

## Science, art collide in WWU Bio classes

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# THE WESTERN FRONT

Volume 175, Issue 4

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TUESDAY, APRIL 19

## Lawyer: WWU DEFIES LABOR LAW

*Unpaid training for campus employment could break federal, state laws, compromising student scheduling, tuition*

**Kjell Redal**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

The unpaid training courses required of students working in advising positions on Western's campus do not appear to be following the Washington state labor laws, said a Seattle-based attorney specializing in wage and

hour law, David Mark. Academic student advisers, resident advisers, orientation student advisers, career services peer advisers, international peer advisers and Research Writing Center tutors are campus positions requiring students to take training courses that do not provide monetary pay.

These employees introduce incoming students, advise current students in their academics and future careers and provide tutoring and writing assistance for those who request it.

Senior Joseph Levy, studying political science and philosophy, works in the Research Writing Studio. As an out-of-state

student, Levy disagrees with the cost of his training course and having to pay for the credits.

"I think I ended up paying more for that job last year than I made," Levy said.

University Director of Communications Paul Cocke said Western's employee and trainee wages are regulated by

the federal Department of Labor's 1993 Field Operations Handbook provision and students are compensated through credits.

As of now, the university doesn't pay their future employees for the time they've spent in the training courses, such as the Student Affairs Administration 340

• See Law, page 4 & 5

### Vikings sail into first place



Junior infielder, Kyle Pegram, completes a double play at the Western vs. Gonzaga University game at Joe Martin Field on Saturday, April 16. Western won the three-game series, securing first place in the conference. // Photo by Alex Powell

## Robberies strike Buchanan Towers

**Kate Galambos**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Two women were robbed at the bus stop outside Buchanan Towers residence hall off of Bill McDonald Parkway around 1 a.m. on April 17, following a similar robbery a week earlier.

The two women, identified as Western students, were ap-

proached by a man while they were checking the bus schedule on one woman's iPhone. The suspect asked when the next bus was scheduled to arrive and grabbed the phone after the woman responded.

The suspect was described as an African American man, 5 feet 11 inches tall with a thin build,

short hair, wearing a gray sweatshirt, dark pants, a gray beanie and a green sweatshirt around his waist, Communications Director Paul Cocke said.

The robbery a week earlier occurred when "a woman was robbed of her phone and other belongings in front of Buchanan Towers," according to the April 10 Western Alert, be-

fore the suspect fled on foot headed east on Bill McDonald Parkway.

University and city police, as well as a K-9 unit, responded to incident and searched the area. The suspect has not been apprehended.

Each Western Alert said to call 911 with any information regarding the suspect.

## Students stand against human trafficking

*Bellingham's position near ports, along I-5 corridor contribute to trafficking in Whatcom County*

**Laura Ann Poehner**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Stand4Freedom, an event put on by Western's chapter of the International Justice Mission, was part of a bigger picture in regards to demonstrating a commitment to fighting human trafficking — specifically labor and sex trafficking in Whatcom County.

When asked about trafficking in Whatcom county, club president and co-founder Natasha Bennett said the majority of those trafficked are minors who are homeless or runaways and the process is intentionally slow in order to dehumanize the victim.

• See rest of story online



Alumnus Jonathan Lytle and junior Natasha Bennett stand with a linked chain during "Stand4Freedom" Wednesday, April 13. // Photo by Connor Jalbert



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## ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

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Tedx returns to campus for its third installment

## SPRING BRINGS A FAMILAR TUNE



Sophomore Krista Turley enjoys the warmest day of the year by sitting on the Stairs to Nowhere, playing her saxophone on Monday, April 18. She played "At Last" by Etta James and "Sir Duke" by Stevie Wonder as students walked to and from their classes. Temperatures reached a record high for April: 85 degrees, according to www.wunderground.com. // Photo by Connor Jalbert

## Cops Box



## EVENTS

**2:00 p.m., April 13**

In the 500 block of Grand Avenue, an out-of-town resident said she saw 15-30 people chained to BSNF trains as they passed through. The woman said she had a history of mental illness but would give no further details. She also refused to say where she came from.

**9:07 p.m., April 13**

Officers responded to a report of an intoxicated woman yelling and banging on doors in the 2700 block of Kulshan Street. She was arrested for unrelated warrants. The suspect later spit in an officer's face which is considered a felony.

**12:07 a.m., April 15**

An intoxicated man in the 4100 block of Meridian Street was reported to have knocked on the door to the wrong hotel room. He responded by yelling profanity when the occupants of the hotel tried to tell him it wasn't his room. The hotel asked that he stay somewhere else.

**3:30 p.m., April 15**

A Bellingham resident in the 1300 block of Railroad Avenue called to report frustration that police were not enforcing indecent exposure laws during the "Naked Bike Ride."

**10:09 a.m., April 16**

The manager of the Rite Aid in the 1400 block of Cornwall Avenue stopped a woman and her child trying to steal clothing on display outside the store. The woman returned the clothes, but an uninvolved man intervened and became angry with the store manager. He followed him into the store and fled when the manager called 911.

**1:25 a.m., April 17**

Two men assaulted a man smoking a cigarette outside in the 700 block of North State Street. The victim was punched in the face and put in a stranglehold. He was robbed of his wallet and cell phone.

Compiled by Laura Ann Poehner

What: Earth Ride with Alternative Transportation  
Where: Tour will meet outside the Viking Union  
When: Thursday, April 22, 12 p.m.- 2 p.m.  
Cost: Free

The Office of Sustainability will guide a bike tour to showcase sustainable projects in Bellingham. The tour will begin outside the Viking Union and will finish outside the Performing Arts Center Plaza.

What: WWU Swing Kids Swing Event  
Where: Viking Union Multipurpose Room  
When: Saturday, April 23, 10:30 a.m. - 11 p.m.  
Cost: \$15 for full event, \$5 for dance only

Swing Kids will be hosting a dancing event with a 1939 World's Fair theme. Lessons in different forms of swing will be offered throughout the day. The day will close with a World's Fair Ball. Live music will be provided by Fascinator.

What: Black Student Union's Black Excellence Conference  
Where: Viking Union  
When: Saturday, April 23, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Cost: \$18

Black identified students are invited to attend the Black Excellence Conference. There are four workshop options offered throughout the day. The Black Excellence Ball will follow the conference and is open to all students. It will begin at 7 p.m.

## The Western Front

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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.

# AS VP candidates seek fresh start

**Anna Edlund**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Associated Students vice presidential candidates called out Western administration and past AS governments on issues of diversity, accountability and transparency during Western's AS VP Forum.

During the debate, held on April 14, candidates vied for the six different VP positions: Academic Affairs, Activities, Business and Operations, Diversity, Governmental Affairs and Student Life. Unlike the 2015 election, which had five AS positions elected unopposed, each VP position is hosting at least two candidates. ASVP of Student Life has the most with four candidates.

The topics of allocation of funding and programs were explored by the candidates running for ASVP of Student Life. Candidate Wayne Rocque discussed the importance of these issues.

"We can't build castles on loose sand," Rocque said. "We need to reinforce the programs that already exist and give them the institutional power to be able to carry out their own tasks. We can't be instituting a lot of far-fetched ideas, because

if we build on those, the institution will collapse."

Junior Adam Oberstadt attended the debate and said the issue that needed to be addressed was inclusion on campus.

"The biggest theme of this year's election is definitely diversity and inclusiveness. It's something that's on the minds of the students as we're changing school administration," Oberstadt said. "It's very interesting, seeing the different thoughts the candidates have on these issues."

Candidates stressed the desire for change during the debate.

Candidate for VP of Student Life Hannah Spencer said it was objectionable that students did not feel safe on campus.

"It's time for staff, faculty and the overall campus to be held accountable for its actions," Spencer said. "It's unacceptable that sexual assault survivors aren't having their voices heard; that bus stops are not well lit for the safety of students or difficult to access for students with disabilities due to cracked or unkept sidewalks. It's unacceptable that students of Edens North went without hot water for a month."

## Candidates for Associated Students vice president positions

### VP for Diversity

Nathaniel Williams II

Aleyda Cervantes

Vickey Matey

### VP for Activities

Anuka Ganbat

Rosa Sanchez

Alex Lavallee

### VP for Business and Operations

Mary Moeller

Bill Martin

### VP for Academic Affairs

Fahren Mansour

Iris Hubbard

Erick Yanzon

### VP for Governmental Affairs

Michael Puentes-Alkiré

Bryce Hammer

### VP for Student Life

Octavia Schultz

Hannah Spencer

Tyler Le

Wayne Rocque

THE WESTERN FRONT

Graphic by Janae Eason

Candidates running for the offices of Diversity, Academic Affairs and Business and Operations were all asked if they would support the building of a new Multicultural Center. All candidates pledged support.

"The Multicultural Center is such an important place for students to come to," Academic Affairs VP Candidate Fahren Mansour said. "Western is such a big and beautiful campus; let's make our Multicultural center a big and beautiful place."

Aleyda Cervantes is an Ethnic Student Center member running for VP of Diversity and highlighted the failures of the current ESC.

"We need to understand that this Multicultural Center will not be here while we are here, but people made it possible for us to be here," she said. "You know that there's no restroom down there; there's no services. The only academic support we had officially retired a few days ago. So, we really don't have

that much support."

A constant theme brought up throughout the debate was the desire for more student input into the AS. Multiple candidates discussed transparency problems with the AS bureaucracy and a lack of access to its meetings.

"These meetings need to be consistent," VP for Academic Affairs candidate Erick Yanzon said. "There needs to be a transparent communication between the Board of Trustees, the Faculty Senate and the Board of Directors about when these meetings are taking place."

Governmental Affairs candidate Bryce Hammer said she would advocate for a student trustee with full voting rights.

"Right now, our student trustee who sits on the Board of Trustees can be in the room for some conversations and can vote on some things," Hammer said. "Anything involving the faculty [the student] has to leave for, which is not fair. If we are paying to be here, we are paying to be represented."

A presidential forum is scheduled for Wednesday, April 20. Voting will begin Monday, April 2, and closes Friday, April 29.

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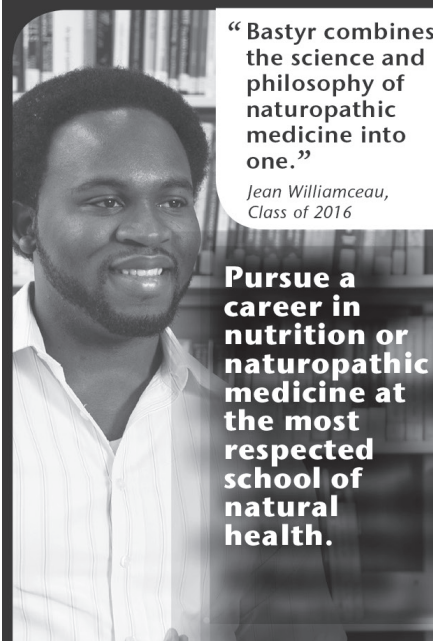


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# Student paid over \$1,000 for required training, Western uses handbook provisions for justification

Continued from page 1

class, the research writing class or the online training sessions. Instead, students pay to take the classes as part of their quarterly tuition, something that potentially breaches conditions in Washington labor laws.

Academic student advisers, orientation student advisers, RAs and career service peer advisers are required to take the SAA 340 class during spring quarter. Students enroll in this course the school year before the start of their job in the fall. International peer advisers must complete unpaid, online training sessions over the summer.

Section 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations states for an employer to require an employee's "attendance at lectures, meetings, training programs and similar activities" without compensation, all of the following conditions must be met:

1. The training must be voluntary
2. The meetings associated with the training must not be related to the employee's current work
3. The training must take place outside of the employee's regular working hours
4. The employee must not perform productive work during said training

Unpaid training courses contradict state labor laws which state training courses must be compensated. Students are required to register for classes that explicitly train them for a job benefitting Western, but are not paid for the time spent preparing.

"It looks really bad and I'm troubled by what's going on," Mark said. "I don't think [these required classes] comply with the law."

Tutoring positions in Western's Research Writing Studio require a three-credit class during the employee's first

The required training course for a writing center tutor position is **5 credits**.

As an out-of-state student, the course cost Joseph Levy **\$2,499.36**

Levy worked **140 hours** at **\$10 an hour**,

making **\$1,400** over the quarter.

To pay the full amount of the class, Levy would've needed to work

**110 more hours** to make up the **\$1,100** difference.



To reach that goal, he would have needed to work **25 hours every week** on top of his full-time student class schedule.

Graphic by Janae Easton

THE WESTERN FRONT

quarter at work and subsequent one-credit classes for the two quarters that follow.

As an out-of-state student, Levy pays \$19,495 a year for tuition.

Taking 39 credits total for the year, Levy paid the university \$2,499.36 in tuition for the five credits worth of classes required as training for his job.

**"They're almost inviting the students to file a complaint [with the Washington State Department of Labor]."**

**Lea Vaughn**

Law professor at University of Washington

Earning the \$10 an hour starting wage for writing center tutors, Levy would need to work just shy of 250 hours to earn back the money he paid the university for his required classes.

Levy said he worked 140 total hours his first year, earning back \$1,400 of the nearly \$2,500 he paid for the writing center classes before taxes.

What all those numbers boil down to is Levy paid Western \$1,100 to work a job that would ostensibly pay him, not the other way around.

"Most jobs in the real world, they pay you for training," Levy said.

He said these required courses negatively altered his class schedule.

"That fall quarter [while taking the required three-credit class,] I couldn't take all the classes I wanted to," Levy said.

Ariel Moreau, an RA at Western studying psychology and sociology, said the class disrupted her school schedule as well.

"I wanted to take a different class and I wasn't able to because it would have put me

over the credit limit," Moreau said. "It put me behind by one class."

In response to questions of the legality of these required classes, Cocke said in an email that an employer's wage and hour obligations are dictated by the federal Department of Labor's 1993 Field Handbook provision 10b24(a), the Fair Labor Standards Act and the Washington Minimum Wage Act.

The handbook provision states "students serving as resident hall assistants or dormitory counselors, who are participants in a bona fide educational program, and who receive remuneration in the form of reduced room or board charges, free use of telephones, tuition credits, and the like, are not employees under the act."

Since RA's fall under reduced room and board, they would not fall under the grievances, according to the act. "Western concludes that when the content of the academic course enhances job performance in campus leadership roles, the students' course participation is excluded from the definition of employment services under

FLSA, and Western is not required to make any payment to these students as 'employees' for course participation time for which they are receiving academic credit," Cocke said in an email.

In essence, Western considers students working in advising positions while taking the training course to be trainees rather than employees, which doesn't require the university to pay student workers.

However, according to the U.S. Department of Labor, trainees are not considered employees if "they are not necessarily entitled to a job at the conclusion of the training period." The students serving in the advising roles were hired before they registered for the SAA 340 class, entitling them to a job at the end of the training period and classifying students as employees under the Department of Labor law.

"They tell you at the end of the interview that you have to take this four-credit class," said Riley Jessett, who works both in the Research Writing Studio and as an academic student adviser.

Lea Vaughn, a law professor at University of Washington

specializing in labor and employment law, sees the university's legal recourse as unsatisfactory. Vaughn believes the handbook provision is outdated.

Vaughn said there has been a rise in the number of cases brought by students regarding their eligibility for pay or overtime between 1993 and 2016.

"I don't know that a court would pay attention to a 1993 handbook in light of all the other things that have happened," Vaughn said.

As a legal scholar, Vaughn thinks these required classes merit further inquiry and Western is in a precarious position.

Other universities in Washington use similar methods to Western when training future employees. The University of Washington requires future RA's to attend an unpaid, three-credit training course. Washington State University requires RA's to complete an unpaid, two-credit training course.

"The university could be open for, if not liability, at least litigation costs, which in this day and age is something most universities prefer to avoid," Vaughn said. "They're almost inviting the students to file a complaint [with the Washington State Department of Labor]."

The SAA 340 class is a conglomeration of different

class sections. Each class is tailored to the specific job students have applied for and the classes have their own course registration numbers, based on information from Western's classfinder website.

A description of the academic student adviser training on Western's website read in April 2015 that

ing section goes over materials pertaining to class credits and academic planning, while other sections don't.

As a 300-level course, the SAA class provides upper-division academic requirements, yet student employees say the class doesn't fulfill any of their academic requirements.

these credits only fulfill elective requirements, said Leah Keeghan, a Western academic adviser.

However, these classes could also help students fulfill the 60 upper division credits required to graduate from Western, so long as they haven't already completed the requirement with coursework

they say that. It doesn't make any sense to me. You can't pay someone in credits and it's also not helpful for me to have blank credits."

Ethically speaking, Cocke said the required classes are fair because they benefit students academically.

This is true for some students like Margaret Lewellen.

Lewellen works as an international student adviser, while she majors in sociology and minors in teaching English to speakers of other languages.

Lewellen had to complete the unpaid, online training course for her position, but saw it as beneficial to her personal ambitions, as well as her university job.

"It helped me for my career and in learning leadership skills and communication skills," Lewellen said.

Other student employees see their unpaid classes in a different light. Levy is looking at going into law school and doesn't think his required Research Writing Studio classes will help him in that pursuit.

"Learning how to work with writers is helpful but I can't imagine that as a lawyer it would be that helpful considering I'll be the one doing most of the writing for my clients," Levy said. "I don't think it's directly applicable to my career goals but it's helpful for the [writing center] job."

## Washington state employee standards

*If all six of the following criteria are met, the trainees are not considered employees:*

1. The training, even though it includes actual operation of the facilities of the employer, is similar to that which would be given in an educational environment or vocational school.
2. The training is for the benefit of the trainee.
3. The trainees do not displace regular employees, but work under their close supervision.
4. The business that provides the training derives no immediate advantage from the activities of the trainees, and may in fact be impeded.
5. The trainees are not necessarily entitled to a job at the conclusion of the training period.
6. The trainees understand they are not entitled to wages for the time spent in the training.

Collected from Washington State Department of Labor and Industries

THE WESTERN FRONT

Graphic by Janae Easton

"material presented in the course is specific to the job skills and duties required as a student adviser and helps form a strong, cohesive team dynamic."

These skills and duties differ for each section of the SAA 340 class. For example, the academic student adviser

The Student Affairs Administration, the department the class is listed under, used to be a part of the Woodring College of Education but is now its own entity.

This split, along with the fact there are no majors or minors offered in Student Affairs Administration, means

in their majors or minors.

Jessett works in both the Research Writing Studio and as an academic student adviser. He takes particular issue with the credit-exchange idea.

"They'll tell you they're paying the student in credits," Jessett said. "I've never been able to understand why

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# MICROART: LIFE MAGNIFIED

Biology students take advantage of new microscopes, taking photos to combine science and art.

**Brendan Herron**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

The lab is dark, with the exception of the glowing light of a computer screen. From a distance, the figure on the monitor doesn't seem like anything special, but upon a closer look, there are breathtaking works of art. These are not the creation of an artist, but images of cells photographed using brand new microscopes newly accessible to Western students.

Biology professor David Leaf teaches his students to use the most state-of-the-art microscopes on Western's campus as part of a cell biology laboratory course. His goal is to simulate the real-world setting many of his students may find themselves in in the future. Typically, these microscopes are used in postgraduate research labs; it is rare for undergraduate students to have access to them.

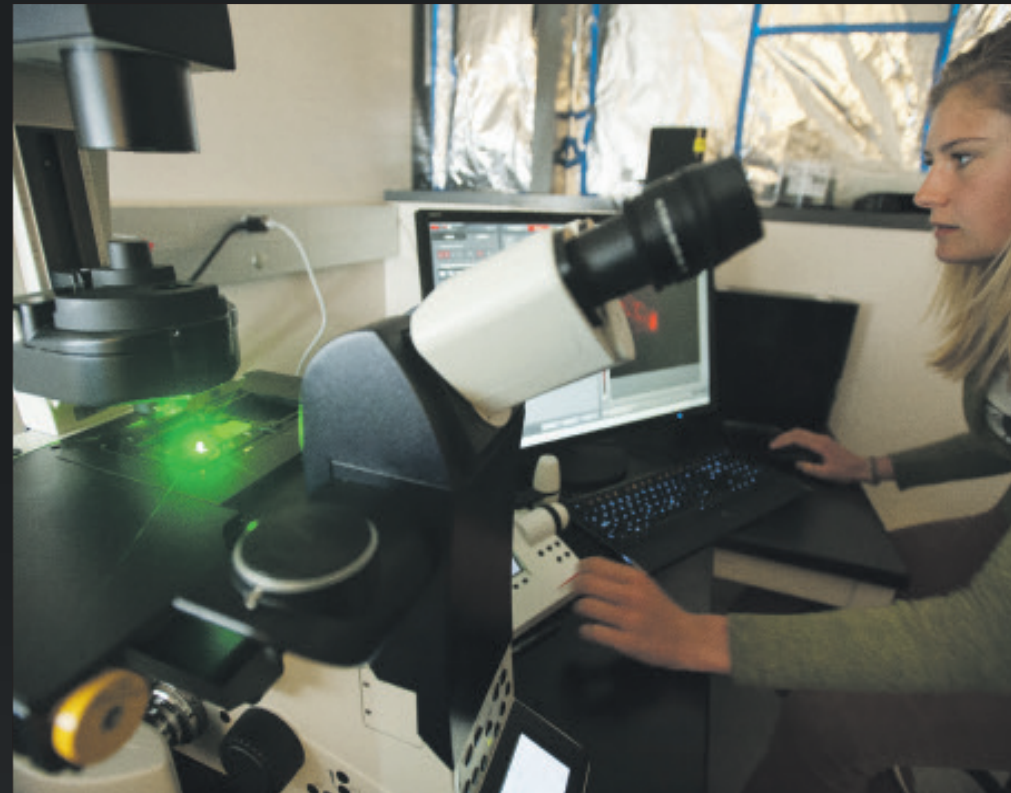
Leaf said the microscopes allow his students to research cells more efficiently.

Because the microscope is automated, students can push buttons and the filters will be put into place, whereas in a manual microscope, there's a learning curve to actually be able to put all the pieces together. "It makes it a lot more accessible for students," Leaf said.

The microscopes operate with a complex microperfusion system, meaning an extended lifespan for the cell cultures students examine in the lab. In the past, the department's equipment only allowed them to observe living cells for about an hour, but the new system keeps the cells alive for days on end, Leaf said.

"When they're looking at the slides that they made, they have a particular sense of ownership of that which is pretty remarkable," he said.

Students spend roughly half of the course making and examining slides, while the other half of the course requires them to monitor the growth culture of the cells. They must be particularly meticulous in how they handle the slides or they risk contaminating them with bacteria.



Cellular and molecular biology senior Laurel Sugden demonstrates how to use the Leica microscope in a microbiology lab on Thursday, April 14. // Photo by Ian Koppe

"You have to make the conditions in which they're working as realistic as possible," Leaf said.

tissue, you can't make it so the experience is something that wouldn't be reflected by what happens in the real world."

*"When they're looking at the slides that they made, they have a particular sense of ownership of that which is pretty remarkable."*

**David Leaf**  
Biology Professor

"If a student is competent to use a microscope and they're competent in staining cells and

Senior Laurel Sugden studies cellular and molecular biology and said the course may give her an upper hand when applying to graduate schools where the same sort of microscopes are often used.

Senior cellular and molecular biology major Alison Schiele appreciated how interactive the course was. She said it has allowed her to now read primary literature and understand how researchers went about getting images.

Two years ago, microscope manufacturer Leica offered the microscopes to Western's biology department at a significant discount. Western was able to purchase the microscope for roughly half the cost of its normal retail price of approximately \$113,000.

At the time, the program could not afford Leica's asking price by thousands of dollars. The biology department developed a GoFundMe page that helped bridge the financial gap, raising over \$30,000 within their one month window.

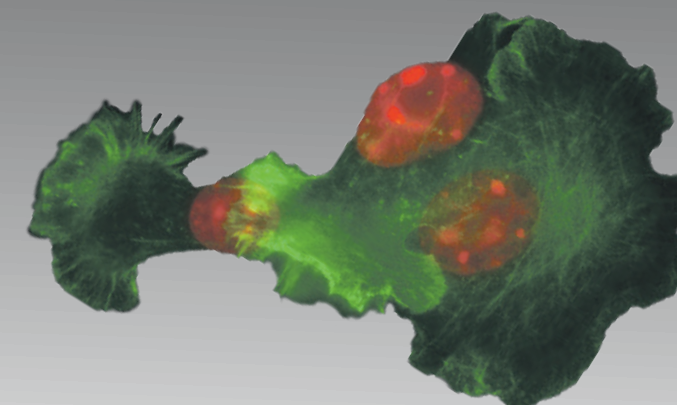
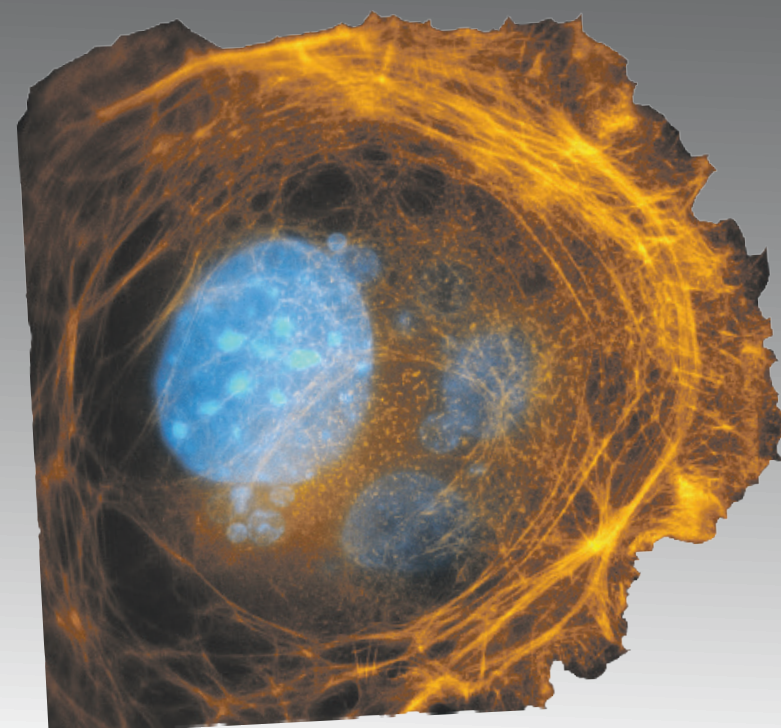
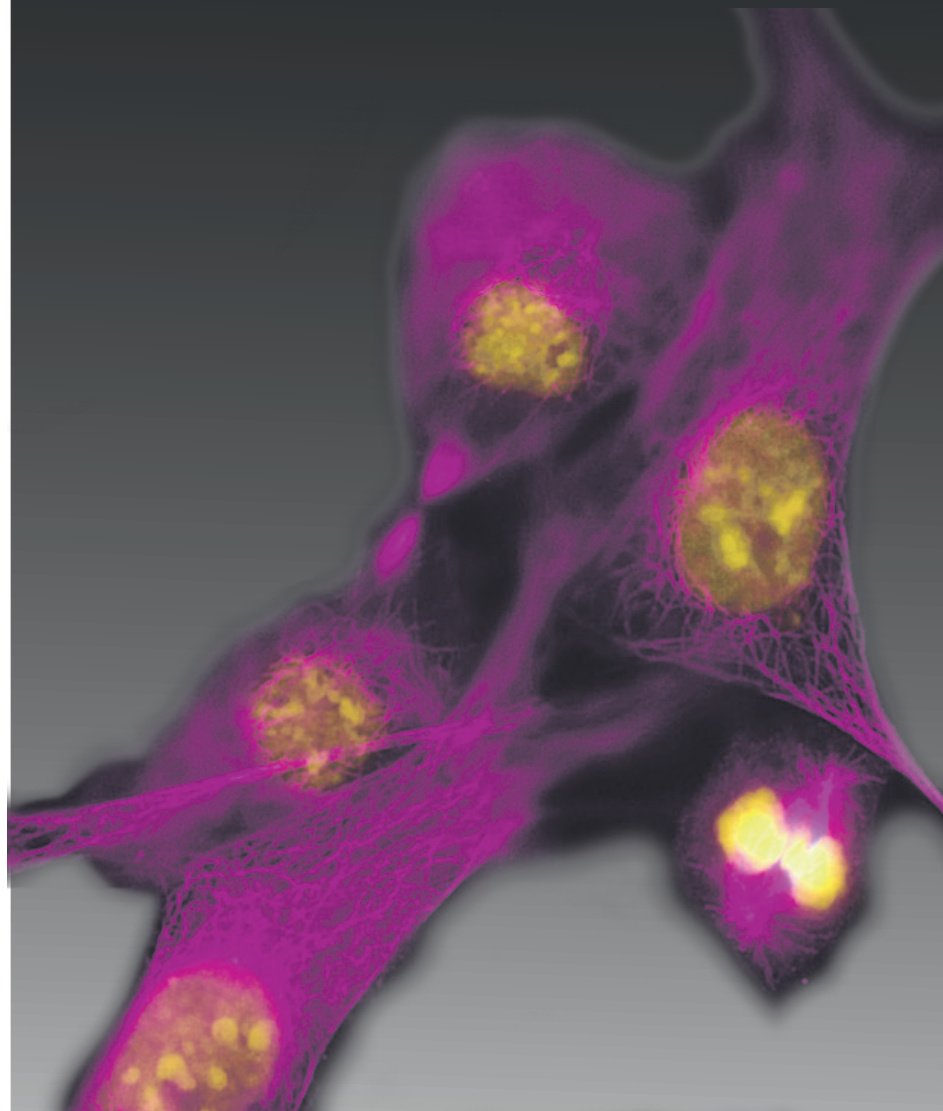
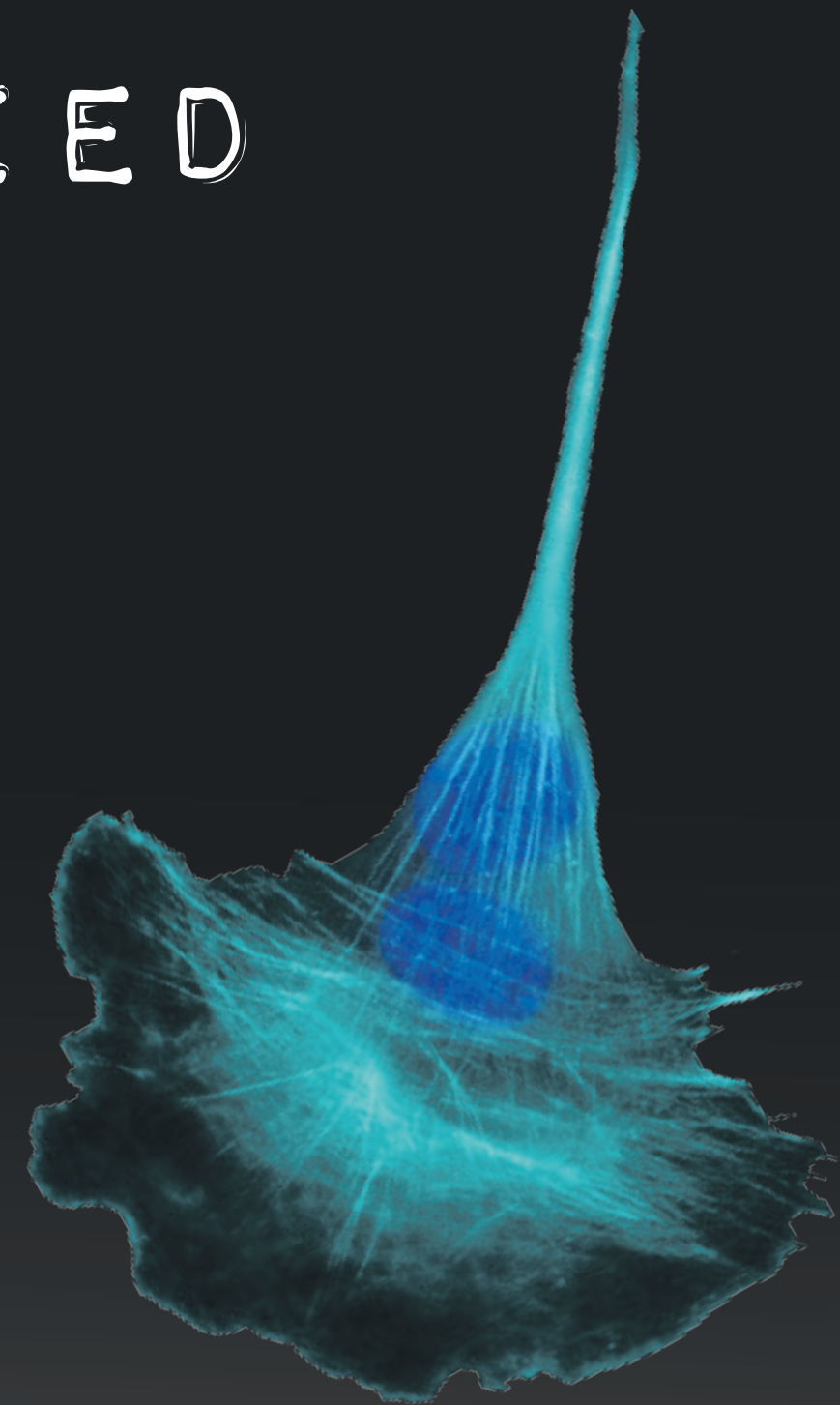
Sugden and Schiele believe both professors' enthusiasm for the course was integral in making it so engaging for them as students.

"It was cool to have two people who were so knowledgeable and have been doing this their whole lives," Sugden said.

In addition to providing students with unique opportunities to observe and study cells, Leaf also believes the work required by the students to cultivate the cell cultures makes their projects more personal.

With the state-of-the-art microscopes, Leaf wants to foster abilities in his students at the college level he has been working on his whole life.

"We are expecting that students who takes this course would be able to go to any research lab and sit down with a microscope they haven't really seen before," Leaf said. "They would be able to figure out how it worked and be able to immediately start getting good images."



The microscope controls are completely electronic allowing students more precision. // Photo by Ian Koppe

# ACTS OF KINDNESS

Student leaders invite others to break down barriers and build connections for this year's Kindness Campaign

Stephanie Davey  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Red Square will soon be a demolition site. Not to break down structures, but to initiate forgiveness. Western's campus is invited to write down personal resentments and destroy them by scribbling, stomping, cutting and shredding the paper.

The event is part of the Kindness Campaign, a series of events hosted by Western's service leaders and will take place from Monday, April 25 through Friday, April 29. The service leaders who will be running the booths are a group of students selected by the Center for Service Learning based on their leadership skills and community service.

"We are setting up this booth to destroy your own grudges, whatever is holding you back, whatever you need to forgive," sophomore and service leader mentor Jake Castrejon said.

Each day will come with its own set of activities, each booth being set up in Red Square. This is the second year the group will dedicate a week to kindness on campus, Castrejon said.

As for physical representations of kindness on campus, small notes of inspiration, or "kindness cubes," will be spread around Western once again in this year's campaign, Castrejon said.

"I think it was fall quarter this year: I saw one of those cubes pop up somewhere, and I was like, 'See! These are still being spread around.'" Castrejon said. "Seeing the impact of what this event can really do, and keeping it going, is what I'm looking forward to."

*"Spreading kindness to the hearts of others and having it spread on yourself is really important."*

Jake Castrejon, Service Leader Mentor

and teaches students how to lead through servant leadership in community service. "That's a big reason we're part of the Center for Service Learning," Castrejon said.

The service leaders will be paired with different clubs each day who will help with the campaign, Castrejon said. Participating clubs have not yet been chosen, he said.

Each day of the week will have a different theme. On Monday, self-love will be the topic, followed by encouragement on Tuesday, forgiveness on Wednesday, appreciation on Thursday and overall kindness on Friday.

To relay the message of kindness, service leaders and participants plan on making sock monkeys as gifts for the foster children of Bellingham, he said.

Freshmen Amanda Mills and Miranda Cornelius are service leaders participating in appreciation day on Thursday, April 28, by helping people fill out thank you notes. Anyone can stop by to write a letter for others on campus, Mills said. The group will also write appreciation notes to resident advisers and janitorial staff, she said.

Mills and other service leaders were asked to join the program because of work they did in high school. Mills helped clean her school's campus, participated in canned food drives and painted props for school plays.

The service leaders program works through the Center for Service Learning



Jake Castrejon works with fellow students during last year's Kindness Campaign. // Courtesy of Jake Castrejon

Cornelius is in the program because helping others is something she is passionate about. Service leaders like herself can often be found doing community service off campus, she said.

"We helped recently at the [multiple sclerosis] walk, which was really inspiring," Cornelius said. "It was like Relay for Life but for MS, and you just walked to support."

There's one misconception Cornelius does not want people to take from the event.

"I hope that people understand not to mistake kindness for weakness," she said. "I just think it's a big misconception that kindness is weakness."

Recognizing and appreciating the work of others is another lesson Castrejon wants people to remember after the kindness campaign is over, he said.

"It's important, especially as the year goes on and you're ready for summer break, just to keep in mind that yes, class is stressful, but the little things around you is what gets you through it," Castrejon said. "Spreading kindness to the hearts of others and having it spread on yourself is really important."

Mills hopes people think more about showing appreciation for others year-round, not only during the campaign, she said.

"Stop on by if there are tables set up, come say 'hi' and see what's happening," Cornelius said. "Don't be afraid because we're just being kind."

## FRONTLINE

Opinions of the Editorial Board

### We are all adults

The term "task force" is intimidating. Images of people armed and ready for battle and thoughts of extreme action are some of the first that come to mind.

The definition of the term, of course, is more encompassing. Merriam-Webster defines it as "a temporary grouping under one leader for the purpose of accomplishing a definite objective." While Dictionary.com determines it as "a group or committee, usually of experts or specialists, formed for analyzing, investigating or solving a specific problem."

Task forces differ from committees, as they typically do not require charters, or organizational by-laws, but instead are formed on the basis by which they are needed. They are often the result of an event or unexpected occurrence that requires responsiveness or solution-oriented assignments.

President Bruce Shepard has joined academic leaders nationwide in the formation of such a group to be focused on managing the diversity of their campus. It is titled the "President's Task Force on Equity, Inclusion and Diversity" and includes 33 Western staff members, each specializing in areas related to what we will call human services.

Members of the President's Task Force are responsible for commanding a ship of conceptualization, understanding and articulating on the rough waters of a sea called racial climate. In their hands will be the job of observing and tracking how well

the university is performing and how effectively commitments of inclusion are being met.

They have embarked on a mission that includes offering proper venues for students to express concern, having an emergency response team for threats and providing a full-time victim advocate for those who experience discrimination.

"As the stewards of a proudly public university, we at Western must recognize the history and culture we are embedded in and embrace our responsibility to increase access for those who have been historically and structurally excluded from our society's opportunities, resources and rewards," they write in their charge.

But how does all of this play out in the everyday lives of those in our campus community? Might we benefit from a taskforce composed of students as well as university staff? Surely there is concern for both those who attend and those who are employed by, or both, our campus. Might students provide a unique, not to mention vital, perspective when decisions are being made that relate to their lives?

The answer to this question does not require a new charge or thousands of dollars in funding for additional staffing and tiring accommodations. Instead, it requires unity; the dissolving of constructed hierarchy and, most importantly, clear communication where all voices are heard and taken into equal consideration.

Students and faculty need to remind them-

selves that we are all adults here, equally capable of making impactful decisions and solving complex problems. An intimidating task force may only complicate already complicated matters. More rules and regulations may not always prove to be the best solution. Could this be nothing more than an unapproachable perception, created as an invisible eye in the sky? This could be nothing other than a way for the university to create the idea that someone is protecting the members of our community, when months from now the taskforce will be forgotten with little improvements to be shown for it.

We do not need any more committees or taskforces, assemblies or boards. What we need is for the members — all members — of our campus to become involved in the issues that we face today. Each individual needs to be held responsible for maintaining the well being of the now and working towards promoting a better life for the future.

There are thousands of students on campus who spend lengthy amounts of time studying innovative approaches to solving inequality of marginalized peoples. Our perspectives are equally — if not more — important than the few faculty responsible for making decisions about the well-being of our academic environment.

The Western Front Editorial Board is composed of Halee Hastad, Kara Spencer and Elizabeth Kayser.

## Viking Voices

Compiled by Adrianna Crookshank

What does campus racism look or sound like to you?



"The racial climate is particularly tense because it has been brought to the forefront. It has been tense for students of color. We face hostility, racism and microaggressions on a daily basis, if not an hourly basis."

**Wayne Rocque**  
Senior, sociology and political science



"It's in the campus papers and occasionally on the news, but I haven't directly encountered it."

**Keanna Hammons**  
Freshman, community health



"Cliques of people who are the same, culturally and ethnically, hanging out together and excluding others, or people being rude toward a certain culture."

**Shearyna Labasan**  
Freshman, undecided



"Excluding minorities and not being conscious of what we are saying when we are saying it. We should be careful when we're on social media, especially because it's so easy to say anything when you're anonymous."

**Rachel Sullivan**  
Junior, sociology

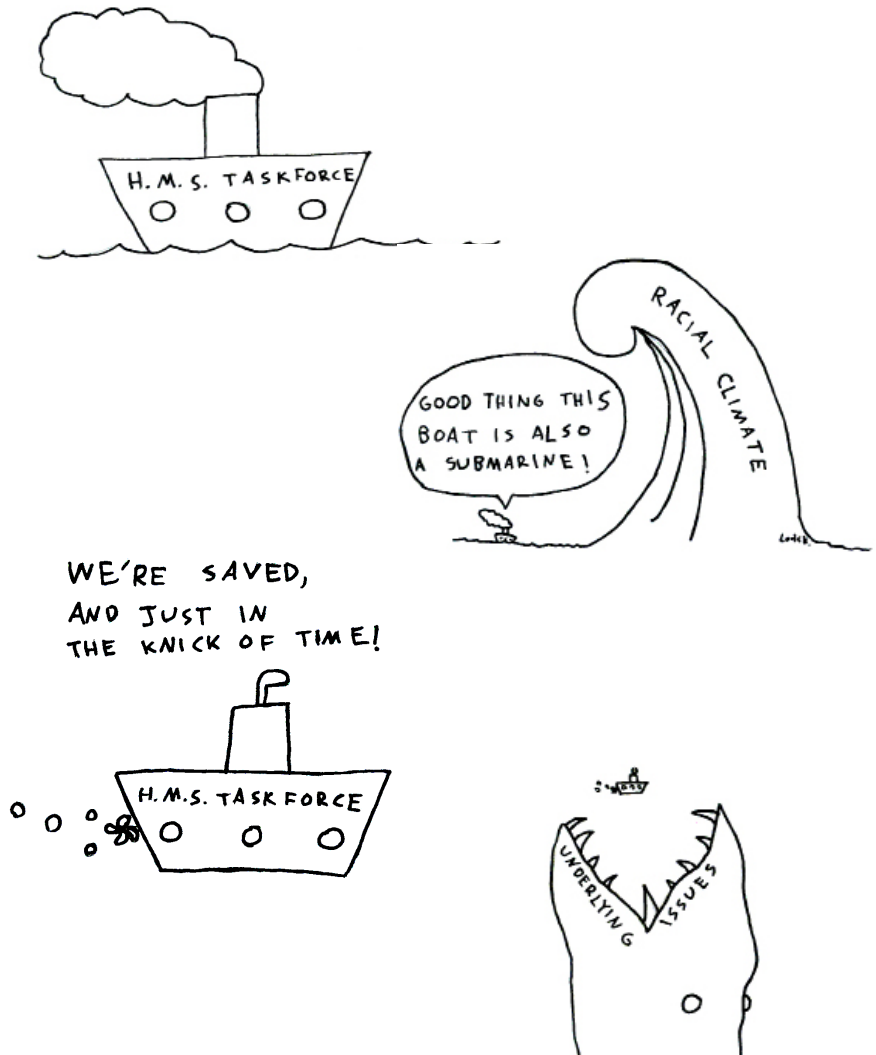


Illustration by Louis Huster

### 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

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# From the sidelines



**Edward Clem**  
Reporter

I was blown away by the way Kobe played in his last game; he was a man possessed. I never liked him, but I have to respect him.

Dae-Ho Lee. His walk-off homer last week snapped the M's five-game losing streak. His personality is quickly making him a fan favorite during a rough start to this young season.



**Layne Carter**  
Features Editor

I think it's cool for basketball fans across the world to see Kobe go out with such a big finish, but I have a hard time looking past the dude's previous legal issues.

It starts at the top. I think general manager Jerry Dipoto is the man. He's aggressive and gonna take some risks this season that could really pay off.



**Evan Elliott**  
News Editor

It was incredible. I've gained a lot of respect for his mental toughness and overall approach to being a competitor in the twilight of his career. It was an honor to watch Kobe do Kobe one last time.

Leonys Martin and Chris Iannetta. Martin's defense in centerfield is something Mariner fans haven't seen since Mike Cameron in 2001. Iannetta is a stout veteran presence behind the plate — plus he's swinging the bat well.



**Kenneth Clarkson**  
Copy Editor

I wasn't surprised. The man shot the ball 50 times. Kudos. There is a more shocking stat for me. The rest of the Laker team shot the ball a total of 35 times. 35. Now folks, this is what we call team basketball.

Well, it's definitely not Adam Lind. I would say the most exciting addition to the team this year is Leonys Martin. My reasoning? The M's traded away Tom Wilhelmson for him. Stellar move.

**Kobe Bryant had a crazy finish to an illustrious career. What was your immediate reaction following his 60 point game?**

**The season is still young for these new-look Mariners. That said, who has been your favorite addition to the organization thus far?**

## Men's basketball signs new assistant coach

**Andy Hislop**  
**Ryan Parish**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

With the hiring of new assistant coach David Dunham on Monday, April 11, Viking's men's basketball head coach, Tony Dominguez, will not only be adding experience to his staff, but also a friend.

Dunham said he can't remember exactly when the two met, but their relationship started when the two used to play against each other in tournaments and pickup games around Bellingham and Lynden. The two would often discuss basketball, and a bond was formed.

Dominguez is excited about the new addition to his coaching staff.

"He embodies everything you want in a coach, especially in an assistant coach. I believe we will work really well together and really enhance our program," Dominguez said.

Dunham played collegiately at Lewis-Clark State in Lewiston, Idaho for one season in 1993-94 prior to

going overseas to play in China, Romania and El Salvador. Once his playing days were over, Dunham began his coaching career.

After spending 10 years as an assistant coach, including a volunteer stint with Western during the 2013-14 season, Dunham was head coach at Whatcom Community College for the past three years. While there, he led WCC to a 48-37 record. In his first year as head coach in 2013-14, he was named the Northern Region Coach of the Year.

Dunham also led the Orcas to a pair of Northwest Athletic Conference playoff appearances, including playing in the conference championship game last season but falling to Spokane 91-84.

Despite this success, Dunham was left wanting more.

"My time at Whatcom was an awesome and amazing experience, but I think in life you get to the point where you are ready for a new challenge," Dunham said about his choice to leave the Orcas. "I was ready

to take a shot at the next level."

In addition to the rise in competition, Dunham says the opportunity to coach with his friend influenced his move.

"We've always talked about working together at some point," Dunham said. "We talked about how good it would be if we were able to — [and] the curiosity of how we would work together."

Dunham sees a lot of similarities between himself and Dominguez. He says both coaches not only share similar ideas about the game of basketball, but also believe in the importance of providing mentorship off the court for the young men they coach.

"That was one of the main I things I really enjoyed at Whatcom and one of the things I really look forward to at Western," Dunham said.

On the court, Dunham likes players who play can play instinctively.

"I like smart, high-IQ basketball," Dunham said. "[I like] guys that have the ability to make quick, smart decisions."

After finishing sixth in the Great

Northwest Athletic Conference, the Vikings will hope to rebound next year.



**David Dunham is the latest addition to coach Tony Dominguez's staff. // Photo courtesy David Dunham**

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# Rowed Warriors

For the Viking's men's crew team, teammate cohesion is just as important as physical fitness

**Harrison Amelang**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

When most students are sound asleep in the early hours of the morning, Lake Whatcom's stillness is broken by the sound of the Western men's crew team. Despite the cold, wind and rain, the rowers' focus is on forming a deeper connection with each other, the boat, and speeding to victory.

Rowers must have finesse, strength and incredible endurance, all while remaining in perfect sync with those they share the boat with. The level of unity that rowers must reach transcends the burning of muscles and the temporal pain, but is an extremely important focus point for the team.

"If you look at the blood composition of a rower after he's rowed a 2k, it has roughly seven times the lactic acid than that of someone who's just ran a marathon," assistant coach Carl Smith said.

In order to prepare themselves to overcome that pain in a race, the training schedule is long and arduous, starting with building muscle mass and then tapering off throughout the year.

As important as it is to be in top shape, rowing can be just as taxing mentally for athletes.

"At the same time you're building up the endurance and strength, you have to also build up the mental factor," Smith said. "It's important for guys to know what it's like to be at that physical limit and take it one more stroke."

The men's crew team doesn't have an offseason during the school year. Training and regattas, which are a series of boat races, are separated into two seasons, fall and spring, which surround winter training.

"We wake up at around 4 a.m.



**Men's crew rows on Lake Whatcom on Saturday, April 16. // Photo by Harrison Amelang**

every morning, and if it's nice out, we get out on the water," senior coxswain Genevieve Carrillo said. "If it's bad out, we run Alabama Hill, or work out under the Ridgeway Commons."

Fall season, which begins in early September and finishes around the second week of November, is seen more as an introduction for new novices, which are first year rowers on the team, and a way for veterans to get back into the swing of the oar. Once the spring season begins around the beginning of January, the team is practicing six or seven times a week.

While strength training and technical analysis are necessary for a boat to be successful, unit cohesion takes a commanding role.

"Beyond being able to physically sustain training together in a boat — emotionally the guys have to be able to get along," Carrillo said. "The better the boat gets along, the better it will row."

Achieving that level of cohesion takes time, but the team has reached a unique level of familyhood. Boat seats are decided on training and fitness scores, but also on dedication and relationships with the other rowers in the boat. Coxswains, who steer the boat and instruct from the front or back of the boat, must know what will make each rower achieve the highest and most powerful stroke rate.

"I have to be both a yoga instructor and a drill sergeant," Carrillo said. "You want to make sure they're calm, but you also want to light that fire right under them."

Once racing season has arrived, the team competes in seat racing in order to land a spot in either an eight or four-person boat. The most common races are done by the eight-seaters, often referred to as the varsity eight, or V8. While V8 competitions are prestigious, the team alters its focus between the V8s and V4s, depending on the season

and how the team feels, Smith said.

The hard work and dedication has paid off. The men's crew team have taken home multiple medals and awards, including sweeping the entire competition at the Cascade Cup Regatta in April 2015. Over the years, the team has been successful competing in the Northwest Collegiate Rowing Conference, Western Intercollegiate Rowing Association and American Collegiate Rowing Association.

The team has high hopes for the upcoming spring events and continues to dedicate themselves to their strength and skill, but also to each other.

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# All fired up: Men's Lacrosse shooting for playoffs

*With every game a must-win, the Vikings and coach Jacob Goodman are playing with attitude*



**Senior attackman Alexander Rabin scores on the Central Washington University goalie during the Western vs. CWU game at Harrington Field on Saturday, April 16. // Photo by Ian Koppe // Photo by Ian Koppe**

**Alex Halverson**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Consistent field control and overcoming mistakes were the driving forces behind an emotional 12-7 victory for Western's men's lacrosse over rival Central Washington University on April 16.

The Vikings displayed some much needed fight in a must-win game, with even head coach Jacob Goodman being drawn into the action.

Following a fourth period scoring streak by Western, Goodman was

ejected from the game with just under two minutes left after an altercation with the referee regarding what he felt was a blown head-spearing call.

"[The Central player] lowered his shoulder but he did not lead with his head," referee Sean Upchurch said. Upchurch was the referee officiating the area of the field where the incident occurred.

"It's not about winning or losing. Clearly we weren't about to lose, we were up by five with a minute or two to go," Goodman said. "It's about keeping them safe."

Though it occurred late in the game, it was not the first altercation between a coach and official. Central's head coach received a warning from a referee after arguing over an unsportsmanlike conduct occurring when a Central player gloated after checking a Western player.

"[The referees] just don't respect our coaches," Goodman said. "The one time I try to get a word in for the safety of my players I get flagged, so I'm perfectly fine with getting ejected."

The win maintains Western's second place standing in the Pacific Northwest Collegiate Lacrosse League North Division behind Gonzaga University, bringing the Vikings' season record to 5-5.

Prior to the game, Western had toiled through a string of frustrating losses early in the season. After losing four straight in the middle of the season, the Vikings put together a dominating victory against Pacific Lutheran University. With two conference games left on its schedule, and only one game separating Western and last place University of Great Falls, every game is a must-win game for the Vikings. The Vikings will face UGF in its regular season finale Monday, April 25.

Western came out firing in its game against Central, scoring twice in the first two minutes. Goodman said his players were focused for the rivalry game.

"They came out here knowing that we have something to prove," Goodman said.

The Vikings pulled themselves out of a mistake-filled third period with the game tied 6-6.

*"We've had some tough losses, so remembering how hard those were really makes us want to win now."*

**Tate Brumsickle**  
Junior attacker

While they finished strong, the Vikings slumped during the middle of the game, giving points to the Wildcats through dropped balls and open shots. The Vikings were saved from their own errors by ball control, assistant coach Jordan Johnson said.

"You have to control the momentum," Johnson said. "When you can do that in the long stretch, you usually come out with the W."

Junior attacker Tate Brumsickle helped lead the offense with three goals.

"I'm constantly putting in work," Brumsickle said. "The first half of the season is just kind of working up to the last half. We've had some tough losses, so remembering how hard those were really makes us want to win now."

With playoff contention and a shot at nationals looming, Goodman feels confident in the mindset of his players in the latter half of the season.

"Things seem really slow at the beginning but as it's getting on people realize that the season's almost over so we're stepping it up." Goodman said.

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