

2017
Graduates
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CONGRATULATIONS

CLASS OF

2017

**Check out these
great ideas for
summer!**

| P. 6-7

THE
LEDGER

UWT'S FREE WEEKLY PUBLICATION
May 30, 2017 | Volume 21, Issue 30
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The Ledger

UWT's weekly student publication
May 30, 2017 | Vol. 21, Issue 30

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Senior Week helps to prepare graduates for post-collegiate life

How UW Tacoma commemorated the graduating class of 2017 with food, free photos and future career advice.

By SASHA PENN
REPORTER

Senior Week was held May 15 through May 19, designed to help the graduating class of 2017 transition into the real world, as well as celebrate the hard work and accomplishments of said graduates. These activities were put on by the Alumni Association, Career Development Center and the Senior Class Gift Council.

Thomas Duke, Alumni Relations and Annual Giving Officer, heavily assisted in organizing and running Senior Week.

“Senior Week was an idea to welcome the graduating class into being Alumni, and tie in the annual gift,” Duke said. “We haven’t really done a lot of celebrating the graduating class [in the past], we wanted something more campus wide - and to start a tradition of highlighting and celebrating the graduating class.”

Monday of Senior Week pampered students with coffee and pastries, while Tuesday offered students the opportunity for professional headshots to be

taken.

Keely Hanson, another UW Tacoma graduating senior, also came for a new photo, stating, “I [only] had my photos from high school” and that she needed new professional photos to update her LinkedIn profile. She also enjoyed the opportunity to have the Career Development center review student resumes and/or LinkedIn profiles.

“It’s kinda nice to have these opportunities - for no cost, too,” Hanson said.

Wednesday of Senior Week followed with another photo opportunity, though this time at the Big W. Seniors dressed in a cap and gown and posed with props and signs saying “Class of 2017” and “I heart UW.”

For Thursday, Career Development came out to hold workshops for Senior Week, which focused on developing students’ personal brand, career growth and networking skills. One major take away was the personal examples of how a career path isn’t just one straight line.

“Each of your journeys will have its ups, downs, twists and turns, you never



PHOTO BY SASHA PENN
Groups of UW Tacoma graduating seniors waited in line for photos at the Big W, as a part of Senior Week.

really know what’s going to happen in the future - it’s how you react and deal with the changes along the way that map your career path,” said Andrea Wynne, Career Development Specialist.

Senior week came to a close on Friday with pizza and a workshop on how to manage student finances after graduating. The workshop provided students with an abundance of information, such as the pros and cons of opening a credit

line, that one should never invest without six months of total finances saved and how to handle looming student loan repayment.

The final planned commemoration of graduating seniors academic year is the Welcome to the Pack Alumni 2017 celebration, which will be held June 12 from 5 - 8 pm in the Taproom at the 7 Seas Brewery. All graduates and alumni from the Sound area are invited to attend.

A night at the OSCARs

UW Tacoma has honored many through the OSCARs award ceremony the past 14 years.

By SOPHIA SONOVICH
NEWS REPORTER

The 14th annual OSCARs Award Ceremony took place at UW Tacoma on May 19th at the University Y. The ceremony highlighted students and faculty with awards and recognition for their work during the 2016-2017 school year.

The OSCARs acronym stands for Outstanding Student Ceremony for Awards and Recognition. Over a dozen of awards were given to individual students, faculty and staff as well as to committees and organizations. Student

Engagement plans and hosts the event each year and students are able to nominate and then vote for each award previous to the event.

Student Program Specialist Brittany Sanchez Reed worked on organizing the event and said that voting was higher than last year and has been “steady the last four years.” Over 185 attendees arrived at the event in semi-formal attire to celebrate the accomplishments of those around them.

“This ceremony brings students, staff and faculty together to celebrate student achievement inside and outside

the classroom,” Sanchez-Reed said. “Whether the awards are for students or chosen by them, the entire evening is intended to focus on their experience.”

This year at the OSCARs a new addition to the program stood out. The incorporation of video allowed the audience to see and hear more experiences of students through interviews and highlighting events throughout the year on film. Zvon Casanova produced and put the videos together to be shown at the event. “I think they were the highlight of the evening and we definitely want to continue that in next year’s program,”

Sanchez-Reed said.

Among the awards given at the OSCARs were the Student Volunteer Award given to Chase Powell, the Tahoma West Contributor Award to Erika Wigren and the ASUWT President’s Award given to Elizabeth Hansen.

“I was very honored to receive the ASUWT President’s Award this year,” Assistant Director of Student Engagement Elizabeth Hansen said. “It means a lot, as this award comes from the students, and I’m proud of the work I get to help them accomplish every day”

Tacoma community fights back against Puget Sound LNG facility

Protesters chain themselves to equipment in fear of living in the shadow of natural gas plant.

By MONICA CYSENSKY
A&E EDITOR

Tacoma Direct Action, a group of local protesters, and City Council candidate Sara Morken were arrested this week for chaining themselves to construction equipment.

The Puget Sound liquefied natural gas facility has been drawing major public backlash for being so close to residential neighborhoods on Alexander Avenue near the Port of Tacoma.

Puget Sound Energy says the facility will “provide local transportation companies with a cleaner fuel alternative” as well as providing “residential and commercial customers with natural gas reserves.”

Many residents of Tacoma do not feel the same. Spokeswoman for TDA Claudia Riedener believes it’s important to raise awareness of the environmental and safety issues.

There also may be hazardous issues concerning the location of the plant.

Puyallup tribal member Chester Earl raises the concern of the danger these chemical plants pose due to their location along tide flats.

Chemical engineer Steven Storms is also against the chemical plants, bringing awareness to the hazards and pollutants surrounding the construction of a natural gas facility.

Allegedly, 50 people attended the protest outside the Puget Sound liquefied natural gas facility gate, with another five people that chained them-

selves to heavy machinery.

The protesters inside the gate were arrested and held in Pierce County Jail, facing charges of first degree malicious mischief, first degree criminal trespassing and obstruction in the first degree. A Tacoma police department spokeswoman pointed out these are all considered felonies.

However, TDA only organizes non-violent protests. Organizers called this “non-violent acts of civil disobedience.”

Scientists discover technique to repair DNA

New research published earlier this year proves anti-ageing of human cells could be in our near future.

By **JUDE HANNO**
NEWS REPORTER

Scientists at Harvard University and the University of New South Wales have identified a possible way to repair damaged DNA through reversing aging. This new discovery could aid astronauts in travelling to Mars.

This research, published in the *Journal of Science Magazine*, identifies the method used. While cells have the ability to repair DNA, the ability for that process withers away as a person ages.

Scientists found a way to give human cells the energy they need to continue repairing DNA throughout old age.

This is through a process that allows our bodies to continue producing NAD+ — an enzyme found in living organisms — in old age. The process occurs by injecting NAD+ into our bodies. This enzyme begins to deteriorate as you get older, causing your cells to become less able to repair DNA.

Scientists tested this process by giving lab rats a booster called NMN, which inputs large amounts of NAD+ into their

bodies. They found that the rats given this compound were less susceptible to aging as well as radiation from the sun.

This new research has the possibility to impact the future of the human race through the effects of anti-ageing.

“This is the closest we are to a safe and effective anti-ageing drug that’s perhaps only three to five years away from being on the market if the trials go well,” said David Sinclair, Harvard and University of New South Wales professor.

Human trials of NMN boosters will begin this year in Boston, Massachusetts.

The idea is to incorporate NMN into a pill for humans to take in order to reverse the aging of a person.

NASA has also taken notice in the NMN research. The challenge to keep astronauts healthy while in space is difficult due to the radiation induced accelerated aging. NASA astronauts also deal with muscle weakness and memory loss. Muscle and bone density loss is caused by the effects of zero gravity. These negative side-effects from space travel can possibly be altered with the addition of NAD+ into an astronaut’s system.

Scientists found a way to give human cells the energy they need to continue repairing DNA throughout old age.

Within the next few years, Sinclair and his team aim to finish their studies on NAD+ in order to further the quest for anti-ageing.

Washington State ID bill passed and signed

Washington state joins 25 other states with this bill to bring the state ID up to higher standards.

By **SASHA PENN**
REPORTER

After the September 11, 2011 terrorist attacks, the REAL ID Act of 2005 was made so state IDs could only be obtained by lawful citizens with proof of citizenship and their social security number. While Washington state has implemented the Enhanced Drivers License, regular non-enhanced licenses and

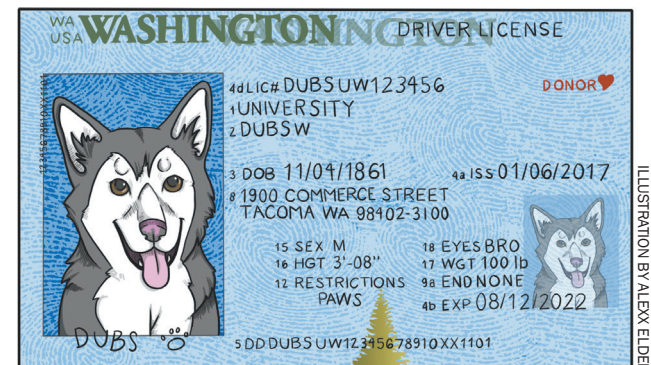
state IDs are still available.

The Federal Government has granted Washington state an extension until June 6 of this year. All current IDs that are non-compliant with the REAL ID Act will be barred from federal use, such as boarding a plane or going on an army base.

Seeking to expand the current extension to October 2020, Washington lawmakers recently

agreed on a two tiered licensing system, bringing Washington into compliance with the REAL ID Act.

The House passed the measure on a 55-41 vote, and the Senate passed it on a 36-13 vote. Thereafter, Gov. Jay Inslee proceeded to sign the bill on May 16, 2017. Officials will now seek review by the Federal Government to grant an additional extension beyond the current deadline of June 6.



Opinion: Thin razors edge: unwavering defense of law enforcement lacks the right criticism

Many people would agree that law enforcement officers are doing a necessary job upholding the law. Only problem is, the laws they enforce might violate our civil liberties.

By **NOAH WINGARD**
OPINION COLUMNIST

Public support for law enforcement has become a lot more visible than in previous years — Vehicles with blue tape or “thin blue line” bumper stickers voicing their support for law enforcement, Facebook articles or statuses speaking out about how disrespect for law enforcement is anti-patriotic or supportive of criminal activity, and so forth. And while it’s easy to sympathize with these statements — after all, law enforcement officers are people too — there is something not being highlighted by this unwavering support that has me both concerned and frightened.

The one major flaw to any of this hero worship could be put simply: law enforcement upholds and enforces laws daily, and while we may support law enforcement officers and their acquaintances, we must be cautionary to defend them at every turn and avoid criticism of their actions. Let me break this down further.

Law enforcement upholds laws, and in the United States they take an oath that states they “will always uphold the

constitution, my community, and the agency I serve.” Allow me to ask you this, dear reader: what if the laws they are enforcing are unconstitutional? Would they be obligated to continue their work despite criticism towards their superiors or legislators? Refusing to enforce these laws could result in termination or even criminal prosecution. Suddenly, the law enforcement officer finds themselves in a puzzling place: they may disagree with the law, but must enforce it as part of their work, otherwise they face grave consequences. What power then does law enforcement have over this issue, besides being an accomplice to the problem? Not to mention that enforcing unconstitutional laws would not only harm everyone in any community, but the oath an officer takes would become contradictory.

The other possibility is that law enforcement could support laws that may not immediately seem unconstitutional, but do violate the Bill of Rights — laws allowing for random search and seizure (“stop and frisk”), laws that restrict firearm ownership in unnecessary ways or that don’t improve the safety of the community (magazine

limits, waiting periods, etc.) or laws that restrict an individual’s right to free speech (the outlawing of Holocaust denial in many European nations, blasphemy or hate speech laws). If the police are conscious of the unconstitutionality of the laws they must enforce, but enforce them anyway, are they not complicit in violating our civil liberties?

Another scenario has me even more alert than the first — what if the Constitution is amended in such a way that one of our previously upheld civil liberties becomes restricted, or flat out repealed? Constitutional amendments that have restricted the rights of others are not a fringe possibility. After all, one of the most disastrous amendments to our constitution was the 18th amendment, which made the consumption or production of alcohol illegal. The result of this amendment was the proliferation of gang activity, a public outpour against “vice squads” and other organizations akin to them, and — ironically — created new and deadly challenges for law enforcement that had never been seen on such a large scale. Thankfully, the amendment has since been repealed, but the ability of the



COURTESY OF CETA VOTE ACTION STRASBOURG

powers at be to amend the constitution to restrict our rights or make laws that violate our basic civil liberties — yet defended by an amended constitution — is an ever-present possibility.

We shouldn’t damn our local Joe or Joyce Policeman — they do an incredibly challenging job that few of us would be lining up to do. However, the system of power they are a part of — the enforcement of laws — places them at a sharp razors edge. The protection of our civil liberties, and the defense of those liberties set in stone by our Bill of

Rights, is dependent on what laws are passed and enforced, if not what amendments are added to the constitution. We must be ever vigilant to those who wish to file at our liberties and those who might serve them, including all of our law enforcement agencies. They may act as a “thin blue line” against crime or anarchy, but they also must act as a resolute barrier against corruption, oppression and the erosion of our rights. Otherwise, they will merely be another tool of these ever-looming threats.

Editorial: Thank you UW Tacoma for the memories

The opportunity to be a part of this campus culture will forever be a part of wherever I go.

By ANGELA SURESH
NEWS EDITOR

I remember first coming to UW Tacoma thinking this was it. This was going to be the place where I would be able to turn a new leaf in terms of where my life was at.

After years of struggling through severe depression and the constant idea that I will never succeed and meet my parents — or anyone's expectations — I realized this was not a way to live. As a South Indian Malayalee woman and a first-generation college student, I wanted to break free of the barriers put around me.

Then I discovered that my passion of dance, the arts and media culture in general could be a channel for me to escape, along with the ability to create a difference in the world. It took me several years to come to this conclusion as to what I wanted to do in life, and finally — after a constant mental battle with what I really wanted and what others wanted of me — I decided it was time to decide for myself.

I wanted to make an impact, to have my voice heard and be an inspiration to people of a diverse background who feel they cannot make it in the world — and I felt by utilizing the resources, tools and voice of the media, I could.

UW Tacoma granted me that.

This past year, working at The Ledger has brought me that eye-opening experience of what it means to be part of a community. What it means to be amongst peers who respect you and your ideals. What it means to have professors that encourage you to push harder and pursue the dreams we wish to follow.

UW Tacoma was the place that

helped me find my voice in writing, and even pushed me to be a voice in the community. This was the place that allowed me to kickstart my blog "Voice of an ABPD," and challenge social norms and cultural ideals.

This being said, I cannot go without my round of thank you's to a multi-faceted group of people that came upon my life and allowed me to be a part of theirs:

To my professors: each and everyone one of you have helped me in terms of discovering myself and what it means to be an active person in this society.

Janie Miller & Alison Cardinal

It was because of you two that I got the idea of "Voice of ABPD" to come about, and I thank you. I thank you because it allowed me to be a catalyst of a much needed change in my cultural community.

Bill Kunz

The simple fact that you believed in me and took the time to listen to what was rambling about in my head meant the world. You encouraged me to pursue and delve deeper into each idea I had. You were there to listen, and for a student, that is what we need. You've specifically become a mentor I will never forget in my life, and I hope this fellowship continues.

Alexander Smith

It was in taking your intro to communications course that got me to change my major in the first place! Who knows where I would have ended up (probably behind some cubicle at a corporate setting). You unlocked this burning desire to further my intellectual studies in the web of mass media and well, for that, I'm forever grateful.

Ruth Bernstein

In taking a part of the nonprofit

curriculum, I was able to discover the potential of what it means to help others in society and what it means to make a difference with my writing — You've even given me the opportunity to do so for an organization. It was through your guidance in this complex world that I realized there is more to be done for organizations.

Randy Nichols

Though brief, I humbly thank you for all the support you've given me in terms of using my voice to activate others in society. You've helped me improve as a hopeful-to-be journalist and recognizing value in the words I put out there.

Andrea Wynne

The things I can say about you! You've not only become my career cheerleader, but support for the hopes and dreams myself and others students share. The positive light you feed to others is absolutely contagious and I hope to return it all back to you in the circle of life Wonder Woman!

I didn't forget the friends I made here on campus either: you guys made this final year at UW Tacoma memorable.

Jessika Foust

In the short time I got to know you, you've become a tremendous support in everything that had gone on. You listened, you were there and you helped create a lot of beautiful, fun lasting memories that I will never forget.

Alex Elder

What can I say, love. You made me up into Princess Jasmine, drawn the cover to the book I plan to publish and have done endless beautiful sketches that I know will take you far! Thank you for being that creative inspiration for all of us to look to.



ILLUSTRATION BY ALEX ELDER

Anna Howell

You are honestly the first person I ever really spoke to on campus, and for that, I thank you. You helped me break free and discover what it means to be in the "now."

Joshua Flores

Ever since we had that environmental communications class together, you've been my go-to guy for PR/marketing work. On top of that, you accept me for me and I thank you for that.

Christie Peralta

Thank you for being a wonderful person inside and out. Your personality was an absolute pleasure to hang around with on campus. The visions you have excite me for your future and the future of UW Tacoma!

Avery Parker

What to say girl ... your thoughts of what is going to come next for The Ledger excite me and I am glad that I got to be a part of it.

Berkan Koroglu

Our friendship was indeed a rollercoaster of a ride this year, but it

worked. We've created a lot of interesting memories together and well, I wish you nothing but happiness.

It is through hope — like many of you — that got me to be where I am at mentally and spiritually, though I admit it was not always that way. But to be my own catalyst for change is what brought me to understand there is more to life than simply reading a textbook, finding a hobby and achieving a career. It's about making a change — making an impact in those that helped cultivate us to be the person we are today.

With this being said, I leave this wonderful place with hope of a better, brighter future for all of us. It is too often where we look outside for the heroes to admire, but I see them right here among us. All have the potential to be the catalyst for change — it is up to each and every one of us to make that happen. It's time to be bold, to take risks, to say we can and we did — and most importantly — to always and forever be humble and gracious from where it is we came from.

Discrimination against Cluster B personality disorders

How stigmatizations of Antisocial Personality Disorder are harmful to the adults diagnosed.

By JULIANNA SIEMSEN
OPINION COLUMNIST

In the face of any tragedy or political disaster, people with mental illnesses can always expect to be among the collateral damage. Whenever there is a mass shooting or a hate crime, the media is quick to label the perpetrator as mentally ill regardless of whether or not they meet the criteria for any diagnosable condition. Public speculation is rampant over the mental health of politicians.

Those who fall under a certain category of mental illness, known as Cluster B personality disorders, face the most scapegoating and discrimination. According to the Mayo Clinic, "a

personality disorder is a type of mental disorder in which you have a rigid and unhealthy pattern of thinking, functioning and behaving." In Cluster B personality disorders, these patterns generally involve dramatic and emotional behavior.

The Cluster B personality disorders include four specific disorders: Antisocial, Narcissistic, Borderline and Histrionic. Antisocial personality disorder is often referred to as sociopathy, and often includes impulsive and aggressive behavior. Narcissistic personality disorder often causes the person diagnosed to act as though they are better than others. Borderline personality disorder tend to have an unstable sense of identity. Histrionic

Those who fall under a certain category of mental illness, known as Cluster B personality disorders, face the most scapegoating and discrimination.

personality disorder often makes the person diagnosed consistently try to seek attention.

It is easy to understand why these conditions are so stigmatized since "sociopath," "narcissist," and "attention-

seeking" are common insults. One article, titled "How to Train Your Borderline," refers to said hypothetical person with BPD as a "woman-child" and a "ball-busting, bitchy female." According to a 2013 report in the Lewis & Clark Law Review, children labeled as having ASPD are more likely to be tried as adults and given life sentences under the false assumption that they are more likely to offend again, even though ASPD cannot be diagnosed before 18.

This discrimination is especially harmful given that these disorders by definition cause distress to the people experiencing them. Not only that, Cluster B disorders often — but not always — result from trauma.

It is true people with these disorders

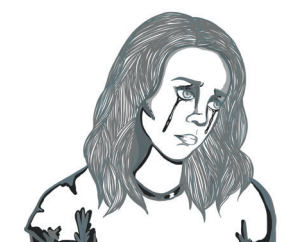


ILLUSTRATION BY ALEX ELDER

can cause trouble for others — as can everyone — and this should not be sugarcoated or excused. But this also drives home the importance of humanizing people with Cluster B PDs. Stigmatizing them can prevent people from seeking treatment, and also drive them further into their behavior.

No matter what conditions someone has, they are still human.

Review: 'Alien: Covenant,' a competent sci-fi horror

Despite a slow start, "Alien: Covenant" manages to pick up its pace during its second half, creating a sci-horror that leaves both fans of the genre and franchise satisfied.

By **DEREK DOWNEY**
A&E COLUMNIST

Don't let the title fool you. Though "Alien: Covenant" it is indeed a film residing in the "Alien" franchise, it's not a sequel that continues the traditional "Alien" story. Rather, it is a sequel to the 2012 prequel film, "Prometheus."

Taking place over a decade later, after the events of the first film, "Covenant" — the human colony ship —, travels to a planet named Origae-6 to colonize. Things don't go as planned, and the ship is hit with a neutrino burst, which results in the deaths of various passengers and the captain.

The crew members aboard are awakened from a cryo sleep to work on repairs. During this process, the ship's human-like synthetic robot, Walter (Michael Fassbender) receives an emergency transmission from an unknown planet. The crew decides to investigate the planet, and comes across the same black goo substance as seen in the last movie. Things quickly become chaotic as some of the crew is exposed to the black substance. Thereafter, the remaining crew must find a way to escape from the planet while also evading the newly born alien creatures that want them dead.



Protomorph aboard an escaping shuttle from the planet.

COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY FOX

One of the most appealing aspects in the movie are the visuals. Director Ridley Scott nails the setting in almost every instance. When the crew first lands on the planet, it is hard not to be mesmerized by the large landscapes. From the flora to the cliffs, everything has a realistic and natural beauty to it. This sense of beauty also brings with it a sense of dread — as those who watched the previous film will know that the crew is in danger, and it's only a matter of time before things start to go wrong.

But before things go south, the film follows much of "Prometheus's" aspects and focuses more on the character interactions and science. Much of the early part of the film focuses on the

crew and the exploration of the planet. This is the weakest part of the film, mostly due to how slow it was.

None of the characters are that memorable or developed enough for the audience to care for them. Of the characters in the film, none besides Walter, and acting captain Daniel, (Katherine Waterston) gave memorable a noticeable impression. Fassbender's performance throughout the film was great, while Waterston's was only competent. Every other character in the film had only average acting skills. There was also no writing in the film that didn't help — it made me care less about these characters as they were. Slowly, yet surely the crew gets picked off by the various

Necromorph-type creatures.

Thankfully, "Alien: Covenant" it manages to pick up the pace by the second half of the film, as it begins to focus more on the horror aspects rather than the scientific background.

Much like "Prometheus," Necromorphs do not make an appearance. The black goo continues the cycle of evolution to the creation of the Necromorph with two previous forms, the Neomorph and the Protomorph. These creatures are terrifying and, much like the Necromorph counterpart, are extremely deadly. These aliens manage to bring the suspense and terror whenever they are on screen, and their

REVIEW

"Alien: Covenant"

★★★★☆

The Good:

- The visuals are stunning.
- Necromorphs are terrifying.
- The horror in the second half of the film is faithful to the franchise.

The Bad:

- First half of film is slow.
- Characters leave no impression and just serve as bodies for the necromorphs.

appearances are easily the best part of the film.

As both a sequel and prequel, "Alien: Covenant" manages to connect the dots between both "Prometheus" and the "Alien" franchise. The film takes and blends positive aspects from its predecessors, and ends up creating a movie that holds the audience's attention from start to end.

Despite a slow start, "Alien: Covenant" stays faithful to the franchise by focusing on the horror aspect of the series — which it is known for. "Alien: Covenant" is worth the watch to both fans of the series and sci-fi horror genre.

Nerds unite: ThinkGeek opens store at Tacoma Mall

A place where pop-culture and people come together. ThinkGeek now open in Tacoma.

By **ALEX ELDER**
PAGE DESIGNER

Those who shop at ThinkGeek no longer have to wait 3 to 5 business days for their products to arrive at their door or travel in traffic to their Seattle location, for ThinkGeek has officially come to the Tacoma Mall. To get a sense of what ThinkGeek is all about, let's dive into their history...

ThinkGeek first launched their website in 1999, selling pop culture collectibles and merchandise for those that wanted to be closer to their favorite movies, comics and games. It wasn't until 2015 that ThinkGeek opened their first physical location in Orlando, Florida. Since then, the company has opened 28 more stores along the East Coast, and two in the state of Washington. This brings the total to an impressive 31 stores in just three years.

On May 11, the ThinkGeek store

inside the Tacoma Mall had a soft opening. However, the big event happened a week later, on May 19th, with the cutting of a ribbon commemorating their grand opening within the walls of the Tacoma Mall. Well before the opening, a line had formed — full of cosplayers, geeks and fans stretched fifty yards past the store entrance. This massive demographic is something ThinkGeek prides themselves in.

"What's great about pop culture is that it reaches all ages," said Steve Wilson, the ThinkGeek District Manager. "There are people that come here in their 80s for the Superman memorabilia, and young kids that are fans of the new Guardians of the Galaxy."

Wilson also mentioned that one of the main goals of a physical ThinkGeek store is to build an emotional connection between the collectors and the collectibles. This

will be further emphasized by monthly trivia and cosplay events, beginning with Star Wars versus Star Trek this May, and Female Heroes in June to celebrate the release of the new Wonder Woman film.

The ThinkGeek store has a very open and inviting layout, with a life sized Deadpool statue that greets you at the entrance. This open concept allows you to quickly find your niche, with shelves divided into pop culture favorites like Marvel, Pokémon and Game of Thrones. ThinkGeek has quirky home goods, like a Death Star waffle maker, as well as serious collectibles, such as a scale replica of the T-80 Power Armor from the Fallout series.

Different than most, ThinkGeek operates equally as a store for collectors and a safe-space for geeks and fans alike to unite and mingle in a comfortable location. It is a must-see emporium for anyone and everyone



PHOTO BY ALEX ELDER

The Tacoma ThinkGeek store created a limited edition pin to hand out to the first 500 guests during the grand opening.

that is fan of the biggest movie, tv, and video game franchises — not to

mention, who doesn't want a selfie with a life sized replica of Deadpool?

For your summer binging needs.



COURTESY OF WARNER BROS.

“The 100”

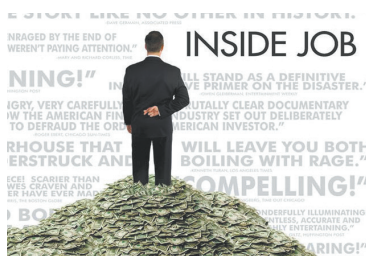
Available on Netflix and Hulu

While this is by no means a new show, it's severely underrated. In a dystopian future, the earth has been left inhabitable due to a massive nuclear war. After humanity lives on a glorified space ship for nearly a century, they send 100 of their juvenile delinquents to earth to see if they can sustain the effects of severe radiation, hoping to join them below if they indeed survive.

Turns out the 100 can live on the ground — but they aren't the only humans there. Known to the 100 as “grounders,” these radiation-affected humans live in constant barbaric anarchy. With several different clans of people, the 100 have to find their way in this Game of Thrones-esque world — only with more wars, and less civilized interactions.

With a plot that constantly pushes the audience to the edge of their seats, “The 100” raises infinite questions that'll leave you craving for answers.

—Monica Cysensky, A&E Editor



COURTESY OF SONY PICTURES

“Inside Job”

Available on Netflix and Amazon Video

A must see documentary for any millennial due to its critical look at the 2008 global financial crisis that has dramatically shaped the current economic climate. Prepare to have your mind blown as the film takes an in-depth look at the legislative, political, academic and systemic failings that allowed this disastrous event to occur. Learn how most of the perpetrators got away with it and what current government officials are doing (or not doing) to prevent it from happening again. As one of the most impactful events of modern history, every college student needs to see this.

—Jessika Foust, Page Designer

TV & Movies



COURTESY OF WARNER BROS.

“Gilmore Girls”

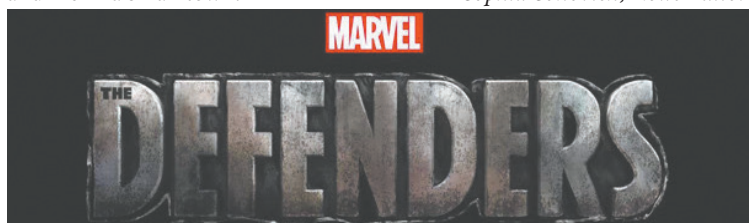
Available on Netflix

If you have not done so already, a binge-watch session of “Gilmore Girls” is definitely needed. The seven seasons follow quirky, yet lovable Rory Gilmore and her mother Lorelai as they navigate life in the small town of Stars Hollow, Connecticut.

The 153 episodes follow Rory from high school to post-college, and Lorelai from manager to owner of two Stars Hollow Inns. This drama is centered around family and friendship and life in a small town.

If you have already watched the show, check out the recently released “Gilmore Girls: A Year in a Life.” This mini series — released in 2016 specifically to Netflix — brought back a majority of the original characters for four episodes titled “Fall,” “Winter,” “Spring” and “Summer.” This continuation of the original show allows audiences a glimpse of their favorite characters in Stars Hollow nearly a decade later.

—Sophia Sonovich, News Editor



COURTESY OF NETFLIX

Marvel's “The Defenders”

Available on Netflix Aug. 18

Everybody loves when their favorite superheroes gather in the same film. This is one of the main reasons the Avengers movies are so successful. Seeing Captain America battling Iron-Man is a fanboy dream come true. Usually, these moments are reserved for blockbuster hits, but this summer the silver screen gets the royal treatment.

“The Defenders” is the latest entry in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. More specifically, it is a new epic that brings together the stars of all previous Netflix Marvel shows. This means you'll finally see street-level superheroes Daredevil, Jessica Jones, Luke Cage and Iron Fist wreaking havoc as a team!

The show will pick-up right from

where the “Iron Fist” ended. The gang will have to set their differences aside and unite to take on The Hand — a mysterious ninja organization, that brings people back from the dead. Based on the most recent trailer, Elektra — Daredevil's old lover — will be one of the main villains, along with a new character played by Sigourney Weaver.

Even though the recent “Iron Fist” was a disappointment, I'm very excited for “The Defenders.” This is in part due to the showrunners, which are the people responsible for “Daredevil's” excellent first season. If this was a sign of what's to come, “The Defenders” will be a must-see show this summer.

—Diego Meza, Layout Manager



COURTESY OF NETFLIX

“Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt”

Available on Netflix

“Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt,” created by Tina Fey, revolves around — yes, you guessed it — Kimmy Schmidt, played by hilariously talented “The Office” veteran Ellie Kemper. A recent escapee from an apocalyptic underground bunker, Kimmy must learn to adjust to 21st century life in the wondrous city of New York.

This Netflix comedy is as zany as it is funny, filled with countless spot on, equally hysterical popular culture references — though, Titus Andromadon's (Tituss Burgess) recreation of Beyoncé's “Lemonade” is my absolute favorite.

Kimmy co inhabits a crappy apartment with Titus, who consis-

tently exploits her naivete and takes advantage of her overtly kind, positive nature. Normally, a character like this would be annoying, but Titus is just enough of a strange diva to make it work.

This Netflix original series also has an abundance of comedic cameos, such as Fey, Jon Hamm, Lisa Kudrow, Maya Rudolph, Billy Eichner and more.

I swear watching “Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt” will be one of the best binging sessions Netflix has to offer. So go home and laugh until your stomach hurt. I guarantee you won't regret it.

—Kelsie Abram, Editor-in-Chief

“Wonder Woman”

Release date: June 2



COURTESY OF WARNER BROS.

Not wanting to fall behind Marvel's model, DC Comics began development of their own series of interconnected comic book stories, dubbed the DC Extended Universe. With a roster of some of the world's most recognized heroes and villains, nothing could go wrong, right?

DC has had a tough time building the foundation of their cinematic universe. Movies like “Batman v. Superman” and “Suicide Squad” had lots of potential, but ended up being lambasted by critics and fans alike. The faith of DC's future now rests on “Won-

der Woman's” shoulders. Will this Amazonian super-hero be able to carry this project forward? Press reactions seem to indicate so! It looks like DC has finally found their footing, as critics are praising the film. Gal Gadot's performance as “Wonder Woman” has been described as ‘fantastic.’

Fans of epic adventures should keep an eye on this one. Better yet, the movie will be out by the time you are done with finals! Reward yourself for your hard work and enjoy this blockbuster.

—Diego Meza, Layout Manager



GORILLAZ

HUMANZ

COURTESY OF PARLOPHONE

“Humanz” by Gorillaz

Electronic/R&B/Hip Hop, \$12 on Amazon

I remember the first time I listened to Gorillaz. I must have been a 10-year-old with little musical experience. The track “Clint Eastwood” began playing from the car’s speakers — and as the beat kicked in — I knew it was going to be something special. A couple years later, the group returned with the album that gave us “Feel Good Inc.,” a track which I consider among the best of all time.

Fast-forward more than a decade later, and the band is back and better than ever. Their recently released album “Humanz” is the perfect record to play this summer. Whatever your music tastes are, I guarantee you’ll find

something to love in this project. See, that’s the thing about Gorillaz — they don’t fall under a specific genre, but combine the best from each.

Check out the track “Submission” if you want a summer anthem to set your speakers on fire, “Andromeda” if you are in need of a power-song and “Busted and Blue” if you are feeling melancholic. I also recommend checking the video for “Saturn Barz,” as it re-introduces you to the quirky, fictional group that is Gorillaz. Their famous visual style and fantastic musical talent will make you a fan if you aren’t already one.

—Diego Meza, Layout Manager

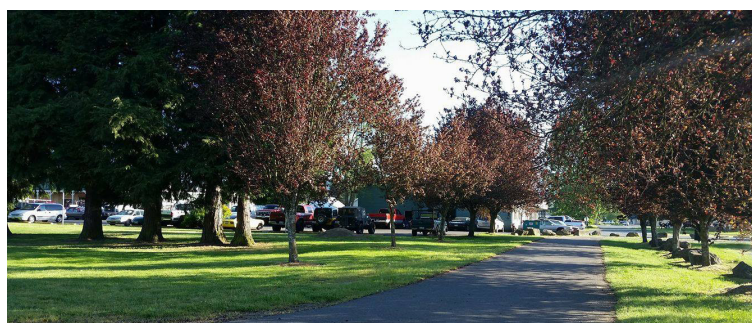


PHOTO BY SASHA PENN

Hiking Trails

Poo Poo Point

On the shoulder of Tiger Mountains exists a small alcove-like location for hikers to watch parachuters take off the mountain. The hike itself to Poo-Poo Point is only 7 miles in length, but the altitude gain makes it feel like so much more. On sunny days, the trail is crowded with people of all ages with pets — each on a race to the top. This is an amazing spot to go for a family picnic or just to sit in the sun and get some vitamin D during those warm summer days.

—Annie, A&E columnist

Comet Falls Trail

The Comet Falls Trail, located in Mt. Rainier National Park, is a 1.8-mile trail that climbs steadily uphill until it

reaches the base of Comet Falls. Comet Falls was given its name because of its resemblance to the tail of a comet. It is also one of the highest waterfalls in Mt. Rainier National Park.

—Justin Long, News Reporter

Foothills Trail

The best access points to the 25 mile trail is smack dab in the middle of Orting, southeast of Tacoma, at the Orting City Park. The park offers an expansive playground and is paved, making it great for a long bike ride. Though the trail doesn’t loop the park, it does go right through it. Further west, the official trailhead has a small parking lot and is a short walk from the water.

—Justin Long, News Reporter

Music



COURTESY OF FUELED BY RAMEN

“After Laughter”

by Paramore
Alternative, \$11 on Amazon

Earlier this year, Paramore released its brand new album, “After Laughter,” featuring music fit for the summer. “After Laughter” is filled with a new-wave sounding pop music, ditching Paramore’s previous alternative punk-rock vibe.

The album title, according to lead singer, Hayley Williams, comes from “The look on people’s faces when they’re done laughing. If you watch somebody long enough, there’s always this look that comes across their face when they’re done

smiling.” Williams has always wondered what “brought them back to reality,” which is what inspired the title “After Laughing.”

My favorite tracks on the album include singles “Hard Times” and “Told You So,” which are perfect for hot sunny days with their upbeat rhythms and catchy lyrics. Other songs on the album with a slower feel include “Fake Happy” and “26.”

—Jude Hanno, News Reporter

Activities

Recreational Fun

Titlow Park

Titlow Park is a 75-acre grassy park located next to a lagoon sanctuary and the Puget Sound shores. The park offers a scenic view of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge and Fox Island. Other features of the park include tennis and basketball courts, playfields, trails, spraygrounds, playgrounds and picnic areas. The historic Titlow Lodge, formerly the Hotel Hesperides, was constructed in 1911 and is a central feature of the park.

—Justin Long, News Reporter

Tipsoo Lake

Surrounding Tipsoo Lake are meadows filled with wildflowers that bloom in late July and early August. Nearby, there is a popular hiking trail called the Naches Peak Loop. Hiking this trail counterclockwise offers an outstanding view of Mt. Rainer.

—Justin Long, News Reporter

Wapato Park

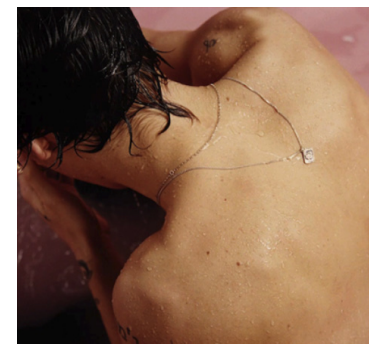
Just off of I-5 on 72nd Street, Wapato park has a trail about a mile long that loops around the lake. With a beautiful view, it’s a great place to bring the family for a picnic. Wapato boasts several bathrooms, a picnic area and a playground, as well as a large dog park.

—Sasha Penn, Reporter

Ruston Way

This trail is 2.53 miles long with a populated area including restaurants, fishing and a breathtaking view of Commencement Bay. This paved trail stretches between Jake Hyde Park in Tacoma and Ruston Way on North 49th Street in Ruston. There is a bathroom along the trail, though since there are restaurants along the way, you won’t be stuck out in the open when nature comes calling.

—Sasha Penn, Reporter



COURTESY OF COLUMBIA RECORDS

“Harry Styles”

by Harry Styles
Soft Rock
\$11 on Amazon

Harry Styles may have boy band roots, but you wouldn’t know listening to his self titled debut album “Harry Styles.” Styles co wrote all ten songs of the album, channeling the likes of legends David Bowie and The Beatles throughout.

Rolling Stone gave “Harry Styles” 4/5, writing Styles “claims his turf as a true rock & roll prince, a sunshine superman, a cosmic dancer in touch with his introspective acoustic side as well as his glam flash.” And they’re obviously not wrong.

A stand out on Styles’ debut album is “Carolina” — a catchy, soft rock song perfect for a day outside in the sun. Style’s voice shines on each beat of the drum, almost as if you can hear his relaxed enthusiasm from the speakers.

“Ever Since New York” and “Sweet Creature” fall under the love song category, both containing heart-straining lyrics that’ll make you cry in your car. Opposingly, “Kiwi” shines on the album as a rock song with rockstar guitar riff. Listen to it in a dive bar, and it’ll feel like you’re sitting next to the real Styles.

So go find a comfortable seat and prepare yourself for the amazing 48 minutes and 18 seconds that is “Harry Styles.”

—Kelsie Abram, Editor-in-Chief

Get Fit!

Everyone has the ability to be stronger. Lifting weights can increase self esteem and reduce stress, especially after a hectic school year. Mastering this skill is functional in everyday life and aids in weight loss.

Take it one step further and explore the sports of bodybuilding, powerlifting or crossfit — all three are great for beginners. Remember: everyone has to start somewhere! Join a local gym or purchase some weights at your nearest sporting goods store.

This activity is good for the mind, body and spirit, and it also won’t break the bank!

—Jessica Foust, Page Designer

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EDUCATION
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William Towey
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Elizabeth J. Wren-Staples

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The power of storytelling and story-listening

Luis Ortega's motivational story teaches us about overcoming life's obstacles by listening.

By **DIEGO MEZA**
LAYOUT MANAGER

Many of us want to be great public speakers. Standing confidently in front of large crowds, captivating the audience with the power of our words — these are skills society encourages us to learn and develop. But what about the other side of the equation? There are loads of information on how to become a better speaker, but not much about being a better listener. Active listening is not just hearing words, but fully focusing on the message behind them. Paying attention to what someone has to say can have life-changing consequences, as shown in Luis Ortega's story.

Ortega is a TEDx Speaker and founder of Storytellers for Change, an organization that utilizes narratives to promote social change. He travels across the country delivering powerful speeches at different institutions. Ortega recently visited the University of Washington Tacoma campus for a discussion titled "Day of Hope for Change." I had the chance to join him and learn about his life, struggles and triumphs in this motivational talk.

Ortega's mother wanted a better future for her children, so she migrated from Mexico to the United States when Luis was around 14 years old. It was a harsh transition, as they had to adapt to a whole new culture that sometimes felt uninviting. At first, they lived in the basement of a house, where each sibling would take a corner of the room and mark it as theirs. Inability to pay the rent caused them to live in a car for five months. Later, they managed to find a humble apartment that offered no privacy.

Despite all these obstacles, Luis was a good student. One day, he sat down with an academic advisor to talk about

Active listening is not just hearing words, but fully focusing on the message behind them.

college. Luis was scared — he believed his illegal immigrant status would stop him from achieving higher education. His nightmares seemed to come true, as the advisor said people like him don't go to college. Ortega's perfect attendance record was broken — he left the school crying in despair.

Once he reached home, Ortega's grandmother noticed the sadness hidden behind his eyes. She approached him and said, "people are remembered by the stories they tell." This phrase rekindled the fire inside Ortega, pushing him to fight back.

Ortega wasn't sure where to begin. Nobody had guided him on what's the path to college. However, he was used to seeing University of Washington advertisements posted around his daily route. He hoped to find some answers there.

He arrived to the University of Washington Seattle campus and knocked on every door, looking for help. He eventually encountered someone who saw the potential in him. When asked if he had the paperwork needed to apply to the school, he said no, as he was clueless about the admission process. He had three days to turn in recommendations, personal statements, transcripts, etc. before the deadline. Armed with determination, Ortega spent all night putting together these documents from the one place in his apartment that offered some privacy — the bathroom.



COURTESY OF STORYTELLERS FOR CHANGE

Ortega waited and waited, until a small envelope arrived at his mailbox. Prepared for the worst, he opened it and found out he was accepted. It was one of the happiest moments in his life. Ortega and his mother cried tears of joy, excited by the opportunities lying ahead. Standing at the university's Red Square filled him with pride. The efforts of his labor seemed to finally have come to fruition. However, the change proved to be harder than anticipated. Ortega's grades plummeted, going from a 4.0 in high school to 1.5 in college. Self-doubt overtook his mind.

Just when he felt most insecure and vulnerable, his favorite teacher from high school contacted him. She wanted him to go back to the school and give a speech to struggling students. She felt his success story would be a good motivator for them. The thought of public speaking had never crossed Ortega's mind. He was the quiet kid in school, sitting at the back of the class. He was so afraid of speaking, that one time his mother had to go take him from school, causing her to lose her job. Naturally, he wanted to reject the

teacher's proposition.

After some consideration, Ortega decided to visit his old high school and give the speech. He expected maybe a dozen or so people to be there, but to his surprise, there were over 100 students waiting for him. He was overwhelmed, but decided to go along with it. After an hour of — what he describes as — awkwardly putting sentences together, he was done with his first speech. The look on the audience's faces confirmed his suspicions; it had gone terribly. After a pathetic applause, the students left the room. Ortega began packing his belongings, when he noticed a student walking back and forth. As he was about to leave, the student rushed and threw himself at Ortega. The kid hugged him, and with tears flowing from his eyes, thanked him. There was someone in that audience who was deeply impacted by Luis' message. That person listened.

This moment taught Ortega the value of empathizing with others. He felt that student was his "other him" — someone who through similar experiences connected with him based

on something he said. Ortega's favorite teacher took notice of the event. Soon after, Ortega received offers to give more talks. Even though he was a homeless student with many worries, he still managed to find time to give speeches. He felt education shouldn't be kept for yourself, but be given to others. From then, Ortega has worked on projects like the development of the Leadership Without Borders Center for UW, development of youth support programs for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and creating his own organization called Storytellers for Change. I highly suggest watching a video of one of his speeches. His story and mission is a great source of inspiration.

Ortega's moving story is a prime example of overcoming life obstacles based on the powers of storytelling and story-listening. His life was shaped by listening the wise words of his closed ones, as well as the stranger who connected with him through his first speech. Next time you engage in a conversation with someone, don't just listen to the words they say — be an active listener.



HAVE A GREAT
SUMMER!

— THE LEDGER