



Relationship
Abuse Help
p.2



Store-bought vs
Homemade Gifts
p.5



Last Minute
V-Day Ideas
p.6

Weekly Weather

Monday  46/31
Tuesday 44/26
Wednesday 46/30
Thursday 48/34
Friday 51/33
Saturday 48/39
Sunday 48/39

Upcoming Events

Feb. 17
UWT Multicultural
Night
4 - 9 p.m.
William Phillip Hall

Feb 13 & 27
Queer Discussion
Group
Center for Equity
and Inclusion - SNO

THE LEDGER

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA

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A UWT Valentine's Day

Whether you're looking for relationship advice or gift ideas, this week's issue covers topics such as store-bought vs homemade gifts, last minute ideas for dates and self-care tips.

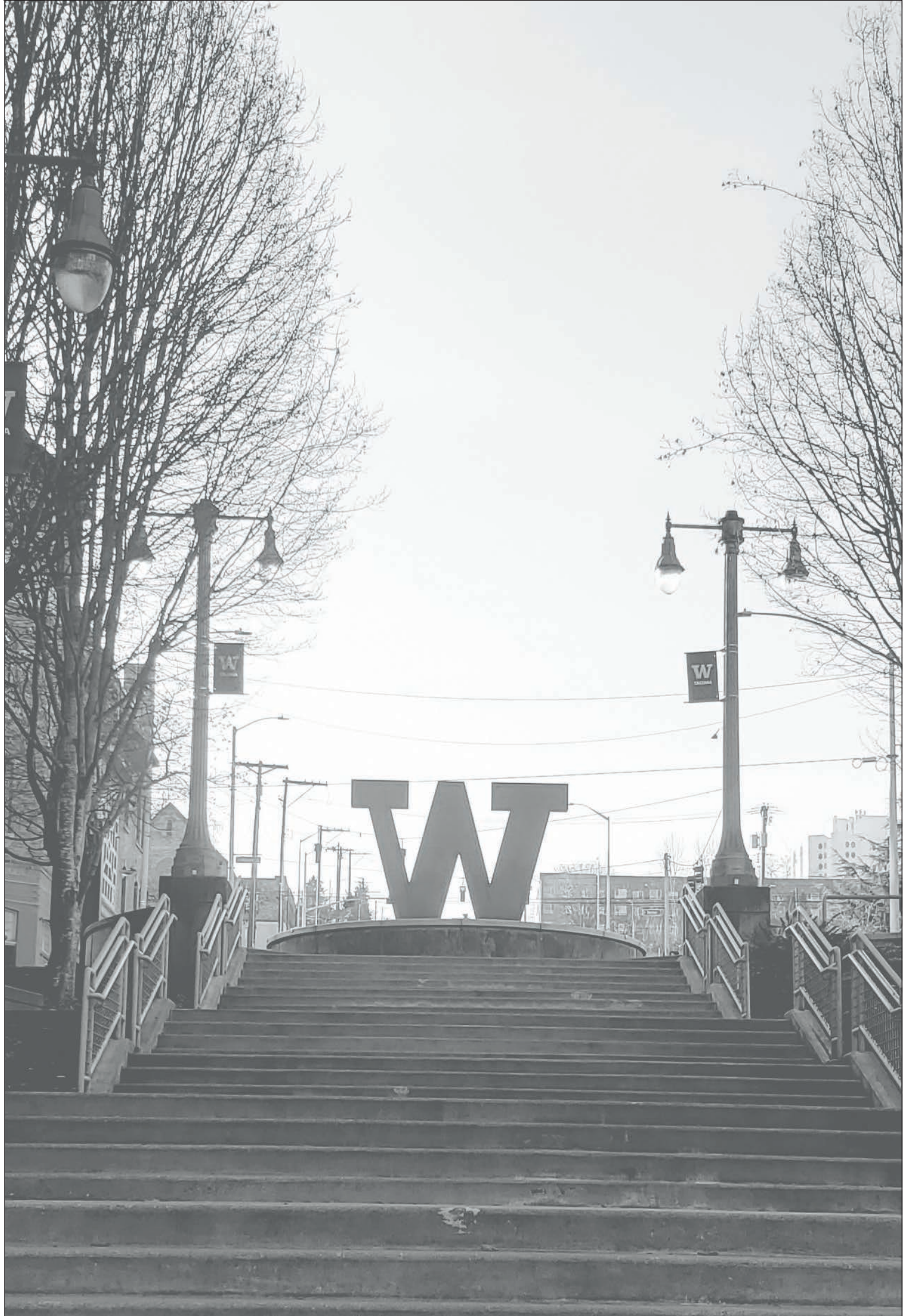


PHOTO BY LESLIE MCLAM

The UWT Confidential Advocate offers support for students experiencing abuse

Students experiencing relationship abuse can receive safe and confidential support through the Confidential Advocate and other resources, on and off campus.

By **KATIE SCOTT**
NEWS REPORTER

Content Warning: This article discusses relationship abuse in the form of intimate partner violence and domestic violence. The Ledger acknowledges there are many reasons why an individual may be hesitant to seek help in situations of abuse.

In a study of college students across the nation, The National Domestic Violence Hotline found that “57% of college students who report experiencing dating violence and abuse said it occurred in college.”

Here at UWT, confidential and specialized support services are available for students experiencing abuse.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline reports that more than 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men in the US have experienced rape, physical violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime. The National Center Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) reports LGBTQ+ individuals experience domestic violence or intimate partner violence at equal or greater rates as heterosexual survivors.

The UWT Confidential Advocate is available to support students seeking help or guidance with domestic or intimate partner violence. The UWT Confidential

Advocate, a service of the UWT Office of Student Affairs, helps students identify, process, safety plan and protect themselves against forms of relationship abuse. The Confidential Advocate provides referrals, resources and liaison services between the student and other providers who may have necessary resources to support the student who is seeking help.

Madie Brown, Health Promotion Specialist with the UWT Division of Student Affairs, said, “Our students, because of their backgrounds, many being from systematically marginalized communities, are very good at getting through hard things and just getting things done. They’re very good at getting their needs met, but it’s exhausting for students to do on their own. There needs to be a more robust system to get students from start to finish with non-academic-based needs. We want to provide holistic support for students, and the Confidential Advocate service is part of that. The Confidential Advocate is the only truly confidential service at UWT.”

The Confidential Advocate takes an informed consent approach to providing services. Students do not have to take formal measures to receive support from an advocate.

“I want to be clear, most of the people we see don’t want to file a

police report, they don’t want to press charges, they just want the abuse to stop,” Brown said.

To prevent relationship harm, advocates say it is important to know what dynamics are considered abuse. Though domestic violence and intimate partner violence are prevalent within relationships in the US, LoveIs-Respect.org, an online project of the National Domestic Violence Hotline, found that “over half of all college students (57%) say it’s difficult to identify dating abuse.”

The YWCA of Pierce County defines domestic violence as abuse that happens within a household, between family members, or when one partner in a relationship uses power and control tactics to assert authority over another partner in the relationship.

Intimate partner violence, as defined by the CDC, is “abuse or aggression that occurs in a romantic relationship. ‘Intimate partner’ refers to both current and former spouses and dating partners.

The Power and Control Wheel is a foundational domestic violence education tool created by Ellen Pence, Michael Paymar and Coral McDonald, in collaboration with survivors of abuse and Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs in Duluth, Minnesota. The Power and Control Wheel is a free resource online that explains different ways domestic violence and intimate partner violence can show up in relationships. It has been translated into over 40 languages and is used all over the nation to educate systemic responders about relationship violence. This wheel explains the ways intimate partner violence and domestic violence may show up in a relationship. Some of these ways include, physical or sexual violence, stalking, emotional manipulation, “outing” a partner, or revealing the sexual or gender



ILLUSTRATION BY ISTOCK IMAGES
Reports show over 50% of college students report experiencing dating violence/abuse.

identity of a person to others, inter-relational oppression and psychological aggression. Intimate partner violence and domestic violence can vary in severity and number of occurrences. This variation can range from one episode that has a long-term negative impact on a survivor to repeated incidents occurring over time.

Not all relationship harm is abuse.

The YWCA of Pierce County’s community prevention programs explains one part of addressing and preventing domestic and intimate partner violence is being able to identify the characteristics of healthy and unhealthy relationships before abuse occurs. They name some common indicators of an unhealthy relationship, often referred to as red flags: someone constantly putting you down, demanding passwords to personal accounts, monitoring online and in-person activity, isolation from friends and family, physical and emotional abuse, sexual coercion and invalidating the feelings and experiences of a partner.

Red flags can be warning signs of more serious, unhealthy, or harmful behaviors. If you or someone you know is experiencing unhealthy relationship behaviors from one or more intimate partners, the UWT Confidential Advocate is available for a consultation that allows you to remain anonymous if you choose.

In addition to knowing red

flags, the YWCA of Pierce County says identifying healthy relationship behaviors, or green flags, can be a way to indulge in healthy, lasting connections with a partner(s). Green flags in a relationship are characteristics that indicate mutual respect, safety, care, and appreciation between partners. Some common green flags include respecting boundaries and privacy of your partner, managing feelings of jealousy with mutual respect, always seeking consent, someone who encourages open communication and gives positive encouragement, and someone who wants to spend time with a partner but also encourages that partner to spend time with friends and family.

“Sometimes people find themselves in situations that they didn’t choose to put themselves in, and they didn’t want to happen to them or anyone else, but they have to figure out what to do. Oftentimes there can be barriers, variables, and factors that they have to juggle in terms of making decisions around safety and well-being,” Brown says.

The UWT Confidential Advocate and other local organizations are available to provide safe, confidential support and advocacy, so survivors of abuse are not alone.

If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse by a family member or intimate partner, safe and confidential help is available.



PHOTO BY DOMESTIC ABUSE INTERVENTION PROJECT

A wheel showing how abusive relationships are made and controlled.

Local and National Resources:	24-hour Crisis/Support Lines*:
www.tacoma.uw.edu/sh/confidential-advocate www.LoveIsRespect.org www.NCADV.org www.YWCApiercecounty.org www.TheHotline.org www.WSCADV.org	National Domestic Violence Hotline: 800-799-7233 YWCA Pierce County - 253-383-2593 DAWN (Domestic Abuse Women's Network) - 425-656-7867 Puyallup Tribe of Indians - 253-680-5499 or 253-722-3518 NW Network (of Bisexual, Trans, Lesbian & Gay Survivors of Abuse) - 866-427-4747

Anyone can call a crisis/support line. Callers can give as much or as little information as they feel comfortable with. Sharing identifying information to a crisis line is up to the discretion of the caller. Calls can be ended at any point the caller decides they are finished with the conversation.

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New pilot program provides access to free menstrual products

Students can find free menstrual products at the UWY in new program in association with ASUWT.

By DESTINY VALENCIA
NEWS EDITOR

In collaboration with the Husky Sustainability Fund, the UWY and ASUWT (Associated Students of University of Washington Tacoma), a new pilot program has launched that will provide free menstrual products to students who may need them.

Currently, students can find these products in the women's locker room and gender-neutral restroom on the first floor of the Y and in the second and third floors of the women's restrooms at the Y. This program was created out of a need to provide students with access to reproductive healthcare products that some students may not be able to afford.

The program was launched by student and Director of University of Affairs for ASUWT, Exita Lealofi, who was approached by a student during Fall quarter regarding a lack of access to menstrual products for students.

"They informed me that a number of locations on the UWT campus do not provide free men-

struation products to commuters or students residing in dorms. Additionally, they argued that it was unnecessary for them to pay for these items at the UWY," Lealofi said, "I presented the proposal to the ASUWT Executive Board, and they endorsed it as a result of this student's enthusiasm and interest in the topic."

The program is in its early stages and began sometime mid-January. It will be monitored for the rest of February and potentially March. Currently, the data of this program is tracked by Genevieve Conley, the Student Sustainability Coordinator for the Husky Sustainability Fund.

The data collecting consists of Conley refilling products in the designated restrooms and counting weekly how many menstrual products are taken. Individuals who partake in the program are encouraged to take a survey that will further provide insight into the program and its need for Conley.

The survey is optional and those who use the products are not required to take it.

"You don't have to participate

in the program to take the survey, it's just asking who's participating in the program. Are you a student, staff member or community member? How often do you find yourself without access to period products," Conley said.

This information is beneficial to those conducting the program as well as the University Y as they have provided the products for the program and those involved are looking to find if they need to provide different products for individuals such as menstrual pads and tampons for different absorbances and sizes.

"Products are definitely being taken in all of the locations in the Y," Conley said.

Lealofi is hopeful that the program can continue and products can be stocked at the Y as well as other locations around campus that may not have menstrual products readily available for students. If the need continues and students raise support for this issue, Lealofi is considering the steps to making this program more official.

"We are also looking at school policies and may even draft a

resolution. We talked about how promoting the concept and program across the entire campus through petitions, surveys, and tabling could help the school find a more effective strategy to fund our program," Lealofi said.

While nothing is set in stone, Lealofi and Conley are hopeful that an expansion of this program may happen sometime in the near future or potentially

Spring quarter.

If you have any questions you can follow ASUWT on Instagram @ASUWT or email Exita Lealofi at Exita26@uw.edu

To take the survey for The Husky Sustainability Fund, you can go to https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLS-dUdQq6ECxfqrGm2zDpsfK-6TQXZEq_WBsqyn3pzbrQH-PrPQGw/viewform



PHOTOS BY ALEXA CHRISTIE | Menstrual products are available free on campus.



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Screen capture of "The Craft"

PHOTO BY COLUMBIA PICTURES

Whimsical Goth

The recently resuscitated and nameless love child of shoegaze and folk rock.

By **HEIDI ORTIZ CANDELARIA**
OPINION COLUMNIST

Though the weather seems to be getting colder here in Tacoma, our hearts are set to thaw out thanks to the celebration of Imbolc (or St. Brigid's Day) this past February 1. This Gaelic-pagan tradition ushers in a time of rebirth, urging us to embrace the coming warmth and plentiful artistic muse. Goddess Brigid is peeking just around the corner for Valentine's Day, and spring is well on its way. Now might be asking yourself, what does this deity jargon have to do with goth? Well dear reader, I encourage you to sit back with a cup of tea, or maybe a cup of coffee, for I'm here to talk about a rising star inside the fashion community. Rooted into the magic of the feminine divine, celestial bodies, folklore and witchcraft: whimsy goth.

Whimsy goth is a unique and recently popularized theme that has many people speculating its background. I've run into several conversations and posts online where a question is often asked. Is whimsy goth actually goth? Well, I'm here to unravel the origins of this movement and determine if it falls under the goth umbrella.

Whimsy goth (also known as Whimsical goth) first came to be around the late 80s and mid-90s, mostly being shown through the love of the occult, witchcraft, and nature. Huge influences of this movement began primordially through goth bands that focused on ethereal undertones, such as Cocteau Twins and This Mortal

Coil, which incorporated glosolalia (speaking in tongues) in many of their songs. The word "whimsical" added to it the music of folk & Celtic rock bands such as Fleetwood Mac and The Cranberries. Those of which also shared each other's dreamlike undertones, and stories of mythical creatures, witches, love, and death.

Burgundy, dark greens, purples, browns and blacks are the most prominent colors incorporated in outfits since these colors have been associated with the above throughout most of history. This also went hand in hand with the members lifestyle, which encouraged maximalism in the living space. Heavy drapes, crystal balls, wrought irons, stained glass, extravagant furniture, taxidermy and lots of plants can be found in the home of any whimsy goth.

This mishmash of genres gave light to the most important aspects of whimsy goth: the use of celestial iconography, the appreciation for life and death in nature, an interest in astrology and the practice of magic. Whimsy goths did not have a set "look" other than their addition of pagan, wiccan and astrological symbols in accessories and makeup, as well as witchy, eclectic home decor.

It was only in 2022 that Whimsy goth was revived, branded and began taking influence from more current art forms and pop culture icons such as: Florence Welch, Stevie Nicks (namely her style and music), the film "Practical Magic" (1998), "The Love Witch" (2016), "Sabrina the Teenage Witch," "The Craft" (1996), "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" (1992) and sev-

eral other films that fell into the same genres.

Due to the resurfacing of the Y2K movement and the monetization of nostalgia for the current most influential generation, Gen Z, '80s and '90s pop culture and media were brought back. Gen Xers and Millennials began recalling their time as participants of certain communities that were never coined and Zoomers decided to go ahead and name them. Whimsy goth was one of those communities.

The beauty of goth is the vast influence through different mediums that it contains. Unlike most people believe, goth is not about the external appearance of the member. Instead, it's a music-based subculture dating back to the early 1980s. This is where it gained more branches as the subculture evolved; welcoming other movements with imagery that challenged societal and gender norms.

Truthfully, as I collected research for this article, I found many facts that clashed with the word "goth" in whimsy goth. Many people who seem to have the loudest voice and most followers communicate it to be an "aesthetic." I'm going to give you all a quick lesson on goth, and that is that goth is NOT an aesthetic. It cannot be, because as we discussed, goth is not a fashion based community. It's a music-based subculture. In other words, what they are conveying is an oxymoron. Pro tip, all you have to do to join the subculture is listen to the music.

So, with this, I came to the



Screen capture of "The Love Witch"

PHOTO BY ANNA BILLER PRODUCTIONS

verdict that whimsy goth is indeed part of the goth umbrella. Why? It was ethereal goth and shoegaze bands that birthed the imagery of a softer kind of goth: the pipeline of romantic goth, medieval goth, fairy goth, hippie goth and now whimsy goth. The difference is that whimsy goth was also greatly influenced by cinema and spiritual movements.

I encourage further debate and talk about this for pre-existing members of the goth communi-

ty! I tried my best to compile as much information. But, this is a recently coined subculture, so my best bet was looking for information through the voices of more experienced goths, as well as my own knowledge. But to those who came here with no previous knowledge, I hope you learned something new today. To those who are interested in goth music, open your Spotify, and listen to Cocteau Twins right now!

Store-bought vs homemade Valentine's Day gifts

Which would you prefer your special someone get you this Valentine's Day?

By CELIA WILLIAMS
OPINION EDITOR

Valentine's Day is another one of those holidays where you rush to get that special someone something that shows how much you care about them in terms of monetary value. With the candy hearts, giant teddy bears and roses aplenty, the true meaning behind the holiday gets lost in a capitalistic mindset many have today. But what about the gifts that don't necessarily come from the store, like a special playlist, a coupon book, or breakfast in bed? The idea of which is better and your own personal preference has been something I've discussed with many friends and family over the holidays.

A store-bought gift can be tricky. Since it's most likely something mass-produced, it has to have some meaning or connection to the receiver. I think that this can be difficult to achieve at times because it's not usually very personal in terms of rarity, yet it has to hold a lot of meaning. To do this, you have to have a very

good connection to the person or somehow make it more personal and unique.

Homemade gifts are automatically very intimate and convey the connection a couple might have. If it's something homemade, you have had to mentally connect whatever it is that you are making to the person you are making it for. This means you have them in mind, which can cause you to make different choices.

With that being said, I think that it really depends on the gift. I guess to put it simply, the gift isn't what matters, but it's the thought. As cheesy as that sounds, I think that it's true. I think many would agree with me too. In a survey done by GoodNews Network, over half of the responses were in favor of homemade gifts for the exact reasons I've stated throughout this article.

All in all, it really doesn't matter that much. We are all doing our best to make it in the crazy world and this is one moment we can stop and celebrate something cute and meaningful.



The choice between store-bought and homemade gifts can be difficult.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEVIE ESTEBAN

This Valentine's Day, prioritize loving yourself

When was the last time you took yourself out on a date?

By RUTH OGDEN
OPINION COLUMNIST

As a holiday, Valentine's Day has always been about love. However, that doesn't mean it has to be about romantic love. Loving others has its place in life, but loving yourself is the best way to actually find happiness.

Self-love is different from self-care. Self-care is taking time to prioritize meeting your physical needs. In contrast, self-love is the emotional process of taking time to appreciate yourself and meet yourself with kindness and compassion. Loving yourself means seeing yourself for the unique and valuable person that you are. It is important to exist within yourself at the moment without altering your appearance or behavior to suit other people.

If you don't already love yourself, start small. Try romanticizing yourself. Develop a crush on your own personality and image and work on appreciating your quirks and nuances.

Catch your own eye when walking by a shop window and smile. Admire the strong arch of your nose and the roundness of your cheeks. How cute is it that you have a cowlick in the middle of your bangs, or that you only use Cherry Coke-fla-

vored chapstick? Your tendency to talk quickly when you're excited about a topic is charming. The fact that you can explain the complex lore behind the elves in "The Lord of the Rings" is actually really cool. Your collection of anime figures is a neat facet of yourself and you should be excited to share it with the world.

After you've developed a bit of a crush, work up your courage and take yourself out on a date.

First, take yourself out to a nice restaurant you've never been to. Be sure to show up well-groomed (after all, this is a first date!) and order an appetizer and a dessert for the table –and stay off your phone too – you're here to make a good impression. Let other people's conversations wash over you, get lost in your own thoughts and people-watch to your heart's content. Resist the urge to feel self-conscious. Being alone in public doesn't mean you're lonely, and other people at crowded tables may wish they were sitting at a table set for one.

On your second date, find a good slow exercise routine you can run through by yourself in your bedroom. Yoga is a good option, but any method works. Run through the stretches slowly in front of a mirror and admire how your body moves. (If you feel shy, lower the lights!) This is a good way to appreciate

your body and all that it does for you. If you can, let go of the part of your mind that looks for imagined 'imperfections.' We are so often fixated on how our body appears that we forget that our body serves a greater purpose other than to be looked at. Your body breathes and moves for you. It houses your mind and spirit. The least we can do is appreciate it for all the hard work it does.

On your third date, plan an intimate evening at home. Set the mood right by ensuring your home space is clean and quiet. On your way home that night, pick up a floral arrangement and some scented candles and arrange them in a way you like. Once you arrive, take a hot shower, change into cozy pajamas and order your favorite takeout. Finally, turn the lights low and put on a comfort movie

(After all, you've had a long day and deserve to be spoiled!). Drift off to sleep in your own loving embrace.

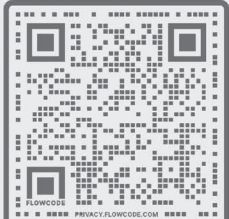
This isn't a "how to love yourself" article, because no one can manually create the chemistry needed for affection: the magic secret ingredient for this to work is for you to let yourself love you. These suggestions are just the roadmap. It's up to you to make the journey.


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PHOTO VIA THRILLIST

Six last-minute ideas for this Valentine's Day

For those who procrastinate to the very last minute or those who just have no clue what to do.

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

Happy Valentine's Day students; a day of love, friendship and whatever the case may be. I'm sure every year there might be a select few who are struggling with making plans, scrambling thoughts of quizzes and stacks of homework taking priority over planning. Lucky for you, I am here to give you a few ideas.

Here are six things to do around the Tacoma area that's sure to make your Valentine's, Galentine's or just "another day" successfully fulfilling.

Escape Rooms

Nothing spells Valentine's Day more than scratching your brain, figuring out ways to escape an unknown area with a person or people you love. That's why my first recommendation would have to be Tacoma's Brainy Actz. The environment

includes multiple activities in different rooms including paint fights, rage rooms, escape rooms, ax-throwing experiences, Nerf wars and more. I know speaking from experience that the paint fights are worth the mess. You can find Brainy Actz located near Freighthouse Square, at 2345 Tacoma Ave S.

Date Night: Lovebirds Sip and Paint

Continuing on with the creative aspect that the day can bring, why not create some mind-blowing art and indulge in wine—the event of course is 21+. At Uncorked Studios in Tacoma, a Valentine's Day Lovebirds painting event will be going on, and the theme is fitting for the day. The event is from 6:45 to 9:30pm. Tickets run for \$88 per couple, so it's better to hurry before they sell out.

Stanford's Steak

If you're in a sweet and savory mood and have a wider budget, the local Stanford's Steak restaurant will be having a Valentine's Day weekend special, 2 for the price of \$195; Tomahawk for two, choices of two sides, delicious dark chocolate cake and more. A little on the pricier end but why not enjoy the day of love with a favorite someone in a contemporary atmosphere, in your best outfit or casual clothes. The dates run from the 11th through the 14th this month.

Stay-in movie date

A great way to play it safe and keep the atmosphere comfortable; a movie marathon that'll call for a quick run to the store for some personalized snacks. Whether this is a girl's night, friendship celebration, or a night with your significant other you can't go wrong with this idea. A quick list of recommendations would be, "Fleabag," "You," "WALL-E," "Scary Movie" films, "Barbarian" or any cheesy Nicholas Sparks film.

Art Gallery

For the art lovers out there, the Tacoma Art Museum has an interesting layout, and just imagine the experience you could have there. The TAM is a great head-scratcher moment for any first date. With an exhibit on Mexican culture that is haunting and bold, and another on locally-made art that is abstract and intriguing, the possibilities are end-

less. What's a good art exhibit without the possibilities of a photo-op, and from what I've seen, many couples love going there for photos. Who knows, maybe you can drop into the arts and crafts area.

Self-Care night

Last on the list, but should always be number one, is a self-care day. For all the introverts, ambiverts and people who just need a break,

kick off your shoes, bring out the face masks and make yourself a warm bubble bath filled with epsom salt. This Valentine's Day it's time to take care of yourself. Unplug yourself from reality and midterms for a day or two and just take a breather. It's important to take care of your mental health, after all.



PHOTO BY KIARRA BLAKELY-RUSSELL

Tacoma Art Museum



PHOTO BY FREEPIK

Self-Care



The controversy and legality of AI art

You might be surprised to hear the shady foundation that AI art programs are built on.

By **COLE MARTIN**
A&E COLUMNIST

There has been a lot of talk in the digital art world revolving around the use and misuse of generative AI tools. Programs such as Midjourney or Stable Diffusion can be a useful tool for artists to use, but it seems there's a large community of users who use these applications to create seemingly original pieces. The controversy that surrounds these programs stems from where they pull their images from, bringing about a slew of copyright and privacy concerns.

The Stable Diffusion app is one of many text-based image generators that uses an online database of photos, images, and artwork to synthesize an image based on what you write. You can put any words in to generate your images, and frequent users of the site have gotten their prompts down to a science. AI artists know what to type in order to get the beautiful art they want, but then using prompts like "in the style of X artist" or "trending on ArtStation" end up directly stealing copyrighted work.

It is important we view AI art from a legal perspective, looking towards copyright and fair use laws. The US copyright office states four main factors of fair use: the purpose of the work and whether or not it's commercial, the nature of the work in regards to creative expression, the amount of the work that's used and whether the work is negatively affected.

We can look to collages and how they've been handled as an excellent comparison. We know that collages need to be something more than a carbon copy, as artists should be held responsible for what they may bring to the table. Visionary artists can't claim originality of their work in a way that harms or takes ownership from used copyrighted art.

It's easy to draw similarities between collage work and AI art in their issues with copyright. There aren't many visionary artists that are trying to sell their artwork, and the pieces they use can often be free-use due to the fact that copyright expires after about 70 years. For AI, the copyrighted work they use is far more current, and these automatic acts of thievery often go completely unnoticed. The value of this com-

parison has not gone unnoticed, as lawsuits have been filed from several companies and artists.

Getty Images, which is one of the most popular royalty-free stock photo websites, is suing the company behind Stable Diffusion for illegally using their copyright-protected images. Along with this, there are plenty of artists whose individual stories and experiences with AI art have caused them to enter the legal battle as well.

Kelly McKernan, an artist who's spent years developing an online presence with her art, has had her work repeatedly used by AI artists since the very start of these programs.

She was quick to voice her disappointment, posting on Instagram that it "feels violating" and that "if artists can't defend the use of their names and artwork, what have we got left?"

McKernan and a few others have gotten together for a class-action lawsuit against Stability AI, Midjourney and DeviantArt for the unethical use and copyright infringement of their respective AI programs.

There's plenty of ways these lawsuits could go; one solution

exploitative grip. We can expect some pushback from the companies involved, and will learn more about the legal specifics as time goes on.



'No AI' banner

'Knock at the Cabin' is a thrilling alternative to romance this season

Sick of Valentine's Day rom-coms? Try this LGBTQ-led thriller instead! Though it's not perfect, it has plenty of mystery, humanity, and love.

By **EMILIA BELL**
FILM CRITIC

In "Knock at the Cabin," a blissful family vacation turns into a nightmare for lovebirds Eric (Jonathan Groff), Andrew (Ben Aldridge) and their young daughter Wen (Kristen Cui). A strange group led by Leonard (portrayed by Dave Bautista) arrives claiming they can prevent the apocalypse and the family begin to fear for their lives. They are told that they must choose one of their own to sacrifice, or the world will end.

The film is directed by M. Night Shyamalan, who is primarily known for films such as "The Sixth Sense" (1999) and more recently, "Split" (2016). Shyamalan is known as a master of tension and mystery through the lens. However, not all of his films have been able to pull off some of his more ambitious or unique ideas. This film, though flawed, has an appropriate amount of these elements balanced with dialogue and setup.

Dave Bautista has been noted as a stand-out with this film, and



"Knock at the Cabin" poster

it is no wonder as to why. In 2022 and 2023, his career has seen new highs. Bautista feels kind-hearted, despite it being unclear whether the family can trust the stranger's outlandish claims. He brings a sense of warmth despite being an intimidating and untrustworthy character, and his genuine charm makes him extremely likable to

watch. Jonathan Groff and Ben Aldridge have great chemistry, while Kristen Cui is lovable and believable as the daughter. The supporting cast, made up of Nikki Amuka-Bird, Abby Quinn and Rupert Grint, add intrigue and layers to the story.

The concept itself is interesting and the movie pulls it off well

enough. Some of the plot was confusing to watch, and at times the mystery was upped to a frustrating degree; but ultimately nothing was left unsatisfying. Shyamalan utilized uneasiness effectively and didn't overcomplicate the story. Some of the elements felt awkward at times, but the film never loses its purpose.

Jarin Blaschke, known for his work on "The Lighthouse" and "The Witch," brings phenomenal cinematography that is a highlight of the film. The colors are vibrant and everything feels crisp and easy on the eye. There were a lot of close-up shots and Dutch angles—a technique where the camera is tilted—that mixed it up and brought a new perspective to the film, particularly in the opening scene.

The film is a surprisingly nice take on humanity and an engaging thought experiment. By the end, it had an exciting climax that was heartfelt and well-acted, though a bit corny at times. Shyamalan did not stray into his overly convoluted or strange storytelling techniques that he has fallen prey to in the past, which was a relief. It's safe to say the film is overall a success.

"Knock at the Cabin" is currently in theaters.

3.5/5



Huskies in the Hallway

Question: How do you feel about Valentine's Day?



Holly Wetzel
Psychology and Bio Med
Senior - She/her

"It's a fun day but definitely a capitalist holiday."



John Parsons
Writing studies
Post Bachelor Junior
He/him

"Personally, I'm glad other people get to celebrate but since I haven't been in a relationship in so long, I can take it or leave it."



Alexis Garcia
Communications
Senior - She/her

"I love Valentine's Day, I really like pink and hearts and I like the whole aesthetic around it."



Michael Shirley
Writing studies
Senior - He/him

"I like Valentine's Day for what it represents to care for your loved ones but I don't like Valentine's Day just because it seems so commercial business with candies and cards."

Tacoma Ledger

Words can be found in any direction (including diagonals) and can overlap each other. Use the word bank below.

V W H I M S I C A L M Y W B Y K Q Q N A
 R R H C F S M A U B P V I I Y L O E V F
 P L A T O N I C R O S E S G L L K C G Y
 M W A O D L Q I A A C R W X Q D G N G T
 I Q A O W N M W T L A J Q K H J I V E Q
 V S T F I G E Q A A A W P B W I T D S F
 A B N Z E I A X D I H G R G E E D H V J
 L H O X P N N H Y T J O I I U Y U O B U
 E A I O O T I J G N U Y M L X K V J W O
 N E T H R I N S R E Z W L E O H H U V Z
 T P C W R M G T Y D R S R P M V Q B B M
 I D E N H A F R C I T W E Y T A E Z Q S
 N K N C O T U A B F Y V S W M N D O R F
 E M N I L E L E T N G I P U O V J E G Y
 M K O T I S I H Y O C N E X D J T Q H D
 J R C N D V X Y N C G T C I F O M K P P
 F U Y A A C C Y S R Q R T O O K W P K J
 K U N M Y A D V O C A T E J V M R K H Z
 Y Y U O W E Y U A K F R I E N D S H I P
 X Q V R P L A Y L I S T T F Z L V P G R

Word Bank

- | | | | |
|--------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. roses | 2. valentine | 3. teddy | 4. gifts |
| 5. homemade | 6. holiday | 7. advocate | 8. romantic |
| 9. love | 10. confidential | 11. hearts | 12. playlist |
| 13. respect | 14. whimsical | 15. friendship | 16. meaningful |
| 17. intimate | 18. connection | 19. platonic | |

The Ledger Weekly Playlist

Be My Valentine



I Hate Valentine's Day



Sad Valentine



Whether you want a playlist for you and your sweetheart, a playlist to scream the day away or one to cry to the Tacoma Ledger has all the music picks you need for the Valentine's Day of your choosing.

Ledger Spotify

