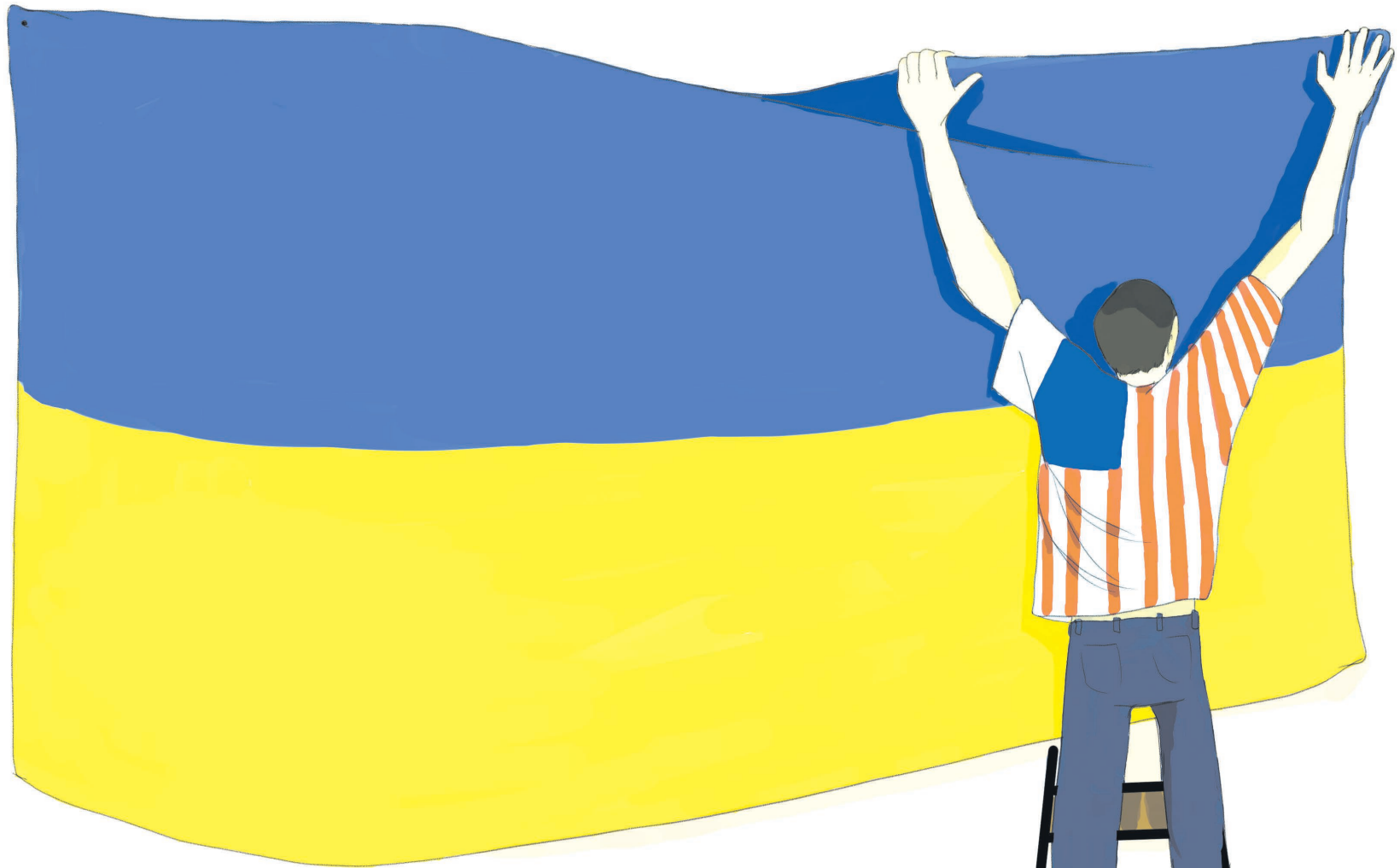


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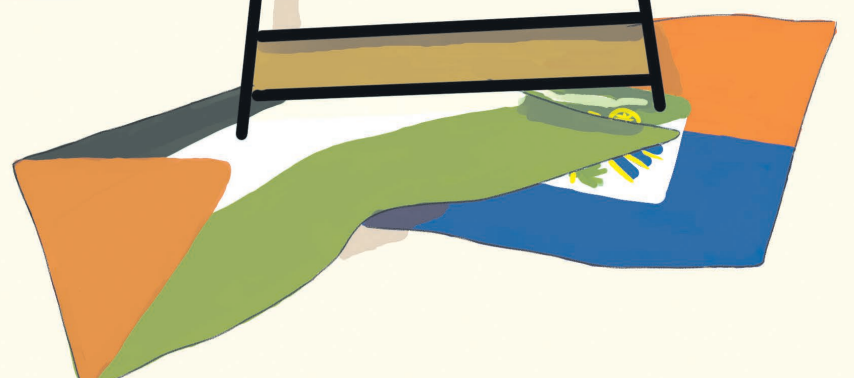
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA



OPINION: Ukraine and United States Hypocrisy

**With the widespread condemnation of Russia, one
is left wondering why so many are cool
with the U.S.'s atrocities.**

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The college student food insecurity crisis

Food insecurity has become a common obstacle for college students in the United States.

By **SHARLAYE DEZURN**
NEWS REPORTER

Food insecurity is a familiar foe to college students. 36% of students were food insecure in 2018 according to a study conducted by Wisconsin's HOPE Lab.

Food insecurity can be described as not eating three meals a day, not having access to fresh produce and food with nutritional value or just not having enough money to purchase food when needed.

First-year student Cali Williams offers her experience with food insecurity as a college student.

"Since I live in a dorm by myself, it is easier to shop for myself since I know what I need. The only issue with that is it ends up being really expensive and if I do not have enough money to go shopping, I would end up not being able to shop or have to skip either breakfast or lunch just so I would not run out of food," Williams explained.

While there are resources such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program that provides free or reduced cost meals to college students, it can be a struggle getting approved as there are many legal requirements that have to be met. However, UW Tacoma offers a free resource called The Pantry that many students have yet to learn about or use.

First-year student Rebecca Cowden offers her take on UWT's resources regarding food insecurity.

"I think the University of Washington Tacoma handles food insecurity really well. The Pantry program that they offer is very helpful and I have had friends use it before. However, I do wish there was some kind of food program like with West Coast Grocery - or something like that," Cowden added.

Marissa Morris, pantry assistant shares insight into The Pantry.

"The Pantry is a very helpful resource for college students because it can be difficult to buy food as it is a huge expense. The Pantry is a great

resource for students to get food and hygiene products" Morris says. "We are open Monday through Friday from 9a.m. to 5p.m."

According to Morris, The Pantry saw 329 students use The Pantry which was a much bigger number than the amount of students since the beginning of the pandemic.

According to a study by CNBC, in the beginning of March 2022, consumers saw food prices increase by 7.9% compared to last year's prices, so students may want to take advantage of these resources when faced with food insecurity hardships.

For more information visit:

www.tacoma.uw.edu/equity-center/pantry

or stop by **Dougan 104**



PHOTO BY ALEXA CHRISTIE

UW Tacoma's The Pantry - located in the Dougan building.

Student parent resources available on and off campus

UWT offers readily available resources for students who have dependents to aid in the continuation of their education and child care.

By **LESLIE GONZALEZ CRUZ**
NEWS REPORTER

Within the UWT community there is a small subset of students who are also parents. Within this community student-parents face the challenges of academia and parenting simultaneously.

For expectant students, they face the decision of continuing or ending their education, the UWT is committed to aiding parents-to-be and providing them the resources they need to continue their education while they care for their children.

Reported by Childcare and Family Support services, students who are expecting have access to resources regarding healthcare and education for their children such as labor

coping skills, infant CPR, support groups, early child education, special needs and childcare facilities. Student-parents on campus have the availability of lactation stations which can be used at no extra costs for a quiet private space to breast-feed. While rooms are used on a drop-in basis and remain locked, students may contact Student Life.

For further assistance, the Child Care Assistance Program (CAP) located in MAT 103 offers students who have low incomes with dependents financial assistance while attending classes. Students that qualify may receive up to \$600 per quarter depending on enrollment status. Students with children aged from birth up to 12 years and 11 months old qualify.

To be eligible, students must be

from any undergraduate program full-time or part-time, children must be in the care of a state-licensed child care provider i.e. home, center or after-school program and children must also be in the students' legal and physical custodial care more than 50% of the time.

CAP is available on a first-come first-serve basis, applications open Sep. 10 and close until the last day of spring quarter, students do not need to reapply every quarter as the application is valid from autumn to spring, though funding is not available for the summer quarter. An updated FAFSA must also be on file with UWT to qualify for the application.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UW TACOMA

UWT students and children at Cheney Stadium for the Park Purple scholarship fundraiser.

Additional resources and related services can be found on the Childcare and Family Support services page via UWT's website:
<https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/cfss/cap>

Student life contact:

For access between 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. : 253-696-4901

For hours after 5 p.m. or before 8 a.m, students can contact Campus Safety: 253-692-4416

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UW Commencement ceremonies once again to be held in person

With COVID-19 restrictions being lifted, in-person Commencement ceremonies are returning to all three of UW's campuses.

By **ANDREW ANDERSON**
News Editor

In 2019 the UW Commencement ceremonies were placed on hold due to the rising numbers of COVID-19 cases, but this year they will once again return to being in person for 2022. Graduated students from the 2021 and 2020 school years are welcomed to participate.

In regards to UW Tacoma specifically, there are currently two ceremonies being planned to take place at the Washington State Fair Grandstands in Puyallup for Monday, June 13, 2022, with specific times being announced later this year. Graduates from all three years of 2022, 2021 and 2020 are invited to participate in the ceremony.

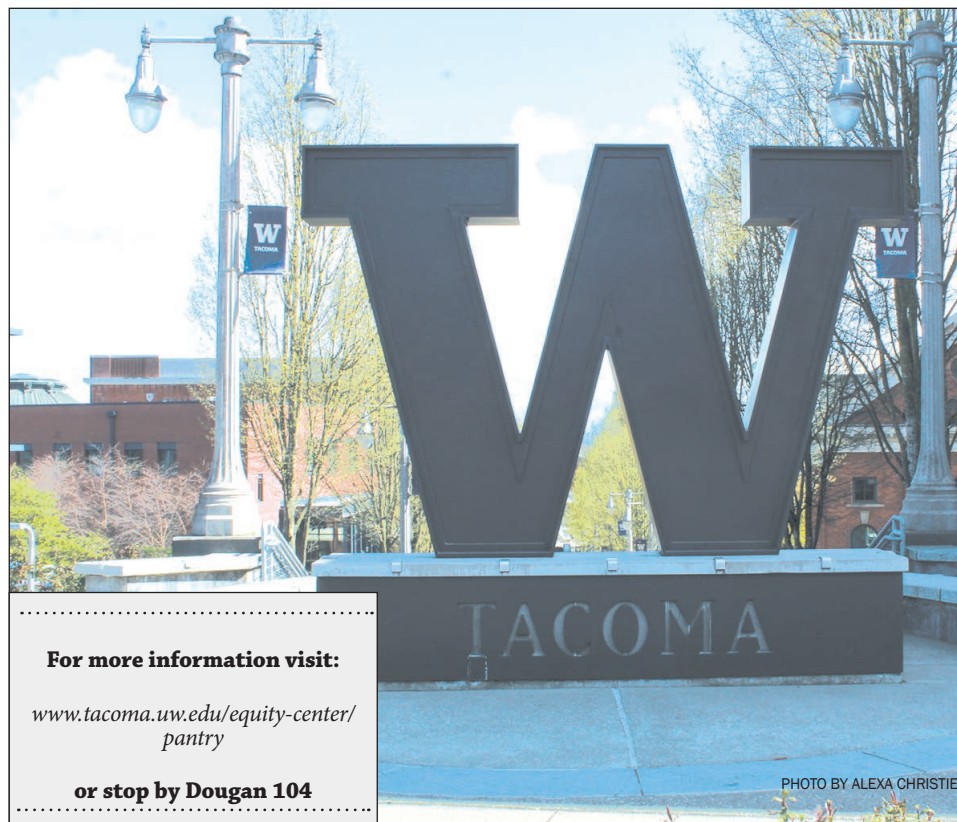
While an exact number is unavailable, UW has explained in various news articles revolving around the event that hundreds to thousands of graduates from the 2021 and 2020 school years have expressed interest in attending the Commencement ceremony. Along with these graduates it can be expected that twice as many spectators will be attending to watch the ceremony for all three years.

Denzil Suite, UW's vice president for Student Life, spoke briefly about the Commencement ceremonies.

"We are thrilled beyond words to not only celebrate our outstanding class of 2022, but to at last come together with the classes of 2020 and 2021 and honor their extraordinary achievements and sacrifices during uniquely challenging times," said Suite, quoted from a UW news article by Jackson Holtz detailing the return of the Commencement ceremonies, "This is a celebration of what's to come, a recognition of what has been and really a tribute to the dynamism and resilience of our students and our UW community."

UW has assured students that many key features of the ceremony will remain, such as graduates names' being announced as they walk the stage, a student speaker and national anthem singer and some campus photo opportunities in the weeks leading up to the ceremonies.

Health guidance in accordance with the CDC and Pierce County Health Department will be followed for the upcoming Commencement ceremonies and more details will become available as the date approaches.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

RAINN campus wide training coming in April

Submitted by Rain Katana Wilson

Dear Editor,

Save the Date!

UW Tacoma has partnered with the Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAINN) to deepen community members' knowledge and skills related to sexual misconduct awareness, prevention, and response through a campus-wide, virtual training session via Zoom Wednesday, April 13, 2022, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Data received from the 2019 University-wide Climate Survey revealed that employee and student survey respondents who were aware of sexual and gender harassment prevention training being available at UW overwhelmingly believed it positively influenced the UW climate.

75.37% of faculty believe such training for faculty positively influenced the climate. 1 81.37% of staff believe such training for staff positively influenced the climate. (1)

84.21% of students believe such training for students positively influenced the climate. (1)

Additionally, students shared that

they believed prevention training is important for staff and faculty.

86.25% of students believe such training for faculty and staff positively influenced the climate.

All UW Tacoma students are encouraged to attend this free virtual training, and the importance of student participation cannot be over-emphasized. Your participation is vital in creating and maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for students, faculty, and staff.

So, keep your eyes open for more RAINN training announcements and Save the Date: Wednesday, April 13, 2022.

(1) This data comes from an additional analysis that was conducted on the 2019 UW Climate surveys by the UW Office of

Educational Assessment for the Office of the Title IX Coordinator. More information can be found at <https://www.washington.edu/uwclimatesurvey>

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- 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?

Are you a student, faculty or staff member of UWT?

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.

OPINION: Ukraine and United States Hypocrisy

With the widespread condemnation of Russia, one is left wondering why so many are cool with the U.S.'s atrocities.

By **ALEX BUCKINGHAM**
OPINION COLUMNIST

Russia's barbaric invasion of Ukraine and the humanitarian crisis the war has created is horrific. The invasion must be condemned, the resistance supported, and refugees welcomed.

But, I hold general frustrations with the hypocrisy of politicians, major news media and various social media posters who decry Putin while being silent or even defending the actions of what Martin Luther King Jr. called the greatest purveyor of violence in the world, the United States government.

While many of us in Tacoma stand in opposition to Russia's war on Ukraine, it is important not to fall into the trap of thinking our own government is any better.

The United States played invader and mass murderer most recently in Iraq and Afghanistan. The organizers of these war-crime-filled atrocities, including George W. Bush and Barack Obama, have not been brought to justice.

Not just U.S. wars, but its foreign policy more generally is creating numerous crises that the U.S. is responsible for.

On Refugees, Migration, and Haiti

People are rightfully worried about the people of Ukraine fleeing for safety and the welcoming of refugees is needed. But watching news coverage of Biden personally welcoming Ukrainians is enraging as this is the same man who has been overseeing a border regime of repression and criminalization.

Just last year, Biden was forced to explain why border guards were photographed on horseback, whipping Haitian refugees.

Rather than admit the brutality at the border is simply Biden's orders in practice, the White House condemned the violence. But such condemnation is meaningless from this government.

Let's focus on Haiti as a case study. Migration from Haiti is a direct result of U.S. interference in the island nation. From Haiti's revolutionary birth, the U.S. has undermined its sovereignty with debt and foreign policy.

The U.S. occupied Haiti for over 15 years in the early 20th century as part of maintaining the Caribbean in its sphere of influence. The occupation involved forced labor, a puppet regime and the seizure of the country's assets.

Throwing away the constitution of the Haitian revolution, the U.S. re-

placed it with a more business-friendly document. The U.S. then backed a brutal military force after ending the occupation and backed dictatorships to maintain their sphere of influence. This continued into the 1980s.

The Haitian people momentarily threw off the yoke of the United States by electing a left-wing government in 1990; the U.S.-backed Haitian military quickly led a bloody and repressive coup. Joe Biden, a senator at the time, argued the U.S. should not intervene in this crisis with the Trump-like argument of, basically, who cares?

U.S. Intervention continued through the 90s and the 21st century by supporting another coup and using economic pressure and reforms that undermine the well-being of the Haitian people. For instance, WikiLeaks revealed the U.S. government helped factory and business leaders prevent a minimum wage increase back in 2009.

So, those fleeing Haiti and being blocked at our border, or whipped and criminalized when they do cross it, are the victims of the U.S. empire. Just as Ukrainian civilians are victims of the Russian empire and deserving of safe refuge, so are Haitian migrants deserving.

U.S. intervention in Latin America goes far beyond Haiti. The need to welcome all migrants and refugees is generalizable. Of course, the U.S. borders themselves are tools of empire and control; they should be abolished outright. But let's not get into that here.

On Palestine, people are rightfully in horror of Russia's bombing campaign in Ukraine

The news coverage is extensive, and we were all disgusted by the bombing of a maternity hospital a few weeks ago.

But let's take a moment to compare this news coverage to the response to Israel's bombing campaign of Gaza just last year. The bombing killed multiple doctors and destroyed 19 healthcare facilities in a place where healthcare infrastructure is already spread as thin as possible, according to Shrouq Aila and Anna Therese Day with The Intercept.

But we do not get outraged or call for sanctions from Joe Biden and his ilk, or the New York Times and other mainstream news, instead we get equivocation, misdirection, and billions of dollars in military aid to Israel every year.

While Ukrainian resistance to occupation is glamorized in the news, rocket

fire from Gaza is condemned. Palestinians are expected to accept occupation and ethnic cleansing or limit resistance to nonviolent actions while memes are made of Ukrainians blowing up tanks.

To be clear, I support Ukrainians blowing up tanks. I simply defend the right of all oppressed people to fight for their liberation by any means necessary.

A final example, the U.S. has leveled heavy sanctions on Russia for its invasion of Ukraine. But calls for sanctions against Israel for its brutal regime of occupation and apartheid are rejected by these same politicians. In 2019, congress passed a resolution condemning calls to sanction Israel.

Why the Hypocrisy?

Of course, racism is a player in what's going on here. It's very easy for our government to dismiss migrants from Latin America as hordes of undeserving criminals and to dismiss the struggle for Palestine as terrorism. But it's not simply that these people are racists.

The mainstream discourse of Russia as evil, while the U.S.'s evils are complicated, is designed to maintain a status quo. One where the U.S. acts in the interests of its own billionaire

class stealing wealth from the global south, profiting from climate change, and maintaining hegemony in the middle east.

Explaining these dynamics away as complicated prevents us from fighting for and creating a just world. Meanwhile, the other powers in the world in competition with the U.S., like Russia and China, must be otherized and made evil. In this way, the great myth of the U.S. as world police and arbiter of what's good can continue.

Instead, we should condemn the U.S. empire and solidarize with all liberation struggles, not just those that serve U.S. economic interests.



Support Ukraine, ignore the U.S. empire.

ILLUSTRATION BY JAIDA NOBLE

OPINION: Capitalism isn't worth species-wide suicide.

Capitalism has many merits, but what we are seeing now is its most crucial failing.



PHOTO BY GARRY KNIGHT (FLICKR)

Only a few elites want this war, so why does it happen anyways?

By ANTHONY KREJCI
OPINION COLUMNIST

The last few years have not been a great time to be an idealist. Our country and the world feels increasingly unstable and belligerent, like it could all come crashing down into a smoldering ruin any day now. This anxiety has been growing to a fever pitch ever since the news of Russia's aggressive build-up against Ukraine began spreading a few months ago.

Yet unlike Trump or the COVID-19 pandemic which proved so divisive and polarizing, much of the world is of the same mind that nobody wants this war, even many Russians. According to Reuters, nearly 5000 anti-war protesters were arrested in Russia on March 6 alone.

So, is this just a Putin problem? Are we staring down the barrel of the worst conflict of our lifetimes because of one man? Or is Putin just the most recent symptom of a broader condition?

Conflict has been a part of the human story since the first stone was thrown and the first stick was sharpened and hardened in flame. First driven by the scarcity of resources in an untamed world, then motivated by religion or race to destroy or subjugate those who were viewed as undesirable, societies have been forged and molded by conflict.

Yet the idea of conflict between major world powers changed for-

ever in 1945. As soon as the bombs dropped in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the entire world knew the next great power conflict could be the end of the human species.

Ever since then we have had plenty of wars. Revolutions and civil wars in developing countries, wars of imperialist bullying as powerful nations like the U.S. or the former U.S.S.R. jockeyed for position on the necks of weaker countries.

Yet through all that time we have known better. Even during the hottest moments of the Cold War, the memories of the World Wars and the atomic bomb stayed our hands.

I'm not so sure we know better anymore. Greed has a way of twisting the mind of the powerful. Pride and masculine bravado have a way of corrupting the good sense of men. The important lessons pulled from the ruins of Hiroshima, Nanking, Berlin, London and Stalingrad have all lost their potency as they have faded from living memory.

We are caught in a toxic cycle, one where most people who would prefer to live a life of peace, love and betterment of each other are pulled into the depths of hell by a fringe minority driven by ego and greed.

All of us here at UWT are caught in this cycle, from the students and teachers, to the janitors, security guards and the homeless who stroll through our campus.

Putin is a symptom of this cycle, but the cycle itself is driven by greed. With all our advances in technology, science and medicine, we have all the means to end the problems which drive human conflict, primarily resource scarcity.

Just as the U.S. invaded Iraq with its eyes on Iraqi oil, Putin has invaded Ukraine partly due to Ukraine's own energy reserves. Yet both countries could have just invested in clean, renewable energy avoiding destructive conflict and subverting the growing climate crisis at the same time.

This solution would have been better for humanity by any consideration, but both countries chose imperialist aggression, why? Because it was quicker, it was easier, and it made them rich.

This is how our system operates. What is best for the community is sacrificed for what is best for the few. Even though we have the means to end conflict over scarcity, scarcity is artificially created so that men like Putin and Trump can profit from it.

I do not deny capitalism has brought great things in the short term, from cars and airplanes to Spotify and video games. All of these wonderful additions to our lives have been forged in the furnace of free-market competition. However, the short term is only part of the story.

In the long-term, capitalism has brought corrupt leaders tone-deaf to the needs of their people, arbitrary

homelessness and hunger, imperialist wars and crumbling ecosystems. With climate change only getting worse and nuclear war looking all the more imminent, I ask any who will listen, is it worth it? How "healthy" can healthy competition be if these are the long-term results?

A horde of locusts will eventually devour itself when all other resources are consumed. Is that what we are? Is that the final chapter of the human story? I don't believe so, we have so much more to do than that. Great works of art to paint, architectural wonders to construct, diseases to cure, stars to explore and alien species to meet.

Historically, Marxism was the alternative to Capitalism. Many in younger generations are viewing the ideology much more favorably than previous generations. The history of Marxism is troubled, the ideology fell prey to the same human nature which now corrupts capitalism.

Yet in the theories of Marx there is a crucial and solid thesis statement; Firstly, that the means of material production have been the driving force of human events since the dawn of time. Secondly, that produced goods have consistently been hoarded jealously by a few elites at the expense of society as a whole.

In the Marxist tradition of thought, these two facts are the wellspring from which all human bloodshed, hatred and

suffering has flowed.

I consider myself a Marxist, yet I also acknowledge that humanity may not yet be ready for some of its more radical alternatives. I believe for the time being, neither extremes are viable. We must seek a balance between the two. One that affords collectivism the same value as individualism.

Had both sides of the Cold War not been so belligerently close-minded, and more open to being wrong, they may have learned more from each other. We could be living in a much better world right now. Instead the cycle has been allowed to repeat, and the horrors of the 20th century may be outclassed by the horrors of the 21st century.

In an episode of "Star Trek: The Next Generation" titled "The Neutral Zone" Captain Picard responds to a citizen of the 21st century who awoke in the 24th after centuries of being frozen in sleep.

"A lot has changed in the last 300 years; people are no longer obsessed with the accumulation of things. We have eliminated hunger, want, the need for possessions, we have grown out of our infancy," said Captain Picard.

In the Star Trek universe, it did take near extinction at the hands of nuclear war for humanity to grow out of its infancy. Let's hope it doesn't have to come to that in our own universe.

OPINION: “Turning Red”: is it really that bad?

Since the release of “Turning Red” there has been mixed reviews from parents about the messages the movie is giving children.

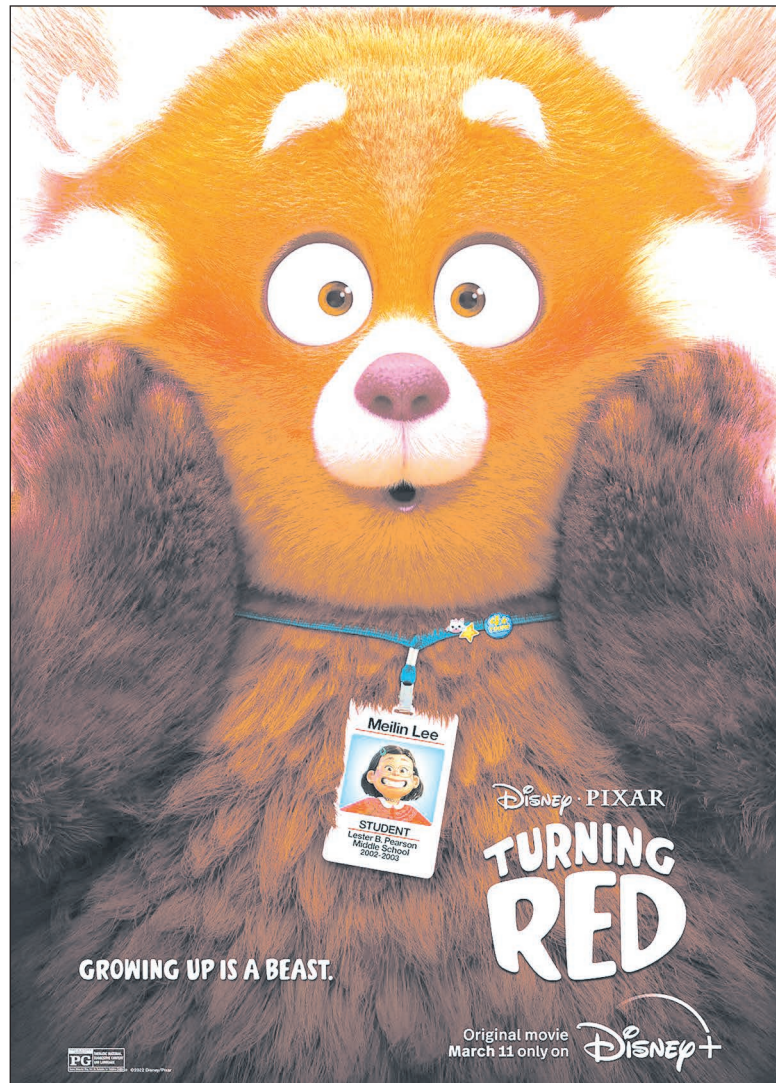


PHOTO COURTESY OF WALT DISNEY PICTURES AND PIXAR ANIMATION STUDIOS

Mei as a red panda looking surprised.

OPINION: America: military over minds

America seems to think that having the biggest military will make them the strongest country, this isn't true.

BY REMI FREDERICK
OPINION EDITOR

America doesn't value knowledge or education enough. Too few people are excited to learn and strive to gain knowledge.

Some want to ban teaching certain topics altogether.

This lack of passion and interest for learning and holding knowledge causes serious issues in our society.

We see it now in those who are dangerously skeptical of news outlets or reliable studies or of trained scientists or medical professionals.

In 2020, the United States government budgeted a little over \$752 billion dollars for the military and only a little under \$159 billion for education.

If this isn't proof of America's apathy towards education, I don't know what is. To put so little money into

children, which I firmly believe are the future, is criminal.

Education is the backbone of our society. We wouldn't be where we are today without it.

The Commonwealth Fund estimated in 2021 that if we hadn't had the vaccine there would have been over 1.1 million deaths in the U.S. from COVID-19.

We saved those people due to education and the scientists that benefited from it.

To have the strongest military we must prioritize education. Scientists can continue to develop the next advancements in weapons if they are properly funded and educated.

Even the influencers we follow are an example of our country's lack of regard for education. Think about who you follow on TikTok. On Instagram. On Twitter.

BY MADI WILLIAMS
MANAGING EDITOR

“Turning Red” is Disney and Pixar's latest film released on Feb. 21 for streaming on Disney+. The film's description says “Mei tries to balance friends, family, and an uncontrollable ability to poof into a giant red panda” on Disney+. Yet, this family comedy movie has received some backlash from some due to the subject matter of the 13-year-old main character Mei Lee getting her period.

All over social media, you can see threads about “Turning Red” and parents talking about how “they were not ready to have the puberty talk with their 9-year-olds” or “how it is not Disney's place to force parents to have the puberty talk with their kids because they watched this movie”. Anywhere you look, a comment similar to the above can be found within a post having to do

with “Turning Red.”

All that is not to say that the film doesn't talk about periods, it does. There is a whole scene where Mei Lee's mom asks her “Did the big red peony arrive?” and then proceeds to bring Mei Lee pads, painkillers and a hot water bottle, all things that a 13 year-old-girl would need.

But let's take into consideration that during this scene Mei Lee is a giant red panda trying to hide from her mother in the bathtub making all kinds of faces. For most younger kids the period talk is going to go right over their heads and they are going to focus on the panda hiding.

Throughout the film, Mei struggles to keep the panda tame while dealing with all the emotions that she is going through, some would say that when Mei changes into the panda that symbolizes the emotional part of periods. This is something I would agree

with as a 23-year-old, but for a 6-year-old they are going to see Mei getting mad at a bully and standing up to him as a panda.

We have to remember that Disney and Pixar put some adult jokes and themes into these films that will keep parents entertained, at least the first few times they are going to be watching the film.

I grew up watching Disney and Pixar movies and I still catch little things that I have not noticed before. So even though as an adult we see a movie showing the emotions of Mei going through puberty, if you look in the eyes of a kid it's Mei learning how to handle emotions and what helps her feel better but also finding who she is as a person.

Whether you view the film as a coming-of-age movie about puberty or a coming-of-age movie about being your true self, “Turning Red” is a good film.

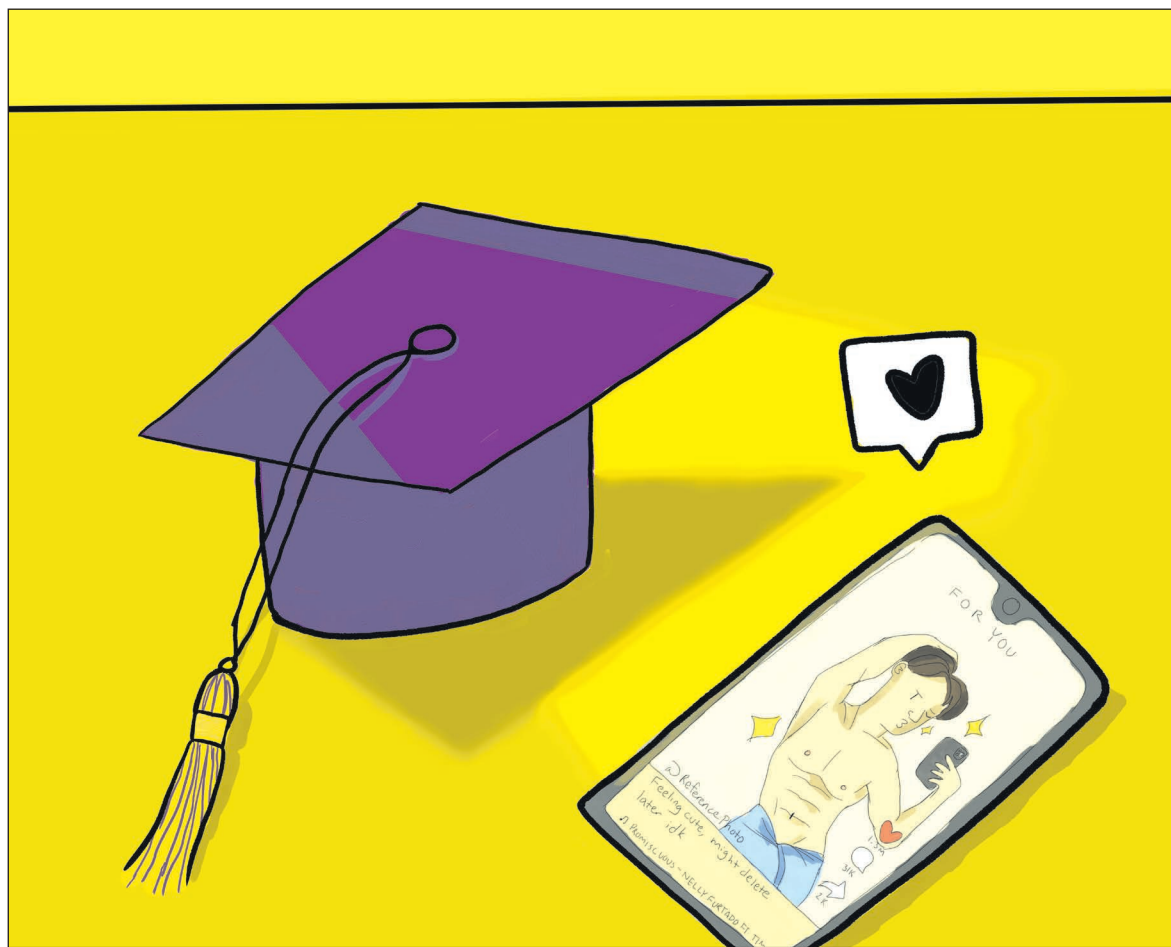


ILLUSTRATION BY JAIDA NOBLE

Instead of focusing on helping everyone that wants a degree get one, our society focuses on TikTok creators and what their newest drama is.

How many of these people are educators or are highly skilled in their field? Chances are not many.

The idea that those who can dance, have the money to do pranks or who can do makeup should be who we look up to or believe everything they say is frankly, insanity.

Now, I understand that not everyone wants to learn all the time or has the time to. When the government doesn't value it and doesn't provide op-

portunities for the average person to have time to learn, it is expected that the average person then won't.

People need to want to learn so that they can apply their learnings to everyday life.

Take history for example, if someone doesn't feel the need or want to learn about it, they won't. If we don't learn about history, it is doomed to repeat itself.

For the past few years, we have been

living in a seemingly endless time of historic things. Historic pandemics, historic deaths and even historic protests and movements.

Unless we remember these things, unless we study them, they will all be for nothing. Humanity will have learned nothing from our current struggles.

Which spring 2022 anime should you watch?

Check out more spring season anime on MyAnimeList

By **ANGELO ALEGRE**
A&E REPORTER

The spring season of anime is coming fast, and there are tons of shows that are getting new seasons, as well as shows being adapted into anime, but which are worth your time checking out?

KAGUYA-SAMA: LOVE IS WAR- ULTRA ROMANTIC:

If you have never heard of the Love Is War series, it is a rom-com anime set in the prestigious high school "Shuuchin Academy," in which the main cast interacts in a day-to-day winner/loser situation. A fun game the main cast did in Season 2 was taking turns pumping a balloon, and the loser would be the one who ends up popping it; however they try to use psychological tactics to make it seem that the balloon is nowhere near popping.

After having a great second season which left off on the aftermath of the sports festival arc, this newest season of "Kaguya-sama" is going back to its roots; the good old problem of how to make someone fall for you. Season two had done a great job in showing off the background of the main cast

as well as showing the types of interactions each character has with one another, but nothing beats the original premise of the show, which was for the two main characters, Miyuki Shirogane and Kaguya Shinomiya, to make the other fall in love with them. If you are interested in this rom-com anime, it will be available to stream on Crunchyroll alongside its previous seasons starting April 9, 2022.

THE RISING OF THE SHIELD HERO SEASON 2:

The second season of "The Rising of the Shield Hero" will take place right where it left off in season one, which was about the four cardinal heroes who were summoned to a new world that was tasked with the problem of protecting the country. The first season of "The Rising of the Shield Hero" is one of the best anime in its genre of isekai, which is when the main character or cast is transported into another world, which typically is a fantasy-inspired world.

In this newest season, our main character, Naofumi Iwatani is going to face his highest hurdle yet with the introduction of the spirit tortoise, as seen on the teasers of the show. If this show piques your interest, it will be available

to stream on Crunchyroll alongside the first season starting April 6, 2022.

KOMI-SAN CAN'T COMMUNICATE SEASON 2:

With the release of the first season of "Komi-san Can't Communicate" just a couple of months ago, it was a surprise for fans of the series to learn that the second season was just around the corner. If you have not had the chance to watch it yet, "Komi-san Can't Communicate" is about Komi, a person who has troubles speaking her mind as she has a speaking disorder. In this story, it takes you through Komi's hardships and will continue to go through and shows that even with things in your way, you can achieve your goals - and in Komi's way, her goal is to make 100 friends. With the help of Tadano, her first friend, she will surely achieve it one day. If you are excited to watch the upcoming season of "Komi-san Can't Communicate," it will be streaming exclusively on Netflix starting April 7, 2022.

Although there are many more anime coming out in the spring season of 2022, these three shows are ones that anyone is likely to enjoy, regardless of the genre you tend to like.



PHOTO BY A-1 PICTURES, (ANIMATION STUDIO)

"Kaguya-sama: Love Is War - Ultra Romantic" Show Poster



PHOTO BY IMDB

Wilson, Lanegan and Hawkins

Three local rock legends pass away:

Remembering PNW musicians, from surf to grunge.

By **JOSEPHINE TRUEBLOOD**
A&E EDITOR

The Year of the Tiger has been tough on the music world. So far this year, we've lost Ronnie Spector, Meat Loaf and Snootie Wild, among others. Three of the losses have links to Tacoma: Taylor Hawkins, Mark Lanegan and Don Wilson.

TAYLOR HAWKINS:

Hawkins, the Foo Fighters drummer, shocked the world with an untimely death last week at the age of 50. About to perform at a festival in Columbia, Hawkins played for Dave Grohl's second-most famous band since 1997. Hawkins landed the Foo Fighters' gig after meeting the band on an Alanis Morissette tour, the big break

in his career. In the HBO documentary "Jagged," Hawkins charmingly tells the tale of how he left the Canadian singer's band to join up with Grohl. In a charismatic display of self-work and apology, Hawkins also shares tour stories of bad-boy misogyny that was the antithesis of Morissette's strong-girl image.

Tacoma connection: Hawkins was not the first Foo Fighters' drummer;

that honor belongs to Tacoma's own William Goldsmith, who previously played in Sunny Day Real Estate - a darling of the '90s Northwest scene. You can catch Goldsmith in his latest iteration, Assertion, which also features Tacoma musicians Justin Taminga and Rafe Wadleigh.

MARK LANEGAN:

Lanegan was the lead singer of influential grunge-era band Screaming Trees. Formed in Ellensburg, Wash. in 1984, the band had indie success on SST and Sub Pop labels. It was Lanegan's husky vocal tone that set the band apart. Known best for "Nearly Lost You," the neo-psychedelic hit pushed Screaming Trees into MTV rotation. Lanegan also worked with Queens of the Stone Age, Isobel Campbell (Belle and Sebastian), Greg Dulli (Afghan Whigs), Moby, Melissa Auf der Maur (Hole, The Smashing Pumpkins) and Tacoma's Neko Case. Lanegan died February 22 at age 57.

Tacoma connection: Lanegan sang on Neko Case's "Curse of the I-5 Corridor" - a song with endless references to our hometown. Check out the risqué video on YouTube. Lanegan also worked with legendary producer Steve

Fisk, who recently defected from Seattle, saying that Tacoma is "like how Seattle was in the '90s."

DON WILSON:

One of the biggest Tacoma rock stars died in January, Don Wilson, the co-founder and rhythm guitarist of The Ventures. Wilson, 88, was the last surviving member of the classic lineup that recorded eponymous '60s hits including "Walk Don't Run" and "Hawaii Five-O." The Ventures, who were Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductees, were formed in Tacoma in 1958. They popularized surf guitar instrumentals, shaping the genre and influencing countless bands like Blondie, The Go-Go's and George Harrison. With over 100 million albums sold worldwide, Tacoma's Ventures hold the record for the best-selling instrumental rock group of all time.

Tacoma connection: The Tacoma connections continue for The Ventures, most recently with Tacoma filmmaker Issac Olsen's "Walk Don't Run" documentary. The film is being kick-started by brothers Justin and Rob Peterson, also known for Hilltop's fantastic 1111 Bar and music venue The Valley.

Teenage Nostalgia in “Turning Red”

“Turning Red” is a comedic movie that celebrates growing up and all the mess that comes along with it.

RYAN MANTLE
FILM CRITIC

“Turning Red” is Pixar and Disney’s latest animated film about a teenager who learns that she has inherited the power to turn into a large red panda when she becomes emotional. Her family has a way of pacifying this power but only if Meilin, the protagonist, can refrain from transforming too often over the next month. Unfortunately, her favorite boy band is coming to town and that makes things a bit complicated for her and her friends.

There is a lot to like in this film, from the general comedy to the wholly-relatable teenage experience. Meilin begins the film as the dutiful daughter type but breaks out of her shell in a way that feels natural, despite the red panda in the room. The motivations for her character growth are her friends and the desire to see their favorite boy band together. While the way they set out to accomplish this feat is odd, the journey itself is nostalgic and endearing.

“Turning Red” relies on the relationship between mothers and daughters for tension and is very successful at it. Sandra Oh plays Meilin’s helicopter mom, Ming, and manages to poke fun at the stereotype while also showing why it exists in the first place. Ming loves her daughter and makes sure that everyone in town knows it, especially the school security guard. She knows her daughter is changing and is desperate to maintain their close relationship.

“Turning Red relies on the relationship between mothers and daughters for tension and is successful at it.”

The animation in this film aids in this kind of character building as all of the characters are unique and expressive. Sometimes the characters will make faces that perfectly relay what they are feeling, and at other times the face will be a punchline. There are different face shapes, body types and skin tones that make this film less stale when compared to some of Pixar’s former work of thin waisted and small faced main characters. It does not quite reach the insane level of detail that “Encanto” achieved, except for a few beautiful

cooking sequences, but the animation is still of a very high quality.

Another area that “Turning Red” succeeds in is nostalgia. The film takes place in 2002 and plays heavily on the boy band craze at that time. The band, 4 Town, seems to be based on NSYNC and the Backstreet Boys but it does not require prior knowledge to get the humor. The meteoric rise of One Direction in the early 2010s, and BTS more recently, make the jokes work just as well now as they would have then. It isn’t just the boy bands though, there is also a Tamagotchi clone, bulky video recorders and mixtapes that can really take you back to that period.

“It manages to be relatable and nostalgic while still maintaining an unpredictable element that keeps you engaged.”

While “Turning Red” has a lot going for it, it is not bulletproof. Some of the metaphors are abundantly obvious but others, like selling pictures of Mei’s red panda to her classmates, I either cannot answer or don’t like the answer that I can come up with. The character development for Meilin is excellent but the method is a head scratcher. The family history is referenced a lot but is really only explored when it is convenient which makes it difficult to see what happens next. In some ways that unpredictability is a real boon to the film but it detracts at times.

“Turning Red” is an excellent film that will make you laugh out loud at times. It manages to be relatable and nostalgic while still maintaining an unpredictable element that keeps you engaged. There are definitely questions that I still have about certain plot points but even without all the answers, this film is still definitely worth a watch.

STAR RATING 4/5

[Turning Red is available to stream only on Disney+]



PHOTO COURTESY OF WALT DISNEY PICTURES AND PIXAR ANIMATION STUDIOS



Meilin in her red panda form.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WALT DISNEY PICTURES AND PIXAR ANIMATION STUDIOS

Fighting to close the North West Detention Center with La Resistencia

By: Destiny Valencia

Hidden in the port of Tacoma on the other side of town is the Northwest Detention Center, one of the largest holding centers for immigrants owned by the for-profit GEO Group. This center can hold up to 1,575 people within its walls.

La Resistencia, a grassroots organization, aims to shut down this for-profit holding center and works alongside those who are detained to raise awareness and help these individuals be released back to their families.

"With so much going on inside and outside of the detention center, our communications team works to spread the messages of people detained at the

Northwest Detention Center. We're in our third year of our #FreeThemAll campaign which shares stories directly from people held in the detention center. Our goal is to share as many of these stories as we can," Ashley Del Villar said, a volunteer of La Resistencia.

There have been a lot of new developments in the past year for the group. Last year, Governor Jay Inslee signed Bill 1090 which bans for profit prison systems in Washington state. Volunteers at La Resistencia were directly involved in fighting for this bill, but GEO's contract does not end until 2025 in Washington, which means that people are still being

detained and deported in the meantime.

"Right now, we want to shut down the Northwest Detention Center before 2025 and while we're at it, we will continue to do the work to end detention and deportation everywhere," Villar said.

In late 2021, GEO was ordered to pay \$23 million in lawsuits due to the company's use of detainees for labor in the detention center. GEO is accused of paying individuals who are detained at the center less than a dollar a day for work that includes cleaning or cooking.

"Many people have reached out to us, all of them people we knew when they were detained. We are informing them

that GEO is trying to do everything they can to not pay them. We need to continue fighting and ensure people get their stolen wages back, but also those currently in detention need to have their jobs back with the minimum wage paid for their labor while they are detained," Maru Mora Villalpando said, an organizer and advocate for the group.

To fund their efforts, La Resistencia held an anniversary fundraiser on March 6 that included food, drinks, and an auction with items such as handmade shoes, magnets, purses and a variety of goods donated by the community. Most of these funds will be deposited and go into individual's commissary accounts and the remainder will go towards volunteers as a stipend for the full-time work they do in the group.

La Resistencia has three public campaigns for Diego, Carlos, and Jose, individuals who have been detained since the beginning of COVID. La Resistencia will soon be launching a new campaign

for a fellow organizer Cristian, who was detained, deported, paroled back into the country in August, and then detained back in February. They will be holding a solidarity event for him on March 26 outside of the detention center.

"We will continue exposing the dangers the Northwest Detention Center poses to everyone detained and everyone in Tacoma. We know there is not one way to make sure the detention center is closed for good; we need to continue listening to the leadership of those detained and allow the space for the wisdom of those formerly detained and their loved ones to create strategies, that combined, will ensure the early closing of the prison," Villalpando said.

If you would like to get involved with La Resistencia, you can follow them on Instagram @LaResistencia for updates and events.

Career Development and Education Center Prepares Students for Virtual Setting

By: Marco Aguirre

Many college students were preparing to enter the workforce until the pandemic caused the job

hunt process to move to a remote setting. Now, as students return in-person the career and development center at UW Tacoma prepares students for job searching both in person and online.

"You have to be doing hybrid not just on zoom, but now maybe you're physically going somewhere again where even a year ago that wasn't as likely," said Michael Maratas, one of the career coaches at the center. As a career coach, Maratas is aware of the difficulties students face in an online setting.

"Having a zoom call is kind of awkward compared to having a sit down coffee for 30 minutes with somebody asking them about a career but students have risen to that challenge and have reached out," Maratas said.

As students and alumni begin to find jobs this year, employers plan to hire 26.6% more new graduates from the Class of 2022 than they did from the Class of 2021 according to NACE's Job Outlook 2022 report.

The career and education center narrows down these potential jobs for students.

"What we do is try to sift through that. What is it in terms of your degree or what jobs are available for you that makes the most

sense," Maratas said.

49% of students said they preferred to do interviews virtually according to research by job search platform Handshake. However, the career development and education center believes in-person job searching remains crucial.

"It's still really important that they start to build relationships whether that's with people that they've actually met in real life or people who they meet online," said Ivanna Trottman, a fellow career coach for the center.

"It's going to the relationships and the follow through with those relationships that really help students get to where they want to go in the job search."

Still, Trottman believes that the virtual setting is here to stay as a positive outcome for UW Tacoma students.

"When it comes to careers, employees are beginning to have a lot more power in the environments that they work in and in the circumstance that they enter," Trottman said.

The career and development center is currently taking appointments and drops-ins via Zoom at <https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/career/appointments>

Human Trafficking has evolved to websites and social media during the pandemic

By: Trisha Carandang

Users who are on dating apps such as Tinder or websites like OnlyFans may be a target of human trafficking.

Since the pandemic lockdowns, mobile apps and websites that promote escorts are some of the online platforms that human traffickers have now maneuvered to target vulnerable individuals.

"That's kind of been one of the preferred methods of getting victims," said Professor Tionna Miller, who teaches a course about Human Trafficking at University of Washington Tacoma. "Since the pandemic lockdowns, it's been hard to get their victims out there so they use OnlyFans and websites that promote their victims as escorts."

Human Traffickers also prefer to use social media platforms and dating apps because they not only use it to promote their victims but also to recruit.

A data by Center for Children and Youth Justice found that the pandemic lockdowns have affected the exploitation and there have been a dramatic increase in internet-based sexual exploitation in Washington.

"It made it easier for traffickers to keep their 'businesses' under wraps," said Miller. "It's also made it harder for victims to seek help."

In the state of Washington alone, there are 287 victims of labor and 819 sex trafficking victims but this data by the Washington State Department of Commerce is only limited as there are a lot of victims that remain unreported.

"The reason data collection is hard is because...

there is still no streamlined data collection for all those non-profit organizations," said Rebekah Covington, who is a human trafficking survivor and is now a corporate relations manager at a non-profit organization called Business Ending Slavery and Trafficking based in Seattle, Washington.

Besides being knowledgeable about Human Trafficking tactics and being aware of your surroundings as suggested by Covington, we can also learn the three-step method not only be aware of the situation but to also protect one another explained by Miller.

Similar to what the White House issued on December 2021 on combatting human trafficking, the three-step method consists of Prevention, Promote Protection and Promote Prosecution that is applicable to our communities.

Creating prevention is to enhance outreach with education that is appropriate for their age. These efforts will start in elementary school, framing it appropriately for their age so there's an understanding what human trafficking looks like.

Secondly, promoting protection is specifically for those victims. Letting the victims build trust with law enforcements and lead them to resources that are available to them.

Last is to promote prosecution. "If they looked at prosecution for human traffickers the way that they looked at the war on crime in drugs," said Miller, "then I think it would help slow traffickers down."

ABOUT TCOM 349 AND TWRT 388

UW Tacoma's News Writing communication class (TCOM 349), taught by Professor Chris Demaske, is an exten-

sive course that focuses on the principles of news writing and reporting. Students are taught journalistic techniques as well as ethical and legal problems that are occurring in our world of information.

Articles on pages 9 to 10 are written

by students with their topic of choice. Upon completing these articles, students were also required to do their research, come up with interview questions and write these articles similar to what we see in our daily news articles.

Pages 11 and 12 are articles from the Writing For Social Change course (TWRT 388) taught by Dr. Ruben Casas, under the Writing Studies Major. Students examined the rhetorical force of various forms of communication

within specific social, political, and cultural contexts. Students are to compose a project demonstrating their learning that is intended for public audiences.

The Story of a Coast Salish Punk will be Heard

By: Alex Geronimo

A silence hushes over the crowd when she introduces herself in Lushootseed, a Coast Salish language preserved by her great-grandmother. Almost as if she were casting a spell, her gentle voice entrances the audience and it is suddenly clear to them that they have been permitted to occupy an intimate space.

At the launch event celebrating the release of her first book, she reads excerpts describing the most traumatic moments of her life with a dear friend of hers playing soft chords at the synthesizer. The delicate music adds to the experience of her own voice telling her story written in the pages, and everyone in the room is whisked away to experience moments of her past.

Sasha LaPointe is an indigenous artist, a poet, a lecturer at the University of Washington Tacoma, and the author of “Red Paint: The Ancestral Autobiography of a Coast Salish Punk”. With the release of her memoir, LaPointe is one of a growing group of indigenous authors telling their own stories after generations of their culture being erased and silenced. In her time as a lecturer at UWT, LaPointe often weaved her own personal experiences and Coast Salish culture into the creative writing lessons she taught in her classes. By doing so, her students not only walked away from class with a new perspective on writing and storytelling, but also with a deeper understanding of Native American culture

and the resilience of its people.

“In the face of cultural erasure, my great-grandmother saw the importance of preserving language,” LaPointe said. “When you think about that, what the hell am I going to do? I’m going to tell stories.”

For LaPointe, writing became her outlet for healing at the age of 14. She shares a core memory with her audience where she realized it was her main outlet, a memory of her on a bus running away with nothing but a napkin to write on. Despite the fear she felt, writing on every inch of that napkin soothed her and kept her grounded even when she felt she had no ground to stand on. It was in that moment that she realized what she was always meant to do.

After obtaining her MFA through the Institute of American Indian Arts, LaPointe began lecturing at UWT in 2019. When she teaches her class, her method of teaching is largely influenced by the criticism she faced in her own undergraduate studies and her frustration with the lack of freedom she was given to experiment with her writing. What she hopes to foster in her students is a sense of creativity that will allow them to find their individual styles and help them not be afraid of it.

Trisha Carandang, a communication major at UWT and a former student of LaPointe, appreciated the relaxed nature of LaPointe’s class and felt that it encouraged her to tap into a creative mindset more easily when

it came to her writing.

“Explor[ing] your imagination is a great way to let students learn and hone in their non-fiction writing skills” Carandang said.

In terms of LaPointe’s own writing, “Red Paint” was written to focus on the celebration of healing from trauma and honoring that healing fully. Her memoir was also her own way of honoring her great-grandmother, whose Lushootseed name she carries. Through her gift of storytelling, she represents the Upper Skagit and Nooksack tribes and continues her great-grandmother’s legacy with every book she signs, not as Sasha LaPointe, but as taq’šəblu.

Internships can benefit graduates finding jobs after graduation.

By: Lucy Malone

If you are a graduating senior and you are worried about finding a job relevant to your degree, you are not alone. The class of 2022’s spring graduation is right around the corner and students are filled with excitement, anxiety, and anticipation.

There are 26% of graduating students that said the job search after graduation caused anxiety, according to a study conducted by the National Union of Students. Seniors who have worked diligently on their degree want to find a high paying job that is relevant to their area of study. However, 55% of individuals report that their work and field of study are closely related, according to the National Survey of College Graduates.

“When I graduated from undergrad, my first job was working as a grocery clerk because I did not have any internship experience,” said Jennifer Heckman, a business management professor at the University of Washington Tacoma. “My application was not appealing because I did not have experience working in my major, even though I had a degree.”

Job search anxiety can be lessened, and higher career relation to degree can be gained by internship experience in your field of study. Internships provide a low risk environment to gain guidance on your career path, and test the concepts you have been diligently learning throughout your college profession.

“I wish internships were a degree requirement because of the valuable experience you gain from working within your major,” Heckman said.

Networking is one of the best skills for obtaining jobs and internships, according to Michael Maratas, the military-connected career coach at the Career Development and Education Center located in the University of Washington Tacoma campus.

“Start inward by telling your friends, family, classmates and professors what you want to do,” Maratas said. “Let the network work for you. Peo-

ple want to help other people and if they know what your plan is, they will find opportunities for you to succeed.”

Students who have had internship experiences prior to their job search are more likely to find employment after graduation than students with no experience, according to the National Association of Colleges and Employers

“If I had not done an internship with an occupational therapist my senior year, I would not have been offered a job,” said Kelsey Summers, a University of Washington Tacoma alumni. “This industry is so close knit, where you need to have relationships to get hired. I was able to get hired at the office I interned at.”

Having a Bachelor’s degree has proven to acquire a higher salary than those with a high school diploma, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

“One of the things that helps about university education, isn’t just the major, but the critical thinking skills you develop along the way,” Heckman said. “These experiences strengthen your mental framework which helps your career because you are able to think through problems more efficiently.”

However, only having a higher education degree does not mean your application is the most attractive. Internships are the most effective college recruitment strategy, according to a focus group study posted in the journal of Marketing Education.

Degrees of Change has a local program called Seed Internships. Seed helps find internships relevant to an individual’s area of study in nearby counties.

“Be open minded and start early,” Mantras said, “Don’t limit yourself and seek out internship opportunities as soon as you’re interested.”

The Ledger is Hiring

By: Remi Frederick

Have you ever wanted to write for your school newspaper? Here’s your chance. The University of Washington Tacoma’s school newspaper, The Tacoma Ledger, is interviewing for several positions that start in mid-spring going into summer.

The job openings are in a variety of areas which work together to produce The Ledger. There will be at least an opinion writer position, a film critic, an illustrator, a managing editor, a web and layout manager, managing editor and even a page designer.

“We are a very open and diverse group. We encourage any and all talent levels of writing and we love the various stories from various voices,” said Madeline Hiller, The Ledger’s editor-in-chief.

Hiller said that they will know the positions for sure by the beginning of spring quarter.

Madi Williams the managing editor of The Ledger said that the hours per week depend on what position you are in. Writers can get around 10 hours whereas photographers and illustrators’ hours can range depending on the week and how much work is sent their way.

The pay starts at minimum wage, which is \$14.49 in Washington, and goes up depending on what the position is.

“I like to think we’re nice people to work with. I was hired as a freshman and The Ledger was my community, family, and friends. If you enjoy writing and want to make friends, The

Ledger is the place to be,” Hiller said.

Williams said that one piece of advice she has for potential candidates is to show interest in the position they are applying for.

“Saying more while answering a question is better than saying not enough,” Williams said.

Hiller had one last thought to all who may be considering applying. She said to not be afraid to apply.

“The Ledger very quickly became my family, and I don’t think I would have made it through college without my Ledger team,” Hiller said. “We are a very open and diverse group. We encourage any and all talent levels of writing and we love the various stories from various voices.”

You can apply on the hiring platform that the university uses, called Handshake. All you have to do is login with your UWT NetID and search for the UWT Center for Student Involvement which is the account that the Ledger posts its job openings under.

Daniel Nash, the faculty advisor for The Ledger, says that working for a student newspaper is beneficial not just for hopeful journalists but also for designers and photographers.

“A lot of the teaching and learning process for undergraduate students revolves around pushing up the level of complexity they deal with, by introducing them to complex ideas and accepted jargon in their field of study,” Nash said.

If you have any other questions, reach out to The Ledger

email: ledger@uw.edu

Instagram: [@uwtledger](https://www.instagram.com/uwtledger)

or visit us at our table during the Spring involvement fair.

Corporations are Destroying South America and Getting Away with It

By: Matthew Chalfant

Here in the United States, most who watch or read the news may have come across an article or story that talks about the Amazon being deforested or an oil spill happening off the South American coast. What usually comes out of these stories is just a statistic about the ecological emergency, but companies or corporations will not be named. Unfortunately, not to many Americans' knowledge, they buy and prop up the companies at home that commit these ecological atrocities. In some cases, like mine, these are reasons for environmental refugees to flee, like my mom and her family.

Contamination of the environment ravages not only the habitats of species but also the essential water supply. In Argentina, the Riachuelo River is referred to as the "slaughter River" with the 368,000 cubic meters of wastewater being dumped into it every single day and around 90,000 cubic meters of heavy metals and other waste every year by surrounding industrial factories. Despite this, no efforts have been put into effect within the country to clean the waste and only result in corporate allegations and nothing more. Due to this lack of effort to clean up, like in Peru, the contamination will result in the destruction of habitat, life, and sources of water and food for people who rely on the river for those essentials.

Likewise with water contamination, deforestation is absolutely devastating to the ecosystems of South America. From 2010 to 2020, 2.6 million hectares of forest were lost per year on average in South America. The majority of this deforestation is illegal in practice by large companies trying to gain access to agricultural lands that lie on Indigenous lands, and as the destruction of the ecosystem continues in this manner, the food sources for Indigenous peoples also disappears as a result of loss of habitat. This very reason is a major factor as to why my Aymara and Quechua family left Iquitos, Peru in the Amazon Basin as their village had become scarce in its resources.

When deforestation of the Amazon is brought up, illegal logging comes to the minds of many Americans who may have heard of deforestation. However, little do most Americans know that they are buying from the same companies every day that buy this illegal timber and then sell it to Americans. These companies like Costco and Walmart continue to finance the deforestation efforts and encroach on Indigenous land, and this has been occurring in Peru and other South American countries for decades due to American company interests.

This stranglehold on South American resources and land by US companies has been persistent since the Cold War.

During the Cold War, the US led an effort called Operation Condor that overthrew the democratic governments in South American countries and replaced them with right-wing American friendly dictators that kept the interests of American companies. This led to the Internal Conflict in Peru, which was the final nail in the coffin for my family to flee war-torn Peru for the Bay Area where they remain primarily today.

These hardships and destruction efforts are still seen on large scales even today. Earlier this year since the Tonga volcanic eruption, oil spills have ravaged the Pacific coastline of countries, like Peru, have seen thousands of barrels of oil spilled into the ocean. As a result of oil spills like these, many marine animals that are used by Peruvians for food are killed by the oil contamination. No legal repercussions have been pursued to hold the oil company Repsol accountable for the possibility of the oil refinery offshore having improper safety considerations and not disclosing the level of damage their oil spill has caused while dead marine life and avian life has washed onto the shores of Peru.

As a result of all of these environmental injustices, a climate refugee crisis looms in the coming decades. In Latin America, it is estimated that by 2050, around 17 million people will become

"internal climate migrants" as a result of this destruction of the ecosystems and environment around civilized areas as well as the homes of Indigenous peoples.

For example, my Quechua and Aymara family, located originally in the Amazon Basin of Peru, was forced to relocate to California not only from other internal conflicts in Peru but also the loss of food sources and the deforestation of surrounding areas of their villages. If these trends continue, there is no telling the extent of environmental destruction that will accumulate by 2050 in South America, and it may not even be a stretch to say that a lot more than 17 million people may become climate migrants.

While all of this seems pessimistic, there is hope that everybody can get involved in stopping this spread of destruction across the continent. Some of the best ways for everybody to easily contribute to the fight against the climate crisis in South America are to spread awareness through information about deforestation and pollution by corporations, shop local and sustainably as many different foods come from these deforested lands in South America and lead to justifying more deforestation by companies, and put political pressure on politicians that support or take political donations from the companies and cor-

porations that commit these atrocities.

Ways to combat this from the day-to-day aspect start with daily habits. In order to help with the consumer aspect of this issue, it is important to do research on the ethical practices of American companies abroad such as Costco and Walamrt as talked about here. These companies also include other oil companies such as American International Petroleum and other brand names from Standard Oil. Researching the ethical practices of these companies and others alike can help with making a personal ethical choice on whether or not to personally purchase and contribute to these efforts. There are different ways to begin the process, and they are made available throughout the web.

The climate crisis as it now stands is inevitable, but it is worth noting that individual effort to combat these environmental injustices makes all the more difference when the numbers grow. Many companies that commit these acts are based in North America or are backed by North American companies and governments. Holding these companies accountable and being conscious of consumer consumption can begin a larger battle against these injustices that have ravaged for decades.

Who Is Really Taking Our Jobs?

By: Casey Shaw

Like many Americans, I have found myself out of work, unable to put food on the table in the past two years. COVID has compounded with dozens of other factors to put me in the unemployment line alongside hundreds of thousands of hard workers who just want to provide for their families.

One of the most prevalent factors keeping me unemployed is dwindling opportunities for work due to changes in the environment. As environmental conditions continue to decline, industry has, and will decline with it, keeping hard working Americans like you and I in line at the soup kitchen for a very long time.

The agriculture industry has especially been affected by temperatures rising around the world and will continue to be affected as things get worse. Draught decreases crop yield, decreased yield hurts harvest. Less harvest means less jobs.

More directly impactful on you and me is heat stress. I can't work under the beating sun as it is now. Global

News writes that temperatures rising by 1.5 degrees Celsius will result in a 2.2% drop in working hours. That's equal to about 80 million full-time jobs lost to exhaustion, heat stroke, dehydration and other symptoms of heat stress that make it impossible to work outside with no shade.

On the side of the agriculture industry, the logical answer is to automate the problem away. Companies like Abundant Robots are already offering technology to harvest fruit with greater efficiency and delicacy than human laborers.

Abundant boasts 44% cuts to labor costs by cutting the human worker out of the equation. If a robot can pick an apple better than I could, why can't it build a house, or pave a street? Why can't a robot fix your plumbing or install an air conditioner?

Any manual labor job, skilled or unskilled, could be automated for 44-60% less labor cost by Abundant numbers. Building the robots would even be a job that needs to be highly

specialized with years of robotics and programming background. Surely not the kind of work that the apple pickers of the country displaced by the machines themselves could do.

I've seen Terminator 2, I've seen The Matrix, I know what happens when the machines start building and maintaining themselves. I don't want to go down that road. I just want to put food on the table for my family.

The only reason we haven't been taken over by automation is that people still can work. Average global temperatures haven't raised 1.5% Celsius, yet. Humans still can work in the fields without succumbing to heat exhaustion.

When the door to 44-60% lower labor costs are opened by cutting out human workers, corporations are going to let the automation right in, and they aren't going to close it. Not if a solution to the changing temperatures is found, not if technology emerges to allow people to work without dying of heat stress.

There is a point of no return. Once the automation begins, there is no turning back. The entire American labor force will end up waiting in line to be given our daily allotment of fruit picked by our new robot overlords.

We haven't reached that point of no return, yet. We are fortunate to be faced with an incredible two-birds-one-stone solution in the rising clean energy workforce.

Environmental Defense Fund reports rapid increase in job availability all around the United States in renewable energy, energy storage, and advanced grid/alternative energy. These are jobs working in solar power, energy efficiency, and electric and alternative vehicle engineering and assembly.

These are all positions that can be filled by workers of all skill and training levels, jobs that you or I could find ourselves working today. Since 2016, nearly 3.5 million jobs have been created across these new industries.

As the need to shift the world's power reliance from coal and fossil fuel to alternative energy, we can find work in these emerging industries which will actively preserve all other industry across the country for

humans to work. If the energy reliance on Earth can shift to a more renewable, cleaner option, we may be able to avoid rising temperatures and dangerous environments. If we accept this work, we can put food on our tables, we can feed our families, while working towards that solution, ensuring job security for our children into the future.

Embrace solar power, hydro-electric power, bioenergy. Go out and find a job in these fields. Not only are they the key to saving manpower as a global industry, but they are an entirely viable source of work for all of us who are out of a job.

If we can work to change the ways we use energy and change the energy that we use, we may be able to avoid this impending doom. We can kill two birds with one stone, keeping a hot meal on the table, and foiling a Cyberdyne Systems sponsored Judgment Day.

NFTs: Responsible for Energy Usage Equivalent to That of a Small Country, Yet Not Worth Nearly as Much

By: Michelle Vu

Ever since the COVID-19 virus hit in late 2019 and exploded into an international pandemic early into the following year, the whole world's been transitioning into a more digital lifestyle, both for safety precautions and as a natural adaptation to life indoors.

More people started to play video games, setting record sales numbers for both the Nintendo Switch console as well as the game Animal Crossing: New Horizons, and Tik Tok usage numbers and trends skyrocketed, making headlines for things like dalgona coffee (Korean whipped coffee).

And, while the aforementioned things aren't harmful or hurting anyone—in fact, they brought people together and gave them something to do to take their minds off of a darker reality—one other thing that came up is: NFTs.

NFTs, known in full as non-fungible tokens, are a form of cryptocurrency that, unlike related technologies like Bitcoin and Ethereum, can't be used like money, forgoing all the aspects of traditional currency to instead serve a different purpose: giving a buyer unique ownership of a digital good through proof of code.

Aside from the fact that having singular ownership of something on the internet is virtually impossible (people can easily copy and screenshot—something that NFT owners get real huffy about), it's not even what owning an NFT is actually about.

When you buy an NFT, you don't gain any actual rights to it—you just own the unique code, identifier (or link, if you want to get real simple), that is attached to that particular digital good, meaning, you cannot go around suing people for screenshotting your NFT and posting it elsewhere, because you don't actually own the picture or video itself—you just own the unique information attached to it.

This is especially true when it comes to NFTs about a real person or their work (because anything can be made into one), because after all, can you really say you own the rights to Ed Sheeran's song "Bad Habits" just because you bought an NFT audio file of it?

Sheeran and his record label do, not you.

Spending upwards of a million dollars for something that's not only not physically tangible, but isn't even actu-

ally yours—it goes without saying that NFTs are very silly.

However, they are also very dangerous for the planet.

Because NFTs are a digital entity, they need a home on the web, an electronic space to reside in—and that's where the blockchains come into play.

According to IBM, a blockchain is a "shared, immutable ledger that facilitates the process of recording transactions and tracking assets in a business network."

Basically, blockchains are a big record book of digital transactions and assets—and they consume a lot of energy. The amount of electricity needed to keep this technology running is astronomical, with the power usage equivalent to that of a country like Libya.

A single transaction can equate to a month or two's worth of electricity consumption for a person living in the EU, and the rising popularity of NFTs and crypto have caused cryptocurrency mining operations to pop up all over the world, eating up power that could have gone to the locals and forcing them to resort to dirtier sources.

It also doesn't help that if you decide to sell or trade your NFTs, that's consuming energy, and when the new owner gets it and does whatever, that's even more energy consumption.

Essentially, any action made on the blockchain uses a great amount of electricity—it's not a one and done deal.

As a result, even the most harmless-looking NFTs are hurting the planet, creating irreversible greenhouse gas emissions with each purchase and trade.

Speaking of such, the reason why NFTs are blowing up right now is because you can make a big profit out of them with very little effort, and that is because the market is based upon perceived value. A group of people could create NFTs and trade them amongst themselves, paying more and more money each time to raise its worth—but that also means if the community one day loses interest in that particular NFT or it garners negative opinions, its value will drop to almost nothing.

NFTs, as a result, have no true price—it's just worth whatever people want it to be. You could be a millionaire one day with your traded NFT, but

lose that same amount the next if the value of said NFT drops.

Knowing that, why do people partake? It's all a risky gamble that, while pays off immensely if you are lucky, harms the environment while not providing anything useful to our society. NFTs are just a bunch of digital products with unique code attached to them and a misconceived sense of ownership—a modern fad.

Environmentally friendly blockchain systems are always mentioned in the defense of NFTs, but in truth, those that claim to be that currently exist are, well...not—and it's just not worth waiting around for one that is.

We are already fighting a struggling battle against the fossil fuel industry, the current biggest producers of carbon emissions—we do not need people parading around with Bored Ape NFTs to contribute. Please, if you insist on purchasing art and want to support the industry, buy and commission from actual artists.

A Warning Written in Flames: Drawing Attention to Rising Summer Temperatures in Washington State

By: Spencer Townsend

I've lived in Washington state my whole life. From the time I could remember, I can recall being surrounded by trees no matter which direction I looked. Primarily Evergreens, but also Douglas Firs and of course the Western Hemlocks.

It wasn't until my first trip to the southwest United States when I was 14 years old that I realized how much I missed the green giants that had watched over both myself, and the millions of other Western Washington residents. I grew fonder of them on my return home after this trip. Their looming comfort not only added a sense of refreshment to the landscape that surrounded me, but additionally, color. The long stretches of desert in states such as Arizona do not have the pleasure of being graced with such a natural and broad pallet.

By the time I was 20, I felt the heats of the summers in Washington state rising. I distinctly recall that summer of 2020 being the hottest and driest one that I could remember at the time. I also remember it being a dry heat; abnormally so.

That unusually uncomfortable summer was spent, inside and alone from the world. Locked in our homes amid the rising cases of a pandemic, and now the soaring temperatures of our planet as well. But at the very least I had the trees to keep me company while I played guitar on the porch.

One day, I noticed the air felt smoky and thick. Of course, wildfires have been happening in California for a few years now, and Washington residents are used the overflow of smoke that comes up the coast to us before. However, this time felt different. There was a certain taste to the air that made you cough, and a sense of proximity that felt unsettling.

By the time I had gotten out to investigate the intense smell and smoke in the air, I had been beat by the neighbors. What I came to see was the hillside that surrounded the valley I lived in engulfed in flames.

State Route 410 that leads up to the hillside above the valley had been shut down. Black clouds of smoke bellowed out from the source of the flame, scorching the hillside, and

forcing evacuations for those residents' unfortunate enough to live on the valley's edge. While I was growing up, the summers in Washington were always hot, but never more than 90 degrees. On this day, I remember being shocked at the temperature of 106, and even more shocked when I heard that my friend was joining the effort to combat the monstrous flames.

Corbin, lifelong friend, and drummer in my band, was working as a volunteer firefighter at the Riverside Fire Department, just in between Puyallup and the city of Tacoma. From what I heard, they were low in the chain of importance when it came to other local fire stations. This notion was only disproved when every station within 10 miles of Sumner and Bonney Lake was called up to help.

I remember being frightened. Not only for the city I lived in, but for my friend. We were in disbelief when he sent my friends and I a message saying that they were being called up to fight the largest fire they had ever seen. This was no car fire, or house

fire. This was a wildfire; something we had only heard about in stories from Eastern Washington, and California up until this point.

Corbin and the other firefighters worked for 12 hours to combat the flames.

12 hours of smoke.

12 hours of low oxygen and extreme heat.

He returned home coughing and with ash in his lungs and nostrils.

To say that we were relieved when he and everyone else came home would be an understatement. He and dozens of other firefighters were given a hero's welcome upon returning. Discounts in stores for firefighters, strangers buying drinks for each other, and relentless praise on social media for those who saved the homes of dozens, if not hundreds. Even Governor Jay Inslee made an appearance to praise the local heroes. The relief was euphoric and felt like something out of a B-movie.

However, the lingering smoke and ash, topped with the local advisory to avoid opening windows and

going outside due to air quality was telling of a larger issue at hand. Climate change has forced Washington summers into a state of extreme heat, low air quality, and extremely high risk of wildfires.

It seems we have become desensitized to the wildfires in California every summer, but that should not allow us to become apathetic to what will seemingly continue to happen in our own backyard.

We must find alternate sources of energies that do not rely on oil and coal if we are to start working at all on these issues.

Legislation must be made, and action must be taken, else we run the risk of losing more and more of our trees, homes, and lives.

The patch of hillside land where the fire occurred, just outside of Sumner, serves as a reminder of this, and we must listen.