

THE WESTERN FRONT

Volume 186, Issue 1

westernfrontonline.com

Wednesday, January 9th, 2019

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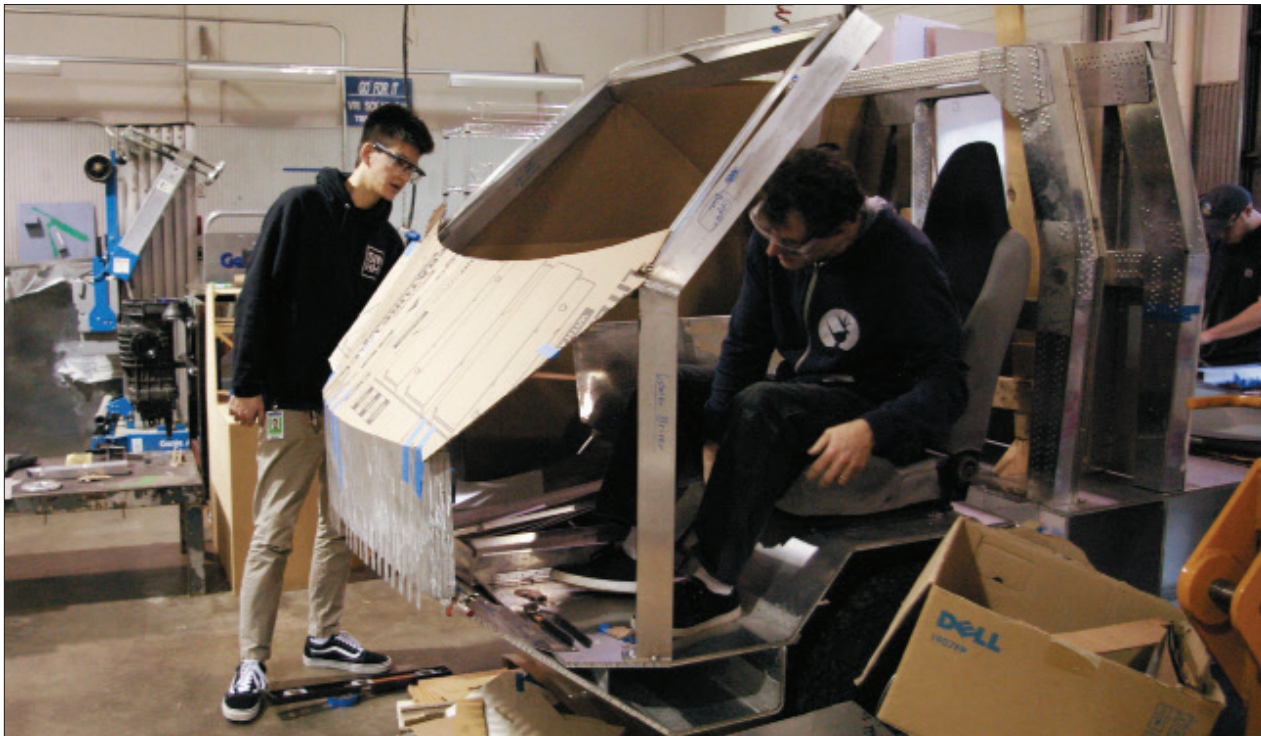
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VEHICLE DESIGN IN MORATORIUM



A vehicle design professor and student work on a project together. // Photo by Cody Clark. see pages 8 and 9

WTA Hearing for Proposed Changes

By Esther Chong
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Whatcom Transportation Authority held a public hearing on Tuesday, Jan. 8 at Carl Cozier Elementary school to discuss proposed revisions to bus routes.

At the hearing, WTA Transit Planner Mary Anderson said the WTA modified its 2019 service proposals after listening to feedback regarding route changes at a public hearing held on Nov. 27, 2018.

Some of the received feedback included the proposed elimination of service on a section of Samish Way, according

see WTA, page 3

PHONE OUTAGES SWEEP THE STATE

Phone outages limit access to resources on campus

By Claudia Cooper
THE WESTERN FRONT

A state-wide phone outage on Sunday, Jan. 6 marks the latest in a pattern of phone outages across Washington that have affected services such as Western's counseling center and the University Police emergency hotline.

Western's community was informed about the most recent outage via a Western Alert. About one in five calls to on-campus phones and University Police dispatch fail, according to the email. Western's staff is now working with the phone company in order to resolve this issue, the

email stated.

Western Alerts have been frequently sent out regarding campus phone and emergency call box outages during this academic year.

The first email advisory alert was sent to students and faculty on Sep. 27, 2018 about the outage of the blue emergency telephones. The outages occurred after phone lines were down due to the vendor of the emergency phones being in the path of Hurricane Florence on the East Coast.

In October of 2018, multiple emails were sent regarding an outage of on-campus phones, meaning University Police dispatch could not receive calls in case of an emergency. Western Advisory offered alternate phone numbers to be used in order to

reach University Police in a state of emergency as well as a community mental health hotline due to the counseling center phones being a part of this outage. Western staff was working to restore phone lines as soon as possible. The problem was eventually fixed on Oct. 26, two days after the outage due to a firewall malfunction within the phone system.

There was another occurrence of phone outages on Dec. 27 due to a national phone outage that was quickly fixed the next day, but left many people in the country vulnerable to dropped or incomplete 911 calls. According to an article by the Seattle Times, Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson is seeking stories from residents in the area who had trouble reaching 911 during the

most recent outage.

The phone outages have still not been re-

solved according to a follow up email on Monday, Jan. 7.



Phones at Western were included in the outage. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin



Western students Olivia Moseley, left and Ryan Barney of the band Bobby Petite perform with the band's drummer Bella Cole-Preciado at an art show on Dec. 14, 2018 in Bellingham, Wash. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin

The Western Front

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The Western Front is published once weekly in the fall, winter, spring and summer quarters. The Western Front is the official newspaper of Western Washington University and is published by the Student Publications Council. It is mainly supported by advertising. Opinions and stories in the newspaper have no connection to advertising. News content is determined by student editors. Staff reporters are involved in a course in the department of journalism, but any student enrolled at Western may offer stories to the editors.

Have story ideas?
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to send them our way or discuss sharing information confidentially.

Corrections:

WTA

continued from page 1

to a WTA press release. As a result, the WTA has modified its proposal to preserve service on Samish Way. This would require the WTA to redesign some existing service, according to the press release.

The WTA Board of Directors will vote on these proposed revisions Thursday, Jan. 17. The route changes would begin this summer on June 16 and have been planned since early 2018, Anderson said.

According to Anderson, revisions made to the 2019 proposal since the November 2018 public hearing include maintaining service four times per hour between Bellingham Station and Lakeway Drive, and four times per hour between Lakeway Drive, westbound between Woburn Street and Bellingham Station.

Revisions would reduce service to three buses per hour when traveling eastbound on Lakeway Drive between Lincoln Street to Woburn Street and eliminate service on Old Lakeway Drive.

Route 533 would serve Samish Way, Yew Street

and Lakeway Drive in a counterclockwise loop. However, Western students Timothy Gatlin and Daniel Heppner urged WTA representatives to reconsider revisions to Route 533 before next Thursday's vote.

Gatlin, an urban planning student, and Heppner, an engineering student, shared an interest in public transit and had not known each other prior to the public hearing. They discussed starting a student organization together to work with the WTA to improve transportation needs for students.



Proposed WTA service changes will go into effect June 2019. // Photo courtesy of Western Front staff.

ELIMINATED ROUTES

11 WWU – 32nd Street (eliminated route would be served by proposed Route 105)

92 WWU/Lincoln Creek (portions of the eliminated route would be served by other WWU routes)

5 Fairhaven – Downtown (portions of the eliminated route would be served by proposed Routes 105, 196, 197)

ROUTES TO AND FROM WESTERN

Bill McDonald Parkway: Routes 105, 107, 108, 190, 196 and 197

Happy Valley: Route 14
Lincoln Street (Lincoln Creek P&R, NXNW, Fred Meyer): Routes 190, 196 and 197
32nd Street: Route 105

Samish Way: Routes 107 and 108

NEW OPTIONS

105 Fairhaven Downtown
196 WWU/Lincoln Street
197 Lincoln Street/WWU

WEDNESDAY 1/9 THRIFTY FASHION STUDENT ASSOCIATION – FIRST MEETING @ 4:30 P.M. WWU MILLER HALL 152 FREE! YOGA AS OUTDOOR CENTER @ 4P.M. FREE!	THURSDAY 1/10 SIN & GIN SNAPSHOTS WITH THE GOOD TIME GIRLS @ 11:30 A.M. WHATCOM MUSEUM FREE! WWU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL V. CONCORDIA @ 7 P.M. CARVER GYM	FRIDAY 1/11 SAFE SEX FRIDAYS @ 10 A.M. RED SQUARE FREE! UNDERGROUND TRANSMISSIONS ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY @ 9 P.M. WILD BUFFALO \$10 21+	SATURDAY 1/12 "RISING" - ART WALK @ 10 A.M. FOURTH CORNER FRAME, 311 W. HOLLY ST. FREE! HAPPY CLUB: 24K MAGIC DANCE @ 8 P.M. MAC GYM \$10	EVENT CALENDAR
SUNDAY 1/13 HAPPY CLUB: 24K MAGIC DANCE @ 8 P.M. MAC GYM \$10 BALLET BELLINGHAM BOOSTERS CLOTHING DRIVE BALLET BELLINGHAM @ 10 A.M.	MONDAY 1/14 TO THE MOUNTAINTOP: A SOCIAL HISTORY OF MOUNTAINEERING @ 11 A.M. SPECIAL COLLECTIONS – WILSON LIBRARY 6TH FLOOR FREE!	TUESDAY 1/15 HOME ITEM REPAIR WORKSHOP @ 5 P.M. BELLINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY FREE! WWU MEN'S BASKETBALL V. SIMON FRASER @ 7 P.M. CARVER GYM	WEDNESDAY 1/16 WESTERN LIBRARIES TEACHING-LEARNING ACADEMY FORUM @ 12 P.M. HAGGARD HALL 222 FREE!	

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“Money alone isn’t going to produce the results we are looking for.”

District 42 representatives talk carbon tax, teacher salaries at town hall meeting

Cailean McLeod
THE WESTERN FRONT

In Meridian High School’s auditorium, Whatcom County residents gathered to question local politicians on a range of topics. District 42 Senator Doug Ericksen, Representative Luanne Van Werven and Representative-Elect Sharon Shewmake met on Saturday, Jan. 5 and fielded questions regarding local and state-level issues. Two hotly-debated topics were the proposed carbon tax and teachers’ salaries.

CARBON TAX

Shewmake, a recently elected as a District 42 representative who will be sworn in Monday, Jan. 14, said climate change is a serious issue and stated her support for a measure that would tax polluting companies \$10 per ton of carbon they produce.

Sen. Ericksen, however, was hesitant about the tax and said it felt more designed to change transportation habits of people rather than of corporations.

“The people who are advocating [carbon tax], they want to change behavior,” Ericksen said.

“They don’t want you to drive your car, they want you to ride the bus.”

This statement came after an audience member expressed concern to Ericksen that the carbon tax could hurt gas prices.

One audience member expressed to Shewmake concern over whether the revenues from the tax will go to homeowners and not to other unsanctioned governmental uses. Shewmake said the money generated by the tax goes directly back into Washington households. This, she said, should put traditional energy production on an even playing field with clean energy.

“It should be that reducing pollution saves you money; right now it doesn’t,” Shewmake said.

Shewmake said she believes the current version of the tax is preferable because other politicians are more likely to rally behind it.

“I want a policy that legislators in Virginia will want to copy,” she said. “That’s also something you need to pressure your legislators about.”

In November, Washington voters rejected a carbon fee on fossil-fuel emissions that was proposed under Initiative

1631, but discussion about a similar measure has continued.

During the meeting, the carbon tax was repeatedly referred to as a “cap-and-trade system.” However, according to the Carbon Tax Center website, the two operate differently. The carbon tax is a fixed fee on a set amount of carbon expelled by factories.

A cap-and-trade system sets a high limit on carbon emissions, but permits companies to buy and trade allowances to emit more. This gives them incentive to find more cost-effective ways of cutting emissions, according to the Environmental Defense Fund.

TEACHER’S SALARIES

Another prominent issue in the meeting surrounded the topic of raising teachers’ pay, which legislators had differing opinions on.

“These are the people who are working for students; who are in charge of our future,” Shewmake said. “And there’s really good data that said if you don’t pay teachers appropriately, when you don’t treat them like professionals... they don’t do a good job of treating our students.”

The issue of teacher salaries came up at a few points during discussion of taxation and what to do with tax revenue.

One of the ideas was the concept of giving that money towards schools.

Rep. Van Werven agreed with Shewmake that teachers are an important facet of children’s lives, but doubted whether a pay raise would work toward giving students a better education.

“Are we saying that last year they were doing less than their best, and now that we’re going to give them double-digit pay raises they’re going to be better teachers?” Van Werven said. “Money alone isn’t going to produce the results we are looking for.”

Earlier in the meeting, Rep. Van Werven said Washington state teachers make about \$100,000 a year. When asked about it later, she clarified that the average for Washington state was actually around \$85,000 a year and that bonuses increase that by \$25,000.

According to the National Education Association, the national average for teachers’ starting pay from 2016 through

2017 was \$38,617 a year. The average for Washington state is slightly higher at \$40,725.

In addition to concerns over the carbon tax and teacher salaries, Inland Boatman’s union member Anthony Distefano told Sen. Ericksen that 75 percent of ferry captains and engineers are retiring and that the workforce is aging in that sector. He asked Ericksen what Washington state was planning on doing to benefit ferries.

Ericksen said subsidization of ferries, increases in fares and finding different ways to increase competition between Washington state ferry corporations were all under discussion.

Distefano attended the town hall because two of the three hosts were part of the House Transportation Committee and he wanted to speak to those in charge of funding his industry.

“All the representatives and the senator presented their viewpoints very well,” Distefano said.

SASHA and Urban Planners collaborate

Students Against Sexual Harrassment and Assault reached out to the Urban Planners after one of their professors was found to have harassed two teaching assistants

Olivia Kearney
THE WESTERN FRONT

Content Warning: This story contains references to sexual harrassment.

Once a week, nearly every week of the 2018 fall quarter, a small band of students stood around Fisher Fountain, holding cardboard signs and battling through harrowing weather conditions to make a call-to-arms. Their target audience, Western’s administration, needed to take a stand on the prevalent cases of sexual assault and harassment on campus.

They’ve recently found a new ally in the Urban Planning club.

Students Against Sexual Harassment and Assault, or SASHA, was started as a way to continue actions that were being taken within the Human Services Professionals and Community Systems 404 class by students Hannah Peters and Nicole Wood. In the class, research topics are passed down from cohort to

cohort in order for students to do continuous advocacy and organizing. Wood and Peters picked the topic of sexual assault on campus.

The two found that a lot of people wanted to continue organizing and advocating about sexual assault after the quarter ended, so SASHA was born.

“SASHA came out as way for people to get involved with taking some continued action against that issue,” Wood said.

One such conversation that SASHA has gotten the student body to rally over is that of Paul Stangl, an Urban Planning and Sustainable Development professor who was found to have harassed two teaching assistants on a class trip in 2016. Stangl ultimately was barred from teaching a field course again until summer quarter of 2020.

Former Urban Planning major Kai Bjarke decided to join SASHA when they heard about the Stangl case from Wood. Bjarke was coincidentally taking a class taught by Stangl at the time

and finally put the name and face together.

Eventually, Bjarke decided to transfer to the University of Washington after they worried they would make enemies with Urban Planning professors who supported Stangl.

“The administration is allowing [Stangl] to just continue teaching uninhibited, and I don’t even have words for it,” Bjarke said.

According to Peters, she and a small group of students who had organized over the summer interrupted the Urban Planning orientation at the beginning of the year and demanded action be taken by faculty to take a position on Stangl’s employment.

Through this interaction, Peters made connections with people in the Western Urban Planners who ended up joining SASHA. She said the two groups have since kept in correspondence to make sure students from the Urban Planning program feel supported.

According to Bjarke,

Stangl is currently the only professor teaching the intro course in the major, meaning every Urban Planning major must take a class with him.

On Classfinder, the last time a professor other than Stangl taught the Intro to Urban Planning course at Western was winter of 2018. He will be teaching the course for spring 2019.

Originally, SASHA held weekly accountability vigils in Red Square at the beginning of fall quarter in which they stood with signs that commented on various issues each week. One week, the club focused their efforts on Stangl with signs that read: “WUW What Are You Doing About Paul Stangl?” and “Where Is The Accountability for Paul Stangl?”

“People would come up and ask, ‘Oh, is this the guy in the chemistry department who sexually harassed people, or is this the guy in the theatre department who sexually harassed people?’ Which was really unfortunate having to be the first person to break the news

about this guy, and also to learn that there’s very many more,” Bjarke said about the vigils.

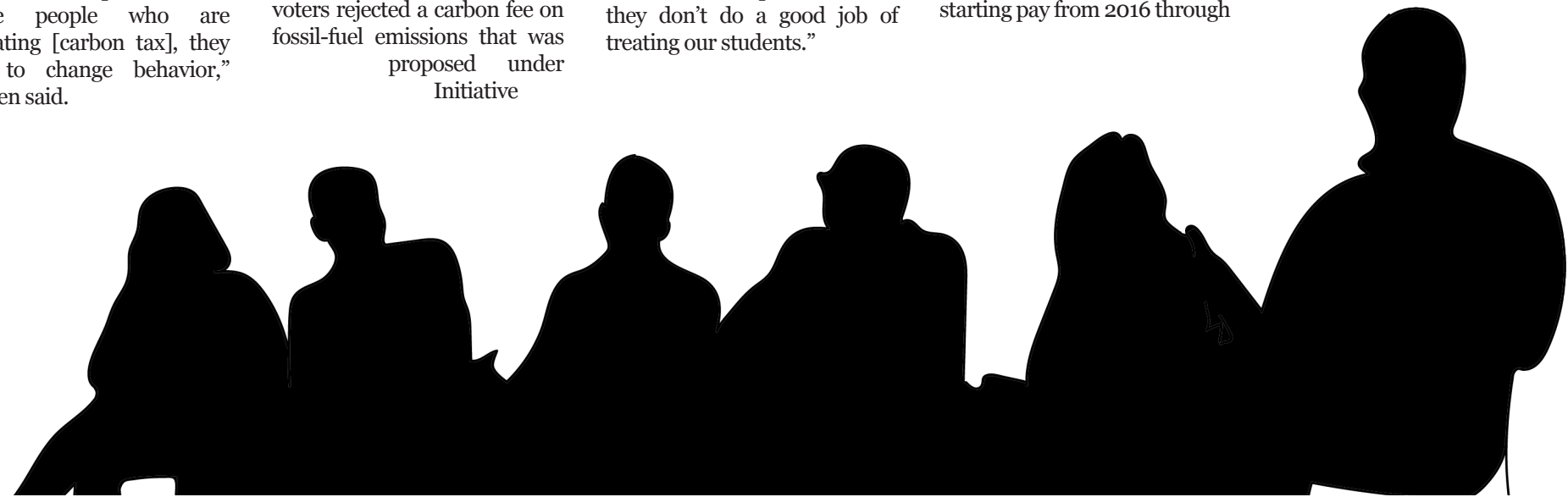
According to Bjarke, SASHA is trying to move away from specifically speaking out about Stangl.

“Clearly so many other professors that the university is pushing through the sanctioning process the exact same way... they just get a slap on the wrist,” Bjarke said.

SASHA aims to partner with other clubs and organizations moving forward to unite student voices in the quest for change within the administration’s actions regarding sexual assault on Western’s campus, according to Peters.

“[The university admin’s] words mean nothing if there is no action that comes after it. You can’t just keep emailing ‘sorry this happened.’ Own up to it and then change your behaviors,” Peters said.

SASHA’s meetings are open to anyone and are held in Miller 154 at 6 p.m. every Thursday.



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vehicle design hits the brakes

No new students in vehicle design program as funding hangs in the balance

Stella Harvey
THE WESTERN FRONT

During an engineering and design department meeting on Nov. 14, 2018 faculty voted once again to put the industrial technology vehicle design program in moratorium, which will take effect at the end of the catalog year.

Putting the program into moratorium means they will not enroll any new students in the major after the moratorium is put into effect at the end of the spring quarter, according to the vehicle design program's website. This allows for the department to work on changes to the curriculum without affecting current students.

On Dec. 4, 2018 the request for a moratorium was approved by the Academic Coordinating Commission.

The vote comes after months of uncertainty for both faculty and students, with the original moratorium proposal going back to May 2018. According to previous coverage by The Western Front, when the moratorium was first proposed, many students felt their opinions were not being considered.

Mitch Hooper, a fourth-year in the vehicle design program, said when the word spread about the proposed moratorium, he was concerned about not being able to finish his degree.

"There were a lot of unanswered questions," Hooper said. "[We were] wondering what it meant for our future."

Originally from California, Hooper said he came to Western specifically to participate in the vehicle design program.

"I was drawn to the vehicle program because it was very hands-on," Hooper said. "It's a unique program and it's small, so there's a lot of professor-student time."

Engineering and Design Department Chair Jeff Newcomer said the main reason the moratorium was considered, and later passed, was the lack of funding available to hire program faculty and add enough courses to get it accredited, a certification which is highly valued in the industry.

According to Newcomer, the vehicle design program is currently the only program in the engineering department that is not accredited.

Since 2013, the college of science and engineering has submitted four budget proposals as part of the state operating budget request asking for funding to get the program accredited, but each one has failed, according to the department's website.

"There's a belief that it is inappropriate to be offering one unaccredited degree when all of our other degrees are accredited," Newcomer said. "[Unaccredited degrees] have had implications for the graduates, sometimes in an immediate

"We are not giving up. The point was not to completely close down, but to stop doing something that we know is substandard relative to everything else."
- jeff newcomer

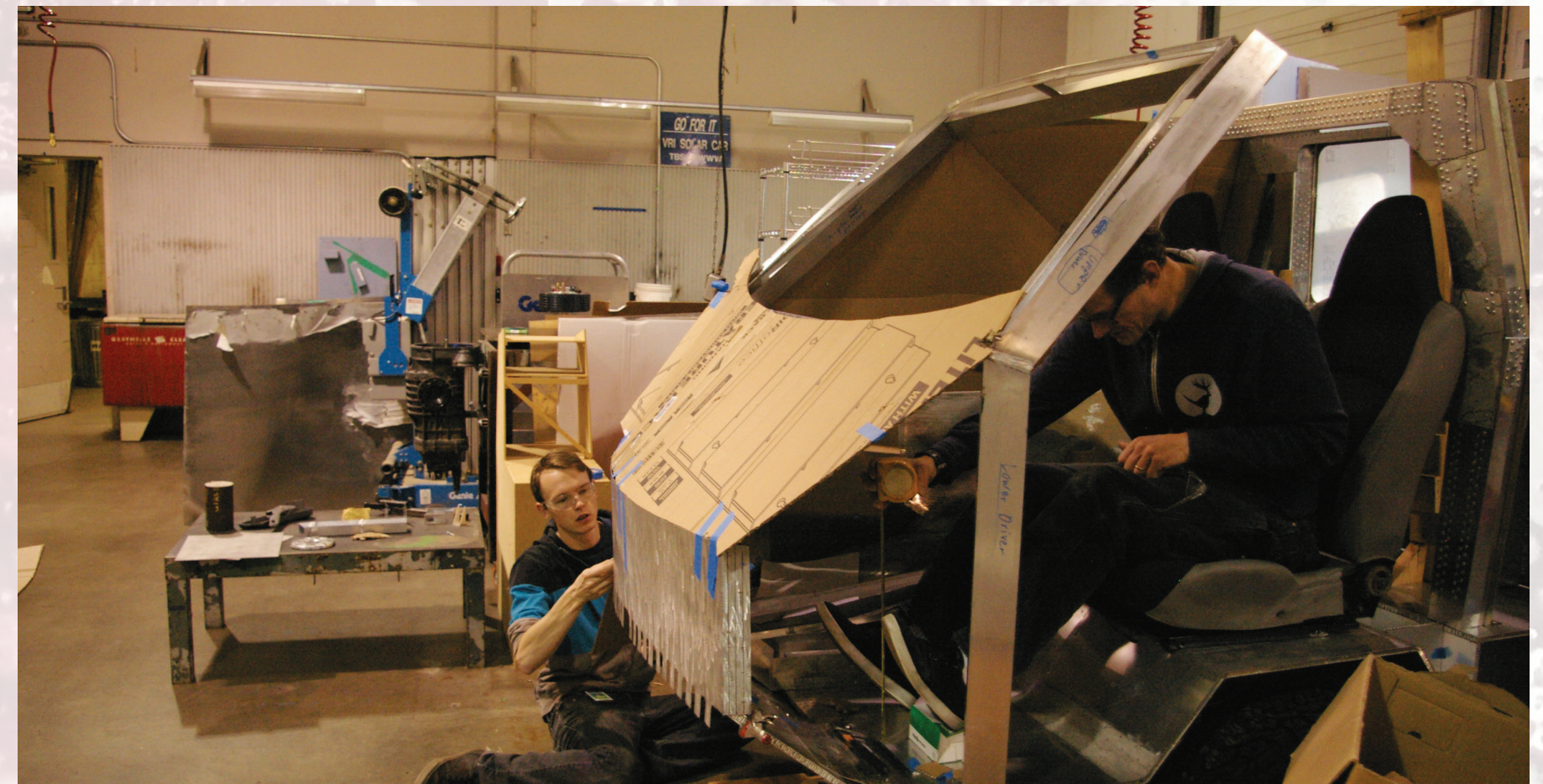
sense, sometimes in the long term."

According to previous coverage by The Western Front, in recent years, graduates of the vehicle design program have had a difficult time staying competitive in the job market without an accredited degree.

Edward West, a former vehicle design post-baccalaureate student and researcher said he agrees accreditation is valuable in the engineering industry,



Professor Eric Leonhardt and student Jacob Thurber work with a metal saw to cut an aluminum frame piece for a senior project campus electric vehicle. // Photo by Cody Clark



Professor Eric Leonhardt and student Jacob Thurber work on a campus electric vehicle project. // Photo by Cody Clark



AS Academic Officers talk with students about the vehicle design program. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin

and believes the program should strive to become accredited. He said he also thinks more focus should be put toward helping students thrive within the existing program.

West said the program offers many students opportunities that go beyond an accredited degree.

"There are a lot of people that like vehicles, automobiles, transportation and the sense of freedom they bring to our society," West said. "So there's a certain amount of real connection that students have to the program and the subject matter that is often lost in traditional engineering programs."

Newcomer said because the moratorium will not go into effect until the end of the catalog year, the program will still be accepting new majors during winter quarter. He said current students and students who are accepted into the major before the moratorium goes into effect will be able to finish their degrees.

"Existing declared majors will be

supported through the completion of their degrees as long as they continue to make progress," Newcomer said.

When the moratorium was approved, Hooper said he was relieved to find out that new applicants would

While the program is in moratorium, Hooper said he hopes that the engineering department does not divert any equipment or space from the program, as the lab space where the program is located is the biggest in the

"I know there's definitely things that the engineering department could do with that space that would not necessarily be beneficial to us."
- mitch hooper

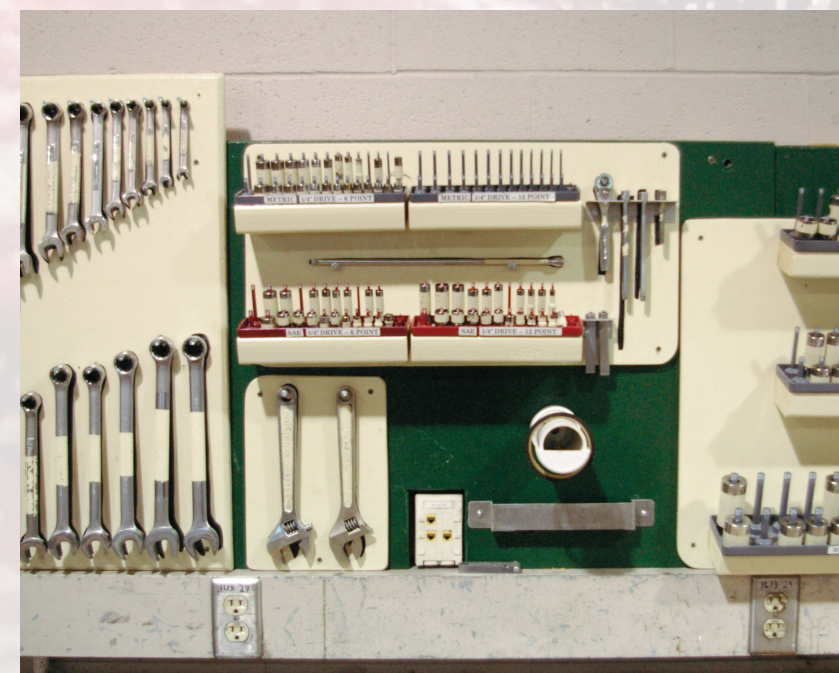
be accepted before it went into effect so more people could participate in the program.

According to Newcomer, the science and engineering department will continue to seek funding for the vehicle program in the upcoming budget cycle.

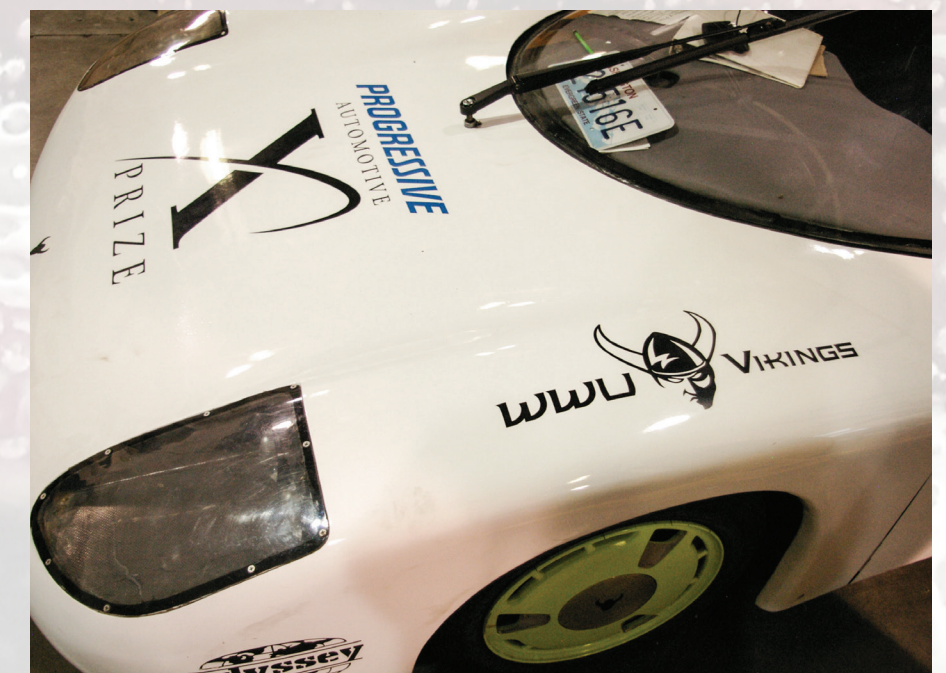
"We are not giving up," Newcomer said. "The point was not to completely close down, but to stop doing something that we know is substandard relative to everything else."

department. "I know there's definitely things that the engineering department could do with that space that would not necessarily be beneficial to us," Hooper said.

Newcomer also said the moratorium will have no impact on the WWU Racing team, a group of students who build an open-wheel formula style race car to compete in the annual Society of Automotive Engineers competition.



The VRI lab is decorated with organized tools. // Photo by Cody Clark



The Vehicle Research Institute lab houses past student-built vehicles. // Photo by Cody Clark



The WWU Racing Team designs and races a formula car every year. This club is unaffected by the moratorium according to Newcomer. // Photo by Cody Clark



Photo by Audra Anderson

babygreens plant shop owner Nick Meza branches out

Audra Anderson
THE WESTERN FRONT

The intoxicating smell of coffee, the low hum of soft alternative rock and a plethora of lush plants welcome customers to downtown's newest cafe, babygreens. What began as a petite plant shop on Cornwall Avenue has expanded into a chic cafe.

Nick Meza, a Western alumnus and the owner of the plant shop, which opened in April 2018, he said he always had the goal of adding the cafe portion. However, it wasn't until Friday, Jan. 6 that babygreens entertained its first cafe customers in a busy grand opening, according to Meza.

He said he had the idea for his business partway through school. Having worked in food service for much of his life, Meza knew his way around the industry.

Meza graduated from Western in 2015 and said he's always wanted to own a small business. The young business owner said he wanted to incorporate a social aspect to the shop, and the cafe was a perfect fit.

"We're working really hard to provide the best possible energy and culture within the cafe," Meza said. "The biggest thing that I

try to provide is warmth and always being a place of joy for everybody."

Since its opening on Jan. 6, the cafe has been a popular stop for people. Not only does babygreens attract coffee drinkers, but photographers, students

and people exploring downtown are also drawn in by its aesthetically pleasing decor and calm, natural light, according to customers.

A cream, tan and green color scheme stays consistent throughout the

cafe and shop area with grass-like coasters placed on small marble side tables, waiting to be topped by artisan lattes. To-go cups are stamped with the shop's feathery logo.

Local photographer Lisa Aamot

said she didn't want to photograph in babygreens when it was just a plant shop due to the smaller space. Since the shop's expansion, however, she has come in to make use of the bright lighting and pleasing theme.

As Aamot snapped photos of her friend surrounded by plants and the latte art, she said how excited she was about the new cafe portion of the store.

"[It just has] beautiful natural light," Aamot said, "And it's nice we can support local businesses."

The cafe also boasts a diverse menu. Customers can enjoy baked goods, beverages such as coffee, tea, wine, beer and cider, or they can indulge in babygreens' \$3.50 weekend mimosas.

Dan Ashburn, a babygreens barista, is passionate about coffee and was familiar with the shop prior to the cafe opening, so he found his niche working behind the counter of the cafe.

"I love it here so far," Ashburn said. "The vibe and environment is just great."

Smiling customers enjoyed their decorative coffees and decadent pastries around the shop.

Bellingham residents, Dave O'Brien and Kory Bisset, wandered into babygreens for the first



babygreens' diverse menu offers coffee, tea, wine, beer and cider. // Photo by Audra Anderson

time Monday morning.

"I had two of their muffins," O'Brien said. "Honestly, some of the best muffins I've had in my life."

"And he's a picky eater!" Bisset added, laughing.

However, the biggest thing that sets babygreens apart from other cafes is their staff's desire to know and support the Bellingham community, Meza said.

Meza spends his time in the cafe striking up conversations with customers, shaking hands and ensuring everyone is content and taken care of. As familiar faces walk in, they greet Meza and congratulate him on the opening of his cafe.

"Something that is special

to us is our emphasis on community events and openness to a lot of people

"The biggest thing that I try to strive to provide is warmth and always being a place of joy for everybody."

—Owner Nick Meza

and their ideas," Meza said. Meza attributes his inspiration and passion for the

shop to his parents, he said.

"My parents are both small business owners and entrepreneurship kind of runs in my family," Meza said. "So seeing that it can be done was incredibly motivating and inspiring."

Meza looks forward to seeing how the cafe continues to grow and can't wait to meet more of the community, he said.

"We are here for everybody, always," Meza said. "We are always going to strive to give you the most pleasant experience in a place for you to just have fun with open arms and warmth. We'd just love to get to know everybody, especially all of the students out there."



Owner Nick Meza smiles in his new cafe. // Photo by Audra Anderson

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE STUDENTS ANALYZE A RIVER REBORN

The removal of the Elwha River Dam gave birth to a revamped ecosystem along its banks

BIANCA LANCIA
THE WESTERN FRONT

In 2011, the National Park Service began the removal of the Elwha and Glines Canyon dams, the largest dam removal project in the world. Today, the effects of these dams on the lifeforms around the Elwha River, and the benefits of the dams' removal, are still being studied and discussed.

In 2018, a group of Western students in the John McLaughlin field camp conducted a study to analyze effects of the dam removal on the local ecosystem. The field camp consists of four outdoor courses where students camp, cook meals, study, conduct field research and travel together. The study focused primarily on the altered distribution of birds, drained water reservoirs, changes in vegetation and return of the salmon population.

The effect on the salmon population is also of concern to the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe. The placement of the Elwha and Glines Canyon dams blocked migrating salmon from reaching the tribe, who relied on the fish for consumption.

"In addition to blocking the passage of salmon upriver, the dams were blocking the downriver transportation of trees, branches, and root wads. In healthy rivers and streams, large woody debris accumulates naturally and provides habitat for fish," the Lower

Elwha Klallam Tribe official website states.

Ethan Duvall, a fourth-year studying environmental science, was thrilled to play a role in the Western study.

"My study specifically focused on river-dependent birds...how the removal affected the abundance and distribution of these birds, and habitat characteristics that were important to them," Duvall said.

Duvall explained that when the dams were removed, Lake Aldwell and Lake Mills were drained, which exposed the sediment of 250-acre lake beds. This resulted in the re- placement of lentic, or still water, lake habitat with lotic, or continuously flowing, river habitat. The removal dramatically altered the existing habi-

tats and many species were adversely affected depending on their habitat preferences, he said.

Randy Jones, another fourth-year studying environmental science who worked alongside Duvall in the study, conducted a water-dependent bird abundance survey on the lower stretch of the Elwha River.

"Previously, the Elwha system was starved of the substantial amount of nutrients that the salmon acquire while out at sea and then deposit into the ecosystem after they spawn and die," Jones said. "The removal of the dams has allowed for the return of this vital nutrient source that is increasing in volume every passing year since the removals occurred."

Jones said how dams have negative ecological impacts on river systems, because they impede important sedimentation processes, decrease water quality and prevent anadromous fish, who migrate up rivers from the sea, from reaching freshwater breeding grounds.

According to an article by The Revelator, several species of fish like sockeye salmon and bull trout have returned to the river and salmon have quickly moved into places they haven't been in over 100 years. The once carved-away river mouth is no longer deprived of sediment like it was when the dams existed, which showed researchers how essential rivers are in the transportation of sediment.

Another key effect of the dam removal is the estuary

recreation. Relocated at the mouth of the river, the estuary now provides salmon and other fish with new habitats.

After much data collection and the use of statistical methods to compare multiple data sets, the students found that the response of the river-dependent birds was extremely positive. With the help of McLaughlin, students found that the abundance of targeted species increased overall. If these dams weren't removed, the situation would continue to wreak havoc on the existing wildlife habitats.

Duvall said the next step people can take toward a healthy environment starts with personal growth and change.

"It starts with us as individuals being more conscious of what we do because it's easy to get caught up in the way our society works with consumerism," he said.

Jones explained that while hydroelectric power created by dams may be a carbon-neutral energy form, its ecological, economic and cultural side effects outweigh its benefits.

"As a society, we need to move past this notion of viewing hydroelectric power as being a 'clean' source of energy," Jones said. "We must look to hydro not as the future, but just as a bridge fuel while we figure out the intermittent problems that are disallowing us to switch fully to the cleanest forms of energy production like wind and solar."



The Elwha River Dam's removal led to a revitalized ecosystem, Western students found. // Photo courtesy of Flickr user brewbooks.

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The price of labor: Put your money where your mouth is

Diversity and inclusion are Western's ideals. Those two words are everywhere in Western's official communication.

Take the mission statement: Western "serves the people of the State of Washington, the nation, and the world by bringing together individuals of diverse backgrounds and perspectives in an inclusive, student-centered university that develops the potential of learners and the well-being of communities."

Diversity and inclusion. And yet, the university, and the campus community, have systematically relied on the uncompensated labor of students and faculty of color to create a diverse and inclusive space.

In 2014, associate professor Raine Dozier published a report about the experiences of faculty of color at Western. She interviewed 25 faculty members of color. While around 80 percent reported general contentedness with their experience at Western, the report includes many suggestions for ways the campus climate could be improved to truly fit the definition with which Western has branded itself for years: diverse, inclusive.

The faculty recommendations: improve cultural awareness and competence, reach a critical mass of faculty of color, retain faculty of color and reduce service by supporting the well-being of students of color.

As a faculty member described in

the 2014 report: "There's a substantial unreasonable tax on faculty of color and that tax is that we want to assist and we want to be models and we want to be mentors, but we also have these other real responsibilities that we also have to handle ..."

The Western Front is not without overburdening faculty and students of color as well. When reaching out to a professor of color for a story on inclusivity last winter, the professor declined. He was busy that week, but more than that, he said he'd been "Mr. Diversity" at Western for the last 30 years. He recommended reaching out to the newer generation of faculty of color instead.

That's 30 years of additional, uncompensated labor. That's 30 years of having one go-to guy for the topics of diversity and inclusion at Western. Just one voice for those two words.

For students, there are five paid positions for diversity and inclusion. All are within the Associated Students, four of which are through the Ethnic Student Center. Outside of these positions, Western has not created paid opportunities for students of color to create an inclusive campus climate. So, countless students devote their time and energy to do so on their own, unpaid. It's not the responsibility of students of color who come to a school that says it's diverse and inclusive to make that school diverse and inclusive.

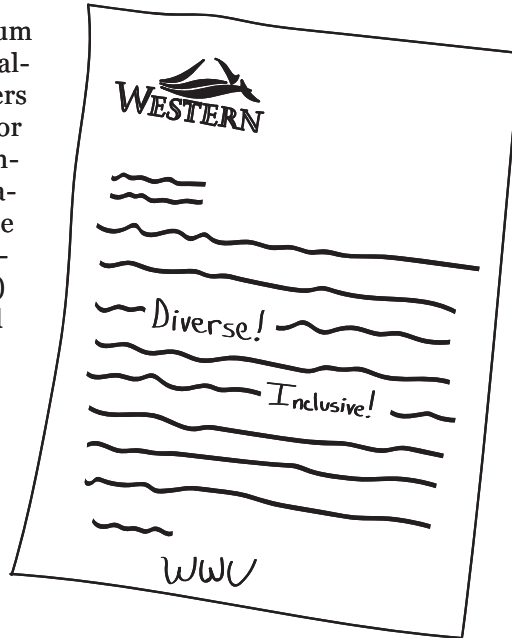
At the student-organized forum in response to threatening vandalism in December, the organizers had a Venmo and donation jar for those who wanted to help compensate them for the time spent organizing. (White allies: this is one way we can support the betterment of the Western community.) All this, mind you, was organized one week before finals, when time is at its most precious and stress is already running high.

Western is a school that promises, or at least strives for, open dialogue between students and the administration, but when students need that the most, the burden is on them to organize it. Time and time again.

It is, in fact, possible to compensate students of color for additional labor. Especially when that labor serves to increase diversity and inclusion, Western's favorite words.

In 2017, Michigan University began to compensate students for their work implementing their Diversity, Equity and Inclusion strategic plan. Graduate students receive full-tuition waivers and stipends for doing the same kind of work that students here at Western have been continually doing for free. It took a petition, pressure from activists and many months of stalling, but the UM administration eventually relented.

So, Western, how about incentivizing a change of campus climate?



That means compensating those burdened with extra responsibility and additional labor. And how about disincentivizing racist behavior? That means trespassing students who deface the campus with bigoted graffiti, commit hate speech and threaten the campus community.

Or are diversity and inclusion just principles, not practices?

Providing resources for the campus community means paying for resources for the campus community, and compensation for the exploited labor of students and faculty of color at Western is a good place to start.

The Western Front Editorial Board is composed of Dante Koplowitz-Fleming, Monique Merrill and Laura Place.

Viking Voices

What type of funding do you want to see Western prioritize?



Temesgen Melasheu
Human Services

"I think a lot. Honestly, Western has had a good start with the new Multicultural Center which I think is just so critical and important especially with the retention of students of color. I think a lot more funds need to be diverted towards mental health and having a lot more mental health facilities."



Jake Lindloff
Management

"Specifically, me personally, I'd like to see a wrestling team. I'm not sure if there actually is one or not, if there's a website. I mean maybe just more funding towards sports in general. I feel like there are sports, but I just don't hear a lot about it. Maybe hype it up a little bit. But I definitely want some combat sports. I want some wrestling or some Jiu-jitsu."



Violet Lord
Multidisciplinary Studies

"I would like to see a lot of improvement in the dorms. I know a lot of them are really old and need renovation, and the furniture is very outdated and kind of falling apart. ... I would also like to see more lights on the way to get to dorms that are further out because walking home is really dangerous without lighted pathways."



Amrit Abbasi
English

"I would say the Ethnic Student Center. There is a lot of funding going on right now, but I don't think a lot of ethnic students themselves are being asked about how that funding should be spent. I think more so administration is deciding how they want that funding to be spent. I'd like to see an Ethnic Studies program."

Compiled by Audra Anderson

Sports Roundup: Men's and women's basketball have been busy

Compiled by
Haley McLendon
THE WESTERN FRONT

Men's Basketball

The Vikings went 0-3 at the Hoops in Hawai'i Division II Power Invitational at the Hawai'i Convention Center.

Their first loss was to the undefeated Chaminade University Silverswords during their 74-66 tournament opening game on Dec. 16. Despite the loss, junior forward Trevor Jasinsky and sophomore forward Luke Lovelady both double-doubled in points and rebounds during

the game. While Western shot an impressive 83.3 percent from the free throw line, it was the Silverswords' 3-point shooting that helped secure their win.

The Vikings played the Southern Nazarene University Thunder Cats on Dec. 17, losing the match 85-72. The Vikings were again bested in 3-point shooting, making only 27.3 percent compared to SNU's 60.0 percent.

Loss aside, Jasinsky made Vikings history during this game by becoming the 20th Viking in the program to make 100 3-point shots. He scored a total of 13

points during the game, as did freshman forward Jalen Green.

Western's final game of the tournament was against the Emmanuel College Saints on Dec. 18, where the Vikings lost by three points with a final score of 79-76. Lovelady led the Vikings with a total of 20 points,

followed by Jasinsky with 19 points. Lovelady achieved a career-high at the free throw line, making 10 of his 11 attempts along with a career-high of three blocked shots. Overall, five Vikings players reached double figures in scoring, and the game remained close throughout its duration with 20 lead changes and 16 ties.

Back in Bellingham on Thursday, Jan. 3, the Vikings competed against the Seattle Pacific University Falcons, losing 86-72. On Saturday, Jan. 5, the Vikings ended their four-game losing streak with a 75-68 win against the Saint Martin's University Saints. In the final minutes, Jasinsky made three consecutive 3-point shots to regain the lead and propel the Vikings to the win. He scored 25 points overall.

The Vikings are now 8-6 for the season and 2-2 in conference play.

Women's Basketball

Western hosted the 2018 Viking Holiday Hoops Classic over the break, in which the women's team went 1-1.

Their first game was against the Lubbock Christian University Chaparrals on Dec. 17, where they lost 67-54. The Vikings struggled with turnovers, allowing the Chaparrals to score 23 points off of 27 turnovers. They also out-rebounded Western on the offensive side of the ball, resulting in 16 second-chance points compared to the Vikings' three.

The Vikings won their second and final game of the tournament 77-60 against the Stanislaus State University Warriors on Dec. 18. Five Vikings' players scored in the double digits, led by sophomore forward Kelsey Rogers, junior guard Lexie Bland and sophomore guard Gracie Castaneda, each scoring 13 points. The Vikings controlled the boards, out-rebounding the Warriors 50-26, and they took advantage of the Warrior's carelessness with the ball, scoring 11 points on 10 forced turnovers.

During their first game of the new year, the Vikings de-

feated the University of Alaska Nanooks on the road during a 59-57 match on Thursday, Jan. 3. The Vikings again dominated in rebounds, claiming 38 to the Nanooks' 30, with 16 offensive rebounds contributing to 12 second-chance points for the Vikings. At one point during the third quarter, the Vikings led by 22 points, and they were able to maintain their lead despite the 40 points the Nanooks scored in the second half.

After three straight conference wins, the Vikings lost their first Great Northwest Athletic Conference game of the season to the Alaska Anchorage University Seawolves on Saturday, Jan. 5 with a 68-50 match on the road. Rogers led the Vikings with six made-shots from the field and totaled 15 points. The Vikings turned over the ball 24 times, allowing the Seawolves to snatch 19 points. The Seawolves also had 13 offensive rebounds with 18 second-chance points, compared to the Vikings who had five offensive rebounds with two second-chance points.

The Vikings are now 8-4 for the season and 3-1 in conference play.



Junior forward KJ Bosco with the putback against SPU // Photo by Oliver Hamlin

This week in sports

Home

- Women's Basketball**
• Thursday Jan. 10 vs. Concordia 7 p.m.
• Saturday Jan. 12 vs. Western Oregon 7 p.m.

- Men's Basketball**
• Tuesday Jan. 15 vs. Simon Fraser 7 p.m.

Away

- Men's Basketball**
• Thursday Jan. 10 @ NW Nazarene 7:30 p.m.
• Saturday Jan. 12 @ Central Washington 7 p.m.

- Track and Field**
• Saturday Jan. 12 @ Dempsey Indoor All day

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WWU ends losing streak with win over top-20 ranked SMU

Junior forward Trevor Jasinsky led all players with 25 points in a 75-68 win over Saint Martin's University.

John Olson
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Western men's basketball team beat the Saint Martin's Saints in Sam Carver Gymnasium with a final score of 75-68 during a Saturday night nail-biter. Despite the Saints maintaining a lead for over half the game, the Vikings managed to secure the victory in the last few minutes, breaking their four-game losing streak in the process.

Throughout the first half the Vikings trailed behind the Saints, unable to match their opponent's hot 3-point

shooting. However, the Vikings kept it close by being automatic from the line with their free throws, combined with crucial putbacks by freshman guard Jalen Green and junior guard Leif Anderson. By half-time the Saints lead by a slim margin of 33-30.

In the second half, the Vikings managed to tie the score three times and improved their field goal percentage from 31.0 percent to 50.0 percent, while raising their 3-point percentage from 15.3 percent to 38.4 percent.

One of the key factors in keeping the game competitive was the Vi-

kings' large advantage on the backboards. The Vikings led the Saints in rebounds 48-26, which helped them build a double-digit second-chance point differential. Those points were vital to keeping the game close despite a rough shooting performance by the Vikings.



Green with a crafty bounce-pass // Photo by Oliver Hamlin

“We just told our guys just keep calm and keep on shooting.”

Trevor Jasinsky
Vikings co-captain

Down the stretch it was junior forward Trevor Jasinsky who secured the final lead change with a 3-pointer off of a defensive rebound from Green. Jasinsky then went on to score two more 3-pointers with another scored by Green, all within 2:07.

“We know we have a team full of shooters,” Jasinsky said. “We just told our guys just keep calm and keep on shooting.”

Junior forward Cameron Retherford echoed Jasinsky's words. He also

expressed hope this would be the start of a streak that pushes them toward winning the league.

“We feel like [our rebounds] have been a strength,” head coach Tony Dominguez said. “We are a really good shooting team, but we haven't done that in the last four or five games because we've just have been mentally pulling out of a slump. Honestly, [this win] should give them confidence.”

This win puts the Vikings at 8-6 overall and 2-2 in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference for the season.

The Vikings will be back on the court Thursday, Jan. 10 when they play at Northwest Nazarene University for a 7:30 p.m. tipoff.

For more coverage on Western athletics follow @WFSportsLive on Twitter.



Vikings bench gets pumped in the final minutes of the game // Photo by Oliver Hamlin

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