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THE WESTERN FRONT

Society of Professional Journalists Award-Winning Newspaper

Volume 171, Issue 8

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TUESDAY, APRIL 28

DIRTY DAN HARRIS FESTIVAL TAKES OVER FAIRHAVEN



(Above) Children participate in a Rocket Donuts' donut eating contest on Sunday, April 26, at the 13th Annual Dirty Dan Festival in Fairhaven. (Bottom left) Devin Trueb, 17, Marcel Ardans, 23, and Dante Koplowitz-Fleming, 18, win an uphill piano race in honor of Fairhaven founder Dan Harris sold the Fairhaven Hotel. (Bottom right) Western sophomore Madeleine Hopkins catches a fish tossed to her by her mother. // Photo by Christina Becker

Voting for AS 2015

Marilyn Napier,
Andrew Wise, Will
McCoy, and Dylan
Nelson
THE WESTERN FRONT



Photo courtesy of
Trevor Grimm // AS
Review

With election week at hand, The Western Front asked each candidate two questions about their thoughts running for office.

Belina Seare: President

Q: What will be your biggest priority in this position?

A: Next year I plan to advocate for the students on this campus who are disengaged from the Associated Students, and most importantly work on understanding the different obstacles that many students of color continue to face on this campus. I plan to create a plan on how the Board of Directors, comprised of the president and the six vice presidents, can effectively communicate with the larger student population. Students deserve to understand how decisions are made on this campus, and I hope we can make the BoD the vehicle for communicating that information to students.

Q: What do you aim to bring to this position?

A: Recently, I had the

opportunity to respond to a similar question, but specifically focused on what issues were affecting students. I responded by raising these three questions that I hope will inspire more dialogue about what issues need urgent attention: First, how have students who hold marginalized identities been silenced on this campus? Second, what power do students actually have — is there truly student autonomy? Third, where are the limitations of transparency within the Associated Students and spaces of Western's administration? I'm using this as a base to understand what this position needs to focus on. Moreover, I will work on ensuring students are present in this conversation and that I am collaborating with them on building solutions.

VP Q&As on page 4 & 5

Western runs from the police

Runners race across campus to raise awareness of dangers of drunk driving

October Yates

THE WESTERN FRONT

Despite a formal cancellation by university police, about 40 runners still arrived to participate in the first Running From The Police 5k race on Sunday, April 26.

The 3.1 mile race around Western's cam-

pus was put on by Running Against Drunk Driving (R.A.D.D.). The national organization was founded by University of Colorado student Jackson Stewart after a near-fatal car accident during the summer of 2011 before his first year at college.

Since then, the move-

ment has spread across several campuses in the U.S. including University of Colorado, University of Washington, Washington State University and Notre Dame.

Senior and R.A.D.D. representative Jacob Goodman was a close friend of Stewart's and helps promote the orga-

nization's message of responsible drinking.

"His idea was not to do the typical, 'Mom says don't drink' [message]," Goodman said. "It's more 'we know you're going to drink, but when you're going home, take safe precautions and safe

see POLICE, page 5

New student tech fee proposals up for vote

Janae Easlon

THE WESTERN FRONT

Students interested in how the Student Technology Fee is spent next year have a chance to voice their opinions by Friday, May 1.

Unlike previous years, there are two student-made proposals up for consideration.

Most of the proposals made for student technology initiatives are created by faculty and staff from science departments, Vice Provost of Information Technology John Lawson said.

The first student proposal this year was created by Harold Wershow, a

see TECH FEE, page 3



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BREWING FOR BENEFIT



An April Brews Day attendee hands over his specialized cup to taste beer from Silver Moon Brewing on Saturday, April 25, in Bellingham's Depot Market Square. The event raised money for the Max Higbee center which helps teens and adults with developmental disabilities. See story online.

Photo by Jake Tull

[What's happening?] Events on campus and in the community

Tuesday	Noemi Ban A Holocaust survivor will be telling her story. Registration required, Arntzen Hall 100 6 - 8 p.m.	Bellingham Evening Toastmasters Either bring your own poetry or sit and listen to a night of extemporaneous speaking. 5040 Festival Blvd. Free, 18 and over 7 p.m.	Sustainable Gardening Workshop This workshop offers hands-on experiences to teach "green gardening." 1000 N Forest St #201 Free 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
	Blues music at Kulshan John Nelson, a blues, rock and pop singer, will be performing at Kulshan Brewing Co. Free 7 p.m.	World Issues Forum This forum will feature a variety of speakers discussing a variety of issues facing the world today. Fairhaven Auditorium Free 12 p.m. - 1:20 p.m.	
Wednesday			

// Compiled by Elizabeth Kayser

Cops Box

City News

2:52 p.m., April 25

A suspect stole a bottle of wine and was apprehended down the street and arrested on the 1400 Block of W. Holly St.

7:37 a.m., April 25

A 14-year-old found a cell phone and began using it in the 1400 block of E. Sunset Drive before the owner of the phone threatened bodily harm if the phone was not returned to him.

10:33 a.m., April 26

A group of three individuals who appeared intoxicated were walking down the road in front of a man's house when one of them collapsed on his lawn. Officers contacted the group and one of the members was cited for minor in possession and released.

1 p.m., April 26

Someone called the police to report that unknown suspect(s) took a jewelry locket off a table while at a city park.

2:27 p.m., April 26

A neighbor reported seeing an unidentified person throwing garbage into a dumpster of an apartment complex in which he did not live on the 1200 Block of Nevada Street.

// Compiled by Brenna Visser

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Corrections

In the AS presidential candidate story in the April 24 issue, The Western Front misnamed the African-Caribbean club.

The Western Front strives for accuracy and will correct errors of fact promptly and courteously. Please notify us of any factual errors at westernfrontonline@gmail.com.

TECH FEE: Student proposes more 3-D printers

continued from page 1

Western graduate student studying geology. He learned about GigaPan technology at a geology conference, and realized its potential to be used in the classroom.

The proposal includes purchasing GigaPan, a software that creates high-resolution panoramic photos of landscapes that can be studied by geology students. It also shows trends in exposures of geological features, which show how the landscape has changed over time. The software can also project a prediction for what the landscape may look like in the future, Wershow said.

"A lot of the tools we use in the geology department are funded by the Student Technology Fee," Wershow said. "It's a pretty good way to get money for cool stuff."

Western senior and industrial design major Max Smith proposed a project to fund a maker-space, a place for students to create and learn using tools like 3-D printers and laser cutters.

He decided to propose an initiative because he saw a benefit for students at Western to have access to equipment to print and scan multidimensional formulas, puzzles and other objects for class work.

Currently, engineering students have access to 3-D printers, but it requires permission and



A 3-D printer available to students in the Ross Engineering Technology building. //Photo by Jake Tull

there are many barriers to get through before using it, Smith said. Smith requested \$20,000 in his proposal for such a space to also be created at Western for all students to use in the Student Technology Center.

"The big factor, as a student, is looking for something that would benefit me and my peers," Smith said. "I didn't realize students could apply for these initiatives, and it is really important

that they can."

Lawson does not see the technology fee rising anytime soon as a way to collect money for creating more projects.

"We are very cognizant on the cost of attending," Lawson said. "I personally do not advocate for fee increases that are not thought out. With the student technology fee, we decide, 'Is this going to have a direct benefit for students?' If it is, we put it on the

proposal ballot."

The Student Technology Fee Committee solicits proposals and abstracts every year. It discusses the merits of each proposed project and makes the funding decision, Lawson said.

"We look at what the needs are for the students and then what they think is reasonable and fair," Lawson said.

Equipment like a diving camera for marine biology students

to use at Shannon Point, microscopes and enhancements to labs in Fairhaven and in Fine and Performing Arts have been awarded in the past using the process of Student Technology Initiatives, Lawson said.

In 2013, 78 percent of the students who voted did so in favor of the current \$35 a term student technology fee. Over the course of an academic year, the tech fee generates approximately \$1.5 million of which 8 percent is used for Tech Initiative projects. A total of \$125,000 is set to be used to fund approved projects for the 2014-2015 academic year.

The Student Technology Committee and Lawson will read over the comments Western students make on each project proposal and develop any recommendations they take into consideration which will then be reviewed by the Associated Students President Annika Wolters and Western's President Bruce Shepard for final approval.

Beyond the initiatives, students on the Student Technology Fee Committee allocated the rest of the fee's funds to update student computer labs, run the Student Tech center and renew and replace some of the wireless network.

The award recipients will be notified by the Student Technology Fee Committee on Friday, May 15.

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ELECTIONS: Meet the candidates for AS board



Jesse Doran: VP for Governmental Affairs

Students United to Reduce Tuition, which is a mass movement I started here on campus. And so my strong suit is in organizing mass amounts of people towards a specific political goal and involving the larger student body politically.



Patrick Eckroth: VP for Governmental Affairs

Q: What will be your biggest priority in this position?

A: Really I want to look at a lot of structural and policy changes that would make the AS a lot more accessible and inclusive in the way that we represent students. Right now, there are a lot of barriers that exist, whether that's individuals or clubs trying to organize or represent themselves. The AS has a lot of limitations, like there are specific ways you can reserve spaces including Red Square, which is our free speech zone so there shouldn't really be a need to reserve that. Beyond that there are just a lot of problems with the way we do things on campus. The AS is a part of that. Mostly making sure that students have the

access, confidence, empowerment and autonomy to be able to represent themselves. And so I want to help provide that access and the resources.

Q: What do you aim to bring to this position?

A: Currently I serve as the AS Representation and Engagements Program Director, which actually does all of the work of the VP for governmental affairs, so I have a lot of organizing experience, and voter registration experience. I ran the voter registration drive for last year, which was the largest in the state, so that's going to be a big part of the position making sure that's continued. I've helped plan Viking lobbying for two years in a row now so I'd like to be able to expand on that a lot and be able to provide more lobbying opportunities that are based on different issues and environmental issues, issues that affect different communities on campus. Involvement with the AS elections. I've been fortunate enough to serve on the elections board where I helped in any way I could. So overall I have a lot of experience and would like to start off running and start making changes.



Hannah Brock: VP for Business and operations (unopposed)

campus and making sure all of the funding requests coming through my position, the business and operations position, is directly reflecting what students want to see, so making sure that the programing is diverse and comfortable for students and the people we are bringing and paying are doing that well. Because of my experience of productions assistant, I feel very confident in doing that.

Q: What will be your biggest priority in this position?

A: One of my main goals for next year is increasing student awareness and transparency, both about what the Associated Students does as a whole and also about my position. I think a lot of people are unaware about what this position does, and it's super crucial. I will be overseeing and approving a lot of the budgets and budget proposals that come through the organization. It's super important to me that student funds are being spent ethically and responsibly.

Q: What do you aim to bring to this position?

A: I have two years of experience putting on large-scale events for students, and I think that is one of the main ways of outreach. We have a lot of other resources as well, but a lot of the students hear about the [AS] through the programming that we're bringing. I think it's important to reflect the diverse needs and wants of students on



Israel Rios: VP for Activities (unopposed)

Q: What will be your biggest priority in this position?

A: My biggest priority is making sure students have the opportunity to accomplish their goals for what they want to do outside the classroom and make sure the AS is supporting them in that.

Q: What do you aim to bring to this position?

I bring an outside voice. I am a transfer student, so I like to think I am bringing some fresh ideas to the board and AS in general.

ELECTIONS: Voting open until Friday, May 1



Emma Palumbo: VP Student Life (unopposed)

A: My biggest priority will definitely be working within classrooms and with professors. I've personally had really bad experiences where I didn't feel safe in the classroom because of a racial microaggression that was said or just something within gender, some really problematic things that students have said, and nothing has been done even after I went and spoke to a professor about it. I really want to take a look into why this is happening. I definitely don't think students should be in a space where they don't feel comfortable, especially when we are paying a ton of money and spending our time here.

Q: What will be your biggest priority in this position?

A: My biggest priority in this position is connecting students with campus resources. I think there are a lot of resources that are underutilized and inaccessible, and I would really like to bring students to those resources.

Q: What do you aim to bring to this position?

I bring a lot of passion to this school and this student body and about a lot of the opportunities Western has provided me and I would like to see that for all students.



Abby Ramos: VP for Diversity (unopposed)

Q: What will be your biggest priority in this position?

Q: What do you aim to bring to this position?

A: Currently I am the co chair for the Latino Student Union and I'm the editor-in-chief for the AS Review, so I have experience working within the AS and I understand things don't necessarily just happen. I know that there is a process, I know things go through being voted on and everything like that. So these ideas that I have and these goals that I want to aim for aren't going to happen right away. I'm a student and I want to

change my experience and hopefully change someone else's experience.



Gabriel Ibanez: VP for Academic Affairs

Q: What will be your biggest priority in this position?

A: My biggest priority in the position will be centering student voices, collectively demanding space for continual student input, reforming board structures, analyzing our board's purposes and assessing and reforming when needed. We deserve to have more power within this institution. I also hope to continue the work previous Academic Affairs holders have pushed.

Q: What do you aim to bring to this position?

A: I believe the AS board plays an important role in a student's life (whether they know it or not). I hope to bring a fresh outlook to my position and continue to connect departments with each other. I believe I can use my previous experiences from Western to further my own knowledge with AS

and serve the community better. I am a hard worker, with a strong knowledge of many campus resources and systems, I have good social skills, and leadership skills. I strive for excellence in every situation that is presented to me.



Zachary Dove: VP for Academic Affairs

Q: What will be your biggest priority in this position?

A: Generally, my biggest priority as the ASVP for Academic Affairs would be to ensure that Western's administrative policies concerning educational matters are in line with the interests of all us students. The only way to accomplish that is by reaching out to students all of identities, providing room for individuals and communities to articulate their experiences, and have influence over the decisions that heavily affect their lives. It will be my job to act in the interests of all students in the formal bodies of the Academic Affairs section of the administra-

tion. More tangibly, I hope to ensure that an expansion of Advising and Counseling services happens in the very immediate future, and that it happens in an equitable and accessible manner.

Q: What do you aim to bring to this position?

A: I'm aiming to bring multiple things to this position: 1) a critical perspective on the structures of decision making within the university and the limitations of representative student governments generally, 2) the ability to use a multitude of strategies and tactics to advance student interests, 3) the ability to identify the situations in which I need to step back and give space to marginalized students, and 4) dedication to fighting for a high quality educational system that is affordable, accessible and inclusive.

VOTING
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Photos courtesy of Trevor Grimm // AS Review



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ONLINE, ON CAMPUS OR HYBRID.

POLICE: Racers ran on despite cancellation by university police

continued from page 1
measures to get home, not only for yourself, but you won't be putting other people in danger by getting behind the wheel."

Contestants gathered around a table outside the Wade King Student Recreation Center and were given their racing numbers to pin to their shirts. The race's track consisted of two laps, one that looped around Old Main, and another around the Communications Facility.

The Running From The Police 5k received its name after R.A.D.D. recruited an officer

from the Bellingham Police Department to attend and run with the Western students. R.A.D.D. members decided to create play-on words to attract runners to participate.

Members of the R.A.D.D. organization were sporting T-shirts that read "Drink More, Drive Less" and handed out drawstring bags with the same message printed on them. Inside the bag, runners found a shot glass, a lighter, a beer Koozie and a bottle opener, everything equipped with the R.A.D.D. logo.

Western sophomore Jonny

Eyre came in first place and was awarded a shot ski, a ski with multiple shot glasses glued to it. Eyre was surprised at his own victory after having attended the Go Hard Seattle concert series the night before.

"I don't know how I won; I think it was sheer determination," Eyre said. "I was just kind of keeping up some how, it was a lot of luck," he said.

Sophomores Connie Webb and Isaac Newell ran the race together because they enjoy running and wanted to support the cause.

"The course was super confusing, we definitely didn't do it right," Newell said. "I don't know if anyone did, but we tried and we got close to a 5k."

Before the start of the race, runners were shown a map of campus with the route they were supposed to run. R.A.D.D. members also laid out lacrosse sticks across campus to mark certain checkpoints along the way.

"[The race] was not too difficult, just confusing," Webb said about the course. "We were just kind of following

the pack, but people got scattered."

Western sophomore and R.A.D.D. member, Burch Ault, is proud of the success the organization has had so far.

"It's not just another club I feel like it's something everyone has somehow or another been impact by drunk driving," Ault said.

R.A.D.D. hopes to put on more races in the future and spread its message further across campuses and help prevent more accidents like Stewart's, Goodman said.



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EMPIRE STATE OF DANCE

New York choreographers crossed the country to teach Western dancers a routine for "glacier"



Photo by Jake Tull

Alexandra Haupt
THE WESTERN FRONT

As the lights of the Performing Arts Center lit up and the room filled with a humming sound, dancers walked on stage to perform "glacier," a professional dance piece inspired by nature. While watching the dance, each dancer seemed to travel on stage independently on non-linear paths.

The show unveiled the talents of 11 Western dance students chosen to dance in this professional work created by artistic director Liz Gerring, of the Liz Gerring Dance Company in New York City.

Dance In Concert, Western's College of Fine & Performing Arts show featured "glacier" along with choreography by Western's dance faculty held from April 23-26 in the Performing Arts Center.

The "glacier" cast consisted of Nolan Hoppe-Leonard, Brynn Hofer,

Nick Perry, Ashley Shultz, Lalia Bonnell, Elli Madsen, Sami Hall, Zoe Geiger, Abi Kerns, Lydia McClaran and Bonnie Smerdon, all of whom are active students in Western's dance department.

Many of these students have their own unique dance odyssey. Hofer has been dancing for 16 years, while Nolan Hoppe-Leonard found his passion for dance through enrolling in a GUR class called Dance 102, Open Modern.

"[The class] sort of revolutionized my whole life. It was the greatest thing in the world," Hoppe-Leonard said. Dance helped him become more confident in himself and in life, he said.

These students auditioned for "glacier" in January. Adele Nickel and Jessica Weiss, dancers from the Liz Gerring Dance Company, directed the audition. Nickel and Weiss announced the cast the next morning. They notified the dancers and understudies to begin rehearsals that weekend.

From there, the dancers worked for the first two days for 10 hours straight, and then were taught the entire dance in about a week at an intense pace. The dancers rehearsed every day in order to soak in the details of the choreography before Nickel and Weiss departed for New York.

"We were exhausted and tired, but the experience in itself was one that you don't really get very often. I don't think you'd ever get this outside of college," Hofer said.

Hofer said it was exciting to be able to learn from the professional dancers in person. "It was so nice to see dancers who have the ca-

reer that we want, who are a couple of pages ahead of us in life," Hofer said.

After Nickel and Weiss left, Western dance instructor Susan Haines took over watching rehearsals. Over the past couple of months, the cast had a difficult time remembering little details in the choreography, but kept the same drive they had when Nickel and Weiss were directing, Hofer said.

"It was hard when they left to keep the piece with its' same integrity," Hofer said.

Claire Westby, another dancer from the Liz Gerring Company, arrived a few days before the show's premiere to oversee the last rehearsal

life quality to it."

Hoppe-Leonard expressed a realization from working on "glacier." Each simple movement the dancers perform has immensity, Nolan said. "There is this little energetic shift you can get into, where you can get so much more out of these tiny phrases [that aren't] big leaps, pirouettes or big flashy things, but are still really powerful."

"There's nothing else in this life, I think, where the dancer as themselves is the artwork, which is why I think dance is so cool," Hofer said.

Her inspiration goes back to a quote from Nolan Dennett, a Western dance instructor. He was not part of the making of "glacier," but his quote relates to all dance works. He tells his students that for every peice of dance, there is more to be found, Hofer said.

"There is something to make it cleaner, messier, or more exciting — there is always something," Hofer said. "It's never perfect, which I think is part of the journey."

"IT'S NEVER PERFECT, WHICH I THINK IS PART OF THE JOURNEY"
BRYNN HOFER, WESTERN DANCER

Western dancers jump during their final performance of "glacier" on Sunday, April 26, at the Performing Arts Center. // Photo by Jake Tull



and clean up the final notes before the show. Hofer made it clear that having Westby around was important because she was able to give last-minute reminders of what the piece should be and feel like.

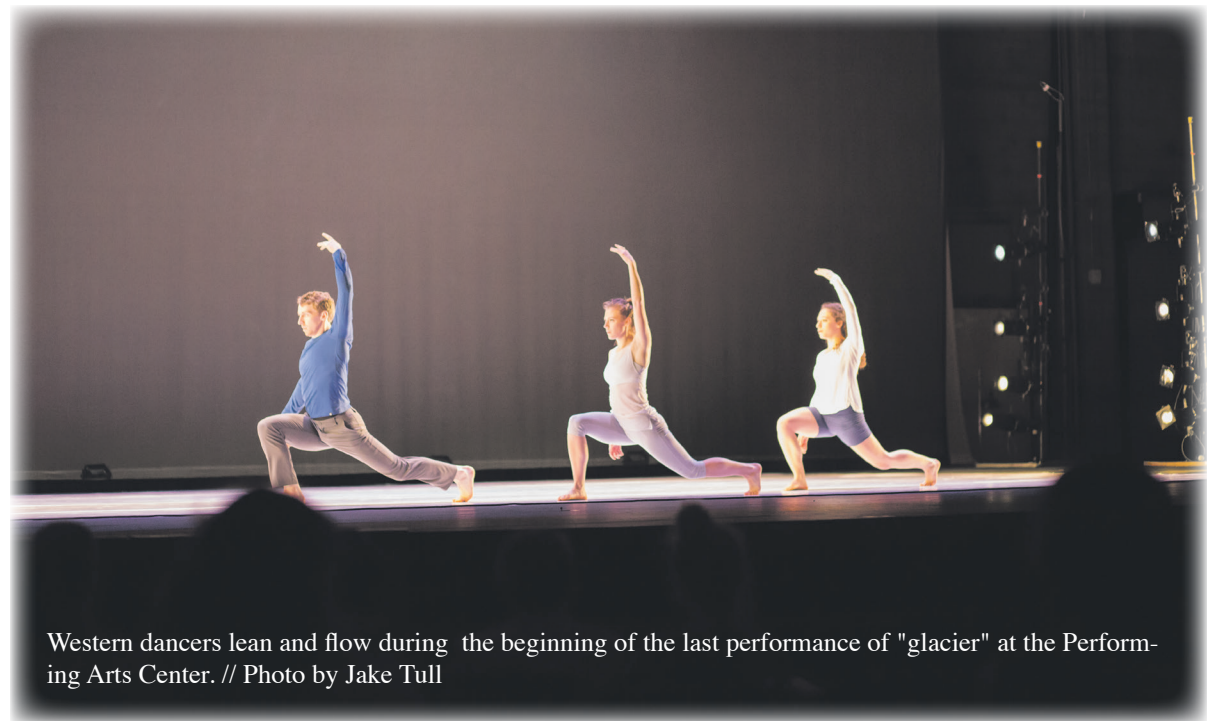
This version of "glacier" is a little different than Gerring's original work, Westby said.

"The different ways that it is layered, that's where the surprises come," Westby said.

She explained how the feeling of the dance is huge and vast along with being chaotic, sparse and unorganized.

The Liz Gerring website describes how the piece and music is inspired by nature. Composer Michael J. Shumacher collected sounds from staying near a glacier lake. The music consists of these sounds and detailed instruments, but with no lyrics.

"As you can hear, the music has these surprises in it — a thunderclap here, the sound of ice breaking there," Westby said. "It has this natural, larger-than-



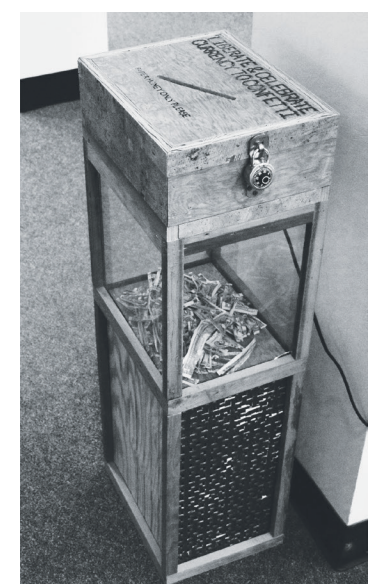
Western dancers lean and flow during the beginning of the last performance of "glacier" at the Performing Arts Center. // Photo by Jake Tull

WESTERN ARTIST STRIVES TO BREAK NORMS

Maria Matson
THE WESTERN FRONT

The hum of a shredder fills the air at the end of the Skybridge. Money dropped through a slotted wooden box with clear glass only to be instantly destroyed. The top of the box reads "Liberate & Celebrate — Currency to Confetti. Paper money only please," and the bottom contains a pile of now-useless money.

Students who decide to take on the challenge of the money-shredding box, called the "Appreciationizer," are active participants in the library's current art exhibit titled, "An Emotional Young Person Just Like Yourself." The exhibit spans two floors, giving passers-by



a glimpse into the mind of the creator who wants to show the world his philosophies about life.

The artist himself is tall and thin, with short hair and a calm demeanor. Weston Horner, a 23-year-old Western student studying for his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, said he created the "Appreciationizer" piece to remind people money is nothing more than paper.

The piece aims to show onlookers that money is without worth until society gives it worth. His entire exhibit is centered on displaying pieces made up of garbage that isn't of use, until onlookers find value in what they view.

"It's about making art with the gesture that says 'I don't need this money to do great things,'" he said. "But of course, you do need money. That's how the system is put together."

Horner lists how societies have different ways of living: socialism, capitalism and communism.

"I think it's important to at least question question how you're playing a role in this society, and something I think is interesting is the question of 'are we using money or is money using us?'"

"An Emotional Young Person Just Like Yourself" features Lego models, cardboard held together with tape, words writ-



Weston Horner (above) poses with his art work. The Appreciationizer (left) is an artistic piece that shreds paper bills to symbolize the insubstantial nature of money. // Photo by Kesia Lee

ten in spirals on loose-leaf paper, a mailbox with a doorstop glued on, and collages made from advertisements. Essentially, all the items used would otherwise be trash or worth nearly nothing.

"The art I want to be making is non-exclusive. I want people to be delighted and disturbed by what I do," he said. "[I want them] to be attentive to the fact that what I am doing doesn't cost anything and doesn't take any skill."

The materials Horner uses are also reflections of his past and his philosophy.

His parents are both designers and he says he grew up in a household that emphasized thrifty spending and creativity. His father designs homes, his mother designs costumes for theater and his grandmother paints.

"They have taught me to be resourceful and that working on projects with your hands is always satisfying," he said.

Sharron Antholt, Horner's

former art teacher at Western, said while she taught him, he showed great interest in learning outside of school.

"He would ask for additional readings and then read everything I gave him and came back for more," she said in an e-mail interview.

Horner also worked as a teacher's assistant for her painting class.

"During that quarter Weston often stopped by my office to discuss ideas in the class," she said. "He is one of the most intelligent and thoughtful students I have had the pleasure to work with."

After college, Horner plans to work and live in Seattle and eventually attend graduate school.

"I am always questioning: should I be doing art? Should I be a writer? Should I be doing city planning or architecture? Should I be a politician or should I be trying to do more poetry?" Horner said.

After the exhibit is over, Horner said his art pieces will return to the garbage and recycling where they once would have permanently remained.

MORE ONLINE

Read the full story online at westernfrontonline.com

Viking Voices

Do you think a personal finance course should be required to graduate from Western?



Natalie Frasier
junior, creative writing and secondary education

"I think if they were to require a personal finance class, they would have to make it a more realistic type of class for the average student and definitely cater to our realistic budget and what we do in our daily lives."



Marshall Powell
senior, computer science

"No, because it's a smart thing to have a finance class but you shouldn't force people to take anything more than what they have to take. College is hella expensive, it's their choice."



Simone Mack
senior, community health

"I took personal finance and it was way too hard for me, so I think that having something that was a little bit more for the layman and someone who is not necessarily a finance major would be really good."



Amanda Mayers
senior, art education

"I don't think it should be required. I think it would be smart for everyone to take one but making people do something just because, I don't know. That doesn't really make sense to me, but I see the validity in having that class. Having people take it, I think, is just another way for them to take our money."

// Compiled by Hayley Elkin

Submission Policy

The Western Front publishes submitted opinion items on a space-available basis. Submit letters to the editor and guest columns, along with your name, title (such as "Western sophomore") and major to westernfront.opinion@gmail.com. Anonymous letters or those containing hate speech will not be published. The Western Front reserves the right to edit for length, spelling, style and grammar. Word count limits: Letters to the editor: 250 words Guest columns: 400 words

FRONTLINE

Opinions of the Editorial Board

Money on my mind

How many of us want to be employed when we graduate? Hopefully all of us. That's why we're all in college and why we're paying thousands of dollars to be here. By being at Western, we are investing in our future. But where along the road of education have we been educated about how to actually invest monetarily?

We don't remember having a class in high school that brought up topics such as investing, loans, 401k plans, insurance or how to do our taxes. In fact, according to a study done by EverFi and Higher One [MoneyMattersonCampus.org], 17 states mandate financial literacy to graduate high school, however only 40 percent of students from these states actually said they took a financial literacy course.

There were plenty of classes about high-level math, almost entirely inapplicable to anything outside academia, but the numbers that mattered never made an appearance in the class-

room. That being said, even if they would have taught us that stuff in high school, none of us would likely even remember it by now.

Western offers Finance 215 and 216, which cover things such as basic budgeting and investing, but how many students actually take it? Western is a liberal arts college, meaning students are able to choose any classes they want within the variety of requirements. But is personal finance important enough that it should be required by all majors?

Now, this isn't to say there aren't a wide variety of students who are knowledgeable on these topics. Perhaps their parents taught them, or they're a business major and have a well-rounded education in investment and taxes. But this isn't the case for the majority of students, and having the ability to manage one's finances is applicable to everyone.

If you're going to go into the "real world" and you're going to get a "real job" you

need to know how to handle your money. The plethora of bills we acquire and interest we accrue while going to school can be incredibly daunting. Between student loans, rent and any meager income we're getting from our jobs, we're bombarded with dealing with money and many of us don't know how to handle it.

Part of being at a university and getting a liberal arts education is that you get to choose to what you learn. Perhaps it's also the university's job to prepare us for the world of employment while we are here. It isn't a complaint toward our institution, but maybe it could be valid to require students to take a class that will prepare them for the requirements of being an adult: dealing with money and not losing it all.

The editorial board is composed of Anna Jentoft, Dylan Green, Brandon Stone and Stephanie Villiers.

Letter to the Editor

Harmful Art

Joesph Levy

JUNIOR, PHILOSOPHY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR

Some art is better than others. The art piece on the end of the Wilson Library skybridge is one of those artistic creations that's just not just bad, but is blatantly offensive. I'm a devout proponent of artistic freedom, and so this piece should not be seen as a cry to remove the piece; it's simply a request for those reading to not indulge in 'statement' that this art piece is trying to make. For those who haven't seen it, there is a wooden box beside the skybridge that is filled with shredded money. The sign on the box urges individuals to take their money from their pocket and pop it into the shredder, as a sign of liberation.

I understand the point, truly I do. The artist wants us to symbolically demonstrate that money doesn't control our lives. The message isn't a bad one; it's the act that's wrong. In a university where many people live comfortably without fear of hunger, an extra dollar or two doesn't make a difference. But there are plenty of people in this world for whom that few dollars could be the difference between dinner and going to bed hungry.

For us to be shredding that money, and thus the opportunity for those individuals to eat, is a truly offensive act.

I urge everybody to take that money that you might shred and instead donate it to a charity or give it to somebody on the street who might need it. Money shouldn't rule our lives, but life is precarious and life requires certain materials. Money is simply the means of acquiring such materials, like food and water. So, instead of destroying this currency in an act against 'the man,' give it away.

I'm sure the artist behind this piece had no intention of being offensive. I don't want this opinion to be seen as an attack on the artist. I just wish that they had thought this through before enacting it. How might an individual without a home feel if they were to walk into Wilson and see that box of shredded money? They probably wouldn't be too thrilled about it. Instead of making symbolic gestures that help nobody, we should be taking that green cotton in our pockets that we have deemed shred-worthy and giving it to somebody in need.

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Western softball on fire in recent weeks

Vikings are winners of six straight and 11 of last 12

Drew Castellaw
THE WESTERN FRONT

Arianna Barrio's dazzling diving catch headlined the Western women's softball team's doubleheader sweep of Simon Fraser University on Saturday, April 25.

"I just saw the ball and there was no other option but to get it," Barrio said. "I didn't really think anything about it until I caught it and thought, 'oh my gosh.'"

The Vikings' offense and defense stayed strong throughout both games. In the first game, Western won 10-0 in five innings and 5-0 in the second game. The Vikings are now 28-16 overall and has won six straight games. They are second in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference at 17-7.

The Vikings have now won six games and 11 of their last 12.

It was the last two home games for Western seniors Allie Crowe, Alicia Fine and Autumn Isaacson, and each of them had strong performances. In the first game, they combined six hits, eight runs and six RBIs.

"[The seniors] did amazing things at the plate and played spectacular defense today so I'm definitely going to give them the day," head coach Amy Suiter said.

In the bottom of the third inning Fine hit a big home run, her sixth of the season, leading to two runs.

"When I first hit it, I didn't think it was going to go over, so when it went over, it felt exciting," Fine said.

Crowe went two for three, scored two runs and drove in one. Isaacson was one for one and scored three runs in addition to driving in one. The Vikings scored one run in the first, four in the second and



Aspen Ison, pitches during the last inning of Western's game against Simon Fraser University on Saturday, April 25. Ison closed the game and was able to celebrate both her birthday and a victory. // Photo by Kesia Lee

five in the third.

In the second match, both Isaacson and Crowe were two for three with Isaacson scoring two runs and Crowe with one.

Barrio was two for three in the second game.

"We almost used our entire lineup in the two games and we didn't see a different result in either, so having that kind of depth going into post-season is super helpful," Suiter said.

Suiter is focusing on keeping the team's performance at the same level with bats and defense along with improving player depth.

The Vikings play next in the GNAC tournament on

Thursday, April 30, in Yakima, Washington. They have earned the two seed and will open the tournament against third-seeded Montana State University Billings.

UP NEXT

WESTERN vs MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY BILLINGS
When: 4:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 30
Where: Yakima, Washington



Autumn Isaacson (left) congratulates Arianna Barrio (right) after her impressive diving catch during Western's game against Simon Fraser University on Saturday, April 25. // Photo by Kesia Lee

Vikings varsity four win by slim margin

Third-ranked Vikings place fourth in other races

By Jeffrey Giuliani
THE WESTERN FRONT

Two tenths of a second. That's all that separated the Western women's rowing varsity four from victory and defeat. They lead the entire race, but Humboldt State University was hot on their tails for all 2,000 meters.

Western prevailed over Humboldt State with a time of 7:50.3 seconds. The Lumberjacks were right behind with a time of 7:50.5.

The winning shell contained coxswain Katey Sullivan, stroke Trisha Patterson, number three Molly Ware, number two Alexa Thompson and bow Karisa Stapp.

Western delivered strong performances across the board at the Western Intercollegiate Rowing Association Championships on Lake



Western's rowing teams placed top-five in all three races at the Western Intercollegiate Rowing Association Championships on Sunday, April 26, in Gold River, California. // Photo courtesy of Western Athletics

Natoma in Gold River, California.

Western's varsity eight placed fourth in its final at 7:14.3. UC Santa Barbara took first with a time of 7:05.4.

The Viking's junior varsity eight also placed fourth at 7:47.1. Santa Barbara again

took first at 7:34.7.

Captain Maeghan Callegari was impressed with her team's effort on Sunday, April 26.

"The team is proud of all three boats," she said. "The [varsity] four won by .2 of a second. It really shows that

in rowing, it comes down to inches. Details in perfecting the rowing stroke and every ounce of power matters."

Despite having a young team, the Vikings are among the top teams in the region.

"[Harper] and [Imbriaco] are the novice rowers in the

"It really shows that in rowing, it comes down to the inches. Details in perfecting the rowing stroke and every ounce of power matters."

Maeghan Callegari
Rowing captain

varsity eight with me," Callegari said. "They have grown so much as rowers. Every week all the young women in my boat have 'ah ha' moments when the light bulb goes on and they begin to master a certain skill in the stroke."

Western was ranked third in the NCAA Division II Poll before Sunday's races. Their next competition is the Windermere Cup regatta on Saturday, May 2 at Seattle's Montlake Cut.

Mariners pitching must improve



Jeffrey Giuliani
Sports Editor

2.59 ERA. 51 saves. 157 allowed runs. .219 batting average.

Oh, don't mind me. I'm just reminiscing about the Seattle Mariners bullpen in 2014. Those numbers were all top-five in Major League Baseball last season.

That seems like such a long time ago. Seattle's bullpen was the best in baseball. The starting pitchers could rest easy that any lead they left the game with would be safe and secure.

No such luck this season. The bullpen has dropped to depths we haven't seen in years. So far in 2015, the bullpen has an ERA of 3.92 and is allowing batters to

hit .250. Those numbers are a far cry from 2014's dominance. Worse, they have walked a league-high 36 batters.

Not good.

The starting pitching hasn't been much better. Felix Hernandez has been his usual dominant self, so no need to speak more on that. But, three of the five pitchers in the Mariners rotation are sporting ERAs over six. Taijuan Walker was supposed to break out, but he has a 10.66 ERA through three starts. J.A. Happ of all people is rocking a 2.61 ERA and has looked quite serviceable as the fifth man in the rotation.

It's especially frustrating given the improvement of Seattle's offense. Last season, the Mariners routinely lost in low-scoring games because the hitting prowess simply wasn't there. Besides Robinson Cano and Kyle Seager, there wasn't much pop in the lineup.

Everything has changed with the addition of Nelson Cruz, who has been simply sensational this season. Boomstick has already crushed nine home runs and has garnered 20 RBIs in only 18 games. Both lead the majors.

The Mariners, for years, have been a team that had great pitching but dreadful offense. They've lost more 2-1 games over the last five years than I care to remember.

It would figure that they finally get some competent bats in the lineup, only to watch the pitching crumble to pieces.

It's still very early in the season, but overreaction is the name of the game in sports. The Mariners were touted as World Series contenders this season and they are currently four games under .500 and four games out of the division. They dropped home series to the

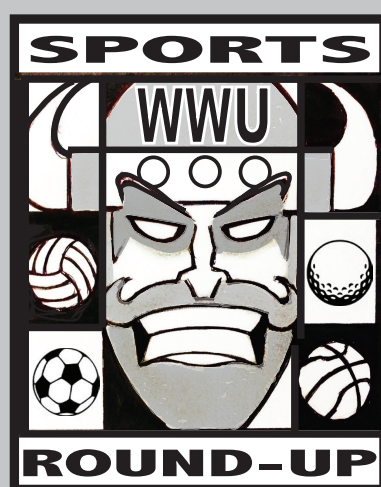


// Illustration by Max Singler

Houston Astros and Minnesota Twins. Good teams don't lose series at home against those squads.

If the pitching doesn't

come around soon, all of those Cruz home runs and Cano doubles into the gap might not be worth much at all.



TRACK AND FIELD

Western's Katelyn Steen and Travis Milbrandt set meet-records at the 34th Annual Ralph Vernacchia Track and Field Open meet held Saturday, Apr. 25, at Civic Stadium. Steen won the women's 5000 meters in a time of 16:35.53.

That was 25 seconds better than the record held by Sarah Porter in 2010. Milbrandt won the 110 hurdles with a time of 14:41. Teammate Logan Myers placed second with 15:00. The Vikings won a total of 14 events at the tournament.

// Compiled from Western Athletics press releases.

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Hammers overmatched in opener

Edward Clem

THE WESTERN FRONT

The Bellingham United Football Club Hammers fell 5-1 in their season opener to South Sound Football Club in front of around 400 supporters on Sunday, April 26.

The Hammers were out-matched in almost every aspect of the game in the first half. Even with much improved defense, their second half rally fell far short.

Bellingham United head coach Lance Calloway was not pleased with his team's performance overall.

"Our outside defending was very poor and it cost us," Calloway said. "We shouldn't have allowed some of those goals that took place in the first place."

South Sound FC player Tyler John scored their first goal within six minutes of the match beginning. Danny Minniti then followed up with back-to-back goals in the 26th and 32nd minutes.

Only two minutes later, South Sound's Kellan Brown scored again, soon to be followed by another goal by John.

United made some personnel changes at the half, substituting Riley Liddle in at goalie. This proved to be a move that



The Hammer's Black and White Army cheers with players despite a tough 5-1 loss against South Sound FC on Sunday, April 26, at Civic Stadium. // Photo by Jake Tull

paid off, as United allowed no goals in the second period of play.

Five minutes into the second half, Bellingham United had a chance to score, but Robbie Tice's shot went wide right. The Hammers finally got on the board in the 68th minute on a goal by Mo Mare-

nah, but that proved to be the only offense United would manage for the day. Marenah scored on a well-placed cross from Nick Cashmere.

Fans of United did not seem to be phased by the scoreboard, even in the waning minutes of the game. Cheering supporters banged

drums and sang taunts at South Sound, but the environment remained friendly and the teams greeted each other warmly after the final whistle.

Even after the tough loss, Calloway does not think this game will define his teams season.

"Hell yeah I'm optimistic

on the season," Calloway said. "This is only one game and there have been situations last year where a team got blown out and won the next battle."

United's Liddle remained upbeat after the game, but said that improvements must be made if they want to come up with a win next week. "Going forward I'm hoping that we can battle harder in the first half and not come out flat," Liddle said.

Bellingham United's "Hammer of the Match" award went to defender Nolan Smith.

Sunday's game marks the start of the second season for the Evergreen Premier League, said Marc Ronney, general manager of Bellingham United. The Evergreen Premier League is open to college and post-college age players and players maintain amateur status, meaning that they are not paid.

"The goal is to give kids that want to continue to play at a high level an arena to play in," Ronney said. "It's a fun, local team to come support."

Bellingham United will take on Yakima United Football Club next Sunday, May 3, at Civic Stadium. The game starts at 3 p.m. and adult tickets are \$8.



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