

# THE LEDGER

University of Washington Tacoma



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UW Tacoma  
Welcome Days

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9/27 -- Patio Karaoke  
4:30 – 7 p.m.  
@ TPS Patio

9/28 -- Husky Hangout  
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
@ Commerce Plaza

10/3 -- W Photo  
12:30 - 1:20 p.m.  
@Court 17

10/4 -- Tye-Dye Wednesday  
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
@Prairie Line Trail

10/4 -- Petting Zoo  
12 - 3 p.m.  
@Prairie Line Trail

UW Ledger  
Staff

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# Welcome letter from our new Editor in Chief and Managing Editor

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year  
Huskies!

The Ledger team is honored to offer you a warm welcome to the wonderful UW Tacoma! Whether you are a new or returning student, we are incredibly excited to have you as a part of this vibrant and growing campus community. The Ledger is UWT's one and only student-run news publication, here to help keep students and faculty informed about events, resources and prominent issues affecting our student body.

Three and a half years after the pandemic started, we are still recovering from the effects of it, but something about this year feels different. There's a change in the air on campus, one that signifies a readiness, a craving for in-person community. The last couple years were a time of slowly rebuilding, dipping our toes in the water, relearning how to navigate social interactions and events. This year, it seems we're ready to dive right in, and we hope you will join us!

Here at the Ledger, one of our goals is to do everything we can to help foster a safe return to in-person community. From covering upcoming school and local events and COVID updates, to connecting students to the resources and organizations that fit their wants and needs, we hope that we can contribute to our student body having a successful and fulfilling time at UWT.

One way we hope to achieve this is by using our platform to uplift student voices. Our reporters are dedicated to finding the issues that are important to students and interviewing them about their experiences. Through a partnership with ASUWT, we are aiming to find more avenues to capture the unique voices of our student body.

This new partnership will also help us keep our community informed of what is going on behind the scenes at UWT. As journalists, we believe everyone has the right to understand the issues that affect their daily lives. We hope that we can help provide a path to a more informed and involved campus community through our work.

Keep an eye out for our weekly issues every Monday in your inbox and at [thetacomaledger.com](http://thetacomaledger.com). As always, we are happy to receive your questions, feedback and article suggestions through our website and social media. We cannot wait to see what the 2023-2024 school year has in store for this community, and we hope you're excited too!

Sincerely,

Steph Caronna, Editor in Chief

Karla Pastrana, Managing Editor

# News

## Student leaders model how others can get involved throughout the year

Helping out at the giving garden provides students with an opportunity to give back and meet new people.

by Reese Ramirez

UWT student leaders kicked off the school year preparing the campus Giving Garden on Fawcett Avenue for another busy year. Attendees cleaned up the garden for the fall as a team while spending time with their newly made friends.

The event came on the heels of a leadership conference where students discussed topics like leadership values and teamwork, while helping prepare club executives and student staff members alike for a successful year by offering the opportunity to meet fellow students and expand the campus community before the year started. Through ice breakers and casual conversations, many new relationships were fostered throughout the day.

For many, the day acted as a model for how their organizations could reach new students throughout the year. These student leaders gained valuable skills that will help them to build strong connections in their respective communities.

But for leaders to create and grow this environment, UWT students must show up for the clubs and events—a task that can be a challenge on a campus with many commuting students.

Alexis Britt, Husky Life Coordinator for the Student Activities Board, also known as SAB, emphasized the importance of putting yourself out there to meet new people.

“As a transfer student,” Alexis said, “you really have to do it yourself,” in reference to making new friends.



*IMAGE 1: Student Leaders help in UW Tacoma's Giving Garden. | Photo by Cameron J. Berrens*



IMAGE 2: Alexis Britt, Husky Life Coordinator, working in the Giving Garden. | Photo by Cameron J. Berrens

For Alexis, building relationships at UWT is as simple as taking advantage of the clubs, activities, and events offered on campus.

Events like the leadership conference are just one example of many opportunities available to students who are taking the first step of getting involved.

“This job has helped me so much,” Alexis said.

Getting a job on campus is a surefire way to connect with other students and grow new relationships while learning how to network.

As a coordinator for the SAB, Alexis hopes to promote events that will help anyone from first-year students to returning students to make new friends and grow community at UWT.

For students who want to get involved, Alexis recommends checking out the SAB Welcome Days brochure filled with for starting off the new year right. Similarly, following @sabuwt on

Instagram is a wonderful way to stay updated with events on campus.

Conor Leary, Director of Student Involvement and Leadership and featured speaker at the conference, shared similar advice for those who want to grow their network on campus.

“They can be involved!” said Conor when asked about students who feel disconnected.

Like Alexis, Conor stressed the importance of knowing when the events are happening and just showing up.

Conor is also aware that college can be a busy time for many students, making it difficult to commit to a club or organization for the year. That is why commitment is not necessary. Anyone can show up to RSO events and club meetings to get a feel for what the group is about before committing. This allows students to try many groups and meet various groups of people before deciding where they’d like to grow their roots.

For those who are already involved and want to help others find their community, Conor’s advice was simple.

“Talk about your experience,” Conor said.

For many students, joining a club, getting a job, or attending an event can feel intimidating. But by simply hearing other’s stories, the step of showing up can appear to be much more attainable.

Niaz Ahamed helps international students make connections on campus and build community at the Office of Global Affairs. For Niaz, just showing up is the most crucial step for those who want to get involved.

“Just go to the events,” Niaz said. “Don’t know anyone? That’s fine. You’ll meet people there.”

To Niaz, the purpose of these events is to meet people and grow a community. So, it is okay if you don't know others attending. You'll meet them at the event!

"Join as many Registered Student Organizations as possible," Niaz said.

This is a foolproof way for students to meet others with similar interests or even gain a new skill. But it can't happen unless people are willing to step out of their comfort zone and try something new.

Overall, the Student Leadership Event displayed the value of community-building for the leaders of our RSO's and campus offices. While on the surface, it was just another beginning of the year meeting, the event served as an opportunity to meet others, grow connections, and improve community at UWT.

In the process, the event reminded student leaders what clubs and organizations are all about: making new friends and growing community.

So, this fall, take the advice of student leaders and just get involved! Take advantage of the various resources listing when events take place. Go to events, join clubs, and meet new people.

You never know who you could meet!

Make sure to stay updated by following relevant social media pages, looking at the event boards around campus, and reading The Tacoma Ledger.



*IMAGE 3: Student Leaders work to create a space for all students to enjoy. | Photo by Cameron J. Berrens*

# Opinion

## Banning Pride in the NHL

NHL decision to stop wearing pride jerseys next season is a big disappointment.

by Benjamin Fredell

It's hard falling out of love sometimes. And other times, it can feel easy, almost natural. Hockey used to mean the world to me when I was young and addicted to having fun. It hurts to say I've never been happier in my decision to quit playing, watching, and supporting the sport altogether. Sports are funny that way. When you're on the ice, nothing else matters. Unfortunately, in the real world, other things do matter.

Next season, in the National Hockey League, all 32 teams will no longer wear LGBTQ pride themed jerseys for pre-game warmups. The League's commissioner, Gary Bettman, suggested teams should stop having LGBTQ themed warmup jerseys because theme nights were being overshadowed by certain players' participation.

Last season, Ivan Provorov, Marc Staal, James Reimer, the entire Chicago Blackhawks organization, and others declined to participate or wear rainbow pride jerseys. They pointed to their religious beliefs and the new anti-gay laws passed in Russia as context for their decisions. This caught the attention of many major news outlets leading to numerous headache-inducing quotes about pride and the rainbow pattern.

The league has failed the LGBTQ community in its weak attempts to flaunt inclusion. Hockey is not for everyone, and I doubt that will change in my lifetime when the NHL is backtracking like this.

Here is a link (<https://thehockeynews.com/news/tracking-each-nhl-teams-pride-night-2022-23>) to all 32 different pride nights from last season. As you can see, the majority of these nights consisted of wearing specialty themed jerseys and auctioning them off to charities that supported LGBTQ non-profits and causes. These weren't regular old rainbow jerseys this year either, with many teams opting for specially designed logos and sleeves (Calgary, Florida, and Nashville in particular had gone over the top). What will pride nights even look like next season for the NHL?



*IMAGE 4: Local, (Seattle Thunderbirds) Luke Prokop, first openly gay player signed to an NHL contract. | Photo by Jonathan Kozub/Getty Images*

The NHL mandated “Hockey is for Everyone” onto the league in 2017. It’s hard to argue that your sport promotes unity and a shared bond regardless of cultural, sexual, racial, or religious background when you can’t even wear a rainbow jersey because it supports gay people. This is what failure looks like. Six years after its inception, just a weak gust of wind.

Luke Prokop, currently playing for the Seattle Thunderbirds, said it best in his twitter post on the issue. Prokop is the first openly gay player under contract in the NHL and he was not shy to express his disappointment in the league.

“Pride nights are an essential step towards fostering greater acceptance and understanding in hockey,” Prokop said.

That sentiment extends beyond this sport and to our region as a whole. That’s why we celebrate pride. It’s clear the NHL and the League commissioner have no intentions in coexisting within this space. The response to the mild backlash has been disheartening. The lack of support or empathy towards the LGBTQ community after losing these jerseys has been eye opening.

As a gay sports fan I always knew there was a chance that the guy I was rooting for might believe in something I don’t. He might even hate me for who I am. But it’s nice to pretend every once in a while, while he’s scoring off a one-timer or going down for the team to block a slapshot, that maybe we really are on the same team.

After last season, I can’t seem to find the point of watching men with sticks chase a rubber disk who may, or may not, support my existence as a human being. It might not mean much to you, but it means the world to me. And it always will.





IMAGE 5: From cozy sweaters to Halloween, fall is a season with many things to enjoy. | Illustration by Cole Martin

## My top 5 favorite fall things

With fall fast approaching, these are some of my favorite things about the upcoming season.

by Celia Williams

There is so much that comes to mind when I think about fall and everything that comes with the season. School is back in session, pumpkin spice is back, and Halloween is right around the corner. With fall being in full swing, here are some of my favorite things when I think about fall:

### **Cozy sweaters and sweater weather**

I'm a sucker for a nice comfy sweater when the leaves start to change color and

the air becomes crisp. There is just something about the combination that creates the perfect mood. It's like having a blanket wrapped around you all day.

### **Boots and fuzzy socks**

I also love boots and fuzzy socks. Nothing feels better than putting on a nice pair of cozy socks and Uggs. I know that when fall comes my feet are always getting cold. This helps that and keeps my feet toasty and dry all day.

### **Halloween**

Another one of my favorite things is spooky season. The decorative spiders and bats, candy, haunted houses, and dressing up as anyone you want, are all overwhelmingly exciting. I also think that Washington has the best fall season which adds to the spookiness of it all.

### **Pumpkin spice**

Pumpkin spice is another highlight of the season. While some people find it overrated or don't like it at all, I'm happy that it is all the rage and can't wait to be able to get all my favorite pumpkin spice drinks that I have waited all year for.

### **Thanksgiving**

Who can pass up a day to sit with family and friends and fill up on the annual day of food? The turkey, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie, and sparkling cider, all make it worth the year-long wait for the glorious day.

# Arts & Entertainment

## The Tacoma Annual Film Festival is back!

Local theatre supports independent film through annual film festival.

by Rachel Meatte

Do you like movies? Are you trying to study film? Would you like to support independent filmmakers? Attend the annual Tacoma Film Festival next month!

Set at the Grand Cinema, the Tacoma Film Festival welcomes filmmakers from all over the world. Films like “Black Barbie,” by director Lagueria Davis, or “The Woods Are Real,” by Alix Lambert, will be just a few of the films shown at this event.

The description of “Black Barbie” reads, “Upon Mattel’s 1980 release of Black Barbie, the film turns to the intergenerational impact the doll had. Discussing how the absence of black images in the ‘social mirror’ left Black girls with little other than White subjects for self-reflection and self-projection.” The film aims to touch on perspectives of children growing up in a Barbie world as a minority and the effects it has on young boys and girls.

Another film that will be showcased here is “Corky” by Christine Caruso. The film’s focus is on the captivity of wild animals, specifically the orca “Corky.” The film’s description: “Corky has been in captivity for 53 years, and she is the world’s longest-held captive orca. The film brings attention to how public sentiment about keeping orcas in captivity has changed and how public pressure led SeaWorld to end the breeding of their orcas.” This documentary also comes in light of growing pressure to end captivity of wild animals like orcas. Other films like “Blackfish” have helped capture the torment and suffering these animals go through.

Other notable films that will be shown at this event include, “The Woods Are Real” by Alix Lambert, “JessZilla” by Emily Sheskin, “Free Time” by Ryan Martin Brown and “Bella” by Bridget Murnane.

The festival includes a variety of film categories like short films, documentaries, stop motion and more. Their goal is to include a wide range of filmmakers from all over the world to right here in the Pacific Northwest. Awards for films will be given out to winners



*IMAGE 6: The Tacoma Film Festival will take place at the Grand Cinema on Fawcett Avenue. | Photo by Cameron J. Berrens*

of this festival, and there will be special conversations by the filmmakers including cast and crew for select films. The Tacoma Film Festival is also FREE for Tacoma & Pierce County students!

The festival will take place from October 5 – 12. To learn more and buy your tickets please visit: <https://www.tacomafilmfestival.com/tacoma-film-festival/>



IMAGE 7: Cover photo for Hozier's 'Unreal Unearth' album. | Photo by Rubyworks/Columbia and associated graphic artists

## Review: Hozier's 'Unreal Unearth': A journey through the 9 Circles of Hell

Hozier's new album *Unreal Unearth* tells a compelling, narrative story inspired by Dante Alighieri's Epic poem, *Inferno*.

by Heidi Ortiz Candelaria

With crisp leaves, foggy mornings, and pumpkin spice lattes, fall quarter has finally come back to UWT. But what makes this lovely season even more enjoyable? Great music, of course. How else can we run our long commutes to school without the perfect background music?

*Unreal Unearth* by Hozier has one overall

theme which refers to the "great love" or "darling" that he has sung about through the entirety of his previous discography. This 16-song album explores the ups and downs of Hozier's own relationship, as well as his inner turmoil with his identity and desires all structured according to the great epic poem of Dante Alighieri's "*Inferno*."

The album's songs correspond to the nine circles of hell, in either sets of two or in singles. "De Selby" part 1 & 2, the first two songs of the album, follow Hozier's initial descent to hell. Both songs are representative of the album's coming themes: a passionate, boundless love, a nod toward his heritage and conflicting emotions regarding this love.

"First Time" captures the love Hozier has descended to hell for in an effortlessly sweet manner. Completely enamored by this subject and how a "part of him must have died (and come alive) the first time that they called him baby". Finding himself between life and death during the entirety of this song ties back to the circle of hell this song corresponds to, Limbo.

We quickly move onto the next circle, Lust, with the songs "I'Carrion" and "Francesca". I'Carrion is a direct reference to the story of Greek Myth involving the flying Icarus who "flew too close to the sun". Francesca was a character in Dante's poem who was involved and condemned to adultery. Hozier refers to himself as Icarus and if they were to "reach a squall" how he would "allow the ground to reach its brutal way to him." Similarly, Hozier states how if there was even the smallest probability that he could hold this love again, he'd willingly go through "a storm." In both instances, completely disregarding his well-being just to touch the person he loves again.

In the next circle, we have "Eat Your Young". Self-explanatory, this song speaks about craving more than what you are being given. This song perfectly translates from Lust to Gluttony, with its seductive melody and use of sexual innuendo.

In the circle of Greed, we have "Damage Gets Done". A misleading, up-beat instrumental masks the true nature of this song. We hear singers Hozier and Brandi

Carlile. This is the first time we hear one of Hozier's "loves" and their perspective of this relationship. As a love that blossomed during their youth, the flame has since gone away despite how feverishly they wanted it to work. They now desire much more, and that's where the "damage gets done".

Inside the circle of Wrath falls "Who We Are". Hozier explores his rage and frustration to the loss of this love, and lets it bleed into the rest of his life. Speaking of how a collective we "spend our lives carving through the dark". Aimlessly, feverishly, and passionately trying to survive; just for all of it to "fall through our fingers like water" or be plunged into someone "like a knife."

In the circle of Heretics, we have "All Things End" and "Son of Nyx." Hozier emulates church gospel and includes a whole choir for emphasis. Hozier has accepted the finality of love. Everything ends, no matter what it may be it all begins anew, alluding to reincarnation. "Son of Nyx" is a transition song that has no lyrics but evokes a feeling of hopelessness. Darkness. We hear a reverbing piano merge into floating violins, and echoes of unintelligible words, until it gives way to a grandiose orchestra.

We are followed by the circle of the violent. "To Someone from a Warm Climate" describes the opposition of each other's natures in the name of love. Hozier describes himself as the cold, and his lover, warmth. Despite the stark contrast, there was balance that kept them together. But as we know, this love has since gone away. He is left in what feels like an eternal winter. Though not outright violent, the cold from this metaphor contrasts with the punishment set for sinners in this circle: the eternal rain of fire.

"Butchered Tongue", is the second song in this circle. It is a more literal interpretation of violence. Hozier shares with his listeners the passion for his Irish descent. He shares how certain dialects from his hometown have fizzled out over the years. Vowing to continue to speak and sing with his "butchered tongue", despite experiencing the loss of this intimate culture.

The fraudulent circle houses two songs: "Anything But" and "Abstract (psychopomp)". At first glance, "Anything But" seems like a playful tune about love. However, Hozier reminds us that this song is fraudulent. When he sings such lines as "If I was a rip tide, I wouldn't take you out" or "If I was a stampede, you wouldn't get a kick," he is lying. This is the first instance where Hozier shows resentment towards his "love", through sarcasm, disguising it underneath "cute" quips.



IMAGE 8: Hozier | Photo by Julia Johnson

“Psychopomp” is a term used in Greek myth referring to a being that guides others into the afterlife. Hozier reminisces on a moment where he witnessed an animal being run over.

He then uses this impactful moment to set the stage for who he believed to be his lover. Their love was this dying animal. When it was first healthy and thriving, eyes glistening, nose wet; it was struck down by a tragedy. His lover took it upon herself to carry this “love” or “wounded animal” to the afterlife. Shouldering the burden, and her tears “catching the light”.

It’s insinuated that she had something to do with this tragedy, as “psychopomp” is in the fraudulent circle. This is confirmed in the next circle’s song: “Unknown/ nth”. The entirety of this love story is pieced together as Hozier realizes that this “great love” he has been “swimming lakes of fire” for has betrayed him. He put aside turmoil and differences, would go through all the circles of hell to find her. Even after all the treachery, he continues to carry the weight of all the love he still carries for her. This is the final circle of hell.

Hozier does not end his album here. Accepting the truth, he has ascended and left the depths. This is where “First Light” closes the album off. He “lived his whole life before the first light” but has now been born anew. He realizes there is more to this life than romantic love. There is hope, and a new beginning in store for him.

Despite the complex story, this album is easy to get into and enjoy. Hozier adds in some folk elements that haven’t been as prevalent in his past works (which have been mostly inspired by gospel). He also uses the native tongue of Ireland, Gaeilge in a few songs, which emphasizes the earthiness that this album exudes.

This album is out on all music streaming platforms. Hozier has emphasized that though certain themes in this album are canon, others are open to interpretation. So, we encourage you to give it a thoughtful listen and think about what each song means to you!

Thank you for reading and we'll see you next week.

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