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# THE WESTERN FRONT

Winner of seven 2013 Society of Professional Journalists Awards

Volume 173, Issue 18

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1

## Arrest made for racial threats

**Brenna Visser**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western student Tysen Campbell, 19, has been arrested by University Police on the suspicion of malicious harassment in connection with

the threats made on Yik Yak, Monday Nov. 30.

Campbell was arrested on campus and has been booked into the Whatcom County Jail, Monday, Nov. 30, in connection with the "Lynch her" post directed toward Associated

Students President Belina Seare, according to a tweet from President Bruce Shepard. This post was one of many that contributed to canceling classes Tuesday, Nov. 24.

Campbell has been suspended from Western and

barred from campus pending the outcome of legal proceedings, according to the University.

University Police arrested Campbell after obtaining a search warrant and working with Yik Yak to track the post,

according to a Western Today press release.

University Police is continuing its investigation of other recent online messages targeting students of color, according to a Western Today press release.

## Reacting to on-campus racism

Community weighs in on what should be fixed

**Paolo Bicchieri**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

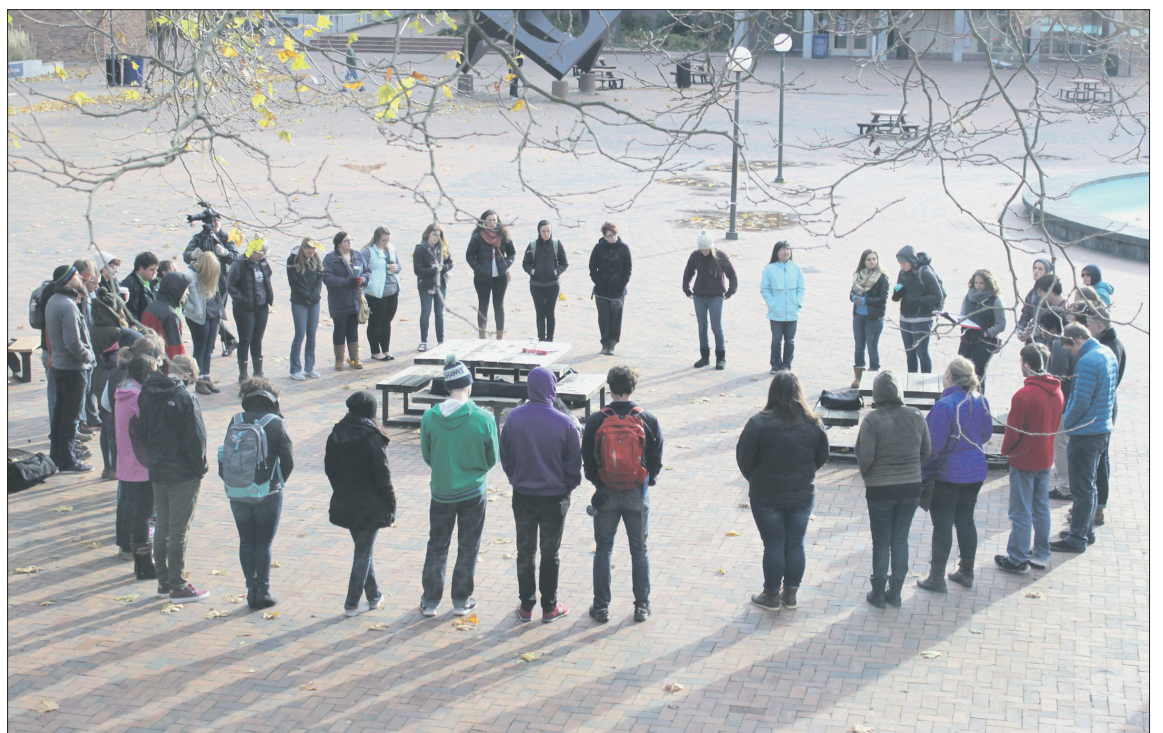
Karen Dade came before 320 people from the Western Community to share a framed photo of the nine people who were murdered due to hate crimes this June in Charleston, South Carolina. She said she carries it as a reminder that her fear is real.

This fear and other issues surrounding campus climate were brought to light at a town hall meeting responding to racially charged threats against students of color on Monday, Nov. 30.

The event at the Viking Union centered on systemic racism in Western's processes. Dade, the Associate Dean of Woodring Education and emcee of the event, said the hope was to allow Western community members a chance to be courageous and vulnerable.

President Bruce Shepard opened the event, hosted by the President's Taskforce on Equity, Inclusion and Diversity. The taskforce is comprised of faculty and staff who work closely with campus climate issues.

Shepard began by expressing the concern for



Students from Campus Christian Fellowship, the Inn and the Newman Catholic Campus Ministry and faculty from Western Christian Faculty gathered in Red Square on Tuesday morning, Nov. 24, after classes were canceled due to hate speech reports on Yik Yak. // Photo by Caleb Galbreath

the safety of Associated Students President Belina Seare. Online forum posts depicted racially-charged threats against her following a previous article about the Viking mascot that appeared in The Western Front.

During the question-and-answer period, ESC club leader Lulu Sapigao was the first student to speak after the panel.

"I frankly don't feel safe here," Sapigao said. "I'm upset that we're told to use the buddy system and that's the only way that we can 'maybe' have safety."

Senior Holly Berg said she has become more aware

and felt uncomfortable after the events that occurred.

Western is an open-minded and liberal school, and she was both surprised and saddened to hear this situation was occurring on campus, Berg said.

Shepard said it is the most ordinary members of the Western community that commit racial violence. He said many of them would defend their behavior by saying it was a joke.

"There is nothing funny here. These are forms of violence," Shepard said.

Larry Estrada, professor of Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies and Director of American Cultural Studies,

said racism is a cancer to a community. He fears the community has become complacent in their efforts to combat racism.

On behalf of Seare and other concerned students a statement was published by the Latino Advocacy Group. Vernon Damani Johnson, professor of Political Science and mentor to Seare, read the statement aloud at the town meeting.

The statement detailed recent events through the student lens, such as how Western administration did not ask KIRO News to correct their misrepresentation of the mascot story coverage.

see RACISM, page 4



A string with notes of encouragement hangs outside of Miller Hall. The line had extra clothes pins for people to leave their own notes of support throughout the day. // Photo by Christina Becker



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## ON THE WEB

In light of hate speech Western students sing of love

Read more at westernfrontonline.com

View the photo gallery online for photos of students gathering and singing in response to racial threats made towards students.

## TUNES BY A TRIO



Emily Pontén, Aubrey Marks-Johnson and Alan Schellenberger perform "Suite for Violin, Piano and Percussion, OP. 99" by Alan Hovhaness at Now Hear This on Monday, Nov. 30, in the Performing Arts Center. // Photo by Caleb Galbreath

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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.

# Building a professional image

Students will get the chance to improve their LinkedIn page at meeting

**Rossella Bernocco**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

A LinkedIn Workshop will be held Wednesday, Dec. 2, to give students a chance to learn how to build an online professional profile and resume.

The workshop will take place at 6:30 p.m. in Parks Hall 146, hosted by the Student Marketing Association.

LinkedIn is an online profile that gives users the ability to build their resume and to include professional skills, group projects and experiences all on one profile. After creating the profile, users are searchable by companies.

The association is bringing in a representative of the Puget Sound American Marketing Association. This representative has the working professional experience with LinkedIn that Western students can learn from, Alex Hamilton, president of SMA, said.

The representative will walk students through how to set up a LinkedIn, and help students who already have a LinkedIn

add to their profile and make them stand out.

Sophia Pandey, the vice president of operations for the association, said the representative have the professional industry experience to bring to this workshop.

In classes, students learn about different techniques and tools, but they are not taught how to make a resume, Pandey said. This event gives students professional development and helps them have a professional profile they can use.

The Association hosts similar events, such as one in October, where they put on a professional headshot event for all majors.

Hamilton said students can use the professional headshots that were taken at the past event as their profile photo on LinkedIn.

Jordan Barr is a representative of the Puget Sound chapter of the American Marketing Association, PSAMA, and will be a guest speaker at the workshop.

Barr said the workshop is important to prepare students to go out into the workforce and the marketing field.

sure that student marketers are prepared," Barr said.

He also wants to know what the students' goals are with their LinkedIn profiles and how they want to use the profile to be successful, he said.

Barr wants to focus on a couple tips for working with LinkedIn and apply the tips with an analogy to

Myspace. This includes tips such as professional headshots, relevant recommendations and connections on the student's profile.

This LinkedIn workshop focuses on more in depth skills of what to have on a student's resume, Pandey said. It is hard to know what to put on LinkedIn and what types of skills will catch the attention of different recruiters and this workshop will help with that, she said.

The point of the club and this event is to grow professionally, Hamilton said.

"We hope students come out of this event ready for the real world and ready to get a job," he said.

Many companies look at LinkedIn, and hiring managers say that an individual's LinkedIn is more important than their resume. It allows people to put more information on their profile and is like a professional working resume, Hamilton said.

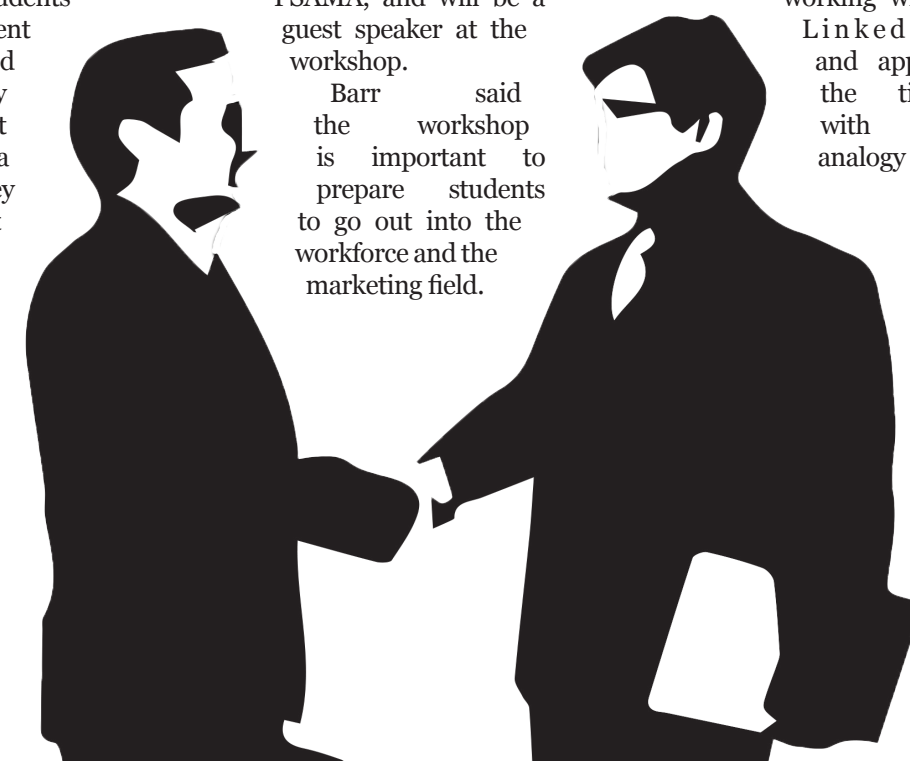


Illustration by Nicole Swift

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

Tuesday	<b>Jazz by the Bay</b> 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Hotel Bellwether Listen to the region's talented jazz trios and quartets perform. Free admission.	<b>Giving Tuesday Happy Hour</b> 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Wander Brewing Wander Brewing will donate \$1 to Washington Wild for every pint of beer purchased during happy hour.
	<b>A Christmas Carol: The Musical</b> 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Performing Arts Center 282 Western students and Bellingham community members perform the musical adaptation of a Christmas classic. Student tickets are \$12.	<b>Chuckanut Bay Distillery Tasting</b> 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Chuckanut Bay Distillery Visit the tasting room for complimentary samples and retail purchases of wine, beer and spirits.

## Cops Box

### 4:34 p.m., Nov. 25

On the 2600 block of Squallum Park, a vehicle struck another head on. The driver acted as if he were going to a nearby parking lot to exchange information but drove off instead.

### 10:42 a.m., Nov. 28

Officers reported to a dispute between two individuals that used to live together.

### 10:54 a.m., Nov. 27

Clothing was found on a trail near the 3400 block of Pinehurst Court. Officers believe it is most likely associated with the vehicle prowls that have been happening in that area.

### 1:30 a.m., Nov. 29

On the 1400 block of 38 Street a boat motor was reportedly stolen.

### 4:37 p.m., Nov. 27

A log ice cream cake was stolen from 4100 block of Cordata.

### 3:45 p.m., Nov. 30

A typewriter was found on the side of the 3500 block of Northwest Avenue. It was reported as a possible antique of value and impounded for safekeeping.

// Compiled by Rande Matthews

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# RACISM: Staff, students voice concern for safety

Town hall meeting hosted by the President's Taskforce on Equity, Inclusion and Diversity addresses lack of diversity issue on campus

continued from page 1

The students also explained how they felt they were routinely denied request of immediate personal security by the university police and administration, according to the statement.

In a campus-wide email update, Shepard addressed this issue, saying he offered Seare 24/7 police protection as well to relocate her to a local motel. However, Seare could not be reached.

"This is a question of intent versus impact. If your intent is to provide safety for your students but your students do not feel safe, then your tactics are failing," Johnson read. "Our safety looks different than yours."

The statement ended with asking for administration to not make decisions without student voice and input.

"In your classrooms, in your task forces, in your meetings about student safety on campus, remember: nothing about us, without us," Johnson read.

In response to the panel discussion, junior Erica Ewell shared her thoughts about

her experiences with a lack of diversity within the classroom.

"You sit in a [400 seat] lecture hall and you can count the number of non-white people in the room," Ewell said. "And I kinda can't help but do it."

Additional events such as listening sessions, equity workshops, discussion groups and additional community events for specific and blended groups will follow in the following weeks. Dade said the hope is to get an honest understanding of Western's needs.

These events will persist in the quarters to come, Dade said. A racism threat assessment will be created as well. Questions, comments and concerns can be dropped off at Miller Hall 250A, Dade's office.

## MORE ABOUT THE MASCOT

**Nov. 19:** The Western Front publishes article discussing Viking mascot being seen as not inclusive.

**Nov. 20:** KIRO TV posts article and poll online about discussion of mascot change, misrepresenting the intention of the discussion.

**Nov. 24:** Class is cancelled due to racially-charged threats aimed at students via social media.



Notes from students in support of diversity hang from a string by Miller Hall. // Photo by Christina Becker

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# Marchers demand action for climate change

Participants aim to bring awareness to humans impact on planet in solidarity with other cities

Rebekah Way  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Nearly 500 people gathered from the Bellingham community on Sunday, Nov. 29, to walk in one Global Climate March of thousands occurring around the world over the last few days.

The march began in Maritime Heritage Park where participants were reminded by march organizer Jill MacIntyre Witt that they were marching for a call for action against climate change in solidarity with the other cities involved in the event.

Before the crowd was sent off, a moment of silence was held for the victims of the violent acts both in America and around the world in the past months.

"This is not just a climate march," Witt said. "It's a march for peace and hope."

The crowd huddled closely with gloved hands holding signs that read, "There is No 'Planet B,'" or signs that demanded an end to fossil fuels and coal trains, waiting for the cue to march.

The Global Climate March events aimed to build awareness as the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, or COP21 began on Monday, Nov. 30, in France.

The first Conference of the Parties began in 1992 to acknowledge the role humans play in climate change, asking industrialized nations to take the most action to combat it. During the event, proposed climate agreements and



A woman holds a sign while walking with demonstrators for the Global Climate March on their way towards the Salish Sea Marine Sanctuary building on Cornwall Avenue on Sunday morning, Nov. 29, as she turned onto Magnolia Street. // Photo by Ian Koppe

solutions are voted on by delegates from participating countries.

The march was also in solidarity with the recent attacks in Paris, said Witt, who works with 350 Bellingham, the local chapter of 350.org, and organized the event.

350.org has been hosting international events since 2009, including the most widespread day of political action in history, according to its website.

"It takes a lot of volunteers to plan and get the word out through print media, through social media and spreading the word through various coalitions, from social justice, race justice, climate justice," Witt said. "It's all connected."



Rosalinda Guillen, executive director of social change organization Community to Community, spoke to a crowd of demonstrators on Sunday, Nov. 29, before the Global Climate March proceeded. // Photo by Ian Koppe

## Change beyond Bellingham

Multiple events are also hosted by 350 Bellingham throughout the year, tailored to what's happening at that time and what the call for action is, Witt said.

The march in Bellingham was one of three this weekend; the first in Westlake Center in Seattle on Saturday, Nov. 28, the second in Bellingham and the third in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Senior Marika Weber attended the march in Bellingham as well as the Global Climate March event in Seattle on Nov. 28.

The Seattle event included "climate caroling", which are alternative Christmas carols, rewritten to make a connection between consumption and climate change, according to 350 Seattle's website.

"I'd never really done climate caroling before, so that was very different but it was fun," Weber said.

As a member of Students for Renewable Energy, Weber has attended similar events partly because of the group's work on Western's fossil fuels divestment campaign for the last few years.

Weber's favorite part of Bellingham's event was the march, which she enjoyed more than caroling, she said.

"I love all the artwork that goes into it and how it brings so many people together for one cause," Weber said.

350.org has more international events planned throughout the year to fight fossil fuels and push for renewable energy, according to its website.

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# WOOD KNOCKING IN THE NIGHT



Illustration by Nicole Swift

*Western students take to the woods in search of the mythical Sasquatch*

**Sarah Mikkeltorg**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

One group of Western students is conducting some rather unusual research. They hike through the woods at night, breaking the silence with howls and striking trees with heavy branches. Then they wait and listen for a response — from a Sasquatch.

As a new Associated Students club, the Western Washington University Sasquatch Organization is dedicated to researching and finding evidence of Sasquatch in the Pacific Northwest, club president Conor Workman said.

The topic is controversial, but the club stands resolute. “We’re going to get him one of these days,” member Riley Davis said.

The club already has seven official members and quite a following of interested students, whom they expect to turn out for the first official meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 1.

Workman joined a friend in establishing a club at South Whidbey High School, after finding his own penchant for television shows about searching for Sasquatch. Those original members went on to become Western freshmen, and founded the university club.

When they arrived at Western, they wanted to continue squatching — tromping through the woods looking for signs of the creature. And with clubs for seemingly every other interest, they thought there must be room for a Sasquatch club, vice president Coel Cable said.

The founders believe Western is an ideal place for the club, due to students’ love for outdoor recreation and the popularity of lore about Sasquatch in the Pacific Northwest.

“This area of North America has the most Sasquatch sightings in the world,” Workman said.

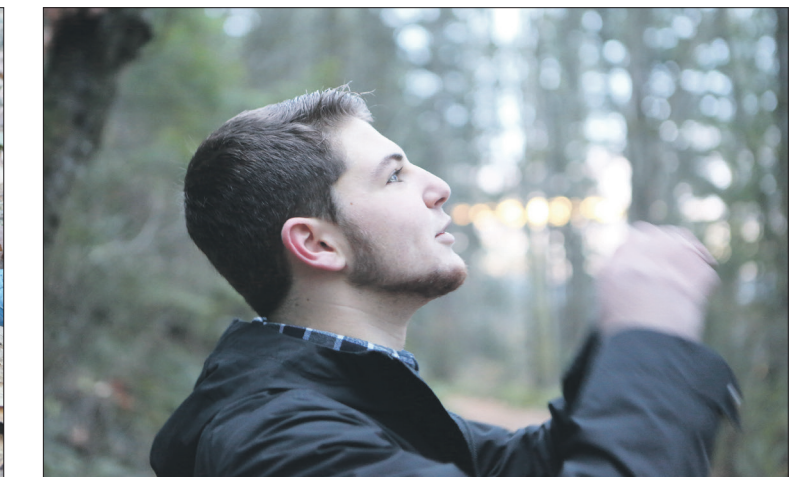
According to the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization — a leading name in compiling and investigating reports of sight-

ings—people have reported 615 sightings in Washington. The number is significantly greater than most states, with only California and Florida reaching more than 300. Similarly, neighboring British Columbia has 130 reported sightings; nearly double the next ranking province in Canada.

Native American nations in the Pacific Northwest also have numerous, long passed-on stories about wild men, generally thought to be Sasquatches. Different cultures have taken on the myth in their own way and telling the stories of a large furry creature named the Yeti, Bigfoot or the Yowie, according to the livescience website.

Washington appears to be an epicenter of activity, but searching for Sasquatch is more complicated than that.

Early meetings will teach members squatching basics, such as how to use Sasquatch calls and wood knocks — series of loud taps on trees thought to be a form of communication with Sasquatches. Those skills will then be put to use in the club’s first excursion, a practice hike in Sehome Hill Arboretum, Workman said.



**TOP: Freshman club co-founder Conor Workman demonstrates a wood knocking technique in the Sehome Hill Arboretum.**

**LEFT: Co-founders Coel Cable and Workman examine a possible print during a faux-squatching expedition in Sehome Hill Arboretum.**

**RIGHT: Workman performs a call that he would use when out searching for the squatch during a real expedition. // Photos by Daisey James**

During one such excursion before the group’s formation, the club believed a Sasquatch was lobbing rocks their way.

The club was throwing rocks at trees to make wood knocks, he explained. Several missed and fell into nearby bushes. Then as they kept walking, they heard a series of objects crash into the bushes near



**Freshman Coel Cable, co-founder of Sasquatch Club, demonstrates a different approach to wood knocking. // Photo by Daisey James**

them and land with thuds, even though they could not sense anyone moving.

“We talked to everybody and make sure no one else was throwing rocks at the time,” Cable said.

Future expeditions will consist mostly of night hikes and overnight camping, since most reported Sasquatch activity occurs after dark when there is little other sound or human activity to interfere, Workman said.

The Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization’s website includes a map of reported Sasquatch sightings, collected by county and rated for credibility, which the club uses to track frequent sightings and decide where to plan excursions.

“Every time we’ve gone out, we’ve seen or heard something,” Cable said. “We haven’t seen him yet, but we’re getting there.”

Despite the fact they have yet to see the elusive creature, the men seem to have unshakable confidence.

When the group members began squatching, they expected to feel as though much of their time was wasted, but that hasn’t been the case, Workman said.

“I don’t think I’ve ever come back from one of those [trips] and been disappointed,” Cable said.

Groups of trees with bent or broken limbs are thought to be a common sign of Sasquatch activity, done to mark territory. Other reported evidence includes tracks or footprints and a foul, heavy odor often associated with the hairy creature.

Noises are considered primary evidence of Sasquatch presence in an area, and reported calls range

from the popular “Ohio howl,” which is a moaning call, to booms, screams and grunts.

The club has heard responses to both calls and wood knocks numerous times, Workman said, and described the feeling of hearing a call as exciting, but also slightly scary.

“Somewhere far from our car, far from any town at all, we’ll do a call and then hear a response,” he said.

Even without a sighting, Davis said, the trips are enjoyable for the outdoor recreation and social time. While they do ask that members take squatching at least somewhat seriously, the club was established to be fun.

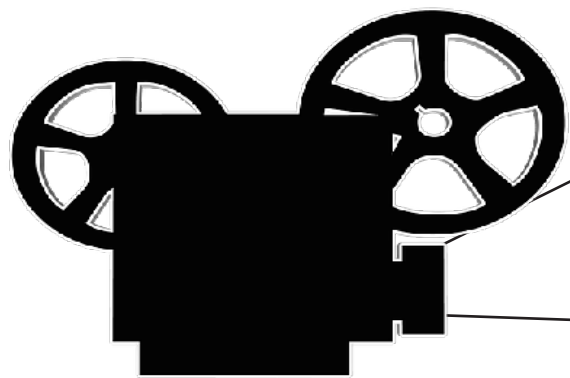
“Good way to pass the time, hunting down mythical beasts,” Davis said, in a joking tone.

The founders stress that club is open to anyone, even the skeptics. Even the group carries their doubts, but Workman remains quite confident that the creature does exist, he said.

Cable joined the group because he is “on the fence” about the lore. Members of his family have reported sightings, but he has yet to decide for himself and sees the club’s research as a way of satisfying his curiosity — one way or the other.

Whether or not the club will be able to fully satisfy their curiosity is unclear, but they intend to stick with it throughout their time at Western, and want to see others get involved in squatching as well, Workman said.

“Even if you’re skeptical or just want to go hiking,” Davis said. “Come along, socialize, have fun and make memories.”



# A TRAILER FOR THE END

Trailer Wars gear up for the 50th and final battle

**Robert Dudzik**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

The plan was simple. After Chris Patton and his friends had filmed a few fake zombie movie trailers on a whim back in 2009, they set up the living room and projector to showcase their homemade films. The only thing that was missing: an audience.

With an empty couch and a blank screen, Patton and his friends did what any budding filmmakers would do — they tricked their friends into coming over. That night they began a tradition without even knowing it, and the film festival Trailer Wars was born. Now looking toward the end, the group reflects on their beginning.

“There were just three trailers at that first one,” Patton said. “The people that came voted on a winner and we were back in that living room the next month with a new theme.”

Today the film festival calls the Pickford Film Center home every two months, but after 46 events in the past 6 1/2 years, the gang has started to prepare to set down the camcorders and close their once living-room tradition — the war is over when event 47 comes around on Wednesday, Dec. 2, according to the Trailer Wars website.

At the conclusion of every Trailer Wars, the winners come up on stage and announce the theme for the next round. The tradition began when the winner, self-named Imperius Rex Films, won with their film “I am Zombie” and picked the category for the next round, which was action.



Originator of Trailer Wars Chris Patton (left) watches as the “Handful of Dudes” crew is crowned the winner for their trailer “Panty Raiders.” // Photo courtesy of Chris Patton

After the conclusion of Trailer Wars five, won by Sawyer Survoivin for his short titled “Legend 2: Darkness Shines,” that once spacious living room was becoming too cramped, Patton said.

“Things [were] getting too packed and sweaty,” Patton said. “We asked around town to different galleries and spaces to see if we could do Trailer Wars there, but everyone said no.”

But to Patton’s surprise, the Pickford Film Center in downtown Bellingham didn’t turn them away and Trailer Wars got the OK to be shown on one

Wednesday every other month.

The crew that once gave Trailer Wars life have begun to settle down with kids and jobs; there is not much time left in the day to make trailers, Trailer Wars veteran Chris Palmer said.

With no screeners and no fees to pay, anyone can get their creation shown to an audience who wants to see it, good or bad, Patton said.

Most of the time, someone will have a great idea but no one to film with, Patton said. Trailer Wars has a Facebook group where you can post questions, comments or ads for help, Palmer said.

“If you are really good at writing stories, or if you really like filming or you really like editing, just put it out there and try to find people who love making videos,” Palmer said.

Videos don’t have to be shot with a fancy HD camera or fancy sliders; the event is meant to be open for those with any level of film experience, Patton said.

“Trailer Wars works to strip away the pretension around some film events and just getting to the root of having fun for free, with no resources,” Patton said. “Make something out of what you have available to you and don’t let things, like budget, hold you back.”

Attendance at Trailer Wars has always been up and down, due to the uncertainty of what the next theme will be. If someone names an obscure category, like pirate hip-hop, attendance will be lower than usual, Patton said.

One of Patton’s favorite memories from Trailer Wars occurred when the audio didn’t work on one of the trailers.

“The people who made it tried to mime along to it. We just played it without sound,” Patton said.

From humble beginnings to Pickford blowouts, Trailer Wars has pushed the Bellingham and Western community to have fun and create an environment where everyone is welcome. As Trailer Wars comes to an end, Patton is hopeful the last event is better than it has ever been.

“I think we’ll see a surge on the last few and I hope we do,” Patton said. “I hope the last one is two hours long; I don’t care, we’ll stay there all night.”



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\*WITH PURCHASE OF ANY BEVERAGE

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR WEIGH IN ON DIVERSITY

Read student and alumni thoughts about the hate speech that cancelled classes online at [westernfrontonline.com](http://westernfrontonline.com)

## FRONTLINE: Prepping for the End of Fall

Opinions of the Editorial Board

Here we are: counting down the days until our last final, finally in the same month as Christmas and so ready to throw our backpacks in the closet, sit by the fire and turn off our brains until Jan. 4.

But for some, these final days require a bit more effort. Because, for some, these are the final days before they can finalize their degrees and say goodbye to Western.

There’s a surprising amount of work that must be done before we can pick up that diploma and head out into the big, adult world. Degree evaluations have to be turned in, fees have to be paid, caps and gowns have to be ordered and invitations have to be sent to friends and family for any post-ceremony celebrations.

Not to mention, graduating students also have to prepare for life outside of school. They have to find jobs, figure out where they’re going to live and find out who they want to be when they’re no longer a student.

It takes time for graduates to get settled and find steady work they’re happy doing, so putting down a good foundation while they’re still in school can be important.

Plus, all of those worries and responsibilities go on top of work for culminating projects, last-minute assignments, and of course, studying for final exams.

So if someone you know is graduating at the end of fall, don’t be afraid to give them some encouragement, a hug, chocolate, caffeine or some combination of all three — they probably need it.

But even if you’re not graduating at the end of fall, this point in the quar-

ter can be hard. Sometimes we reach a point where we just need a little help to make it over the last few hurdles. The deadlines, the grades, the fatigue; it’s a lot to try to manage.

That’s OK; you don’t have to do everything by yourself. Talk to your advisor or a counselor from Academic Advising and put together a list of everything you need to do between now and the end of the quarter.

Then put together a calendar with all your final due dates and goals so you can see everything in front of you, rather than just letting it float around in your head and stress you out.

Don’t forget to schedule in some time to take a deep breath and relax a little bit too.

Talk to your professors and tell them if you’re having some trouble keeping up. They’re here to help us, but they can’t if they don’t know something is wrong.

Don’t forget, they were all students once too — some of them still are. They know what it’s like to be overwhelmed.

Whether you’re prepping for that final walk across the stage, or whether you’re just trying to keep yourself alive until that three-week break, it’s important to keep yourself focused, organized and as least-stressed as you possibly can.

Advisors, professors, friends and family are all here to support and keep us going. College is hard; so don’t be afraid to look to them when you need a little extra help or encouragement.

We’ve made it to the final stretch. Give yourselves a pat on the back for all the hard work you’ve put in so far, then brace yourself for one last big push.

## Viking Voices

What are you doing to prepare for the end of the quarter?



**Lisa Ponsler**  
junior, sociology

“I’m filling out my planner to make sure everything is sectioned out enough to ensure that I am not procrastinating and I am definitely drinking a lot of coffee.”



**Lindsey Holdener**  
sophomore, archaeology

“I’m mainly just trying to keep my schedule as small as I possibly can, studying as much as I can, keeping myself healthy, eating right and sleeping right.”



**Brandi Petryk**  
junior, geology

“Trying to make sure that I’m up to date on all of my assignments, reviewing all my notes, asking all my professors any last minute questions and reviewing all my study guides. ... and dying.”



**Rizzo Smith**  
senior, kinesiology

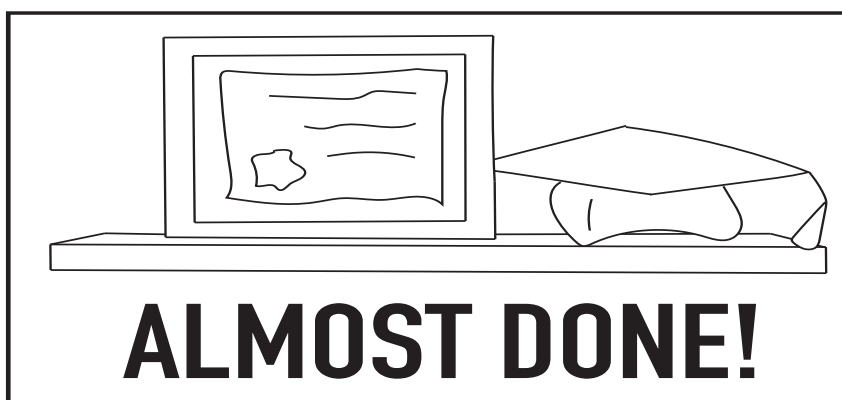
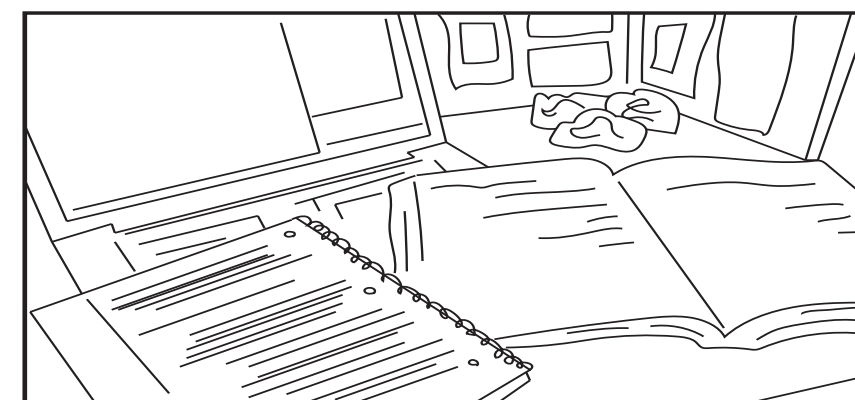
“This is my last quarter here at Western, so I made sure I finished my projects way ahead of time. So mostly now I’m just relaxing and preparing myself for what comes next, which is applying for more schools.”

Compiled by Jordan Kunigk

### 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](mailto: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



**ALMOST DONE!**

Illustration by Nicole Swift

## Western's journey to the Final Four

**Sara Fontenot**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

For most students, Thanksgiving break means food and relaxation.

For Western's women's soccer team however, it means training and staying healthy as the team makes its way to Pensacola, Florida for the NCAA Division II Women's Soccer Tournament Final Four.

After a 3-1 win over Dallas Baptist University on Saturday, Nov. 21, the Vikings ranked second nationally, secured its spot

in the Final Four.

Western will face Grand Valley State University on Thursday, Dec. 3. Grand Valley State is ranked first, and will be making its seventh appearance in a row at the Final Four tournament, according to Western Athletics.

This will be the Vikings' second time seeing the Final Four. Last year the team made it to the second round of the NCAA tournament after a final record of 16-1-4, according to Western Athletics.

Western last played in this round of the tournament in 2013, but fell short against

University of West Florida. Now, with a strong team and a number of key returners, the team is headed back to the Final Four.

Junior forward and midfielder Sandy Hanses said in an email the team has stepped up its fitness during practice and she has been spending time working to stay focused during break.

"[The team is] really just making sure we are taking care of our bodies and staying healthy," Hanses said.

The constant motivation and the hard work during practice are just a few of the

reasons Hanses believes her team made it this far, she said.

"We have a really strong roster this year, with amazing returning players and incoming freshmen," Hanses said. "With great players, an amazing coaching staff and the drive this team has, we have been successful."

The desire to push through has been a key component for the team this season, Hanses said.

"The whole team has wanted this more than anything since the start of the season and we have constantly been motivating each other

and working hard in practice each day in order to make it to this point," Hanses said.

Senior midfielder Delanee Nilles said in an email the team set the tone early in the season and also agreed with Hanses that making it this far has been a goal since the beginning.

"We sat down as a team and set goals and how we were going to achieve them. We hold each other to a high standard and expect everyone to come ready to every practice and play hard," Nilles said.

Western's undefeated record has helped the team work its way to the top of the nation's standings. The Vikings first dominated the Sweet 16 when they beat Azusa Pacific University 1-0 and then continued its winning streak when they played Dallas Baptist in the Elite Eight, according to Western's Weekly Report.

The stats came to nine shutouts by senior goalkeeper Ashley Haden and 13 from the team. Leading scorer, senior captain and forward and midfielder Catherine Miles has a recorded 13 goals and 30 overall points this season, which totals her career goals to 43, according to the report.

Senior Rob Rosenberg, has been following Vikings women's soccer since his freshman year and said the team's chemistry has always been strong, but this year it's only gotten better.

"This team seems pretty tight knit. I can tell that the girls have a lot of love for each other. Something about this team feels like they are even closer than before," Rosenberg said.

If Western can pull out a win on Thursday, the team will make it to the championship where it will face either Columbus State or Bridgeport on Saturday, Dec. 5.



Senior captain Catherine Miles celebrates with teammates following the second Viking goal of the match against Dallas Baptist University on Saturday, Nov. 21 at Robert S. Harrington Field. Western won 3-1 to advance to the semifinals of the NCAA Division II tournament. Western will play Grand Valley State on Thursday, Dec. 3. // Photo by Daisey James

### Great Northwest Athletic Conference

#### FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR

awarded to

## ABBY PHELPS

Information provided by Western Athletics

The redshirt freshman opposite and outside hitter was named the GNAC Freshman of the Year on the 2015 GNAC Volleyball All-Conference team on Tuesday, Nov. 24.

Since 2009, Phelps is the first Western player to be named GNAC Freshman of the Year. She has a record team-high of 349.0 points this season, averaging 3.04 kills per game, 2.79 digs per game and 0.56 blocks per game.



## From the Sidelines: Seattle Seahawks

What are your initial reactions to the game against the Steelers?



**Colin Floyd**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Wow. What a game. With Russell Wilson throwing a career high of five touchdowns and Big Ben throwing for the most yards ever against a Seahawks defense, this game turned out to be quite the offensive shootout. But the Legion of Boom came through when it mattered most, only allowing one passing touchdown.

What are some things the team excelled at? What are things the team didn't do so well?

The Seahawks O-line has been steadily improving, thanks to Patrick Lewis taking over for Drew Nowak at center. It protected Russell Wilson, only allowing two sacks and four QB hits. Our D-line had a poor performance with the same sacks (two) and QB hits (four) as the Steelers' D-line, no wonder Ben Roethlisberger threw 456 yards.

The next game is against the Minnesota Vikings. What do you think about that matchup?

This is a surprisingly tough matchup. The Vikings are on top of the NFC North at 8-3. Adrian Peterson is having another monstrous season, with 1164 yards, eight touchdowns and a 4.9 yards per carry average. If the Hawks run defense, which ranks fifth in the NFL, can shut down Peterson, it can all but guarantee a victory.

What are your thoughts or predictions for the weeks ahead?

The Seahawks can win out if they get past the Vikings and its final game of the season against the Cardinals. If the Seahawks shuts down Adrian Peterson as well as Arizona's high-powered offensive attack, it will have one of the two wild-card spots on lock.

I think it was a great game and fun to watch. The Seahawks pulled it through and showed us the Hawks that we know.



**Lynsey Amundson**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Russell Wilson did amazing with five touchdowns and a career high of 345 yards. The Hawks offense was explosive and Doug Baldwin had a huge part in it. There wasn't a lot that the team didn't do well except the defense needs to allow fewer yards.

The Seahawks' next matchup will be an intense game. With the Vikings being 8-3 and first in the NFC North Division, the Hawks need to get a win.

I think the team will win their next five games and get the wild card spot and make it to the playoffs. Go Seahawks.

My initial reaction to this win was pretty overjoyed. This was a hard-fought win against a team that had been making moves in the NFL. Additionally, it was the Steelers, which gave this win a side of sweet, sweet vengeance. Speaking for Seahawks fans, a win against the Steelers is payback for the fiasco that happened in Super Bowl XL.



**Jordan Kunigk**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

The team really gelled today in most aspects and gave a performance representative of ex-Super Bowl champs. The offense was on fire, as was Russell Wilson who put up 345 yards, five touchdowns, and threw no interceptions.

I think that it stands a really good chance against the Vikings. The Vikings have a really young and inconsistent quarterback in Teddy Bridgewater, so the key to the game is going to be putting ample amounts of pressure on him, and shutting Adrian Peterson's amazing rushing ability down.

I think it will have a good shot at making the playoffs if they win every single game moving forward. The team finally has a positive record which will help. Jeremy Lane is also resigned, and picked up one interception his first day back. He is a huge part of this defense, and can make plays in the passing game, which is something necessary.

The Seahawks had some excellent plays against a tough team. The team looked really good compared to what I've seen in the past this season.



**Karina Soennichsen**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Seahawks looked really good as far as working together and communicating. It is still struggling with the offensive blocking and giving Russ enough time to make a really thought-out decision.

I don't think it's a game to be underestimated. The Seahawks have to keep their focus.

The Hawks have some tough games ahead and only if the team keep its focus the Hawks can make it to the playoffs.

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# GET TO KNOW RICARDO MAXWELL

Colin Floyd

THE WESTERN FRONT

Ricardo Maxwell is a senior guard for the Western men's basketball team and will be playing for his second varsity letter this year. The Cincinnati native sat down with *The Western Front* to talk about his passion for basketball, his path to Western and the current season.

**Q: Being a kid from Cincinnati, how did you end up at Western?**

**A:** Actually I signed Division I, but I had a visit [during my year] at Edmonds Community College and I told Coach Dominguez if I couldn't go Division I then I would come to Western. I couldn't go Division I so I kept my word and came to Western.

**Q: Did Dominguez recruit you out of high school?**

**A:** No, he recruited me from my junior college at Edmonds Community College in Lynnwood and that was the first time I met him. He would always come to my games no matter if I said I couldn't come [to Western]. He just kept coming to the games.

**Q: How did you find out about Edmonds Community College?**

**A:** Well, my junior year of high school I came to Seattle and I was training with University of Washington and Seattle University. I went to North Seattle Community College for an open gym and they asked me [if I was going to come] to their school. They didn't know I was still in high school. So they told me if I don't end up going Division I that I could [go here]. At the time I didn't know what community college was. But since I couldn't go Division I, I went North Seattle and the coach there left and went to Edmonds so I followed him there.

**Q: How did you get into basketball?**

**A:** My older brother was actually one of the best



Senior guard Ricardo Maxwell soars through the key as he dishes the ball out to the wing during a game against Brigham Young University-Hawaii at Whatcom Community College Pavilion. // Photo by Daisey James

players in the country at the time and I just followed off what he did, but baseball was actually my first sport.

**Q: What other sports did you grow up playing?**

**A:** I played baseball, football, basketball, ran track and boxed.

**Q: How long did you play those?**

**A:** Up until high school, and baseball I played up until I think AA or AAA.

**Q: What made you pick basketball over all the others?**

**A:** Basketball was just

my passion, really. I was a smaller kid though, so when I was younger I wasn't the best player all the time. I had the talent but I wasn't really there yet because I was a lot smaller, and I wasn't that smart so I trained three times a day. When I started high

school, that's when I started taking basketball seriously — I didn't start organized basketball until the seventh or eighth grade.

**Q: How do you like Western and the city of Bellingham?**

**A:** It's a lot different than what I'm used to. It's very green compared to what I'm used to, the weather is not humid at all, but the campus and everything is nice. Everyone shows me love so I appreciate that.

**Q: What's your training schedule look like outside of team practices?**

**A:** I do my own individual workout whenever I have time in between classes. I try to go to the gym and work on cardio. I always run the track and the treadmill whenever I can depending on whether I have homework.

**Q: What would you say is your role on the team?**

**A:** I feel my role is just doing whatever is necessary to win. If my team needs me to score I feel I can provide that, and if my team needs me to pass and be that vocal leader then I can provide that. If I need to play defense on whoever scores the most points, I can do that. As a captain I feel I should be able to accomplish that goal.

**Q: How were the games in Hawaii you recently played?**

**A:** Hawaii is nice, a lot of people on our team aren't used to the humidity so we had to go hard in practice to get our bodies ready because we were sweating when we walked into the gym. It's about 80 degrees here.

**Q: With the season just starting to get underway, what is a game that fans definitely don't want to miss and why?**

**A:** I would say the Seattle Pacific University game [on Saturday, Dec. 5] because that's a big game for us and we beat them two times last year and they finally got us in the championship game. We just want to dominate them at all costs. And also the Central Washington University game [on Thursday, Feb. 18].

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