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# THE LEDGER

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA



# Love for comics and the community: Destiny City Comics

Professional wrestler and store owner of Destiny City Comics, Ethan HD, talks about the inclusive nature of his store for customers, authors, and artists.

By ROSIE MENDOZA-BAUTISTA  
NEWS REPORTER

Professional wrestler and business owner, Ethan HD, spoke with the Ledger about Destiny City Comics; an LGBTQ+ and Black friendly comic book shop in Tacoma. With this comic book store, he hopes to create and uphold a welcoming environment for his community.

“Destiny City Comics opened up on Oct. 31 of 2014. My wife Stephanie and I took over the shop on Dec. 1 of 2019. I just really liked the shop and what it did for the community and we wanted to keep that ball rolling,” HD said.

Although HD loves comics, he never intended to own a comic book store. However, he has always wanted to contribute to causes for his community. Independently, HD and his wife raised money for causes they believed in. But with the store, they’ve been able to do a lot more than what they were able to do on their own.

“A couple of months ago we donated \$300 worth of books to the children’s hospital in Tacoma. We have been able to fill local libraries with books and we actively donate to GLSEN [Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network], an advocacy group for LGBTQ+ with a

chapter in Tacoma,” he said.

This support is also seen in their prominent features of LGBTQ+ and Black authors and comics. To Destiny City Comics, they don’t only bring these authors and books out on specific months like Black history month or pride month. They are prominently shown year round.

On top of this, HD is very proud of the support they provide for local and regional authors. They have a special shelf in their shop for local authors, artists and self-published work. They don’t hide these away either; they proudly show them for all Tacomans to see.

“We buy a few copies from the author and if they sell, we’ll go ahead and reach out. We like to put that money into their pockets and if it sells, we’ll buy more. We invest money into these artists, and this incentivizes us to push this art,” HD said.

As much as comic book stores like Destiny City Comics help the community, the books themselves can help readers. To HD, graphic novels make a lot of subjects more accessible to those who don’t want to read books with hundreds of pages. Old books or autobiographies made into graphic novels help readers understand the situations better.

“A lot of times the imagery can help

set the tone and give you a feeling and gravity about what’s going on. I think when you can put a face to things or you have visual aids it helps you imagine. It’s tough to tell a kid to close their eyes and picture the 1940s,” he said.

For HD, having these visual aids for people and giving them an understanding of what this past looked like resonates with people more. This is what Destiny City Comics wants to promote. A level of understanding for other people. Customers know that they aren’t going to be ostracized. Which is what many were feeling during the pandemic.

From March until June, they were closed to the public. Everything was online or pick up only and people couldn’t browse. They were living off of Marvel and DC comics. But it eventually helped them in the long run. HD realized they could market anywhere since they were mail only.

“I would post our inventory non-stop on our social media. And we ended up getting a lot of customers from across the country. Even after things opened up again, we retained these people as customers. In a weird way, we’re kind of better for it,” HD said.

Plus, HD believes that since they survived a global pandemic after only

being open for four months, they’re prepared for anything that comes their way. And with this, they look towards future prospects and goals.

Destiny City Comics looks to uplift their community with the events they hold. In particular, HD hopes to have another local artists and crafts fair. Equally, they would love to host some autograph signings with wrestlers. In addition, HD is looking towards possible employment options for folks.

“I would like to get a couple of employees. I want it to be a pseudo-mentorship for people who are interested in owning their own business or their own comic book store. I’d like to use the store as a platform to give people skills to branch off and do their own thing,” he said.

There’s a lot that HD wants to provide and share with his community. Whether that encompasses events, skills or simply helping people find a new interest. The world of comics is expansive and as with anything, there are some that stand out as best sellers.

“Octavia Butler’s ‘Parable of the Sower’ sells really well. The graphic novel adaptation of ‘Dune’; that’s been one that sells really well. George Takei’s ‘They Called Us Enemy’ is something we have

to just always keep in stock,” HD said.

These titles among many others are some of the customers favorites at Destiny City Comics. However, a favorite comic book of HD’s is the ‘Ms. Marvel’ series starring the fictional superhero named Kamala Khan.

“For those who want to get into comics and don’t know where to start, I recommend ‘Paper Girls.’ It’s easy to read and reminds me of the show, ‘Stranger Things.’ Equally, ‘X-Men’ and ‘Spider Gwen’ are good series for those getting back into comic books,” he said.

To those with or without experience in the world of comics, Destiny City Comics has a wide variety of things to offer. Whether you’re a part of the Tacoma community or not, they are a place you can turn to to seek out your interests, in an environment that aims to be inviting and accepting to all.

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COURTESY OF ETHAN HD

Ethan HD in front of Destiny City Comics

## The Ledger

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# Don't be afraid to stand for the truth

As we see and witness issues all over the world concerning human rights, racism and demand for freedom, let's focus on the stance that we have on these issues.



COURTESY OF OMER FARUK YILDIZ

Free the oppressed.

**BY BENGISU CICEK**  
OPINION COLUMNIST

There are numerous human rights concerns going on around the world. Unfortunately, there are so many human rights violations that we see on the news, and many more that we don't see that innocent civilians must face every day. Once we educate ourselves on these issues, we must choose the side of justice to take a stance.

The state of Israel is killing innocent Palestinians. The Chinese Communist Party is holding millions of innocent Uyghur Turks in concentration camps in East Turkestan. A girl's school was recently bombed in Afghanistan, killing over 60 people. Over 2 million children suffer from acute malnutrition in Yemen. This is not even half of what is occurring in the world.

We do not have the capacity to actively advocate for every single issue, and that is completely okay. What we can do is learn how to be a good ally for the oppressed. We can choose an issue we are passionate about and advocate to the best of our ability.

Even if we cannot be actively engaged in every issue, what we should refrain from doing is staying neutral in critical issues, with a recent and important example of Palestine. "If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor," said Desmond Tutu, a South African Anglican cleric and theologian.

We may refrain from choosing a side until we receive accurate information about an issue, but refusing to educate ourselves about the atrocities being committed against innocent people shows that we are privileged.

"Not being into politics" is not the correct way to go about addressing and acknowledging these human rights violations. It's not politics, it's people being murdered while our country supports the state that commits the murder. It is a huge privilege to be able to "not be into politics" as our country sends \$3.8 billion to the state that is occupying, colonizing and murdering indigenous people, sound familiar?

Israel's attacks on Palestinians have been branded as a conflict, this portrayal by the mainstream media has made it so when the issue comes

to attention, it is seen as two states at war, or even as Israel "defending" itself. Well, when Israel has what is known as the Iron Dome, part of a multi-million dollar, multi-tiered missile defense system to protect itself while Palestine doesn't even have an army, how much "self-defense" is needed?

Yes, people on both sides die. Of course, every life is important. No life is dispensable. But right now, Israel is ethnically cleansing Palestinians from their own land and the world needs to acknowledge this. With the current rise of the topic of antisemitism in the media, we need to understand this; this has nothing to do with religion, and antisemitism is never okay. Instead, we should focus our efforts on critiquing the state of Israel. The state does not stand for all peoples, what they have been doing since 1948 and the atrocities committed towards Palestinians are heinous human rights violations.

Users have brought up censorship on Instagram when posting about Palestine, with a decrease in story views or posts reaching broad audiences. Additionally, the way that the issue is portrayed in the media

is especially important to note. The terms that are used to describe what is happening affects the way our brains intake and understand the information, which can mislead us to think it is both sided, that Palestine is "violently" fighting back, that the state of Israel is in the right, etc.

To expand on how Palestine can be silenced in U.S. news, let's look at an article by Dr. Maha Nassar, an Associate Professor in the School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies at the University of Arizona.

Maha's article, "US media talks a lot about Palestinians — just without Palestinians," provides information regarding the lack of media coverage of Palestinian voices. This is evident through the use of major news outlets as examples along with a table that showed lacking inclusion of opinion pieces by or about Palestinians ranging from 1970 to 2019.

"Moreover, the silencing of Palestinians is part of a larger problem of systemic bias and lack of diversity in journalism, particularly at elite news outlets. It is not just Palestinians: Black, Indigenous, Latin American, Asian American, and other people

of color face ongoing racism in the newsroom, making it more difficult for alternative perspectives to make their way into these influential pages," said Dr. Maha.

It is time to give and create those spaces for Palestinian voices. What we need to work toward all together is Palestinian liberation and acknowledging their identity and land.

Standing up for what's right might seem confusing, hard and maybe even scary. But staying neutral will not benefit us in any way. We may have a fear of people disagreeing with us, we may be reluctant to challenge the mindset of our loved ones who think differently from us. If we have a fear of losing friends or relationships for standing up for what is right, then it's a sign we need to change the spaces that we occupy. The best way to seek validation if you're doing the right thing is asking your heart, surely you will guide yourself to the truthful place.



# How to survive summer quarter and still have fun

Bust out your planner and make plans for the summer, taking classes doesn't have to be a drag.

By Madi Williams  
Opinion Columnist

If you are like me and want to graduate as soon as possible, then you might be taking summer classes. Just because you're taking classes doesn't mean that your summer has to be consumed by schoolwork. You can still have a fun summer and pass your classes, bringing you one step closer to graduating. Here are some tips and tricks to make it through the quarter while making the most of your summer:

START USING THAT PLANNER!

Not everyone likes to use a planner and that's understandable, but having everything in one place where you can look things up quickly is a lifesaver. Write down due dates for assignments and when you have exams. So then you will have quick access to what days you have avail-

able to hang out with people and what days you need to stay in and hit the books.

ONLINE CLASSES!

This summer quarter is one of the best times to take a class. Since classes are almost all online, you don't have to stay home. You can still go on vacations as long as you have wifi available to do your schoolwork. So, you could be taking that literature class while soaking up the sun on a beach!

GO OUTSIDE!

Just because you're taking classes does not mean you have to sit inside all day doing school work. When you have to read a couple of chapters, take it outside! No one said that you have to stay inside because you are doing work. Embrace the summer weather and get some vitamin D while getting school work done!

TAKE A BREAK!

Just like with any other school

quarter, knowing when to take a break is super important. You don't want to burn yourself out by focusing so much on school that you forget to listen to what your body is telling you. If you feel like you need to get up and walk, then do it! If you feel like you are just done for the day, then be done! Our bodies tell us when we need breaks and need to do something else. So listen to it!

Make sure that you still get a summer! Just because you are taking classes doesn't mean that you can't. Use the planner trick and make plans to do things when you don't have a heavy class load. Plan a hike for a day to enjoy nature away from your laptop all day. Plan a day trip somewhere you have never been and explore something new. Or even plan a game night with friends, order pizza, just chill out and don't worry about due dates for a night.

Even though you are hitting the books this summer you can still enjoy all the fun that summertime brings. Just remember during the hard times of the summer quarter

that you are doing this for yourself and your future so push through it because the reward at the end will be worth it.



COURTESY OF PIXABAY

Still enjoy the summer weather while studying.

## Congratulations Class of 2021!



TALIA COLLETT, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



ALYSSANDRA GOSS, MANAGING EDITOR



NATALIE PEYTON, LAYOUT MANAGER



ELIJAH FREEMAN, AD MANAGER & COPY EDITOR



MITCHELL FERMO, NEWS EDITOR & DISTRIBUTION MANAGER



LORE ZENT, A&E COLUMNIST & ILLUSTRATOR



BROOKS MOELLER, SPORTS REPORTER



NOT PICTURED: ANDREA NADAL, OPINION EDITOR



# Ledger Staff class of 2021 says “Goodbye”

## Talia Collett Editor-in-Chief

As my time at the Ledger and UW Tacoma comes to an end, I look back four years ago when I first moved to Tacoma to begin my college career. I was alone in unknown territory and although I had dreamed it, never had I thought I'd be writing for a newspaper — much less edit and guide others while finding a family in MAT 151. My college career has been one filled with uncertainty, but these past two years with the paper have been some of the most certain in my life. Working with the Ledger and all of those who occupy our team, the campus and the broader Tacoma community have not only challenged me but have also guided me to discover my voice, passions and strength in leadership.

To the Ledger teams of our past, present and future, I take great pride in knowing that I have been able to be a part of this community and pass the baton to the next Huskies who will work together to produce a high quality publication. To Ella Lucente, Aly Goss and Daniel Nash: thank you for taking a chance on me, trusting in me when I was unable to do so myself, and for your unwavering support. To each one of our amazing reporters, editors, artists and layout team: you amaze me week after week. I am extremely grateful for your dedication, patience and trust. I have no doubt that as you continue on your own journeys that you will achieve great things.

And lastly, to the Class of 2021, congratulations! From a pandemic to new class structures and through the extreme amounts of stress and turmoil encountered this past year, we have made it. As we leave stronger together and walk toward the future, you give me hope for a brighter tomorrow.

## Alyssandra Goss Managing Editor

This is a bittersweet moment as the Ledger has been my home for the past two years. While saying goodbye is never an easy feat, there is an extra sense of remorse as I leave behind a fantastic team of talented reporters and friends. The opportunity to be both reporter and managing editor has left me with an unfathomable amount of respect and admiration for the effort, time and skill required to create a newspaper as profound as this one — to everyone on this staff, past and present, I want to say thank you for your dedication and willingness to create a work environment that feels more like family than a job.

This is, without a doubt, the best possible job I ever could have imagined for my university career. It has opened my eyes to various walks of life, has introduced me to new cultures and ideas, and has encouraged me to find my voice and the power therein. It is an experience that I will always cherish and hold dear to my heart.

Despite the challenges the Ledger encountered as a result of the pandemic, we persevered. For that, I am extremely proud of this staff and their dedication, and I am unbelievably optimistic for everything this paper has to offer down the line. With reporters and artists this talented, there is no doubt in my mind that this paper will continue to prosper.

To Ella Lucente, Talia Collett and Madison

Williams, thank you for your unwavering support, guidance and friendship throughout this entire process. My senior year would not have been the same without you ladies! To Daniel Nash, thank you for your patience and encouragement when times were tough and for always being our beacon of positivity. Lastly, to our section editors, reporters and layout team, thank you for your hard work and dedication toward the Ledger — it has been an absolute privilege to work with you.

So, here's to us Class of 2021, we did it!

## Natalie Peyton Layout Manager

What a wild year to graduate. I returned to school in 2018 to major in Environmental Sustainability and my time at the University of Washington Tacoma helped me understand the value of our minds, what they can accomplish, and what you can learn if you are a member of a community like ours. To those graduating this month: congratulations! To those just starting your time here: you have chosen a great place to learn. Working at the Ledger has been fantastic and a great way for me to build my professional skills where the staff has always been professional and welcoming. I want to personally thank layout editor Morgan Morgans and page designer Phong Nguyen for a great, collaborative design team over the last year and a half and to Daniel Nash for being a creative and supportive supervisor. I am really grateful for the opportunity I have had to be on this staff for the last three years.

## Elijah Freeman Former Ad Manager & Copy Editor

When I started working at the Tacoma Ledger in 2019, I never thought that I would have had the pleasure of meeting so many wonderful and talented people. I've served under three Editors-in-Chief and just as many Managing Editors, each as wonderful as the last.

When I first came to Washington, I didn't know anyone, and it was my time spent in the office of the Tacoma Ledger where I found my first community. I am eternally grateful for all the people I've met, friends I've made, and lessons I've learned. I'm so grateful for every experience I've had at the Tacoma Ledger.

Congratulations to all 2021 graduates!

## Mitchell Fermo News Editor & Distribution Manager

Working for The Ledger has been an unforgettable experience, and moving on from being a part of the paper has been much more difficult than I could have imagined. While the pandemic cut short my time on campus, I am nevertheless amazed and honored to have been here to help document the ever-changing nature of UW Tacoma, from the continuous mission to further equity and equality, to the discussions and collaborations to work towards campus expansion and especially to highlighting the staff, faculty, students and community members who helped

to make UW Tacoma a home for me, and hopefully many others.

I have had so many wonderful mentors — including Daniel Nash, Chris Demaske, and Linda Byron — who guided me and encouraged me to push myself, to try new things and to put myself out there both as a journalist, and as a person. Likewise, I have simply had an incredible amount of leaders — especially Kelsie Abram, Ella Lucente, Talia Collett and Aly Goss — who trusted me and gave me the chance to help deliver a quality paper to the school. Finally, there have been so many wonderful coworkers and peers — especially Elijah Freeman, Maya Thomas, Leticia Bennett, Natalie Peyton, Bengisu Cicek, Niculus Luna, Brooks Moeller and Lore Zent — who have been there to really make the Ledger feel like home and a family.

The campus has changed a lot in three years. The Ledger has changed a lot in three years. So many people have put everything into making The Ledger an outstanding paper, and I know many more will continue to pour their hearts and souls into making The Ledger what it is: a paper by the students of UW Tacoma, for the students of UW Tacoma.

## Andrea Nadal Opinion Editor

When I first moved to Washington I didn't expect to find a home, it was just another place that my family ended up. Over the years I began to find myself settling in and even seeing a life for myself here, I had never expected to find something like that. So, when it came time to apply to colleges I decided to stay local and really start to make some roots for myself here. That has been one of the best decisions of my life.

Through working at the Ledger I have had the opportunity to delve into a wide array of topics, first as a news reporter and then as the opinion editor, both of which have allowed me to broaden my understanding of the region. I will never forget the time that I have spent at the Ledger, and all of the things that I was able to learn and experience through my work. The time I spent doing this has been invaluable to the growth I have been able to make as a person and will help to inform the ways that I engage with the community once I leave UW Tacoma.

## Lore Zent A&E Columnist & Illustrator

As summer approaches, I finish up my final classes at UW Tacoma. How crazy the journey has been. I originally came back to UWT after two years of hardship while navigating my way out of an abusive relationship. I came in with a 'just get through and survive' instinct. Little did I know I would be greeted with genuine friendships. I am forever grateful for the time I have spent at the Tacoma Ledger in each of the sections I have worked in.

I am grateful for Mitchell Fermo, my news section editor. For helping me through all the learning curves when first joining the Ledger. Tentative and kind, he helped me become the writer I am today. I am thankful for Ella Lucente, our previous Editor-in-Chief. The first person I ever met through the Ledger and first friend I made rejoining UWT. I

look back at the involvement fair booth and ACLU UWT officer days fondly. Talia Collett, Madeline Hiller and Andrea Nadal; as we all entered the Ledger in the same year it was a joy to watch you all pick up the ropes and grow into the editor-in-chief and section leaders you are today. And thank you Madison Williams for always being a friend and encouraging me in my artistic endeavors. Thank you Daniel Nash for being the best staff advisor I could have imagined, you were always a listening ear whether about work, academic or general life worries — I enjoyed our light talks on video games and other pop culture media. I could go on and on about all the new experiences and friendships I have made through the ledger but these are just a mentionable few.

While the pandemic definitely changed the status quo of how our newspaper functions, we made it through this year. We banded together when times were tough and continued to put the effort in. I truly feel that the Ledger crew is not just a team but an ever changing, ever-strong family. I have no doubt that the Ledger will continue to strengthen and prevail over the years.

Thank you UWT for giving me refund hope, another chance and stronger connections. And thank you the Tacoma Ledger: for giving me the time of day, a bigger glimpse at the world, chances to go to events I wouldn't know about otherwise, and stronger communication and writing tools. I honestly really hate to leave, but I know my experiences here have made me ready too.

## Brooks Moeller Sports Reporter

These past four years at UW have flown by so fast and I am so thankful for my time here and the experiences I was able to have. I never thought I would end up writing for a newspaper coming into college but here I am now, finishing up two and a half years of working with the Ledger as the sports columnist. It not only gave me confidence as a writer that I never had before but also created a passion for sports writing that I hope to continue wherever I end up next.

As we finally begin to return to normal out of the pandemic, I hope that one thing we can all work on is balancing out the negative news with the positive. It seems like recently every news story I read or see on TV is negative and sad to read/watch. Obviously, a lot of these are important topics that need to be covered, but in a world with so much wrong in it, it is also important to focus on the good things in life that bring us joy. The sports world is no exception, it is impossible to go a day on Twitter without seeing someone bash my favorite teams. I always tried to end my articles with something positive to look forward to no matter what the topic I was covering. Overall, I just hope that we can share more good news when it is available and look at everything from a positive point of view.

Thank you to everyone at the Ledger who gave me the opportunity to write about my passion every week and thank you to everyone at UW who helped and supported me along the way!

# Graduation 2021 Playlist

Compiled by Talia Collett,  
Lore Zent, Andrea Nadal,  
Rosie Mendoza-Bautista

**"GRADUATION (FRIENDS FOREVER)"**  
by Vitamin C

**"FIGHT SKIRT"**  
by Milk Teeth

**"FUTURE"**  
by Paramore

**"NEVER SAY NEVER"**  
by The Linda Lindas

**"CHILDREN OF THE GRAVE"**  
by Black Sabbath

**"I LIVED"**  
by OneRepublic

**"CHANGES"**  
by David Bowie

**"I HOPE YOU DANCE"**  
by Lee Ann Womack

**"UNWRITTEN"**  
by Natasha Bedingfield

**"GOOD RIDDANCE (TIME OF YOUR LIFE)"**  
by Green Day

**"GROWING UP"**  
by The Maine

**"GRADUATE"**  
by Third Eye Blind

**"BRAND NEW START"**  
by Alter Bridge

**"HEAT OF THE MOMENT"**  
by Asia

**"HOW FAR WE'VE COME"**  
by Matchbox Twenty

**"BITTER SWEET SYMPHONY"**  
by The Verve

**"GOOD LIFE"**  
by Kanye West and T-Pain

**"CONGRATULATIONS"**  
by MGMT

**"IT WAS A GOOD DAY"**  
by Ice Cube

**"EVERYBODY WANTS TO RULE THE WORLD"**  
by Tears For Fears

**"TYL"**  
by Morabeza Tobacco

## Summer music

Here are some albums the Ledger staff recommend for this summer  
by Henry Nguyen, Lore Zent and Rosie Mendoza-Bautista.

### "FOR THE FIRST TIME" BY BLACK COUNTRY, NEW ROAD

Ever since their debut single titled "Sunglasses," Black Country, New Road made a lasting impact on the post-rock indie scene and left a lot of prospecting fans hungry for a debut album. To my surprise, the band formed in London despite having a nostalgic midwestern sound and adopting a small town USA aesthetic as per their music videos. Their blend of experimental rock, post-punk and post-rock can be compared to similar acts such as Slint from the 90s or more recently, Black Midi. Fast forward to February of 2021 and the band has truly delivered a special experience for those patiently waiting on their debut.

"For the First Time" by Black Country, New Road is the band's debut album consisting of six tracks that average about six to seven minutes each. "For the first time" is a wild ride as the album starts off incredibly strong with the track "Instrumental." Despite its on the nose title, the opening track does a great job setting the tone for the rest of the album. The album's narrative can get really ridiculous at times and comical at others, such as the story that plays out like the birth of a villain taking place at a science fair in the track "Science Fair."

If you're looking for an experimental rock album that pushes the boundaries of what the genre has to offer, then I would highly recommend checking out Black Country, New Road's debut album.

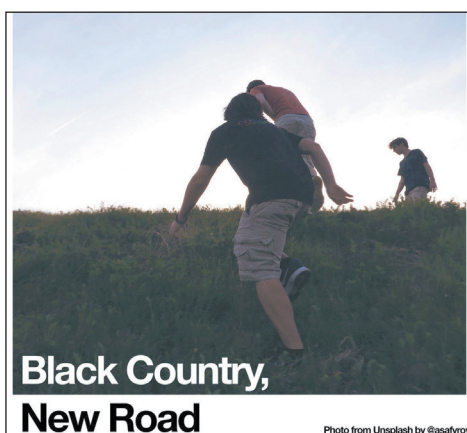


Photo from Unsplash by @asadayow  
COURTESY OF NINJA TUNE RECORDS

### "RAINBOW" BY KESHA

"Rainbow," Kesha's third album, is her first after a three year legal battle against her producer Dr. Luke to nullify her contract to create six more albums under the pre-existing label. In the 2014 lawsuit, Kesha charged Dr. Luke with "sexual assault and battery, sexual harassment, gender violence, unfair business practices, and infliction of emotional distress," also claiming that Dr. Luke forced drugs upon her while performing and recording her content. While Kesha was unable to be released from her contract, in 2016 Sony allowed her to release music under their label with a different producer. While this wasn't the perfect solution, it was a start.

"Rainbow" stands away from Kesha's previous albums as a revival of self. Her songs range from acoustic hymns to the electro-pop we are used to seeing from her. Despite this, from "Woman" to "Boogie Feet," her dance music seems much more like a battle cry. It is cathartic to listen to "Praying" and "Learn to Let Go," feeling the emotions as she is burned then risen from the ashes.

In an interview with New York Magazine regarding the album, she responded that she wanted to encapsulate a "real person having a human experience." She continues that "to this day, I've never released a single that's a true ballad, and I feel like those are the songs that balance out the perception of you because you can be a fun girl. You can go and have a crazy night out, but you also, as a human being, have vulnerable emotions. You have love."

Some time has passed since this album was released but it continues to be one of my favorites. It perfectly captures the complexities of the human experience. We may all walk a different path in life, but we all feel.



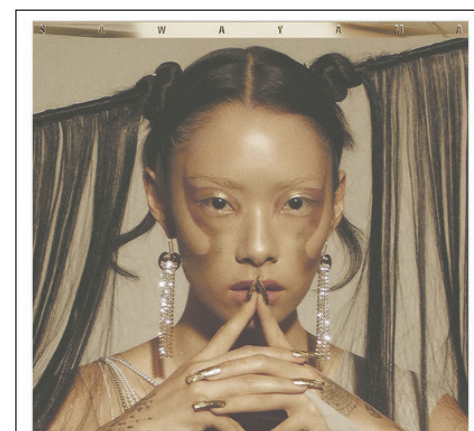
COURTESY OF RCA RECORDS

### "SAWAYAMA" BY SAWAYAMA

Rina Sawayama's full length debut album, "Sawayama," is filled with a wide array of music genres coming from her experiences being Japanese-British. On top of all this, she incorporates R&B, pop, rock and electric pop. To me, this gives the album an early 2000s feel; it makes you think of soundtracks from early 2000s coming-of-age movies.

Some of the highlights from this album are the topics it covers. With subjects such as family issues, capitalism, microaggressions, reclaiming femininity, self love and losing connections with people, not only are these subjects relatable to many, but it is insightful to listen to the perspective of a woman of color and her experiences as a first generation immigrant; the vulnerability of her experiences is what adds to the already great music on this album.

This album is good to listen to when you're feeling moody and reflective. It's equally good to listen to when you need something to boost your confidence or you need something to dance to. Or, even if you're feeling nostalgic for the early 2000s after watching movies like "The Princess Diaries" or "The Lizzie McGuire Movie." My favorite tracks on the album are "XS," "Akasaka Sad" and "STFU!" Although this is only her debut album, "Sawayama" makes you excited for Rina's future projects and albums.



COURTESY OF ITUNES

## Summer podcast recommendation

By Andrea Nadal

### "BEHIND THE POLICE" BY ROBERT EVANS

All Cops are Bastards. What does that phrase evoke in you? Whether you've spent the past year in the streets demanding the abolition of policing or you're a staunch "back the blue" supporter or somewhere in between, this Podcast is a fundamental part of your education on American policing. Here is why you should listen to "Behind the Police, a Behind the Bastards" mini-series by conflict journalist

Robert Evans this summer:

Behind the Police takes an in-depth look at policing in the United States of America. Going back centuries to the very foundations of this nation, Evans paints a clear picture of the ways that the modern system of policing that exists today is inextricably linked to colonialism, slavery, capitalism and labor disputes.

By taking the listener chronologically through the development of policing, Evans helps to create a well-rounded and solid understanding of how it is that policing came to be

what it is in America today. This understanding can be used as a foundation for further education and advocacy around the issue of policing.

Whether you are looking to abolish policing as a whole, reform the current system, or defend the "thin blue line" you need to have a deep and critical understanding of exactly what policing is and what it means for marginalized and disenfranchised identities in this country. This podcast is exactly what you need to begin building that understanding.



# Video games to play this summer

By Henry Nguyen and Brooks Moeller



COURTESY OF XBOX  
The cover athlete for this year's edition of "MLB the Show" is Padres superstar Fernando Tatis Jr.

## "MLB THE SHOW 21" ON PLAYSTATION

This year's edition of "MLB The Show" has proven to easily be one of the best to be released yet. Produced by Sony San Diego, it has remained a Playstation exclusive since its creation in 2005, which limited the popularity of the game. However, this year it was released on Xbox, expanding the game's reach by a significant margin and raising its popularity.

The game has always served fans as the most immersive baseball game available to purchase with a variety of game modes to choose from including Road to the Show — where you play as an individual created player through an entire MLB career — Franchise Mode — where you are in total control of a team of your choosing and try to lead them to a World Series championship — and Diamond Dynasty — where you can play with 1000s of current and past players to build the team of your dreams.

I highly recommend any baseball fan to get their hands on "MLB The Show 21," especially if you own a next generation console. The content of new players this year is bigger than ever before and the game will only rise in popularity as the MLB season continues.

## "DEMON'S SOULS" ON PLAYSTATION

As the Playstation 5 makes its very slow and complicated release, the only games that those who were lucky enough to secure a PS5 are its launch titles. This includes a very special and surprising release that has a lot of hardcore gamers waiting in anticipation. Of course, what I'm referring to is the remake of the infamous Playstation 3 exclusive titled "Demon's Souls." This time, under the wing of Bluepoint Games, "Demon's Souls" aims to make its mark in the next generation by providing, once again, a difficult but rewarding experience.

"Demon's Souls" for Playstation 5 is not just a simple port or remaster where the company in charge does the bare minimum in order to get the old game onto the platform. Instead, it's a complete overhaul of the game's graphics built from the ground up. Gameplay wise, the game plays exactly the same as the original, besides a couple of quality of life tweaks. So, for gamers who are looking for a true next generation experience with your Playstation 5, this is not it. However, the enhancements that Bluepoint made make sense and really do the game justice. It's one of the most beautiful games that I've seen in the new generation and certainly

the most drastic change from an original thus far.

As a huge fan of the original franchise made by FromSoftware, I found that Bluepoint did their best to stay as true as possible to the original, and what came out was an enjoyable experience for gamers who are either just getting into games made by FromSoftware or for returning fans who missed out on the original "Demon's Souls." If you are able to score yourself a Playstation 5 please do yourself a favor and check this game out!



COURTESY OF SONY INTERACTIVE ENTERTAINMENT  
Demon's Souls remaster

# TV shows for summer down-time

TV shows to binge this summer.

Written by Madi Williams, Talia Collett, and Madeline Hiller

## "CRUEL SUMMER" ON FREEFORM AND HULU

Ever have a friend tell you that you need to watch a TV show because it is just that good? That is what happened to me with "Cruel Summer," available on Freeform. I started watching it a couple of weeks ago and I am already caught up with the weekly new episodes.

"Cruel Summer" is a thriller taking place throughout 1993, '94, and '95 as it follows two girls, Kate the popular girl, and Jeanette who is the nerd of the town. Throughout its narrative, it shows the ups and downs of being a teen during those years. Then, one summer Kate goes missing and the once nerdy Jeanette blossoms into the new popular girl, making herself the new Kate of the town.

But when Kate is found alive af-

ter being abducted, things turn upside down for both girls. Struggling with family issues, friend drama and court cases, both Kate and Jeanette's lives change. When, in reality she has much more going on, Kate is seen as the damsel in distress because that's the role the media wants her to play. Meanwhile, Jeanette has become the most hated girl in America because Kate said Jeanette saw the abduction happen and didn't report it.

If you are the type of person who likes to watch a show in one sitting, wait until after June 15 when all the episodes are available to watch on Freeform or stream on Hulu. You are going to want to be a part of the fan group of this show.



COURTESY OF FREEFORM

## "MASTER OF NONE" ON NETFLIX

After a four year hiatus, the long awaited third season of Aziz Ansari's "Master of None" was released on Netflix on May 23. This season, much different than its predecessors, consists of five 25 to 50 minute episodes, as opposed to the usual 10, and doesn't focus on the life of Dev — played by Ansari. Instead, this new and refreshing season shifts its focus to the life of one of his best friends and recurring characters, Denise, played by Lena Waithe.

These five episodes, inspired by and an extension of the Emmy award winning episode "Thanksgiving" that was written by Waithe, follows the lives of a now married Denise and her wife Alicia — played by Naomie Ackie — as they spend their lives outside of New York City following the success of her

first novel. While the show still holds on to its comedic quips, this season is riddled with much more love, heartbreak and the complexities of adult life as the couple try to navigate their relationship while trying for children, struggling with careers and the various hardships that come their way.

Throughout the season it seems as if the show has grown up to become more existential as it tackles nuanced themes of personal growth, the ups and downs of marriage and the realities that life doesn't always end up as we had hoped.

If you're looking for something to keep you busy for a few days this summer, then this new season of "Master of None," or the show in its entirety if you're a first time watcher, could be the perfect filler for you.



COURTESY OF NETFLIX

## "MOM" ON HULU

If you like TV shows that deal with some realistic topics then this one's for you. "Mom" originally aired in 2013 and recently came to a close on May 13. With that being said, the entire show is now on Hulu for your streaming enjoyment.

"Mom" is a show about a woman named Christy in her mid 30s who is a mom of two with a full time job at a restaurant. She is barely keeping her head above water when her mom shows up on her doorstep, wanting to reconnect after years of being a distant parent. This mother and daughter struggle with rekindling their relationship for a long time and Christy spends a lot of time trying to juggle everything in the house while trying to convince her mom to go to an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting with her to get her life back on track. The show documents how these events affect Christy's life, stability and most importantly, her sobriety.

This extraordinary show focuses on family and the effects that alcoholism can have on it. While it seems like a very tough topic, the creators found a way to expose you to the problem without being too dark about it. "Mom" features very real scenarios, like relapse and overdose, but manages to keep you hooked with the humorous characters and the progress they make in their lives.



# Movie night

By Henry Nyguyen

## “ZOLA”

A24 has always been known for subverting expectations. 2013’s “Spring Breakers” directed by Harmony Korine was a film that looked like a teen flick but was actually an introspective art house film that took many, including me, by surprise. Releasing this summer is a film titled “Zola,” directed by Janicza Bravo, previously known for directing “Lemon.”

This film is about a Detroit waitress named Zola, played by Taylor Paige. After being convinced to strip in Florida for some cash over the course of a weekend, the trip quickly turns sour as things start to tangle between a nefarious friend, her pimp and boyfriend. The screenplay, based off of a viral twitter thread, only makes this narrative more interesting.

“Zola,” set to be released at the end of June, looks very stylized and has been described as a “surreal” and “wild ride.” From what I’ve seen so far, it is looking to be all of that and more. Look for it in theatres this summer!



A screenshot from the movie "Zola".

COURTESY OF A24



The perfect Mexican red rice recipe.

COURTESY OF @JAZZGUY ON FLICKR.COM

# Mexican red rice recipe

By Rosie Mendoza-Bautista

## INGREDIENTS:

- 1 ½ tbsp. olive oil
- 1 cup long grain white rice (uncooked and rinsed with hot water)
- 1 garlic clove
- ¼ of a small onion
- 2 tomatoes (without seeds)
- 1 cup water (cold)
- 2-3 cups chicken broth
- salt

## INSTRUCTIONS:

For the tomato sauce, blend garlic, onion, tomatoes and water, set aside. In a large saucepan (non-stick) heat oil on medium heat. Once hot, add the rice, making sure the pan is large enough to keep the depth of the rice shallow. Sauté the rice until it turns golden brown (careful it doesn’t burn). Add the tomato sauce and let cook for 1 minute. Add 1 cup of chicken broth (salt to taste each time broth is added) at a time as it starts to dry out, add more until it’s fluffy.

# Mariners quarter season report

After a strong start to the season the Mariners seem to have hit a bump in the road and have struggled heavily in the recent weeks. Will they be able to turn it around?

By Brooks Moeller  
SPORTS COLUMNIST

The day was Saturday, April 2. The Mariners just wrapped up a win over the Boston Red Sox which gave them at least a series split against the team with the best record in the American League. This win also moved their record to 13-8, giving them a half a game lead over Boston for the best record in the American League. Things were good and it was looking like this might be the year the Mariners finally turn it around and make the postseason for the first time in 20 years.

But, like they always do, this Mariners team slowly came back down to Earth and have struggled mightily during the past few weeks. So, what has gone wrong and what will need to change if they want any chance to make a run at a postseason berth?

At the time this article was written,

**At the time this article was written, the Mariners as a team are batting .198 which at this point in the year is almost unheard of.**

the Mariners as a team are batting .198 which at this point in the year is almost unheard of.

They also made history by becoming the fifth team since 1900 to be no hit twice in one month. It was cool watching the first one happen but just plain embarrassing to see it happen again and now every night the rest of the season they will be on the verge of making history as the first ever team to be no-hit three times in a season.

The couple bright spots in the lineup have been the resurgence of Mitch Haniger who is among the league leaders in home runs currently with 13. Kyle Seager has done what he has always done: hit for an average of around .240, hit a few home runs a month and come up with clutch RBIs.

The biggest concern with this team for me thus far is the lack of improvement from the young core of players that are supposed to develop and help this team turn around for the future.

Reigning rookie of the year Kyle Lewis began the year on the injured list and has not been able to get it going since returning, only hitting .227 and three home runs. He also has been swinging and missing at an alarming rate but when he does, he isn’t hitting the ball very hard. The hope is that he is still getting back into the swing of

things after being injured, but it is important that he gets the bat going.

2020 Gold Glove winners Evan White and JP Crawford are once again stellar in the field but have struggled at the plate. White is still striking out way above the MLB average and is currently on the injured list. A stint in AAA Tacoma may be in the future for him to help get his confidence back and work out his issues.

For Crawford, this may be his last year in Seattle if he is not able to figure it out at the plate as management may choose to bring in a free agent. This is Crawford’s third year of not showing much improvement and he will need to get hot for the rest of the year.

Three of the Mariners top prospects made their debuts this year but have not had the expected starts to the season. Taylor Trammell won the opening day left field spot after a hot spring training but was sent back down to AAA after an ice cold start to the season. His replacement was the No. 3 prospect in all of baseball, Jarred Kelenic, who has not fared much better since his call up. Logan Gilbert, who was the Mariners top pitching prospect, also made his anticipated debut and has been hit hard in his first few starts.

The team was also hit with a COVID case which put four players

**The team was also hit with a COVID case which put four players out for at least 10 days. This was bound to happen as the Mariners are the team with the lowest number of vaccinated players, a big cause for concern moving forward.**

out for at least 10 days. This was bound to happen as the Mariners are the team with the lowest number of vaccinated players, a big cause for concern moving forward.

Overall, the start to this season has been mostly a disappointment. But the positive is that his team is still young and has the potential to be really good. They just need to start showing it or else people will begin doubting the whole rebuilding process and it may be time to make some bigger moves if the postseason drought is going to end.



COURTESY OF SEATTLE MARINERS

Top prospect Jarred Kelenic made his anticipated debut on May 13. He recorded his first hit and home run the very next day.



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