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THE WESTERN FRONT

Society of Professional Journalists Award-Winning Newspaper

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TUESDAY, JUNE 30

Huxley students create new minor

Nick Belcaster
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western students will be able to explore the idea of social justice in environmental issues next year with a new minor program created by Huxley College of the Environment.

The new environmental justice minor is slated to be offered starting winter quarter 2016, and will attempt to enlighten students as to how different social groups are affected by any environmental problem, said Tim O'Melia, a junior at Western.

"You wouldn't necessarily think studying things like the environment is directly linked to social justice, when in actuality it inherently is," O'Melia said.

O'Melia is one member of a four student team currently pursuing the creation of the minor. The long process of assembling a curriculum has been keeping him busy, O'Melia said.

Professors and departments have to be contacted in regards to their interest in being included in the minor, and amendments suggested to their course material if needed, O'Melia said.

"A lot of the classes that we want to have taught, even though they have the core material, they kind of lack that last social justice twist at the end," O'Melia said.

As an environmental policy major, O'Melia said that applying the concepts of social justice toward the study of the environment makes sense when you understand how central the environment is to government, business and interactions.

"Looking at the larger issues, the water crisis, CO2 levels, how does that affect different people different ways?" O'Melia said. "How do we ensure that there is some level of social justice?"

Willa Cooksey, a junior at Western and an environmental policy major, has also been working toward bringing this minor to life. Cooksey said that she's noticed the disparity that can exist among different groups of people when it comes to environmental decisions.

"We're trying to shine a light on the imbalance when it comes to trying to treat the environment," Cooksey said.

The current student team is comprised of O'Melia, Cooksey, Claire Manning and Jenny MacDonald, who all took up the reins of the project when the

NEW MINOR, page 2

Racing through the summer sun



Children, ages 10-12, start the running portion of the Bellingham Kids Traverse race at Civic Field on Sunday, June 28. The race included a 1 mile run, 1.5 mile bike and .5 mile obstacle course. // Photo by Alexandra Bartick

See feature story at
westernfrontonline.com

Western hosts first robotics expo

Annie Espy
THE WESTERN FRONT

Eleven robotics and engineering groups from Bellingham and around Whatcom County gathered together to bring the first Whatcom Robotics

Expo to life.

Approximately 25 people attended the Saturday, June 27, event on Western's campus to view the groups and their various displays that ranged from hands-on electronics and LEGO bricks to posters and information

tables.

The expo was created by Kyle Rader, Kelly Lyon and Andrea Frost, who are the co-founders of CodeLily, a computer code school in Bellingham that is located in downtown.

"We brought in groups from around Bellingham that don't have those kinds of opportunities, and then also some other groups from here at the college, to sort of showcase, 'hey, you can get into robotics at a young age. Look at the cool things you can do,'" Rader said.

Both CodeLily and Western put on the event, which consisted of robotics clubs, high school students, and engineers. Opportunities for kids to get involved in science, technology, engineering and math programs were available from each group

at the expo.

"We want to help be the connector for all of these different groups and bring visibility into the community as to how many options there are to get kids involved with robotics," Rader said.

CodeLily's goal is to start teaching in-person classes to two primary audiences: people who are post college and the K-12 community, Rader said.

One of the groups that attended the expo was Creators & Innovators Club for Girls, which was founded a year ago by former Western student Sydney Cole and two others. This all-girls club from Bellingham was created for middle school girls to gain hands-on experience with robotics.

Cole is a volunteer for Creators & Innovators and a professional programmer. She works with the club to provide a

ROBOTICS, page 2



Western junior and computer science major Alex Benedetto and alumna Kelly Lyon play with legos on Saturday, June 27 at the Whatcom Robotics Expo. // Photo by Alexandra Bartick



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GETTING GEARED UP FOR COLLEGE



Washington High School and Western students play team building games on the Communications Facility Lawn on Monday, June 29. The students are visiting the university as a part of a program called Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP), which helps increase the number of low-income students in postsecondary education. // Photo by Alexandra Bartick

ROBOTICS: Guests learn basic engineering, coding

continued from page 1

creative and fun experience for the girls who join.

"We thought we'd get only a handful of girls, and we had 60," Cole said. "It was shocking and really inspirational. Part of it was because it was fun. We tried not to make it intimidating, [but instead] interesting and creative."

Cole works with the girls to build and create littleBits, which are magnetic, color-coded electronic pieces that connect to one another. LittleBits are an easy way for the girls to learn how to build a circuit, Cole said.

Creators & Innovators is not the only club from Bellingham that provides children with robotics and engineering education. Bricks and Beyond, from

Bellingham, works with kids ages 6-12 on the basics of robotics by building LEGO models.

Kimberly Gustafson is the owner of Bricks and Beyond and is a certified LEGO education academy trainer. Her group showed their LEGO robotics crane and crocodile at their booth during the expo.

Gustafson described the group as a school on wheels. She travels to various places in Bellingham and Whatcom County to teach her program to kids.

Bricks and Beyond offers after school programs, in school field trips and summer camps at Whatcom Community College and the Community Enrichment Center.

"It's sort of like sticking spinach in a smoothie, the kids don't know they are getting it," Gustafson said.

To grow the technological community in Whatcom County, Rader said CodeLily not only wants to connect and inspire kids, but they want to give the education to those who need it now.

CodeLily, with the help of groups from Western Washington Extended Education, Inner Child Studio and Technology Alliance Group, plan to have another expo next year. CodeLily will also be hosting two summer camps in August and September to provide computer science education for K-12 students and those that want the education, Rader said.

NEW MINOR: Environmental justice begins in winter

continued from page 1

previous student team all graduated from Western, Cooksey said.

Michelle Dannehy is one of three Western graduates who originated the idea of the environmental justice minor in spring of 2014, and is still working on the plan regardless of having graduated this past spring, she said.

Along with classmates David Krzesni and Brianne Hoppe, Dannehy began to think about how Western supports diversity issues after the presence of a white supremacy group on campus last year, and how Huxley could extend that support into their curriculum, Dannehy said.

"For a long time, and before I've ever been on this campus even, there's been a lot of talk in Huxley about the separation of social issues versus environmental issues," Dannehy said.

Through a series of meetings, petitions and surveys, the three-person team garnered interest in creating an environmental justice minor, and it was formed. Since last spring, a lot of work has been done to bring the minor closer to reality, Dannehy said.

The classes that will be required for the minor are still being hashed out, but many will come from a variety of departments within the university such as American studies, sociology and political science, O'Melia said.

"It's a really interdisciplinary minor, which we wanted to do so that it can reach more people," Cooksey said.

The minor was modeled after the current education and social justice minor, and careful study of that program greatly aided the creation of the new minor, Dannehy said.

The group hopes the minor will become something more than just an academic objective, but rather a community of people who are all passionate about social justice in the environmental realm, Dannehy said.

"How do we give people this environmental education, but also give them the ability to think critically about how certain actions in certain areas are affected?" O'Melia said.

Dannehy said that she foresees the minor helping to continue the discussion of justice issues on campus, and is proud to have started something that will be greatly beneficial for Western.

The group expects that come winter of 2016 the minor will be available to the general student body, and anyone interested in learning more will be able to contact the Huxley College to begin their education in environmental justice.

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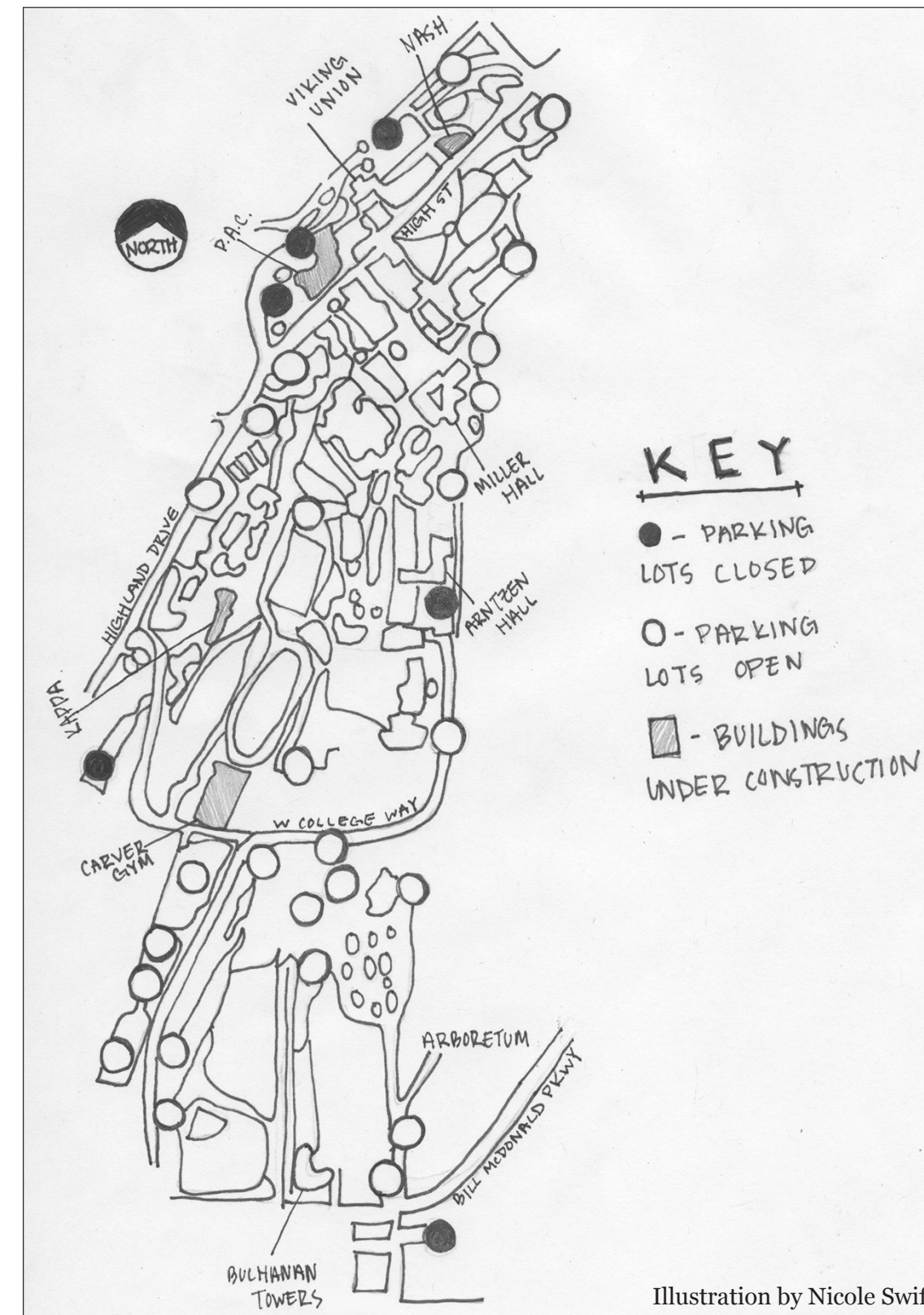
Kaelen Morris

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Corrections

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.

Summer construction on campus



KEY

- - PARKING LOTS CLOSED
- - PARKING LOTS OPEN
- - BUILDINGS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Illustration by Nicole Swift

Lien Luc
THE WESTERN FRONT

Various construction projects on campus will continue during summer quarter as the renovation of Ridgeway Kappa and the remodel of Carver Gymnasium progresses.

In the meantime, West College Way re-opened on Friday, June 26, after 10 days of replacing the pavement.

In addition to the street construction, the parking lots around campus are currently being sealed and repaired, and accessible parking space users will be relocated. This will be completed by August 2015, said Bill Dorn, Western's street supervisor.

"We had tried to complete the construction as soon as possible in order to let people travel around easier," Dorn said.

Betsy Linnane, a junior at Western, said construction projects were both good and bad.

"It looks like there are a lot of good improvements that we need," Linnane said. "At the same time, it's really hard to get around campus."

Western's construction on campus and in surrounding neighborhoods will be completed before fall quarter in August, Dorn said.

Carver Gymnasium remodels will commence at the start of July. The completion date is tentative.

"The process of construction seems to be conducted easier and quickly because there are not many students on campus in summer," Dorn said.



The Performing Arts Center will be under construction from July-August 2015. The project maintains the replacement of the roof in order to help extend the life of the building by protecting the interior from water damage. // Photo by Alexandra Bartick

Ridgeway Kappa	Performing Arts Center	Arntzen Hall	Nash Hall	Parking Lots
Kappa is estimated to be completed and ready for occupation in September, with a newly installed fire sprinkler system and interior painting.	The roof is currently being replaced, and will help expand the life of the building by shielding the inside completely from water interruption. This will not affect traffic on High Street.	The sidewalk is currently blocked in order to replace a new concrete surface.	The seventh floor is being re-roofed and is not being occupied during construction.	Parking lot closures on north and south campus will have pedestrian detours posted, according to the parking office website.

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A WHOLE NEW LEVEL OF IMPROV

Starting July 3, The Upfront Theater will perform "An Improvised Musical," a full-length musical where everything from the jokes to the scoring is made up on the spot

Jesse Nichols
THE WESTERN FRONT

"You can do improv scenes and change it up and put different genres behind it, which we've done, but once you add music to something it puts it on a whole new level and we'd love to tackle that challenge."

Kris Erickson
Artistic Director
of The Upfront
Theater



Jake Barrow plays Gunther Troutmouth at a rehearsal of "An Improvised Musical." // Photo by Jesse Nichols



Kris Erickson instructs the cast of "An Improvised Musical" during warm up exercises at a rehearsal on Monday, June 22. // Photo by Jesse Nichols

A staccato piano score begins as the Upfront Theatre mainstage cast sings the opening chorus to "The Sexiest Fish Hatchery," an improvised musical conceived from suggestions shouted mere moments prior. For the cast of "An Improvised Musical," this spontaneity will be one of the few things routine about this performance.

The next night will likely be completely different. This is the goal of "An Improvised Musical," a full-length musical play where everything – the story, jokes, songs and piano scoring – is made up on the spot, said Kris Erickson, artistic director for the Upfront Theatre.

"An Improvised Musical" will be showing at The Upfront Theatre on Fridays and Saturdays from July 3 to Aug. 1.

While the theater has done short weekend-long trial musicals in 2014, this will be their first five-week showing, Erickson said.

Erickson hopes this project will take the cast to the next level of improvisation.

"You can do improv scenes and change it up and put different genres behind it, which we've done, but once you add music to something it puts it on a whole new level and we'd love to tackle that challenge," Erickson said.

The cast will ask the audience to suggest a location and an adjective,

which they will use to create the title of that night's musical, Erickson said.

Erickson said the cast rehearses weekly, typically starting with vocal and theatrical exercises before practicing the songs and scenes. The rehearsals are intended to condition the cast for improvising together and to prepare them for spontaneous performances, Erickson said.

During one of their rehearsals, the cast performed titles like "The Wonder of the Holy Tropics" and "The Mystery of the Movie Rental Store".

Steve Barnes, a 2006 Western music education graduate, will be one of the pianists improvising the musical score.

"The improvised musical is considered by many who dabble in this art subset to be one of the heights," Barnes said. "Sometimes people say it's the most fun thing they could do when they're improvising."

For Barnes, these performances will be more than simple music improvisation. His scoring will play an essential role in guiding the story, Barnes said.

Barnes first got involved with improvised musicals through the Dead Parrots Society, Western's improv comedy club.

Erickson, who was artistic director for the Dead Parrots Society during his time at Western, said many former Dead Parrots Society members work with the Upfront Theatre after graduating.

Jake Barrow, a 2013 Western Fairhaven graduate, is one of several cast members who got involved with the Upfront Theatre after performing with the Dead Parrots Society during college.

Barrow said the Upfront Theatre was his next step after graduating and gave him an outlet to continue his interest in improv theater.

Maddie Nueman, a 2011 Western English graduate, has performed with the Upfront main stage cast every weekend for two years.

Nueman said trust and friendship are essential principles for their improv cast, and she said she values a strong relationship with the cast both inside and outside of the theater.

"We have such trust and cohesion as a group that I trust that it will always work out," Nueman said. "They're like my family. They're people I see every single week. They see me at my best, they see me at my worst."

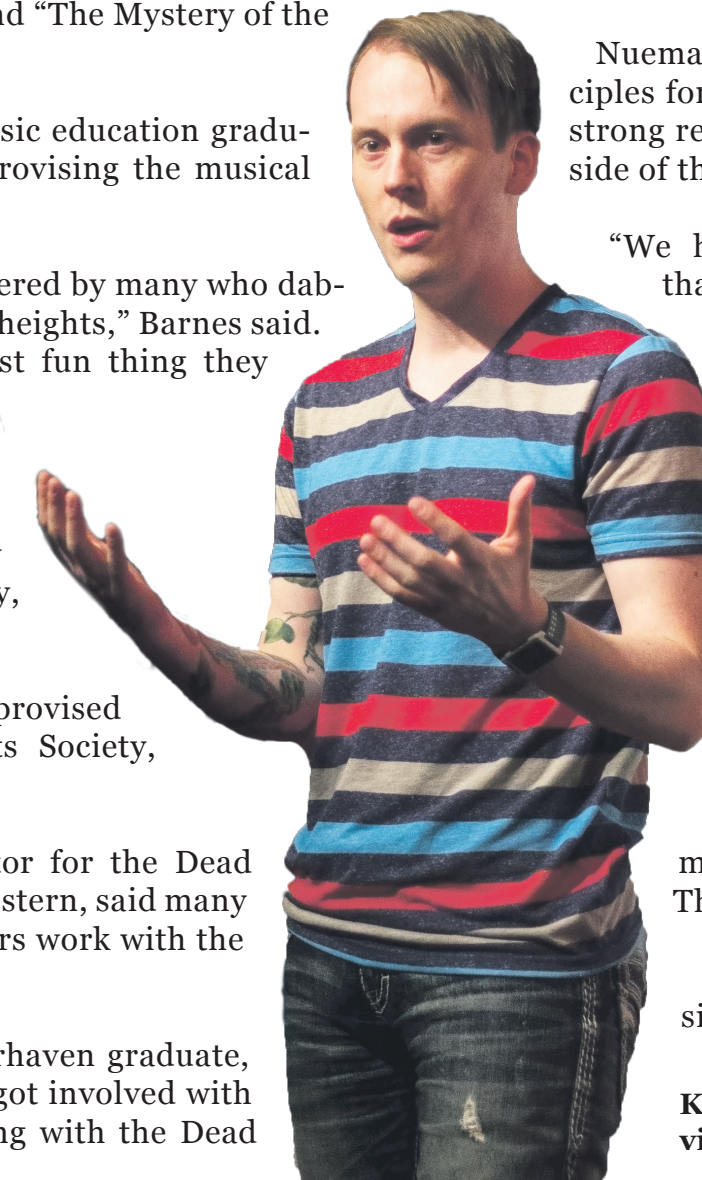
Erickson said a strong cast relationship is essential for a good performance.

"There's a sort of energy we can give each other while we're singing songs," Erickson said. "It's something that's not quite seen, but it's there."

Erickson hopes that this will be the first of many improvised musicals that the Upfront Theatre produces.

For more information visit The Upfront website at www.theupfront.com.

Kris Erickson directs the cast of "An Improvised Musical." // Photo by Jesse Nichols



FRONTLINE

Opinions of the Editorial Board

The Confederacy is dying, and it's about time

In the wake of the racially motivated mass shooting at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in downtown Charleston, South Carolina, there has been a mass call-to-action to remove the Confederate battle flag from the capitol buildings in southern states.

For those of you living under a rock, here's a brief history of the Confederate flag. The Confederate flag that is most commonly seen and referred to when discussing the confederacy isn't the original Confederate flag. The original flag, titled "Stars and Bars," was approved in 1861 and very closely resembled the Union flag. Like the Union flag, the original Confederate flag had a dark blue area in the upper left corner, but only three red, white and blue stripes. The flag had seven stars that represented the states that wanted to succeed: South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Georgia, Texas, Louisiana and Alabama.

The commonly seen Confederate battle flag, also known as the Rebel Flag, Dixie Flag or Southern

Cross, is a variation of the flag that was later adopted and used in battle as the flag of the army of Northern Virginia in 1861 led by Gen. Robert E. Lee.

Now for those of us who live outside of the American South, the primary argument against the use of this flag is fairly one-sided: Its use is wrong because it represents the racist ideology of the seven southern states that wanted to secede from the Union during the civil war.

However, many Confederate flag supporters will make the argument that the flag represents their southern pride and heritage, while also attempting to make the argument that the flag has nothing to do with racism. The idea that the flag represents some sort of southern pride likely stems from when South Carolina lawmakers raised the battle flag over the statehouse in 1961 to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the civil war, as well as its use in popular culture such as the Beverly Hillbillies and The Dukes of Hazzard.

In the same way as the swastika or gammadion

cross is seen in culture today as a Nazi symbol instead of a sacred Indian religious symbol, the Confederate battle flag also carries a stigma that has been threatening its relevance in society for years.

Whichever argument you choose to agree with, this much is certain: It's about time the Confederate battle flag is being removed from popular culture. It no longer carries any relevance in society due to the racial stigma and ideologies that it represents.

While some southern states have removed the flag in response to the shooting in Charleston, South Carolina itself has yet to do so. If the government of this state really wants to separate itself from the racist ideology that led to nine African-Americans being gunned down in their place of worship, it should follow the lead of neighboring states and take down this symbol of racial oppression for good.

The editorial board is composed of Miles Barnes, Stephanie Villiers and Alexandra Bartick

Front Editorial Cartoon



Illustration by Nicole Swift

Viking Voices

What's the most enjoyable thing about summer in Bellingham?



Mallorie Powell junior, accounting

"I really enjoy Lake Whatcom and all the things at the lake."



Michael Barone senior, Fairhaven concentration

"I love Bellingham in the summer because there's so much going on."



Jose Avalos junior, computer science

"I would probably say the weather, it's really nice."



Monique Gulliot junior, environmental science

"I like how there is so much to do. I want to go kayaking."



Sophia Greif junior, graphic design

"All of the community projects that people are working on."



Nikki Dang senior, marketing

"Hiking and kayaking. I still want to go a try to hike the Oyster Dome."

Compiled by Alyssa Sanchez and Michaela Vue

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: 400 words
Guest columns: 400 words

Paul Madison retiring after 48 years

Western's hall-of-fame sports information director leaves behind a legacy

Sarah Climaco THE WESTERN FRONT

For the past 48 years, the Athletic Department at Western has been the home of Paul Madison, the sports information director. This is about to change, however, as he recently announced his retirement, which is effective this fall.

Madison has been the sports information director for Western since 1966, when he was a Viking freshman. His title never changed. At this time, he was finishing up his degree in the journalism department and was among one of the first journalism classes to graduate from Western in 1971.

"This campus is very special to me," Madison said as he reflected on the years he has spent at Western. "[The athletic] program in particular is very special to me."



Paul Madison // Photo courtesy of Paul Madison

Madison has influenced numerous athletes and coaches throughout the years, and he said he has received many emails sharing the impact he has made on their lives.

"He just is the epitome of what I think a sports information director should be," said Frank MacDonald, former sports information director at Seattle Pacific University. "He has integrity beyond reproach."

MacDonald and Madison share the same values throughout the profession, and because of that they have formed a strong bond over the years, MacDonald said.

The sense of accomplishing a variety of things throughout the day has been a primary reason for staying through the years, Madison said.

"There's that sense that you've done a good job, and you feel good about all that has happened," Madison said. "I like that feeling."

He said that it was a tough decision to retire, though it felt right to him. As the athletics department begins to go through many changes like the renovation of Carver Gymnasium, Madison said he believes this is the prime time to get "new blood and new ideas" flowing through the department.

"Even though our schools are rivals, we are actually pretty close as friends," said Jonathan Gordon, program assistant in the admissions



Paul Madison in 1977. // Photo courtesy of Tamera Belts, special collections manger at Western Libraries

office at Central Washington University. "He sets a standard nationwide."

Over the next two years, Viking basketball and volleyball games will be played at various locations while Carver Gymnasium is under renovation, Madison said.

"We have the people that can weather that, and they will come through it with flying colors," Madison said.

His mentors at Ferndale High School referred Madison to the Western athletic program, where he graduated. Madison began his work tracking sports statistics for Western teams. During that

time his job was far different and it consisted of manually entering statistics for various sports teams once a week.

"Back in the day you didn't have computers, you didn't have word processors," Madison said. "I started out with a type-writer, and going up to an electric type-writer was a big thing."

During this time, tuition was \$88 per quarter and he was making \$80 a month salary as a student sports information director, Madison said.

"Having this position, I was able to pay my way through school," Madison

said.

During his time as Western's sports information director, Madison has seen the women's rowing team earn seven national titles, a national title for the men's basketball team and success across the board for the women's basketball team, Madison said. He was also inducted into the Hall of Fame for College Sports Information Directors in 2011.

Madison said he has been thinking about coming back on a part-time basis to archive sports records that he has accumulated throughout his time with Western.

U.S. headed to World Cup semi-final

James Clough THE WESTERN FRONT

As the FIFA Women's World Cup continues just north of the border in Canada, the United States Women's National Team is still alive and well, making confident strides through the competition.

After beating Colombia 2-0 and then China 1-0, the U.S. is scheduled to play Germany at Olympic Stadium in Montreal on Tuesday, June 30, at 4 p.m. If team USA beats Germany, it will play either England or Japan in the final.

The U.S. team looked confident going into its game against Colombia on June 22 at Commonwealth Stadium in Edmonton, finishing at the top of its group in the group stage of the tournament.

USA with a penalty kick.

After Colombia substituted Stefany Castaño in at goalkeeper, Wambach stepped up to take the kick. The goalkeeper dove to Wambach's right, while Wambach went left. The shot went wide, missing the post by a few inches.

At the start of the second half, Team USA continued to pressure Colombia. In the 53rd minute, after a series of quick passes, Morgan pushed into the right side of the Colombian goal-box. From a hard angle, Morgan blasted a shot at goal. The Colombian goalkeeper managed to get a hand on the ball, but the shot was too strong and the ball forced its way into the net, giving Team USA a 1-0 lead.

Continuing to pressure Colombia, Team USA pushed the ball up the left

side. Pushing into the box, Rapinoe was tackled hard by Colombian defender Angela Clavijo. Clavijo received a yellow card and Team USA was awarded another penalty kick. This time Carli Lloyd stepped up to take the kick. As the whistle blew, Lloyd calmly jogged up and placed the ball in the right side of the net as the goalkeeper dove left. Team USA then led 2-0 against Colombia.

After the second goal, the life from the Colombian team had been drained and the game ended as a 2-0 win for the US.

The next game Team USA played was against China at Lansdowne Place Stadium in Ottawa on June 26. This game would be another easy one for American goalkeeper Hope Solo as the ball remained in the Ameri-

can attacking third of the field for most of the game. Yet China's defense was able to hold, and with a few misses by the U.S., the score remained 0-0 at the half.

At the start of the second half, Team USA never stopped pressuring. In the 51st minute, Julie Johnston played a cross deep from half-field into the Chinese penalty area. Lloyd went up and headed the ball toward goal, skipping it into the lower right corner. The U.S. now led 1-0.

For the rest of the game, Team USA played for possession and to run out the clock. China attempted to force a comeback and Hope Solo made a few easy saves, but they never developed any real chances on goal and the game ended a 1-0 win for Team USA.

Bellingham baseball off to a hot start

The Bellingham Bells lead the west division and also offer ballpark deals

Tyler Hillis

THE WESTERN FRONT

Summer is here, which means the Bellingham Bells, a local collegiate baseball team, has started its season.

So far the Bells are off to a great start – with 12 wins and 8 losses, they lead the West Division of the West Coast League.

For Bellingham locals hoping to see some games,

the Bells have various promotions throughout the summer that aim to bring in crowds to the games.

One of the more popular fan promotions is the \$2 Tuesday nights at Joe Martin Field, said Stephanie Morrell, assistant general manager.

Whenever the Bells have a home game on Tuesday nights, the team offers discounted \$2 tickets after attendees purchase one ticket

at a regular price. Additionally, some food and beverage options at the stadium are \$2, including hotdogs and beer, Morell said.

Other promotions that the Bells feature includes Veteran night, throwback Thursdays, family days and games that finish with a fireworks show, Morrell said.

“We want to keep a good balance of what folks like and give them a reason to

WEST DIVISION STANDINGS

West	Record	PCT	GB	STREAK
Bellingham Bells	13-8	.619	-	1W
Kitsap BlueJackets	9-9	.500	0.5	1L
Cowlitz Black Bears	9-9	.500	0.5	1W
Victoria HarbourCats	8-13	.381	5	1W

come down to the ballpark,” Morrell said.

As for the team, the Bells are looking to build off the success of their 2014 season. After going 37-17 last year, the Bells found themselves winning the league championship for the first time in the team’s history, according to the team’s website. Last year, the Bells averaged 1,478 fans every home game, with a total of 47,307 fans throughout the entire season, according to the team’s website.

However, this is not the same team as last year, Morrell said. There are just six returning players from the championship winning team, with the remaining slots being filled with players that are brand new to the organization.

Dane Siegfried, a 2013 Western graduate who is going on his second season as an assistant coach

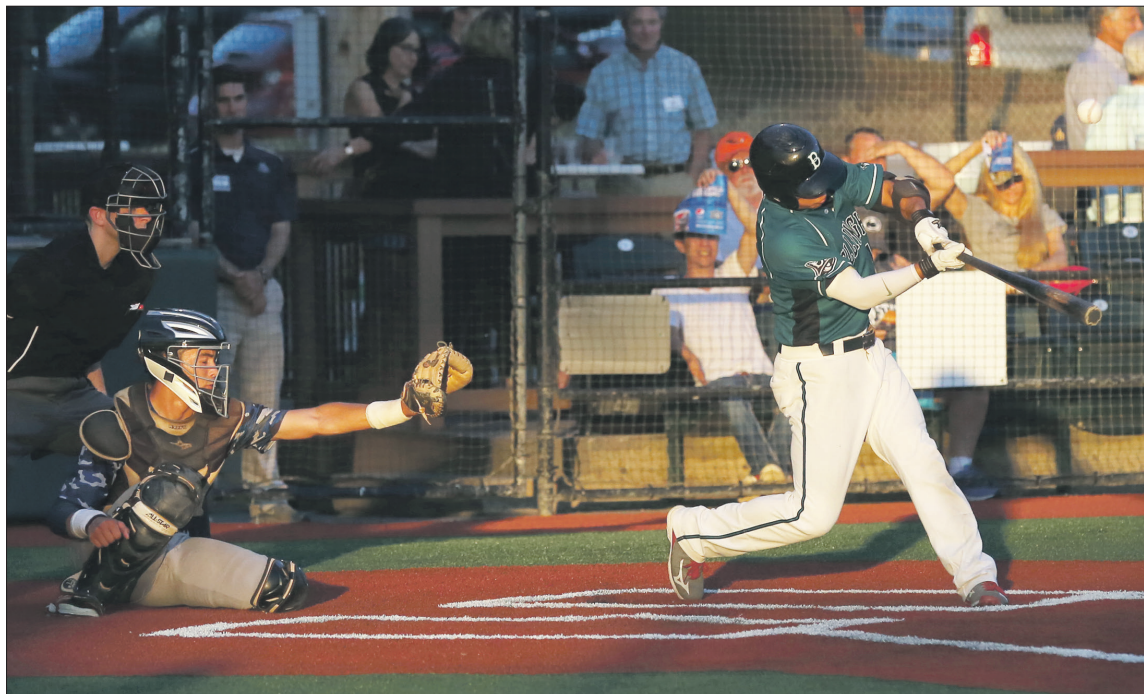
for the Bells, talked about the struggles of getting new players.

“It always takes a little bit of time for guys to get to know each other,” Siegfried said. “But that’s part of the process, and that’s what summer baseball is all about.”

Siegfried said he is hopeful for the upcoming season and is proud of the success that the team has found so far. He said he hopes the level of play will stay high for the fans that attend the home games, as he believes going to a Bells game is a very unique experience.

“It is a very intimate setting,” Siegfried said. “It is great for families, but it is also great to bring some college friends and sit out on the hill, like I used to do.”

The next Bellingham Bells game is Tuesday, June 29, at 7:05 p.m at Joe Martin Field.



Bellingham Bells player Jesse Kuet pops the ball up in the Bells 0-5 loss to the Kitsap Blue Jackets on Saturday, June 27, at Joe Martin Field.// Photo by Jake Tull

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