

# THE WESTERN FRONT



**MEN'S RUGBY TEAM  
DOMINATES UNIVERSITY OF  
OREGON, PAGE 13**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2  
WESTERNFRONTONLINE.COM

## Senator calls for financial aid stories

*Sen. Patty Murray encourages online comments from students*

**Nick Jenner**

THE WESTERN FRONT

Washington State Sen. Patty Murray wants to hear from families about the difficulties that come with paying for college, and a new comment form on her website gives students and parents a way to tell her those stories directly.

Murray's online comment form provides an opportunity for families to voice their concerns about federal financial aid programs and the cost of education. Those stories will then be relayed across the country to other lawmakers as congress works through the process of reauthorizing the Higher Education Act before the end of this legislative session.

"I want to hear the stories, priorities and ideas of Western Washington University students," Murray said in an email. "I'm going to make sure your voices are heard loud and clear back in the other Washington."

In the course of the reauthorization, Murray hopes to improve not only affordability, but also accessibility. Students apply for aid every year through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and for many, the experience wasn't easy.

Murray's website reports more than 40 million American citizens owe a total of \$1.3 trillion in student loan debt. Seven out of 10 seniors will graduate with \$28,950 in debt according to the Institute for College Access and Success.

see MURRAY, page 7

## Drumming in the Lunar New Year



**(From left to right) Tyrone Nakawatase, Garrett Nakawatase, Jason Kopec, Emily Lau and Max Honkawa pound their drums at the Chinese Student Association Lunar New Year event on Saturday, Jan. 30 in the Multi-Purpose Room. The drummers are members of the Seattle-based band Inochi Taiko. Taiko generally refers to a modern style of Japanese drum ensembles.**

// Photo by Christina Becker

**Anjali LeGrand**

THE WESTERN FRONT

Members of Western's Chinese Student Association, their families and community members gathered to celebrate the Lunar New Year

with dancing, drumming and dinner on Saturday, Jan. 30.

The night opened with a dragon dance, a traditional symbol of luck, beneath strings of lights and paper lanterns. The Lunar New Year is celebrated in several Asian

traditions on Feb. 8, which allowed event organizers to broaden the celebration to include other cultural groups.

"This event is unique because it's Lunar New Year.

see LUNAR, page 6

## Lack of gender-neutral bathrooms on campus inspires new committee

**Tori Benavente**

THE WESTERN FRONT

When using a bathroom of the gender he doesn't identify with, Scout Hartman feels like he's invading a space that wasn't designed with him in mind.

As a non-binary student and the coordinator for the Queer Resources Center, Hartman wanted to push for more gender-inclusive restrooms on campus, he said.

The newly formed Gender Neutral Facilities Guidelines Advisory Committee is responsible for establishing guidelines for gender-neutral facilities around campus, vice president of student life, Emma Palumbo

see BATHROOMS, page 7



**Gender-neutral restrooms can be found on the third floor of the Viking Union. They have locks displaying the occupancy of the room to ensure privacy and safety. The rooms have been deemed gender-neutral in order to accommodate those who don't feel comfortable using a gender-segregated restroom as well as people with disabilities.** // Photo by Ian Koppe

## Students envision app for travelers with disabilities

**Ashley Conradi**

THE WESTERN FRONT

Living with a disability poses a challenge when it comes to hotel stays, Western alumnus Daman Wandke knows first hand.

But Wandke, along with Western students and alumni, has devised a solution: AccessTravel.

The application focuses on accommodating travelers with disabilities -- an idea that won the group the title of the 2016 Bellingham Startup Challenge Grand Champions.

Wandke first pitched the idea from his own experience as a frequent traveler who lives with cerebral palsy.

The 54-hour Startup Challenge was a unique opportunity for aspiring entrepreneurs in the community to develop startup ideas in teams under the guidance of experienced professionals, according to the event website.

An estimated 50 participants attended, including web coders, designers and business-minded project managers of all ages and levels of experience.

This was the first time Western's IDEA (Interdisciplinary Entrepreneurship in Action) Institute was involved with the annual startup challenge.

It is not Wandke's first time coordinating an innovative idea for those with disabilities. While attending Western from 2007 to 2013, he co-founded the Disability Outreach Center.

According to the team's executive summary presented to judges, they are attempting

see STARTUP, page 5



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## ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

westernfrontonline.com

REC CENTER: The facility has absorbed extra traffic due to the Carver renovation // Alyssa Evans  
FLINT: Western alumnus/photojournalist shares experiences covering water crisis // Nick Jenner  
ROMANCE NOVELS: Professor studied stigmas of romance novel writers // Dominic Yoxtheimer

## A STRUMMER AND HIS DRUMMER



Mac Jaffe and Taylor Olson play a jazz set together Monday, Feb. 1, at the Underground Coffee House. // Photo by Caleb Galbreath

The Western Front  
Western Washington University  
Communications Facility 222  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
Newsroom number:  
360-650-3162  
Email address:  
westernfrontonline@gmail.com

- Editor-in-Chief**  
Brenna Visser  
**Managing Editor**  
Jeffrey Giuliani  
**News Editors**  
Sarah Sharp  
Andrew Wise  
**Features Editors**  
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Tyler Hillis  
**Photographers**  
Daniel Liddicoat  
Ian Koppe  
Caleb Galbreath  
**Illustrator/  
Cartoonist**  
Nicole Swift

**Letters to the editor:**  
westernfront.opinion@gmail.com  
**Press releases:**  
wfpres.release@gmail.com  
**Faculty Adviser**  
Jack Keith  
Jack.Keith@wwu.edu  
**Advertising Department**  
360-650-3160  
**Advertising Manager**  
Kaelen Morris

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### Corrections

In the Jan. 26 edition, in a story about Western's Equestrian team, the names of Leanna Vandlen, Keelin Balzaretta and Dually, the horse, were misspelled. When identifying where a horse, Johnny, lived, the barn was identified as Twin Maples Farm. He actually resides at Westby Equine Center.

Please notify us of any factual errors at westernfrontonline@gmail.com.

## New legislation could increase independence for student journalists

Bill written to clarify judiciary precedents

By Kenji Guttorp  
THE WESTERN FRONT

A bipartisan effort to address the clarity of First Amendment rights for high school and collegiate journalism students may soon be put to a vote in Olympia.

Senate Bill 6233 would prevent administrators at high schools and colleges in the Washington from censoring material in student publications prior to print, and prevent college administrators from requiring prior review. It also prevents schools from disciplining student editors or faculty advisors based on the content of the publication. This protection would not extend to libel, slander, invasion of privacy, substantially disruptive or unlawful material.

Vince DeMiero, former president of the Washington Journalism Education Association, said he is advocating for the bill because it will provide clarity for the roles student journalists, school administrators and school-sponsored media in an

## 1965: Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District



- School suspends the students when they refuse to remove armbands protesting the war in Vietnam.
- Students sue, Supreme Court rules that the act of wearing the armband is protected free speech.

## Timeline: A brief history of scholastic journalism case law

// Illustration by Nikki Swift

## 1988: Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier

- The student newspaper at Hazelwood East High School in St. Louis, Missouri published a story focused on two anonymous pregnant teenage women
- During a review prior to print, the school's principal finds the content objectionable and prevents the story from being published.
- Supreme Court sides with principal, saying school-sponsored papers are not public forums.



Seventh Circuit Court ruling in *Hosty v. Carter*, which drew from the *Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier* ruling to establish the rights of administrators at colleges and universities to censor content in school-sponsored publications.

Senate majority floor leader, Republican Sen. Joe Fain introduced the bill. Seven other legislators, five democrats and two republicans, are co-sponsoring it.

"This is more of a curricular issue than a free speech issue. The school district is the publisher and therefore should

have some control over what is published, just like a publisher does with their editors and reporters," said Jerry Bender, Association of Washington School Principals governmental relations director, speaking in opposition of the bill at the Jan. 21 hearing.

Bender is a former principal and said he reviewed the student paper at his school prior to publication, but never had cause to censor any content, he said.

Bender argued that principals have to be able to prevent problems associated with reac-

tion to student publication content.

"If I'm going to be in a situation where the plane crashes, I want to be there when it takes off, too," he said.

DeMiero disagreed with Bender's argument that school districts function as the publishers of student newspapers and should therefore have the right to censor content.

"The district isn't the publisher in any case where it's a student publication," DeMiero said.

Find the whole story at westernfrontonline.com

## Cops Box

### 2 p.m., Jan. 31, 2016

A man returned home mid-afternoon to find a strange man sitting on his porch. The man trespassed onto the property at the 1900 block of Valencia Street.

### 6:07 a.m., Jan. 31, 2016

After being arrested for auto theft, the suspect reported "memory loss" after drinking alcohol the night before. Police escorted the man to the hospital for an examination from the 1400 Block of Cornwall Avenue.

### 12:38 p.m., Jan. 31, 2016

A woman called the police to report her grandson's girlfriend had pushed her in the neck. Officers responded to the 1300 block of Puget Street and charged the girlfriend with misdemeanor assault.

### 8:42 p.m., Jan. 30, 2016

A resident of the 2900 block of Squalicum Parkway called police to report finding some drugs. Officers responded and are investigating the situation.

### 6:18 p.m., Jan. 29, 2016

Police were called for a theft of a pingpong paddle. One person was arrested for theft in the third degree of said pingpong paddle. While a second person was attempting to return the stolen pingpong paddle several minutes after it was stolen, the second person was cited for possession of stolen property.

### 7:33 p.m., Jan. 30, 2016

After a dine and dash at Tadeo's, the trail runs cold for police. Tadeo's is located in the 200 block of East Holly Street.

### 3:49 p.m., Jan. 30, 2016

A witness called police when she saw two women stealing a shopping cart full of groceries. Police responded to the 1600 block of Birchwood Avenue.

// Compiled by Heather Bates

## Events

What: Open Mic Night  
Where: Underground Coffeehouse  
When: Tuesday Feb. 2, 6:30-9:30 p.m.  
\$: Free  
Notes: Have an amazing hidden talent? Want to knock the socks off of all your friends? Brave enough to perform in a five minute slot? Every Tuesday at the Underground Coffeehouse, third floor Viking Union. Sign ups at 6:30 p.m., show starts at 7.

What: The Sex Ed You Wish You Had  
Where: Artzen Hall 100  
When: Wednesday Feb. 3, 7-9 p.m.  
\$: Free  
Notes: A queer and disability inclusive presentation on sex, relationships and loving yourself and others. Two speakers from Babeland will provide demonstrations on sexual techniques as well as hold a Q&A with the audience after.

What: Cultures of Resistance Series: Juan Espinoza  
Where: Miller Hall 152  
When: Thursday Feb. 4, 6-7:30 p.m.  
\$: Free  
Notes: A conversation on queer Chicana social movements, student activism, and Latin American, Afro-Caribbean, Indigenous, and Afro-Latinx spiritualities and resiliency in the Americas.

What: Food, Justice and Racism  
Where: Academic Instructional Center West 204  
When: Saturday Feb. 6, 6-8 p.m.  
\$: Free  
Notes: This event is meant to unite the farmworker unions from Bellingham, Washington and San Quentin, Mexico educate a broader community about the exploitation of farmworkers and to support the boycott on Driscoll's berries.

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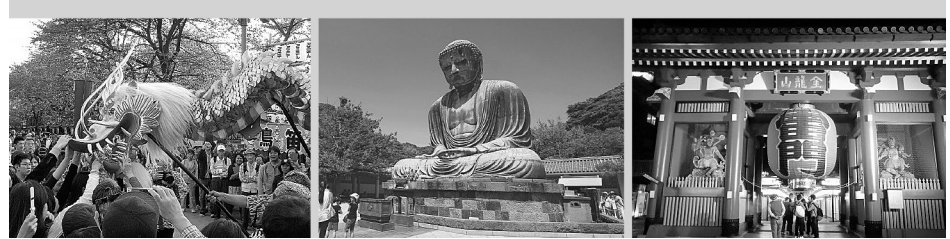
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Interested? Contact Dr. Massimiliano Tomasi, Professor of Japanese, Director, Center for East Asian Studies, Western Washington University

Email: [Massimiliano.Tomasi@wwu.edu](mailto:Massimiliano.Tomasi@wwu.edu) • Phone: 360.650.3339

Web page: [www-tokyosummer.com](http://www-tokyosummer.com)



## Professors rewarded for diversity and social justice efforts with grant money

*Presidential taskforce and faculty senate team up to fund and distribute grants*

By Morgan Stilp-Allen  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western recently awarded seven faculty members with the grants allocated by the President's Taskforce on Equity, Inclusion and Diversity. The grant program, in its first year, is designed to further the recipients' teaching and research related to diversity issues.

Faculty Senate Diversity and Social Justice Grants were awarded to professors that have worked to embrace and engage in issues related to equity, social justice and diversity.

Trula Nicholas, associate professor in the department of health and community studies at Western, led Western's Faculty Senate in choosing the recipients for the grants that submitted their proposals on Nov. 1, 2015.

Nicholas was a part of a group of seven Faculty Senate members that reviewed the applications. The applicants were selected based on their proposals' abilities to demonstrate how their teaching or research will engage and expand the discussion of social justice and di-

versity ideas.

Grants were tailored to particular projects and applicants.

One grant is for summer teaching, worth about \$6,000. The other is a research grant, the value of which depends on the faculty member's current salary and tenure status, Nicholas said.

The awarded faculty's tenure played a significant role in determining how much the recipient will receive. The recipients with tenure will also be required to take a two-course release during two different quarters in the upcoming academic year, Nicholas said. Similar to a leave, the two-course release will allow the recipients to focus more on their grant-awarded teaching and research.

Although the awards are meant to affect Western directly, the university's Faculty Senate hopes the impact will extend further than Western alone.

As part of the grant, the awardees are required to share their research and teaching experience through a public talk or performance within the next year.



**Joshua Cerretti, history instructor at Western, received a grant for teaching about the history of colonization in Bellingham through a one-mile tour of downtown. Cerretti is one of seven faculty members to have received an Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Grant. // Photo by Ian Koppe**

"The recipients of these grants are required to join the faculty learning lab and that's going to be a full-year of us coming together and learning together from each other," Nicholas said. "You don't get the money, go away, do the work in private and say 'here's my results.' You are engaged with actively making a difference in how you approach, whether it's teaching, research or even service, so that western can be better at inclusion."

The grants are now included within the university's permanent budget and Nicholas hopes the grants will reach even more faculty in the future.

Recipients received awards for their work in a variety of fields, ranging from queer and transgender studies to ecology.

Joshua Cerretti, history instructor at Western, received a summer teaching grant for his work in a similar area of social justice. Cerretti's teaching involves the "Decolonizing

Bellingham Tour." Cerretti's one-mile tour of downtown Bellingham aims to unveil the oppressive systems that led to Bellingham's colonization.

The tour consists of stops at a number of sites central to the history of Bellingham and the region, especially as they pertain to local Indigenous communities, violence against people of color and violence against the land, Cerretti said.

*Find the whole story at westernfrontonline.com*

## STARTUP: 54 hour challenge encourages innovation

*continued from page 1*

to address the lack of information hotels currently provide concerning accommodations and ease of locating that information online.

Other members of the winning group include senior Jeremy McLaughlin, transfer sophomore Ashley Ziencina and alumnus Patrick Garrett who currently works as an operations manager in Sedro-Woolley.

In their presentation, they mentioned 37 million Americans are living with disabilities. Their target market focused on the 36,000 individuals within that group that are daily travelers.

McLaughlin and Ziencina visited hotels within the area as part of the process to gather information on the need for this kind of platform locally.

At first, the group struggled with narrowing down an idea for services that could serve this part of the community, Garrett said.

They finalized a collaborative goal late Saturday evening and got the ball rolling toward their final product, which Wandke hopes to make a reality in the future, he said.

Another team featuring Western students created an application called TribeVibe. This user-created music streaming service allows collaborative in-

put between people to build playlists who are in close proximity.

Members included senior Chad Spady, junior Micah Spady and 26-year-old entrepreneur Parker Helland. This group's inspiration came from being frequent users of Pandora and other streaming services such as Spotify.

They noticed gaps in these applications' functions, lacking an efficient sharing quality that requires use of Facebook and other platforms. Their goal is to integrate the process into a single mobile application that allows users to share music in real time and build communities, or "tribes," around those.

"Ultimately what we're trying to articulate [is similar to] how Instagram is the medium through which pictures help us communicate with each other," Chad Spady said. "We are going after the medium of music as means of communication through shared experiences."

The demographic is especially focused on incoming freshmen who are trying to find ways to connect with others and make new friends, Micah Spady said. This application offers a unique way for individuals to put themselves out there and gain feedback from others based on music interest. Because this



**Western student Ryan Roberts pitches his group's startup idea at the Bellingham Startup Challenge 2016 on Sunday, Jan. 31, at The Leopold. Robert's startup, Trail Trolley, would create a convenient shuttle service for patrons to travel to local mountains and other areas otherwise challenging, or more expensive, to reach. // Photo by Caleb Galbreath**

all occurs in close distances, it gives a way for people to build relationships within their communities.

Music festivals are becoming increasingly popular among the generation that TribeVibe is appealing to, Chad Spady said.

They want to connect the unforgettable experiences people share at these kinds of events with a service that will help maintain those same relationships and memories.

For participants, this may just be the start of potential fu-

ture companies. Wandke and his group have plans to bring their services to the community someday, now that they are prepared with the experience and resources necessary to make them come to life.

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# LUNAR NEW YEAR: Celebrating multiple cultures

Nearly 100 students attended the event that is traditionally celebrated in intimate, family setting

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Instead of just celebrating the Chinese New Year we are also celebrating other cultures including Japan, Korea, China and Vietnam," said Phillip Chen, president of the CSA. This was the first Lunar New Year celebration hosted by the CSA at Western in this way.

The sold-out event in the Viking Union Multi-Purpose Room incorporated both traditional Chinese performances as well as Western-style performances, contributing to the idea of different cultures coming together.

The WWU Hip Hop Association incorporated dances with the Chinese music and performed a dance to Justin Timberlake's "Take Back The Night."

Planning for the celebration began back in September 2015, Chen said. The night included performances from Franklin High School's dance team, the WWU Hip Hop Association and the Uzume Taiko drum group from Seattle. These performances brought together



Franklin High School lion dancers share the stage with Western juniors Karen Liang and George Tian, the emcees of the Chinese Student Association Lunar New Year event on Saturday, Jan. 30, in the Viking Union Multi-Purpose Room. // Photo by Christina Becker

different cultures with a Chinese dance group, Japanese-style drum group and the incorporation of Western hip-hop dance.

While traditionally Lunar New Year is celebrated as a family gathering, a little less than 100 Western students came together as their own

version of a family away from their own families in order to celebrate the event.

Western junior Leah Allen said she hoped it gave people an awareness of the different cultures being represented. By being open to the community, the event connected students of all cultures at

Western. Over half of the attendees were Western students. The rest of the attendees included family members and other members of the community.

"I think it's extremely important that we have these ethnic student clubs," Allen said. "I think it's a way for

students to come together and feel comfortable in their own skin and make connections with others."

The night also included a silent auction to raise donations for Jiangxi China Orphan Aid, a part of the nonprofit organization Altrusa International Foundation of Longview-Kelso. The organization works with the Amity Foundation in China and provides medical aid, clothing, toys, school tuition and more for children in 24 orphanages in the Jiangxi province of China, according to the nonprofit's Facebook page and website. Their office is based out of Longview, Washington.

Justin Yang, a senior and performer for the WWU Hip Hop Association, said the event was important for people who have not had a connection to their cultural heritage. "It gives them a chance to really experience it," Yang said.

The Chinese Student Association is one of 17 clubs in the Ethnic Student Center at Western, located in VU 420.

# BATHROOMS: Committee aims to review best practices

continued from page 1

The purpose of the committee is to "survey gender-neutral facilities at Western, review best practices at other universities" and recommend guidelines for gender-neutral facilities after consulting faculty, student leaders and the university community, according to the committee's charter.

This issue is especially timely as a bill to reverse the bathroom policy allowing transgender people to choose the restroom of the gender they identify with passed out of a Senate committee 4-3 on Wednesday, Jan. 27. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Doug Erickson from Whatcom County, reversed the rule, "leaving it up to local jurisdictions and businesses to decide what bathroom policy works best for them," according to The Bellingham Herald.

"I personally think that it's very insulting that my identity gets to be that policed by our government," Hartman said. "My body is being policed by our government and that's not okay with me. I don't think that their personal opinions should have any role in my ability to use a bathroom."

Western junior Robert Johnson is not in favor of the bill. "I feel really uncomfortable

with his initiative to repeal the rule. I feel like it was a move in an important direction that we need to make, a move toward equality, and that would be attempting to undermine that," Johnson said.

The GNFGAC came to fruition after Hartman became the QRC coordinator. A committee was formed around his continued pursuit of an existing issue, Hartman said.

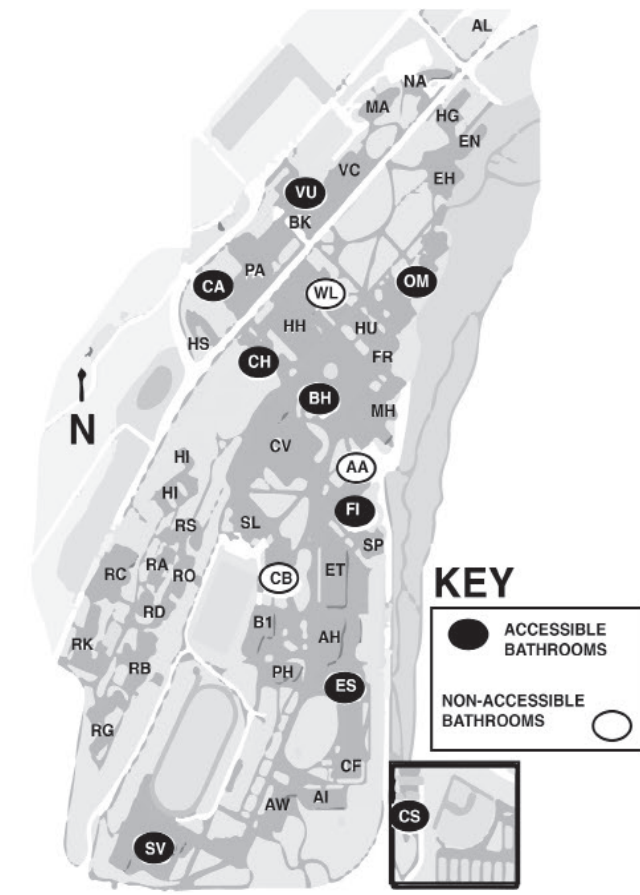
In the formation stages, he met with members of the equal opportunities office to discuss an unmet need in the transgender community.

"That meeting was really a push, as well as a 'You're forgetting about people and as the equal opportunities office you can't really do that,'" Hartman said. "It was this really interesting conversation that also incorporated the issue of how even most of the bathrooms on campus aren't even [American Disabilities Act] accessible."

The gender-neutral facilities committee's first meeting was on Jan. 20, Hartman said.

Hartman would like to see a gender-neutral and ADA accessible bathroom in every building on campus, as well as gender-neutral locker rooms in the Wade King Recreation Center and Sam Carver Gymnasium.

Sue Guenter-Schlesinger, who is also the vice provost of



Map of the current gender-neutral bathrooms on campus. // Illustration by Nicole Swift

equal opportunity and diversity, chairs the committee. Other members include four student representatives and two faculty representatives from the English and psychology departments, as well as other university administrators, Hartman said. Currently there are 16 gen-

der-neutral bathrooms around campus. All of the single-stalled restrooms on campus are gender inclusive, Hartman said. In the future, the renovated Carver Gym will have gender-neutral bathrooms, along with a locker room, Palumbo said. The gender-neutral bath-

rooms will be in addition to designated men's and women's restrooms, Hartman said.

"I think there are a lot of people who still want gender-segregated bathrooms," Harman said. "There's also a couple of different building code laws that are written in the gender binary."

Johnson feels gender-neutral bathrooms should be expanded to almost all, if not all, bathrooms on campus. Since Johnson is not transgender, he doesn't feel he has the perspective to say whether or not Western has enough or too few gender-neutral bathrooms on campus, he said.

Johnson said he doesn't have a problem sharing a locker room with someone of the opposite sex, but acknowledges others may object.

"I think a lot of people are uncomfortable with deviation from the norm, what they're used to, how they've grown up [and] the cultural ideas behind that," Johnson said.

READ MORE ONLINE

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PURPOSE

# MURRAY: Senator wants to make college more affordable

continued from page 1

"As someone who relied on Pell grants to get through school, I understand how important this is for middle class families," Murray said in an email. "I am going to continue to fight to make college more affordable and make sure students can graduate without the crushing burden of student debt."

The act was originally passed in 1965 and covers everything from policies related to drugs and alcohol on college campuses to instructor evaluations and financial aid. With the online

tool, Murray is working specifically to address the part of the bill that outlines federal financial aid including loans and Pell grants.

According to her website, Murray's main goal for the new act is to make college more affordable for students in Washington and around the country.

John Ezekwugo is a Western senior who finances his education independently. For the most part, Ezekwugo hasn't had troubles with the FAFSA, but his experience with the loan program isn't without its complications.

In Spring of 2014, Ezekwugo was awarded a financial aid scholarship. That fall he realized the money hadn't come. Neither had any information.

"I had to go to the financial aid office, call them a bunch trying to figure out where my money was," Ezekwugo said. "They didn't really know."

The scholarship eventually came in, after he had to present evidence proving he had been awarded it. Ezekwugo also mentioned having difficulties during the application process, which he said was complicated and required a multitude of forms,

some requiring parental assistance.

The application is 'free and quick,' according to the FAFSA's website. The PDF version is a 10 page document with seven steps. Step number one is similar to a job application: Name, address, social security number. After that the document dives into taxes, income calculations and financial jargon, all accompanied by notes directing back to the help sheet.

According to Murray's office, she worked hard last year to make the direct importation of tax information easier for fami-

lies and students.

"It's not really something that a student could do by themselves," Ezekwugo said.

According to a 2005 National Center for Education Statistics report, first-generation college students, who tended to be low-income, were less likely to apply for college immediately after graduation than those whose parents have a bachelor's degree or higher.

Luckily Ezekwugo was in the fraction that completed the application and received aid. He plans to graduate this spring.

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# UNCOVERING THE HISTORY: CANADA HOUSE

*The Western Front answers an on-campus mystery*

**Lauren R. Brigolin**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

A timeworn, cream-colored house sits neatly tucked away behind Western's Performing Arts Center with a sign that reads: "Canada House."

This quiet home is one-of-a-kind and holds behind its original doors an unknown history as rich as any building at Western.

"It looks like a little cottage. I like the look of it but I have no idea what the purpose of it is. I have always been curious about the purpose of it, but when I look at it I think it's very cheerful," said Kay Onorati, a theatre education and communications student who regularly walks by the house.

Located within the Canada House is the desk of the program manager for the Center for Canadian-American Studies, Chuck Hart.

**THE HOUSE TODAY:**

Today, the house serves as the Center for Canadian-American Studies and hosts its academic offices along with the Border Policy Research Institute, according to the center's Twitter page.

"There is nothing else like it on campus," Hart said. "There is a lot history in this house, a lot of Western history."

**A 20TH CENTURY EVOLUTION:**

The Canada House was constructed around the turn of the 20th century by businessman Henry Schupp. At the time when this was built, the only building on campus was the original Old Main, when it served as the Washington State Normal School at Bellingham, Hart said.

The house's original purpose was to be the Schupp family's home and didn't belong to Western at the time. By 1913, Schupp and his business partner built the Bellingham Brewery and Hotel Leopold.

Overlooking Bellingham Bay, the home was located on 6 Garden Terrace, known as High Street today. After Schupp and his wife passed away, the house was purchased in 1959 by Western for \$20,000 to be used as a residence for [the] incoming president, according to an AS Review article.

The two-story, three-bedroom house has outlived three former Western presidents starting with President James L. Jarrett, who served as Western's president from 1959 to 1964. He was followed by President Harvey Bunke (1965-1967) and President Charles Flora (1967-1975).

In 1975, Western President Paul Olscamp chose not to live in the Schupp house. The house's fate went up for debate. The house was slated to become a costume shop for the College of Fine and Performing Arts until other programs sought to use it for an academic space. In 1979, Olscamp dedicated the structure as the "Canada House," and serve as the official headquarters for the Canadian-American Studies program at Western.

**FROM FAMILY HOME TO RESEARCH FACILITY:**

According to "A Forty Year Retrospective," published in the Canadian-American Studies 40th Anniversary Dinner pamphlet, "several proposals were sent back and for until one administrator hit upon the idea," and the space was given to the Canadian-American Studies program. In 1979 the Consul General of Canada and the president of Western invited the public to an event to the dedication of the Canada House. In the past, it housed several Canadian ambassadors and other provincials, state and federal politicians as guests.

"It was like going to their grandparents house or their old aunt and uncle's," Hart said. "The conversations here were a bit different because it was like a home, [and it feels] like you're off-campus."

The Canadian-American studies program's institutional mission is to spread knowledge of Canada in the United States. In addition, the Border Policy Research Institute "works to educate policymakers on issues related to the Canada - U.S. border," according to their website.

Older than the campus known to Western students today, the Canada House will continue to be a part of Western's academics and research.



The Canada House depicted in 1969. // Courtesy of Special Collections Heritage Resources, Western Libraries



The Canada House in 2016. // Photo by Christina Becker



President Paul Olscamp gives a gift during the Canada House dedication ceremony in 1979. // Courtesy of Special Collections Heritage Resources, Western Libraries

## CANADA HOUSE TIMELINE

1909: HOUSE BUILT BY BUSINESSMAN HENRY SCHUPP

1959: UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT JAMES JARRETT BUYS HOUSE

1975: PRESIDENT OLSCAMP DECLINES TO LIVE IN HOUSE

1975: PERFORMING ARTS CENTER USES HOUSE

1979: OLSCAMP DEDICATES BUILDING AS "CANADA HOUSE"

2005: BORDER POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE ESTABLISHED IN HOUSE

2016: CANADIAN-AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM CELEBRATES 45TH ANNIVERSARY

# Engineering with a cause

Nicole Valley  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Creating, organizing and completing a fundraiser for trips that send groups across the globe may feel impossible for most student organizations. But for Engineers Without Borders, making a difference for less-advantaged global communities facing issues such as unclean water supplies, a successful fundraiser is only the beginning.

The local EWB chapter is working toward a goal of raising enough money to send six to eight members to Kiritiri, Kenya this summer to assess communities in need of supplies, with the date to be determined.

Fundraiser Coordinator and Western junior Myann Refai has been a member of the nonprofit organization since summer 2015. While simultaneously studying manufacturing engineering and working for the engineering department at Western, Refai manages fundraising for the group.

Fundraising is crucial in making the trip a reality, Refai said.

"It's a baby, a brand new project," Refai said. "Our first trip will be going to Kenya to check out, assess and survey what's going on over there, communicate with the community and see how we can help them."

Colleen Mitchell, president of the Northwest Chapter of EWB, has been the president of the chapter since 2015 but has been involved since 2008.

Mitchell said the chapter is currently merged with the student chapter of the EWB, which consists of Western, Bellingham Technical College and Whatcom Community College.

"Engineers Without Borders partners professionals with students to foster socially responsible engineers entering the workforce," Mitchell said.

An engineer herself, Mitchell was a product engineer on their 2009 trip to Ghana for a composting-latrine project.

Mitchell said after arriving in Ghana, they found the assistance needed was different than what they expected. After



Compost-latrine project designed by the Northwest chapter of EWB-USA in Ghana in 2009. // Photo courtesy of Colleen Mitchell

learning the community was already on their way to having a healthy water supply, EWB decided on sanitation as the main starting point for helping the community.

"We talked about how we could help them with sanitation to help protect their water supply," Mitchell said. "We offered to be advocates and answer any questions they might need for their water supply project but we didn't want to

"We came back [from Ghana] to analyze the data and survey information we got," Mitchell said. "We are hoping to go back in September to monitor the byproducts the community is getting out of it."

Gearing up for their trip to Kenya later this year, Mitchell said the members of EWB will be meeting with different people to better assist communities in meeting their basic needs. This includes

**"It's a baby, a brand new project. Our first trip will be going to Kenya to check out, assess and survey what's going on over there, communicate with the community and see how we can help them."**

– Myann Refai

step in and be involved with something they already had progress on."

After assessing the situation in Ghana, Mitchell and her team returned to the states to design a Urine-Diverting Dry Toilet, a toilet that composts waste in order to more effectively kill pathogens, subsequently making waste safe to use as fertilizer. The toilet was created for a school in Ghana, according to the EWB Northwest Washington Chapter website.

issuing health surveys, graphic surveys and talking with the Department of Agriculture.

After assessing the worksite, the group plans to return to build the projects to be decided.

Kevin Mcinnis, a second-year student at Bellingham Technical College, has been volunteering for EWB for the last three months. Mcinnis is still considering whether or not he will participate in the upcoming Kenya project.

"It would be interesting, [and] it'd be a whole world change," Mcinnis said regarding whether he would consider going along for the upcoming project in Kenya.

Mcinnis said EWB does not hold a lot of fundraisers, but his upcoming goal is contacting the right people in order to secure the area surrounding Lake Whatcom for a 5K foot race, which will be an option on a day without rain during the summer.

Fundraising Chair for EWB Mark Stone said in addition to the 5K race, they are hoping to secure a brewery in Bellingham over the summer for another beer fundraiser similar to the one held at Aslan Brewing Company on Tuesday, Jan. 26. The event was organized by Refai and was a key event to help make the Kenya trip possible. Stone said EWB still needs a projected number of about \$3,000 more for the work they plan to do in Kenya.

"It's exciting for me to be able to use my knowledge and expertise to make a difference," Mitchell said regarding past projects.

Elayna Sams, vice president of the student chapter of EWB, said she plans on attending the two- to three-week assessment period in Kenya at the end of June.

"I really liked the idea of having a bigger impact and the fact that Engineers Without Borders existed as an organization that would directly help communities really made me happy," she said.

She said she hopes to take on the role of president at the beginning of the 2016 school year.

Sams said one of her main roles within the student chapter is fundraising and finding grants that can be used for their trips. Many of the grants they receive come from different private donors and foundations, Sams said.

Their blog, <http://ewb-nwprofessionals-ghana.blogspot.com/> follows their trip to Ghana step-by-step.

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# RECITING A CULTURAL RESISTANCE

Evan Elliott  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Pierce Freelon has a lot on his mind. He knows others do too, he just wants everyone to let it out.

"When was America great? And for whom was it great? What period are we talking about here?" Freelon said on Thursday, Jan. 28.

In his spoken-word presentation, "Captain America," Freelon effortlessly blends his love for comic books and sci-fi with how Captain America's commandeering is a metaphor for black people in America.

Through the roughly four minute performance, Freelon highlights the ways the metaphor of Captain America has been institutionalized and appropriated in every way the world operates-- even mentioning the deaths of Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Sandra Bland and others.

He starts by answering the question, "What is it like to be black in America," by describing the Marvel superhero Captain America.

"He may seem like a strange candidate to represent the black experience, but if you look at the biography of the character is a hidden heritage. A super soldier America's embarrassed with," Freelon recites.

The power behind his words is felt like a ton of bricks before he reiterates the answer to what it's like to be black in America. As he pantomimes a gun being used he says,

**"Captain America, click clack. We are capped in America."**

Freelon taps into the science-fiction fanatic in him to envision a world without oppressive regimes dominating over his race.

That's part of the reason the Social Issues Resource Center and its coordinator, Aleyda Cervantes, brought Freelon to campus, she said.

"I think activism brings people together. It comes from deep inside you -- poetry, music -- it's very personal," Cervantes said. "If you share those personal stories then you draw other people [in]."

Wayne Rocque, the outreach coordinator for the Social Issues Resource Center, applies his own interpretation to Freelon's words.

"If we don't imagine an alternative, even if its radical, then we're going to be stuck in the systems that currently hold us in place," Rocque said. "We need to imagine a whole new world for us to work towards."

Freelon has a desire to challenge the narrative of America and it being "great" in order to help combat systems of oppression for anyone oppressed because, as Freelon suggests, all oppression is connected.

Freelon, born and raised in Durham, North Carolina, is a man of many talents, lending himself to hip-hop and jazz music, as well as spending time as a professor and journalist. As an activist -- when art meets activism -- he creatively expresses his experiences. Through this method, the personal becomes political.

Third-year Western student Zi Zhang was drawn in by Freelon's words and left with a reminder to speak up.

"Recognizing your voice is important too, I think that's the biggest [takeaway from] activism," Zhang said.

The seemingly mild-mannered man with budding dreadlocks utters words that attack the audience with the ferocity of a well-intentioned mama bear protecting her cubs.

Freelon knows the history of oppressive constructs in America, specifically among the African-American experience, and knows how the same issues of the past plague the world now. He also knows Western's campus is no different than the places battling such issues.

"I think that the recent events on campus have ignited a new conversation around race," Freelon said. "It's crazy, it shows how deeply entrenched racism and white supremacy are structurally. We can't even have a conversation without someone lashing out."

Freelon tells of the West African, more specifically Ghanaian, term, Sankofa, meaning "looking back to move forward."

Through this word, Freelon is able to

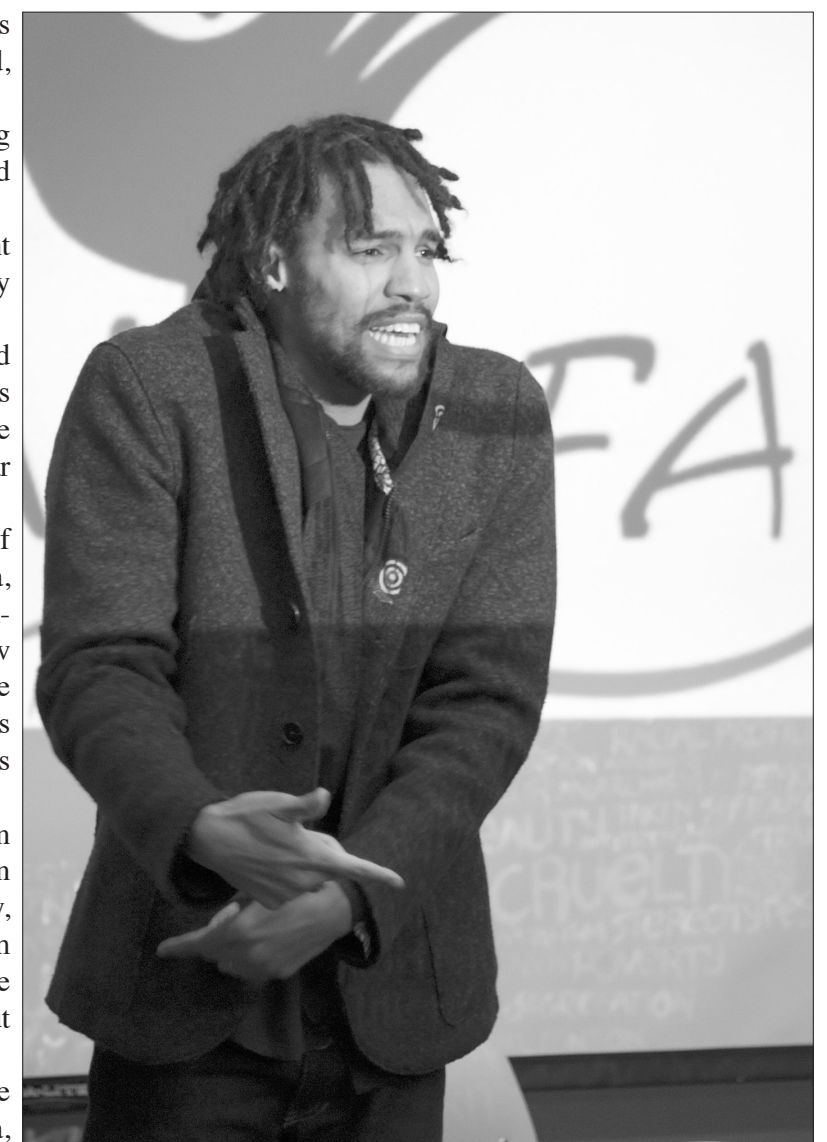
recognize who and what came before him as a means in which to form a plan of action to move forward. This can happen in a global, or local, way that he hopes is done through activism.

"If there were five artists in here that said, 'Okay, I'm going to take my personal experience and interpret it through a poem, or through a song, or through a music video or through an art piece,' then that could potentially be the change that sparks another person to make another person come to a deeper understanding with someone they share a campus with," Freelon said.

He said he simply wants a dialogue about tough issues so events such as the hate speech from fall quarter won't be so commonplace. It all starts with one or two voices.

"So much of systems of oppression are about silencing folks and making folks invisible. So, literally just saying 'I'm here, and this is my experience,' is a political act and it takes a lot of courage," Freelon said.

For more information on Freelon visit [piercefrelon.com](http://piercefrelon.com) and for the Social Issues Resource Center visit <http://as.wvu.edu/socialissues>



Pierce Freelon performs a spoken word piece about systematic oppression on Thursday, Jan. 28. // Photo by Caleb Galbreath

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FRONTLINE

Opinions of the Editorial Board

Rate My Professors fails to make the grade

Humans today are finicky creatures. We want everything to be packaged neatly in its own box, quantified and peer-reviewed. Today we can consult numerous online review sites for nearly anything, from music to restaurants and even professors.

From “top rated teacher at WWU” to “the worst professor I’ve ever been cursed with,” Rate-MyProfessors.com allows students to play judge, jury and executioner when penning their summaries of entire human beings. And the results aren’t always pretty.

The end game for the site is obvious—tell me which professor’s class I can skate through with ease. The ratings range from the entirely arbitrary “easiness” metric to the absurd “hotness” red chili pepper. Along with these, each professor is given an overall quality total of all reviews, and the raters’ average grades.

We can’t exactly blame students for taking to the interwebs to better prepare themselves for a class, and the sheer number of ratings present on the website shows an obvious interest. But the question is: Is Rate My Professors really the best way?

It’s clear students can really let their true

feelings flow on the site, expanding into the issues of academia that truly matter. Such Western gems include: “It’s true that she is blind as a bat, crawls around on tables & howls a lot” or “rude, arrogant, will make your life hell.”

The worry here is that students will take to the site to punish teachers whom they feel personally victimized by, regardless of what the true situation might be.

With opinions flying wildly, professors have little options to defend themselves. Rate My Professors does produce “Professors Read Their Ratings” videos, which are mostly lighthearted segments of faculty reading off funny quips about themselves. These, however, do nothing for the many other teachers on the site.

Another issue at stake is students most likely choose courses based on the relative “easiness” of the teacher, and may very well be cheating themselves out of a hard-earned education. We aren’t here to slide through four years of nap time and grab our diploma on the way out. A little challenge is good for everyone.

Faced with this issue, one solution already exists, and we need only look in-house to implement it — college-administered course evalua-

tions. Currently the end-of-quarter evaluations are whisked away and, if you were listening closely, you’d find that these are available online, if the teacher chooses to publish them.

If these evaluations were released on a quarterly basis and maybe even incorporated into the list of courses offered, then maybe we could inch closer to fair reviews of courses and teachers.

This is the course of action that should be pursued. To quash bad information we must supplant it with good information. The evaluations certainly aren’t perfect, but when compared to the lambasting free-for-all that can occur online, we may as well take the lesser of two evils.

As with anything good in life, moderation and compromise is key. Students assuredly can benefit from learning more about their professors before enrolling, and, in turn, become better consumers of education. But, on the same hand, we very well may be doing ourselves and our teachers a disservice by using bottom of the barrel reviews.

Using what we already have is always the best first step, and making better use of student evaluations only makes sense. Now, if we could only get them to add that “hotness” chili pepper...

The Western Front Editorial Board is composed of Nick Belcaster, Brenna Visser and Jeffrey Giuliani.

Viking Voices

What do you think about implementing gender neutral bathrooms on campus?

Compiled by Jackson Main



“I’m very much pro-gender-neutral bathrooms, as long as there’s equal access for everybody. Morally and ethically I find it a very good thing to do.”

**Ian McDaniel**  
Junior, German and political science major



“I’m in support of that. I think it would be a good thing—a step in the right direction for inclusiveness.”

**Brittney Dover**  
Junior, environmental policy major

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 western-front.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

Front Funnies

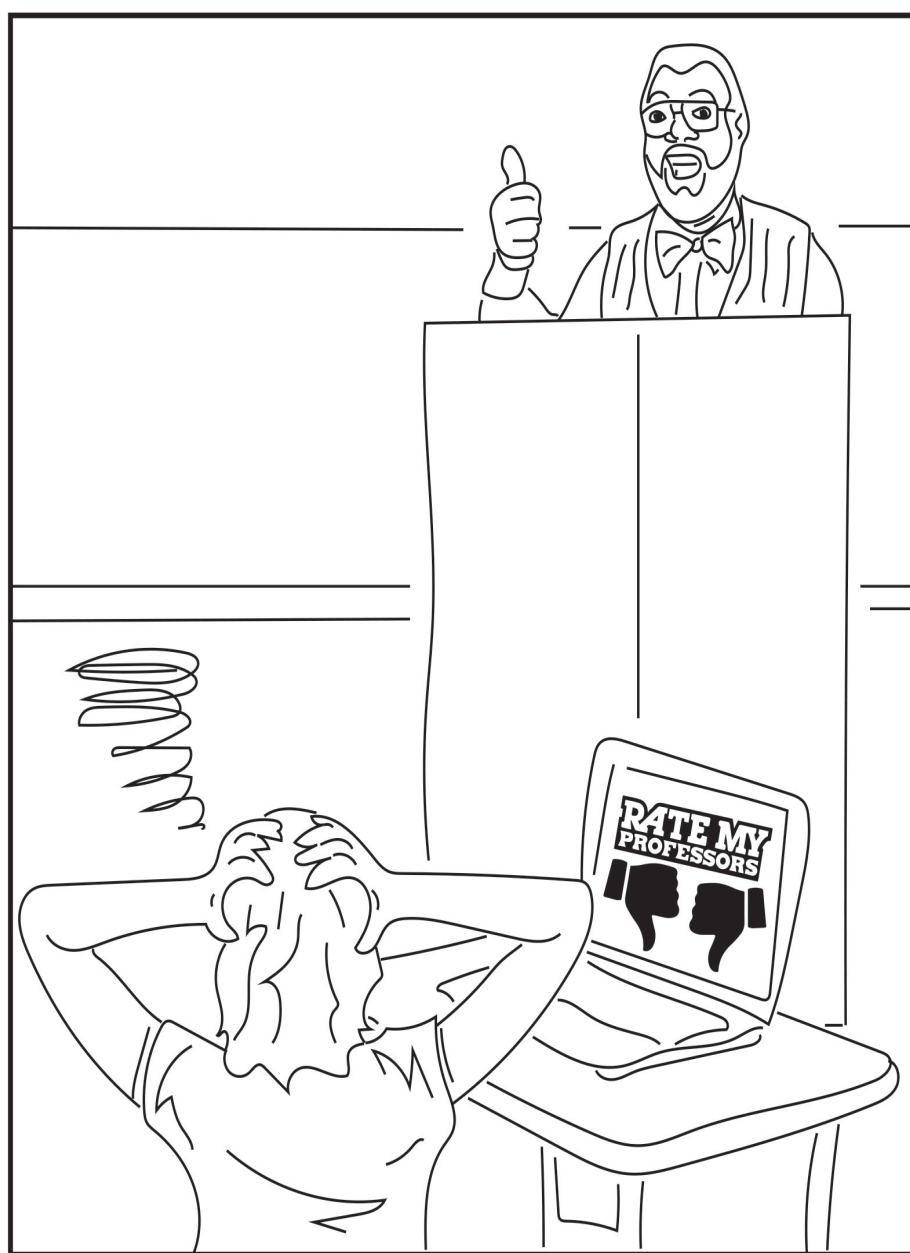


Illustration by Nikki Swift

Men's rugby shellacks Oregon Ducks

Vikings glide to victory in home season opener

**Caleb Albright**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western Washington University Men’s rugby team dominated University of Oregon Ducks, with a first half shutout on Sat. Jan. 30.

The Vikings beat the Ducks 49-7 at their spring

at halftime.

At the start of the second half the Ducks came out strong, driving down the field until Nick Bonovich stole a pass and returned it for a try. With their only flaw as missing a few conversions, the Vikings didn’t make any other mistakes in

was won due to the teamwork and trust the between players.

“It puts us in a great advantage,” Reiner said.

For junior Nicole Peden, this was her first time watching a Vikings’ rugby game and she said she was very impressed.

“I didn’t always know what was going on, but the atmosphere was great and the team played hard,” Peden said.

The Vikings are the defending Northwest Collegiate Rugby Conference champions and are looking to make another championship run this season.

“We are looking forward to a great season, we have a very good group of young players,” Horne said.

The next two games for the Vikings are away at Eastern Washington University on Feb. 2, and at Gonzaga University on Feb. 7. The next home game for the Vikings is on Feb. 20, against Washington State University.



Western’s Britt Parkhill passes the ball to Oliver Daugherty just before being tackled by an Oregon player on Jan. 30, at Robert S. Harrington Field. // Photo by Daisey James

“We are looking forward to a great season. We have a very good group of young players.”

**Paul Horne**  
Rugby Head Coach

season home opener, holding a shut out for the first 62 minutes of the game.

The game’s first few possessions went back and forth making it seem like it would be a defensive game. The Vikings’ first points came eight minutes into the game with a penalty kick score.

After that the tries piled on driving the score up to 27-0

this match.

The Vikings’ head coach Paul Horne was proud of his team and how they played.

“We got off to a good start and our structure seemed to be a lot better than theirs in terms of playing to our pattern,” Horne said.

Joshua Reiner, a member of the Vikings team on injured reserve, said the game

Softball predicted to finish first in conference

Vikings return key starters and look to win GNAC

**Mattie Wilsie**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

The promising season that awaits the Vikings softball team is right around the corner. Their season begins Feb. 5, and goes through to Feb. 7, with five scheduled games in the Desert Stinger Tournament in Las Vegas.

With 18 returning members, the Vikings are this year’s most experienced team in the league. They were recently picked by Great Northwest Athletic Conference coaches to win the conference after five of the eight coaches predicted them to place first.

It’s important for the Vikings to do well in the Desert Stinger Tournament because even though they are not playing teams from their conference, if it comes down to regional rankings, those are the games that will be looked at.

“Our coach always emphasizes winning early. So if in these kinds of tournaments, we’re able to get some [wins] out of them, that’s huge for our rankings,” senior third baseman Emma Blausier said.

“When it comes toward the end of the season, when they start to do regional rankings, these kinds of games start to come into play pretty massively. It’s definitely important to get on top pretty early.”

Blausier has been playing softball since she was 9-years-old, including playing all four years at Western. This will be her last season playing competitively.

“Being able to travel and play some of the best teams in our region is probably my favorite thing. Honestly just being on the road with my team, 22 of my best friends, is pretty fun. This last year is kind of bittersweet,” Blausier said.

For her last season, she is excited to make the most of it. “I definitely just want to have fun and make it the best year yet,” Blausier said.

Due to weather, the team has only been able to practice outside a couple of times. It hasn’t deterred their preparation for the tournament.

“A lot of our practices have been inside, either at the batting cage or the indoor soccer field. I think it’s helped us,”

senior Lexie Levin said. “Once we hit the field and are actually playing, we’re just going to let loose.”

The Vikings concluded their 2015 season with a 30-18 record and are hoping to claim their first GNAC title since 2007.

“We have the talent, we have the trust, we have the friendship, [and] we have the bond,” Levin said. “We have everything that we need to win the tournament and advance to regionals.”

Levin has been playing softball since she was 8-years-old. She hit a .315 batting average with 11 doubles, six home runs, 40 RBI and a .554 slugging percentage. She was also one of two regular starters with a 1,000 fielding percentage.

“We really dominated our season last year [and] we went 30-18 with our record. We made it pretty far in the GNAC tournament; we [were] one game short of moving on,” Blausier said. “I feel like that’s one of the reasons why we got picked because we showed a lot of strong suits last year. We were really tough, offen-

sively and defensively.”

Taylor Clark, also a senior, has been playing since she was 10. She concluded her 2015 season with a batting average of .375, a .708 slugging percentage and .900 fielding percentage.

This upcoming season brings big goals for the team, but one goal stands up above the rest.

“We’re definitely looking to make it out of the GNAC tournament. It is our biggest goal [and] definitely taking it game by game, not trying to dwell on the past or looking too far into the future,” Clark said.

This is a team that has many goals for the season, but it has never been a team that is not inclusive.

“When I came in as a freshman, I never felt on the outside, or I wasn’t a part of something,” Clark said. “Coming into college as a freshman, it’s really intimidating but having people like that around is really awesome.”

The first home game for the Vikings will be against Simon Fraser on Saturday Feb. 27, at noon.

**GNAC PREDICTIONS**

1. Western Washington University
2. Saint Martin’s University
3. Western Oregon University
4. Montana State-Billings University
5. Central Washington University
6. Concordia University
7. Simon Fraser University
8. Northwest Nazarene University

# Lacrosse looks to repeat 2015 success

First-year coach predicts 2016 championship with six new freshmen

Ryan Parish  
THE WESTERN FRONT

President Theodore Roosevelt once said, "Speak softly, and carry a big stick."

The Western men's lacrosse team seems to have taken that to heart.

The Vikings are looking to build on the success of the previous two seasons, which culminated in a Final Four appearance last year in the Men's Collegiate Lacrosse Association Division II National Championship. The Vikings haven't lost a conference game since 2013 and have not lost a Pacific Northwest Collegiate Lacrosse League playoff game in that same span of time.

The team has a fresh look this year, after the team saw four All-American award winners graduate after last season. The team also saw total-points leader Zach Fritz transfer from the school. On top of that, this year there are as many freshmen on the team, six, as there are seniors.

But for the Vikings, that doesn't matter.

"We're going to win a national championship this year. There's a bunch of jewelry coming in," said first-year coach Jacob Goodman, speaking with a quiet confidence that is more driven than cocky. "That's the expectation. We always expect to be the best. Regardless of whether it happens or not we know we can be that as long as we put in the work."

Goodman was one of the All-American players to graduate after last season. With Head Coach Adam Lent unable to be involved as



Viking Joe Finnell runs with the ball during Western's game against Saint Mary's College on Wednesday, April 1, 2015, at the Wade King Student Recreation Center Turf field. // Photo by Jake Tull

much this year while he pursues a career as a firefighter, Goodman and All-American Jordan Johnson have transitioned to take over much of the coaching duties for the team now that their playing days are over.

It's not just the Vikings who expect greatness this season.

The team was recently ranked as the fifth-best team

in the nation in Lacrosse Magazine's Division II pre-season poll. The other team's in their conference respect them as well. Western easily claimed the top spot in the PNCLL Coaches Poll by nabbing 10 of the 12 first place votes.

The Vikings know expectations may be the highest they've ever been. They don't plan to take that for

*"We're going to a national championship this year. There's a bunch of jewelry coming in."*

Jacob Goodman  
Lacrosse Head Coach

granted.

One way Goodman plans to maintain player's focus is with a no-excuses approach.

"We have a policy, 'No hands up.' We don't want to see that," Goodman said, referring to the shrugging hand gesture many use to dismiss a mistake. Goodman said he believes excuses don't address the problems players may face and that he strives for his players to reach perfection. "We expect a certain degree of playing because we know they can get there. We know how good they can be and we just want them to get there."

On the field, a pair of seniors lead the team.

Defender and team President Lucas Marin and midfielder Justin Ross provide experience and dedication for the Vikings.

Marin said he became team president after he "raised [his] hand when nobody else did."

As president Marin has a number of duties including roster verification, maintaining and managing equipment, as well as attending meetings with other club presidents on campus.

Justin Ross said he lets his actions speak to the team.

"[Marin] is more like the

fun-police — making people pay their dues. I don't have to do that so people like me a little more," Ross said, ribbing his teammate, a practice that is common on the team. On a more serious note Ross said he helps the coaches facilitate practices and make sure the freshmen are staying focused.

Both Marin and Ross reflected Goodman's confidence. They said they have a lot of pride in knowing that they are the best team, regardless of division, in the state and the Northwest in general.

"That's one thing I like to tell people who haven't really heard about us," Marin said.

"People are always like, 'How good are you?' Marin said. "I think we're the best team in Washington. They doubt us, 'What about [University of Washington]?' We crush them."

The Vikings' season will kick off with a home game on Saturday, Feb. 6, at 7 p.m. against the Western Oregon University Wolves.

The season will have high expectations for the Vikings, and they feel they're up for the challenge. But however the season turns there is one thing to be sure of.

There will be no "hands up."

# Track & Field squad posts successful weekend

Ben Goldstein  
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Western men's and women's indoor track and field team competed at the University of Washington Indoor Invitational over the weekend. A couple of ath-

letes provided solid performances.

The Vikings competed on Jan. 29, and Jan. 30, at the Dempsey Indoor Center Husky track against schools such as UW, Eastern Washington University, University of Hawaii and Seattle

University.

One of the top performances of the weekend was the Vikings jumpers and throwers. Junior Megan Mortensen set a school record in shot put with a throw of 12.69 meters. On the men's side, junior Brandon

Pless was able to complete a throw of 16.10 meters, giving him the third-best throw in school history.

Senior Travis Milbrandt also stood out over the weekend after finishing third in the 60-meter hurdles with an 8.18 second mark. Sopho-

more Isaac Derline finished 14th in the 5,000 meter race with a time of 14:39.22 minutes, giving him the second fastest time at Western.

The Vikings' next event will be Feb. 5, in Portland at the TrackTown High Performance Meet.

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# Western alumna embraces new role with Bells

Stephanie Morrell, a 2008 graduate, is the new General Manager of the Bellingham Bells

Evan Elliott  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Stephanie Morrell will be using her love for Bellingham and its community, along with skills she learned from her time at Western, to conquer a new role with the Bellingham Bells baseball team.

Morrell, originally from Yakima, Washington, picked Western and Bellingham on a beautiful 75 degree day as a senior in high school. When she looked out at the vast waterfront beyond the Viking Union, she knew she had found her home away from home. She could never have known she would become entranced by Bellingham that day, but she has and she doesn't mind one bit.

"Being a part of this community has been special," Morrell said. "People rally around things here and it's a place that has a small-town feel to it."

Morrell graduated from Western in 2008 hoping to pursue a career in the public relations field. She met her husband at Western, and said they loved the area so much they decided to put down their roots in Whatcom County. She started as an advertising sales consultant at the Bellingham Herald and in her time there, she worked closely with the Bells.

"I fell in love with [the Bells] vision and their community-centered approach to summer baseball," Morrell said. "When they were searching to grow their front office team in 2013, I jumped at the opportunity to be a part of a community-centered organization with a solid mission, a clear vision and a lot of opportunity to grow and thrive."

Morrell will be taking over the general manager role from Nick Caples, who is moving to vice president of operations. Caples said he can see Morrell's adoration of Bellingham shine through her.

"She loves this team and



Stephanie Morrell, General Manager of the Bellingham Bells and Western alumna, sits on the bleachers of Civic Athletic Complex on Saturday, Jan. 23. // Photo by Daniel Liddicoet

has a deep love and deep commitment to this community," Caples said.

Morrell said she feels deeply connected to Western and has

No two days are the same for Morrell and the rest of the Bells' front office, but she does her best to make things fun and fresh for the nearly 1,300 fans

that's part of the fun," Morrell said. "I'm ready and willing to jump in on whatever project needs my attention."

Nate Anderson, a former Bellingham Bells player, raved about Morrell and her ability to use her sense of connection to Bellingham as a way to connect with the fans.

"Stephanie is one of the best people I know. She has really good interactions with everybody," Anderson said. "As far as working for the Bells goes, she makes the fan experience so much better."

Forrest Longanecker is another Western student with first-hand experience seeing what Morrell brings to the table. Longanecker has lived in Bellingham his whole life and said he feels Morrell's hard

work keeps the Bells moving forward.

"She's a hard worker. I worked for her last summer and I don't think I ever saw her sit in one spot for more than a minute or two. She's always moving, always getting stuff done," Longanecker said.

Morrell said she is just focused on doing right by her community and will prove all of the good people have said about her.

"We take a great amount of care in our job," Morrell said. "We want Bells games to be a place you can go with anyone and have a good time no matter what."

For additional information on Bellingham Bells baseball, visit [bellinghambells.com](http://bellinghambells.com).

*"Being a part of this community has been special."*

Stephanie Morrell  
General Manager of the Bellingham Bells

nothing but fond memories of her alma mater.

"Western gives you a diverse, educational experience and a solid foundation for the future," Morrell said. "It made me feel connected. It made me want to stay."

that file into Joe Martin Field on summer nights. Morrell's main job is to oversee a plethora of day-to-day operations including marketing, ticket sales, promotions, community relations and game-day operations. "My day-to-day varies and

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# Vikings defense stifles Concordia offense

Women's basketball holds the Cavaliers to paltry shooting percentages

**Ryan Parish**

THE WESTERN FRONT

Stifling. Smothering. Swarming. Tenacious. Dominant.

These are all words you could use to describe Western's defensive performance against the Concordia University Cavaliers.

The Vikings held the Cavaliers to just 27.3 percent shooting from the field in their 68-43 victory. The 25-point win was the second blowout victory Vikings fans were treated to this week after the Vikings took the Western Oregon University Wolves to the woodshed with at 70-39 victory on Thursday night.

"I think our defense is getting better," head coach Carmen Dolfo said "It's a whole team effort right now. I think we're helping each other out and so it's encouraging to see that improvement."

Junior forward Kiana Gandy led the Vikings in points on the night, shooting an efficient 9-12.

"My teammates did a really good job of finding me," Gandy said.

The transition game played a big part in her effectiveness on the night, with Gandy often finding herself in one-on-one situations on the fast break.

She was trying to run the floor and spread it out so they weren't moving the ball slow and letting them set up in their defense, Gandy said.

"They just did a really good job of outletting me the ball and looking for me whenever they had the chance," Gandy said.

Senior center Kayla Bernsen also had a huge night for the Vikings, garnering her sixth double-double on the season with 17 points and 11 rebounds. Also adding six blocks, Bernsen set the tone early for the Vikings and was a key reason they took a 31-22 lead into halftime.

With junior forward Tia Briggs missing her second straight game due to illness and starting junior forward Rachel Albert finding herself in foul trouble, freshman Nikki Corbett stepped up big for the Vikings, playing 18 minutes on the night. She pitched in six points on 3-4 shooting, gathered six boards and even had a block.

"Nikki did a great job. Her defense has gotten so much better this year," Gandy said. "She's a big body to have in the middle of the key. I think defensively she makes people second guess a lot of times, even if she isn't the one getting the block."

With the win, the Vikings pull to 14-6 over with a 10-2 record in conference play. Their next game will come Thursday, Feb. 4, at Central Washington University.

"Central is a huge rivalry game for us," junior guard Taylor Peacocke said. "We're going to be pumped no matter what, but we definitely will have to keep making steps from here."

The Vikings have not forgotten the loss they suffered at home to Central, and will be looking to return the favor.

"We're definitely coming for revenge on Central," Gandy said. "We're a little mad they messed up our perfect [conference] record. We really want to go in there and battle them. We want to do the things we know we can do and take away the things we know that they do."



Senior Kayla Bernsen leaps for the basketball at the start of the game on Saturday, Jan. 30, at Whatcom Pavilion. // Photo by Ian Koppe

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