

THE LEDGER

University of Washington Tacoma

UW Tacoma Community New Year, Same Pack



PHOTO BY CAMERON J. BERRENS

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UW Tacoma
Welcome Days

- 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
- 10/4 -- Harvest
Homecoming Party
3:30 - 5:30 p.m.
@UW Giving
Garden at the corner of 21st
and Fawcett

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News

DUBNET makes finding community easy

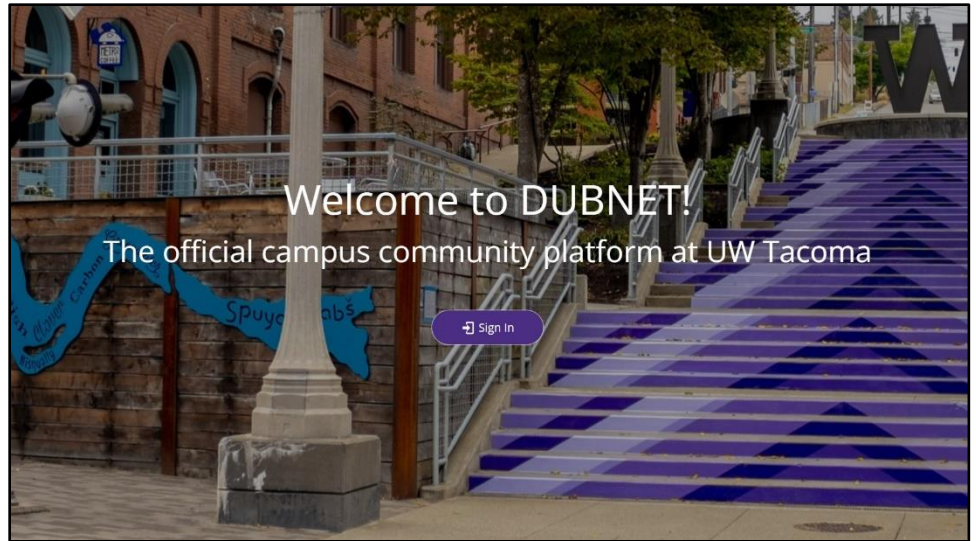


IMAGE 1: DUBNET features an image of UWT campus when users login. | Screenshot taken from DUBNET portal.

UWT's new online portal provides easy access to communities on campus.
by Reese Ramirez

DUBNET, an online portal for student involvement, was made available on Sep. 27. Students can browse clubs, events, and volunteer opportunities on DUBNET by simply logging in with their NetID.

The portal is home to Registered Student Organizations. Finding and joining clubs used to be a challenging task due to many websites, links, and pages. Now, the portal puts everything in one spot making it much easier for students to navigate.

"Honestly, I didn't even know where to find clubs," said one student, who asked to remain anonymous. "I would've joined one last year if I knew where to look."

Luckily for them, and all others in a similar position, DUBNET makes finding clubs easy. From academic to identity, DUBNET hosts a wide variety of student organizations.

DUBNET also includes a calendar of events and communication services. The portal will make it easy for students to connect with one another and find

communities they are interested in.

DUBNET also keeps track of students' Dawg Bones, an incentive for getting involved on campus.

According to the Center for Student Involvement, Dawg Bones are awarded to students for attending events, joining clubs, and more. In other words, students can be rewarded for taking part in most campus activities. Dawg Bones can be redeemed for many prizes from stickers to UW apparel.

Conor Leary, Director of Student Involvement and Leadership, expressed excitement for the portal, saying that it is a great tool for students who want to find community. For Conor, getting involved is important for personal success and growth in the UWT community. DUBNET makes joining and creating clubs more accessible for everyone.

Additionally, if a student wants to create a new organization, DUBNET will simplify the process. So, find some folks with a common interest and start a new club through DUBNET.

You can login to DUBNET by using your NetID to browse Registered Student Organizations, volunteer opportunities, and events taking place on campus. DUBNET can be accessed here: https://uwtacoma.campusgroups.com/home_login

Opinion

Gertie's Ghost: Urban Myth to Urban Roots

A local urban legend can be seen throughout Tacoma if you look for it.

by Benjamin Fredell

On a particularly windy day in Tacoma, 83 years ago this November, the Narrows Bridge collapsed into the Salish Sea. The bridge collapse created one of the largest man-made reefs in the world. They called her Galloping Gertie because of the way the bridge swayed wildly side to side before it crumbled entirely. The spot is placed on the National Register of Historic places to protect it against scavengers.

After her collapse, Galloping Gertie became a cautionary tale for suspension bridge construction. The replacement bridge, built right on top of her, was completed on October 14, 1950, after over two years of construction.

The Giant Pacific octopus is the largest octopus' species in the world. They're actually our neighbors. They swim here in Tacoma, in the ruins of Galloping Gertie, through the rusted steel bars of our failed bridge.

Some say that one octopus has been growing in the steel reef for decades. Usually, they only live around five to six years and grow up to sixty pounds. That's nothing to scoff at, but this one is different. King Octopus is a six-hundred-pound octopus monster, an urban legend spread throughout the City of Destiny. Once a Tacoma triumph, a suspension bridge, the third longest in the world, is now a vehicle for our deepest fears. King Octopus is often called Galloping Gertie as the two are linked in a way.

What lies below the depths of the Salish Sea? Who lives in the reef below the Narrows Bridge? Only divers truly know, the rest of us get to wonder. In the meantime, you can pay a visit to Gertie's Ghost on your way to the University of Washington Tacoma campus near South Tacoma Way and Pacific Avenue.

Gertie's Ghost is an art installation by artists Sean Orlando and David Shulman that was commissioned by Sound Transit. You can find tons of Giant Octopi around Tacoma if you are looking for them. Point Ruston has two on their Water walk tile mosaics. If you're really lucky, you might even catch Gertie, her twenty-foot tentacles outstretched in the thick fog, before she swims back down to the wreckage below.



IMAGE 2: Gertie's Ghost installation by artist Sean Orlando and David Shulman. | Photo by Benjamin Fredell

For Further Reading:

<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/tacoma-narrows-bridge-collapses>

<https://www.soundtransit.org/blog/platform/gerties-ghost-surfaces-tacoma>

https://www.southsoundmag.com/arts-entertainment/giant-octopus-revealed/article_f40fe8c5-7b71-5b39-b9c8-27fa192d0dd1.html

The Shadow and Bone trilogy: a magical page turner



IMAGE 3: The Shadow and Bone trilogy written by Leigh Bardugo. | Photo by Celia Williams

Leigh Bardugo's fantasy series will leave you wanting more.
by Celia Williams

One of my favorite things about summer is all of the books I get to read. The Shadow and Bone trilogy was one of my top book series I read over these last few months. The story that spans three books is beautifully told and always leaves the reader wanting more.

The Grisha universe created by Leigh Bardugo is built well so the reader can imagine every little detail. This was something I paid attention to as the concept of Grisha, the magical beings in this universe, is something that hasn't been used very often in this way. The Grisha and humans are rather divided after years of battle, even with the new arrangement between the king and the Darkling.

As the divide between the Grisha grows more and more, the main character, Alina Starkov, has to find the three amplifiers in an effort to bring peace to her country.

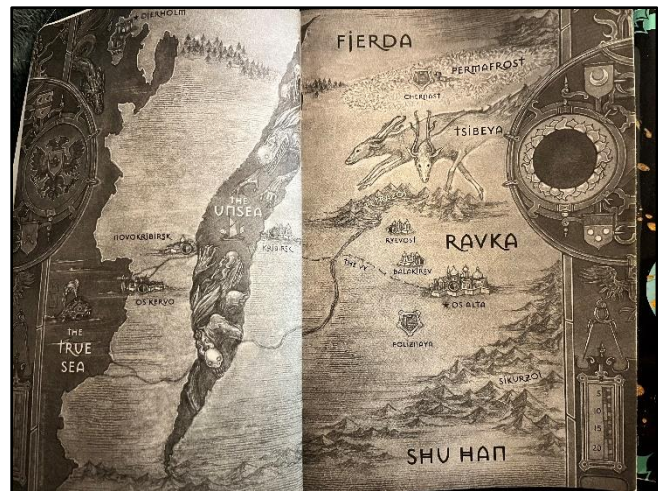


IMAGE 4: A map from the Shadow and Bone world. | Photo by Celia Williams

Bardugo uses this concept of a life altering journey to further show Alina's growth and character development from the first page to the last.

The trilogy also uncovers dark secrets about the Darkling and his past, and the kingdom itself. This page turner leaves the reader on the edge of their seat wondering what is going to happen next. It also makes the reader think and try to figure out the secrets and answers to the mysteries that are in the book.

This magical and enthralling series has also been adapted into a show on Netflix. At first that might seem less than exciting, as many adaptations fall short. However, I found that the adaptation was done well. It followed the storyline and paid attention to many of the small details that strengthen the story.

If you have some free time or are looking for your next read, this series is the perfect one for those who love fantasy and entrancing action.

Arts & Entertainment

The Land is Inhospitable and So Are We: How Mitski Found Love in Loss

Mitski's new album explores the intricacies of love in different forms and gives us a glimpse into the artist's poetic mind.

by Heidi Ortiz Candelaria

It's been a great year for music. For music-lovers like me, it's now become more enjoyable than ever to discover new artists and genres as they come. But for this piece, I'll be talking about an artist who I'm quite familiar with, and whose work I am fond of.

"The Land is Inhospitable and So Are We" is Mitski's seventh recorded studio album. After the commercial success of her fifth and sixth albums – "Be the Cowboy" and "Laurel Hell"- there was much anticipation from fans for this new one. Primarily, fans were excited to see what art direction Mitski would be focusing on here, and what would distinguish it from previous works.

This album consists of 11 songs, sharing the same length as "Laurel Hell". For someone who has never listened to Mitski before, this album might sound like a moody, "hide under your covers and shut the blinds closed" type album. And while that's partially true, Mitski has honed in on the complex (and sometimes contradictory) nature of young women in the 21st century.

The album opens with "Bug Like an Angel," the initial teaser that was released to announce the rest of the album. A gut-punch of a starter, this song explores the thoughts of an alcoholic as they stumble through the darkened streets after one too many drinks.

What's intriguing about this song is the incredibly clever title, as Mitski explained that she imagined finishing a drink from a glass and holding it up to the light. Looking at it from that perspective, it looks like the bug "is an angel" floating in the sky, or the lights reflecting behind the glass. The next track, "Buffalo Replaced" has a heavier guitar strum with some synth elements at time, while "Bug Like an Angel" has simplistic guitar strums with a gospel choir.



IMAGE 5: Mitski's newest album cover, "The Land is Inhospitable and So Are We" | Photo by Anna Powell Denton

There are three “true love” songs in this album. “Heaven” has folk-rock and country influence in its composition, but its lyrics explore a gentle and soft love. Despite feeling an air of impending doom, Mitski relishes in the small moments she shares with her partner: “As I sip on the rest of the coffee you left. A kiss left of you. Heaven, heaven, heaven.”

“My Love Mine All Mine” might be taken as another ballad for a lover. But Mitski delved deeper into the meaning of this song in her YouTube channel.

“[Loving] is the best thing I ever did,” she said. “Better than any song I’ve written. Any material possession I own. And I wished that after I die, I could at least leave behind this beautiful love in the world.”

“Star” is a song that is bittersweet. It reminisces on an old love that slinks further away, yet continues to shine brightly. Memories that glisten but are forever out of reach. Mitski had written this song years prior and had been saving it for an upcoming album where it could fit into. It had been rewritten several times, but if you’re a fan, you can hear a bit of “Be The Cowboy” (specifically “Pink in the Night”) in its arrangement and lyricism.

“I Don’t Like my Mind” explores the mundane life of a young, working woman. She spends half her days alone in her room despite how she hates it, and the other half “working herself to the bone”-- a way to stay distracted in this lonesome yet heavy life. Gorging herself on cake during special occasions until she vomits, we see the visceral side of Mitski that’s a signature in her discography: the ugly truth, unmasking mental illness and being a hopeless romantic in a society that doesn’t care for tender human intimacy.



IMAGE 6: Mitski in the music video for “Bug Like an Angel” | Screenshot courtesy of Dead Oceans label

“The Deal” speaks of a person walking down a street at night and hoping to run into a devil so that they may give their soul away. “I’d give just to give” and “take the consequences” of making this deal despite receiving nothing in return. It’s speculated that this person seeks the lack of emotions that comes from giving one’s soul away. Therefore, they’d do anything not to feel, including making a deal with the devil.

“When Memories Snow” explores haunting, saddening and upsetting memories that pile up like snow on the windowsills of one’s mind. Mitski talks about how she finds herself trying to clear this “snow” to continue her everyday tasks. Even after the memories melt, they flow through the pipes, and she hears them at night. There is no escaping the memories that change shape so they can remain.

“The Frost” speaks about the loss of relationships of all forms, though my personal interpretation is that this song refers to friendships and platonic relationships. The persona finds themselves amidst a harsh winter: alone, cold, and unmoving. As this frost “looks like dust,” alluding to the way this person has sat in their depression for who knows how long, wishing they could tell these lost companions of this frost that has overtaken them.

“I’m Your Man” speaks in the voice of a manipulative, toxic man that calls himself a dog yet gets treated like a god. He speaks of how sorry he is for being himself and that no one will ever truly love him. He is afraid that if she leaves, he will have to end his life to end the suffering. This is all trademark gaslighting language. Solidifying the experience of this manipulation, Mitski ends the song with “...You believe me like a god, I’ll betray you like a man”.

“I Love Me After You” is a welcome ending to this album. We’ve gone through a whirlwind of loss and love in so many different forms. This song finds that peace in solitude that the persona had been craving since the beginning. They find themselves indulging in self-care rituals, dancing naked, not caring if the neighbors see. They prove that they’ve become comfortable in their body and no longer need any company to be happy. They crown themselves “king of the land,” no longer needing the company of others to find happiness.

This album, as well as this artist, create music in a way that feels more poetic than most. If you enjoy art pop, experimental music production and emotion-heavy lyricism, I highly recommend this album. “The Land is Inhospitable and So Are We” is currently out on all streaming services. So, go give it a listen!

'Gran Turismo' Review: A ride you won't forget!



IMAGE 7: The theatrical poster for "Gran Turismo" | Poster by Sony Pictures Releasing

A popular video game gets adapted into a film about a young guy who trains to become a race car driver. Only one problem, he's never set foot in a racecar.

by Rachel Meatte

The film "Gran Turismo" takes the classic video game of the same name and puts it up on the big screen. Based on a true story, it follows the journey of teenager Jann Mardenborough, a talented racecar gamer in the UK who lives a simple but mundane life. One day he gets asked to participate in a contest that will allow him to train at an actual racecar facility if he wins. After winning the contest he is brought over to the United States to an academy with nine other racecar gamers. They begin training for a chance to win a spot at becoming a professional real-life racecar driver.

The film stars Archie Uchena Madekwe as Jann, David Harbour as his dedicated mentor and friend, and Orlando Bloom as a marketing executive.

Despite some of its inaccuracies and dramatizations, it is somewhat close to the real events that occurred. It incorporates many true elements of Jann's life, such as the fact that he was the youngest winner of the GT Academy at just 19 years old. In the film, there is a scene where Jann's car crashes and kills a spectator. This is true and was an integral part of Jann's career and life. In the film, Jann's father is accurately portrayed as a successful soccer player for several decades, who helped Jann understand what he disliked and liked.

The film also includes cool game-like simulations in scenes where he is driving an actual racecar. In a scene where Jann is deciding what move to do next to win the race, video game selections appear on the screen. Jann is seeing everything through a video game lens. When time slows down in the film, we see how his brain processes which path is most successful. After leaving the training Academy, if Jann loses, the consequences are much more dangerous.

In the end, his differences make him unique and just as qualified as the rest of the racecar drivers. He proves that racecar video gamers can move on to racing cars in real-life if they're good enough. With enough training and determination, racecar video gamers can see what racing on the real-life track is like: the feel of an actual racecar steering wheel, the adrenaline of driving over 200 miles per hour. The film did a great job at capturing all the complexities and intricacies of this real-life story.

The film has done surprisingly well and beat initial expectations as a video-game adaptation. It grossed over \$110 million dollars worldwide since its initial release to theatres just a month ago. If you want to watch the film 'Gran Turismo' you can now view it on Amazon Prime for \$24.99. It is projected to move to other streaming platforms in the coming months.

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

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