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THE LEDGER

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA



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Enjoy refreshments and ask quick questions at the UWTeaTime

An opportunity for meeting students and staff involved at the Office of Global Affairs and learn about other cultures

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SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

- Your first and last name
- “Dear Editor,” as the opening of your piece
- Respond to one of our articles or happenings on campus in 300 - 500 words

Send your letters to: **LEDGER@UW.EDU**

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.

Huskies in the hallway:

COMPILED AND PHOTOS BY ANGELO ALEGRE

How do you feel about UWT's parking?



Samm Benigno

He/Him
Freshman
Premajor



Andrew Cheng

He/Him
Freshman
General Business



Luis Flores

He/Him
Freshman
General Business



Cassie Miura

She/Her
School of Interdisciplinary Arts and Science

So bad that I have to park somewhere else.

Parking is somewhat ok because it's close to school, but they are expensive and prices should be lowered.

It sucks, it is hard to find parking and sometimes it is far away.

I think parking is a big obstacle for students... confusing and expensive, we should think of ways to make transportation a priority.

The Ledger

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Enjoy refreshments and ask quick questions at the UWTeaTime

An opportunity for meeting students and staff involved at the Office of Global Affairs and learn about other cultures.

By **ABI MCCARTHY**
NEW REPORTER

As of Autumn Quarter 2021 here at the UWT, we have about 202 international students. In order to serve their needs, the University has the Office of Global Affairs (OGA). What the OGA does is “collaboratively foster cultural humility and build globally-interconnected communities by promoting global learning opportunities on and off-campus, build international partnerships, and support international students, scholars, and research at the University of Washington Tacoma.”

Within the OGA are three main departments: International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS), Study Abroad, and Student Fellowships, which “provide a diverse array of programming for all UWT students including the Global Ambassadors program, Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL), and Language Lessons.”

As a part of fulfilling the goals of fostering cultural humility and building globally-interconnected communities, there are a number of

events provided by ISSS. One in particular is UWTeaTime. The UWTeaTime occurs every Thursday at 12:30 p.m. at the William W. Philip Hall in room 101A (JRC Room).

The Office says that, “Although we’ve adapted a new format due to COVID-19, we are still hosting the event. The purpose of UWTeaTime is to provide a social space for international students or local students interested in meeting people from other countries. The event is also an opportunity for international students to meet ISSS staff and ask quick questions. In the past, we used to serve tea, coffee, and snacks. Due to the restrictions around eating in public spaces due to COVID-19, we are now passing out snacks at a table. Students may fill up a bag of tasty treats and take them with them.”

Other events the ISSS coordinates include ISSS Trips that are coordinated by student leaders (OGA Fellows). “Participants are invited to explore the surrounding area and build community through local day trips. This year ISSS Trips have gone to the Zoo, an escape room, and their next trip is Black Friday shopping and a movie

screening at Southcenter Mall.”

When asked what problems are typically faced by international students, the OGA reports that, “International students face many unique struggles: language learning, a new academic and classroom culture, homesickness, culture shock, navigating US bureaucratic systems (Social Security, US consulates, Dept of Licensing, taxes, health insurance, etc.), and finding community. We aim to be the place they can come to discuss what they are going through. We help international students navigate these issues through individual advising sessions, orientations, workshops about employment benefits while on the F1 visa, and other activities and events. We try to do our best and we are always looking for feedback!”

For more information, please visit the OGA’s website at:

<https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/oga>



W OFFICE OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON | TACOMA

UW TEATIME

FALL 2021 SCHEDULE:

Every Thursday @ 12:30 - 1:30

WPH 101A: Sept 30 & Nov 11 - Dec 9
TPS North Lobby: Oct 7 - Nov 4

Do you want to chat with UWT ISS staff and other international students? Please stop by our weekly tea time! We will have snacks to hand out!

HAVE A HAPPY COFFEE TIME!

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF OGA



Bubbles Tea Shop

A small family-owned business on campus.

By **KAYLYN RUFF**
NEWS REPORTER

Are you looking for a place to come and get a delicious drink between your classes? There are so many options at Bubbles, the Tea Shop right here on campus. Nga Hamada, from Bubbles, was able to take the time and chat with the Ledger about what Bubbles has to offer.

Bubbles is located right here on campus, right below the Russell T. Joy building. Their address is 1724 Pacific Ave, Tacoma, WA.

“My sister, Ngoc Elaydo, and I opened the business ourselves, so we could leave the corporate world. We wanted to build something small for ourselves and our families,” Hamada says.

Bubbles is completely family owned and operated.

“As of right now our mom, Anh Morasch, has taken over and runs the shop daily. My sister and I have taken a step back to raise our little ones at home. If you happen to visit Bubbles, myself, my mom, my oldest son, or my oldest niece will be the ones serving you. You will always see a familiar face and receive sin-

cere service. People often refer to my mom as ‘mom,’” Hamada says.

Bubbles has hot and cold tea options, as well as some delicious bakery items to try.

Hamada stated that, “We have a crazy amount of drink combinations on our menu. Some of our most popular drinks are House Signature Milk Tea, Taro Hot Milk Tea, Thai Milk Tea, Brown Sugar Milk Tea, Lychee Green Tea, and our Taro Smoothie. Students love to order a Blueberry or Poppy Seed muffin to go with their drinks.”

Bubble’s dining room is currently closed due to COVID and the limited space that they have. Pre-pandemic, students used to fill the tables to study or just to visit between classes.

“Hopefully we are able to get back to that sooner, rather than later,” Hamada says.

Bubbles is currently open Monday through Saturday, from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm.

If you have a chance, please stop by while on campus, or just in the neighborhood, and support this small family owned business.

From the great resignation to striketober, labor is fighting back

This year, the U.S. has seen millions of workers quit and tens of thousands strike. We want better pay, better working conditions, and a better world.



Workers on strike signs.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PEXELS

By ALEX BUCKINGHAM
OPINION COLUMNIST

2021 has seen a revived workplace struggle and activism. Millions of workers quitting their jobs starting this past spring has been referred to as the great resignation. While the country's largest federation of unions, the AFL-CIO, dubbed last month Striketober.

Workplace organizing and strikes are important for various reasons, not least of which is that it shows where working people have power.

Though we're told we live in a democracy where voting is our power, our lived experiences all show the shortcomings of such popular ideas. But by having our hands on the levers of production, and choosing to keep profits rolling or not, we see that we have actual power over the political and economic elite.

The teacher strikes of 2018 are a prime example. With Republican legislators controlling many states that saw

these strikes, like Arizona, budgets were passed that increased school budgets and allowed for schools to provide raises while hiring nurses and librarians.

It wasn't voting in our gerrymandered, electoral college, lobbyist dominated, restricted franchise pseudo-democracy that created these popular budget changes. It was striking teachers.

This country, however, has mostly seen a docile labor movement over the past four decades. Our unions have focused on working with management to produce concessionary contracts and funding democrats who have produced neo-liberal, anti-worker policies.

Upsurges in the labor movement do happen though, and they go in conjunction with upsurges in struggle more generally. Kim Moody, a labor historian and founder of Labor Notes, writes "well-known examples include the strike waves before and after World War I, during and after World War II, and the strike wave that last-

ed from the mid-1960s through the 1970s during the Vietnam War era."

These waves coincide with women's movements, civil rights struggles, anti-war movements, and certainly the Black Power movement in regard to the 70's.

There are very important exceptions to the overall lack of labor militancy in recent years. I already mentioned the teacher strikes of 2018. Also important are the various smaller fights that take place regularly.

But something seems to have changed recently. For starters, the concessions that workers have been making, at least since the great recession of 2008, have simply continued for over a decade.

Insurance prices keep going up, work hours get longer, raises rarely keep up with inflation, and other increased costs all the while productivity goes up and the billionaires get richer. People are tired of this status quo.

Next is the effect of the pandemic.

Workers being called essential while not being given Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), working forced overtime to make up for the supply chain difficulties or covering for sick co-workers, and the overall stress and lack of resources over the past two years have pushed people to the edge.

Again, this same time has been accompanied by obscene amounts of wealth collected by the likes of Jeff Bezos and Elon Musk.

And finally, there is the inspiration of other social struggles. For instance, the Black Lives Matter movement is objectively informing and inspiring sectors of labor.

You might remember this past summer, film and streaming production workers for the companies like Netflix were getting ready to strike over unsafe working conditions, long hours, and insufficient pay.

One of these workers and organizers, Spring Super, a member of The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage

Employees Local 798: Hair and Makeup Artists Union, told Tempest Magazine in an interview "Black Lives Matter was the spark. It was a catalyst, for sure, and that meant we connected with other locals and crafts that we didn't have strong connections with before."

From Black Lives Matter to organizing around gender liberation and immigrant rights, the normalizing of politically engaging with each other to create change informs how we act at work.

It changes what we think is possible. It makes it okay to talk about police brutality in the break room which also makes it okay to talk about the violence of the bad health insurance our employers offer us.

There have been over 194 strikes between January and October this year according to Moody. This includes some very large strikes like the ten thousand John Deere workers who walked off the job and onto the picket lines as well as smaller strikes, like one involving hundreds of carpenters in Western Washington.

We have also seen important union drives like Starbucks workers in Buffalo, New York, and a successful union drive among the faculty at the University of Pittsburgh.

The question is, how can such a struggle continue and grow while simultaneously becoming more explicitly political. For example, teachers striking for a budget that includes school nurses and librarians; how can we build a labor movement that strikes for closing coal plants and oil pipelines? Or for defunding the police and funding the social services we need like healthcare and education?

I don't know the answer, but I do know that union leadership returning to the strategy of the last forty years won't help. Carpenters in this state had to organize a grass-root "vote-no" campaign on contracts that union leadership tried to push through three times before the union leadership was finally forced to fight for a better deal.

These kinds of rank-and-file struggles will be an important part of strengthening and politicizing our labor movement. Union drives in our own workplaces, as well as continuing to build our campaigns against the police, closing the Northwest Detention Center, and against gender oppression will all help to build this fighting labor movement.

Red Baiting is nothing but a red herring.

The Soviet Union fell three decades ago, but the Red Baiting tactics of the Cold War have been resurgent in recent years.

ANTHONY KREJCI
OPINION COLUMNIST

If the Soviet Union hadn't fallen in 1991, it would be celebrating its first centennial in 2022.

While the Marxist state did cease to exist thirty years ago, 2022 will serve as a loose hundred-year anniversary for a particularly divisive and toxic element of the Cold War era which still wields significant influence in American politics, Red-baiting.

Red-baiting is a type of informal fallacy which is used to discredit or persecute a rival politician or political initiative by falsely associating them or it with Marxism. This tactic is almost always used by the right-wing as a way to stoke unreasonable fear and hatred of leftist policies and figures.

When I stumbled across a copy of the November issue of the right-wing editorial Newsmax, I was not the least bit surprised to find nearly the entire issue littered with Red Scare paranoia.

Littered amongst an article attacking wokeness and another attempting to spin the nation's union membership at eight percent as a good thing, is an article on conservative talk radio host and Fox News personality, Mark Levin.

Levin describes a list of, "tentacles of Marxist influence...transforming traditional American values and institutions." These tentacles include free speech, academic freedom, free press, hate crimes, murder in America, and climate change.

This week I would like to explore a few of these arguments from Mr. Levin further.

Starting with academic freedom, Levin argues that "we have professors resigning because they are not free to discuss positions or viewpoints that differ from the state and Marxist movements."

Levin is probably referring to the Portland State University Professor Peter Boghossian who recently resigned after he received backlash from the student body for speaking out against various politically correct narratives.

I am sure there are other cases like Boghossian's which Levin might be referring to, however, this is far from a widespread trend. Social trends are defined by statistics and empirical evidence, not individual occurrences.

If conservative professors do not feel comfortable at a liberal college, there are plenty of conservative-leaning colleges in this country. There is no law against conservative schools, there are no movements to shut them down. There is no attack on academic freedom.

Another of Levin's tentacles is



PHOTO COURTESY BY FLICKR

Author and media personality Mark Levin, enjoys significant political influence

hate crimes towards conservatives. His example for this argument is an incident in September involving California gubernatorial candidate Larry Elder as he visited local homeless encampments. Elder, who is Black, and his security detail were assaulted by a presumably homeless woman wearing a gorilla mask.

This one incident is Levin's entire supporting evidence, he claims that because Elder was a Black conservative the incident wasn't covered by news sources, and no action was taken by law enforcement. However, according to Los Angeles's local KTLA 5 news network, the assailant was detained, and she was brought in for a mental evaluation.

KTLA 5 was not the only news network to cover the incident either, Fox News and CBS also covered the story and have videos of the incident available online. The video shows Elder surrounded by homeless protesters and some advocates.

The woman who assaulted Elder and his security personnel seemed

clearly mentally ill and/or intoxicated. She wasn't yelling any leftist slogans, or racist slurs, she held no signs and carried no banners. It's very likely this incident was just a random expression of anger, and not politically motivated.

Yet Levin and Fox News claim that this is an example of left-wing racial hypocrisy, and Levin goes further claiming it as proof of a Marxist conspiracy to attack and intimidate right-wing conservatives.

Yet these were not leftist protesters, these were not Marxist agents, these were disenfranchised people who were angry about their situations and took it out on the first target which presented itself.

Once again, a single isolated incident is trumped up and presented as evidence for a country-wide conspiracy. This isn't just misinformation; this is an outright lie.

These are just two examples of the way Newsmax red baits shamelessly, and the rest of the issue is just as bad. Most of the arguments are based on conjecture and single incidents rather

than statistics or empirical evidence.

I don't want to sound overtly biased.

"There is no Marxist threat in America"

Sometimes leftist news networks use similar tactics, and sometimes fiscal conservatives have some good points.

I think even the most ardent socialist would agree that any large government initiative or social welfare bill should be as financially responsible as possible. I think even the most passionate environmentalist understands that we need solutions that are good for the economy as well as the environment.

I would gladly welcome conservative proposals to our problems. My problem is they don't seem to have any. Climate change? Doesn't exist, no problem there. Police brutality? Doesn't exist, no problem there.

Systemic racism? Doesn't exist, no problem there. Homelessness? Their problem, not our problem.

A problem that truly doesn't exist in this country is Marxism. Legitimate organized Marxism has next to no power in this country. The Capital Research Center listed Communist Party USA's membership at just 5000 members in 2017.

The Democratic Party isn't even a proper labor party, much less a Marxist party. Biden's recent public spending initiatives if passed will simply return his party to its Rooseveltian New Deal roots. Further left than the Democrats have been for decades sure, but still a fair distance from Marxism by any measure of the political spectrum.

There is no Marxist threat in America. The real threat is people like Mark Levin and news sources like Newsmax. The ones who are manipulating and lying to millions of people every day, making them so afraid of the imaginary that they fail to see the reality right in front of them.

The US is failing by not having national paid leave

We call the United States the most powerful country in the world, why is it that we can't provide national paid leave for everyone?

By REMI FREDERICK
OPINION EDITOR

Recently, I read an opinion article written by Bess Kalb entitled "Without Parental Leave I Might Be Dead." In this article, Kalb talks about her experience with a placenta-related problem that caused her to bleed internally for weeks after the birth of her son.

What saved her life was the fact that she had some paid time off from work that she could take while she received and recovered from life-saving surgery.

The United States is currently one of only six countries in the world, and the only rich one, that does not provide any form of national paid leave.

Why isn't this available to all people, regardless of their job?

Right now, there is a plan in Congress for four weeks of paid family and medical leave. While Democrats originally wanted twelve weeks of paid leave, they scaled it back due to opposition.

Globally, the average paid maternity leave is 29 weeks and the global average paternity leave is 16, reported the New York Times on Nov. 3.

How is it that the self-proclaimed best country in the world can't provide paid time off to new parents? And, if this plan goes through, is four weeks really enough time to spend with a newborn before you go back to work?

Kalb writes in her article that if she'd "...had only four weeks of paid leave after giving birth, I might be dead." She went in for her surgery at six weeks postpartum.

Sure, four weeks is a step in the right direction but it is not enough.

A study on family leave after childbirth and mental health in mothers published in 2012, shows that having less than 12 weeks maternity leave and less than eight weeks of paid maternity leave are linked to higher rates of symptoms of depression and a decreased overall health status.

It is not just the mothers that

benefit from having more time with their children, the children benefit from it as well.

Another study published by the Harvard Review of Psychiatry in 2019 which looked at the impact of paid family leave on mothers and children, found that there was "improved infant attachment and child development..."

The study also discovered that having paid maternity leave was associated with "...a decrease in infant mortality and in mother and infant rehospitalizations..."

It is obvious that having paid parental leave is beneficial for both the parents and the child, but yet, Republicans refuse to let Democrats have the full twelve weeks of paid parental and medical leave that they originally wanted. Why?

Republicans may say they are the family values party but are they really? Do they have parents' interests at heart? It would seem that they do not.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR

Families should be able to bond with each other for more than four weeks after the birth of a baby.

ILLUSTRATION BY JAIDA NOBLE



Yet Another Princess Diana Story: Spencer

Another Diana story that drowns out her true story.

By ELL HOBBS
FILM CRITIC

I went into "Spencer" expecting something unremarkable, and left having seen something, well, unremarkable. A well intentioned period piece, with a slightly forced psychological aspect to attempt to liven it up, gives way to the same tired perspectives and tendencies that are much better executed elsewhere (i.e. "The Crown"); simplicity and poetry quickly fades to blandness and disorder.

The movie orbits Princess Diana (Kristen Stewart) during a royal Christmas gathering, post-separation from the Prince of Wales. Diana's dreams, memories, and anxieties speckle the film with surrealism and fantasy to try and expose the psychological burden of her situation. Sadly, like other attempts at capturing the late icon, the narrative of "Spencer" remains totally isolated from the side of Diana's story that has only barely been explored, that of her work and identity independent of the royal family.

Contrary to what I expected, or

perhaps even what was intended, Kristen Stewart's Diana starts off as rude, self-absorbed, and unlikeable. While Stewart does gradually settle into the role, with writing and acting jointly making her more sympathetic, her unconvincing appearance and manner in depicting the character is jarring, and takes away from what little "Spencer" had going for it. The greater ensemble of almost completely no-line characters struggled in much the same way, with completely disparate looks and essences from their real-life counterparts, quite in contrast to what other films and shows have been able to achieve in casting. That doesn't mean the film was totally without quality moments of acting, though, with Timothy Spall carrying an eerie presence to the screen, and Freddie Spry as a young Prince Harry bringing a spurt of solid comedy.

TITLE: "SPENCER"
STAR RATING: 2.5/5

[Available at time of writing to see in theatres.]

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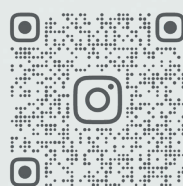
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What's new in Bruno Mars and Anderson .Paak's new album

An Evening With Silk Sonic" is Bruno Mars' long awaited collaboration album.



Photo of a drum kit.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY

By ANGELO ALEGRE
A&E REPORTER

With the release of the album's lead single, "Leave The Door Open," fans have waited for Bruno Mars and Anderson .Paak's next song. They did not have to wait long as before the release of the full album on Nov. 12, Mars and .Paak had released two more singles, "Skate" and "Smokin' Out The Window," to keep fans excited for what's to come.

The release of the album has given fans six new tracks to listen to, one of which is the album's intro, which is titled "Silk Sonic Intro." This sets up the rest of the tracks as it has Bootsy Collins, the host, introduce us to the band Silk Sonic.

Speaking of Bootsy Collins, he is featured in the song "AFTER LAST NIGHT," which is a slower song that features another great musician, Thundercat. This collaboration is

one that has spread the love for soul, which emphasises on vocals and delivery, as fans of Thundercat and Bootsy Collins can enjoy their music alongside Mars and .Paak.

"...fans have waited for Bruno Mars and Anderson .Paak's next song."

"FLY AS ME" is one of the upbeat songs in Mars and .Paak's album. Out of all the songs in the album, "Fly As Me" has one of the more groovy vibes, giving fans the urge to just sing and dance along. It is one of the more finger-snapping, shoulder-popping-inducing songs in the album, and it proves to be one of my personal favorites the group released.

"PUT ON A SMILE" is the song that puts the soul in the genre R&B/Soul that the album portrays. It is a song about a man who lost their special someone and is stuck with problems of the past. It shows that not everyone can put up a perfect act and keep the smile up, sometimes you can't help but shed a tear and cry.

"777" is another of the upbeat songs in the album. It is about gambling and having a good night through the hardships of being intoxicated. Though not everyone has good relations with gambling, Mars succeeds by the end of the song and makes it a fun listen.

"...does a great job concluding the album."

"This collaboration is one that has spread the love for soul..."

"BLAST OFF" is the final song and does a great job concluding the album. It is a good feeling song that describes what Mars and .Paak felt finishing up the album.

Overall, "An Evening with Silk Sonic" started off great with the three singles they released prior to the full album, and with the release of the rest of the songs, it just feels complete. Although the newer songs aren't gaining as much traction as "Leave The Door Open" and "Smokin' Out The Window," it does not take away from the quality of Mars and .Paak's work in their collaboration. This album is something

that fans of Bruno Mars will enjoy, as well as keep them waiting for what's to come in the future.

A guide to buying LP's and 45's in Tacoma.

One of the great things about Tacoma is that it has four, long-standing record stores within walking distance of each other. These businesses each fill a niche within the record business, from cheap records to obscure finds, they all have must-see collections.

Currently working on an expansion to begin selling books and apparel, Hi-Voltage has been a new and used record hotspot in Tacoma for 15 years. The store features rows of neatly organized records, a wall of band tees, hot album displays, in this case, Adele's "30," along with displays of rare pressings and limited edition bright colored vinyl. With an average price of around \$25 and a diverse range of genres, Hi-Voltage is the best spot for new records. Excited about the expansion, opening in late November, store manager Adam Davis-Stockman says "we're a local store and we're happy to provide more culture to Tacoma."

Vintage peach boxes full of 45's, cute green ottomans and bright red record displays — Janku Land is a visual delight just as much as it is a great record store. The owner, Tauga Dinger, took over the Golden

Don's House of Records and Turntable Treasures, opening in 1988 and 1996 and merging in the early 2000s, holds a giant collection of over 120,000 used records. The space is packed from floor to ceiling with records, including everything from classic rock to classical and polka. Owner Peter Vanrosendaal says "if you wanted to buy everything online you'd never have to leave your house, half the fun is the search," Vanrosendaal adds, "we're a one-stop shop," as Turntable Treasures offers reasonably priced repairs and sells a variety of audio equipment.

Opening in 1976, Drastic Plastic sells high quality records at a fair price. With an array of records, cas-

ettes, CD's, VHS tapes and a large selection of pipes, the store truly has a little bit of everything. Focusing on inexpensive essential albums, Drastic Plastic has a good selection of classic rock, along with Northwest bands and live comedy records. Owner Charles Rice says Drastic Plastic is "where you go to get the same record because when they remix and remaster it, they change the sound." The time-capsule record store exclusively sells original pressings and used records in great condition.

“...from cheap records to obscure finds, they all have must-see collections.”

This holiday season, bundle up and walk between 6th Avenue's four record stores to find the 45 you've been searching for, a classic Beach Boys album in perfect condition, a forgotten live pressing Supremes album or the brand new Andy Shauf LP.



PHOTO BY JOSEPHINE TRUEBLOOD

Janku Land's New Arrivals

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