRASZEWSKI

Benjamin Meiches, UW Tacoma professor of debate, politics and Global Honors.

best or worst university in the world. It is a good way to get everyone talking. It also means that I've actually heard a lot of different arguments for what makes UWT the best and the worst place to be — overwhelming negative answer from students in my class is parking.

Once last year, a student said that the best part of UWT was that they get to actually meet and interact with their professors and that they felt like many of the faculty were approachable and congenial in contrast to UW Seattle. I think so many aspects of higher education are unapproachable either by accident or design: college is expensive, professors are busy, expertise in a given area requires a lot of time and dedication to develop. Various social boundaries exist. Even the idea of college can be daunting.

I think the student nailed it when they said that the best part about this

school is the potential for close, slightly more intimate, slightly more accessible encounters with students. My favorite moments at UW Tacoma are when I get to work directly with just a handful of students and help them think in new ways."

WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES OUTSIDE OF TEACHING?

"I don't really have any hobbies per se. I spend a lot of time hanging out with my four year old daughter whether that means playing catch, painting, or pretending to be polar bears. I read a lot of fiction. I bake often. I watch basketball occasionally. I try to get out for hikes whenever I can."

WHAT ADVICE CAN YOU GIVE STUDENTS?

"My favorite professor during my undergraduate experience was ... Shampa Biswas. I have this wonderful/dreadful memory of being in her class when

she asked someone to explain a particularly difficult point in the text we were reading. After the obligatory 10 second pause, I gave it a shot.

After I answered, she turned to the class and asked what they thought of my response. I recall feeling like I was ready to crawl under the nearest desk, hole, cave, infinite void — take your pick. No one responded so eventually she said, 'well, good, because it was essentially right.' Sweet relief!

What's the point of my story? Speak up in class. Don't feel embarrassed about not understanding or not having perfect answers. Theoretically, a university is a place where you acquire some knowledge. The process of acquiring knowledge presupposes you don't have knowledge. It is not only okay, it is important to feel comfortable with that.

Also, remember that even if a profes-

sor is asking you a question, challenging your argument, et cetera, they're likely doing so to try and help you build a skill, see a different perspective or even to develop more confidence in yourself."

FUN FACTS:

- My favorite television show is "Buffy the Vampire Slayer".
- I think the best book I've read this year is Marlon James' "Black Leopard, Red Wolf."
- In a pinch, I could probably show you how to ice fish.

THE LEDGER IS NOW ACCEPTING LETTERS TO THE EDITOR!

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PHOTO BY NICKOLUS PATRASZEWSKI

A full Cragle parking lot outside the Mattress Factory.

The good, the bad, and the ugly: UWT parking

What students wish would change about finding places to park around campus.

By MEGHAN RAND
OPINION EDITOR

The parking situation at UW Tacoma — an infamous problem that is a constant source of discussion among students and staff alike. Going to school in the middle of a downtown area is sure to be a challenge, but once the problem reaches a level where your education begins to be affected, change needs to take place.

Popular problems I've seen caused by the congested or otherwise expensive parking options at UWT include being late to class due to the back and forth search along Pacific Avenue to locate a spot to park, and/or having to leave class and miss content that students are paying for to feed the parking meter. To avoid being ticketed, students skip class completely because they can't afford to pay to park, or they have to add an excessive amount of added commute time to park away from campus and get there by long walks or public transportation.

It's upsetting from a financial perspective that the parking situation at UWT is so problematic for students. For a campus demographic that is predominantly composed of commuter students, the additional cost that students are facing to attend should be taken more heavily by ad-

ministration. The school is a part of a coalition of urban-serving institutions, meaning it aims to support the area and provide better access to education for students that may face hurdles, such as financial ones. For this reason, the Financial Aid Office provides ample funding to students, and a lot of programs, like the short-term loan program and emergency aid, that are extremely helpful. So many people chose UWT because of the affordability option in the first place, and UWT does a great job of trying to help. Yet, students with low incomes are still disadvantaged by the burden of transportation to campus.

Paying roughly \$5 a day to park can quickly amount to astronomical highs for students when you factor in how often we must come to campus to attend classes. Add on potential parking tickets, and the cost of gas, it's evident that UWT provides a unique extra bill that many other schools don't. When it gets to the point where students are skipping whole classes altogether because they can't afford to park their cars, this is a major problem.

I will concede that there has been a genuine attempt made by UWT to mitigate the issue. There are numerous businesses in the area that have partnered with UWT to create spaces where students can purchase permits

to park, such as the Tacoma Dome or the Washington State History Museum. Also, there are free parking zones nearby campus. Even though these are typically full, the option is there. We also have the option of public transportation that is subsidized through UWT with the UPASS.

My problem with the permit options is that the convenient ones are extremely expensive. The most affordable option available is to park at the Tacoma Dome's Lot A, which comes with another set of hurdles. The lot is often closed several days of every month because of events. It's far away from campus, so students getting out of class later in the day or early evening do not feel safe traveling to that portion of town alone. Also, even more commute time must be budgeted for students to accommodate for the inconvenience, taking away valuable time from students who are already juggling multiple responsibilities. This is the same case with public transportation as well.

I have a lot of questions — why didn't UWT think of these problems when they decided to build a campus in the middle of downtown Tacoma? With their hope to increase enrollment numbers as well, the problem will only continue to worsen. Why wasn't the infrastructure put in place before haphazardly building a university that is

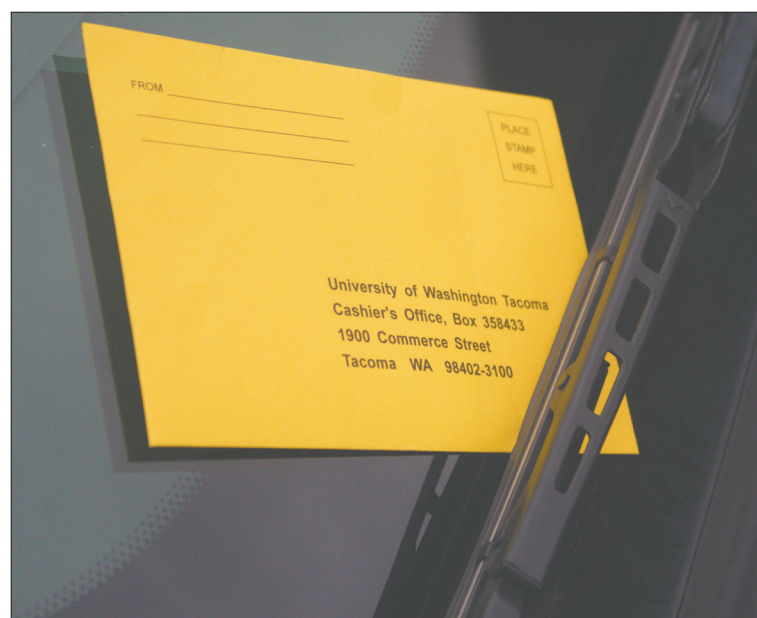


PHOTO BY NICKOLUS PATRASZEWSKI

The envelope everyone dreads seeing on their car after class.

extremely cumbersome to get to? Why couldn't a UWT parking garage be built instead of a multi-million dollar YMCA facility that UWT is still struggling to afford? Why doesn't UWT try to make things a little easier on students and work with the cell phone apps that allow you to manage parking from your phone that we already see all over downtown Tacoma?

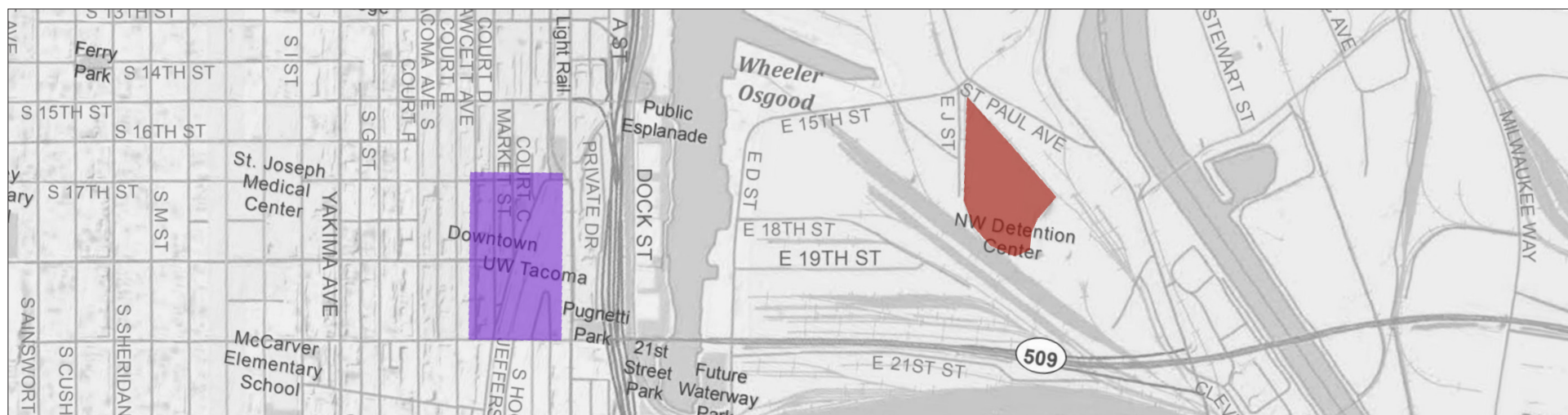
But most importantly, why are students being forced to overcome so many inconvenient obstacles when they are already making so many sacrifices to obtain their education,

including paying thousands of dollars to UWT annually?

Our university's administration constantly discusses strategies to increase enrollment — which has been suffering in recent years — and prevent students from transferring out of the university. If they would focus on making our daily student life more bearable with better parking or better on-campus food options instead of attempting to publicly legitimize themselves with flashy, expensive facilities and whole new departments, I think they would see more positive results.

Truth behind Northwest detention centers

Washington State has a new House bill that implements a prohibition of private detention facilities.



GRAPHIC BY NATALIE PEYTON

The Northwest Detention Center is located across the Thea Foss Waterway, only a seven minute drive from the University of Washington Tacoma campus.

By BENGISU CICEK
OPINION COLUMNIST

The Northwest Detention Center is a privately led detention center situated in the port of Tacoma. It is led by the GEO Group, a company based in Florida concerned with private detention and more. Opening in 2004 with a capacity of 1575 detainees, it has earned the title of being the largest American immigration prison, according to the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project. The situation in this detention center, and many others, is inhumane. It is without a doubt that immigrants within this country are not treated with decent human respect

and not given accessible resources to gain asylum and citizenship.

In 2014, NWDC detainees participated in a 56 day hunger strike to raise the concerns of intolerable food, wage theft, and lack of medical care, according to Maru Mora Villalpando and Megan Ybarra from Crosscut. Additionally, the Washington state Attorney General's Office sued the GEO Group from the investigations done on minimum wage. The workers are only paid a dollar a day, while some are not, and made to participate in "contests" where they earn "prizes."

On the La Resistencia site, it shows the breaking of the system and how money is made from these camps. It

shows the numbers and how the revenue for GEO was \$71 million for FY18 in Tacoma.

"Even though this system of human caging is all contracted through ICE, most of ICE's detention beds — more than 70% in 2019 — are in privately owned or operated detention centers, including the NWDC," according to La Resistencia.

There are so many unimaginable hardships that immigrants must go through in order to seek shelter here, only to be detained and treated inhumanely in private detention facilities. We cannot allow for the future to consist of these private-led centers anymore.

Now, Washington has introduced

House Bill 2576, which is sponsored by Representative Lillian Ortiz-Self and in the Senate by Senator Rebecca Saldaña. Retrieved from the House Bill report, its description is that it, "prohibits persons, businesses, and state and local governments from operating private detention facilities or from utilizing contracts with private detention facilities."

"Under the bill, Washington state's one private detention facility, the Northwest ICE Processing Center in Tacoma, would continue to detain people only for the duration of its contract, which expires in 2025. The bill could prevent other private facilities — whether criminal or civil — from opening," said

Lilly Fowler from Crosscut.

As unjust these detention centers are, it's beneficial that organizations such as the American Civil Liberties Union, La Resistencia, and The Latino Civil Alliance are working in support of keeping immigrants safe.

"We should not be profiting off our most vulnerable communities. Locking people up should not be a money making venture," said Representative Ortiz-Self from the Crosscut article.

This bill and many other efforts to shut down the NW detention center are progressing and very impactful, especially in 2020. Change needs to happen now, and it's in our hands to have a progressive and safe Washington State.

How commodification normalizes everything that makes you different

From clothes to movies, everything is sure to be reabsorbed into the mainstream.

By NICOLAS LUNA
OPINION COLUMNIST

This quarter, I am enrolled in TCOM 353: "Critical Approaches to the Study of Media." The instructor, Alexandra Nutter, has introduced me to the theory of commodification. In a paper she wrote, simply titled, "Commodification" she defined it as "the process by which goods or services that previously were valued for their use are assigned an economic value and become exchangeable items, or commodities." To put it simply, commodification happens when the artistic value of something is stripped away, and is only seen for how much money it is worth. This is something that we are victims of. Not in the sense that we commodify things ourselves, but that we consume these products as if we have no care for the original artistic or societal value.

A great example is the "Star Wars" franchise. I grew up watching the prequel trilogy, which is widely detested, but I would argue that there was a story to finish, which was set up by the original trilogy. Since Disney's acquisition of Lucasfilm, there has been movies and

TV shows being spat out in conveyor belt style just to capitalize on the fans of "Star Wars" — who will watch this content even if they are certain that it adds little to no substance to the actual canon of the fictional universe. I know this because I am a fan who watches these new canonical additions, due to FOMO — the fear of missing out.

In her paper, Nutter also discussed how smaller, more niche subcultures can be commodified as well. She used the example of yoga, saying that it went from being about spiritual connection, to merely being all about flexibility and wearing fashionable and comfortable clothing. Being a devout skateboarder, this immediately struck a chord with me. I'm not saying that the spirituality of yoga is at all comparable with skateboarding, but it is comparable in the sense of certain aspects being borrowed for the purpose of fitting the description of a desired aesthetic. This desired aesthetic is the "skater boy" aesthetic, which is most commonly associated with clothing from Thrasher Magazine. I have several Thrasher shirts that I simply don't wear anymore because commodification has removed it from the sub-

culture I am a part of. I find it fascinating that something as silly as a logo on a t-shirt, which at one point represented the entire spirit and rhetoric of skateboarding, can be annulled and dismissed by the mainstream, simply because it looks cool.

My Thrasher t-shirts made me stand out at one point, but if I wore them now, I'd look like the masses. I think I should say that I'm not angered by people who wear Thrasher shirts. In fact, the physicality of the Thrasher shirt is immaterial, and it is merely what it once represented to me. It was something that represented a facet of my personality and life, and was ripped from my hands for the sake of sales and fashion. It's inescapable, which begs the conclusion that anything that you think makes you different is illusory. If it hasn't been commodified yet, then it's going to be. It's that simple. My mother, along with others, tell me that the pants I wear are too baggy. But when everyone you know starts buying pants that are too big, and sinching their waists with a belt, maybe then you'll realize just how ahead of the curve I was, and maybe I'll even look like everyone else.



ILLUSTRATION BY BRUNO MARQUEZ

Are you wearing something that was once part of a more niche subculture?

Roller Derby season is jamming our way

What to expect from the upcoming Roller Derby season.



PHOTO BY R.L. ROBERTSON PHOTOGRAPHY

Jammer Ivanna Pop-a-Tart passing an opposing group of blockers.

By MADI WILLIAMS
A&E COLUMNIST

A select few people know about roller derby and many do not expect a sport so physical to have women's leagues. Watching women crash into each other, hitting the ground hard, blocking with their hips, rear and shoulders for the first time can be a bit intimidating. The Ledger attended the Bremerton season nine opener for the Bremerton Northwest Derby Company vs the Centralia team, Rainy City

Roller Dolls. These teams are part of The Women's Flat Track Derby Association — the international governing body who represent roller derby for more than 450 member leagues on six continents, giving women the opportunity to be part of this sport.

Roller derby consists of two teams comprised of 15 skaters that play two 30 minute periods. Within each period, there are a number of "jams" when the teams can score points during a two-minute window, or when the "Lead Jammer" calls it off. If a player does not block legally — by a block to the back,

tripping or elbows — the player is penalized for 30 seconds.

In the game there are three positions: jammer, blocker and pivot. The jammer scores and is easily recognized by the stars worn on their helmets. They attempt to pass the opponents as many times as possible by going around the track and lapping the pack.

The blocker's job is to stop the opponents' jammer from passing while also helping their own team's jammer through the opponent's blockers. The pack is formed by the largest group of blockers from both teams.

The pivot — the player with a stripe on their helmets — is the only blocker who can accept a star pass from the jammer, which makes them the new jammer. When a jam starts, each team has four blockers and one jammer.

When one of the jammers passes all skaters, they become the lead jammer. After the jammers complete a full lap, they earn one point each time they pass an opposing player legally — they can earn a total of four points per pass.

Roller derby is played on an oval-shaped track with out of bound lines players have to skate within — if they go out they come back in behind the pack. All of this is played without walls to catch the players — some slide far off the track but they jump right up and hurriedly return to the game.

If you're interested in seeing a game but Bremerton is a bit out of the way, fear not because there are teams closer to home. Tacoma has its own league called the Dockyard Derby Dames. The league is divided into three home teams: Femme Fianna, Marauding Mollys and the Trampires, as well as two competitive teams, The Wave of Mutilation and Undertow. If you're interested in more than just the Tacoma league information, the WFTDA website has a plethora of information available to prospective attendees.

The Ledger had the opportunity to interview one of the Rainy City Roller Dolls, Ivanna Pop-a-Tart. This conversation opened up a dialogue about the

game itself and cleared up questions and misconceptions about roller derby.

HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT ROLLER DERBY AND GET ON THE TEAM?

"I found Tacoma's Dockyard Derby Dames roller derby on Facebook and went to watch a bout. A year later I decided to search to see if there was a team closer to my home and found JBLM had a team. I played with them and then transferred to Rainy City Roller Dolls in Centralia. They teach you to skate and the rules."

IS THERE SIGNIFICANCE BEHIND YOUR DERBY NAME?

"My derby name is the result of a road trip to California. We all had road trip names, the state you were born in and what you ate for breakfast. As you guessed it, I ate a Pop-Tart and wanted another one. That's how Ivanna Pop-a-Tart came about."

WHAT IS THE ROLLER DERBY COMMUNITY LIKE?

"The derby community is very diverse. All different kinds of people are attracted to it. The public has an idea of what a roller derby girl looks like and I do not fit that description. I have no tattoos and only have my ears pierced once. I know skaters with Ph.D's, stay at home mothers and some just figuring it all out."

IS ROLLER DERBY MAINLY A FEMALE SPORT?

"Granted most of the leagues are female identified but there are men's leagues all over the world as well as some co-ed leagues."

Weird Elephant brings back gory cult classics to the big screen

Old movies and new come together at the Grand Cinema.

By ANDREW BROWN
FILM CRITIC

Most of us who want to catch the latest movie make a point to head to the local multiplex to take part in the action. Little did you know, if you crave the unique film style of older films, it's worth it to catch a remastered version on the big screen at an independently owned cinema located in the heart of Tacoma.

The Grand Cinema, on the corner of Fawcett and 6th Avenue, has the luxury of providing both new and old movies. However, one of their events that has everyone talking is the Weird Elephant series — a weekly showing of old films that you wouldn't typically see in a theatrical setting.

Taking place every Saturday at 11 p.m., Weird Elephant provides something different for every movie fan. Old classics, obscure horror gems, and sometimes venturing into the avant garde, it's safe to expect the unexpected. In addition to the film shown, the venue serves alcoholic beverages and frequently offers extra goodies such as contests, prizes, give-

aways, karaoke nights and more.

Being February, also known as Black History month, Weird Elephant is producing a Black History program to celebrate and is highlighting important films that broke racial barriers by having black directors, protagonists or antagonists.

Earlier in the month, the series began with Jordan Peele's smash hit from 2019, "Us." When the Ledger visited on February 8, we were treated to a screening of the classic cult horror flick "Candyman." Starring Tony Todd as the titular slasher, "Candyman" is the only film in mainstream horror to feature a black villain.

Based on the Clive Barker short story "The Forbidden," "Candyman" transfers the original setting of the book — which resides in England — to the projects of Chicago in the early nineties. Taking inspiration from the schoolyard tale of Bloody Mary, the Candyman is a ghostly figure that can be summoned by standing in front of a mirror in the dark and repeating his name five times out loud. He's been relegated to folklore by the local college students, but when a series of murders mirror his legend, grad

student Helen — played by Virginia Madsen — intends to dig into the myth and get to the bottom of these killings.

The film is a haunting experience and highlights the social inequalities between races in inner-city Chicago. Candyman is the ghost of a slave's son who fell in love and had a child with a white woman. His painful death at the hands of a lynch mob included a swarm of bees, which factor into his eerie appearances throughout the story. As the narrative progresses, Candyman's victims begin appearing around Helen, and it becomes a race for her to finish him off before she is held accountable for his evil deeds.

Socially conscious, tense, and visually memorable, "Candyman" was a mild success at the box office when released, but has over the years gained fame on home video. Two sequels followed, and star Tony Todd went on to act in such hits as "The Crow," "The Rock," and the "Final Destination" franchise.

Next week, Weird Elephant continues the series with the classic zombie film "Night of the Living Dead," and the program will finish with the horror anthol-



PHOTO BY ANDREW BROWN

Grand Cinema director Wade Neal and local filmmaker TJ Walker introduce "Candyman" at Weird Elephant.

ogy "Tales from the Hood" at the end of the month.

In addition to putting the spotlight on lesser known old films, Weird Elephant tries to highlight local filmmakers, too. The feature was preceded by Tacoma writer/director TJ Walker introducing a short trailer for "Supreme," the first part of an upcoming series called "Green Fiction." In this unique sci-fi/thriller anthology, each episode focuses on characters who consume marijuana and acquire superpowers.

The Grand Cinema is Tacoma's

premiere home for independent cinema and is a champion of smaller budgeted movies by giving them a home where they belong, on the big screen. Additionally, they show older classics on Tuesdays in their Classic Film Series, and new releases flow in regularly as well.

Check out their schedule at
<https://www.grandcinema.com/>



Seattle based Chastity Belt played in Tacoma on Feb. 4.



PHOTOS BY TALIA COLLETT

The all-female power quartet Chastity Belt comes to Tacoma

Alma Mater houses the female powerhouses of Chastity Belt for an electric evening at their Fawcett Hall venue.

By TALIA COLLETT
A&E EDITOR

First formed back in 2010 in Walla Walla Washington, Chastity Belt is an all-female quartet now residing in Seattle. After a seemingly long hiatus following their previous album release back in June of 2017, Chastity Belt dropped a new album in Sep. 2019 — most recently they collaborated with the Australian band Loose Tooth on Jan. 31 for the release of their new single “The Process.”

Since then, Chastity Belt and Loose Tooth were set to take their music — new as well as old — on the road to

tour the West Coast and southern states. Packed with excited fans of all ages, Fawcett Hall was cleared of most of its tables and chairs in order to make room for the crowd turnout.

Unfortunately, after releasing their split single “Lonely” in collaboration with Chastity Belt on Jan. 31, Loose Tooth was unable to make the tour this time around. Etta Curry who claimed drums and vocals, bass, vocals, guitar and keys by Luc Dawson, and Nellie Jackson on guitar and vocals formed the group back in Melbourne in 2012 and classify their music as “haunting garage pop.” Due to personal reasons, the band needed to back out of the tour last minute.

Despite this setback, Chastity Belt still brought their music to the stage as the solo act of the evening. Playing together for roughly 10 years, Julia Shapiro plays vocals, guitar, and drums, Lydia Lund with her vocals and guitar, and Gretchen Grimm on drums, vocals, and guitar are currently represented by Hardly Art!, Milk! Records, and Help Yourself. The group writes their music in conjunction with their experiences navigating life as friends and individuals. Experimenting throughout the years, the four also document and express whatever they feel in the moment and play homage to feminism in their writing and performances, as well.

The Seattle outfit’s music fills the

room to the brim. Classified as an alternative genre with rock n’ roll accents, the group brings in inspiration from early Pacific Northwest indie rock bands. With powerful yet ethereal vocals accompanied by hypnotic guitar notes, rhythmic beating drums, and deep melodic bass riffs, Chastity Belt’s set list encompassed the venue. The lighting was set to match, switching between deep reds, purples and blues to maintain the ambiance.

The atmospheric music writhed throughout the room and ushered most of its audience into dance. The group played for roughly an hour and opted to perform some newer releases such as “Caught in a Lie,” “It Takes Time”

and “Drown.” But they couldn’t end the night without implementing a few old favorites for the audience as well, notably “Time to Go Home” and ending in an encore with their famed and popular oldie “Cool Slut.”

The all-female group will continue their tour until the end of February where they’ll return to Seattle on Feb. 28 accompanied by “Versing” for a show likely to be unmissed.

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If you're itching to get out and dance, here are some upcoming shows to fill your music needs at Fawcett Hall:

02/21: "Paperboys"

03/06: "Summer Cannibals"

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SPORT REPORT

UW baseball and softball season preview

By Brooks Moeller

If the Husky basketball season has you down in the dumps then perhaps it’s time to look ahead at the upcoming spring sports. The lineup includes this year’s highly talented baseball and softball teams, both of which have had high success rates over the past few years and plan to reach even higher in 2020.

BASEBALL

The Huskies face a tough task of replacing five position players who received significant playing time in the prior season, three of whom were taken in the 2019 MLB draft. They lost pitchers Jordan Jones and Josh Burgmann to the draft, as well. Combined, the two pitched 166 innings for the Huskies, leading the team in

this category, as well as strikeouts. While replacing inning eaters such as Jones and Butgmann will be a tough task for head coach Lindsay Meggs, she thankfully has options heading into the season.

The two pitchers expected to make up for the losses are junior Stevie Emanuels and sophomore David Rhodes. Emanuels had a stellar season as the team’s closer, posting a 2.35 ERA along with six saves. However, Meggs announced that he will move into a role as the Saturday starter and Rhodes will continue to be the Friday starter. While it has not yet been announced who will be the Sunday starter there are several potential candidates for this role. One particular individual to keep an eye on is junior Jack DeCooman, whose name was brought up by Meggs in his pre-season press conference.

The most significant loss to replace in the starting batting lineup is catcher Nick Kahle. Kahle started the

past two seasons for the Huskies posting a .339 batting average with eight home runs in his final year. Since then, Kahle has been drafted by the Milwaukee Brewers in the fourth round and Junior Michael Petrie will take over catching duties after serving as backup last season. The other two staples in the lineup will be outfielder Braden Ward and shortstop Ramon Bramasco. Ward has led the Pac 12 in steals for two consecutive seasons and Bramasco started every game at shortstop while batting a .284.

SOFTBALL

Fielding one of the best teams in the nation, Husky softball is bound to be on the quest for another national championship. In the past season, the Huskies made a substantial run in the College World Series but ultimately ended up falling to conference rival UCLA in the semi-finals. However, they bring back a large part of the core that led them that far and thus possess the talent to reach the

World Series once again.

The team opens the season as favorites to win it all after being voted as the top team in the USA Today preseason poll. They are joined by two other Pac 12 schools in the conference which will be once again stacked with talented teams from top to bottom. With a giant target on UW’s back, facing these tough conference opponents from week to week makes it even more difficult to keep that #1 ranking. With this being said, these games are what prepare them for postseason play — which they have thrived in after just finishing their third straight College World Series appearance.

Three top seniors who led the team in a large amount of the statistical categories return for one more season. The names to pay attention to are Sis Bates, Morganne Flores and Taryn Atlee. All of which have started hundreds of games throughout their career for UW and will look to

go out with a bang. Flores is the power of the lineup after posting a .348 batting average with 23 home runs. Bates is most likely to hold the lead spot again as she always does a tremendous job of getting on base for the middle of the lineup.

As a reminder, your Husky card can get you into any nonfootball or basketball sporting events for free. All you have to do is show your card at the gate and you will be granted access into the facility.

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Upcoming Games

Baseball

02/28 UC Irvine 6:05 p.m.

02/29 UC Irvine 2:05 p.m.

03/01 UC Irvine 1:05 p.m.

Softball

03/13 Utah 6:00 p.m.

03/14 Utah 1:00 p.m.

03/15 Utah 12:00 p.m.

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