

THE LEDGER

University of Washington Tacoma

The Bylaws of the UWT Associated Students

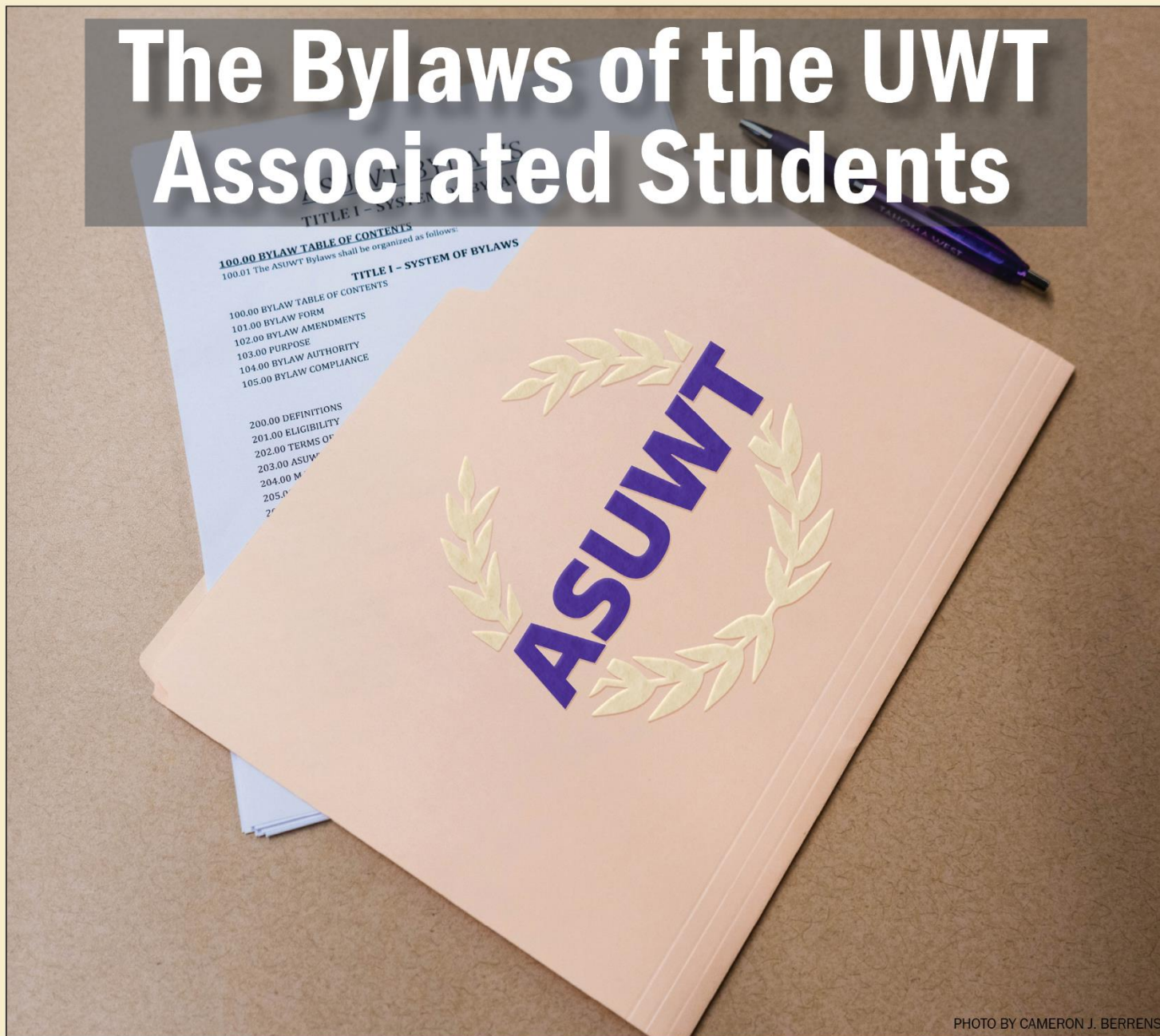


PHOTO BY CAMERON J. BERRENS

This Edition:

- New ASUWT Bylaws Passed
- Tacoma's Identity Problem
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UW Tacoma
Upcoming Events

10/17 -- Resumania - Drop-
in Resume Review Session
9 - 2 p.m.
@Mat 106

10/17 -- How to Fund Your
Study Abroad
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
@TPS 110

10/18 -- Technology Career
& Internship Fair
11 - 3 p.m.
@ William Philip Hall

10/19 -- All-Industries Ca-
reer & Internship Fair
11 - 3 p.m.
@ William Philip Hall

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News

New bylaws pass in ASUWT with a focus on accountability

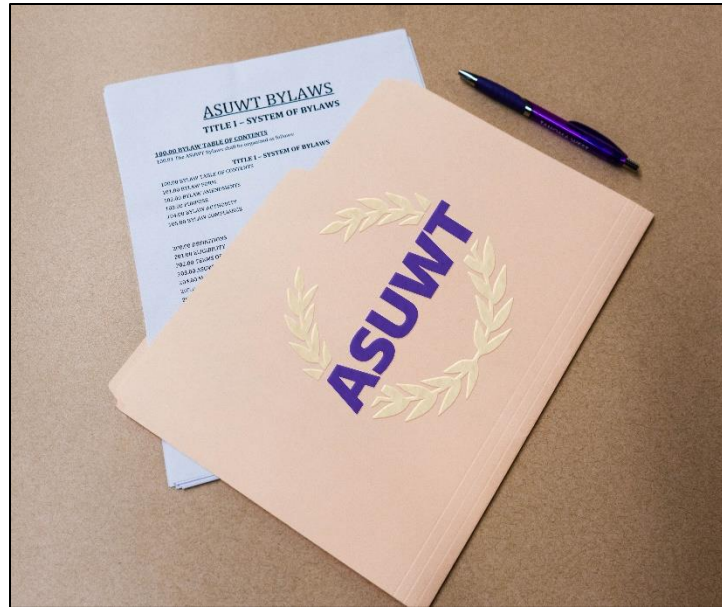


IMAGE 1: The new bylaws are now the governing documents for ASUWT. | Photo by Cameron J. Berrens

With the new bylaws, the student government can begin working on new initiatives.
by Reese Ramirez

On Friday, October 6, the ASUWT student senate voted to pass the revised and updated bylaws that hadn't been touch since pre-COVID. These governing documents determine how ASUWT operates.

Included in the Bylaws is a new clause ensuring student government members perform their duties. Especially with a tight budget on campus, ASUWT must be certain every dollar is well spent.

"There needed to be some changes in the realm of accountability," said President Holly Wetzel. "We need to make sure the fees [students] are paying are put to good use."

Furthermore, the accountability clause will encourage members of ASUWT to be engaged with their work, a problem faced by previous student governments. A review of last year's student government reveals three failed initiatives with few other examples of success. The

clause is meant to encourage more participation and achievements by the current government.

The opening of the accountability clause states that it was implemented to “ensure the responsible and effective functioning of [ASUWT]” and it will “encourage and maintain productive participation and accountability”.

“We need a committed team,” said Director of University Affairs Roland Heyne.

Hopefully, the new bylaws will prompt the student government to work efficiently throughout the year.

Before the bylaws were passed, reviewing and voting on the articles took up the bulk of meeting time. Now that they have passed, both the senate and the executive board can direct their attention toward new initiatives.

Santino Wong, Education Senator, hopes to find avenues to increase funding for groups on campus and encourage community engagement.

“Students in education leadership are quite disconnected,” said Senator Wong.

Evan Campbell, a Senator representing the business school, looks forward to working to gauging student feelings toward campus security.

“Now that the bylaws are done, I feel that the senate and ASUWT as a whole has a good foundation,” said Senator Campbell. “When it comes to student working groups, accountability can be an issue.”

With the new bylaws passed, members of student government will have the time and accountability they need to work towards the issues impacting students the most.

Opinion

Tacoma's identity problem: Reflections from UWT students

What do students think of the city of Tacoma?

by Benjamin Fredell

It is grey most days here, today as I write this, is just like any other. I can see the copper roof of Union Station from my seat in class in the Birmingham Hay & Seed building. Chihuly glass dances on the ceiling of the rotunda.

Reed and Stem designed many great buildings during the 1900s, like King Street Station in Seattle or Grand Central Station in New York, but something about Tacoma's first green dome, and the way it carves out of the hill like a manufactured mountain, makes it stand out to me over the rest. Few of the buildings on Pacific Avenue have changed over the past decades, only what is inside them.

During the first weeks of the fall quarter, I have been going around campus to ask other students what their thoughts of Tacoma are, in an attempt to gauge overall opinion.

One student asked me if it always looked like this, gesturing out the window to Pac Ave, the stream of cars coming and going,

Grey and relatively empty? Sadly, yes. There are stores and restaurants, but where are all the people? Tacoma seems nice to most students that I asked, they just don't know what to do or where to go.

Some students mentioned safety as a concern. Things they have heard from friends or family or worse, on the news. Other students described Tacoma as a little "ghetto."

Harsh as it might seem to some, it is a feeling undeniably shared by many. Tacoma has an identity crisis. There is crime here, just as there is in every city, but that feeling of security varies wildly from person to person and often reaches exaggerated extremes.

It is a combination built to struggle. A commuter school with declining enrollment, a block stretch of twentieth-century brick buildings, a copper-tipped station standing along the water, and one screeching shiny train to bring people in.



IMAGE 2: A window adorned with a Tacoma sticker. | Photo by Benjamin Fredell

And take people away.

It starts with you and me. Find events to attend, they are out there. Go for a walk in Wright Park or Ruston Way, smile at someone on the street if they pass by, say good morning if you want extra points. Understand that most people here won't do the same, I know from experience.

Tacoma seems to be a victim of othering. It happens to many places in our region. Parts of Kent or Auburn get coded as unsafe or ghetto because of a school, or a news story, or a demographic. When I attended Kent Meridian High School the narrative surrounding my time there was shrouded in safety discussions and whispers of gang violence.

The same patterns have emerged during my time at UW Tacoma. A city with a similar image problem. The othering of a city, the discomfort of unfamiliarity. I know that many students dream of the emerald city, I for one did the same, but sometimes it's almost like you can feel it walking around Tacoma. Does anyone want to be here?

I know I still do, and I hope you do too.

Tacoma has its faults and its flaws, just like any other city, but sometimes you get out of it what you put in. Otherwise, a city is just a concrete street with pretty buildings.

Arts & Entertainment

Can youthful idealism survive college in a far-away land? An interview with filmmaker Arthur Musah



IMAGE 3: Film Poster for "Brief Tender Light" | Poster by Arthur Musah

Director Arthur Musah explains the hardships and beauty behind his feature film "Brief Tender Light."

by Rachel Meatte

Ten years in the making, filmmaker Arthur Musah debuted his documentary film, "Brief Tender Light," about four African-born students who receive a full-time scholarship into Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). His film won the Best Documentary Feature Film award at the Tacoma Film Festival October 8. This film



IMAGE 4: Arthur Musah (left) and Rachel Meatte (right) at the films premiere at TFF. | Photo by Rachel Meatte

captures intimate moments in these students' lives, from celebrating an end of school party by themselves to deciding whether America has better opportunities for them.

“The point I was trying to make with the film is that we all really belong in the world,” said Musah of his documentary. “I hope that this film can celebrate our journeys and our experiences. I personally had not seen this topic being explored in television and film so I wanted to do it myself. Maybe you see African or international students on your campus but you feel that you don’t connect with them. However, this film can be a glimpse into the lives of these students and their families, personal lives and aspirations. In many ways they are not different than your own.”

The students featured in the film are Sante Nyambois from Tanzania, Billy Ndengeyingoma from Rwanda, Fidelis Chimombe from Zimbabwe and Philip Abel Adama from Nigeria.

Over their four years at the university, they are pushed to endure the hardships of being an MIT student while being separated from their loved ones. From

attending Black Lives Matter protests to re-shifting their perspective of LGBTQ+ rights, the students begin discerning the gap between America and Africa. Can they survive the trials and tribulations of being a student at the world’s top engineering school? Will they decide to quit and go back home? What is their youthful idealism?

In an exclusive interview with the Ledger, Musah shares his thoughts on the film’s meaning, childhood in Ghana and interconnectedness between all students, including international students.

Q: Hi, Arthur. Thank you so much for doing this interview. The film is fantastic! You did a great job with the storytelling of these students and their own personal struggles. I know that this is your first feature film. What inspired you to get into filmmaking?

Musah: “That’s a great start! I think I’ve always been into storytelling since I was little. My mom is Ukranian Russian and my dad is Ghanian. I was in Ukraine till I was three years old and then went to live in Ghana and then back to Ukraine when I was around eight or nine. I remember some of the films that I watched at that time. We would only get one film a week in Ghana and they were always documentary-style films. I would always stay up and look forward to that one film I saw as a kid. I had always been fascinated by that form of storytelling.

“Also, in high school I loved writing. My teacher Mrs. Charlotte S. Akyeampong in Ghana really nurtured that bug that was bubbling inside of me. She really created a safe space for me to be myself and explore this other side of me. She was also the theatre club teacher and helped us put on plays that she wrote. When I look back to my time in

high school in Ghana, it was really defined by my drama club experience and the friends that I made there. It was a place where I could be queer and be a storyteller or performance kid.

“Later at MIT, I discovered creative writing classes and found it was a space where I could let my hair down. I could be so stressed with school but when I walk into a fiction or poetry workshop, I walk into a fun place of storytellers having this incredible discussion. I’ve been so lucky to have mentors and collaborators nurture this part of me.”

Q: I know that you went to MIT yourself and are originally from Ghana. Did you ever have déjà vu during this experience and feel the need to give them helpful hints or tips? Or did you not want to interject and let them learn for themselves?

Musah: “Yeah, I started off in the latter mode thinking I just wanted to be a fly on the wall. I don’t want to interfere in their lives. I really didn’t want to influence in their lives in any way and just have a camera in the background following them. But I didn’t know from the start that I would

grow as a filmmaker and begin to understand this embrace of the film as I thought about it more deeply. I realized that in a way, there is no way to not influence their lives just by virtue of the fact that I am bringing a camera and having them answering these questions, questions that come from an older version of myself thinking back to those moments when I was their age. So instead of pretending to be a fly on the wall I decided to embrace the fact that this was a film project.”

Q: We have a lot of international students attending University of Washington who could probably relate on some level to the students in this film. What would you like students at UW to take away from this film when they see it?

Musah: “The film is about how we really all belong everywhere in the world. We are all so unique and different in our own individual ways. I wanted people to leave this film feeling like this was a celebration of these aspects and to keep exploring them. On some level, international students go through a certain level of struggle others won’t understand. Student’s like Sante and Philip have such different backgrounds but both have a commonality of being African. I personally had not seen this topic being explored in television and film so I wanted to do it myself. Maybe you see African or international students on your campus but you feel that you don’t connect with them. However, this film can be a glimpse into the lives of these students and their families, personal lives and aspirations. In many ways they are not different than your own.”



IMAGE 5: Director of the film Arthur Musah at the film premiere Q and A | Photo by Ellen Ito

Viewers can watch “Brief Tender Light” on January 15, 2024, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, on the Public Broadcasting Service television network (PBS) through their POV series.

Review: Sleep Token's 'Take Me Back To Eden' is a genre-bending masterpiece



IMAGE 6: Live concert pictures of Sleep Token in Anaheim. | Photo by Sleep Token via Instagram

Sleep Token – an up-and-coming nu-metal band -- has revolutionized the scene by introducing fans to never before heard sounds mixed with classic heavy metal riffs.

by Heidi Ortiz Candelaria

As a new member of the metal scene, I've found myself looking for bands that suit my tastes. But I was only able to figure out what these "tastes" are after discovering the band that started it all.

Just a few months ago, TikTok got its hands on a relatively hidden nu-metal band that had begun paving its way through the business. Sleep Token – also formally known to carry alternative rock, progressive metal, and alternative pop sounds – got all sorts of reactions from the metal scene: not quite heavy enough to be "accepted", but also not quite mainstream enough to be considered another pop rock band.

It all started from a single live concert clip of the lead singer Vessel showing off his admittedly attractive vocals in a suggestive manner. The hype for this band spread like wildfire among the alternative music community. Not only were they blatantly indulging loyal followers with fan service, they were also having the most fun bending genres with their latest album: Take Me Back to Eden.

This album is unlike anything I've listened to before. As a hardcore alternative music lover, I spend 80% of my day listening to music. What initially draws the listener in is the



IMAGE 7: *Take Me Back to Eden* album cover. | Photo by Sleep Token via Instagram

continuity and fluidity between each track. We experience the jumps between synth-y reverbs, fire hip hop-like beats and headbanging growls in the same songs. Yet what's surprising is how it just works.

This album's prominent features come from its artistry and overall aesthetic. There is beautiful concept art that shows these Bloodborne-esque creatures, each representing a track of the album. The visualizers for a few of the songs such as "The Summoning," "Vore," and the headliner "Take Me Back to Eden" show these creatures in full 3D glory, with complimentary special effects. A guardian angel with golden halos and spotlights pouring from the darkness, a serpentine horned being with mantis-like claws, and a Nordic god with bio-tech detailing, surrounded by red lasers. New

fans were enthralled by the meticulous detailing that went into these character-driven songs.

As I mentioned before, much of the initial hype came from the band members themselves and their recent performances. They are all masked, and keep their real identities hidden, going by names that demonstrate their positions inside the band. Vessel is the lead singer, serving as a sort of "prophet" speaking for these god-like creatures. The other three band members (the drummer, bassist and guitarist) are called II, III and IV respectively. Because of these names, and the way they address their fans through their social media posts and emails, they give off a cultish vibe, as popularized by the band Ghost.

And with every performance, they drip with sexual tension. Thriving off each other's energies and their lustful lyricism, it enhances the listening experience tenfold. Perfect examples that demonstrate this are "The Summoning," "Alkaline," and "Chokehold". We also have "Ascensionism," "Rain," and "The Apparition," which show a different side of this band: raw, emotional and beautiful. There's an ever-present longing that is especially prevalent in these last three songs. "Aqua Regia" prevails in its jazz-like piano accompaniment, while Granite brings a slight trap beat.

Overall, Sleep Token should not be slept on. I highly recommend this band for anyone who's trying to get into the metal genre and wants a soft introduction. It's an amazing band for music and art lovers, and a hell of a great time for fans who are into hot and talented masked men (like me). "Take Me Back to Eden" is currently out on all streaming services, but I also encourage you to check out their visualizers on YouTube to get the full Sleep Token experience.

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

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