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THE WESTERN FRONT

Volume 175, Issue 6

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TUESDAY, MAY 3

University Police show interest in body cam use

Sara Helms
THE WESTERN FRONT

In an era of growing distrust for law enforcement, police departments nationwide — including the Bellingham Police Department — are taking steps to increase transparency, accountability and legitimacy to

the community by requiring officers to wear body cameras.

Western's University Police Sgt. Bianca Smith said adding these cameras to the school's department is inevitable.

"I do see cameras in our future," Smith said. "I can't say when, but this is the trend of law

enforcement. This is the expectation of the public."

By July 1, 2016, all uniformed officers in the Bellingham Police Department will be equipped with body cameras, Lt. Bob Vander Yacht said.

"We really want the Bellingham Police De-

partment to be considered to be a very progressive department," Vander Yacht said. "If the cameras help our community in any way, then we want to do that."

Vander Yacht said the Bellingham Police Department is a leader in Washington for full distribution of body

cameras and wouldn't be surprised if the University Police were to follow suit.

Western's University Police Department doesn't own body cameras and their officers are not required to wear them at this moment. Smith said smaller agencies, such as the univer-

sity police, will watch and learn from larger agencies like the Bellingham Police Department.

The University Police tried using body cameras about five years ago when the technology was still new, Smith said. At the time, she said the cameras were bulky and

• See CAMS, page 5



Sophomore pole vaulter J.T. Konrad qualifies for the NCAA Division II Outdoor National Championships after vaulting 5.00 meters at the Ralph Vernacchia Invitational on Saturday, April 30, at Civic Stadium. // Photo by Ian Koppe

Crowded courses delay computer science majors

Alex Van Valkenburgh
THE WESTERN FRONT

Due to the program tripling in size, students transferring to Western's computer science major may have to wait up to a year before taking courses.

In the last three years, the amount of students entering into

the computer science program as a major or pre-major has increased from 150 to 550. This has led to long waitlists, students not being able to take the electives they want and frustration from freshman because they can not get into the classes they need.

This April, Associate Director of Admissions

Jeanne Gaffney, sent a letter to 150 incoming transfer students wanting to study computer science. The letter warned transfer students of the potential wait to start their major, in an effort to put the current computer science majors first.

Catherine Clark, dean of the College of Science and Engineer-

ing, said the college has acknowledged the issue and are actively working to find a solution. Clark attributed a lack of funding to what was preventing the college from addressing the issue.

"We need to hire additional faculty to be able to open up more sections," Clark said.

• See CSCI, page 3

Students support ESC expansion

Students approve \$30 per quarter fee that will cover up to \$12 million of expansion costs

Anna Edlund
THE WESTERN FRONT

The expansion of Western's Multicultural Center can move forward after students voted to support a fee to fund the expansion during Associated Students elections, held during the week of April 25.

The new center would house the Ethnic Student Center as well as multicultural outreach and activities. The current ESC, located in the Viking Union, has a maximum capacity of 52 people.

Although the referendum passed, there is no guarantee the fee will be imposed. The Board of Trustees still have to give it final approval in June, and they can choose not to pass it.

Abby Ramos, AS Vice President of Diversity, worked directly with administration and students to get the Multicultural referendum, which would re-

quire a \$30 student fee, onto the ballot.

"Western continuously prides itself on saying it's a diverse campus, it's inclusive of students of color and it's here to support them," Ramos said. "How are you supporting students of color when the only space created for it is 52 students?"

The entire project is estimated to cost \$16-17 million. The student fee would cover \$11-12 million, around 60 percent of the total cost. If implemented, the fee will not affect students until fall 2017 at the earliest.

Junior Jackie Fitzpatrick supported the referendum to expand the ESC.

"I think [the ESC] needs more visibility and representation on our campus. They represent a lot of important issues we need to address," Fitzpatrick said.

• See ESC, page 3



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ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

Westernfrontonline.com

Fifteenth annual event, April Brews Day, sells out for beer, bands and charity.

SPRUCING UP FOR SPRING



Oskar Kollen, a Western gardener, works on a raised planter on Friday, April 29, in front of Haggard Hall. "We're just doing some work to freshen things up," Kollen said. The planter previously held a hedge around the Haggard Hall sign and is now home to a tree and shrubbery. // Photo by Ian Koppe

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Corrections

In an April 26 opinion piece regarding the First Amendment, The Western Front misstated a type of speech protected by the amendment. The First Amendment does protect offensive speech.

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.

\$2 million from state not enough to alleviate CSCI waitlist issues

One student waited two quarters to get into the class needed for major acceptance

continued from page 1.

"[To be] able to hire additional faculty, we need additional resources."

Three years ago, before the sudden surge of computer science majors, Western's computer science program received about \$2 million from the state of Washington to hire five additional faculty. There are currently 19 teachers within the computer science department, according to the department's website.

"If we had funding for faculty, we could hire additional faculty," Clark said. "We would be able to have more

classes, more sections of the classes, so we would have reduced waitlists and [give] more access to students."

However, during those three years, the number of computer science majors and pre-majors drastically increased.

To get into the computer science major, students must pass three classes, the first of which is Computer Science 241. Junior Sasa Vukovic, a computer science major, said there was a waitlist to get into the introductory class. He had to wait two quarters to get into the required prerequisite.

"I couldn't get into the Computer Science 241 until spring quarter of my freshman year, and even then, I was waitlisted and barely squeezed in," Vukovic said.

Senior Jesse Sliter is another computer science major who has had difficulty getting into his required classes.

"It took me three quarters to get into Computer Science 247," Sliter said. "I have some friends who have tried for over a year and are still trying to get in."

Not all students have issues getting into classes. Transfer students have had an advantage over freshman

since transfer students typically come to Western with more credits, allowing them priority over other students during registration.

"[For] the majority of students who don't transfer, it is a pretty big problem not getting into classes even at the junior and senior level," senior Amos Nistrain, a computer science major, said.

One issue causing frustration among computer science majors is the difficulty of getting into their electives of choice. Students in the major say it isn't uncommon to graduate without ever taking electives they want within the

major, and only being able to take classes that are less desired, Vukovic said.

"This quarter I had trouble getting into the electives I wanted," Sliter said. "I am a senior; I am not going to have any more credits ever, so to me that was really frustrating."

In the letter, Gaffney highlighted three options to consider if waitlists became troublesome for students: focus on GUR requirements, complete a minor or double major, or explore similar majors such as mathematics or business administration.

Expanded ESC seeks to enhance learning about diversity issues

continued from page 1.

"I don't think you can ever talk about these issues enough."

The Western Front reached out to students opposed to the ESC expansion, but they refused to comment.

The referendum garnered the support of students with 1162 voting for the fee and 692 against. Ramos explained the need for the fee.

"If students on this campus are passionate about get-

ting a space for themselves, the least we can do is pay in to that," Ramos said.

According to a fall 2015 statistics report, students from ethnic minority groups accounted for roughly 25 percent, or 3,833 students, of Western's 15,332 total students.

Eileen Coughlin is the vice president for Enrollment and Student Services and has been involved with the project from its creation.

"It provides a space in which all students can learn more about diversity issues," Coughlin said. "So, it's really a whole campus, but it also provides very specific place and identity for the ESC."

Director of communications Paul Cocks said the university is responding to the needs of students and the state.

"One of those needs is changing demographics, which [the expanded center]

is a perfect fit for," Cocks said.

State funding, one-time sources and previously set-aside funds will help make up the remaining cost. The money raised by the student fee would help the university obtain additional funding from other sources because it shows students are on board, thus providing validity to the project, Coughlin said.

"I think there's every reason to believe that fee will service the entire university

and all students, in addition to expanding and providing great space for students of color," Coughlin said. "It enriches the lives of the entire student body."

The preliminary idea proposes building additional floors on top of the Viking Union Multi-Purpose Room, above the bookstore or both, according to the ballot referendum. These facilities would be linked by a skybridge or connecting lobbies.

Cops Box



EVENTS

9:03 a.m., April 28

Emergency Medical Services took a child to the hospital after he consumed a piece of cake at his home that had been infused with marijuana in the 2300 block of Xenia Street.

11:18 a.m., April 28

A boy was arrested for making death threats against a family member in the 2400 block of Lincoln Street. He was booked at the Whatcom County Juvenile Detention Facility.

6:12 p.m., April 29

Woman in possession of drugs jumped a fence to avoid police in the 1000 block of West Bakerview Road. She was booked in jail for an outstanding warrant.

11:22 a.m., April 28

Man exhibiting mental health related issues in the 200 block of Unity Street was taken to his apartment by police.

10:19 a.m., April 28

Police found property stashed in some bushes in the 1000 block of West Bakerview Road after a man fled from an officer.

12:57 a.m., April 29

A man was arrested for a DUI and Hit and Run Property in the 1100 block of High Street. He was arrested for Obstruction and Resisting Arrest as well.

9:30 a.m., April 30

Officers participating in the DEA National Drugs Take Back program took in 91 pounds of drugs between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. The drugs will be disposed of by incineration or taken to a hazardous disposal site.

5:00 p.m., May 1

Police received a report of several construction signs being stolen from a project in the 2100 block of Donovan Avenue.

What: Presentation: Guns Aren't That Scary
Where: WWU Academic West Room 203
When: 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Wednesday, May 4
Cost: Free

WWU's Young Americans for Liberty are presenting on firearms in our society and discussing the amount of negative hype associated with firearms. There will be no real guns at the event but there will be demonstration guns that have been approved by University Police.

What: Cinco de Mayo Celebration
Where: 321 Front Street Lynden, WA 98264
When: 5 p.m. Thursday, May 5
Cost: Free

The Jansen Art Center will be throwing a celebration for Cinco de Mayo that will include performances by Chicas Reinas, Spanish dancers and a Mariachi band.

What: WWU International Culture Night
Where: Viking Union Multi-Purpose Room
When: 7 p.m. - 9 p.m., Thursday, May 5
Cost: Free

International students will be hosting booths to display aspects of their culture through demonstrations, food, games and music. This event is being put on by Western's Language and Cultural Programs.

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Gender gap evident in Western majors

Two majors: communication sciences and disorders, computer science majors experience uneven gender representation in class enrollment

Daniel Hart
THE WESTERN FRONT

The men's bathroom in the communication sciences and disorders department in Academic Instructional East is immaculate. The floors are clean and the toilet paper dispenser is full. It might be a coincidence, or it might have something to do with the fraction of male CSD students compared to female students.

Both the CSD and the computer science programs at Western are dominated by one gender. In the 2015-2016 school year, 185 female students and 47 male students enrolled in CSD 251, the department's introductory course. Eleven female students and no males enrolled in CSD 598, one of the department's final courses before graduation.

Assistant CSD professor Kelli Evans said the graduate program is even more unbalanced than the undergraduate program. Out of about 40 current graduate students, one is male.

"In academia, women are traditionally the underrepresented population, but in our specific field, it's not that way at all," Kelli Evans said.

Matt McFarland is part of a unique category — male seniors in CSD.

"I don't really notice it anymore," McFarland said. "Obviously, I've been in the program for almost two years."

McFarland believes the disparity comes in part from the field's connection with medical professions.

"I think that type of thing carries over, because it is focused on service to children particularly," McFarland said. "It's a more nurturing type, and I think that's why you see a lot of women in it."

He said the department doesn't target one gender or the other.

Kelli Evans and many other female students have entered the major motivated by interests in medicine and language, she said.

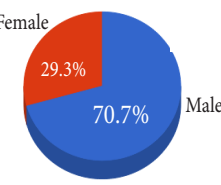
"But the male undergraduates, or even the males in our graduate program, are here for a more focused reason it seems like," Kelli Evans said. "They'll [say], 'I stutter, and so I want to be a speech pathologist.'"

Both professors speculated on reasons for the gender gap.

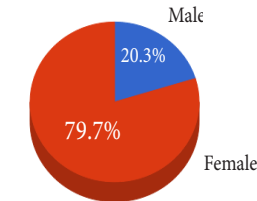
"That's what got me interested in it," Kelli Evans' husband David Evans said, who is also an assistant professor in the department. "I probably would have done something completely different had I not had that stutter."

Intro classes

CSCI 101



CSD 251



said. He thinks one reason for this is that sports injuries are more common than communication disorders, so more people are aware of those related practices.

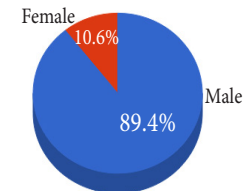
Kelli Evans believes students aren't aware of what the major entails.

"We, as a profession, have discussed this at open forums at conferences to try to think about that gender disparity," Kelli Evans said. "It's hard to know. The profession itself started out as a teaching profession, and I think there's a traditional gender gap in that kind of profession. It's also sort of more of a helper profession."

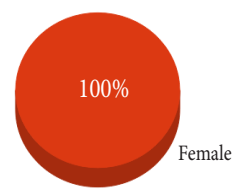
The field can be divided into an educational category and a medical category, which functions like other forms of therapy, Kelli Evans said.

Capstone classes

CSCI 495



CSD 598



Information provided by WWU Institutional Research
Graphic by Janae Eason
*Only two genders were provided

THE WESTERN FRONT

Many male students, including some in the CSD major, end up in sister fields such as physical or occupational therapy, David Evans

"I don't think that is as common knowledge for undergrads, because everyone remembers the kid in third grade who got pulled out of

school for their r's," Kelli Evans said. "And so that's what a lot of people perceive a speech pathologist to do."

On the other side of the

ent there are a problem.

"That sort of attitude within the community has changed since we've been doing this major orienta-

"In academia, women are traditionally the underrepresented population, but in our specific field, it's not that way at all."

Kelli Evans
Assistant CSD Professor

spectrum, in a program where males dominate, more action is being taken.

"We are lagging behind the rest of the school, and we are very aware that that's a problem, and are trying to fix it," computer science instructor Aran Clauson said.

The program faces a mirrored disparity. During the 2015-2016 school year, 200 male students and 83 female students enrolled in Computer Science 101. Computer Science 495, one of the final courses before graduation, was taken by 101 male students and 12 female students.

Communications Facility 405 is an open lab for the computer science program. The room contains a ping pong table in addition to rows of computers.

"It's not quiet," Clauson said. "It's always fun to go down there and see what's going on, because students are helping each other and solving problems and playing ping pong."

However, Clauson said there have been problems with the lab. When asked what the biggest obstacle is, the women in the department said it was the 405 lab, Clauson said. They said the language and attitudes pres-

ent," Clauson said. "There are also more women in the department, and so the men are in 405, getting help, offering help, engaging with everybody else who is here. So I think we've actually hit a critical mass of women in the department where women are their peers."

Katy McClintic is a senior in the program. She agreed change is happening.

"I guess being a woman in computer science is not as hard as everyone thinks it is, but it definitely is different than other majors," McClintic said. "When I first started in the program four years ago, there were definitely not as many women as there are now, so it's getting better every day."

Women can succeed by standing up for their skill levels, McClintic said from her experience working in the computer science field.

"Maybe having more women leaders come in and be examples, because that's been really important to me," McClintic said. "I've had a lot of good female leaders from the industry who I've talked to. That's inspired me in a way to do well in my field."

University police not yet funding body cams

continued from page 1.

had a limited point-of-view compared to the more compact models the city police are currently using.

"I think it's very beneficial, the transparency of how we do our jobs and what we experience so that it's not really an 'us' and 'them,'" Smith said. "It's almost like going on a ridealong."

Junior Riley Ochs said the university police should be required to use body cameras, but not out of distrust.

He said stressful situations can make it hard for police to remember all of the details, and the body cameras can film the whole encounter.

"I think it's a good idea for anyone involved in law enforcement," Ochs said. "It's kind of a good way to ensure what's going on in any situation they might handle."

Other colleges are requiring its officers to wear body cameras, including Arizona State University.

ASU and Western are both public institutions, but Western has a student enrollment of just over 15,000, while ASU had an enrollment of nearly 70,000 students in 2014, according to ASU's website. To put that into perspective, the city of Bellingham had a population of just over 83,000 in 2015 and has 115 officers. Western currently employs 15 commissioned of-

ficers, compared to ASU's 75.

Smith said money is one of the main factors holding back the University Police from using body cameras.

"I don't think it's just a one time thing to just buy the cameras and equip the officers," Smith said. "You've got to give consideration to the data storage and the maintenance of where data storage is kept."

ASU Police Department spokeswoman Nicole Franks said in an email that it cost ASU

penses, including the cost for docking stations and data storage.

Franks said the school researched body cameras and systems for several years before putting the policy into effect in November 2015 and these additional costs have not greatly impacted the department's budget.

Smith said if Western's University Police did use body cameras, the footage would be bound by the same public dis-

such as fatalities or domestic violence, privacy protections can make this process complicated. Smith said it is not simple to redact information from a video.

At ASU, Franks said although it does take some time to prepare and redact video footage that has been requested through public records, this hasn't been a challenge for the department.

Crime prevention coordinator for the ASU Police Department Charles Eberspacher said in an email police body camera footage has come in handy in more ways than one. He said there was an occasion in which police officers used force to subdue a student who was fighting with them. Footage from the incident was used not only in court, but also internally to determine which disciplinary steps the school would take.

As of now, the body camera program at the Bellingham Police Department is only voluntary and there have been many missed opportunities to capture valuable video evidence, Vander Yacht said.

Vander Yacht said there was a confrontation between Bellingham police and a mentally ill man armed with a knife outside of a restaurant. In order to get the man to comply, police used a taser and a shotgun equipped with bean bag rounds to eventually take him into cus-

today, Vander Yacht said.

Vander Yacht said the witnesses responded favorably to the steps taken by officers at the time.

"That could have been captured on video," Vander Yacht said. "It could help us in training, it could help us in supporting the officer's actions."

Junior Sarah Landstrom said the University Police should wear body cameras. She said the cameras would help the University Police remain accountable for their actions and video footage would be more reliable proof than eyewitness accounts.

Junior Aasim Khan, geology major, said he didn't think requiring the university police to wear body cameras would make him feel any safer on campus.

"I don't really see the University Police on campus or have any interactions with them, so I think it's more important for the Bellingham police to have [cameras]," Khan said.

Vander Yacht said the very presence of police body cameras often positively influences the behavior of citizens and officers.

Smith, with the University Police, has seen this same trend.

"People on both sides of that camera are going to be on their best behavior," Smith said.



Sgt. Carr Lanham shows where the body camera is placed on the police uniform. The Bellingham Police Department uses chest, shoulder and optical cameras. // Photo by Connor Jalbert

about \$400 to equip each officer with a body camera. Franks said there are additional ex-

closure laws as the city's police department. When footage contains sensitive material,

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RUSH TO A CURE

Xander Davidson
THE WESTERN FRONT

Wilson Library. Once a place of knowledge and discovery, now a refugee camp for survivors weathering the zombie apocalypse. One team has gone ahead to try to find a cure, but they have been captured by the Revenant, a rogue team hell-bent on unleashing the virus on a global level.

Your mission: extraction.
Your means: as many Nerf blasters as you can manage to carry.

Your target: anything that breathes, and everything that doesn't, too.

This is the premise for the fifth annual Humans vs. Zombies Building Clear event on Saturday, April 30. Similar to the Humans vs. Zombies standoffs that happen every year on campus: players move cautiously in orange handkerchiefs. Some are decked out in Nerf gear and tactical equipment. Others are viciously in search of their next victim. The game plays like a robust version of tag.

The narrative that unfolds over the course of the event is part of what makes the experience so unique. Senior and HvZ president Corey Godfrey said. The level of immersion players experience is

an important aspect of the HvZ mission, Godfrey said.

"For the 20 minutes people are running through the building clear, we want them to feel like there's no school, there's no bills to pay, no exams to study for," Godfrey said. "It's just me, my friends or these people I just met, and we're all going to have each other's backs, try our best to get our way through and say that we survived."

What sets this event apart from the typical HvZ campaign? Instead of aiming to survive for an entire week, players navigate through a labyrinth of obstacles and ambushes set up by HvZ staff, all while trying to accomplish a main objective. In this case, rescuing a hostage taken by a team of veteran HvZ players.

"I like to think of it as an interactive haunted house," Godfrey said. "It's a video game; come play."

Founded in 2009 by alumnus Jonathan Geller, a game in Wilson Library was just a creative notion. Now, there are over 100 participants in this event alone.

Players start out in the lobby outside

of Zoe's Bookside Bagels and navigate over the skybridge into Haggard Hall.

There, as the first move in the game, they find a survivor urging players to quickly amputate his arm before the zombie infection spreads. The players are given their first of many figurative choices: do we help them, or do we finish them off?

"No matter who you are in the apocalypse, you've got to keep one thing in mind: as long as you have a steady mind, you'll make it through the night," freshman Lorenzo Perella said.

Perella understands the mindset needed to make these tough calls. Giving into fear might mean players execute the survivor then and there, seeing his potential transformation as a threat.

"It essentially happens the way you would expect the zombie apocalypse to happen: it starts with a select few and spreads from there," senior and HvZ Secretary Hallie Ervin said.

Other players may remain more willing to help out, and are rewarded with a guide who can help them navigate part of the course. This is just one of many examples of the choose-your-own-

WILSON LIBRARY WAS SHUT DOWN TO BECOME THE HOMEBASE FOR HUMANS YELLING FOR MERCY AS THEY WERE CHASED BY INFECTED ZOMBIES IN THE HUMAN VS. ZOMBIES BUILDING CLEAR



Team Red navigates through the library toward their objective, keeping eyes out for zombies around corners and bookshelves. // Photo by Connor Jalbert

adventure style narrative of the building clear, Perella said.

After moving to the top floor of Haggard Hall, the teams run into a camp filled with fading refugees. The camps are littered with debris, and the survivors show signs of deep wounds. They beg for mercy, and some teams grant them just that. Other teams take a more cautious route and put the survivors in the ground.

"It looks just like a scene out of The Walking Dead," junior Tyler McGrath said.

Moving into the planetarium, a voice warns them of the rogue team, Revenant, and their plot to spread the zombie virus around the world. The teams are told to quickly go back across the skybridge and into the lab on the other side of the library. The teams must pass through the camps once more. The teams move through no problem.

As for the merciful teams, their decision has come back to bite them, literally.

Once through the skybridge, players are tasked with constructing a cure in a lab behind Zoe's, all the while their team is fending off hordes of zombies. A new element is added into the game at this point: zombies take more than one dart to go down, and special zombies can revive their fallen undead comrades. This is where having a strong team dynamic and well-thought-out strategy comes in handy.

"We've been kicking around the idea of having a team for a while now," freshman Jack Eury said. "We have our automatic blasters in the front and back and we have our middle group for securing objectives. I hope we can all stay alive."

This combination of preparation and self-assurance is undoubtedly required for surviving the night. Junior Julie Lewis described the spirit necessary to succeed in this event. Departing from the normal attire of camo, bandoliers and war paint,

"YOU FORGET THAT YOU'RE NOT ACTUALLY BEING ATTACKED BY ZOMBIES."

SCOTT ST. CLAIR, SOPHOMORE

Lewis stormed the course in a blue dress and heels. "Why not be different? I know that I'm capable in heels," Lewis said.

But even the most jovial of players can get lost in the eeriness of the course. Descending into the archives, players are forced to navigate through narrow corridors, encased in a web of screams and darkness.

"You forget that you're not actually being attacked by zombies," sophomore Scott St. Clair said.

After finding safe passage through the archives, the team moves into the final room, ready to take on Revenant in a battle to save the last remaining survivor of the original team, subsequently stopping the virus from spreading with

only five minutes to spare.

Given its reputation as being one of the staple Western landmarks, the Harry Potter room serves as a fitting battleground for the deathmatch.

Veteran staff members make up the antagonist team, serving as a challenging boss battle for even the most experienced of players. Geller was on one of the first teams to defeat the Revenant with an impressive 30 seconds left in the match.

"I love seeing how well the staff has done," Geller said. "I get to be kind of like a proud parent."

Back when Geller and his friends in Nash Hall founded HvZ, they always dreamed of doing something on this scale.

"We would jokingly say 'and one day we'll do Wilson Library' because that was the prize in the sky that was unobtainable and barely out of reach no matter what," Geller said.

Much like the undead that roam the course, Geller said HvZ is a "game that never dies."

Next time you see a pack of orange handkerchiefs running your way, know that an even larger horde isn't too far behind them.



Libby Chapman confronts a zombie in the basement of Wilson Library as her team looks for a hostage. // Photo by Connor Jalbert



Viking Voices

Is fossil fuel divestment important to you? Why or why not?



"The issue is not important to me because I don't feel it has a very immediate and direct impact on my life. I feel it is something that needs to be talked about, though there are more immediate needs."

Michael Vining
Senior, computer science



"Both yes and no. There's no easy solution to our energy crisis, but also we're so dug deep in the system, how are we just going to one day switch into a new system and expect everything to go on as it is? This campus is so deeply rooted in fossil fuel use that there's no easy solution to switch over."

Maclain Shumway
Sophomore, communication sciences disorders



"I think it is important to me and communities I'm in because fossil fuels are not sustainable. I believe that there are better ways to resource energy."

Hailey Canady
Freshman, human services

This week's Viking Voices compiled by Alex Halverson

FRONTLINE

Opinions of the Editorial Board

Divestment and investing in the future

Ever wonder what those small orange felt squares people have pinned to their backpacks are for? Divestment. They symbolize an individual's agreement with a movement dedicated to divesting away from the use of fossil fuels on our campus.

By general definition, divestment is a motion to dispossess or sell an asset, investment, piece of property, business holding — you get it.

Here at Western, students have been rallying persistently since 2012 for divestment from funding toward the use of fossil fuels. The Students for Renewable Energy began their Divestment Campaign then and have remained active since.

"Painting Red Square Orange" took place in 2013 and marked the beginning of the orange felt square phenomenon. In 2014, the Divestment Study Committee wrote a 35-page Divest Document and presented it to the Associated Students Board of Directors, who voted 7-0 in favor of the work. The aim of this work asked that Western freeze all investments in fossil fuels while transitioning toward eco-friendly investments over the span of five years.

When presented with the document, the Western Board of Directors decided against the request and did not change policy regarding investment in fossil fuel companies. Instead, they created a climate-friendly investment fund. Vague, sure, but a step in the right direction.

To date, the SRE remains dedicated to the cause and have led or participated in events such as a 24-hour sit-in, a Global Climate March last year, Arctic Challenger protests as well as offered a divestment resolution to the AS Board of Directors.

The past few months have included an SRE protest and rallies for divestment in Red Square as motions to encourage policy change.

Students have the opportunity to promote change and join discussions regarding where our tuition money is spent. When asked if fossil fuel divestment is important to them, the majority of students said yes.

"Western has their name branded on environmental awareness, so I feel it's Western's responsibility to get away from unsustainable resources," junior Leanne Forner, who is studying environmental science said.

Yet, even with such steadfast determination, Western remains without any real divestment plan or agreement.

A shame — as many universities around the nation and world are adopting divestment plans and we, who pride ourselves in being an environmentally conscious campus, have not.

Last year, 10 universities in the United Kingdom chose to move funds out of the fossil fuel industry leading up to the Paris Climate Change Conference. This meant millions of dollars of funding being removed from expenditures toward fossil fueled energy to be redirected toward cleaner energy sources. In the United States, schools such as the University of the Atlantic (Maine), Sterling College (Vermont), Northland College (Wisconsin), and many more have chosen to divest.

The reasons for divestment? They're simple. They are seen in the super storms, the droughts, the massive earthquakes, hurricanes and everything in between. They are counted in the civilian death tolls reaching into the tens, hundreds, thousands, and with every dead animal or plant that ever belonged to an endangered species.

This is an issue we can do something about. Moreover, it is one that we need to do something

about. How could there be a better time to take a good old college try (pun intended) at changing what many hypothesize as a complete global climate crisis?

Surely the estimated costs of divesting are intimidating. Clean energy is not cheap energy. Not in the way that coal is. But it is clean and it is accessible.

Many arguments against divestment focus only on the financial aspect, while missing the importance of the environmental cause. Similarly, there has been little talk about the importance of students setting an example for younger generations to remain involved with environmental issues that are expected to impact their lives tremendously.

Western has adopted a Climate Action Plan committed to carbon neutrality by 2050 and, like the climate-friendly investment fund, shows a sense of responsibility for our energy consumption. But 2050 is a long way away and it's hard to imagine that action will not need to be taken before then.

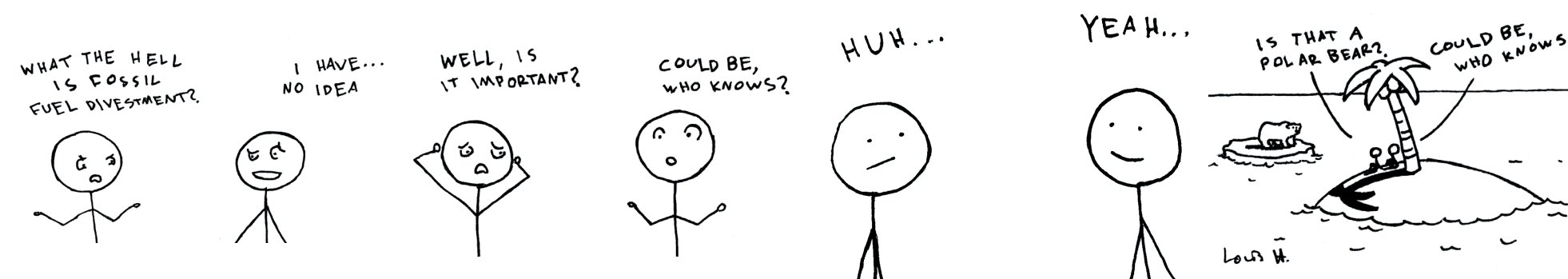
We have a say in where our energy comes from and it is our responsibility to remain involved in actions aimed at causing less harm to our natural environment. Those who care to get involved in SRE or other Western divestment efforts can find more information on their Associated Students website.

Submission Policy

The Western Front publishes submitted opinion items on a space-available basis. Submit letters to the editor and guest columns, along with your name, title (such as "Western sophomore") and major to westernfront.opinion@gmail.com. Anonymous letters or those containing hate speech will not be published. The Western Front reserves the right to edit for length, spelling, style and grammar.

Word count limits: letters to the editor: 250 words, guest columns: 400 words

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



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Seahawks' 2016 draft recap

The Western Front takes a look at the newest Seahawks

Alex Halverson
THE WESTERN FRONT

With the conclusion of the NFL Draft, the first whiff of the football season has come and gone. Nothing is more exciting than the Seahawks building for the future and making a first round pick for the first time since picking Bruce Irvin back in 2012. The team had traded away their first round picks in the previous three years.

The Seahawks offensive line has faced scrutiny in the team's recent seasons. Even when the team won the Super Bowl, the offensive line was widely considered their weakest unit. None of the starting offensive linemen from that championship remain on the roster today. For this reason, the Seahawks used the 31st overall pick to select Texas A&M University offensive lineman Germain Ifedi.

The pick has garnered mixed reviews, but the need to strengthen the line was too great. Ifedi's sheer size, standing 6 feet 5 inches tall and weighing 325 pounds, is enough to get anyone excited.

The second day of the draft started with a power move to trade up and snatch University of Alabama defensive tackle Jarran Reed, a welcome pick to fill the shoes left by Brandon Mebane in the defensive line; I personally found this, along with their fourth overall pick of Ohio State University tight end Nick Vannett, were the most exciting picks of the draft.

Slated by some to be a first round pick, Reed was an absolute steal for the Seahawks. While garnering the reputation as a subpar pass rusher, his run-defending abilities were heralded throughout his college career. He was charged with a DUI in 2014, but has since faced no legal

PICK #	PLAYER	CLASS	POSITION
31	GERMAIN IFEDI, TEXAS A&M	REDSHIRT JR.	G
49	JARREN REED, ALABAMA	SR.	DT
90	C.J. PROSISE, NOTRE DAME	JR.	RB
94	NICK VANNETT, OHIO STATE	SR.	TE
97	REES ODHIAMBO, BOISE STATE	SR.	OL
147	QUINTON JEFFERON, MARYLAND	REDSHIRT JR.	DT
171	ALEX COLLINS, ARKANSAS	JR.	RB
215	JOEY HUNT, TCU	SR.	C
243	KENNY LAWLER, CAL	REDSHIRT JR.	WR
247	ZAC BROOKS, CLEMSON	JR.	RB

troubles. Pete Carroll has gained a reputation for being a coach who can bring the best of players with previous off-field transgressions and the Seahawks wouldn't have drafted someone without doing its homework.

The Seahawks third and fifth overall picks of Notre Dame running back C.J. Prorise and Boise State University guard Rees Odhiambo were enough to round out a solid day of draft picks.

While I'm more than happy with running back Thomas Rawls' performance during Marshawn Lynch's injury-plagued final season, adding another running back to the roster is always good and can offer more options. The Seahawks were not done either, drafting two

more running backs during the course of the draft. University of Arkansas' Alex Collins and Clemson University's Zac Brooks should make the competition for roster spots this summer interesting in a suddenly crowded backfield.

In all, the Seahawks made 10 picks over the weekend. The team traded up twice, equaling the number of times they had done so in the past six years, according to the Seattle Times.

While there is no guarantee that all 10 of this weekend's selections will even be on the active roster by the time the regular season begins, each one of them represents hope the Seahawks have struck gold again in the draft and will be making a return to the Super Bowl very soon.

Weekly Round-up

BASEBALL:
Won 2 out of 3 games against Eastern Washington University. The Vikings outscored the Eagles 40-14 in the series.

SEASON RECORD:
Conference: 12-3
Overall: 15-6

WOMEN'S ROWING:

The team placed in every event at the Western Intercollegiate Rowing Association Championships Sunday, May 1. The Vikings strong showing included first place finishes for the varsity four and varsity eight teams.

Varsity four finished its race with a time of 7:50.0 and the varsity eight finished with a time of 6:54.0.

MEN'S LACROSSE:

Southern Oregon University
vs
Western Washington University

P1	P2	P3	P4	OT	Tot
2	3	0	4	1	10
1	2	3	3	0	9

The Vikings made it to the Pacific Northwest Collegiate Lacrosse League Division II semifinals before falling to Southern Oregon University in overtime Saturday, April 30. The Vikings reached the semifinals after outlasting the College of Idaho in overtime, 10-9, on Friday, April 29.

Western track hosts Ralph Vernacchia Invitational

Harrison Amelang
Stephanie Davey
Alex Halverson
Bryn Yasui
THE WESTERN FRONT

closed out its regular season by hosting its sole home track meet of the season, The Ralph Vernacchia Invitational on Saturday, April 30. The Vikings have performed well all season, recently being named the GNAC team of the week.

Several strong performances by Western's men's and women's track and field teams have the Vikings looking more than ready for the upcoming Great Northwest Athletic Conference championships. Looking to finish strong, Western

Coming into the weekend, women's team was ranked 20th in the nation by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches NCAA Division II poll. The men's team ranked 27th.

Women's 4x100 **48.69 seconds**

Despite both of Western's men and women's 4x100 meter relay teams taking first place, Viking's assistant track and field coach David Burnett said both teams were not at the times they were hoping to be.

With the conference championships coming up in two weeks, Burnett said both teams will be practicing.

"We will be working on handoffs and getting a lot of rest in preparation for the conference meet," Burnett said. "There's a little bit more pressure involved, but we try not to really think about that. We just try to get out there and have fun, and not let our guys and gals get too jazzed up about it."

Alex Donigian, Stedman Knox, Daniel Jones and Nathaniel van Tuinen make up the men's team. Veronica Ivancic, Cheyenne Konrad, Rachel Ivancic and Deja Svastisalee are the competitors on the women's team.

Men's long jump **7.19m**, meet record

In the men's long jump, senior Kevin Yates broke a 25-year meet record with a jump of 7.19 meters. In American standard that is 23-7 1/4. Yates had not posted a personal record in three years but broke the streak with a commanding win.

"It was really relieving, especially after going that long without a PR," Yates said. "It was nice to do it at our home meet too."

Senior Nathaniel van Tuinen placed second behind Yates with a jump off 6.92 but had fouled on two leaps that looked just as far as Yates.'

Men's **5,000 meter**, 15:11.60

Senior Matt Lutz continued a successful season by placing first in the 5,000 meter race. Lutz had been selected this season as a GNAC Player of the Week for February 29 through March 6. Junior Sean Eustis took second with a time of 15:24.18.



Junior thrower Megan Mortensen competes during the Ralph Vernacchia Invitational on Saturday, April 30 at Civic Stadium. // Photo by Alex Powell



Sophomore sprinter Deja Svastisalee hands off the baton to senior sprinter Taylor Graham during the women's 4x400 relay on Saturday, April 30. // Photo by Ian Koppe

Men's discus **45.42 meters**

Vikings placed in men's discus with junior thrower Brandon Pless taking third with a throw of 45.42 meters. Sophomore thrower Bryan Lee took fourth with a 44.02 meter throw.

"I thought that Brandon Pless had a great day — making some great corrections in both events," coach Steven Ayers said. "Lee had a nice day as well. They both didn't make their PRs but they handled themselves quite well."

Women's javelin **51.66 meters**

The Vikings had a strong showing at the javelin throw with four members finishing in the top six.

Redshirt junior Bethany Drake took second place with a throw of 52.29 meters. Senior thrower Katie Reichert used the meet to try new techniques and approaches in the women's javelin throw earning herself a third place finish with a throw of 49.12 meters.

"I would have liked to have gotten a little bit bigger mark, but I'm happy with what I ended up with," Reichert said.

Behind Reichert was freshman Mariah Horton with a fourth place and freshman Anosi Laupola with a sixth.

Women's discus **47.36 meters**

Junior thrower Megan Mortensen took second with a toss of 47.36 meters. The throw was 10 inches short of Western's school record. Freshman Sophia Roberts placed eighth with a throw of 33.98 meters.

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Opinion: Sports' media portrayal of women

With social media buzzing due to recent controversies, The Western Front asks: How are women treated in the world of sports?

Jillian Powers
THE WESTERN FRONT

Thank you University of Washington. Thank you for giving us a reason to talk about women in sports.

Over the past few days you might have seen UW's cheer and dance "tryout look" infographic pop up on your social media feeds. The team removed the infographic from Facebook after people took to Twitter to express their anger toward the graphic's "do's" and "don'ts."

The infographic included makeup "do's" such as "false eyelashes" and "flattering eye shadow," as well as "don'ts" such as "dark smokey eyes" and "too much makeup."

As someone who grew up dancing competitively and constantly tried out for different teams, I don't find this infographic offensive; to me it seems pretty helpful. Auditioning for teams is nerve-racking and little aspects like the color of your lipstick can be the difference between making the team or not.



However, I do see how the graphic is interpreted as exclusive and not representative of all women because of the use of the stereotypical cheerleader: Skinny. Blonde. White.

Senior Kara Eckardt, a communication and sociology major, said she rolled her eyes when she saw the infographic pop up on her Instagram feed.

"It reinforces the stereotype of what it is to be a cheerleader because they make the scope of the kind of person that they want so small," Eckardt said. "You're automatically disqualifying someone because they have a tattoo or their physique and that says nothing about how capable they are."

Washington State University posted a similar "do's" and "don'ts" infographic with a consistent layout featuring another white cheerleader but UW received majority of the backlash.

Although the universities might have had good intentions, why even post a picture? Even as a blonde, white female who has dance experience, the photo of the seemingly size zero woman on the graphic would appear to immediately disqualify me and many others from the team.

Erik Soper, a 21-year-old visiting Western said UW received a lot of feedback because people have a tendency to overreact.

"Part of cheerleading is it's a team sport [where] you need to have people who are about the same build — the heavy cheerleader at the top of the pyramid — there's a reason that doesn't work," Soper said. "I think they should be asking cheerleaders to be healthy and

training in a healthy manner."

Cheerleading may have been the way it is for a long time but I think it's time for a change. This graphic not only maintains the stereotypes of cheerleaders that women belong on the sideline but furthers the standards of what women should look like. Instead of focusing so heavily on makeup, which I understand is important when performing, we should be focusing on these women's abilities as athletes and show people that cheerleading is an actual sport.

In a similar topic, a YouTube video posted by Just Not Sports went viral showing women in sports facing harassment. With the hashtag #MoreThanMean women sportswriters sat while men read aloud mean tweets sent to them on Twitter. The hashtag says it all — these tweets are more than mean; they are horrible.

Sarah Spain, a sports writer, radio and television host sat as tweet after tweet was read to her. While some started off as humorous, others turned hateful and sexist: "This is why we don't hire any females unless we need our **** sucked or our food cooked."

The video also included sports broadcaster Julie Dicaro who was told via Twitter that she needs to be "raped again."

So many women in sports are harassed online just for doing their jobs. Women deserve to be treated better in the world of sports. Being a woman does not make them less capable or qualified on being knowledgeable about sports.

Junior Nicole Wright, a history major, said women sports reporters have to

look a certain way because they are critiqued a lot for the way they look.

Renowned sports reporter Erin Andrews, who you may have seen on the sidelines of NFL games, was awarded \$55 million from a Nashville court on March 7, 2016, after she was filmed naked in her hotel room by a stalker who used hidden cameras to invade her privacy in 2008.

Andrews also receives aggressive messages on Twitter such as "Hopefully a ball to the temple will knock the stupid out of you."

Men are rarely second-guessed on their qualifications to talk sports, but once a woman starts speaking, people stop listening.

Eckardt said she falls into discriminating against women in sports when she watches basketball games.

"I wonder what credentials she has to talk about it but that's because we're so used to seeing men [talk about it]," Eckardt said. "That's our own gender norms, judging what [the reporter] knows just because she isn't a man."

The #MoreThanMean video ends with a powerful reminder we should all consider:

"We wouldn't say it to their faces so let's not type it."



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