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THE LEDGER

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA

The benefits of community engagement

The Husky Volunteers is a service in which students can give back to their communities as they help out in various ways.

By LESLIE GONZALEZ CRUZ
NEWS REPORTER

The Husky Volunteers is a program about community engagement meant to provide opportunities and encouragement to students who seek volunteer services.

Volunteer services can be found through UWT programs and can be done on and off campus. The services of the program include unpaid work at non-profit organizations, clubs or groups.

To honor a student's volunteer service, three service medallions are available depending on the student's amount of hours. For 100 hours students will receive a silver medal, while students achieving 200 receive a purple medal and students accomplishing over 300 hours receive a gold medal.

Some off-campus opportunities include the American Cancer Society,

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Puget Sound, Catholic Community Services, Emergency Food Network, Lemay America's Car Museum and the Tacoma Public Library.

These particular services develop students' skills in retail merchandising, customer service, as well as providing one-on-one mentoring for little boys and girls, while engaging in community aid such as helping low income elderly and disabled adults.

"Get out there and show husky pride," are words of encouragement from Jeremy Tirador, a student center coordinator who motivates students to participate in the program.

As students give back to the communities, they take part in actively engaging with the community in ways they have not before along with making a difference.

"It's fun and you can engage with the community. You get to know the community," Tirador said, describing



PHOTO BY ALEXA CHRISTIE

ing engaging with the community and how the program helps students meet new people.

To sign up for volunteer services, students must complete orientation offered at the start of the quarter or can schedule an appointment with volunteer coordinator Gabriella

Romero. Afterwards students then register their hours along with completing reflections about their experiences and engagement for graduation to receive their service medallions.

To schedule an appointment for orientation with volunteer coordinator, Gabriella Romero:

<https://calendly.com/husky-volunteer/introduction-to-service?month=2022-05>

To view what off-campus opportunities are available for volunteers:

<https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/involvement/volunteer-opportunities>



PHOTO BY ALEXA CHRISTIE

Graduating class of 2022 senior gift

With the latest graduating class, UW Tacoma has opened up funding for the Senior Class Gift for 2022.

By ANDREW ANDERSON
NEWS EDITOR

With the end of the most recent school year, the 2022 graduating class at UW Tacoma has begun their funding for their Senior Class Gift, an expression of Husky Pride and appreciation. The 2022 class at UW Tacoma has chosen to support the creation, etching and design of a "You Belong Here" engraving on the W monument grounds on the Tacoma campus.

The current funding goal is at \$6,000 with 10% of the fund raised at the time of this article being published. Those who contribute by May 31 are prioritized to receive limited quantity mementoes. This can include a commemorative pin at a minimum donation of \$20.22 and a Senior Class Gift Medallion at \$50. The medallion can be worn at commencement, as well.

The Senior Class Gift is a program shared across all three campuses beginning with the Se-

attle campus as far back as 2004. Last year's graduating class of 2021 at UWT chose to support the Rosa Franklin Endowed Fund, which provides broad-based support for students enrolled in the UW Tacoma School of Nursing and Healthcare Leadership and helps to promote diversity, equity and inclusion within the program.

Questions and concerns can be sent to Chana Lawson at: chanal@uw.edu.

Students wanting to know more information in general about the Senior Class Gift of 2022 can visit: <https://www.washington.edu/giving/get-involved/for-students/senior-class-gift/>.

Those wishing to donate to fund the Senior Gift can do so at the following link: <https://online.gifts.washington.edu/peer2peer/Campaign/you-belong-here-engraving>.

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End-of-the-year events happening across the UWT campus

With the end of the school year around the corner, the clubs and organizations of UWT are working hard on their end-of-the-year events to see off the students.

By **ANDREW ANDERSON**
NEWS EDITOR

The UWT campus is constantly hosting events and activities from the multitude of clubs and organizations on campus. Many host recurring events such as the In-Person Japanese Lessons and Tea Time events by the Office of Global Affairs and the Daily Yoga sponsored and run by The Whole U, the latter of which can be joined online at <https://thewholeu.uw.edu/2020/03/19/virtual-fitness-classes/>.

With the school year coming to an end, some organizations have set up larger events meant to host students and community members alike to celebrate the graduates and the end of the year. Two of these events are the Sound of Summer block party and Umoja Celebration hosted by the Center for Student Involvement. The Sound of Summer is also aided and run by other school clubs and organizations.

The Sound of Summer block party is due to take place Thursday May 26 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. It will be run by the Center for Student Involvement as well as the Registered Student Organizations. The event will feature games run by various RSOs where students can win tickets and exchange them for a chance to win prizes such as a star projector, a Fall 2022 Parking Pass for UWT and an inflatable kayak.

As well the event will have food trucks from The Man BBQ and Vego Eats as well as a photo booth for students. Live music will also be there with talent such as musical artist Jordan Salazar. The event is planned to happen on the Prairie Line Trail with the main location being the UWT Court 17.

Students who want more detail or updates to the block party can find them on the Student Activities Board Instagram @uwtinvolvement.

The Center for Equity and Inclusion will be working on hosting the Umoja Celebration Friday May 27 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at William W. Philip Hall (WPH), which celebrates the diverse student populations graduating from UWT. The celebration is open to all graduating students and registration is open at: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScaC7GHWFLS2i7D-CM5wNIqUbEn-dqNAIrEK-luB3MuXJQO-hOg/viewform>. Questions about the event or registration can be sent to uwtcei@uw.edu.

The OSCARS, hosted by Student Involvement, is an award ceremony for outstanding students. It will be hosted on Friday June 3 with the doors opening at 5:30 p.m. at UWT 303/304. Any wishing for more information about the event can find it at: <https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/involvement/oscars>.

Along with other events, the Student Activities Board will also be hosting a Pride Week from May 23-25. Throughout the week they will have LGBTQ-centered events around campus. Questions for this can be sent to sabuwt@uw.edu while details and announcements can be found at their Facebook @uwtsub.

Other upcoming events include Drop-in Mindfulness Meditation with PAWS, the 2022 Grad Experience events across campus this week and the 2022 Global Engagement Conference that will be taking place until May 27.

Students who wish to look at any and all upcoming events for this school year or the next can keep up to date and learn more at: <https://uw-tacoma.presence.io/events>. Questions can be directed to the CSI at uwtsi@uw.edu.



A photograph of students part of the Office of Global Affairs having one of their weekly Tea Time events.

PHOTO BY ALEXA CHRISTIE

Tahoma West
welcomes you to...

**VOLUME 26
LAUNCH PARTY**

Join us Friday May 27th from
3:00 to 5:00 pm in Keystone 102

**The Ledger is
Hiring for the
2022/23
school year!**

**Go to Handshake
to see all open
positions and
apply!**

**DEADLINE
June 30, 2022
5:00 PM**

Three great history podcasts to enjoy this summer

History podcasts do what high school history class couldn't; they make it fun.

By **ANTHONY KREJCI**
OPINION WRITER

I am a history major, so it goes without saying that I love history. I recognize that this isn't the case for a lot of you here on campus. Some of you may even outright hate history.

As a future history teacher, I lament the way such an essential subject is often taught. From a purely entertainment perspective, history can be a wonderful source of escapism that gives even the best fiction a run for its money.

More importantly, there are two crucial lessons that are taught from history. Firstly, that egalitarian values really are best in the long run, it really is in our best interest to make room for one another. Secondly, our collective lifetimes are merely the current chapter in the book of human history. We have a crucial responsibility to write our pages well. The laws of the future are based on the actions of the present.

If you ever have been interested in brushing up on your history, but don't have time in your schedule to take a class, or if you are like me and are an avid fan always looking to dig deeper, well now is a great time to check out some of the many quality history podcasts.

If you don't know where to start, here are a few of my favorites from over the years.

REVOLUTIONS

Mike Duncan is an absolute giant in the tiny, niche world of history podcasting. Way back in 2007, Duncan set the standard for what a history podcast should be with his award-winning "The History of Rome."

I will always love "The History of Rome" as it was the first podcast I ever listened to. Yet objectively, "Revolutions" is the better show by any measure.

In "Revolutions," Duncan takes his listeners on a journey through the Age of Revolutions and beyond. Our famous revolution was only one of many that occurred in the late 18th to 19th centuries. By the late 18th century, the collective consciousness of the common and downtrodden came to realize that the world had changed, and that their selfish and ineffective rulers needed to change as well, or else.

From the depths of despair, poverty and illness, the will of the people

sprang forth. A raging inferno of anger swept the old world of the Middle Ages away, and laid the groundwork for the modern, egalitarian age we know today. Many concepts we take for granted like citizenship, trial by jury, separation of powers and equality before the law were forged in this inferno.

The story begins with somewhat of a prequel, the English Civil War of 1640 to 1660. From there it follows the revolutionary spirit to the American Revolution, the French Revolution, and many more until finally ending nearly three centuries later with the Russian Revolution of the early 20th century.

Duncan is an excellent storyteller, his writing and narrative style are superb, and following this amazing story of western history is truly a delight. More importantly, this story shows just how hard people fought for the rights we take for granted today, and just how fragile they can be.

THE AGE OF NAPOLEON

This excellent podcast by Everett Rummage is best to start after you finish the French Revolution section of Mike Duncan's "Revolutions" as you cannot tell the story of the French Revolution without Napoleon. In fact, Napoleon wouldn't have been the Napoleon we know today without the French Revolution.

Duncan's narrative on Napoleon is limited to the direct role he plays in the French Revolution, which is only a brief glimpse of the man. By contrast, Rummage's story is very much a biographical and personal overview of the entirety of Napoleon's life.

From episode one on, Rummage's listeners get to experience the full breadth of Napoleon's "Breaking Bad"-esque character arc. Napoleon began his career as an idealistic and starry-eyed revolutionary. A firm defender of egalitarianism and devoted to the Revolution's "Jacobin" cause, early Napoleon can almost be described as a proto-socialist. It is a remarkable journey, to follow Napoleon's evolution episode by episode.

Much like Walter White from "Breaking Bad," Napoleon begins to taste power and respect, and initially with good intentions, he takes the first steps toward the feared, respected and hated man he would become.

A current graduate student at the University of North Texas, Rummage is a lifelong Napoleon fan and

is working to become a professional Napoleonic historian. As a result, his narrative can be a bit on the academic side from time to time. His style is structurally very good, but it could use a little more personality if you ask me. However, that is the only criticism I can offer, everything else is outstanding.

THE HISTORY OF ENGLAND

This excellent podcast by David Crowther is my absolute favorite. This man is a delight. I have never felt the personality of a podcaster as much as when I listen to Crowther. He is no professional historian, just a highly dedicated amateur, or as he often says "Just a bloke in a shed, who likes a bit of a cast now and again."

In his own unique and humble way, Crowther has accomplished what so many historians fail at. He makes history fun, he makes it personal, and he makes it engaging. Professional historians may have better academic credentials, but I have never experienced anyone accomplish what Crowther has in quite the same way.

The story of the podcast is the story of England from the final days of the Roman occupation in the 400s, and is currently in the 1600s just before the English Civil War. It is a very fascinating story, especially the Wars of the Roses of the 1400s which many of you may already know, was George R.R. Martin's inspiration for the "Game of Thrones" series.

Crowther may not be the most efficient storyteller when compared to Duncan or Rummage, but he is by a long shot the most enjoyable one I have come across. If you are a fan of old-timey English slang, this podcast is a treasure trove. His dry English humor is hilarious. He often interrupts the narrative to tell some self-deprecating joke about what a fat, incompetent middle-aged Englishman he is.

So, the next time you are driving to work or doing some dishes, instead of putting on an album, tune into one of these stories. After all, it is your story, it's the story of us, and it's a pretty good one to boot.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE DUNCAN VIA SPOTIFY



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID CROWTHER VIA SPOTIFY



PHOTO COURTESY OF EVERETT RUMMAGE VIA SPOTIFY

Naomi Judd's struggle can help others

The death of Naomi Judd hit country fans everywhere, but her death does not have to be in vain. It can help others by building awareness

By MADI WILLIAMS
MANAGING EDITOR

TW: talk about suicide

On April 20, 2022 country music lost one of the best, Naomi Judd, who was a part of the country duo group "The Judds" with her daughter Wynonna. The two were to get inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame the day after Naomi died of "the disease of mental illness" were the first reports of her death, with later reports of a fatal self-inflicted gunshot wound as the cause of death.

It was interesting to read the headlines saying that Judd died of mental illness versus by suicide like many other headlines have been in these events. As I am a curious person, I decided to take a deep dive into Naomi and see what I could find out.

An NBC News article by Kalhan Rosenblatt about Judd goes into detail about her mental health. It says that the end of the Judds' "Last Encore" tour in 2012 is when her depression took over. In her book "River of Time: My Descent into Depression and How I Emerged with Hope" she goes into detail about her depression and how it got worse after the tour when suppressed memories of her childhood re-emerged.

In the NBC article, Judd stated "I would come home and not leave the house for three weeks and not get out of my pajamas and not practice normal hygiene. It was really bad." The article continued with "Judd said she was immobilized during her depression as her muscles atrophied from lack of movement. An elevator was installed in her home to help her traverse the floors of the house." With a family history of depression, she was later diagnosed with treatment-resistant severe depression and she stated "Treatment-resistant because they tried me on every single thing they had in their arsenal. It really felt like, if I live through this, I want someone to be able to see that they can survive." During this time she spent time in psychiatric wards to help with her battle.

During 2012 when her depression hit after the "Last Encore" tour, her suicidal ideation became to be too much and she convinced herself that her family would understand her reasonings for wanting to die. She said in an interview with People Magazine "It's so beyond making sense but I thought, 'Surely my family will know that I was in so much pain and I thought they would have wanted me to end that pain.'"

Not only was Judd trying to tackle her depression but she was also going through physical changes due to her treatment for her depression. In 2016 she said that "Medications caused her face to swell and her hair to fall out, lithium caused her right hand to shake, and that she looked horrible."

This led to her being an advocate for others working with the National Alliance on Mental Illness and the Vanderbilt Psychiatric Hospital "to try to reduce stigma and get the word out about treatment for mental illness," Judd wrote in 2017.

"So I know now that there are almost 44 million people in America that experience mental illness in a given year, if you've got a pulse, then you're fighting some battle, whether it's a diagnosis of depression, like 16 million people, or one of anxiety, like 42 million people, or something else. And there's power in numbers: it means that there are other people. You're not alone," Judd had stated about the number of people battling mental health.

In 2018, Judd and Dr. Daniel R. Weinberger published a letter titled "Love Can Build a Bridge" which discusses the fact that suicide is a preventable death.

Part of the letter says "For everyone mourning the death of someone who committed suicide, an inevitable question arises: Why did this happen? Unfortunately, we don't have very good answers." The closing of the letter states "In fact, the federal government spent more money last year to study dietary supplements than to understand why Americans decide to take their own lives," the pair wrote. "It's about time we do better."

Naomi Judd battled with depression most likely her whole life and it came at her full force in 2012, to the point where she thought that her family would be understanding and supporting her in killing herself. She fought the battle and she was an advocate for her own illness. I would agree that she lost her battle with the disease of mental illness as her daughters Wynonna and Ashley stated in their statement after her death.

Naomi and Wynonna were a powerhouse in country music winning Best Country Performance by a Duo for their song "Love Can Build a Bridge" in 1992. Best Country Performance by a Duo for "Give a Little Love" in 1989. Best Country Performance by a Duo for "Grandpa (Tell Me 'Bout the Good Ol' Days)" in 1987. Best Country Performance by a Duo for "Why Not Me" in 1986. Best



Naomi Judd

PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Country Performance by a Duo for "Mana He's Crazy" in 1985 the same year they were nominated for Best New Artist.

I feel that ending this article with a verse from "Love Can Build a Bridge" is a fitting tribute and ending to this article.

"Love can build a bridge, between

your heart and mine, love can build a bridge, don't you think it's time? Don't you think it's time?"

If you or someone you know is in crisis and need additional resources:

Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-8255

text HOME to 741741

visit [SpeakingOfSuicide.com/](https://www.speakingofsuicide.com/)

OPINION: We need respect from religion

As an atheist among the religious, I'm tired of the lack of respect.



ILLUSTRATION BY JAIDA NOBLE

Religion is seen here as a set of ads constantly being flashed to you.

"The Smile" falls short: Radiohead's side project

This entire album is an "almost."

By JOSEPHINE TRUEBLOOD
A&E EDITOR

Pretty moments and complex chords do not outweigh the overly technical, probably overthought sense that the new "The Smile" album brings. Unlike previous Radiohead albums, solo and side projects, "A Light For Attracting Attention" is generally un compelling; at its best, an extension of classic Yorke-Greenwood grand string parts and at its worst, forced and mismatched math rock.

"A Light for Attracting Attention" is missing something, and that something is Philip Selway. This album has downright strange drum mixes. Busier drum parts met with softer, dull mixes are a departure from Radiohead's signature effortlessly-powerful electronic drums and sparkly ride parts. Tom Skinner, a jazz drummer for Sons of Kemet, unfortunately doesn't live up to Philip Selway's style and tone, falling short in nearly every category.

Really soft electronic drums, odd pairings with hand drums and generally meh upbeat parts just make this album scream for the Selway flourish.

Skinner's jazz influence is present in "Skirting On The Surface," which at times doesn't mesh well with Johnny Greenwood's arpeggiated trance. The two "behind the beat" parts don't always play nice together and create tension that, unfortunately isn't balanced out by the vocals or accented well by the horns.

"A Light For Attracting Attention" is all over the place, trying to do way too much. Punk, math rock, floating ambient lullabies, grandiose string anthems, synth-electronic and jam-band tracks like "The Smoke" that make you think - wow, Khurangbin did it better. Most of the softer tunes are stronger, and unsurprisingly follow the Radiohead magic formula of Yorke-Greenwood style more than the others. "Open The Floodgates," "Free In The Knowledge" and "Speech Bubbles" all straddle the dynamic line between subdued and grand, with intriguing electronic noise and superb string parts from the London Contemporary Orchestra.

While some of the upbeat songs are a tempting idea, they seem to all miss the mark. "Thin Thing," with a song structure that really falls short, is held up by Greenwood's magnificent guitar tone and the outlandish vocal effects. "You Will Never Work In Television Again" has the right idea, but poor and overly-simple execution. A great build is the only thing this song has going for

it, but isn't fully formed as a derivative, slightly punk song. On a more positive note, "We Don't Know What Tomorrow Brings" is easily the best of energetic songs, feeling like a Moog'd-out take on post-punk. Thom Yorke additionally showcases a different side of his vocals in this song, as he is more upfront and speech-like than his typical, soaring-in-the-heavens vocal performances.

Other tracks on "A Light For Attracting Attention" just weren't quite there. "Pana-vision" has a great chord progression but verses feel like a struggle to make a semi-dissonant instrumental work with lyrics. Similarly, the vocals feel like a vaguely-choral afterthought. "The Same" is pure Thom Yorke and "A Hairdryer" is a boring drum loop experimentation. These songs were "almosts." The biggest letdown is "The Opposite" - earning the title of math rock gone bland. The trying-to-be-groovy tune just falls flat - it is generally boring and every instrument competes with the others.

Thankful for more Yorke-Greenwood content and displeased with the mismatch that is the album, "A Light for Attracting Attention" did not fill the Radiohead void. All in all, The Smile may just be trying a bit too hard.

By REMI FREDERICK
OPINION EDITOR

"I still hold you up to God every day." This is a quote from a birthday card that my sister received. I've received similar quotes from family members as well.

Though the words in the cards are meant to be kind, I'm really tired of hearing things similar to the message in my sister's card. I've been told that I have no morals or that I'm a bad person because I don't believe in a god or a higher being.

I do my best to not offend people who are religious, but that respect isn't given to me. When people find out I'm not spiritual, they immediately think less of me. People have tried to tell me that I'll change my mind and that I'll grow into religion.

I don't rub my lack of religion in anyone's face. Why is it so hard for people to do the same? I don't want to be told that Jesus loves me. I don't want to hear that I'm going to hell. Quite honestly, it offends me that even my own family, some of whom are religious, can't respect the fact that I am not.

Sometimes I feel as if I am at a breaking point because I keep being pressured to become religious without a thought as to how I might feel about this pressure.

It is everywhere. Every single day I am inundated with messages about God and how I should believe in something.

It's like seeing an advertisement for a product, every day. There's nothing you can do about seeing it; it just continues to be shown to you and people talk and gush about it. The ad is for a product you don't need or even want to buy. When you try to communicate this with those around you who like the ad, you are made to be the one offending them and you become ostracized.

This is incredibly similar to how it feels to be nonreligious in a society fueled by piety and run by devout people.

It's not even a choice; not a conscious one at least. I've just never felt like there was a god of any type. None of it has ever really made sense to me and that's okay.

I was raised around religion. Though my parents aren't religious, I am Jewish and we went to synagogue for a few years. I've read the Bible and the Torah and was in Sunday school during the time I went to synagogue.

But, I've just never felt like I could believe in any religion so I classify myself as an atheist.

Religion is okay. I don't hold it against anyone who believes in any religion. But it isn't for everyone and we should respect that.

Our First Amendment protects our freedom of religion. Some may not like it but this includes freedom from religion.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SMILE

The Smile's recent promotional photo

Everything we learned in the latest Monster Hunter digital event

“Monster Hunter Rise: Sunbreak” is finally adding what players thought were missing in the original game

By **ANGELO ALEGRE**
A&E REPORTER

The Monster Hunter Digital Event of May 2022 showed off a lot of information regarding the upcoming massive expansion for “Monster Hunter Rise: Sunbreak.” This expansion will bring you, the hunter, to a new land called Elgado Outpost, which is tasked with the research of Malzeno, a new monster, and other monsters.

NEW MONSTERS AND MASTER RANK:

Seregios, the flagship monster from “Monster Hunter 4 Ultimate,” makes its appearance in “Monster Hunter Rise.” It is a flying wyvern monster that attacks with its sharp razor-like claws by diving down on hunters. It also uses its sharp scales to attack hunters at a distance and can cause the bleed effect, which hurts the hunter as they try to move.

There were two new subspecies of already known monsters shown and they are Aurora Somnacanth, a variation of the normal Somnacanth, and Magma Almudron, which is a variation of the normal Almudron. These new

subspecies will change the element they utilize in battle and update the locale they are found in.

Malzeno is the flagship monster for the massive expansion, “Sunbreak.” It is an elder dragon, a species of monsters that have been seen to be so strong that they affect the environment they reside in. Malzeno uses smaller monsters to capture larger monsters and absorb their energy, and he can even absorb the energy of the hunter through the use of its “bloodblight,” which slowly takes away the life force of the hunter.

Alongside the various additions to the list of monsters in “Monster Hunter Rise,” the “Sunbreak” expansion is also set to add Master Rank back into the game. This is the highest difficulty that hunters can take on, and with this new update, monsters new and old are gaining even more moves to challenge the hunter. They have even been seen chaining two attacks to catch hunters off guard.

NEW GAMEPLAY ASPECTS:

Follower quests are a new addition to “Sunbreak,” where the hunter can

take on single player quests and take along friends from the village to aid in taking down a monster. Each of the different followers the hunter takes along will have different weapons specialized to their own specific way of fighting. The things they can do aren’t just limited to attacking with brute force, but they can also heal you in battle, place traps, and even ride the monsters. Besides it being a fun way to interact with the characters you like in the game, you can also earn rewards exclusive to the follower-type quests, so it won’t hurt to try it out.

Besides adding another type of quest, the expansion “Sunbreak” is adding even more to the new wirebug mechanic that was added when “Monster Hunter Rise” first came out. There will be a new action for each weapon type, as well as the option to change between different wirebug moves during battle through a new mechanic called Switch Skill Swap, which lets hunters swap between two presets of wirebug moves. You can use this mechanic while staying still or you can use it to dodge

the monster. With this, you can add a whole different way of playing the game while still in the same quest.

Preexisting mechanics in “Monster Hunter Rise” have also been shown to be updated alongside the release of “Sunbreak.” Prior to “Sunbreak,” hunters would have to use one of their two wirebugs to initiate a wall climb, but now you can do it without the need of one. They also have changed how a mountable monster works to where you can choose to keep attacking a monster in a mountable state instead of the game making you ride it the moment you touch them once, which is one thing hunters have wanted since day one.

NEW PRODUCTS:

In the digital event, they also shared all the things you can buy relating to the massive expansion “Sunbreak.” They have shown that you can get the regular version of “Sunbreak,” or the deluxe edition which adds cosmetics you can only get through the deluxe kit. Although there may not be anything special for those who get the normal version of “Sunbreak,” there will be a

pre-order bonus for anyone who purchases the expansion before the release date, which will give you a costume for both your Palico and Palamute.

They also showed that for the Nintendo Switch, you can buy three new amiibos which give you even more cosmetics for the game, as well as daily bonuses every time you scan them. There will also be a new pro controller design specifically for “Sunbreak,” which is similar to the original “Monster Hunter Rise”-inspired pro controller released over a year ago.

Overall, the digital event for Monster Hunter was great for people who were looking forward to learning more about the upcoming expansion. It gave people new information that they were looking for, information they weren’t expecting, and even more information that has yet to be shared so that everyone will still be excited for what’s to come.

[To be released on June 30, 2022, for Nintendo Switch and PC]



Four hunters getting ready in the new area in “Monster Hunter Rise: Sunbreak,” Elgado Outpost.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MONSTER HUNTER VIA TWITTER

A look back at “The Princess Bride”

“The Princess Bride” is a beloved film that has aged well but not perfectly.



Westley and Buttercup

PHOTO COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY FOX AND VESTRON PICTURES

By RYAN MANTLE
FILM CRITIC

“The Princess Bride” turns 35 this year, so I want to take a pause from the blockbusters and revisit this classic. Looking back at the films of our childhood can be a dangerous game. Nostalgia brings you in only for some extremely insensitive and cringey jokes that ruin the whole experience. Luckily, aside from an awkward and idle threat of backhanding a woman, there is little of that in “The Princess Bride.”

"The dizzying pace at times leads to plot holes"

The first thing I noticed was just how sped up this movie feels when compared to modern cinema. The romance that sets up the plot of the film is explained by a narrator at a lightning-fast pace, followed by a five-year time jump with Buttercup being engaged to another man. Before you can even breathe, she is kidnapped to kick off the main story.

This dizzying pace at times leads to plot holes, like Inigo seemingly knowing everything about Westley even though their only conversation together was about fencing. Ultimately though, the movie is not asking you to look at it with a fine-toothed comb. Just accept that things slipped through the cracks and move on. The

experience will be more enjoyable.

Part of why “The Princess Bride” is so comforting is the constant use of dry wit and comradery. I found myself smiling every time Inigo and Fezzik talked in rhymes to each other. Westley’s quick wit brings life into all of his scenes, even the ones where his life is being sucked out with suction cups.

This is a testament to the actors/actresses involved. Cary Elwes and Mandy Patinkin deliver the best performances of their careers as Westley and Inigo, respectively. Andre the Giant, a WWE legend, is perfect as a lovable giant who brings everyone together. Christopher Guest provides a comedically chilling performance as the dastardly Count Rugen. Peter Falk assumes the role of narrator with a raspy, yet charming, accent that transports you to Wrigley Field and puts a hot dog with peppers on it in your hand.

"The Princess Bride" is truly an enjoyable movie that has stood the test of time"

One thing wrong with “The Princess Bride” is that it is entirely dominated by men. Buttercup, played by Robin Wright, is static and serious. She rarely gets her place in the spotlight and the only scene with her and another woman is a dream sequence where she is booed and insulted by “the ancient booger.” Valerie Kane gets

a bit part as well, and kills it, but those are the only women in the movie with lines. On a positive note, while there is a lack of women, there are thankfully no sexist jokes made at their expense. For a movie made in the 1980s, or really in any of the previous three decades, it is surprising.

Another issue is that there are no people of color in “The Princess Bride.” While it may be easy to hide behind the idea that it is based on Western Europe during medieval times, I don’t buy it. They use fake country names which means they made a choice to create a world where white supremacy still exists. The 1980s were a different time where this choice was more acceptable, but this decision certainly hasn’t aged well.

“The Princess Bride” is truly an enjoyable movie that has stood the test of time. This is not a movie that you should overanalyze, like I just did, because it is not full proof. The plot is at warp speed and there are only three women who talk, but this isn’t enough to sink the film. The relationships are all endearing and the jokes all land. The set design and scenery are incredible and work to support the characters, whose performances range from good to excellent. If you need a break from the end of quarter grind, this film is sure to bring a smile to your face.

STAR RATING: 4.5/5

[“The Princess Bride” is available to stream on Hulu and Disney+]

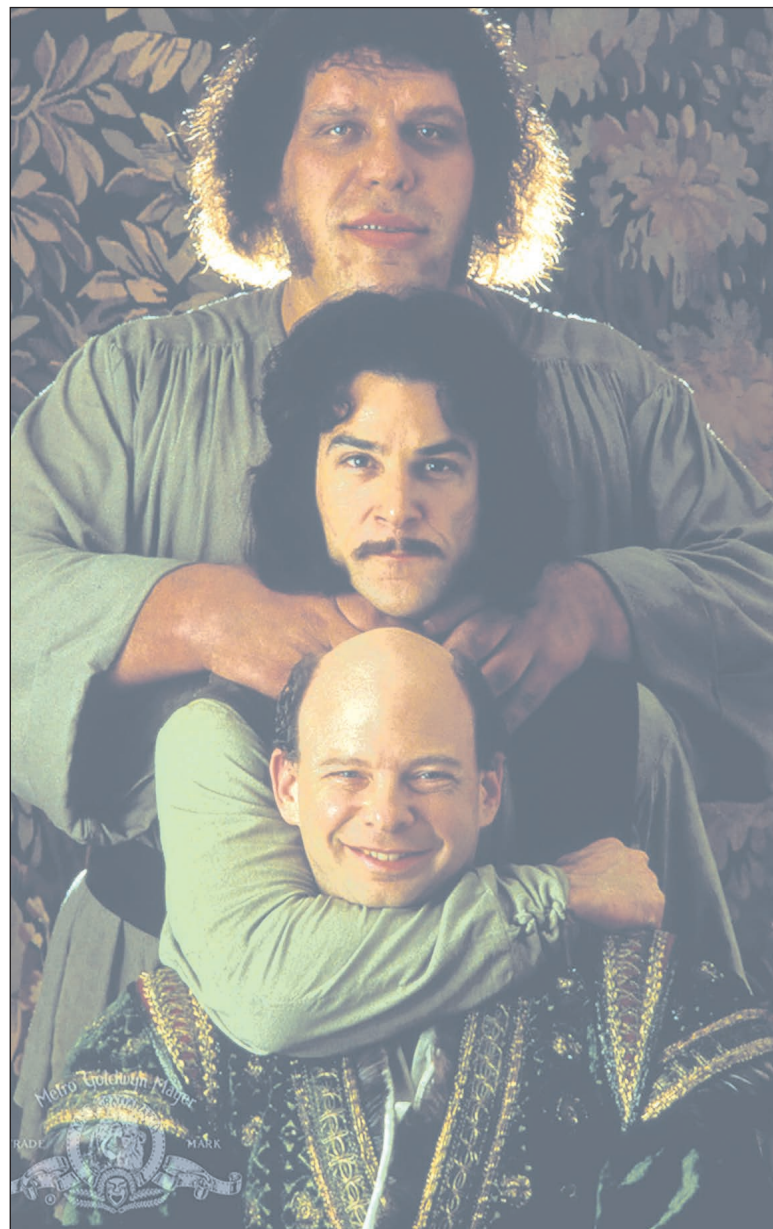


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Top to bottom: Fezzik, Inigo, and Vizzini.