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THE WESTERN FRONT

Winner of seven 2013 Society of Professional Journalists Awards

Volume 173, Issue 5

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

Work continues on Galbraith trail



Mike Storm stands on the Grasshopper Trail after taking a run on Thursday, Oct. 15, at Galbraith Mountain. Storm has worked for many hours over the course of nearly three years to resurface and restructure the trail. The drop point behind him was there when he began work, but he has built many more jumps, including a 6-foot-tall, step-up jump that he and a team of volunteers carved out by hand. Storm said there is more work to be done, but is hopeful the project will be completed in another year.

// Photo by Daisey James

See full story online

Program to conserve energy, save money

Ariana Nazari
THE WESTERN FRONT

A new student-led project to promote sustainable-energy use will be testing the waters on Western's campus this fall.

Funded by the Sustainable Action Fund grant, which all Western students' tuition pays into, Project RENT aims to educate off-campus students about how to conserve energy in their homes and reduce their monthly energy bills.

Project RENT, which stands for Reducing ENergy with Tenants, was founded by graduate student Stefanie Neale, 23, and fifth-year senior Joey Cilinceon, 22. Both are studying fields related to energy and sustainability.

Cilinceon and Neale were Eco Reps in Buchanan Towers when they were freshmen at Western, Cilinceon said.

"We noticed there [wasn't similar energy programs] for off campus," Neale said. "We wanted to have a program that reached out to these students who are now transitioning into their own homes, where they are actually paying energy bills."

Assistant professor Thomas Webler of Western's environmental studies department and junior Kate Thompson are also project coordinators.

Project RENT is a pilot program. The success of the project, over the course of this fall, will determine whether it becomes a permanent

see RENT, page 4

Diversity grows in enrollment

McKenna Kloes
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western's 2015 fall enrollment is the largest freshman class in the history of the University, beating out last year's record.

A total of 9,915 applied to Western for this academic year. Of the 15,332 students enrolled, 2,809 of them were freshmen, said Clara Capron, the assistant vice president of enrollment

see RECORD, page 5

New minor brings real-world experience

Kyra Bruce
THE WESTERN FRONT

For the past month, a storefront that has sat empty for nearly four years has been an epicenter of art, music and local business. Hatch, an experimental business incubator, has revitalized and revamped the once vacant location at 1302 Commercial St.

Hatch is the brainchild of Art Sherwood and Nick Hartrich, Hatch's Visual and

see HATCH, page 5



Inside Hatch gallery// Photo courtesy of Dylan Green

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ON THE WEB Drawing Jam turns walls into everyday works of art

Read more at westernfrontonline.com
Exhibition in Viking Union Gallery is a collaborative community project open to all students.

STUDENTS WORK ON FOREST ECOLOGY PLAY



Students in Wendy Walker's environmental interpretation class rehearse the play, "Nobody's Ever Alone in the Forest," on Thursday, Oct. 15 on the Communications Facility lawn. The play, written by Walker, will be performed at Artzen Hall 100 during Western's Fall Family Open House on Saturday, Oct. 24 at 1:30 p.m. // Daisey James

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

Friday	The Art of Seating 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Western Gallery The Western Gallery presents a collection of chair designs spanning from the 19th century to the present day, showcasing the history of design.	Gore and Lore Tour—Fairhaven 6 p.m. Sycamore Square 1200 Harris Ave The Gore and Lore tour explores the darker side of Bellingham's history, including mysteries and murder.
	Women in Film 10 a.m. Communications Facility Room 125 A conversation about breaking into and navigating the film industry as a woman.	Mala Mala 8:30 p.m. Pickford Film Pickford Film's Doctober presents Mala Mala, a film about exploring the multiple facets and challenges faced by transgender individuals in Puerto Rico.

Cops Box

9:56 a.m., Oct. 12
 Officers responded to a garage burglary at the 1500 block of North Street. A man reported his power tools were stolen.

3 p.m., Oct. 13
 Nike socks were reportedly stolen at the Bellis Fair Mall.

7: 13 p.m., Oct. 12
 A man and woman were arrested for firing off rounds toward their neighbors house.

8:10 p.m., Oct. 13
 Officers responded to a call about a suspicious man hiding in the bushes near the 4100 block on Consolidation Avenue.

11 p.m., Oct. 12
 Officers responded to a harassment report about a victim receiving threatening messages via Facebook.

3:30 p.m., Oct. 14
 Two girls were arrested for stealing soda, chicken and cosmetics from the Haggen off Woburn Street. They were referred to juvenile court and released to their parents.

// Compiled by Randee Matthews

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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.

Student documentary covers Alaska race

Sam Chanen
 THE WESTERN FRONT

A Western senior recently released a film that has been selected to be a part of The Trail Running Film Festival. Max Romey directed and produced the documentary, "3022 ft.," covering the Mount Marathon Race in Seward, Alaska. The film will tour Atlanta, Austin and Los Angeles.

3022 ft. was a finalist in the Best Feature and Best Cinematography categories at The Trail Running Film Festival.

The movie took about a year to make and required him to invest at least 2,000 hours of his time, Romey said.

Mount Marathon is among the oldest footraces in the United States. The film covers the race through the perspective of the people who participated in it.

The documentary was released on June 24 by Romey's production team, Max Romey Productions. The team consists of Romey and Western graduates Natalie Fedak and Haley O'Connor, along with senior Dylan Green.



Athletes participating in the Mount Marathon Race run downhill in a screenshot from the movie, "3022 ft." // Photo courtesy of Dylan Green

Fedak helped direct, produce and write the film, O'Connor focused on customer service and finances, and Green was the public relations, communications and marketing manager.

The Trail Running Film Festival is great, because teams apply to only one festival but get 30 different show-

ings, Fedak said. O'Connor said being part of the festival allows people to get out there and see the movie, without requiring the crew to travel along with the film.

"For independent filmmakers, what you want to do is find as many outlets of publicity as you can to push your story and film out there. One

of those main outlets is getting into film festivals," Green said.

Romey said the film highlighted the closest year in the race's history.

"You had a full-time mom running against an Olympian, running against a rookie, running against a woman battling her demons with

drug abuse," Romey said. He was inspired to do the movie because the race blew his mind, Romey said.

"I was like, 'This is amazing'. I couldn't find any movies so I just figured I'd make one and it turned into something much larger than I thought," Romey said.

Aside from producing the film, Romey also received about a third of the funds through Indiegogo, Romey said.

Indiegogo is the largest global fundraising site and specializes in helping individuals, nonprofits and businesses raise money online, according to the Indiegogo website.

"I would love to be able to continue to make films that make a difference, which is the hardest thing to do because it's very hard to get somebody to fund something that they can't see any profit in," Romey said.

Making these films could be one of the most meaningful things he could do with his life, Romey said.

The film will be screened on campus Monday, Nov. 9 at the Performing Arts Center.

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GRAD SCHOOL EVENTS

Health Professional & Graduate School Fair

Explore · Discuss · Prepare

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Health Professional & Graduate School Fair

Wednesday, October 21
 10am—2pm, VU MPR

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RENT: Educating students, saving money

continued from page 1

program or not, Neale said.

The project's goal is to get a minimum of 200 households involved by the end of the quarter, Neale said.

Nick Altberg, one of the project's lead conservation educators, said they will discuss energy use in each individual's household. The educators will teach students how to reduce energy and money depending on the type of heating system they have in their house, Altberg said.

Conservation educators will teach students how to read their energy bills and also be able to connect students with local resources, Neale said.

Students will present their initial energy bill to the conservation educator in the first meeting. This way the conservation educator can track how much energy each household conserved over the course of project's pilot period, Cilinceon said.

The three households that conserve the most energy over the course of fall will receive a \$100 gift card.



(From left to right) Nathan Wilks, Stefanie Neale, Joey Cilinceon and Kate Thompson stand behind their Project RENT table at the Climatefest Info Fair on Wednesday, Oct. 14. // Photo by Christina Becker

Gift cards will be for places where students can purchase items that will continue their conservation of energy, Neale said.

Part of the project's mission serves to help off-campus students save money on their energy bills, Neale said. She explained that many of the houses off cam-

pus are old and inefficient, causing students to pay more than they should.

The project also aims to provide an opportunity for students and the community to reduce their environmental impact, Neale said.

"By reducing their energy use and being more efficient with their energy, they can

become a part of the greater effort towards mitigating climate change," Cilinceon said.

Neale emphasized how convenient the project has made it to get involved, highlighting nine students who are also a part of Project RENT.

The nine students serve

as "conservation educators." They are either being paid or receiving credit for their work through the environmental studies department, Neale said.

Conservation educators have been trained by Puget Sound Energy and Cascade Natural Gas, Neale said.

These students were selected based off of specific criteria that the project was looking for, such as a desire to learn more about energy sustainability and related course and work experience, Cilinceon said.

"We want the students who are working for us to come out of this [program] with a good understanding and confidence in energy efficiency," Neale said.

Last year, about 12,500 of the 15,060 students enrolled were living off campus, according to Western's quick fact sheet regarding enrollment.

With this project, Cilinceon wanted to help some of those off-campus students.

"We really want student involvement," Cilinceon said. "That's what is going to lift this program off the ground and keep it going next year."

RECORD: Largest freshman class

continued from page 1

and Student Services. There was a six percent increase in students of color in the freshman class compared to last year: 844 for fall of 2015 and 793 for fall of 2014, according to the Western website.

Thirty percent of all freshman students were students of color for fall 2015 compared to 28 percent last year. Along with growth in diversity has come a growth in the number of admittances being sent out.

Freshman Tristen Burns looks forward to being able to say she was part of a record-breaking class, she said.

"My class is the biggest ever in history? That's pretty cool," Burns said.

The same trend goes for first-generation freshman students. There was a four percent

increase with 944 admitted for fall of 2015 compared to 906 in the fall of 2014.

"Western is succeeding as a university because, as is again the case today, in each of the last 10 years, we were more diverse than the year that preceded," President Bruce Shepard said in a convocation speech in 2014.

Freshman Shelby Lex agrees that Western can be considered successful because of the increase in diversity.

"That's what most universities are striving for, is greater diversity amongst their students because that brings in a wider array of opinions and backgrounds and it can only improve discussions and acceptance in the student body," Lex said.

The university is experiencing more interest than ever be-

6.4% increase of students of color
30% of all Fall '15 freshman are students of color
4.2% increase in first-generation freshman
2015 has the largest amount of freshman

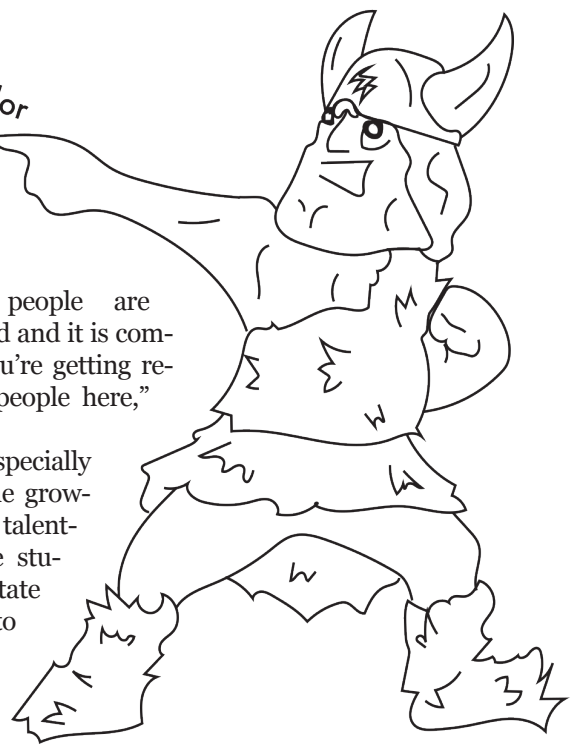


Illustration by Nicole Swift

fore, Capron said. The incoming GPAs of the freshman class are on the rise and admission application numbers are higher than ever before.

Senior Pryce Baker thinks that the increase in enrollment applications make it so that academics play a larger part in who does or does not get in, he said.

"I know academics aren't everything that goes into what you're looking for when you're applying to college, but it's starting to be that only really

well-rounded people are getting accepted and it is competitive and you're getting really awesome people here," Baker said.

Western is especially pleased that the growing number of talented and diverse students in the state are attracted to Western as their school of choice, Capron said.

HATCH: Students building businesses

continued from page 1

Communications Coordinator Dylan Green said.

In creating Hatch, Sherwood and Hartrich were attempting to combine urban development and Western's entrepreneurship department, Green said.

Hatch is an entity aimed at providing students with experiential learning opportunities as well as aiding economic vitality and revitalizing downtown Bellingham, Sherwood said.

Sherwood, director of Western's IDEA Institute, and Hartrich, executive director of the Downtown Bellingham Partnership, are prominent figures in the change-making movement in Bellingham, Green said.

The IDEA Institute, the main hub for the entrepreneurship minor, aims to give students the tools to make change through innovative approaches such as Hatch, according to the IDEA Insti-

tute website.

The new entrepreneurship minor, launched this quarter, aims to teach students how to make change happen and for students of all disciplines to take what they are doing and make it even better, Sherwood said.

"There is a real world out there, outside of school."

Lukas Sexton
Senior

The three goals of Hatch are to occupy a space, create experiential learning and find a long-term tenant to occupy the space, Green said.

Hatch's online application opened up to local businesses and entrepreneurs on Sept. 4. When someone applies to be

a "hatchling," he or she will pay a flexible monthly membership fee, Green said.

"Essentially it's like starting up your own business without having to invest 10 grand into a space and all sorts of planning without really knowing what the outcome is like," Green said.

The fee helps Hatch to keep their space and allows student consultants to help with marketing or finances, or setting up events, web stores and more, Green said.

Students play a huge role at the business incubator. In their third quarter in the entrepreneurship minor, students are required to run Hatch, Green said.

Hatch is a unique way to get involved with the community and put what you're learning in school into action in a real-life environment, Green said.

Senior Lukas Sexton views Hatch more like an extracurricular activity. He has learned there is a real world



Members of the community gather in the Hatch location in downtown Bellingham. The space is used by entrepreneurial students. // Photo courtesy of Dylan Green

out there, outside of school.

During an art walk hosted at Hatch, Sexton said how he had the opportunity to meet and socialize with an experienced professional within his field and talk about their work, he said.

He would never have had an opportunity to socialize and network like this strictly

on campus, Sexton said.

"Hatch is an experiment and we are hoping to find out whether or not it is sustainable by the end of the year," Sherwood said.

Green said those involved with the program hope Hatch will help get students off campus instead of staying within their comfort zone.

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ART, AU NATURELE



Stephanie Davey
THE WESTERN FRONT

Leland Page, ready for his first strip-down session, sized up the room. The all-white ceilings contrasting with the scattered art supplies, the circle of easels surrounding a block and a single stool in the middle. This is when Page realized he would be exposed not only for the entire class, but also for a well-known friend.

Page is a junior hoping to major in anthropology. However, his new gig is modeling au naturale for drawing and painting classes in the art department.

He has modeled for one class so far, and has another session next month, he said.

Page's session began with a pose he held for about 15 minutes, which he said was relatively comfortable. The next pose he was asked to hold was not as comfortable. Once it was time to get started drawing, he figured he would get straight to the point, Page said.

"I was like 'Well here we go, you guys are going to see this anyways,'" Page said. "So I scoot into the middle of the circle, into the gauntlet, and I strip down like I'm about to hop in the shower."

Sometimes the models do wear clothing; most of the time, however, the models are naked so students can learn how to draw the human form, associate professor in the art department Cynthia Camlin said.

"When students are learning how to draw the human figure, they're learning how to draw the skeleton," Camlin said.



Students' artwork from a variety of drawing classes hang on the walls of room 240 in the Fine Arts building. The art department brings in trained and willing models from around campus to pose — au naturelle — for the students to perfect their technique in drawing the human body. // Photo by Daisey James

To understand the body, a student must see the body exposed, Camlin said.

Page began shaking after holding a difficult pose for 20 minutes with his back against the box, body facing away from the class and all his weight resting on one shoulder. Students began asking if he needed to take a break, he said.

"I was stoic, I did not respond, but then a few more said 'Hey, can we give him a break?' I said, 'Oh me? Yeah, sure, I wouldn't mind taking a break I suppose,' trying to play it off all cool," Page said. "They could see right through me, and they could see all of me."

Posing for the class felt almost

euphoric, Page said.

There has never been, to her knowledge, an inappropriate moment in the classroom during Western's modeling sessions, Camlin said.

Drawing the naked body is a rare experience and something many students look forward to, but the context of the ordeal is not necessarily sexual, Camlin said.

"To know that there are just kids who are eagerly, and avidly and almost viciously looking up and sketching, you can feel the energy in the room and I couldn't describe it as anything less than magical," Page said.

Face and chin to paper, the stu-

dents scratch their pencils against the page, quickly sketching and examining Page. The faces they make while the pencils scratch and quickly sketch scared him, Page said. It is tough to stay still and not sneak a peek, he said.

Aeron Murrin, a junior majoring in theater, found the modeling gig on the Western job board last fall quarter and although the posting called for experience and she had none, she responded.

When visiting the art department office to fill out an application, Murrin said she was asked if she was applying to be a nude or clothed model.

She didn't know clothed model-

ing was even an option, but still decided she didn't mind being naked, Murrin said.

Murrin said her experiences in the art classrooms have been consistent; before she gets undressed she waits for the professor to take attendance or explain the week's tasks.

"About half an hour in, there's this awkward moment where I'm like, 'So I get naked now?' And that line always kills them," Murrin said.

There's one thing she's said she's noticed about a certain point during the sessions.

"When everything's done and I put on my clothes, it feels a lot more sexual than when I was naked," Murrin said. "Everyone's used to me being naked, and now

I'm putting on my clothes, like should I be doing this in the bathroom or something?"

Since she began modeling, Mur-

rin said she's seen artists off campus while at parties.

"You can feel the energy in the room and I couldn't describe it as anything less than magical."

Leland Page
Nude Model

rin said she's seen artists off campus while at parties.

"It's always so funny because you and them shared this weird intimate experience that no one else around you has," she said.

Junior Patrick Mogg, another model in the raw, chose a position

for the students to paint, and held it for 30 minute intervals with breaks in between, Mogg said.

"I thought it would be super easy,

but it definitely wasn't," Mogg said. "My left butt cheek and my right shoulder got really tired."

Mogg, hoping to major in communications, said he heard about modeling during his freshman year and just recently posed for his first class.

During Mogg's time in class he said he had thoughts such as, "It's cold in here, I hope they realize it's cold and it's not just me."

Mogg actively tried to keep his mind off things that would make the situation more awkward, he said. He felt he was just another subject for students to make paintings of, Mogg said.

The nudity is just for art, Mogg said, and didn't feel weirdly sexual.

Not all of those who model are seasoned talent, however. Kyle Takagi is anticipating modeling bare-skinned in winter quarter as he just applied last week. He

is excited but nervous, he said.

He expects the experience to be like jumping off Whatcom Falls for the first time, looking over the cliff and jumping towards the water, unsure of the decision but having a great outcome, he said.

Whether they are just getting into modeling or have been doing for a while, there is something intrinsically important about being a part of one of these modeling sessions, Camlin said. It's not something that not many people get to experience.

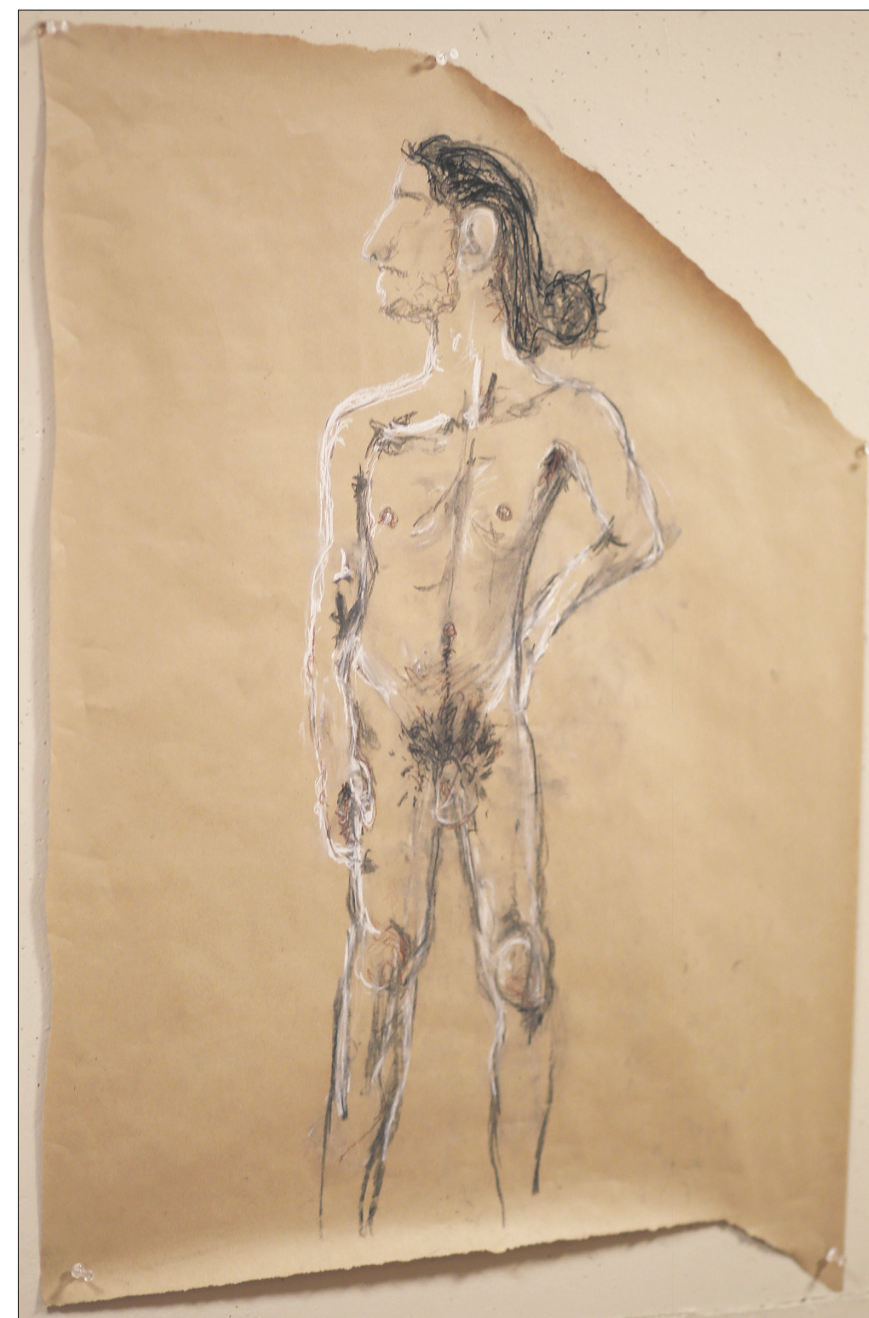
"In the figure drawing situation, clothed or unclothed, you do have a sense of it being special, like a performance happening,"

Camlin said.



UPPER LEFT: Aeron Murrin poses as she would when modeling nude.

LOWER RIGHT: Model Leland Page demonstrates a pose. // Photos by Daisey James



Student Aisha Housman's illustration of model Leland Page. // Photo by Daisey James



Her Own Art History

Book artist and design professor Elsi Vassdal Ellis draws out her last year at Western

By Karina Soennichsen
THE WESTERN FRONT

At 12 years old, Elsi Vassdal Ellis already knew what she wanted to be when she grew up: an archaeologist. Although that dream never became a reality, Western design professor Vassdal Ellis has found a way to make her art into her own artifacts for others to find one day.

Vassdal Ellis takes her skill with bookbinding, typography and print and creates works of art in the form of books, she said.

"I think whatever you wanted to be at the age of 12 is still with you," Vassdal Ellis said.

Though she decided not to become an archaeologist, her interest in other cultures and humanity over time never left her, Vassdal Ellis said. Her work reflects a lot of these themes, such as war and genocide, or her own personal memories from growing up.

Her most recent work, "The Blues Series," is a compilation of books based off pivotal moments of her personal life turned into art. It includes the moment she discovered the difference between male and female bodies and her experience with bullying as a child, as shown in her piece "What's in a Name Cow-girl Blues."

The piece includes 19th century prints combined in Adobe Photoshop, portraying a young girl looking in the mirror and seeing a cow looking back, and in the next frame, the cow attacking a young boy,

Vassdal Ellis said.

Her next piece in the series will include themes surrounding her love of archaeology in her childhood, Vassdal Ellis said.

The daughter of two Norwegian immigrants, Vassdal Ellis was born just a year and a half after her parents came to the United States after World War II in 1950, she said.

At the age of 12, her father decided to get a graduate degree, so the family moved to Iowa. She spent a good amount of time in the library with her father, going through multiple books and learning about ancient civilizations. This, Vassdal Ellis said, is where her interest in archaeology was sparked.

But when a recruiter from Washington State University visited her high school, Vassdal Ellis' dream of becoming an archaeologist was crushed.

The recruiter informed the student body at an assembly in 1969 that a man with a doctorate in the field, teaching at a university would make around \$10,000 a year, while a woman with the same degree could make \$5,000, because "a woman doesn't need that much to live on."

"I had just assumed that if you

were as smart as a man, that you made the same amount as a man, and believe me, when I got hired here, women got paid less than men, same degrees," Vassdal Ellis said. "That was the culture."

Vassdal Ellis was encouraged by her mother, as well as Western faculty to try teaching, she said. Thirty-eight years later Vassdal Ellis continues to teach at Western.

Vassdal Ellis' book art has made its way to Virginia Commonwealth University, Emory University and even Baylor University in Texas, which surprised her, she said.

"I would much rather have my work purchased by an institution because then more people see it. If a person

buys it and they put it on their library shelf, maybe the family sees it," Vassdal Ellis said. "But if you really want to get the best bang for your buck, you'd like institutions to buy it."

Prices for her work are able to remain low, due to the fact that she has a full-time job at the university, Vassdal Ellis said.

Her office door is always open, and Vassdal Ellis is known to drop everything just to help her students, senior Amelia Barlow said.

Professor Kent Smith has been teaching alongside Vassdal Ellis in the design department since 1993 and described her as a hard worker.

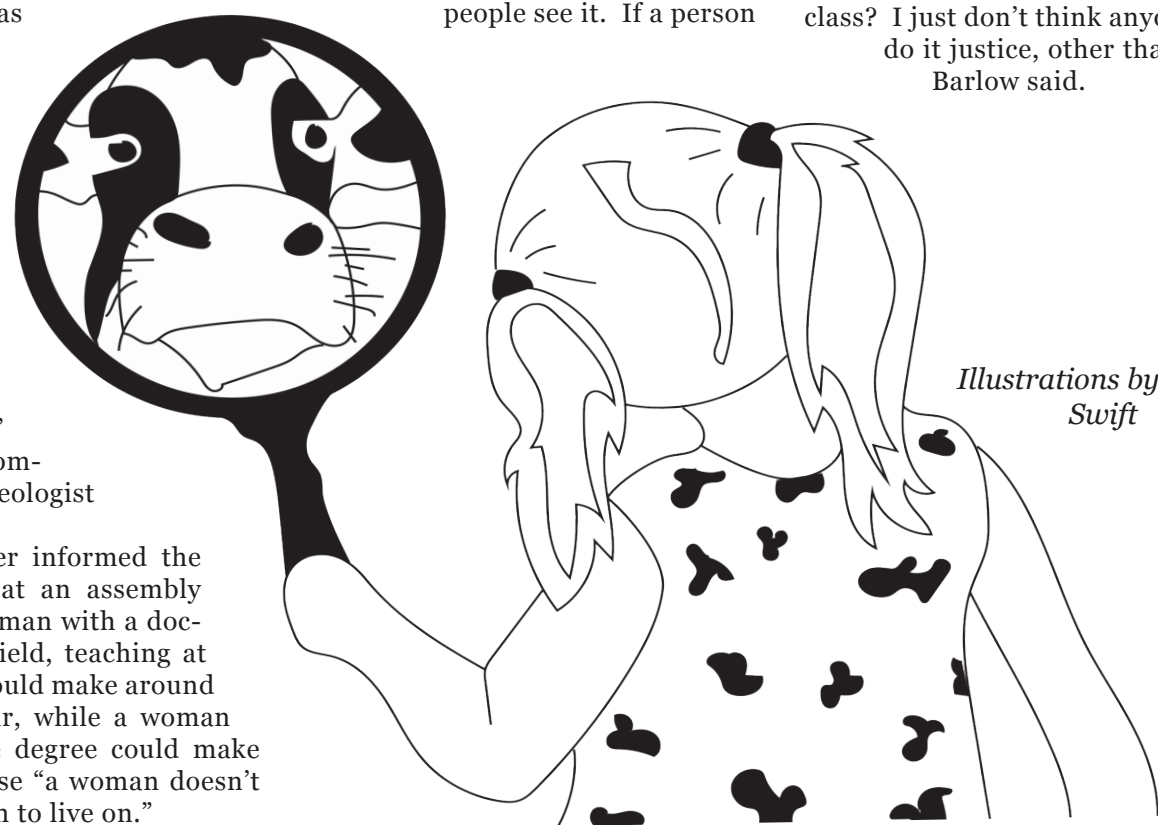
"Working with [Vassdal Ellis] has been great," Smith said. "She's got a great reputation in the book arts arena."

Vassdal Ellis' time at Western will come to an end next year on June 15, 2017, when she plans to retire, Vassdal Ellis said.

"She's just a role model. She's really inspiring. She's part of the reason I'm really excited about design," senior Sean Williams said. "It's really cool to have someone that I could talk to about credits and stuff but can also push me and excite me about new experiences."

Next spring when Vassdal Ellis leaves Western, a lot of knowledge will go with her, Barlow said.

"Who will teach that binding class? I just don't think anyone can do it justice, other than her," Barlow said.



Illustrations by Nicole Swift

FRONTLINE: Don't Hate on the Hippies

Opinions of the Editorial Board

For any new students not from Western Washington, the full extent of Western's commitment to sustainability should be becoming abundantly clear at this point in the quarter.

If there was ever a campus to earn the name "hippie," Western would be it. But this isn't a title given to mock or diminish. On the contrary, Western's passion for the health of the planet is extremely admirable, whether you share its enthusiasm or not.

But if you're interested in learning more about green living, October is the perfect time to do it, as it's Vikings for Change Month hosted by Western's Office of Sustainability. Farm 2 Pork lunches in the dining halls, idea labs for future projects and an award ceremony to celebrate past accomplishments will all be taking place.

The point of going to university is to learn. Where else can you find larger, more diverse groups of people all working toward the goal of expanding their knowledge?

You learn a tremendous amount from your classes, yes, but learning from your peers is even more rewarding.

Even if you've never recycled before, even if you didn't know it was possible for an entire campus to ban plastic water bottles, you can still take a chance and learn something new.

For instance, did you know Western adopted a campus-wide plan to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050? Or did you know all those recycling bins around campus are part of a larger plan to eliminate 100 percent of university waste?

Hippie or not, that's pretty freaking cool.

But to students who've never experienced this level of enthusiasm,

Western — and Bellingham in general — can seem intimidating.

A lot of very passionate people living in one place can lead to some occasionally overzealous impressions.

But don't worry. You may get some hard looks if you throw your Red Bull can in the trash, but you will not be kicked out of school. You won't be banned from Fred Meyer if you don't have any reusable bags either, you might just have to deal with the sales pitch every time you need to buy Hot Pockets.

If you're curious in any way, take the time to check something out. If you don't like it, so what? When will you ever get the chance to go to events like these again?

It's a concept that goes beyond just sustainability. With about 15,000 students enrolled at Western, different lifestyles and perspectives will never be in short supply.

Political affiliations, religious views, stances on social issues and hobbies all influence our ways of life. But there's only so much you can experience on your own.

So next time you see a banner in Red Square for an event or club you've never heard of, give it a chance. You never know, you may discover a new passion of your own.

When it comes to sustainability, the choices Western and Bellingham have made are not just to please Mother Earth, there's actually some tremendous logic and scientific research behind them. So don't judge the lifestyle before you've been informed.

Embrace the diversity of lifestyles Western has to offer and don't judge them until you've taken the time to learn about them.

The Western Front Editorial Board is composed of Libby Keller, Heidi DeHart and Stephanie Bishop.

Viking Voices

Has coming to Western changed the way you think about sustainability? Why or why not?"



Virginia Faulkner-Monks senior, recreation

"Yes, it has. Mostly through my major and seeing how Western really values sustainability. In our major we learn to sustainably recreate in the outdoors."



Erin Gorman junior, special and elementary education

"I would say a little bit, yeah. I see a lot of people riding bikes on campus and there's lot of recycling bins and all that. It makes me more aware."



Shahob Mousavi junior, computer science

"I was really into sustainability before coming up here and part of the reason why I chose Western was because they are very environmentally friendly and sustainable friendly as well."



Stephanie Huss sophomore, English and secondary education

"Yes, it has actually. Because back home no one really talks about it at all and that's pretty much all Western talks about."

Compiled by Stephanie Cheng

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

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Seek the sage advice of The Western Front's opinion editor by sending a question for Libby's Corner to libby.westernfront@gmail.com and see the answers at westernfrontonline.com



Illustration by Nicole Swift

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Athlete of the Week



Emily Webster
Junior

THIS WEEK'S STATS:
2 shots
1 shot on goal
1 goal

SEASON STATS:
17 shots
7 shots on goal
3 goals
2 assists

ABOUT THE ATHLETE:

Junior midfielder Emily Webster was named the Great Northwest Athletic Conference Women's Soccer Defensive Player of the Week for Oct. 5-11.

Webster has started all of the 12 games for the Vikings this season and has scored three goals and has had two assists.

Webster scored a goal during Western's win over Montana State University Billings, 2-0, on Saturday, Oct. 10.

In 2014, Webster was named a second-team Great Northwest Athletic Conference all-star as a freshman. She started in 15 games last season, playing in all 21 games. She had two goals and a team-high of five assists.

Scoreboard

MEN'S SOCCER

	W	L	T
SPU	4	1	2
MSU Billings	4	2	2
Concordia	3	1	4
NW Nazarene	4	3	1
Simon Fraser	3	1	3
WWU	2	4	2
Mary	2	6	0
Saint Martin's	2	6	0

WOMEN'S SOCCER

	W	L	T
WWU	7	0	0
Concordia	5	1	1
SPU	5	2	1
Simon Fraser	4	3	1
MSU Billings	3	4	1
Western Oreg.	2	4	1
NW Nazarene	2	4	1
CWU	2	5	0
Saint Martin's	0	7	0

VOLLEYBALL

	W	L	Pct.
WWU	8	0	1.000
Alaska Anch.	7	1	.857
CWU	7	2	.778
NW Nazarene	7	2	.778
Simon Fraser	5	4	.556
Concordia	4	5	.444
SPU	4	5	.444
Alaska	2	6	.250
MSU Billings	2	7	.222
Western Oreg.	2	8	.200
Saint Martin's	1	8	.111

Coach joins women's rugby

Robert Dudzik
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Western women's rugby team kicks off its season welcoming coach Marion DeBarge Foor to the team.

Foor has been playing rugby for more than 15 years and coaching for a number of years as well.

"She is going to provide us with the basics and fundamental base we need, while being able to really push us," returning member Kayla Adderley said.

Team captain Lauren Heller was coached by returning members due to a lack of coaches during her first three years on the team. Because of this, she is looking forward to working with Foor to better the team, Heller said.

"She's tough, but it's just what we needed to get on track and actually learn stuff properly," Vice President Ashley Conradi said.

Along with a new coach, the Vikings will be moving up to battle Division I



Sophomore player Abigail March practices on Wednesday, Oct. 14, at Robert S. Harrington Field. // Photo by Caleb Galbreath

schools. Due to a lack of competition in Division II, Heller and Conradi approached the league and petitioned for Western to be moved to Division I.

Last year, while in Division II, the Vikings only played two competitive matches against opposing teams. This forced

Read the full story online

the team to scrimmage rather than compete for positions in the league.

The women's rugby team will play a hybrid schedule this year. The Vikings will still compete in the Division

II category, but will play exhibition games with Division I teams in order to prove to USA Rugby and the Division I league that the team can compete.

If the Viking rugby team competes hard and plays well, it will be moving up to Division I permanently.

Varsity athlete earns 2 letters

Third-year Western athlete describes life playing two varsity sports

Evan Elliott
THE WESTERN FRONT

Junior Taylor Peacocke is not a typical varsity athlete. She competes as both a Viking basketball and softball player.

Her college career began at California State University, Sacramento. She signed there for basketball after a highly decorated high school career in which she started every game for Inglemoor

High School. She quickly decided she would walk onto the softball team as well.

She began playing basketball at the age of 4, and picked up softball at 13 after playing baseball as a child, she said.

Peacocke is now a third-year student athlete at Western.

"I feel like so many times I'm like, 'Why am I doing this?'" Peacocke said. "But as soon as we

have a day off, I don't even know what to do with my life."

Last year she started all 30 games for the basketball team, scoring an average of 13.5 points per game. She was also named to the Great Northwest Athletic Conference second-team and was a GNAC academic all-star, according to Western Athletics.

Despite the admitted struggle it takes to do what she does, Peacocke said she

wouldn't ask for a different college experience.

"It's surreal to think that you're basically living a life that you dreamed of doing since you started playing [sports] when you were 4 years old," Peacocke said.

Peacocke's uniqueness is not lost on her head coach for basketball, Carmen Dolfo. Dolfo complimented Peacocke's athleticism, tenacity, competitive nature and role on the team.

"[She] is incredibly important to our team. Not only is she a great player, but we need her leadership both on and off the court," Dolfo said in an email.

Peacocke starts her day by lifting weights in the early morning. From there she goes to class. She's a sociology major. Then she has basketball practice followed by softball practice, which she admits she sometimes misses due to basketball. For good measure, she has a study hall afterward, Peacocke said.

"Not many people get the opportunity to [play two sports in college]. It's nice to know that all that hard work really paid off," Peacocke said.



Junior Taylor Peacocke dribbles during basketball practice on Wednesday, Oct. 14. She plays basketball and softball at Western. // Photo by Christina Becker

Getting to know Jeff Evans, new SID

Q & A with the new sports information director

Maria Matson
THE WESTERN FRONT

Jeff Evans used to work for the Mariners as the sports information director. Evans has 15 years of experience working with both professional and collegiate sports.

The Western Front sat down with Evans, the new sports information director, to talk about his thoughts on the new job.

Q: What does a sports information director do?

A: We're the architect of information for the athletic department. It's changed a lot over the years but the main thing is that we're in charge of putting information out there about the teams, so the fans, the parents and the students can digest what's going on in the athletics department.

Q: What are your favorite sports?

A: As a fan, I think baseball has always been my favorite sport — it's what I've spent a lot of time in.

I'm also a big college athletics fan, like Washington basketball. I also grew to love watching volleyball when I was at Arizona State University. As a sports information director, you see how they perform on the court and it's pretty amazing.

I don't know a ton about soccer so I'm looking forward to seeing our teams play, as well as softball, cross-country and others. It's going to be fun to learn all those sports and get involved.

Q: Have you always been interested in sports?

A: Yes. I played a lot of sports, but in high school I mostly played baseball, golf, swim and played water polo. But baseball was always my



Jeff Evans is the newly appointed sports information director at Western. // Photo by Christina Becker

one true love.

Q: What are your favorite sports teams?

A: It's funny, sometimes when you work in professional sports, the fan in you leaves. It was my job, my everyday job. Obviously I wanted my team to do well, but I wouldn't go home and watch sports. I would go home and spend time with my family.

I enjoy watching the Seahawks on Sundays, and I love watching my Washington State Cougars.

Q: How was working for the Mariners as their assistant director of baseball information?

A: It was awesome. It was a dream come true, to work in major league baseball. I grew up a Mariners fan, started

doing sports information as a sophomore in college at Washington State University and my path took me to Arizona State for five years. My whole goal was to get back to the Mariners.

Q: As the new SID,

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what are your plans?

A: First of all, I'm going to carry on what Paul Madison did before me for 48 years — I'd be foolish if I didn't tap

into that. But I'm also going to give it a fresh new look — I will evaluate it and give a fresh face.

But I'll do it in baby steps, you're not going to see anything drastic. There will be some new templates and new information on the website.

Q: How have your first few days been since Monday, Oct. 12?

A: Chaos. I'm trying to learn everything and get situated — trying to do a lot of different things at once. For the first three weeks, I'm staying in the dorms at Buchanan Tower. It's set up like a hotel and it's perfect because I drove up here on Sunday.

Q: Is there anything else you'd like to add?

A: I'm excited about getting students involved.

People who have an interest in sports information, media relations, graphic design — I would love to talk to them and help them get some hands-on experience.

That's what started my career and allowed me to work 10 awesome seasons in major league baseball. There are so many opportunities at a school like Western. We're not a huge school so there are opportunities for students to get involved.

Hands-on experience is the best. If anyone is interested, come stop by and introduce yourself. And I can see what we can do. There are a lot of opportunities to build your resume and portfolio at a school like Western.

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Equestrian team prepares for season

With the addition of a new style coach, riders are excited for a new year

Lynsey Amundson
THE WESTERN FRONT

With several changes to the club this year, Western's equestrian team has high hopes for this season.

The team consists of 30 women and two men. It is divided into two different styles of riding: Western and English.

"Our English team looks really strong," said Keelin Balzaretti, vice president of the equestrian team. "We have a lot of people competing this year who I am really excited for."

English style coach Suzy Huizenga joined the team this year. She started lessons with the team on Monday, Oct. 12.

"So far I've heard that things are going really well," said Emily Wollebek, president of the equestrian team.

With the new style of coaching, Huizenga is hands-on and actively teaching them. The English style team, who sent three members to nationals last season, hopes to build off of their new coach and success of the past.

"As a team we would really love to go to zones, which is like semifinals, and then sending the whole team to nationals would be awesome," Wollebek said.

Until this year, the team has



Junior English rider Keelin Balzaretti warms up with Mia on Thursday, Oct. 15, at Twin Maples Farm in Lynden, Washington. // Photo by Daisey James

never enforced its members to be physically active outside of riding.

"Last year we tried to emphasize exercising before

our lessons, but that didn't always happen," Balzaretti said. "It really helps that [this year] we will be more committed to being a healthy and a strong

team off the horse."

The team has also been focusing on team bonding, especially between the two different riding styles, but

they are excited to compete and hopefully get to nationals, Balzaretti said.

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