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THE LEDGER

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA

Bigfoot sighting at COVID-19 testing site

Page 2

Hendrix the husky set to retire

Page 7





An enhanced image of Bigfoot driving away on campus, courtesy of UW Tacoma security.

PHOTO BY TALIA COLLETT

Bigfoot sighting at COVID-19 testing site

After circulating rumors that the urban legend was supposedly spotted at UW Tacoma, it’s been confirmed that Bigfoot made an appearance on campus in early March during COVID testing.

By Talia Collett
Editor in Chief

UW Tacoma has been offering free testing for students, faculty and staff through the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department’s mobile testing labs, some of which have already come to campus. When on campus, they also extend testing to the greater community and those in the near vicinity.

A few weeks ago, when one of the mobile testing labs was stationed at UW Tacoma, it was rumored that urban legend, Bigfoot, made an appearance. The Ledger was able to get in touch with Registered Nurse Helena Dworion — who was working that day — as well as Taylor and Morgan Jacoby, longtime enthusiasts and followers of Bigfoot.

The site was set up as a drive-through experience, and with rumors circulating across various social media platforms, it seemed unlikely that sightings were either true or credible.

However, Dworion can confirm it was him.

“I thought it was just another day of testing people at the drive-thru,” Dworion said. “At first I could have sworn it was just another hipster with long hair and a bushy beard driving his Subie, until I realized the hair was all over and he could barely fit in the driver’s seat!”

Despite the shock, Dworion noted she had to do what she was there for.

“When I signed up to be a nurse, I knew I’d see all sorts of things. I just never expected one of those things to be Bigfoot,” she said. “But it’s my job. And I don’t discriminate, so I tested him like everyone else.”

After the test was completed, Dworion said he grunted — what she believes to have been a ‘thank you’ — drove off and that was it. She then continued the rest of her shift as normal.

Often characterized as a docile creature scarcely known to harm humans unless otherwise provoked, Taylor and Morgan Jacoby commented that this circumstantial contact with

Bigfoot is highly probable.

“Despite not being present, I fully believe Dworion’s statement,” said Morgan. “From the two times I’ve encountered him while hiking, he has remained courteous and out of trouble, unless he catches someone littering or tampering with the surroundings.”

With outdoor activities skyrocketing since the beginning of quarantine lockdowns coupled with the days of nice weather we’re currently

“...it’s possible that Bigfoot had been in contact with hikers or campers...”

experiencing, it’s possible that Bigfoot had been in contact with hikers or campers and wanted to maintain his health during this time.

When asked what she thought, Taylor echoed a similar sentiment to Morgan’s.

“He’s been spotted in grocery store parking lots and on other town outings. From our observations, he is indeed a gentle creature,” she said. “I’ve seen him interact with other Sasquatch before, and from what I can imagine, he’d do what he can to keep those around him safe, even if that means traveling to a COVID testing site.”

After more than a year since the lockdowns first went into effect and the multiple unpredictable events that have happened since, this isn’t something that seems entirely out of the blue. Instead, it serves as a friendly reminder that no matter who you are or where you come from, getting tested for COVID-19 should be a priority if you think you’ve been exposed or are experiencing symptoms.

And one more thing to remember ... have a happy April Fool’s Day!

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UWT campus to close indefinitely

For the rest of this year and possibly forever, UW Tacoma learning will exclusively take place online as proposals of selling campus property to private companies take place.

By GARRETT YAEN
NEWS EDITOR

Members of the Washington State Legislature said remote learning at UW Tacoma would extend indefinitely, citing the city of Tacoma's budget issues and the students' health being of sufficient grounds to justify selling campus property.

Governor Jay Inslee and Tacoma Mayor Victoria Woodards stated they will be selling most of the UWT campus to private companies. Inslee explained further, noting that many companies chipped in to help the project take place.

"They gave us a lot of money," Inslee said. "I mean, I can't disclose an exact amount, but let me just tell you, I have never seen that many zeroes before."

He explained what the rebuilt campus will consist of and spoke about the future shopping center's possible economic benefits before claiming that the health of the students was a priority.

"It's gonna be awesome," Inslee said. "There's going to be a McDonald's, an Apple Store, a Walmart and maybe even a Best Buy but [the CEO] is still kind of mad at me about the whole lockdown thing ... oh yeah, and the health of the students is important too."

Inslee insisted that the project would pay for itself and that a major driving force for this project's pro-

posal was that it would save his reputation as a father.

"Do you know how much tax money this is going to rake in?" Inslee said. "My daughter's turning 16 soon, and I promised her if she got straight As, I'd buy her a Lexus. Do you know how bad of a father I'd be if I got her something like a Hyundai instead?"

He then noted that some programs used by students, such as the Pantry, won't disappear. Instead, he said they'll revamp them to be more efficient and accessible to a broader range of people outside of UWT.

"I honestly think people are overreacting a bit," Inslee said. "Some programs aren't going to go away. We're just handing these programs to private businesses because they'll be more efficient with their resources."

"The Pantry, for example, is going to become a 5-star restaurant. It's going to have caviar and everything. The library's gonna be a nice fancy Barnes and Nobles, and the dormitories will be the new Tacoma Husky Hotel with swimming pools and extra amenities," he said.

Students who don't receive any form of financial aid will be sent VIP passes for these facilities. VIP members will receive quicker service along with free maid or butler services at the dorms. Students who receive state grants will receive slower service and are required to pay \$1,200 a month to stay at the dorms.

"It's not fair to the students who

pay full price for college not to have some sort of advantage," he said. "We're not a charity here, but it's better than a \$3000 tuition fee, isn't it?"

Inslee then told students not to worry, as some programs will still be in place. The Center for Equity & Inclusion, for example, will continue to receive funding but will cost students at least \$50 to attend any events.

The Counseling & Psychological Services Center, on the other hand, will expand its services by hiring more therapists and implementing psychiatrists, but will soon cost \$80 per session. Only VIP students will have access to drop-in services, and their appointments will have priority over non-VIP students.

When asked about how social support services' monetization correlates with creating a more progressive culture or addresses systematic inequality, and how charging money for counseling would help students' mental health, he simply responded by saying that he supports positive mental health.

"And by the way, I totally support student mental health, in fact, a lot of people tell me that I'm really good with the mental health stuff and that I'd make a great therapist," he explained further.

"I even heard that lots of students like the idea of turning Birmingham Block into a Whole Foods, so I'd say we're pretty progressive," he said.

Inslee assured students that there

was no corruption involved in passing these policies and that these companies will pay their fair share in taxes. Though he did not answer what exactly the tax money would be used for or if and how they would close the loopholes.

"They pinky promised me that they'd pay all their taxes and that they totally wouldn't use any loopholes to evade them," he said. "In fact, Jeff Bezos, who is a very good friend of mine, told me that if I sold him Birmingham Block, I'd be the coolest governor he's ever met and that he'd give me a free Amazon Prime membership," Inslee said.

He then boasted about his relationship with Jeff Bezos, calling their relationship unique and described how persuasive Bezos was in convincing Inslee to sell government property.

"How many other governors do you know that are buddies with Bezos? Exactly. I absolutely guarantee you that anyone else in my position would've done the same thing; plus have you seen his muscles? They're very convincing," he said.

Inslee pleaded for more appreciation from staff and faculty for putting so much effort into making a better school. He stated that if things go as planned, the Bothell and Seattle campuses would also be next.

"I had to twist a lot of arms to get this project going, and I don't think I get enough credit for it, and I'm sure the biased news media will never re-

port it," Inslee said.

"Students are going to have higher quality food, therapy, and entertainment because of me so I'm just saying that you're welcome beforehand. Did I also mention in history," he said. "So, if the stores make enough money, we'll see if we can do the same with other Washington universities."

Inslee wrapped things up by offering some inspiring words of encouragement to students.

"Don't ever give up on your dreams. I've had so many people come up to me saying this idea is stupid, unethical, shortsighted, that I'm turning Tacoma into a Banana Republic and blah blah blah," he said. "But at the end of the day, I beat the naysayers, and if you work as hard as I do, one day you can be as rich and awesome as me."

If you haven't figured it out by now, happy April Fool's! This article was written as a joke.

The UWT campus will not be closed indefinitely and neither Jay Inslee nor anyone in the WSL have talked about doing so.

Jay Inslee did not say any of the things in the article nor does this piece reflect any of his views.

The Ledger has not contacted Jay Inslee and is not affiliated with him or the Washington State Legislature in any way.



PHOTO BY NICKOLUS PATRASZEWSKI

New UW Federal Way campus in the works

The new satellite hybrid UW campus will be built alongside the Federal Way Performing Arts Center to engage students and improve the community.

By GARRETT YAEN
News Editor

The University of Washington has added another member to its pack, according to UW President Ana Mari Cauce. Though they said the new addition to the Husky community is just a pup, they plan to start small and gradually build the rest of the campus.

By the end of this summer, right next to the Federal Way Town Square, the Federal Way Performing Arts & Event Center will be modified to accommodate 23 state-of-the-art classrooms, seven offices, a food pantry and a library.

This autumn, students from all UW campuses are welcome to take classes at UW Federal Way. Winter 2022 is when the school will officially offer Bachelor's degrees for Disciplinary Arts, Computer Science, Social Work and General Studies majors.

Cauce explained that the campus would also include an array of classes they believe will teach students essential life skills. One of the lessons to be included in the curriculum, for example, will be a three-credit financial literacy course.

"Students from all UW campuses are welcome to take hybrid classes at UW Federal Way for credit until the entire

campus is readily built," Cauce said. "We're naturally going to have a lot of undergrad courses at first, but I encourage everyone to look through our course list and see if they'd be interested."

Next year, the school will also start offering certificates in various programs such as Construction, Medical Assisting, Information Technology and Microsoft Excel.

That's not all. Federal Way Mayor Jim Ferrell said their engineers estimated that by 2023, the largely vacant 10-acre space around the Performing Arts Center would be filled with multiple purple buildings.

He then noted that the medical lab, computer lab, student engagement center and counseling centers would be the first to be made as they're considered essential functions.

But they haven't forgotten the community of Federal Way and hope that the campus will help the surrounding community.

"The mission of this campus is to create an institution that not only provides premium education but supports its students, faculty, and the Federal Way community as a whole," Cauce said.

A small clinic will be in the works after the labs are built. In addition, a trauma crisis center, on-demand sub-



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEREMY BITTERMANN

Say hello to the new UW Federal Way!

stance abuse rehabilitation services and a community garden will be available to students.

Residents of Federal Way are also welcome to use these programs. Service fees for non-students may be waived depending on factors such as their income.

Students may also choose to volunteer, intern, or work for these services. As Cauce said, it would be a good idea to give students better access to hands-on experience.

"It's one thing to learn from professors and books, but most people will tell you that lectures don't prepare you for the

real world compared to actually working in a team and understanding communication skills," they said.

"For example, if a student wants to be a substance abuse specialist, they can gain experience from volunteering for the rehab services by meeting and helping people who go through these situations in addition to learning it in class."

Ferrell and Cauce firmly believe that the school will serve as an economic boost improving the city landscape and set a precedent for how universities teach students to uplift their communities.

"By helping the community of Federal Way, we're not only doing our stu-

dents a favor, but in small ways, we're sort of instituting a systematic redefinition of what it means to be a student," Cauce said.

"With this new campus, we hope the future generations will see universities as more than just a place to learn but also to help them become better citizens."

For anyone who wishes to register for classes at UW Federal Way... you can't. It doesn't exist.

Happy April Fool's!

Fear of Extinction: Protecting Tree Octopuses near you

This endangered species risks danger of extinction without the help and support of Tacomans.



A Pacific Northwest Tree Octopus camouflaging itself to blend into its surroundings. PHOTO COURTESY OF ZAPATOPI

By ROSIE MENDOZA-BAUTISTA
News Reporter

Sightings of the Pacific Northwest Tree Octopus around I-5 have raised concerns over the safety of this endangered species. This famous species native to the region usually inhabits areas around Point Defiance Park.

"On walks around here, people usually miss them, since they live up in the trees. So, it's always smart to come out here with a pair of binoculars to try to spot them. They tend to shy away from crowded areas," said local hiker, Emily Carmack.

Because of this, the high frequency of these sightings around I-5 is very unusual. As prefaced, they are an endangered species with dwindling numbers throughout the Pacific Northwest.

"Through the mass deforestation in the construction of roads and suburban life encroaching, we have tried all that we can to protect these octopuses. So it's very disheartening to see our work to preserve this small population unravel," said Octopus Scientist, Dr. Koris.

These small creatures have been spotted out on the roadsides of I-5,

left to fend for themselves.

"It's not right. On I-5, cars speed across at 60 to 80 miles per hour. Of course these octopuses are in danger of getting hurt," Carmack said.

Local scientists speculate the reason many have been seeing tree octopuses outside their natural habitat is not because of deforestation, but rather due to other concerning reasons.

"With quarantine, we've seen a lot of folks pick up new pets for their homes. But, it's one thing to adopt an animal from a shelter and another to take a wild animal from its natural habitat," Dr. Koris said.

There are many ways that students, staff and faculty can contribute in protecting these creatures. Dr. Koris stressed the importance of not taking these octopuses in as pets.

"I ask the UW Tacoma community to tell your friends and family that if they see these octopuses, let them be. Advise them against taking these creatures in for notoriety. They need to stay where they belong," Koris said.

As for being on the road, there are ample ways that the UWT community can watch out for these creatures and help keep them safe.

"I advise that people drive with caution. These creatures are easily spooked and we wouldn't want any of them to get hurt or killed by the high velocity of traffic," Koris said.

Because of these concerns, Tacomans like Emily Carmack and Dr. Koris have been pleading with the city for a temporary halt to the construction of I-5. This way the octopuses can be relocated by local scientists back into their natural habitats.

"We ask our fellow Tacomans to demand the relocation and safety of this endangered species. These octopuses are the only ones of their kind left in the area. We must fight to protect them while we still can," Koris said.

As a reminder for students, staff and faculty to have a happy April Fool's Day.

For more information visit

<https://zapatopi.net/treeoctopus/>

New parking update

A much needed remodel that has been in the works and is finally coming to UWT.

By MADI WILLIAMS
OPINION COLUMNIST

As students who have been a part of the UW Tacoma community before the lockdown know, parking is a major issue on our campus. Trying to find parking after 8 a.m. can be quite the task and that task only increases in difficulty as the day goes on.

If you are lucky enough to get a parking spot close to campus, it makes it easier to get to and from class if you are running late. But there is a price, and that price comes every two hours when the meter demands more money or requires you to move your car to comply with on-street parking regulations. This becomes an issue for students whose classes run longer than the two hour mark, making them leave in the middle of class in order to avoid the dread-

ed yellow envelope.

With the state slowly opening up, and UWT planning to start in person classes again in the autumn, old issues are coming back to haunt us, and parking is on the top of the list. Students who started school during COVID-19 might not fully understand the parking issue that the campus has, but for returning students, they are not excited to start the parking battles again.

Luckily, they may not have to. UWT has decided that they are going to be putting in a parking garage on campus in the Cragle parking lot located across from the Mattress Factory. Construction will begin this quarter in hopes of the facility being completed by autumn for students to use. The ground level would be reserved for professors and faculty, but the other levels would be fair game for students and the public.

"UWT has decided that they are going to be putting in a parking garage on campus..."

Students can buy a pass in order to use the garage or pay hourly at the machines that are already located in the lot. The hourly times in the garage will be longer than the two hour mark that current meters have, making sure that students are not having to miss valuable class time to go feed the parking meter.

Having a parking garage this close to campus will have a number of benefits for students who come to school to be able to learn without having to worry about getting parking tickets. It can

also help make students who have classes later in the day and into the night feel safer. Instead of having to walk down by the Tacoma Dome or hike all the way up the hill from campus.

All of these things will ensure a safer and more convenient experience for students. And if they are still uncomfortable, then campus security is able to go with them since it is on campus, currently campus security is unable to accompany students to locations that are off-site, for example the parking lots that are by the Tacoma Dome which can get very dark in the evenings

April fools! Sadly this parking garage is not a reality. Currently there are no solutions to the parking issue in the works! As an ongoing issue on campus, nothing is going to change unless we as students stand up and say something about it.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAMUEL BUSETTO ON PIXABAY

Idea of what a simple parking garage could look like on campus.

THE LEDGER IS NOW ACCEPTING LETTERS TO THE EDITOR!

Do you want to voice your issues of concern related to news, politics, campus issues and more? Then we invite you to write a Letter to the Editor. Letters submitted to the Ledger may be published through both TheTacomaLedger.com and our print edition.

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO: LEDGER@UW.EDU

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





ILLUSTRATION BY LORE ZENT

Idea for the new mascot for the merged universities.

The big merge

One of the biggest college rivals in the state is coming to an end; UW and WSU come together.

By Madi Williams
OPINION COLUMNIST

Washington is in for a surprise. The decades-long rival between the University of Washington and Washington State University is coming to an end, as the two have decided to merge as one school in the coming year. The schools opted to quash their rivalry and come together in an effort to bring their knowledge and expertise together as one and increase availability across the whole state.

The concept is one that we are already familiar with at UW. It is set to align with the current UW system — which has campuses in Seattle, Tacoma and Bothell — only with the new ad-

dition of WSU in Pullman. Any student who is a part of these four campuses will soon have access to anything that the others have access to as well. So, now with UW and WSU merging, the schools are providing students with access and opportunities to things that they might not have had previously.

This also gives students the option to be able to stay closer to home and still get the education they desire. This also means that students aren't made to make that difficult decision in choosing which school is better.

This gives students access to the best of both worlds considering they will have a wider range of experts available to them. Though students have access to resources at all cam-

pus, if a student has interest particular field of study then picking a particular campus may be more beneficial to them, as specialized classes are offered at the particular campuses.

For example, UW Seattle is home to UW Medicine, and as such, resources and classes will be most accessible from that campus. However, following the merger, this student would still have access to things such as study abroad programs hosted by the other campuses or classes that are at the Bothell, Tacoma, or Pullman locations if needed.

Beyond this, the merger also gives students the opportunity to not have to choose between school and family, they can have both. But one important

question remains when merging the two schools, what is the name going to be? And it all came down to football.

Both UW and WSU compete in the Apple Cup every year around thanksgiving, this tournament is one of the biggest games of the year bringing the two schools together to battle. To finally settle the rivalry once and for all, the name was decided based on which school won the most Apple Cups to date.

UW has won 74 games and WSU has won 32 out of the 112 games that have been played. UW is currently the school with the longest win streak. With 8 wins between 1959-1966 and another 8 win streak from 1974 to 1981. UW also has a current streak of 7 con-

tinuous wins from 2013 until now.

With the rivalry settled once and for all, WSU will be renamed to the UW Cougs, with a Siberian cougar as their mascot. Making an imagined animal a school's mascot is a bit unusual, but so is merging two different schools together!

DISCLAIMER: April Fools! There won't be a Siberian Cougar mascot after all, the schools aren't merging together as one. And let's be honest, it's probably for the best, we love our rivalry, seeing someone from the other school and exchanging light-hearted jabs or being the black sheep of the family for choosing the wrong school out of the two.

Hendrix the husky set to retire

After being the mascot of UW Tacoma for 13 years, Hendrix will be retiring at the end of summer quarter to welcome a new dog on campus.

By TALIA COLLETT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Back in 2008, the Student Activities Board at UW Tacoma decided to bring UWT's very own mascot to campus. After brainstorming, contemplation and planning for nine months with the School Spirit & Traditions Chair, Hendrix the husky was welcomed to the Tacoma campus family.

Now, 13 years later, Hendrix is retiring. And come Autumn, a new dog will be on campus. But for the first time since the establishment of any of the three UW campuses, the mascot will not be a husky. Instead, UW Tacoma will venture down a path different from its sister schools to bring Humphrey the Chihuahua, a rescue dog, aboard.

Erim Saka, a member of the Student Activities Board, gave insight as to why they decided to make this change.

"In a constantly evolving world, we didn't want to be a university stuck in the past using old, cheesy mascot uniforms," he said. "We want an actual dog students can connect with. It took a lot of time to come up with the best next step, and we decided a Chihuahua would be easy to train and small enough to be unalarming."

With a stressful year under many students' belts and time away from campus for so long, Jolene Haverstacker — a faculty member with the Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at UW Tacoma — pointed out that they wanted an animal they could easily make a home for on campus.

"We thought by having a small dog as our mascot, he would be approachable for students who are uneasy around big animals," she said. "This way, we could make a home for him where he can also offer support as a therapy dog if students may need one."

Pet therapy is offered at Hall Health Center on the UW Seattle campus, and UW Tacoma is planning to expand their services in this area if the trial with Humphrey goes well. As a growing field to help individuals cope with mental health and medical concerns, CAPS is hopeful they can follow in Hall Health's steps.

Select members of the SAB and a certified therapy dog trainer will be working with Humphrey throughout the Spring and Summer quarters so students will be able to meet him in Autumn when everyone is projected to safely return to campus.

Some students and alumni have

expressed concern about this change, noting that it will 'revoke the spirit' or 'reduce what it means to be a Husky,' but Saka wanted to point out that change can be a good thing.

"Like I said, the world is in a constant state of change. It was bound to happen sooner or later," Saka said. "This change isn't to tarnish the reputation of the University of Washington. Nothing about the teaching style or learning experience will change, we just won't have a big goofy mascot at certain events."

Haverstacker also pointed to the benefits of switching things up.

"This will open the potential to help students mentally and ease the healing process a bit after an unprecedented and turbulent year," she said. "We are hopeful that students will also be open to change to welcome a new animal to the UW family."

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about Humphrey you can visit www.UWTacoma/APRIL-FOOLS.com. *Sorry if you got excited about having a small pet on campus, Hendrix is here to stay ... at least for the foreseeable future, happy April Fool's Day!*



PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY, EDITED BY TALIA COLLETT

Get ready to welcome a new pup to UW Tacoma!

Russell Wilson announces retirement from football

Following an offseason that led Wilson to question if he will continue to play, he decided it was time to call it quits.



COURTESY OF CBS SPORTS
The Russell Wilson era is over in Seattle after taking the team to eight playoffs and winning one Super Bowl championship.

By BROOKS MOELLER
SPORTS COLUMNIST

Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson and his future with the team has been in question throughout the offseason. However, his recent announcement has put all the rumors to rest. Now we know for sure what Wilson will be suiting up for next season: Hollywood.

Wilson announced in an Instagram post that he would be hanging up his cleats and beginning to pursue an acting career. This comes as a massive surprise to the Seahawks coaching staff and fans everywhere as many thought they would see Wilson in a Seahawks uniform for years to come.

Even with this early retirement, Wilson solidified himself as the greatest quarterback in Seahawks history. He already holds career records among Seahawks quarterbacks in wins, passing yards and passing touchdowns.

Following the post, Wilson and the Seahawks hosted a press conference where he went into more detail about his decision making process.

"I had a tremendous time here in Seattle and playing football for the Se-

ahawks," Wilson said, "But it's time for me to pursue new and exciting opportunities in the world of Hollywood acting. I have always looked up to the ones who were able to become stars in two different worlds, Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson has always been someone I looked up to, and directed me while I made this decision as well."

Wilson also made note of movies that he will be working on in the next couple of years including "Space Jam: Bugs goes to the Super Bowl" and a franchise reboot of "Rambo" where Wilson will play the main role.

There were rumors throughout the offseason regarding Wilson being traded for a large haul of draft picks and starting caliber players. However, with Wilson retiring, the Seahawks are now left without their starting quarterback and no draft picks to make up for it.

Moving forward, the Seahawks will have to search for a new starting quarterback for the first time since 2012. Wilson started every game for the Seahawks in that timespan, making it a very hard role to replace. However, Pete Carroll brought up a name that was surprising to most fans when mentioned.

"I've talked with former New York Jet quarterback Mark Sanchez on coming out of retirement and taking over the reigns of starting quarterback for this team," Carroll said in the press conference, "He was one of my favorite players and quarterbacks to coach during my time at USC and he is ready to make a difference on this team."

Sanchez is best known for the infamous "butt fumble" in his time with the Jets, where he ran into the behind of an offensive lineman and fumbled the ball to the opposing team. Fans are understandably upset with this idea and the team is likely to be at the bottom of the NFC West for the long-term.

It is unknown whether Wilson has had any experience in acting, leading some to believe this could end up as a complete disaster. I always saw him with a future in broadcasting but acting in Hollywood movies never came to mind. In the end, I wish Wilson the best with his future endeavors.

DISCLAIMER: Do not worry Seahawks fans Russell Wilson will still be suiting up on Sundays for the Hawks this story is false. Happy April Fool's Day!



ILLUSTRATION BY LORE ZENT

People are already lining up for the new Coke.

Bringing Coke back to Coca Cola

Coca Cola will be adding cocaine to their products again as Pacific Northwest states pass decriminalization laws towards hard substances.

By LORE ZENT
A&E COLUMNIST

DISCLAIMER: April Fools! This is a satirical article that does not present itself as truth. It, however, mixes both brand history facts and fiction. The naming of the Coca Cola brand, prohibition period, and the traces of cocaine in original Coca Cola are all true, however claims that they are reintroducing traces of cocaine and related information are false. Dr. Jackson is a fictional character and holds no connection to the SAMHSA, nor their stance on substance abuse. The Ledger also holds no public stance. The author of this article is a mental health and substance abuse activist, and does not judge those who use or are recovering from such drugs - they wrote this article with intent

to more so criticize preformative corporate activism.

On Friday, March 26 at the bi-quarterly Brewery and Soft Drink Conference, Coca Cola CEO James Quincey announced that they will be reintroducing cocaine across their products' recipes.

"With the decriminalization and legal medical use of cocaine in both Oregon and Washington, with many states sure to follow, we here at the Coca Cola company have decided to return to our roots, bringing coke back to Coca Cola," stated Quincey.

Coca Cola originally got its name back in 1885 from its two medicinal stimulant ingredients: extract of coca leaves (cocaine) and kola nuts (caffeine). It was originally made by Pharmacist John Pemberton, a war veteran who took morphine regularly after

suffering injuries in World War I. Back in this time, patented drug laws were looser and cocaine was a commonly prescribed drug used for its anesthetic and vasoconstricting properties.

However Coca Cola removed cocaine from their recipe by 1904. Instead they decided to mix leaf extracts with fruity flavors, creating what could be considered as a 'faux wine.' This alternative to alcohol resulted in its rising popularity in 1923 during the prohibition era.

As Coca Cola has expanded their brand within the last century, their product development team will be testing what levels of Benzoylmethylecgonine (cocaine) best fits each individual product. While Coca Cola originally had 1/400 trace of cocaine for each ounce, so far developers found that 1/75 works best in low

sugar products, such as Coke Zero and Diet Coca Cola, to give their customers a boost of energy while also decreasing hunger.

On a national scale, Coca Cola will be working with pharmaceutical lobbyists to get Coca Cola prescriptions back on medical shelves. Inside sources say that Coca Cola will be used as pain reducing medication for surgeries and aftercare — posing as a tasteful liquid alternative to chalky, hard to swallow pills.

While many welcome this new change, there are many who are skeptical. Dr. Imani Aliyah Jackson, Executive Program Director at Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) expressed their concerns.

"Coca Cola's initiative is a classic example of corporations perform-

tively monopolizing on serious issues and advancements in social welfare legislations to advance their company with no concern towards the common man," Jackson said via their Twitter @IAJ_SAMHSA, "That is not to say we should discriminate against those who use cocaine but that shallow corporate activism can create larger systemic problems if not addressed with a critical ethical eye. I am wary that Coca Cola will further a culture of harm."

While the recipes are still in the development process and are pending approval from the Food And Drug Organization (FDA), Quincey reports that the newly branded products are set to release by Winter 2021 (Q4 2021).