

THE LEDGER

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Tacoma Film Festival Highlights

doublespread on pgs. 6-7 with more to come next week!



PHOTO BY TACOMA FILM FESTIVAL



PHOTO BY TACOMA FILM FESTIVAL

UWT's Global Ambassadors

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Spend some time with Global Ambassadors

The Global Ambassadors are kicking off the quarter with a variety of events for students to participate in.

By DESTINY VALENCIA
NEWS EDITOR

The Global Ambassadors program is starting the school year off by welcoming new members and hosting a variety of fun events and activities for its participants. The Global Ambassadors (GA), which is a part of the Office of Global Affairs, is a program dedicated to creating long-lasting relationships between international and domestic students through conversations centered around local, global, and social justice issues.

This month, students can look forward to a trip to the Tacoma Night Market on the 29, and on Halloween, a night filled with caramel apples and

spooky arts and crafts. Students can participate in a volunteer activity in collaboration with the Giving Garden on November 21, visit Snowflake Lane on November 26th, and on November 28, GA will be hosting a Friendsgiving event with arts and crafts.

Rocky Mamea, a senior studying criminal justice here at UWT serves as the Program Coordinator for the Global Ambassadors and is very excited for GA meetings and events to begin. "I feel so bubbly and I can't wait to start," Mamea said.

Mamea looks forward to visiting the Tacoma Night Market the most as they have never visited before and is excited to bring along their fellow members and students.

"You don't have to attend meetings to join events. These events are made as bonding events for international and domestic students to foster community," Mamea said. To attend these events, one simply needs to sign up for said event in which students will find links for specific events listed on the GA Instagram page.

Global Ambassadors meet weekly on Mondays in the Snoqualmie building (SNO 139) during the lunch hour 12:30-1:30 p.m. During these student-led meetings one can expect a variety of social and political issues to be discussed such as: climate change, consumerism and materialism, education, grief and loss, etc. These meetings are designed

to begin discussions between international and domestic students who each hold different life experiences.

"When I describe Global Ambassadors, it's like a study abroad for those who don't want to leave campus and I know there are many reasons they cannot do study abroad but they can do it here, and they can hear what someone from Peru might think about a social issue, they can share culture and social experiences. I think it's a nice way to be involved in global events without leaving campus," Mamea said.

Mamea looks forward to potential events they hope GA can take part in such as the multicultural fair and an international film festival hosted by GA.

If students are interested in more events put on by The Office of Global Affairs, they can attend weekly UW Tea Time sessions put on by the OGA Fellows and ISSS staff. This weekly event encourages domestic students to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and get to know their fellow international students. This is held every Wednesday at 12:30-1:15 p.m. in GWP 101.

If you would like to become a member of Global Ambassadors or participate in their events you can attend their weekly meetings or follow them on Instagram @globala.uwt for information on events, meetings and all other questions.



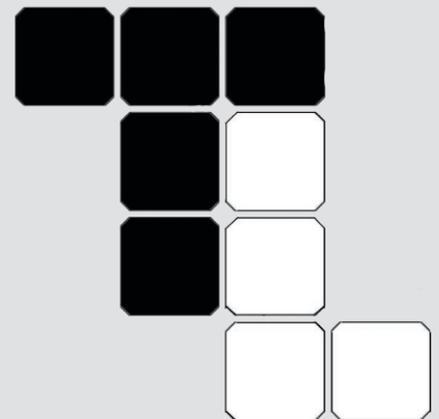
PHOTO BY GLOBAL AMBASSADORS

Students attending events sponsored by the Global Ambassadors

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PHOTO BY WEI ZENG VIA UNSPLASH

Changing names to reflect changing values

Naming something after someone is an honor. However, it's important to consider whether or not that person deserves that honor.

By **RUTH OGDEN**
OPINION COLUMNIST

As a movement, Black Lives Matter (BLM) has been a driving force for change for more than a decade. Dismantling Confederate war memorials is an aspect of racial justice, and as a direct result of BLM advocacy, the wider public has begun to reconsider the purpose and value of Confederate war memorials. During the 2020 George Floyd protests, statues memorializing famous slave owners and colonizers were toppled en masse. Others had their meaning transformed completely: most famously, the Robert E. Lee memorial in Richmond, VA became the site of a living community art project.

Community messages and sentiments were painted on the steps, and at night, images of historic Black activists were projected onto the statue. The people had spoken - it was Black

liberation history that should be upheld and memorialized, not Confederate generals.

The ripple effect from that summer is still in motion. All across the United States, statues and buildings named after historical figures are being taken down or renamed to better reflect current values. Here, in Washington state, we are also looking closer at who we honor.

In Tacoma, there have been two notable name changes. As of September 2021, Jason Lee Middle School has been renamed Hilltop Heritage Middle School and Woodrow Wilson High School has been renamed Silas High School.

Jason Lee was a Christian missionary in the Pacific Northwest in the 19th century. He is largely known for his disregard for Native American culture and establishing a residential school designed to convert Native Americans to white

American beliefs and practices. To name a middle school after a man like this is in poor taste at best. The new name 'Hilltop Heritage' is a welcomed change and reflects the school's place in Tacoma's history. In the 2021 unveiling ceremony, Puyallup Tribal Member and Historic Education Coordinator Charlotte Basch gave a speech reflecting on the damage Jason Lee did to the Puyallup tribe's language and culture.

"It is incredibly powerful to be here today and speak our language," she said, "Because it is still here, and we are still here."

Another school in Tacoma also experienced a name change in 2021. Woodrow Wilson High School has been renamed Silas High School, in honor of Dr. Dolores Silas. Dr. Silas, 94, is known for being the first Black woman administrator in Tacoma Public Schools and the first Black woman to serve on the

Tacoma City Council. She has also held the position of President of the Tacoma Chapter of the NAACP. She has been honored multiple times by the city of Tacoma for her lifetime of service and community advocacy. In contrast, former U.S. president Woodrow Wilson, was responsible for further entrenching systemic racism through his decision to segregate employees in the Federal government. In my mind, it is clear that Dr. Silas is far more deserving of recognition.

These name changes are victories for the people of Tacoma, as they reflect our local history and draw attention to what we see as most valuable. However, there is one other name change I think is overdue - give Mount Tahoma its name back.

Mount Tahoma is currently known as Mount Rainier, and was named such by Captain George Vancouver in 1792 after

his friend, Admiral Peter Rainier. It is worth noting that Admiral Rainier never saw the mountain, nor even visited the Pacific Northwest at all - the closest he got was fighting on the English side of the Revolutionary War.

Vancouver's choice of name conveniently ignored the fact that the mountain had already been named for several thousand years by the people who lived near it. The movement to restore Mount Tahoma's name has existed for a while, but has grown in momentum recently. A name change of this magnitude is not unprecedented - Mount McKinley was officially federally recognized as Mount Denali in 2015. With this in mind, it is unclear as to why the Federal government refuses to budge on Mount Tahoma's name.

What else around Tacoma needs renaming?



PHOTO BY NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

A group of visitors at Mount Rainier National Park.

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The Seattle Freeze

Are Washington residents actually that mean?

Is it the Seattle Freeze or stranger danger?

By CELIA WILLIAMS
OPINION EDITOR

Washington is known for a lot of things. From Pike Place and the Original Starbucks to the abundance of green forests and rushing rivers, there is plenty to love about this beautiful state. But there is a side to Washington that many visitors don't know about: The Seattle Freeze.

The Seattle Freeze is something that many who are just visiting or just moving to Washington may be unaware of, especially if it's your first time visiting. Many visitors have said the residents of Washington are cold and distant. But why may this be?

Washington has a very long and dark history of serial killers. From Gary Ridgway a.k.a. The Green River Killer to the infamous Ted Bundy, Washington is not short on serial killers. Surely having these attacks occurring for years caused Washington residents to adapt to a new way of life.

"The term 'serial killer' means a series of three or more killings, not less than one of which was committed within the United States, having common characteristics such as to suggest the reasonable possibility that the crimes were committed by the same actor or actors." (FBI)

Both Ridgway and Bundy used tactics that involved taking advantage of people's empathy when it comes to helping those in distress. After many years living in fear, the residents of Washington state seem to have

adopted social tactics to protect themselves from these kinds of people and their vicious attacks.

It can be argued that these tactics come off somewhat abrasive and distant. Washington residents don't smile at others walking on the street, they don't stop for a conversation with a stranger, and they don't generally stop to help someone in distress.

In a TikTok posted by user @seyenne, she talks about another video posted by someone who was very upset about the way many Washington residents are. In the video, she was discussing a man who had come across someone laying on the street and how no one was stopping to help him or check in on him.

She goes on to discuss that not only is it not uncommon to see people laying in the street, but we also have no idea what the situation is. Seattle is one of the highest sex trafficking cities in the U.S. so women have to be on high alert just walking down the street. It's sad that this is something that has had to become more normalized, but it is the truth.

As a result of Bundy and Ridgway's actions, Seattle and its residents have been forever changed. So next time you're on a trip to Seattle, don't expect a warm welcome.

Further reading on the FBI report can be found at: <https://www.fbi.gov/stats-services/publications/serial-murder#two>



The "Seattle Freeze" is something becoming more and more well known.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEVIE ESTEBAN

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Highlights of the Tacoma Film Festival: Part 1

TFF is a valuable and rewarding experience by giving a platform to creative, innovative and distinctive independent films.



BY EMILIA BELL
FILM CRITIC

There was a special feeling in the air; The Grand Cinema was abuzz with chatter from filmmakers to press and movie lovers alike. Everyone who was gathered in the cramped room that smelled of popcorn was there to see one film for the opening night of the Tacoma Film Festival: “Walk Don’t Run: The Story of The Ventures.” The film was a self-proclaimed work-in-progress, and the crowd had the privilege to see it before it was released anywhere else.

Directed by Isaac Olsen, this film tells the story of The Ventures; the best-selling instrumental band of all time. The film was appropriately chosen to open the Tacoma Film Festival because the band is from Tacoma.

It chronicles their legacy as well as their broad influence over some of the most famous musicians such as The Beach Boys, and grounds it all with a competent emotional through line. Above all, the viewers left the film with the sense that they knew the band members, not just their music. With creative editing and charming reenactments of moments not caught on tape originally, the film doesn’t feel like every other documentary.

The night concluded with an after-party featuring The Adventures; a tribute band who allowed the audience to experience The Ventures music in person, creating an energetic atmosphere for the crowd to mingle in.

Documentaries

A common thread with many of the films presented over the following days was politics and activism, most often found in documentaries.

“Dark Cell Harlem Farm” succinctly described the horrors of the American prison system.

“A More Radiant Sphere” explored Canada’s history with communism through the writings of Joe Wallace and the director’s familial connection to him. These films were not only educational, but inspired the audience to seek out change.

“A Crack In The Mountain,” directed by Alastair Evans, explored the complicated issues of tourism and the economy in Vietnam along with incredible images of Vietnam’s Son Doòng Cave.

More nature-oriented activism came with “Sentinels,” directed by Derek Knowles and Lawrence Lerew, a film about tree sitters. The film won an honorable mention for Best PNW Documentary at the festival awards. This was shown in tandem with “The Maple

Cutter,” directed by Lynn M. Thomas, Danny Hoffman and Michael Sanderson, that explored the dynamics of the logging industry with regular people. Both were filmed in the Pacific Northwest. Providing a unique perspective, these films sparked discussions with their audiences.

Feature Narratives

Many films had stunning visuals that astounded audiences; “El Gran Movimiento,” a feature narrative filmed in Bolivia utilized the city of La Paz as a striking backdrop, with director Kiro Russo rarely using a close-up, and opting to zoom in from great distances. This really highlighted the scale of the city and the surrounding mountains.

“El Gran Movimiento” won the Juror’s Award for Best Experimental Film at the event’s awards.

Another film set in Bolivia was “Utama” but this time it was the rural Highlands, showcasing the stunning parched landscape and culture. The film also touched on poignant character work, winning the award for Best Narrative Feature at the festival. These awards were well-deserved, as these films offered original and compelling windows into different lives.

Character work was prioritized wonderfully in many films such as “White Building,” a Cambodian drama that follows a young man who has big dreams. It prioritizes quiet moments that give insight to the characters.

“The Cathedral” shows the life of a boy growing up from the 1980s to the 2000s. Director Ricky D’Ambrose stylistically keeps his distance, using narration and objective camera work, but the film encompasses these eras well through archival footage and solid acting from the cast.

“Mother of Color,” directed by Mexican-American Dawn Jones Redstone, addressed the very relevant issues of working mothers, especially women of color, and how childcare (among other things) needs to be improved, focusing on the character’s hectic life.

These features brought a special understanding to an individual’s life and experiences, and through this, helped viewers remain attentive.

Story continued
on PAGE 7

A stand-out experience came from Robert Machoian's "The Integrity of Joseph Chambers," which tells the story of a man desperate to prove his manhood and competence by going hunting alone, despite having no experience. Carried by an amazing performance from Clayne Crawford as the titular character, the film capably balances drama, comedy, and an overall sense of dread. Crawford charms the audience from his first moments and elicits plenty of laughs despite the seriousness of the situation. Sound design was employed in a unique way that made the audience feel as if they were in the mind of the main character. Supported by a sinister score, the film builds tension even in the most mundane moments. The audience was engaged the whole time and interacted gleefully with many scenes.

Short Films

There were a multitude of amazingly creative short films, encompassing practically every genre, and even music videos. While there are too many to list, there were some stand-outs from the first few days of the festival.

"A Month of Sundays," by Nathan J Blanchard, a music video for Bronson Bragg, showcased creative animation (also by Blanchard) and delightfully humorous visuals.

"The Dead Collectors," directed by Brendan Cleaves, was

a hilarious dark comedy with a polished look, and wonderful acting that was reminiscent of cult classic films like "Shaun of the Dead."

"To Be Honest," directed by John Robert Hammerer, explored delicate emotions, complicated undertones, lovely cinematography and grounded acting performances.

"What a Harvest" displayed campy but convincing acting from lead DeMorge Brown and had an original and strange plot.

"Buddymovie," directed by Ryan McGlade, was a quirky and unusual film that featured voice-over-like telepathic communication rather than conventional dialogue.

Short films are a great way to experience different styles and voices in a short amount of time. During the festival, there were also many Q & A's with the filmmakers, which was great fun for the audience to learn about their inspirations and processes with filmmaking.

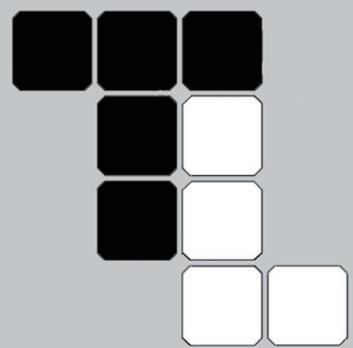
The Tacoma Film Festival provides a welcoming platform for independent films and filmmakers of all kinds. It is an opportunity for many to see films that are either not released yet, or have a limited release in general; It is also a great place to connect with filmmakers. Remember to check in next week for more highlights from the Tacoma Film Festival, and maybe even attend next year to experience it yourself!



A close up of the Tacoma Film Festival program.

DESIGN BY RYAN FEDDERSON

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Netflix's "Eat the Rich: The GameStop Saga" is a fun watch, but that's it

The massive short squeeze of 2020's GameStop is coming back, but this time as a documentary.

By **ANGELO ALEGRE**
A&E EDITOR

"Eat the Rich: The GameStop Saga" is a new three-part Netflix documentary based on the GameStop short squeeze back in 2020. A short squeeze is when investors bet for a stock's downfall, but prices rise instead, and although the documentary tries to explain what, why, and how it happened, the first episode was the only one to do it well. The rest of the documentary is a bit shallow as it is missing some information but keeps you entertained throughout with funny moments and good scene transitions.

Part one, titled "I Like the Stock," gives the viewer a brief overview of the series and what's to come. It starts by giving you an introduction to the whole GameStop stock situation and follows with explana-

tions as to what hedge funds do with dying stock like it. Retail investors, people who invest small lumps of money, figure out what hedge funds are trying to do and try to stop them from profiting off a dying stock.

Part two of the documentary was titled "To the Moon," which was probably the most enjoyable part of the series. It goes more into depth of how the interviewees started their GameStop stock trade. Alongside this personalization, this episode highlighted the entire rise of the stock. It showed a multitude of reasons why the price kept going up and up; with the largest contributor to the boom being a tweet from Elon Musk saying "GameStonk." This would eventually lead to GameStop reaching its highest value. The episode then ended on a cliffhanger; Robinhood, the largest retail investor interface,

blocked out the purchase button.

The final part titled "The Reckoning" truly represented what was to come since the moment the purchase button was blocked, the price of Gamestop plummeted almost as fast as it went up. Due to this sudden drop in the value of GameStop stock, everyone who was involved began to fear what would happen to their investments. With the only thing that people could do on Robinhood, many people began to sell. Ultimately, the price of the stock never went back up as high as it did, and people wanted to place the blame of that on someone.

Despite the fact that Netflix's three-part documentary "Eat the Rich: The GameStop Saga" was missing a lot of information regarding the entire situation nearing the end of the short squeeze, it was still enjoy-

able to watch. Many people had strong beliefs due to their views pertaining to their finances, and shared their opinions on review sites such as IMDb. One person by the name of Superstonk shared their opinion on the missing information by saying "This documentary doesn't mention the true story of WallStreetBets users actually migrated to Superstonk subreddit due to the moderators being paid off by hedge funds."

After digging into the history of these various subreddits, people did actually migrate from WallStreetBets. Many users first went to the subreddit GME, and then to Superstonk. A Reddit user by the name of Puzzle666 explained that it was because of the massive influx of untrustworthy people in the community, such as bots and shills, and even paid-off moder-

ators. This information should be taken with a grain of salt, however, as Reddit is a community board-like space where anyone can post anything. Although, this information came from a highly upvoted post, meaning that many members of the subreddit agreed with what it had to say.

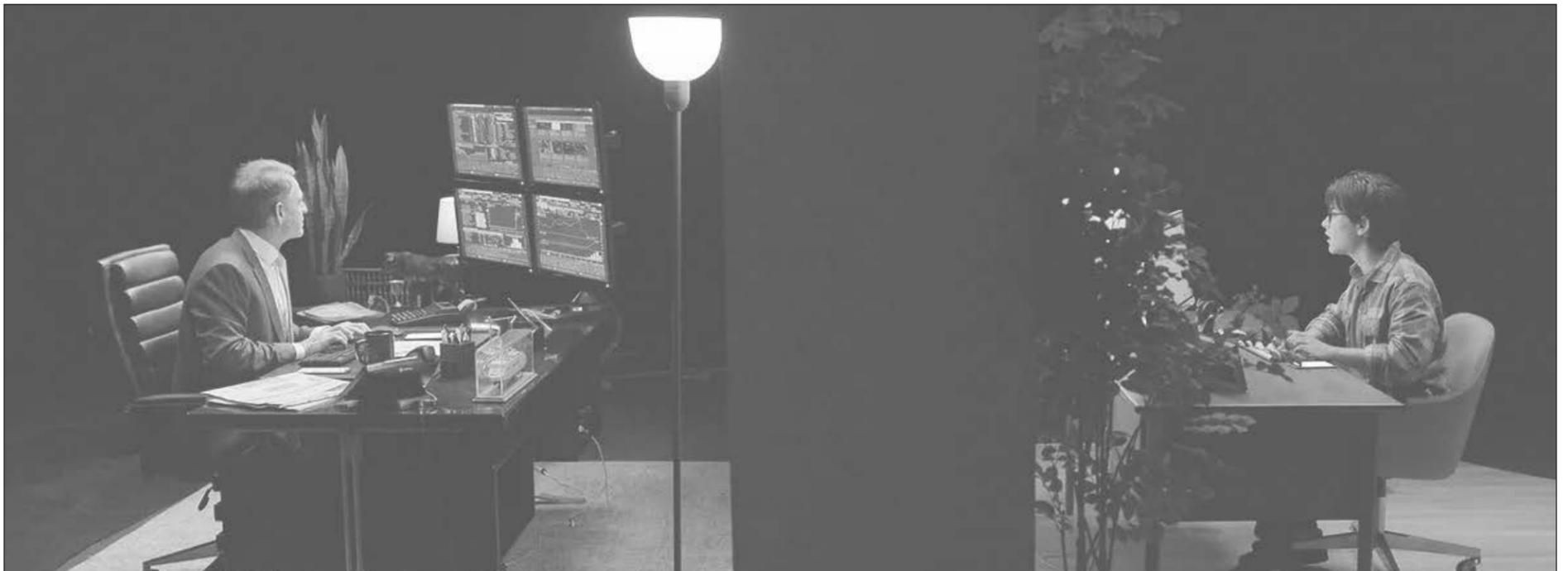
Overall, the documentary was worth watching for entertainment reasons, but maybe not so much in terms of knowledge.

3.5/5



Rachael Sassara, Mikey Guggenheim and Erik Hess from a scene in the "Eat the Rich" documentary.

PHOTO BY NETFLIX



An image caption from the "Eat the Rich: The GameStop Saga" documentary.

PHOTO BY NETFLIX