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# THE LEDGER

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA

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## Winter Holidays Here At Last

# Let's get crafty in the Makerspace

In the Makerspace, students can get hands-on experience working with a variety of tools such as a sewing machine, laser cutter and a 3-D printer.



UWT'S Makerspace

PHOTO BY ALEXA CHRISTIE

By DESTINY VALENCIA  
NEWS EDITOR

Have you ever wanted to dabble in a new hobby but didn't want to invest too much into it? At UWT's Makerspace, students can get hands-on experience working with equipment that fits a variety of hobby needs, such as tools to get into laser cutting, vinyl printing, sewing, 3-D printing, crochet, knitting and more.

The Makerspace, which has been open for around 8 months, holds a variety of clubs each day of the week where students can meet with like-minded students to learn the basics about the equipment, work on projects together or just to hang out.

The Makerspace, located in the Snoqualmie building, allows UWT students to gain experience with technology and equipment that they may not normally have access to, says staff member D'Andre Williams who helps oversee the Makerspace.

"The goal is to provide a space where there is peer-to-peer teaching and learning where students can have access to multi various equipment that they normally wouldn't have access to whether it's for hobby purposes or school purposes to come together to make something," said Williams.

"It's more about students finding something they like and utilizing the emerging technologies of today. For example, the 3-D printer, that's a widespread technology in aerospace design for Boeing's overhead cabinets...the Makerspace is to get more people involved in some of the more prominent technologies of today," said Michael McAlexander, a senior studying IT and

informational assurance.

At the Makerspace, most materials are provided by the Makerspace for student use except for things such as fabric for the sewing machine. The Makerspace accepts donations for materials and has received donated yarn, fabric and knitting/crochet needles in the past.

Students who wish to use the space will need to take an online safety test regarding the equipment they would like to use beforehand. Students will also need to sign a Makerspace agreement that requires the student to acknowledge that they will be safe with the equipment in the space.

Afterwards, students will be able to use the equipment with the guidance of Makerspace staff. To reserve the equipment for a certain time period, students can do so on the Makerspace website and reserve any time during shop hours Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Of course, students do not need to have a project they are working on to be in the space. The Makerspace is welcoming of all students at all skill levels who may just want to check out the equipment, study, or hang out with friends.

"People are welcome to come in to use this space whether it's just for studying or hanging out or they are currently working on one of our pieces of equipment," said Williams.

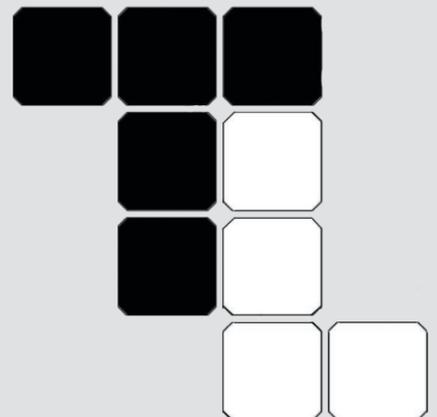
*If you would like to find out more about the Makerspace, or reserve time for the equipment, you can go here*

<https://tacomamakes.ds.lib.uw.edu/> for more information.

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## Cold Weather Kicks off Annual Blanket Drive

The CSL and PATH have partnered for the annual blanket drive to donate to organizations that help families during the cold weather.

By **LESLIE GONZALEZ CRUZ**  
NEWS REPORTER

As temperatures lower, the Center of Student Leadership (CSL) has partnered with Partners in Action to Transform Healthcare (PATH) and Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) for the annual blanket drive.

The blanket drive started November 15 and will continue until December 15. Students can donate new or slightly used blankets at the Center for Student Involvement front desk in the UW YMCA.

“Being at home some days I feel very cold, I can’t imagine how someone less fortunate must feel during this time of year,” said Irina Kushner, a freshman studying emergency medical services.

“Not only is donating for a good cause but you have the power to actually change one person’s life, and that is why I will be donating,” said Kushner.

CSL held a blanket-making event where students made blankets while listening to music and eating Crumbl cookies, muffins, candy canes and warm beverages.

Sleeping bags will also be accepted during this blanket drive. The blankets received will be donated to the following organizations: YMCA’s women’s shelters, Tacoma Rescue Mission and the Lacey Veterans Services Hub.

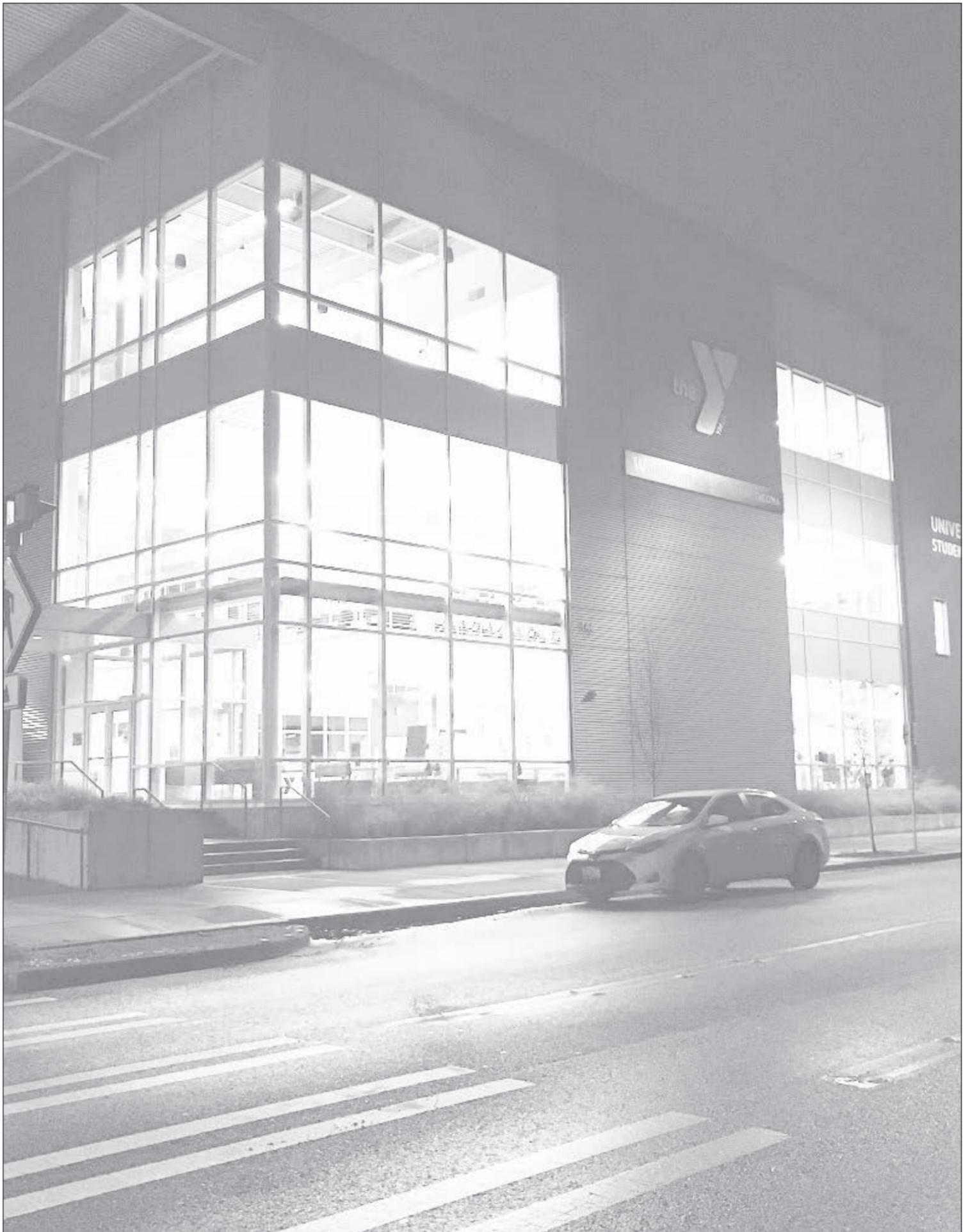
These organizations aim to offer resources to individuals and families that need it, whether it be shelters, meals and even clothing items to keep warm during the winter season.

“We have a lot of unhoused neighbors in our Tacoma community. Possessing items such as blankets or clothes that provide warmth is not something everyone in our community has,” said Gabriela Romero, Center for Service and Leadership Chair.

“I think it is really important to recognize these issues and do what we can as a community to help those who need access to items, especially since we are now experiencing colder temperatures,” said Romero.

For students that would like to participate in the blanket drive, it will continue to run until December 15.

A clothing and/or hygiene drive will also be taking place during the winter quarter in efforts to help unhoused neighbors.



The UWT Y center is accepting blanket donations until December 15.

PHOTO BY UWY

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## Loss of vital businesses on Pacific Avenue may explain enrollment numbers

What happened to Pacific Avenue?

By JOSEPHINE TRUEBLOOD  
MANAGING EDITOR

Stopping at Granola's for frozen yogurt, grabbing a pair of oddly-shaped '70s sunglasses at UXC, getting a haircut at London's On The Ave, buying a Tacoma beanie at Bleach, seeing a show at The Swiss - watching bustling groups of students laughing and running to catch the Link - this is a vision of Downtown Tacoma that is long gone. All of these businesses are now closed.

There's no doubt that COVID wreaked havoc on the Downtown Tacoma scene. What used to be vibrant, active and full of exciting, local businesses is more desolate than ever, partially due to UWT's enrollment slump.

According to the Office of the Registrar's Academic Data Management, over 5300 students were enrolled for classes in Autumn 2019, while barely 4800 enrolled for classes three years later. The loss of 500 students has taken its toll on the Downtown community.

But what is to blame for a lack of campus allure? Post-COVID barren streets? Rising Tacoma rents? Maybe UWT itself?

In August 2020, UXC, an affordable vintage and secondhand clothing store, closed its doors after 15 years as a prominent business on Pacific Avenue.

Citing the uncertainty of COVID and the timing of a lease expiration for the closure, one of the owners, Brooke Casanova, said "UW has this monopoly on Downtown."

"By buying up this major block of historic Tacoma, from a small biz perspective

and member of the community, UW has a responsibility to help it thrive if they're willing to recognize that and make it as high of a priority as enrollment numbers," she continued

On the other side of Downtown, rent doubling has become an all-too-familiar tale. Local tea house, Mad Hat Tea Company, abruptly closed their 11th and Commerce location in early March after their rent doubled seemingly overnight.

The owners shared their now-empty retail space on Instagram, saying "We survived COVID, but not greedy landlords."

As Downtown is treated like a Bellevue and Seattle landlord game of Monopoly, leaving valuable retail empty while they hold out for the highest offer, how can UWT increase enrollment amongst the wasteland the Downtown is rapidly becoming?

UWT needs to focus on fostering a Downtown community. UWT should not act as a for-profit commercial landlord. Instead, it is a community partner that should charge rent on a sliding scale, with lower rents given to businesses that serve students and Tacoma-based businesses.

UWT has an obligation to offer lower rents over other landlords because of its privilege as a public entity. Taxpayers bought the land UWT sits on - it is public land. Last year, UWT received over 24 million dollars from the State of Washington. Under RCW 84.36.050, UWT doesn't pay property taxes for property used for educational purposes. Additionally, UWT gets to participate in a risk pool program for insurance.

Oh - and UWT gets its own real estate lawyers and brokers - paid for by taxpayers. Other landlords have to pay for these services out of rents received.

So yes, property insurance is skyrocketing, but public entities are not paying your average broker. UWT should not be charging competitive rates because they do not have the same costs.

UWT is an 800 pound gorilla, financed by taxpayers, price gouging the same community they're supposed to be serving.

Integrated Facilities Management boasts about 12.5 million in annual sales and 70,000 square feet of retail and restaurant space. The Office of the Chancellor should make sure that IFM's rent practices are in line with the University's Strategic Plan.

UWT needs to recognize that part of this plan, and a key part of increasing enrollment numbers, is revitalizing Tacoma's Downtown district. The 2022-2027 Strategic Plan includes a mission statement that says "As an urban serving university, we catalyze the economic and social vitality of the region." Goal three of the Strategic Plan aims to "Strengthen collaborative community partnerships with an emphasis on diverse communities," yet the recent loss of Little Sister and Diamond Leah, two minority-owned shops on Pacific Avenue, show that UWT is actively failing to accomplish this goal.

Priced out of retail spaces, the owner of these businesses, Diamond Stevens, recently took to social media.

"Since 2013 I've nurtured these shops and now it is time to nurture

myself (and my wallet owning a business and brick and mortar is draining,)" she explained before she continued, asking the community, "How can we make small business sustain and THRIVE in Tacoma?"

The answer is simple: lower rent and place businesses in retail spaces that appeal to the community. In this case, college students.

While UWT announced plans in March 2022 to find a private partner to build a residence and dining hall, this plan requires partnership with business.

"We are looking for another tenant that fits into the fabric of the campus," said Ben Mauk, the Associate Director of Campus Planning and Retail Operations, who was quoted in the Puget Sound Business Journal.

If UWT can't keep the tenants it has now, how does it expect to attract and retain other businesses?

Greed is not listed as a value in UWT's strategic plan. Like its program committed to corporate social responsibility, UWT should be a responsible community partner. Aiming to "generate mutually beneficial vitality for our community," as is clearly stated in the fourth goal of the Strategic Plan.

I have spent the past eight years in Downtown Tacoma, starting at the Tacoma School of the Arts and transitioning to UWT for college. I love this area and this city - the historic buildings, the museums and the mountain. Make Downtown a place we all want to be.

## Huskies in the Hallway

Question of the week:  
What are you most looking forward to this Winter break?



Anna Pham - Ethnic, Gender and Labor Studies Senior - She/her

Answer: Spending time to myself, not having any school work to do and dedicating more time to my dance group.



Darion Lamell - Psychology Junior - No Preference

Answer: Reconnecting with family members.



Collin Manolovitz - Pre-Major Sophomore - He/him

Answer: I am most looking forward to getting a butt-load of movies and then just watching them all.

# Emotional Support Animals

What benefits do ESAs have? Do they help students in the long run?

By CELIA WILLIAMS  
OPINION EDITOR

Emotional support animals: this is a term that has been growing to be more widely used, especially within the college student demographic. I, myself, have an emotional support animal waiting for me at home. But what does that really mean?

**Is my dog specially trained? Does she wear a vest and listen to every command I give her?**

No and no. Emotional support animals, while similar in ways, are largely different from service animals. They are not always trained and they are not supposed to go everywhere with you. An emotional support animal is exactly that, an animal that supports your emotional needs.

However, it's important to recognize that some people who do need emotional and trauma support do have actual

service animals to help them live their lives as normally and stress-free as possible.

**Why do some people have emotional support animals while others have service animals?**

It's simple really. Some people have anxiety and depression, which can come from a number of things, and having a little furry friend helps them be able to cope with everyday life. Others might have ADHD or autism and become overstimulated easily and having a friend with them helps.

Service animals are meant for more physical disabilities and when non-physical disabilities take on physical symptoms. For example, someone diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder might have a service animal to alert them of oncoming people and interactions when they aren't aware to help them avoid being triggered or sent into a panic. Others might

have heart conditions or diabetes and their service animals are able to sense when they are in danger and need to get medical help.

Emotional support animals are very beneficial for helping students get through school. Many schools are even using resources to give students access to animal therapy during high-stress times, like finals week. Students have been shown to have improved experiences in college with the access to resources like emotional support animals. Many students experiencing depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety or post-traumatic stress disorder have had their lives greatly improved by emotional support animals.

There's a vast difference between the two terms and why someone might need an emotional support or service animal. But I know one thing for sure, they are all loved equally and treasured beyond measure.



PHOTO BY USA SERVICE DOG REGISTRATION

Photo (above) of the typical service dog, which caters to physical disabilities rather than the emotional ones that ESAs help with.



PHOTOS BY CELIA WILLIAMS

Pictures (above and bottom left and right) of an emotional support dog.



TACOMA CITY BALLET  
Presents  
*The Nutcracker*  
with Tacoma City Ballet Orchestra

Pantages Theater  
December 10, 11, 17 & 18, 2022  
2:00 pm

PHOTO BY CITY OF BALLET

The Nutcracker (Tacoma, WA)

## The Tacoma City of Ballet is putting on their rendition of “The Nutcracker” this December

At Pantages Theater for four days only!

By **KIARRA BLAKELY-RUSSELL**  
A&E EDITOR

As students enjoy the end of their Thanksgiving turkey-filled comas, the gifting season has quickly snuck up on us with finals right around the corner.

We are entering our snowy season and greeting the reruns of seasonal movies, but what about Tacoma?

There must be things going on near or around the campus. The curiosity in me peaked when exploring online for any

themed events for the month of December.

For many locals who love plays, musicals and who are familiar with the many theaters scattered around Tacoma, I’m sure this upcoming list will come to sound familiar. There are some lovely theaters located nearby: The Tacoma Musical Playhouse, Tacoma Little Theatre, Rialto Theater and Pantages Theater.

“Great sound, ambiance and staff is always very helpful and welcoming,” said a past guest, Chelle, who left a review on Goo-

gle describing Pantages Theater in a vivid way. They also said of the theater, “Beautiful venue to see plays. Took my two daughters to see the nutcracker ballet and we saw Anne Frank a few years ago, both times were terrific.”

Another guest, Jody, complimented the venue saying, “Beautiful building. Best parking is across the skybridge.”

The children’s story, “The Nutcracker,” will come to life by Tacoma’s own City of Ballet. They will be performing at Pantages Theater for the two-act ballet during our

cold December season. The familiar story of the young girl who befriends a nutcracker that comes to life on Christmas Eve is a fitting event to set your sights on.

The Tacoma City of Ballet is a school for ballet that was founded by Miss Jan Collum in 1955, going through multiple names until settling with what we now know, “Tacoma City of Ballet.”

They have put on their seasonal shows at the Pantages Theater accompanied by a professional orchestra, for over 39 years.

“To preserve and perpetuate

the technique and traditions of classical ballet,” said by Tacoma City of Ballet about their missions. I was able to find outlines of the 1892 Nutcracker on their website archives; which painted me a picture of what to expect.

If you enjoy classic Christmas stories and musicals and want to get out during December, I know I’ll be sitting down with a refreshment enjoying my first ballet experience. The Nutcracker will be running through December 10, 11, 17, and 18.

# Daniel Craig's Detective Blanc is back in full-force with 'Glass Onion'

The highly anticipated sequel to "Knives Out" is here, with great acting, comedic strokes and an engaging and compelling plot.

By **EMILIA BELL**  
FILM CRITIC

"Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery," directed by Rian Johnson, follows Detective Benoit Blanc (Daniel Craig) as he observes a ridiculous murder mystery party thrown by a tech billionaire for his closest friends. Not long after their arrival, it becomes obvious that something suspicious is afoot, and it isn't clear who you can trust. Detective Blanc must unravel all the clues before it's too late.

As is the case with the first film, "Knives Out," there are unpredictable and greatly enjoyable twists and turns, all carried out by an impeccable supporting cast. Kathryn Hahn is funny as an image-conscious politician, Leslie Odom Jr. is terse as the scientist who works for the tech company, and Kate Hudson is hilarious as the air-headed former model who often puts her foot in her mouth to her assistant's (played by Jessica Henwick) great chagrin. Dave Bautista plays tough alpha-male streamer convincingly, and Madelyn Cline does well as his arm candy girlfriend. Janelle Monae is captivating as the mysterious friend who harbors a grudge against the rest of the group, and Edward Norton brings it all together as the obnoxious billionaire. The opening scenes that introduce each character are cleverly written and acted.

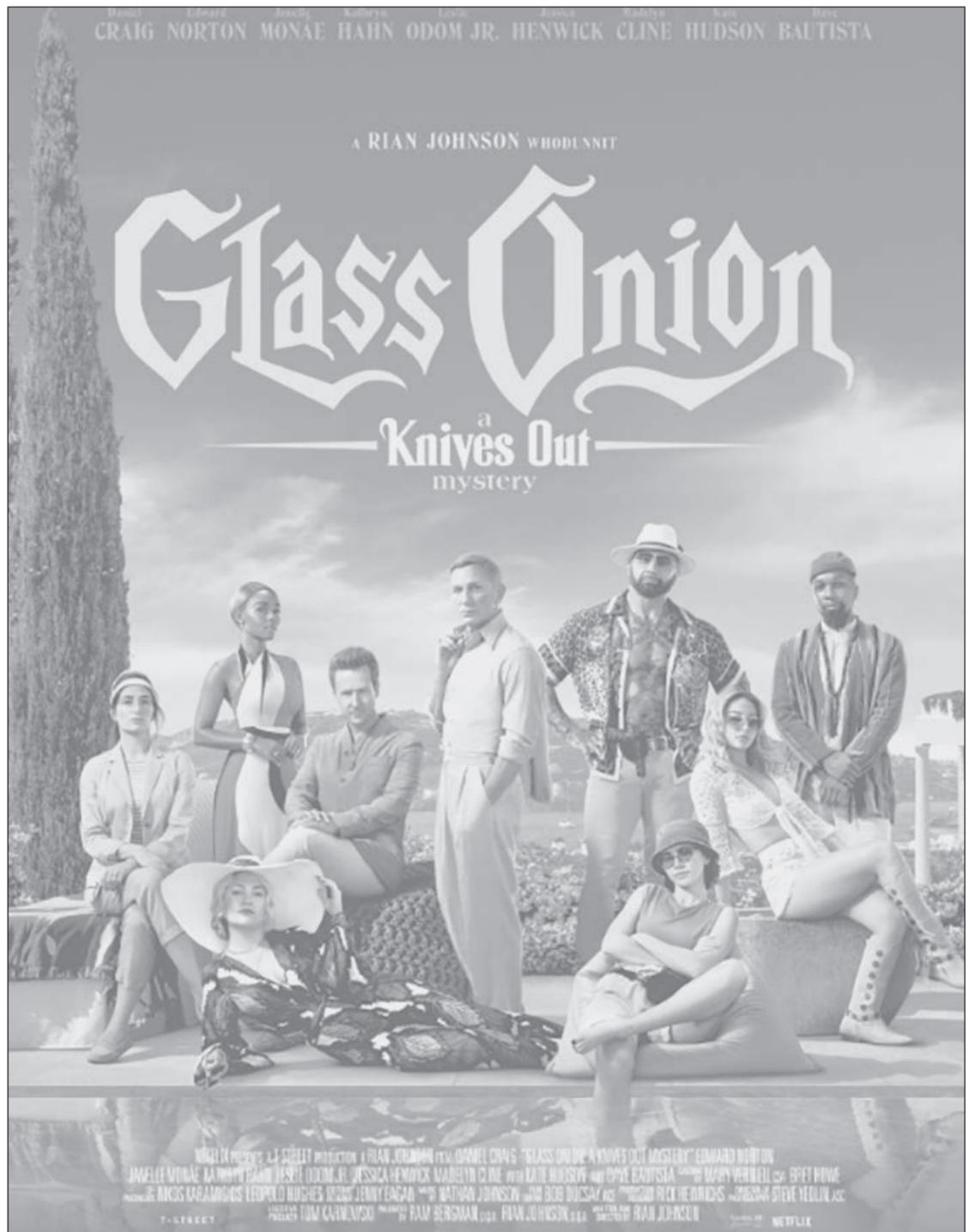
The film seems to be a not-subtle parody of billionaires like Elon Musk, providing social commentary on the ultra-rich and their whims. The set design was appropriately outlandish, with an impressive large class

building referenced in the title (a Glass Onion), and pointed set design to make further fun—Edward Norton's character even has a mural of Kanye West in his living room. Though it is on the nose, it is sufficiently witty and funny. The costume design was subtle but effective, giving insight to each character. Kate Hudson's costumes in particular were pretty and served to highlight her character traits.

The plot possessed a strong narrative, and the mystery aspect was exciting and fun to watch play out. Rian Johnson's specialty seems to be a fresh reimagined murder mystery, and as soon as "Glass Onion" was wrapped up, it seemed like the third instalment couldn't come quickly enough. The first film had a certain satisfying feel, which this one lacks a bit in comparison, but overall it was bigger and goofier, which did not make it better or worse, it just set it apart. It is a solid sequel, and can be watched as a companion with the first film, or as its own movie altogether. Daniel Craig is simply charming and lovable yet again as Detective Blanc, and is the highlight of the film.

"Glass Onion" will be available on Netflix starting December 23rd.

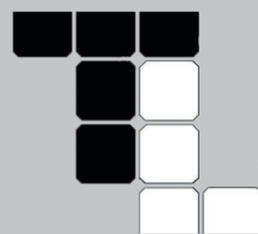
5/5



'Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery' Poster

PHOTO BY NETFLIX

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## Movies to catch up on when you're sick at home

It's that time of year when everyone's getting sick— so make the most of your quarantine and stream some movies from your couch.



'The Wonder' poster (above)

Being sick sucks, but you might as well make the most

**EMILIA BELL**  
FILM CRITIC

of it and check out some movies you may have missed. Keep reading to learn more about some films available to stream. With a variety of genres, you'll surely find a winning pick.

### "The Wonder" Netflix

In the mood for something evocative and dark? Check out "The Wonder," directed by Sebastián Lelio, which is the story of a young girl who claims to be sustained only by

God, and does not need to eat. Florence Pugh stars as a nurse who is tasked with watching the girl to find out if she really can go months without food as she and her family insist. It is a historical period piece, and is intense yet restrained. With haunting music and the beautiful Irish countryside as its backdrop, this gothic mystery is as intriguing as it is disturbing.

### "My Policeman" Amazon Prime

If you're looking for a tragic love story, "My Policeman," directed by Michael Grandage, explores the same-sex relationship between a museum cura-

tor and a married policeman in 1950s England. While Harry Styles may not be an incredible actor, the film is touching and provides interesting dynamics and insights about being gay in the 1950s. There is stunning imagery of the ocean that brings a visual to the emotional turmoil, and though there are rough moments, the story is ultimately uplifting.

### "Rosaline" Hulu

If you'd prefer something funny and lighthearted, "Rosaline," directed by Karen Maine, is a twist on "Romeo and Juliet," telling the story from Romeo's scorned ex-girlfriend's point

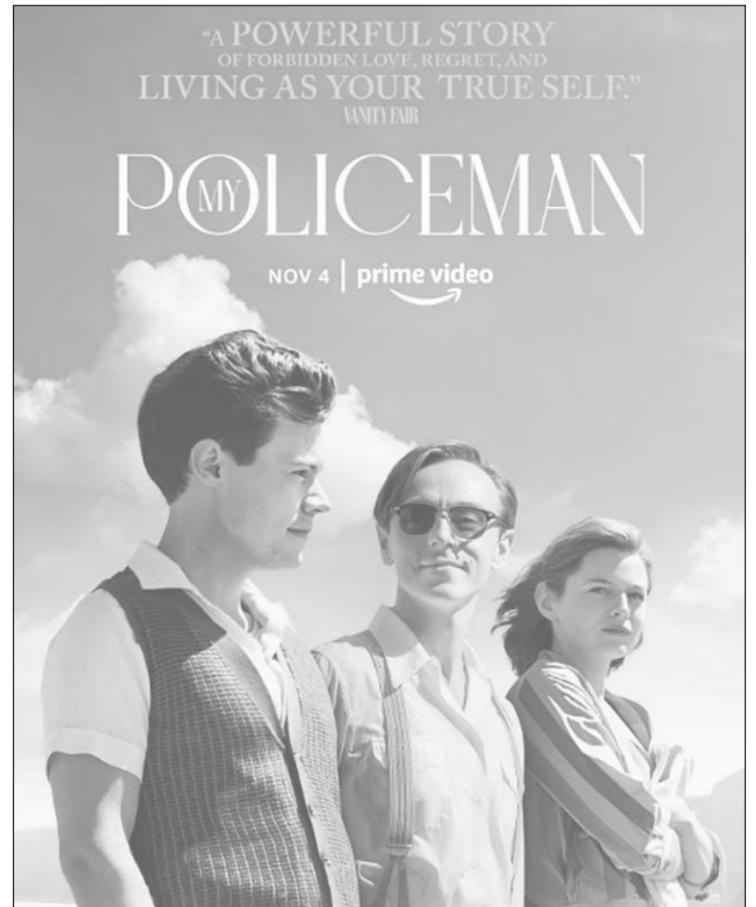


PHOTO (TOP) BY AMAZON STUDIOS AND (BOTTOM) BY HULU AND DISNEYPLUS  
'The Policeman' movie poster (top) and 'Rosaline' movie poster (bottom)

of view. The film is charming and hilarious, and a fun take on Shakespeare without feeling cliché or overdone. The dialogue is quick-witted but doesn't take itself too seriously. Kaitlyn Dever as Rosaline sells it beautifully, and Minnie Driver as her nurse brings top-notch comedy. This movie portrays Romeo as a himbo — what more could you want?

### "Do Revenge" Netflix

If you're feeling nostalgic for '90s teen movies, look no further than "Do Revenge." This movie is an homage to the dark comedies set in high school that were popular two decades

ago. Directed by Jennifer Kaytin Robinson, this film tells the story of Drea and Eleanor, a scorned popular girl and new student, who agree to seek revenge on each other's nemesis to avoid getting in trouble for it themselves. The chemistry between Camila Mendes and Maya Hawke sells the movie. The movie was brought together by colorful and quirky set and costume designs, as well as a killer soundtrack. The problems are topical and the plot is full of twists, bringing a fun experience to your living room.