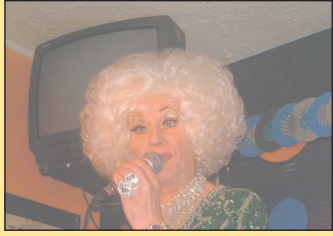




Passport  
Champions  
p. 2



Ban on  
Drag  
p. 4



Lackadaisy  
Pilot  
p. 6

## Weekly Weather

Monday

56/43

Tuesday

60/42

Wednesday

66/46

Thursday

65/48

Friday

73/49

Saturday

71/49

Sunday

66/48



## Upcoming Events

April 26

UWT Denim

Day

William Philip Hall

12 - 3 p.m.

April 29

Dawg Bites

UWT Campus

12 - 5 p.m.

# THE LEDGER

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA

FREE EVERY WEEK VOL. 27 ISS. 28 • APRIL 24-28, 2023 THETACOMALEDGER.COM

## Come and enjoy UWT's first ever Dawg Bites event

Community members are welcome to come and enjoy UWT's first Dawg Bites event that will host a variety of fun and entertainment.

By DESTINY VALENCIA  
NEWS EDITOR

The University of Washington Tacoma campus will be hosting its first ever Dawg Bites event this Saturday, April 29. From 12-5 p.m., students and community members can visit the campus for a fun day of food trucks, games, live performances, prizes and much more.

The event was created out of a desire to showcase not just what the school has to offer for community members seeking a higher education, but the beauty that the campus brings.

"We have a beautiful campus. It's a beautiful downtown campus, it's like a park. And we want more people who live around here to come down and have fun on it," said Stan Emert, the director of the Sports Enterprise Management program.

Emert, who has a history in managing large-scale events, planned Dawg Bites from scratch starting late last summer. While Emert has worked on a lot of organizing and planning, community members and organizers have also had a large part in getting this event off the ground, such as the Downtown Tacoma Partnership, Tacoma Rainiers, VIBE and many more.

Emert expressed their excitement for all the events and food that will fill the campus



Image of Dawg Bites Advertisement

PHOTO BY TAYLOR MERWIN

this Saturday. Dick's Drive-In food truck, Stacks, JustaPiz-zaMyMind, Taco Cortes, Campfire Coffee and a mini Bliss Ice Cream truck will be options visitors can choose from when they attend.

As for the events, there is a large range. From the Lincoln High School marching band, dance teams, live glassblowing demonstrations from the Hill-top Artists, to tours of campus, presentations on Tacoma's historical background as a lumber town, as well as panels on game development and so much more. There really is a little bit of everything for community members to explore at this event.

For those with children, there will be a KidZone that will have games and other

small distractions for children in attendance.

For people who love to explore, they can partake in a scavenger hunt that will allow participants to explore the school some more while collecting Dawg Paw stamps for a passport. With a fully completed passport, individuals can take a chance to spin the "Wheel of Fortune" and win some Husky swag.

Dubs the Husky will be making a special appearance around 2 p.m., and individuals can take a picture with Dubs for a limited time as the dog permits.

Jai'Shon Berry, ASUWT's current President will be kicking off the event with a few words before the emcee of the event takes over.

Not only will this be a fun event for students, but for community members and prospective students who can learn more about scholarships and other academic programs.

"We're really proud of our campus and we want everybody to enjoy it, particularly today's students, you guys are just coming to have a good time," said Emert.

If you have any questions about Dawg Bites, you can email Stan Emert at semert@uw.edu

You can follow the event page and find out updates here: [https://www.facebook.com/events/558623159454002?active\\_tab=about](https://www.facebook.com/events/558623159454002?active_tab=about)



PHOTO BY STAN EMERT AND KATHY ADOLPHSEN

# UWT introduces the new Passport Champions Program

New UWT program supports former foster youth and unaccompanied minors who are experiencing homelessness.



Student wearing graduation cap and gown. PHOTO BY KATIE SCOTT

By **KATIE SCOTT**  
NEWS REPORTER

The University of Washington Tacoma campus has begun a new program to meet

the specific needs of current UWT students who have experienced the foster care system or are unaccompanied youth currently experiencing homelessness while attending UWT.

The Passport Champions Program, started in Autumn 2022, aims to provide focused support for participants, making it easier to complete their post-secondary education and go on to thrive in their chosen careers.

The National Foster Youth Institute reports college graduation rates for former foster youth in the US are less than 10 percent. Studies have shown that only 3-4% of former foster youth in the US obtain a four-year college degree, and between 2-6% have received a two-year degree.

The National Foster Youth Institute attributes these low graduation rates to a lack of resources, support, mentorship, financial assistance, stability and guidance for youth when navigating higher education systems. In an effort to thwart these statistics, UWT implemented the Passport Champions Program to support these unmet needs for program participants.

Meraf Geberehiwot, UWT Passport Champions Program Advisor, discussed how the UWT Passport Champions Program has seen many former foster youth thrive in the short amount of time it has been running at UWT.

The program, a service under the Passport to Careers program, provides financial, academic and housing support as well as counseling, mentorship and on-campus activities and events. The Passport Champions Program cultivates network and resource alloca-

tion opportunities for program participants, while providing other needs-based services.

Geberehiwot, having prior experience working with youth at Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, says he is inspired by program participants because he sees them thrive and flourish, despite the challenges they have had to overcome. Geberehiwot stressed the importance of growing a strong and sustainable program for UWT students that is centered around providing support and community to boost students' success.

"A question I revisit is 'once they're here, how do we have the supports in place to where the students are retained, and therefore succeed?'" Geberehiwot said, "A supported student is a retained student."

To build an environment that supports student success, in addition to one-on-one appointments and other programming options, Geberehiwot is currently developing student volunteer positions. These roles will offer Champions Program students an opportunity to volunteer with the program while gaining work experience on campus.

The Passport Champions Program offers drop-in hours on Thursdays from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.. Drop-in hours offer participants a space to build community, enjoy snacks and drinks, play games and receive support with homework, applications, and other program service needs. Geberehiwot says providing

support in several different capacities is the best way to help students succeed.

"Working in higher education, from a student support perspective, (Passport Champions Program students) are here because they are trying to grow. Growth is the end game... Honoring that inherent hope and the inherent resilience (of Passport Champions Program students) is important because they are in the pursuit of achievement. That's why it's so vital that somebody is here (at UWT) to be a point person, a pillar of support for these students," Geberehiwot says.

If you are a UWT student who has been involved in the foster care system at any point in your life or are under the age of 22 and are currently experiencing homelessness as an unaccompanied youth while attending UWT, contact Meraf Geberehiwot at [merafg@uw.edu](mailto:merafg@uw.edu)

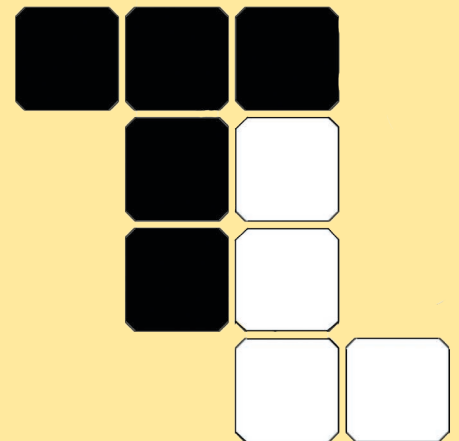
To learn more about the UWT Passport Champions Program visit the program website at <https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/d7/uwt/student-life/passport-champions>

The Passport Champions Program is sponsored by the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC).

## ADVERTISE WITH US!

Our print papers and email newsletters together reach thousands of students weekly!

- Print & Email Newsletter options all in color
- Low rates for on-campus advertisers
- Quarter, half & full page options with print

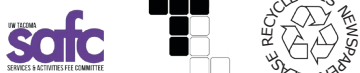


### The Ledger

UWT's weekly student publication  
April 24, 2023 | Vol. 27, Issue 28

- [thetacomaledger.com](http://thetacomaledger.com)
- [facebook.com/uwtledger](https://facebook.com/uwtledger)
- [@uwtledger](https://twitter.com/uwtledger)
- [@uwtledger](https://instagram.com/uwtledger)

**Office Hours:**  
**Monday** 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
**Tuesday** 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
**Wednesday** 12:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
**Thursday** 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
**Friday** 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.



**Office:** MAT 151  
**Phone:** 253-692-4428  
**Email:** [ledger@uw.edu](mailto:ledger@uw.edu)

### Staff Writers

News Reporter.....Katie Scott  
 Opinion Columnist.....Ruth Ogden  
 Opinion Columnist.....Heidi Ortiz  
 A&E Columnist.....Cole Martin  
 A&E Columnist.....Steph Caronna  
 Film Critic.....Emilia Bell

### Editors

Editor-in-Chief .....Madeline Hiller  
 Managing Editor .....Josephine Trueblood  
 News Editor .....Destiny Valencia  
 Opinion Editor .....Celia Williams  
 A&E Editor.....Emilia Bell

### Managers

Web Manager.....Andrew Anderson  
 Layout Manager.....Andrew Anderson  
 Ad Manager.....Shivakshi Singh

### Art

Illustrator .....Stevie Esteban  
 Photographer.....Alexa Christie

### Design

Page Designer.....Anuvir Dhaliwal  
 Page Designer.....Lesley McLam

### Advisor

Publications Manager.....Daniel Nash

# The Early 2000s are back

New Gen's have finally healed their inner children and revived the nostalgia in glitzy glamour Y2K, emo & scene.

By HEIDI ORTIZ CANDELARIA  
OPINION COLUMNIST

From the moment social media was invented, it became the most popular method of communication and freedom of expression. It allowed people from all over the world to connect and learn about different cultures, lifestyles and beliefs. But even then, no one could have anticipated the unique and ever-expanding inspiration that the internet and pop culture could have on fashion.

Internet and pop culture are the two most important components that make up the Y2K style: the excitement of entering an entirely new age, the 2000s, and the popularization of femininity and glamour. More specifically, women were now idolized for engaging in self-care for their own sake and not for the male gaze. We saw pop royalty, like The Spice Girls, pioneering hyper-femme aesthetics that are still relevant today. Shortly after, Britney Spears and Paris Hilton also became the faces of this movement, adding the glitz and diva attitude that swept up a whole generation of teens.

Y2K fashion has branched out throughout the years, but the core style is comprised of a few iconic elements, such as wearing all shades of pink, scrunchies, sparkly lip glosses, velour tracksuits, bedazzled phone covers, low-rise jeans, chunky sandals and crop tops. Most of these spurred from the celebrities listed above but also took inspiration from coming-of-age movies such as "Clueless," "Mean Girls," "Jawbreaker" and "Legally Blonde." Later on, Disney added itself to the mix by creating series heavily dependent on the aesthetic, some of these being "Hannah Montana," "Lizzie McGuire" and "That's So Raven."

It was also around this time that new social media sites were created, with the most influential pair being MySpace and Facebook. This was actually the peak of Y2K, for these websites allowed users to create art and allow them to customize their pages exactly as they wished to (forever missing the feature on MySpace that allowed you to add your favorite song to your page so that whenever someone opened it, it would play in the background).

A certain community failed to relate to the original Y2K though, as internet culture also allowed for much negativity to flood through one who was deemed "different" was alienated, and for many teenagers at this time, bullied.

Looking for escapism and perhaps some reprieve from the communities that rejected them, they explored cultures from the opposite side of the world. This is where that prevalent Western community found solace in anime and cartoons from popular channels such as Cartoon Network and Nickelodeon.

In the arts, music-based cultures took inspiration from '90s trends such as punk and alternative. Bands began a new music genre, using the medium to vent about the superficiality in mainstream Y2K, dealing with

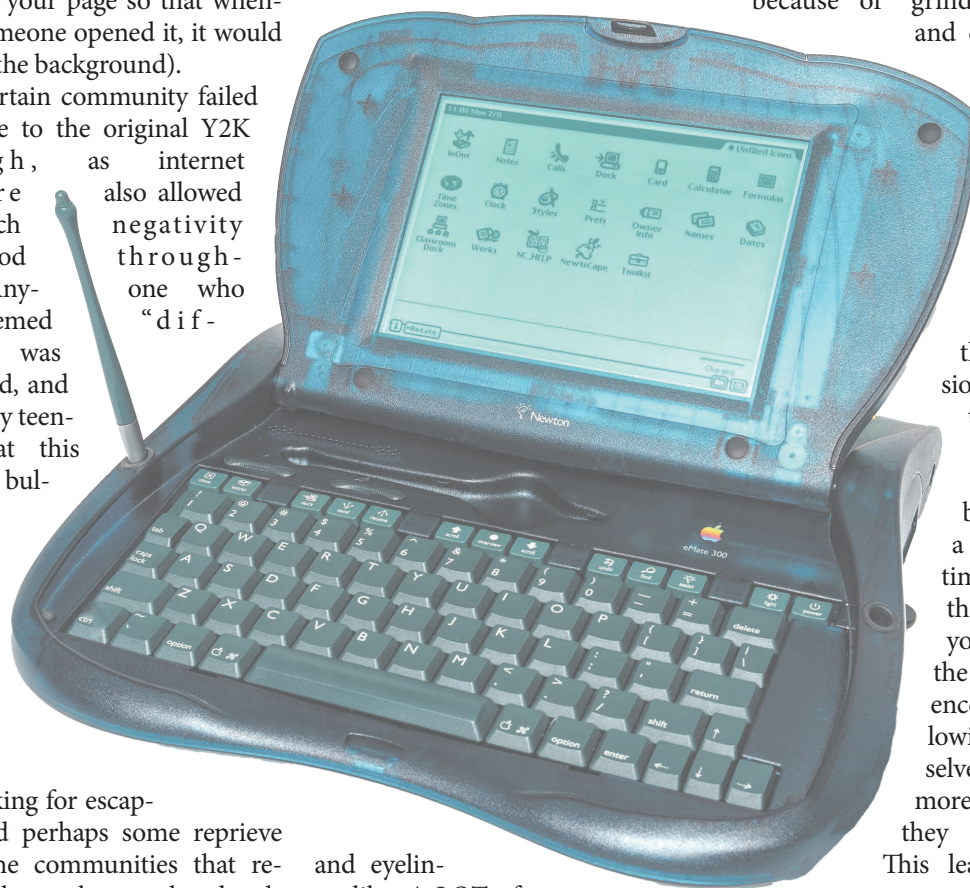
social ostracization and battling mental illnesses. Thus, emo and scene were born. Through MySpace, YouTube, newly formed rock bands, and the iconic Hot Topic, emo and scene culture flourished. It was all skinny jeans, worn Sharpie-doodled converse, razor-shaven and brightly dyed hair streaks, fishnet gloves, kandi bracelets, nightcore song covers

jumped on the bandwagon and brought back some prominent icons of the Y2K childhood, such as the new Barbie movie, the new Bratz dolls that have grown with their audience and makeup companies selling nostalgic cartoon-themed sets such as the Lizzie McGuire-themed eyeshadow palettes. The overwhelming amount of stress and anxieties because of "grind" culture and capitalism

taken to accepting themselves and others around them and being more vocal in social justice movements, especially those involving queer folk and POC, acknowledging the influence that black and trans women have had towards the aesthetics behind each Y2K community.

I was personally so excited to see this resurgence. Many other movements have been recently popularized as well, but emo and scene really struck a chord with me. I also used to be a baby emo back in middle school, as it was the closest I could get to being goth while living in a strict household. Being bullied and never being able to fit in, I genuinely felt alone for the longest time. Thinking back, it genuinely was such a horrible time for me. But discovering anime, video games and emo bands gave me a safe space where I could be vulnerable and honest in a way that I never was on the outside. This is where I began experimenting with makeup and wearing black, and even though deep down I wanted to evolve into a goth. I was still content with the new hobbies I'd found. Now, I'm 23 years old and finally able to dress exactly how I want to. I look back on that young girl who hid and kept quiet and dreamed about looking exactly how I do now. That girl is now happy, and I can now enjoy the same things she did without any shame.

"I don't care. We'll carry on."  
-Gerard Way, My Chemical Romance



and eyeliner; like, A LOT of eyeliner. And let us never forget the internet slang singlehandedly created by all these angsty teens (I was one of them) : RAWR XD

Now, nearly 15 years after its original creation, Y2K, emo and scene have made a total comeback. The 2020s brought forth a new age of appreciation for nostalgia; finding comfort in a time that millennials and Zoomers didn't know was pleasant. Pop culture has also

and scene since these cultures revolved heavily around not being able to fit in; coping mechanisms to deal with the outside world and attempt to love themselves for their differences.

The Y2K revival has become a more welcoming community, acknowledging the damage in glorifying celebrities and choosing to stay ignorant in an ever-expanding world. Both pink-glamour Y2K and alternative Y2K have

## SUBMIT YOUR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

- Your first and last name
- "Dear Editor," as the opening of your piece
- Respond to one of our articles or happenings on campus in 300 - 500 words

Send your letters to: [LEDGER@UW.EDU](mailto:LEDGER@UW.EDU)

Do you want to voice your issues of concern related to news, politics, campus issues and more? Then we invite you to write a Letter to the Editor. Letters submitted to the Ledger may be published through both [TheTacomaLedger.com](http://TheTacomaLedger.com) and our print edition.



# The ban on drag

They don't care about safety or protecting people, only control.

By CELIA WILLIAMS  
OPINION EDITOR

These last few years have been nothing short of overwhelming. Something new has been restricted or reviewed every week, except for what really needs to be. Recently, drag performers have been under attack by the United States Government and conservative ideology.

For reference, the Oxford English Dictionary defines a drag performer as someone who adopts a flamboyant or parodic feminine persona, with glamorous or exaggerated costumes and makeup. However, this is not how it is interpreted in the bills being passed. Instead drag performers are seen as anyone not dressing for their assigned gender.

The disdain for drag and the queer community has come from a largely conservative population, many of whom are religious. That same population has made up lies about the drag and queer community. Today, drag performances have been made illegal in certain states like Tennessee and Florida. The bills regulating this are not only targeting drag, but those that are transgender. This has opened the door for more bills to be passed against the LGBTQIA+ community.

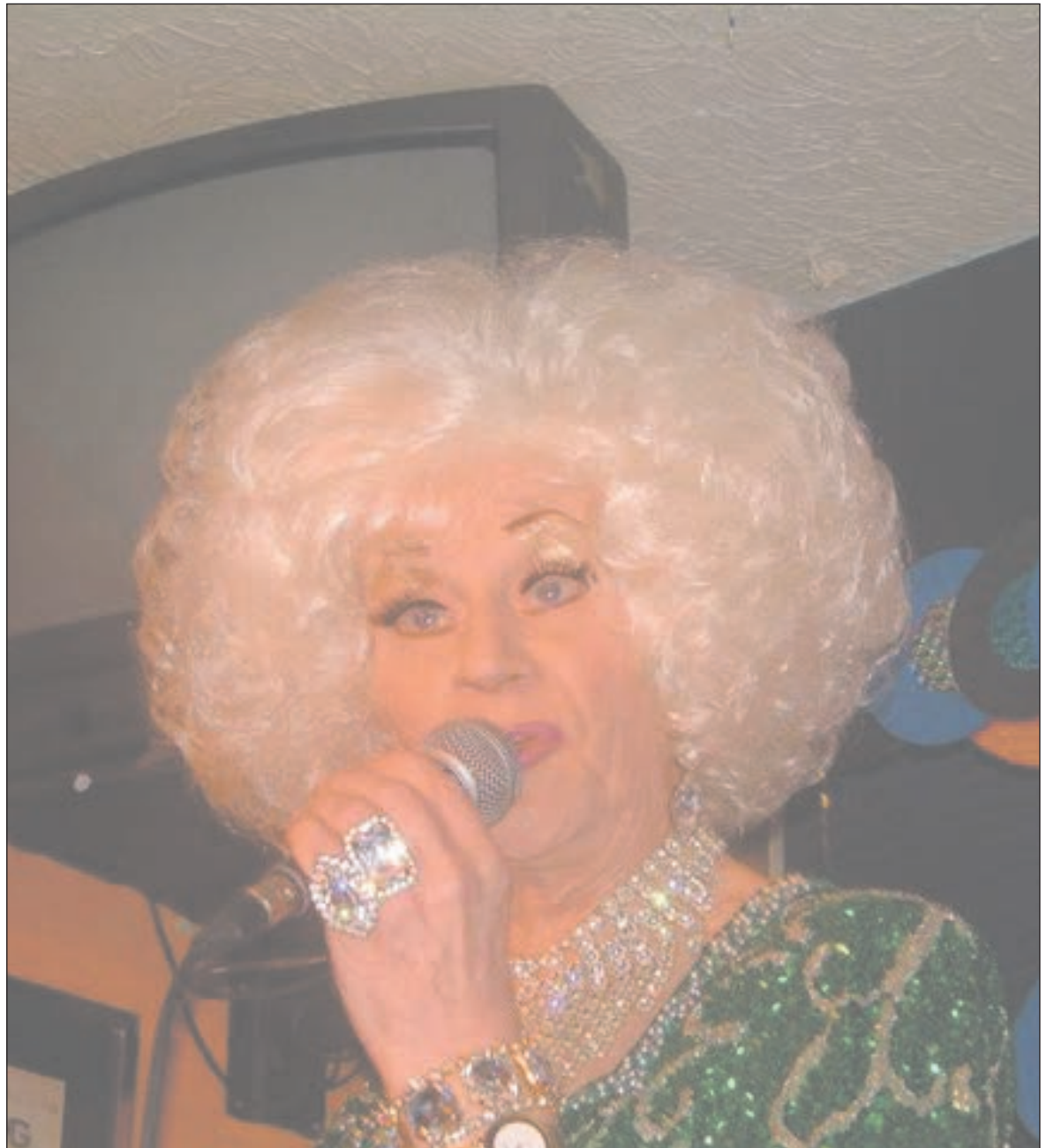
A recent NPR article, "The anti-drag bills sweeping the U.S. are straight from history's playbook", highlighted that the anti-drag bills being passed not only limit drag shows but also include \$2,500 fines and possible jail time for offenders. One bill in question, the Tennessee Senate Bill 3, also included shocking anti-transgender and gender-affirming legislation to

not only target drag performers, but the transgender community as well. Why is it we care more about forcing our own "lifestyle" and beliefs on everyone rather than protecting the lives that are being lost every day?

Children are some of the most vulnerable and influential people. They are also very resilient and can overcome a lot. Drag performances often have themes and they tend to want to spread a message of positivity, like a children's book reading. Any show that is not meant for children tends to be age-restricted. Drag and the LGBTQIA+ community has always been very accepting of self-expression and being authentic to yourself. Yet, many are still very against drag performances for whatever reason.

These bills being passed are just another example of the continued blending of church and state here in the U.S. While there are no inherent risks to a child being read to by a drag queen or just being aware of drag, many seem to have issues with it. In response to these acts, many have taken to TikTok and other social media platforms. They point out that while there had never been a recorded case of any abuse at reading with a drag queen, yet countless had experienced abuse at the hands of the churches and during mass shootings in schools.

It is very clear that the U.S. Government cares more about religion, and to a larger extent, control, rather than what actually impacts our every day. This has been shown in many other actions the U.S. government has taken. This includes a number of things, specifically the bills that have been passed and cases that



The World-famous Darcelle..

PHOTO BY PHIL STARR GREEN VIA FLIKR

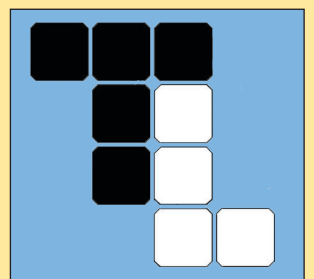
have been overturned in recent years. School and mass shootings have become increasingly more common and dangerous. We continue to do nothing about them, only sending "thoughts and prayers," a ban on Harry Potter and other books, and of course a ban on drag per-

formance and culture.

The U.S. is in a very critical position right now. We are at a crossroad where one of two things could happen. Either, we fall into a fascist regime that targets minorities, or change is made to make it safe for everyone to be able to live their lives

without fear of discrimination. I for one am tired of the constant discrimination and lack of concern for public safety, while changes are being made in the wrong places.

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



students are automatically subscribed  
newsletters go straight to email  
contain EPUB and PDF issues

visit  
[thetacomaledger.com](http://thetacomaledger.com)

# All genres for all ages at Real Art Tacoma's Little Fest

This South Tacoma all-ages venue hosts live music of all genres as well as community events, including the upcoming Little Fest.



PHOTO BY KEVIN O. @AYO4KO

A full house enjoying an energetic show at Real Art Tacoma.

By **STEPH CARONNA**  
OPINION WRITER

For music lovers of any genre, nothing beats the energy and catharsis of a live show. I grew up going to all-ages shows with my parents, siblings and friends, which led to countless unforgettable experiences. However, when I was eighteen years old and first moved to the Pacific Northwest, I found it much more difficult to find shows that I could attend. Most bands I loved were booked at bar venues that didn't allow entry to anyone under twenty-one.

Though I'm a few years beyond age restrictions being an issue for me, I remember those feelings of disappointment all too well. That's why I still feel the drive to support all-ages venues whenever possible. Anyone who feels the same way should check out Real Art Tacoma, a venue in the heart of South Tacoma dedicated to all-ages shows of all genres.

Their upcoming event, Little Fest, is the perfect opportunity to see what Real Art has to offer. The festival, taking place this weekend, April 29 and 30, will double as a showcase of local music talent and a fundraiser to help keep the non-profit venue afloat.

When I went to the venue to speak to Daniel Rounds, Real Art's non-profit coordinator, it was a bustling Wednesday evening. In the performance area, tables and chairs had been set up and filled by enthusiastic Dungeons and Dragons players. In the attached Beyond Thunderdome Cafe, a group of artists were hosting their

weekly meetup.

"Real Art is for teens and youth to build their scene and have their own space that is there for them," said Daniel, "We want people to express themselves the way they want to be expressed, and do it in a safe environment that doesn't have the risk of other things."

Daniel refers to the fact that Real Art Tacoma is a drug-free space. While beer can be purchased in the neighboring cafe, it cannot be brought past a small fenced-in area at the back of the venue (dubbed the "beer garden"). This policy helps to encourage safe consumption practices while keeping the main portion of the venue a sober space.

Real Art is also dedicated to the well-being of its patrons through its safer space and anti-discrimination policies. As stated on their website, "We aim to be a safer and inclusive space which means we do not tolerate things including but not limited to harmful, violent, assault (sexual or otherwise) racist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic, size-ist speech, behaviors or actions."

It's clear that the proprietors of the non-profit, volunteer-run venue are passionate not just about all-ages live shows, but community events of all kinds. Every Tuesday the venue features a rotation of all-ages events meant to bring people together through music: karaoke on the first Tuesday of the month, an open mic on the second, Rock Band (yes, the video game) on stage on the third and volunteer meetings on the fourth.

As a non-profit, it is the zeal

and commitment of community members volunteering their time that keeps these events up and running. Daniel and company work hard in their free time to ensure that bands, show managers and sound engineers are paid fairly for every show played. In order to meet that goal, they organize monthly fundraisers on their Facebook page. But these alone aren't enough to keep the venue going.

That's where Little Fest comes in. The lineup is stacked with local artists of a variety of genres, from the pop punk stylings of Goodbye Viking to the circus-inspired electropop of Nightmayor. If you're looking for energetic alternative rock, come for Stargazy Pie. Fans of singer-songwriter indie pop should check out Zari Alexandria's set. The intention is to bring

together Tacoma's music-loving community, all while raising money to help Real Art continue to flourish.

"This is mostly just to keep everything fixed and updated and running," Daniel said of Little Fest, "We're working on other programs as well."

The Real Art team is interested in expanding the scope of the venue's events. They already have a few community members offering to share their skills by teaching pay-what-you-can classes.

"We're gonna soon be starting classes where it's teaching about music industry stuff," said Daniel, "I wanna try to bring in theatrical acts at least for a small [weekend] run."

The hope is that the venue will be able to support arts events and classes of all kinds, not just mu-

sic-related. The folks running Real Art are encouraging of anyone and everyone getting involved, and sharing their ideas and skills with the community.

For anyone who understands the importance of access to live music, the value of venues like Real Art Tacoma cannot be understated. Music provides us with escape from the hardships of everyday life, and experiencing great music live compounds that benefit exponentially. People who are under 21 (and over as well) deserve a safe space to have those experiences.

Lineup information and links to purchase tickets for Little Fest can be found at [realarttacoma.com](http://realarttacoma.com). Those who are interested in getting involved with Real Art Tacoma can also fill out a volunteer form on the website.



PHOTO BY KEVIN O. @AYO4KO

A crowd eagerly awaiting the start of one of Real Art's many all-ages shows.



Screenshot from "LACKADAISSY (Pilot)."

PHOTO BY IRON CIRCUS ANIMATION

## Review: A purrfect storm of chaos in new indie animation 'Lackadaisy'

Chaos-causing criminal cats have created some commotion in the indie animation scene.



Screenshot from "LACKADAISSY (Pilot)."

PHOTO BY IRON CIRCUS ANIMATION

By **COLE MARTIN**  
A&E WRITER

It's not often that we see small indie films really gather the same kind of attention that blockbusters do, but "Lackadaisy," a 30-minute animation perfectly described by the creator as "1920's gangster cats," has been soaking in the lime-light since its debut. The 30-minute pilot has garnered nearly 7 million views within the first two weeks of its release, securing it a snug spot in the hall of fame of indie YouTube animations.

So, what is "Lackadaisy" all about? To say it in short; it's about cats, guns, and alcohol. Set in St. Louis during the prohibition era, we follow Rocky, Ivy and Freckle, our cast of criminals who all play the risky game of finding and retrieving beverages for the Lackadaisy speakeasy, a shady underground bar. The group encounters some less-than-friendly opposition from rivals in their alcohol-obtaining escapade, resulting in an action-packed shootout that eventually leads to wrecked vehicles and lots of dynamite.

There's actually quite a long history behind these cat-like characters; "Lackadaisy" has been an independent webcomic since 2006, created by artist Tracy Butler. Butler had many interests and inspirations for the setting of "Lackadaisy," with extensive research on 1920's fashion, crime and history. Butler also drew a lot of cats in her younger days, which influenced the anthropomorphic feline characters we see in the series today.

"In our everyday mythos, cats effortlessly walk a narrow line between villainy and charm – a talent you might find in the flashy gangsters of yore and, likewise, the types of characters who inhabit the underworld of Lackadaisy. As such, felines seemed a

natural fit," said Butler.

Butler had the idea of an animation in her head for a while, too. The stars finally aligned in April of 2020, when publisher Iron Circus Comics opened an animation branch and offered to help create the Lackadaisy pilot.

"It's a bit surreal, honestly. I've dreamed of working on a traditionally animated film since I was a wee artling of maybe 10 or 11 years old. Now, I not only get to do that, but I'm animating my own long-time labor of love, Lackadaisy. I've definitely wandered into dream-come-true territory here," said Butler.

The style of the characters and animation itself are definitely some of the most noteworthy things in the short film. The body and face expressions are exaggerated and lively, expertly playing off the personality of each individual character. Looking closely, you can also see artifacts of rough sketches and construction lines, which is a detail that is 100% intentional.

"Draftsmanship is a core component of hand-drawn animation, but it's impossible (and sometimes unwarranted) to excise the 'flaws' that make that hand obvious. Rather than hiding it, I embraced it," said Fable Siegel, the director for the film. "That's the distinction between hand-drawn and any other animated medium, cousin to the approach in stop motion where thumbprints and fabric ripples are retained."

After receiving \$330,000 from a successful Kickstarter campaign, and work from over 160 artists around the globe, the "Lackadaisy" animation is truly a testament to both the artist's and fans' passion for the series. If you'd like to watch the film yourself, you can find it completely free at @LackadaisyComic on YouTube.

# Review: 'Renfield' brings the violence and the laughs

Chaos-causing criminal cats have created some commotion in the indie animation scene.

By **EMILIA BELL**  
A&E EDITOR

"Renfield," directed by Chris McKay, follows Dracula's pitiful familiar Renfield, who must do his bidding. Renfield begins to tire of Dracula's demands, and in the present day, he seeks out help from a narcissistic partner support group. However, things begin to take a turn for the worse when Dracula's orders become hard to ignore and a New Orleans crime family is suddenly after him too. Renfield must defend his new life— and his new friends— with the help from a cop who wants to take down the crime family.

The plot is thin and the idea is not particularly original. There are ample plot holes you can sink your teeth into. After the film, my fiance and I joked about some of the plot holes and questioned why some things were included, but the ultimate takeaway was that the movie was a good time. It occasionally references the old black and white Dracula film that starred Bela Lugosi, and the homage feels genuine rather than cheap.

The villains are hilarious and so hammy that it never stops being entertaining. Shohreh Aghdashloo as the intimidating crime boss is smooth and chilling. Ben Schwartz, playing her naive and puffed-up son, is funny and obnoxious in the best way. He tends to always play a variation of the same egotistical maniac, but it works.

Now, of course, the main draw of the film is Nicolas Cage. The choice to cast him as Dracula is ridiculous and genius. He fully commits to the goofiness of the role, and his performance is what drives the film. He is never taking himself seriously, and it adds to the overall tone of the movie. Cage is clearly having fun in his bedazzled black suits and capes, and it makes the movie more fun as a result— though he does have moments where he struggles to speak through his pointy teeth.

Nicolas Hoult is charming and sweet as the anti-hero, though it seems he may be stuck in this type of role ("Warm Bodies" was a very similar situation for him). Hoult deserves to

break out of this archetype he's found himself in, but it's understandable why he was chosen. Renfield needed to be a sympathetic and likable character. Awkwafina as Renfield's new-found cop friend is a tad awkward, and perhaps slightly miscast for a mundane part like this, but it isn't distracting.

The film is cartoonishly gory and the violence is often creative, which helped keep it interesting. It likely would have fallen flat had it been cut down to a PG-13 rating. Funnily enough, while the violence is outrageous, the characters get very little blood on them throughout.

"Renfield" is not some incredibly unique, revolutionary film. It has some cliché moments and it verges on having too many quips. But, the audience was engaged the whole time, reacting happily to jokes and gore.

3.5/5

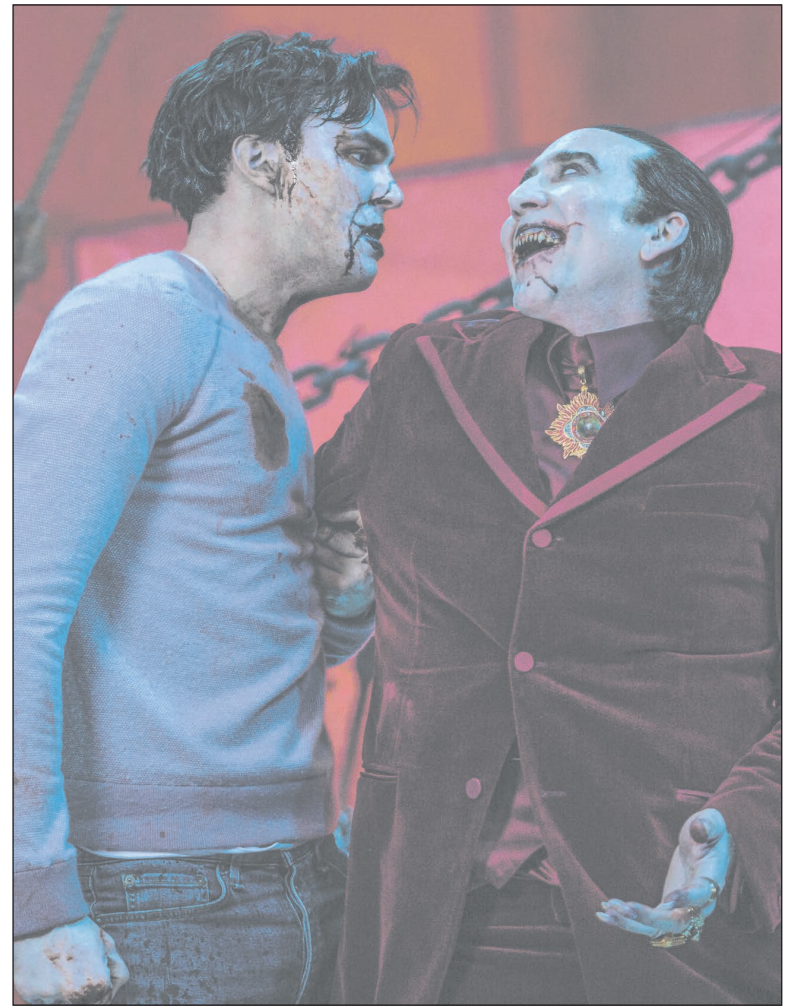


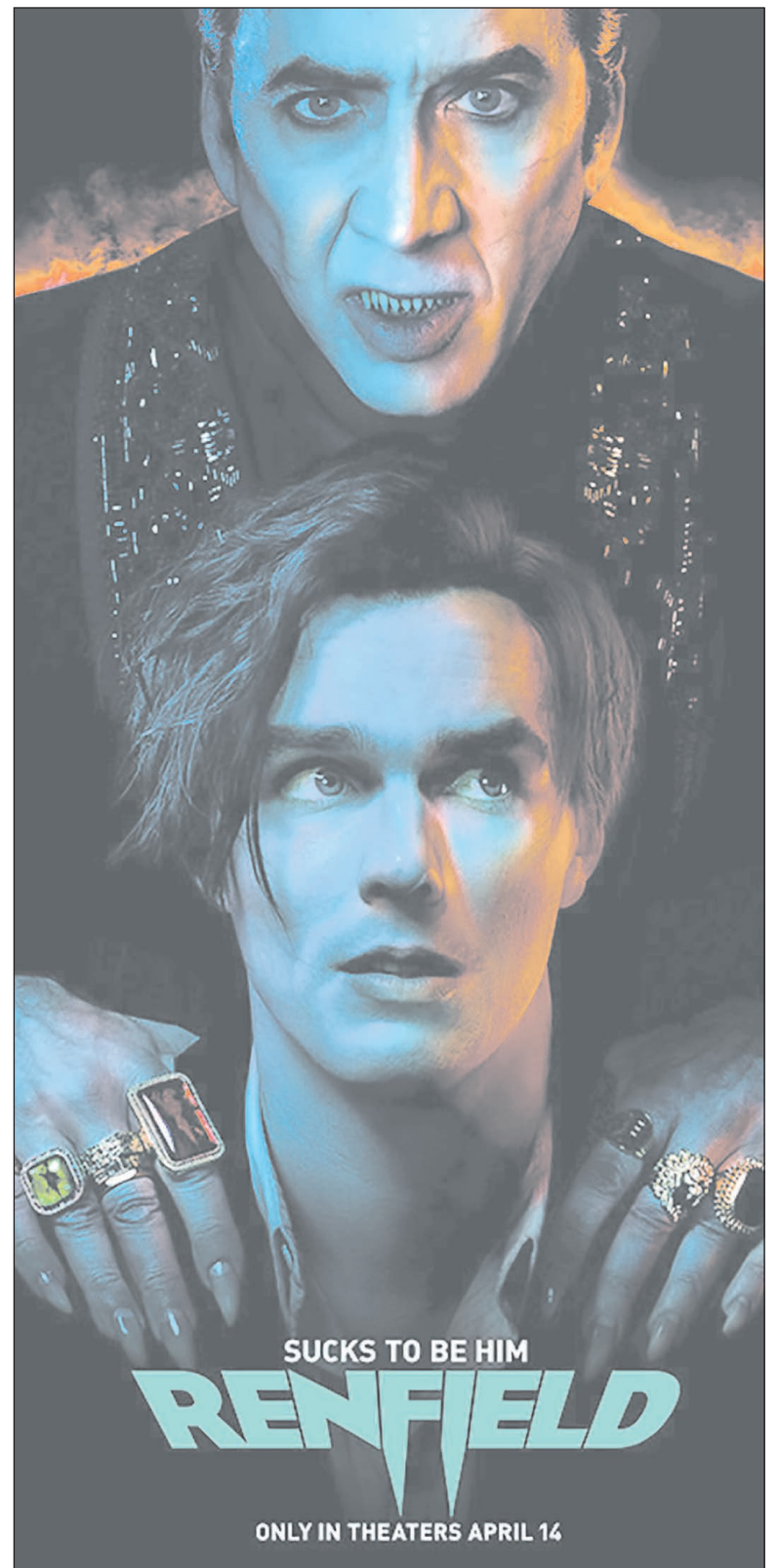
PHOTO BY UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Nicholas Hoult and Nicolas Cage in "Renfield."



PHOTO BY UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Nicolas Cage as Dracula in "Renfield."



POSTER BY UNIVERSAL PICTURES

"Renfield" poster.

# The Ledger Coloring Corner

Send in fully colored coloring page art and have a chance to see them in print and on our website! Completed pages can be scanned or photographed and submitted to ledger@uw.edu or through the Contact Us form on thetacomaledger.com.  
 Include: First and Last Name, Email, and your Major.  
 We can't wait to see your artwork and hope you have a fun time coloring!

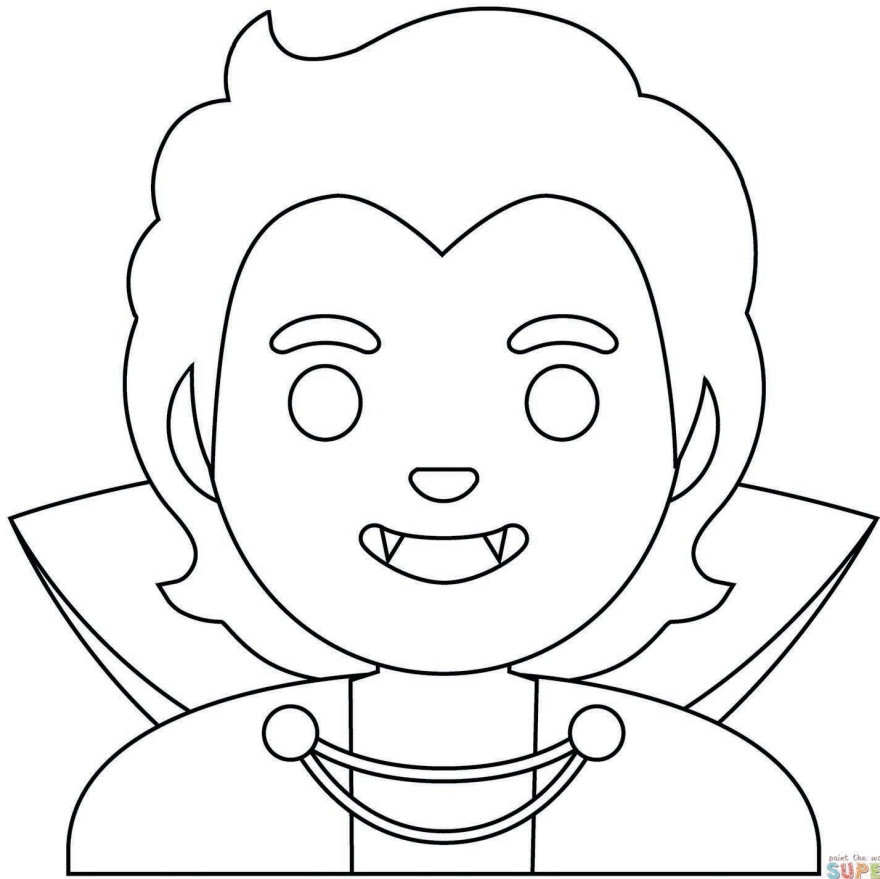


ILLUSTRATION VIA SUPERCOLORING



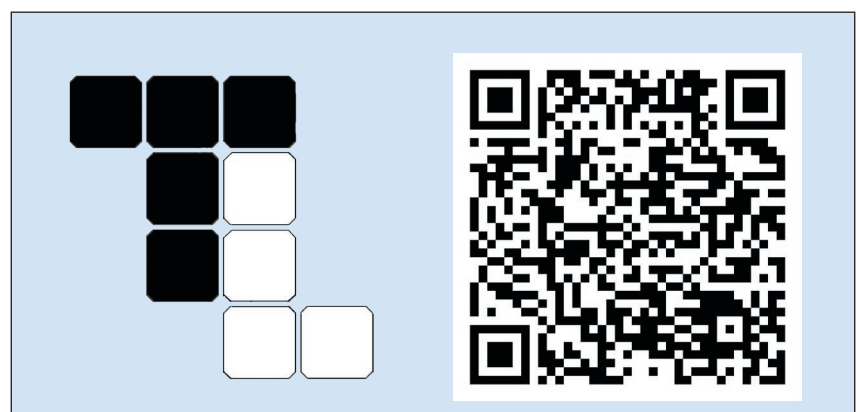
ILLUSTRATION VIA SUPERCOLORING

## The Tacoma Ledger Weekly Playlist

Neutral, Soft Indie



## Ledger Profile



#	Title	Album	
1	<b>Seaforth</b> King Krule	Seaforth	4:06
2	<b>Cupids Trick</b> Elliott Smith	Either/Or	3:05
3	<b>Unrecovery</b> Duster	Contemporary Movement	3:34
4	<b>Haldern</b> Black Country, New Road	Ants From Up There	5:05
5	<b>Bullet Proof ... I Wish I Was</b> Radiohead	The Bends	3:29
6	<b>Here She Comes</b> Slowdive	Souvlaki	2:18
7	<b>For Dinner...</b> Slint	Spiderland	5:06
8	<b>Pennies - Remastered 2012</b> The Smashing Pumpkins	Mellon Collie And The Infinite Sadne...	2:30