

Ledger Senior Farewells
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Pro Life Conference
p. 4



Commencement Names
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Academic Calendar

June 2

Last Day of Instruction



June 3-9

Finals Week

June 9

Commencement

June 14

Grades Available

Upcoming Events

June 1

Graduating Senior Photos @ W Steel "W" on Jefferson Avenue & S. 19th Street - 11 a.m.

June 5

Breakfast Finals
Mattress Factory
Dawg House - 9 a.m.

**Commencement will be held at Tacoma Dome, 2727 E. D Street, Tacoma, WA*

THE LEDGER

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA

FREE EVERY WEEK VOL. 27 ISS. 33 • GRADUATION 2023 THETACOMALEDGER.COM

CONGRATULATIONS HUSKY GRADUATES



The 2023 graduating seniors of the Ledger

The Tacoma Ledger says goodbye to our seniors after their quarters of dedicated work.



Madeline Hiller
Editor-in-Chief



few days, which means that my time writing for The Ledger and serving as the 2022-2023 News Editor is coming to an end. My time writing is running short and every word I write approaches my last. I am grateful for the time I got to work with such a fun crew and write about amazing and interesting individuals here and around Tacoma and the UWT campus. Writing for The Ledger started off my career into journalism and I got to work with amazing students trying to improve the lives of its current student body, discussed art with artists from all over the country, and covered local events and topics that were relevant to my community here in the City of Destiny.

I would like to thank all my coworkers here at The Ledger, from Andrew our layout manager who always jazzes up our paper, Alexa for working alongside me on the grueling Huskies in the Hallway, Madeline and Josie our fearless leaders, to Katie for being the fun mom of the office. Thank you to Daniel Nash, our Student Publications advisor, for working with me even at times when I felt unsure of myself and the work I do. I am sorry I am not mentioning everyone, but I could write about you all forever. And lastly, thank you to all my readers who spent the time reading the work we have all created.

My time at The Ledger has been fantastic and transformative. I am a storyteller, always have been and always will be. Working for The Ledger has given me a platform to share my work with the world and tell the stories of others. I felt that my work has been purposeful, insightful, and important to my community. Now time for the next chapter, as this won't be the last.

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Kiarra Blakely-Russell
Former A&E Editor

My time at The Ledger was quite interesting... as a senior, I learned a lot in such a short time. I learned how to challenge myself and not stick to the status quo, but to keep within required routine. I also learned to set boundaries' and be firm on what I felt was right and become confident in my abilities as the editor for the A&E section— Learning others writing style and working with them, came easy for some, as we were able to create



For Ella. It's been a jam-packed four years with The Ledger, so I will try not to overthink this. I hated writing. If you had asked me ten years ago if I would ever have a job involving any writing, I would have laughed and probably cried. In high school, I helped start a journalism program, and we took a field trip to UWT to see how a college newspaper was run. I was given a phone number to call once I was enrolled with the school, and before I had even started classes, I had an on-campus job.

The Ledger has helped me through more than I can ever say, and I have grown immensely in these four years. I started as a news writer, which proved intense once COVID hit. After months of writing about a pandemic, I became a section editor for Arts & Entertainment for my second year. I have been Editor-in-Chief for my junior and senior years here at UWT.

Across all those positions, I learned how to communicate efficiently, written and verbally, manage a team and connect with people on various levels. I used to be so quiet and introverted, and now I run weekly meetings, which I never imagined I'd be able to do.

In more ways than one, The Ledger has kept me going. This team gave me something to wake up for, and they helped me through thick and thin, even if they didn't know it. My love for The Ledger will always be there, and I am leaving this newspaper in more than capable hands. To my team, thank you for everything, always.

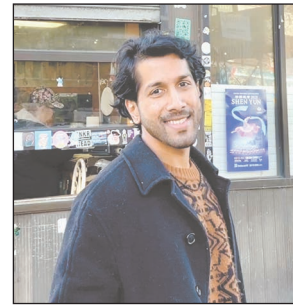
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Josie Trueblood
Managing Editor

The Ledger is a lovely arts-haven here at UWT – I am so grateful to have been able to write, edit and help manage this student-run paper. From supporting me while on study abroad to giving me opportunities to apply what I was learning in my management classes, The Ledger has been incredibly flexible and a great way to connect me to campus and other wonderful artistic people. I truly hope The Ledger continues to be a weekly, print newspaper – having arts and writing on campus is so important! I can't wait to see what Katie and Steph do next year, I know they will absolutely thrive as Editor in Chief and Managing Editor. Thank you all for an exciting two years!

Destiny Valencia
News Editor

To the readers of The Ledger, I will be graduating in just a



The Ledger puts out. I love you all!

Ruth Ogdan
Opinion Columnist

For me, The Ledger was where I realized that my true passion was writing. For the first time, I was in an environment that actually encouraged my strong opinion! I want to give special thanks to Celia, Josie, and Madeline: thank you for your compassion, encouragement, and patience especially when I was going through some rough stuff. This year was wonderful, and I wouldn't trade it for anything. I'm so thankful to have been a part of something bigger than myself, and I'm so happy to have met such wonderful, passionate, creative people. Thank you to everyone who made this year possible!

Alexa Christie
Photographer

Working at The Ledger for the past two years has been an incredibly rewarding and fulfilling experience. I have learned to appreciate collaboration, admire others' capabilities, and to trust my own skills as a photographer. Going from just a photographer to being in charge of the entire photo process was challenging but it quickly became easier for myself and the rest of the Ledger team, especially at layout! Aside from exercising these various skills, the Ledger office has been a place for me to work, learn, and have fun outside of class. The office quickly became part of my daily routine and I found myself spending much more time on campus, which is difficult sometimes on a commuter campus. I am leaving The Ledger in ambitious, capable hands and I am sure the role of 'Photo Overlord' will continue to bring the pages of the newspaper to life. As they say, a photo is worth one thousand words, but for The Ledger, photos can only add to the already outstanding articles. I have truly put a piece of my heart in every photo taken and printed in each issue of The Ledger.

Finally, to say goodbye to the Ledger team seems foreign and difficult; we have spent so much time together. From layout crises to birthdays and pitch meetings, translating ideas from our heads onto paper has been a process I have thoroughly enjoyed. It is rare for many people to say that they have worked with their close friends, but I recognize what a

such creative and imaginative pieces, which were able to push them into challenging themselves too. Creativity is a key part of writing and I believe, a key part of journalism, and without it a paper would be incomplete and redundant I'd like to say. There are many parts to a story and telling it, just as there are many styles in journalism and with such little time, I was able to pick up on this papers style of writing, and meet an interesting group of people who were quite lovely to observe. Coming from a very structured newspaper at my old community college, with an immense diverse age group, it was very alienating at times to understand and resonate with those around me here at The Ledger. However, with those downfalls I was able to resonate and have good conversation from time to time, which at times made my day.

Those around me I'd like to pay thanks to, Andrew, who was the websites editor was incredibly kind and hardworking, they were talented, and the paper always shined because of them. Daniel was very helpful and a voice of reason during my time here at the ledger. Stevie, who was an illustrator, had such a creative mind, and was gave a lot of herself to every piece she made, I always admired that—The ledger is an amazing paper with great writers, and I appreciated this experience, as it only made me more trusting of my thoughts on working towards making Entertainment Journalism a future career.

I can now confidently say, that I am proud of what I write.

I can now confidently say, that I am proud of what I write.

Emilia Bell
A&E Editor/Film Critic

Working for The Ledger was like a dream come true— I was able to be paid for two things I loved: watching movies, and writing. The writing itself was of course fantastic, and I feel like I learned so much! I've grown so much as a writer and an editor, and I am so lucky to have had this opportunity. I often felt pretty alone on campus (mostly my own fault), so it was really nice to be part of something. I met some amazing people, and I feel so privileged to have worked with them and learned from them. I'm going to miss this a lot, and will definitely be keeping up with what



privilege it has been to work with all my friends at The Ledger.

Stevie Esteban
Illustrator

Who knew that almost three years of our lives would be impacted by global pandemic? It felt as though I was on a paper boat, flowing swiftly along with the river currents towards the open sea. The months spent along this journey have muddled into essays, COVID, and presentations I can barely remember. The scenery didn't vary that much during the early days, sitting at a computer screen in the same spot every single day. Until suddenly, classes became hybrid and the days became a lot brighter and trees more sparse. No longer were we stuck inside, but still there were some rough, dark waters that made life to navigate. It was only this year that I was given the oar to steer my way around, through illustration, capstones, and conference. These waters were still navigable, but here I stand on my little paper boat, just crossing the threshold into the open ocean. I see that I am not alone, with a wave of 1400 paper boats ready to take on the open waters. The river may not stay the same, that the trees that once guided me could no longer be rooted along the riverbed, but I could not be more grateful for them. This is goodbye, but I know that this river will always be here.

Raj Kumar
Copy Editor

I remember starting out as the distribution manager at The Ledger. And I remember how it gave me a sort of sense of belonging, what with it being my first quarter at grad school, in a new city, in a foreign country. I've always felt a connection to the written word and I believe that helped earn my position as a copy editor for The Ledger. It has been amazing getting to read the eclectic mix of content put together every week, expanding my perspective and piquing my interest. I appreciate all the writers and their tireless work in writing fantastic content with passion, the layout team and editors, for their commitment to upholding the standards of The Ledger. And lastly I'd like to thank Daniel Nash, and the rest of the team who interviewed me, for giving me an opportunity to excel. It's been great watching new writers come to grow while saying goodbye to others. And with that, I bid you all adieu!

Tacoma Seeds Project brings art to life for UWT

Local artist Aisha Harrison creates a community art piece for a new installation on the UWT campus.



PHOTO BY ALEXA CHRISTIE

UWT Black Student Union hosts a seed making session with local artist Aisha Harrison for the Tacoma Seeds Project.

By KATIE SCOTT
NEWS EDITOR

UWT has commissioned local artist, Aisha Harrison, to design a new art installation on campus. The Tacoma Seeds Project has begun its design phase and is currently in process across Tacoma.

“Aisha’s work is centered on elevating traditionally marginalized stories, so her work speaks deeply to the values of our campus. And in an effort to ensure the work reflects who we are; she has engaged and has listened to our students, and to the broader Tacoma community, as she conceptualized the art installation that will be on our campus in the near future,” said Dr. Sonia De La Cruz, SIAS Assistant Professor in Communication & Media Practice at UWT.

Initially, UWT requested a piece that represents the idea of community, both on campus and the greater Tacoma area. The theme for the project is designed around the concept of a table. Harrison explained the table is important to the project because, in so many ways, it embodies what it means to be community.

Playing on the euphemism of “come to the table,” which re-

fers to coming together to create ideas, a plan, or devise a resolution to an issue, the project consists of a large, round-shaped table where the surface will have bowls carved out. The bowls will house “seeds” that represent the local community. Each seed is made by individual community members of UWT and the greater Tacoma area.

Harrison has hosted several Seed Making Sessions with diverse campus and community groups, such as the UWT Arts Department, UWT BSU, Tacoma Community College and Evergreen Tacoma. Each session is an opportunity for the community to create their own seeds to place inside the table.

These seeds will be sculptural representations of the maker’s dreams, futures, aspirations and goals. Harrison said there have been many seeds that use the theme of hearts, transformation and several designs that involve the concept of hands.

“(The hands) mean different things to different people. One hand shows a lot of calluses and that’s because he wanted to talk about labor. Another hand talks about giving. The hand is symbolic of a lot of things, which is cool because for one person it

can represent labor and work, for another person it represents calming and harmony. I think those two things are related. The hand has all of those things in it already... The seeds will be understood by each person with their own interpretation. These objects have meaning and energy, so they will put forward whatever needs to be put forward, for whoever is looking at it,” Harrison said.

In the seed making sessions, participants are given a small ball of clay to sculpt their seed. It is then carefully molded, hollowed out, meticulously put back together and fired. Harrison has kept notes on the artist of each seed and the meaning behind it.

In the completed design, the seeds will be held inside the table’s bowls to represent the way the concept of community comes together as many, to create a whole. After the installation has been unveiled, the seeds will be returned to the artists and the table will remain on the UWT campus for the community to use and enjoy.

“I just feel a lot of honor to be doing this work. Not only to be chosen, but to get the opportunity to work with the community. (Makers) are offering these

really big hopes and dreams and things they’re doing right now, and I get to be a witness and tend to them by the process of the hollowing and the firing and the making of the table and how they’re all going to fit together. I just feel so lucky,” Harrison said.

If you would like to participate in a seed making session, visit www.AishaHarrison.com to see upcoming dates and sessions.

If you have a group of ten or more people and would like to host a seed making session, email Harrison at aishaharrisonsculpture@gmail.com

Session hosts provide space, tables and access to water. Other supplies will be provided. Sessions must be centralized around Tacoma community members, though extended family is welcome to join.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AISHA HARRISON

The Ledger

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- 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.



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- A&E Columnist.....Cole Martin
- A&E Columnist.....Steph Caronna
- Film Critic.....Emilia Bell

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- Page Designer.....Lesley McLam

Advisor

- Publications Manager.....Daniel Nash

UWT provides event space for Pro-life Conference

The University of Washington will provide event space for the Northwest Pro-Life Conference to be held in June of 2023

By **KATIE SCOTT**
NEWS REPORTER

The University of Washington Tacoma has reserved an on-campus space rental for the Northwest Pro-Life Conference (NWPLC) to take place on June 24, 2023. Though the University states it does not endorse this event, the space has been reserved and the event is scheduled to be held as planned.

Many students, staff, and faculty of UWT have questioned how this event has gotten approval to be held on campus, particularly in light of the organization's clear attack on protected human rights in Washington State.

The WA State Department of Health states: "Abortion is legal and protected in Washington state. Abortions have been legal in Washington since 1970, and that has not changed even after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade in 2022."

Whereas the NWPLC website states "Pro-abortion activists came unhinged over the Dobbs (v. Jackson Women's Health Organization) decision and are stopping at nothing to continue killing preborn children. We will not stand around and allow the place we call our home to become a safe haven for killing innocent human beings."

Outside of the obvious lack of knowledge on the medical procedure, this organization is actively harming the UWT community by attempting to take away the civil rights of individuals on campus and elsewhere.

When Ledger staff asked University representatives about how this event was allowed to be held on the UWT campus, the University provided the following excerpt:

"It is important to note the University is obligated by law to remain content neutral and neither promote nor oppose political views. UW Tacoma is neither hosting nor sponsoring this event in any way. There should be no implication that the UW in any way endorses the views of groups that lawfully rent space on campus. No public funds are used for these kinds of events

and all use of facilities is in accordance with state ethics laws and the Washington Administrative Code. As a university, it is our responsibility to provide open and inclusive environments for our communities. We also must uphold free speech that does not violate laws or policies."

UWT has used this statement to validate providing space rental to an organization and event that blatantly lobbies and indoctrinates community members into fighting to take away the civil rights and access to life-saving medical procedures of UWT staff, students and faculty. This stance inherently contradicts UWT's motto of "You belong here." It leaves many of us in the UWT community wondering, who is this institution saying really belongs here?

If the university is unwilling to truly protect the campus community from harmful organizations entering campus, why would students continue coming to UWT for their education? In the wake of historically low enrollment numbers, and budget cuts reaching up to 40% across all departments due to low enrollment numbers, it seems imperative the University put more effort and accountability into protecting students than partnering with organizations that function with the purpose of stripping away the protected rights of students and the greater campus community.

With sustained performative action, coupled with the decision to provide rental space for events that advocate for abolishing protected human rights, UWT, as an institution, is sending a clear message to those who make up the UWT community.

That message being, "You DON'T belong here."

UWT students have spoken out against this conference being held at the University in a current online survey. Sentiments expressed by students* include:

"I feel deeply betrayed by my college. During a time period where reproductive rights are in legal peril and people are dying because they cannot access the care they need, UWT has decided to offer up our college campus



Pro-Life event on UWT campus sparks debate on the ethics of public university space rentals.

PHOTO BY LAURIE SHAULL VIA FLIKR

as a meeting place for a group actively working to eliminate my right to bodily autonomy. By doing this, UWT's administration is sending the message that they support the forced birth movement and oppose our right to determine when and how we become parents."

"Why is our school entertaining a conference that literally makes me feel like my personal safety is being threatened?"

"I don't appreciate pro life conferences being held on school grounds. Political or not, money or no money it leaves a bad taste in my mouth. Schools are meant to be non political and all voices heard but in the cases of students not outside organizations."

"This is bullshit. If I knew our institution was so willing to support organizations such as this, I would have taken my money elsewhere. This makes me feel ashamed to be a student leader at UWT."

The Ledger feels it is important for the voices of students, staff, and faculty to be heard and respected, especially in light of events that compromise the safety of campus and the integrity of

this institution.

The UWT Progressive Student Union/Young Democratic Socialists of America have published a change.org petition that addresses concerns about UWT hosting the NW Pro-Life Event, and requests actionable steps to be taken from the University. The petition states:

"By providing a space for this conference, UWT risks being perceived as implicitly endorsing its politics. This petition is a call for UWT administration to make clear that they do not endorse this event and to address student concerns over existing campus event policies."

The petition link can be found here: <https://www.change.org/p/demand-the-university-of-washington-to-acknowledge-the-northwest-pro-life-conference>

In an effort to elevate the UWT community voice, and advocate for a truly safe campus, a four question survey has been created to anonymously receive student, staff and faculty feedback on the NW Pro-Life Conference being held on the UWT campus. To help inform

actionable steps to create a truly safe campus for all, please visit the link below to fill out a short four question survey about your feelings on the Northwest Pro-Life Conference being hosted at UWT.

<https://forms.gle/i5PULC2zNRDwYwAs9>



*Student statements have been left anonymous to protect the safety of UWT students. This consideration has been made due to concerns about retaliation from the University and/or event organizers.

To the readers of The Ledger and the University of Washington Tacoma community,

My time working at The Ledger has been impactful and kick started my career in journalism, and I have had nothing but a great experience writing about the stories of others.

However, with the decline of print media and the news in general, The Ledger is facing strong budget cuts this upcoming year. We felt this back in the fall when we lost the color in our printed issues and this coming year, we will no longer be in print and The Ledger will publish their stories

strictly online. This is sad but understandable accommodation for a university facing a budget deficit.

However, the budget cuts proposed to The Ledger (30% less than requested) will not only cause us to lose printed issues, but we will also be losing a writer per section. This budget cut will take away the opportunity for multiple student writers to have the opportunity to explore the world of journalism and creative writing.

Currently, The Daily, The Uni-

versity of Washington Seattle campus' news publication, lists that they have a staff of about 271 students including 24 editors. The Ledger operates with around 20 individuals total. We will potentially lose 5 staff member positions this coming fall.

I know that I have done great work writing for The Ledger. However, with these budget cuts, it is hard to believe the school feels the same. Which ultimately does make me feel downhearted. But I am always a pessimistic op-

timist so regretfully, I hope for the best.

Student publications are important for a thriving college campus as well as the community in general. Student publications allow up and coming writers to learn outside the classroom, practice their craft, editing skills, community outreach, hold positions of power accountable and so much more.

The loss of Ledger writing positions will not only take away this opportunity for student writers

this upcoming year, but for years to come.

So, while I leave my final year here at UWT and The Ledger on a bittersweet note, I am hopeful for next year's staff. Hopeful that together they will continue doing great work and that they will operate at as full of a capacity as possible.

Sincerely,
Destiny Valencia

Add a little Puerto Rican flavor to your cooking

Sharing a bit of my culture, one plate at a time

By HEIDI ORTIZ CANDELARIA
OPINION COLUMNIST

Plantains are a staple in any Puerto Rican kitchen. They might look like bananas, but they are quite different. Depending on the color of their peel and maturity state, it will either taste starchy or sweet-sour. It's crucial to know at what stage your plantains are before making this dish.

Mofongo is perhaps Puerto Rico's most well-known traditional dish, as it dates back to the tainos (our indigenous ancestors) who used mortar and pestles to mash the plantains and make a variety of filling meals. For this dish, make sure your plantain is unripe (green on the outside and white on the inside). Peel and slice your plantain and dump the slices into a bowl of salted water to rest. Fill a pot with oil and heat over medium-low heat. Wait for the oil to warm and dump in your well-dried slices. Wait twelve minutes, or until the plantain slices are light brown.



Fried sweet-plantain slices.

PHOTO FROM DISCOVERPUERTORICO.COM

Once they've reached the desired point, remove them from the pot carefully with tongs and blot the excess oil. There are two options for the next part. Most Puerto Ricans have wooden mortar and pestles that we use for mashing. If you don't have one, it's recommended you use the plate method, or your fists if you don't mind getting a bit messy. Make sure to mash them enough that they

can be molded, but not enough that they fall apart. Finally, it's time to season. Add adobo (or garlic powder), minced garlic, and crushed pork rinds. Finely chopped, toasted bacon also works. Lastly, mix everything together into the mofongo. Mold into a half sphere with your hands and serve alongside your favorite proteins. You can also make a chicken broth to pour over or dip each bite in

mayo-ketchup (like I do).

You can thank my mami for filling in the blanks for the process and for making these dishes with lots of love. We season con el corazon, letting our ancestors tell us when to stop shaking the bottles of sazón into our pollo guisado.

You'll certainly feel that love when trying them yourself, I guarantee it.



A dish of Mofongo with shrimp.

PHOTO FROM DISCOVERPUERTORICO.COM

Childhood snacks that still hit the spot

Fruit, yogurt, and peanut butter feature prominently in my summer snack repertoire.

By RUTH OGDEN
OPINION COLUMNIST

When it's hot out, sometimes it feels like way too much work to cook. Instead of heating up the entire house with the oven, consider revisiting some classic childhood snacks that don't involve much cooking at all.

ANTS ON A LOG

Ingredients: Celery (washed!), peanut butter (I prefer crunchy), raisins or craisins

Instructions: Lay out a couple stalks of celery and fill the inside ridge with peanut butter, probably a couple tablespoons or so. Top with as many raisins as you can fit on the celery stalk. I like this one because it's got both fiber and protein, so it actually makes you feel full.

FRUIT KABOBS

Ingredients: Skewers (wooden or metal) and fruit you like! I prefer grapes, watermelon, strawberries and pineapple, but literally any fruit will work.

Instructions: Wash the fruit and cut it up so that they are all roughly the same size, and then slide them onto the skewer. These are great because you can eat this one-handed while reclining in a hammock.

YOGURT BARK

Ingredients: Yogurt of your choice (I like the Honey Vanil-



Summer recipes can be lazy, but that doesn't mean they aren't tasty.

PHOTO BY MATHEUS NATAN VIA PEXELS.COM

la flavor from the Greek Gods brand), chocolate chips, strawberries and blueberries.

Instructions: Take a baking sheet and cover it with waxed paper. Using a spoon, spread out a generous layer of the yogurt and then top with your fruit and chocolate chips. Freeze for about four hours or until it's hard. Then, break it up into shards and transfer to a freezer safe bag for a sweet, cold treat.

BOOTLEG APPLE PIE

Ingredients: An apple, cinnamon, lemon juice, granola and brown sugar.

Instructions: Dice up the ap-

ple into tiny pieces - the more surface area, the better! Put the diced apple in a bowl along with a healthy sprinkle of cinnamon, a dash of lemon juice and a couple tablespoons of brown sugar. Mix it together and let it sit for about five minutes so that the brown sugar can soak in. Finally, top it with some crunchy granola. This can be eaten with a spoon and is so satisfying.

Summer is the best time to get back to your childhood roots. Try some of these easy snacks and take a little vacation from adulthood.

Destiny's favorite tacos

Delicious Chicken Tacos

By DESTINY VALENCIA
NEWS EDITOR

Ingredients:

Chicken:

4-6 chicken thighs

A jar of chipotle adobo peppers (preferably the kind blended up)

Honey

Beans:

1 can of pinto beans, or black beans or whatever beans you like

Oil (I use coconut, its pretty neutral)

Seasonings for taste: salt, pepper, cumin, chili powder, garlic powder, and cayenne pepper

Chicken stock

Rice:

Oil

1 cup of rice

Tomato paste

Same seasonings used for beans

Chicken stock

Guacamole:

2-3 ripe avocados depending on size

Lime juice

Salt for taste

Alright, we will be making one of my favorite dishes, chicken tacos. I make this dish at least once a week and it always makes me happy. It's easy, and while there are a decent amount of steps, the time will fly by as you cook. Put on a podcast, get your rice cooker ready and let's begin.

You will start off by getting your chicken cooking. Get those birds in a pot and you will dump

about half your jar of chipotle peppers and drizzle a good amount of honey on those thighs. A lot of this recipe is to taste, so go off my instructions but work with the recipe and put in however much you'd like or to your own taste. Let those thighs cook on medium to low medium heat until thighs are shreddable.

While the thighs are cooking, get your rice rinsed and pour the rice into a pan of hot oil. Cook for a few minutes, then squeeze a tablespoon of tomato paste on rice, mix and let cook for a minute or two. Add your spices and let cook a few minutes more. Afterwards, pour rice into a rice cooker or pot. Add chicken stock. If using 1 cup of rice, use 2 cups of stock.

While the rice is cooking alongside your chicken, get your beans ready. Start by emptying the can of beans into a pan of hot oil. Cook for a few minutes and then season the beans and stir. You will then mash these beans to a paste, adding chicken stock to smooth them out. Let them cook to your thickness and liking.

Last will be to make your guac. I think you know how this step goes. The hardest part is selecting avocados. Pro tip, if you're at the grocery store and all they have is hard avocados, place them in a paper bag. They will ripen quickly over a couple days.

Once all of these items are ready, you can heat up your tortillas and assemble. Enjoy!

The return of dystopian entertainment

The newest addition to The Hunger Games film series is set to be released in November 2023, what does this mean for dystopian novels and films?



The trilogy that started it all.

PHOTO BY CELIA WILLIAMS

By CELIA WILLIAMS
OPINION EDITOR

With the release of the newest movie in the Hunger Games universe later this year, “The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes,” I’ve noticed that dystopian films and novels seem to have made a comeback. I am also totally here for it!

I grew up with these sorts of movies and books being a staple, so exciting to see what they can do now with the books that they are bringing to life. This comeback has led many, including myself, to revisit the books and movies they loved in middle and high school. I spent the last week rereading the first book in The Hunger Games series and I have so much to talk about after rereading it.

As I started to reread the first book, I watched the corresponding movie. With any adaptation of a movie, there were quite a few obvious differences between the book and the movie. I know some stuff has to be left out for sake of time, but some details seem necessary to the storyline. The biggest difference was the roles that each character played and who was actually in the book, like

the moment Katniss receives the Mockingjay pin. Not only is how she received it different, but the interactions and emotions around it are completely different.

I also remembered the many other series that were part of that dystopian wave in the early 2000s. “The Maze Runner” series by James Dashner and the “Divergent” series by Veronica Roth, to more classics like “Nineteen Eighty-Four” by George Orwell and “Fahrenheit 451” by Ray Bradbury. These books all remind me of one thing; rising up against a tyrannical authority. I could not help but recognize many things in the books I read taking place in my real life. It was shocking to realize how much was taking place in these books and my day-to-day.

These stories were my entertainment in my formative years, so of course I am trying to overthrow the government. Kidding! But really, The Hunger Games series was a very big part of my life and the messages conveyed in the books and movies are very interesting when compared to the present day of the U.S. and politics.

Summer theater across the sound

Three recommendations for your live theater fox this summer.

By MADELINE HILLER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Puget Sound has a thriving theater community and this summer is full of world known titles. Below are the recommendations from the resident Ledger theater nerd.

Les Misérables - May 24-June 17 at 5th Avenue

In 19th century France, we follow the life of a prisoner after he finishes his sentence and is given a second chance at life. With passion, heartbreak, love and mercy, this show is one you don't want to miss. After seeing this production, I can say for sure there is something for everyone. Even my partner who isn't a big fan of musicals said he liked it.

Six - July 12-23 at Paramount

Divorced, beheaded, died, divorced, beheaded, survived: the rhyme used to remember all of Henry VIII's wives. From his point of view, that is all we know but what do the actual wives have to say? In this newer musi-

cal, hear what all six wives have to say about their turn at the royal life and their ex-husband.

Clue - July 9-21 at 5th Avenue

Who doesn't love a good murder mystery? Based on that game we have all played at least once, “Clue” follows a murder mystery with the beloved ‘who, where, with what’s formula we’re all familiar with. Who did it? Colonel Mustard? Mrs. Peacock? Guess you’ll have to find out.

Seattle is full of live entertainment beyond these three recommendations. Theater fan or not, go try something new and enjoy the much needed break!



“One Day More” from Les Misérables.

PHOTO BY MATTHEW MURPHY & EVAN ZIMMERMAN FOR MURPHYMADE

The best films I reviewed for The Ledger

Some movies this year were very very bad, and some were very very good. Let's leave things on a high note, shall we?



PHOTO BY SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES
Colin Farrell and Jenny the donkey in "The Banshees of Inisherin"

By EMILIA BELL
A&E EDITOR

As a film critic for The Ledger, I was able to see a wide variety of films this year. They were all relevant in their own ways, though some were better than others. It was difficult to choose, but I narrowed it down to my five favorites that I wrote about this year. These are not ranked based on the star rating nor on their technical prowess, but rather on how much I enjoyed them.

"Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves"

This film was a breath of fresh air when it came to blockbusters. It offered inspired jokes, lovely practical effects and a strong cast with great chemistry. It is

available on Paramount+ and Amazon Prime.

"The Whale"

Brendan Fraser's performance alone is noteworthy, but the film beautifully portrays complex relationships and a tragic story. While it is a relatively quiet film, it hits all the right marks and leaves a lasting impact. It is available to rent online.

"Guardians of the Galaxy: Vol. 3"

I cried an unbelievable amount of times during this movie. It is packed full of jokes, action and heartfelt and heart-wrenching moments. It proves Marvel isn't over just yet. It is currently in theaters but will likely make its way to Disney+ in the future.

"The Banshees of Inisherin"

This was my choice for Best Picture, but I'm not too sad it lost to "Everything Everywhere." Its offbeat humor and charm, performed to a T by an endearing Colin Farrell and gruff Brendan Gleeson, sets it apart from other dramedies. It is available on HBO Max.

"Fire of Love"

This stunning documentary has found itself placed on a "best-of" list twice now—in my first article, and now, my last—and for good reason. The incredible love story is just as poignant on rewatches, and the unbelievable volcano footage never loses its awe. It is now streaming on Disney+.

Binge-worthy comedy series to enjoy this summer

Trying to find a new comedy to match the fun energy of summer? These multi-season shows will make you laugh out loud, and bring the occasional tear to your eye.

By STEPH CARONNA
A&E COLUMNIST

"Somebody Somewhere"

In a small town in Kansas, a woman struggles to find meaning in life after the death of her sister. A connection with a former high school classmate blossoms into a sweet friendship, giving her a newfound sense of hope. This show is a quiet joy, with leisurely pacing closer to real life than any traditional comedy. Its down-to-earth tone effortlessly floats from raunchy laugh-out-loud comedy to tear-jerking emotion.

"What We Do in the Shadows"

This mockumentary-style comedy, based on the 2014 Taika Waititi movie of the same name, follows four vampires and their human familiar living together on Staten Island. This is the closest to a traditional sitcom on this list. It brings a perfect blend of episodic storytelling and season-long narrative arcs between characters with impeccable chemistry. With the fifth season premiering in July, now is the perfect time to get caught up.



POSTER BY FX
Harvey Guillén, Kayvan Novak, Natasia Demetriou, Matt Berry and Mark Proksch in "What We Do in the Shadows"



POSTER BY HBO
Bridget Everett and Jeff Hiller in "Somebody Somewhere"

"Reservation Dogs"

Four indigenous teenagers living on a reservation in Oklahoma struggle to keep their friend group together while planning a trip to California. While this show has a comedic beat to it—for instance, a character who is regularly visited by the spirit of an ancestor finds him to be more obnoxious than helpful—it is not afraid to mine emotional depths relating to family, depression and the harsh and mundane realities of survival.

"The Other Two"

Two adult siblings vow to get more serious about their careers in the entertainment industry when their teenage brother becomes a viral pop sensation. Its wacky, cynical and at times surreal style of comedy is reminiscent of shows like "Broad City" and "Difficult People." The tongue-in-cheek criticisms of Hollywood make for clever gags that run longer than initially expected, in the best way.



POSTER BY FX
Paulina Alexis, D'Pharaoh Woon-A-Tai, Lane Factor and Devereaux Jacobs in Reservation Dogs

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Listing in this program does not indicate that all requirements have been met.

‡ Double degree earned.
σ National Society for Leadership & Success - Sigma Alpha Pi

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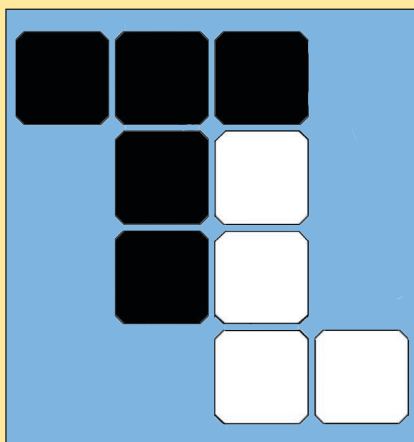
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