

**CARIBOU PROTEST  
FAIRHAVEN  
STARBUCKS**

**NEWS, PG. 7**



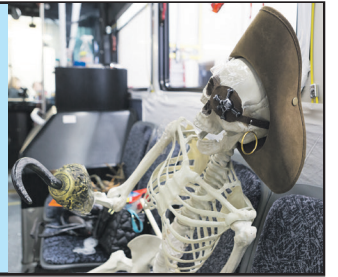
**UPDATE ON  
WESTERN  
ROWING**

**SPORTS, PG. 13**



**BUS DRIVERS  
DECORATE FOR  
THE HOLIDAYS**

**FEATURES, PG. 11**



# THE WESTERN FRONT

Volume 177, Issue 7

westernfrontonline.com | @TheFrontOnline

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

## Students help restore coastline with new radar

*Geology department works with Lummi Heritage Trust to restore Lummi Island*

**Jack Carballo**

THE WESTERN FRONT

A radar capable of peering down below the earth's surface is being used by students to create a new park on Lummi Island.

Western's geology department is helping the Lummi Heritage Trust perform geophysical research on a quarry the trust bought on Lummi Island. The project involves the restoration of an armored shoreline and conversion of mined area into a recreational park on the Aiston Preserve, a 105-acre piece of land on the island's southern flank.

Studies will be conducted using a ground-penetrating radar, a device purchased by the department last summer.

"This is an awesome example of how we like to train up students and interact with the community," said Jackie Caplan-



**Professor Jackie Caplan-Auerbach teaches her applied geology class how to navigate the new geological radar system. The radar can sense tens of meters deep and accurately show what lies beneath the surface. // Photo by Harrison Amelang**

Auerbach, an associate professor of geophysics.

The department is working on the quarry to restore original coastline previously

covered by a gravel-mining operation. The radar releases electromagnetic energy into the ground, which determines where the original coastline was,

so excavation can begin.

The quarry was previously used for mining gravel, but was shut down due to inappropriate opera-

tion and inconsistent records and remained inactive until the trust purchased it last year.

Elizabeth Kilanows

*see RADAR, page 3*

## Bellingham marches in solidarity with Dakota protesters

**Bryn Yasui**

THE WESTERN FRONT

Crowds of people marched on the sidewalks of downtown Bellingham holding signs that said things like, "Protect the Protectors" and "Keep Violence out of Standing Rock" on Friday, Oct. 28.

Roughly 250 people, including members of the Lummi Nation, gathered in solidarity

to march with Native American tribes fighting against the Dakota Access Pipeline. It began near Holly Street and Magnolia Street by Rite Aid, and ended near Fred Meyer on Lakeway Drive.

Protesters have set up makeshift camps in North Dakota on the land the proposed pipeline would occupy. The pipeline is projected to run for 1,172 miles from North Dakota to Illi-

nois, but passes directly through land owned by the Standing Rock Sioux tribe.

At least 142 protesters were arrested during clashes with officers on Friday, Oct. 28, according to the New York Times.

The Bellingham march was a collaboration between various community organizers,

*see MARCHERS, page 3*



**The march went through downtown Bellingham and ended at the Fred Meyer parking lot. // Photo by Connor Jalbert**

## Whatcom County voting procedures

*Replacements available for misplaced ballots*

**Katie Meier**

THE WESTERN FRONT

At this point, your mind is probably made up — you know who you are voting for. But for some students, like senior Henry Brown, there are a few extra steps to make before placing a vote.

"It's a pretty big [issue] that I haven't gotten my ballot yet," Brown said.

Brown recently moved and didn't receive a ballot by mail when they were sent out on Oct. 21. However, Whatcom County offers multiple resources to make sure all votes are counted on Tuesday, Nov. 8.

### Where to turn in ballots:

Votes can be turned in by mail or at drop boxes around Whatcom County. Drop boxes will remain open until 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 8.

Ballots from out-of-state and from different counties will be forwarded to the address on the

*see VOTERS, page 7*

### Voting Drop Boxes

**Western Bookstore**  
501 High St,  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
**Sehome Haggan**  
210 36th St,  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
**Downtown**  
201 Grand Ave,  
Bellingham, WA 98225



@thefrontonline



@thefrontonline



facebook.com/westernfrontonline

Look for the Western Weekend's Fashion Issue on stands  
Thursday, Nov. 3.

Visit us online at [Westernfrontonline.com](http://Westernfrontonline.com)

## THE NIGHT IS DARK AND FULL OF TERRORS



A group of humans huddle together on south campus as they attempt to survive the third mission of the *Humans vs. Zombies* game. The humans attempted to capture and deliver pumpkins to safe zones while fending off zombies on Halloween, Oct. 31. // Photo by Morgan Stilp-Allen

## Cops Box



## EVENTS

### 4:24 p.m., Oct. 24

Police responded to a report that an unknown subject was seen entering a vacant business on the 1300 block of King Street.

### 1:53 p.m., Oct. 25

Perpetrator arrested on the 600 block of East Holly Street. for driving while on cell phone and driving without a license.

### 12:33 p.m., Oct. 26

Police arrest a suspect who stole several returnable milk bottles in an effort to collect deposit money on 1200 block East Sunset Drive.

### 5:09 p.m., Oct. 26

Victim's car was egged on the 1200 block of Whatcom Street after reportedly playing their music too loud.

### 4:10 a.m., Oct. 27

Party of four fled the Denny's on Telegraph Road without paying their \$71 tab.

### 4:19 p.m., Oct. 28

Officer apprehends two juveniles smoking marijuana on the 600 block of Cornwall Avenue.

### 11:39 p.m., Oct. 29

Three suspects confronted by officer for a loud party at their residence on the 600 block of 32nd Street.

### 2:20 a.m., Oct. 30

Suspect arrested for public urination in the alley behind the Royal Inn.

Compiled by Jonathan Pendleton

## The Western Front

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

### Editor-in-Chief

Elizabeth Kayser

### Managing Editor

Evan Elliott

### News Editors

Ben Johnson

Anna Edlund

### Features Editors

Ryan Parish

Xander Davidson

### Sports Editor

Joseph Calabro

### Photo Editor

Connor Jalbert

### Opinion Editor

Layne Carter

### Daily Editor

Alyssa Evans

### Online Editor

Tyler Hillis

### Public Relations Manager

Madi Kreuger

### Online Producer

Gabby Roppo

### Copy Editors

Mikayla King

Alec Regimbal

Stephanie Davey

### Video Editor

Caleb Albright

### Photographers

Morgan Stilp-Allen

Harrison Amelang

### Illustrator/

Cartoonist

Evan Matz

### Web Developer

Rosselle Macabata

### Letters to the

editor:

westernfront.opinion@

gmail.com

### Press releases:

wfpress.release@

gmail.com

### Faculty Adviser

Jack Keith

Jack.Keith@wwu.edu

### Advertising

Department

360-650-3160

### Advertising

Manager

Kaelen Morris

The Western Front is published once weekly in the fall, winter, spring quarters and summer. The Western Front is the official newspaper of Western Washington University and is published by the Student Publications Council. It is mainly supported by advertising. Opinions and stories in the newspaper have no connection to advertising. News content is determined by student editors. Staff reporters are involved in a course in the department of journalism, but any student enrolled at Western may offer stories to the editors.

### Corrections:

Sandra Alfors was incorrectly credited with creating the Ray Wolpov institute alone. The institute was a collaborative effort of Western faculty and administrators.

The "Kristalnacht Commemoration" speech was incorrectly listed as taking place on Nov. 8. It will be on Nov 9, in Arntzen 100 at 6 p.m.

## Radar helps work on Lummi Island



Jackie Caplan-Auerbach's team works on Lummi Island at the Aiston Preserve. // Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Kilanowski

continued from page 1

ki, a member of the Board of Directors for the Lummi Heritage Trust, said the trust chose to work with Western because it was less costly and it provided an opportunity for student researchers.

"I saw students actively engaged in learning and also in understanding that what they were doing was a benefit to this important mine restoration project and to the larger community," Kilanowski said in an email.

With the addition of the radar to the department's inventory, students have the opportunity to operate geophysical technology, while reinforcing the

importance of community aspects, said William Callebert, a geology department graduate student.

"It broadens the scope of research we can do," Callebert said. "It's important to make Western as much of a research institution as possible."

Past studies the department has done with the community involve clients on both a city and local scale. A case of this was when students used a radar to get an underground mapping of the Lynden cemetery, which revealed that some caskets were incorrectly placed in relation to their headstone.

A similar case study was an instance where the radar

was used again to determine whether or not there was an underground storage tank on some property a local was looking at for purchase.

"We have a long-standing relationship with city organizations, like the Public Works Department, who know they can reach out to us," Caplan-Auerbach said. "[The trust] is a new non-profit organization that we get to work with, so having that opportunity is really exciting."

Caplan-Auerbach said her biggest hope is that they continue to have opportunities to do projects that benefit both the local community and the class.

## Marchers express concern with funding Dakota Pipeline

continued from page 1

students and other advocates, some of which gave speeches denouncing the violence in the Midwest.

According to Emma Bigongiari, a member of WWU Students for Anti-racist Action, she and her friends decided to become part of the solution after those protecting the Sioux land in North Dakota called for national solidarity against this issue.

"Dakota Access Pipeline is a reminder that colonization isn't over," Bigongiari said. "When the police and the national guard, who are forces of the federal government, raided the camps yesterday, they were carrying batons and guns, and there were military-styled vehicles. It was a very menacing presence."

Participants also stopped at corporate banks to pass on letters expressing concern.

"There are a lot of institutions, including banks, who are funding the pipeline," Bigongiari said. "Yesterday, there were a lot of people who chose to close their accounts with banks like Chase and Bank of America because those things are funding the pipeline."

Sam Wershow, a graduate student at Western, attended the event after hearing about the Dakota Access Pipeline issue from friends.

"What I hope to accomplish here is raising awareness. I feel like this is an issue that's been underplayed and undercovered by mainstream media sources," Wershow said.

Wershow hopes to connect with people and get involved directly in North Dakota with other activists.

Alice Werkemas, a member of Occupy Bellingham, traveled from Lynden by bus to take part in the march. The 80-year-old North Dakota native said she missed her granddaughter's orchestra performance because her passion against the Dakota Access Pipeline is her priority.

"This is our time and we've got to stand up," Werkemas said.

Werkemas was horrified after reading about the treatment toward the protesters, namely dogs being let loose on protesters, and held a large sign with her friend that said, "Treaties are Supreme Law."

"We have to turn this big ship around. The rights of corporations cannot be so strongly protected by our militarized police and highway patrol," Werkemas said.

For junior Bailey Kuntz, his hope for the march was for the media to shed light on the issue at hand.

"My part in today is to make sure that everyone gets the word out and that we recognize real issues rather than disassociate ourselves from them," Kuntz said. "It's important to realize that everything that is fathomable in this world should be considered."

The march was a successful action by being a loud presence, according to Bigongiari.

## Launch Your International Career with the Peace Corps

### Business Fair Information Table

Western Washington University  
Thursday, November 3  
1 to 5 p.m.  
Viking Union

### RPCV Special Presentation

Western Washington University  
Thursday, November 3  
5:30 to 6:30 p.m.  
Viking Union, Room 552



The RPCV presentation will feature Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Jill MacIntyre Witt and a Burkina Faso RPCV who will share inspirational stories of service and discuss opportunities to live, learn and work with a community overseas.



Life is calling. How far will you go?

855.855.1961 | [peacecorps.gov/events](http://peacecorps.gov/events) | [peacecorps@wwu.edu](mailto:peacecorps@wwu.edu)

## WTA buses get upgraded

Improvements include better access for wheelchairs, strollers

Jess Mulrine  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Whatcom Transit Authority has purchased eight replacement buses, all with small changes for passengers.

Two new versions of the wheelchair securement station are on each new bus. The first two seats on each side of the bus can now individually fold up and make space for people with strollers, walkers and carts. The system has shown to be successful in other agencies like Community Transit in Everett.

Maureen McCarthy of the Public Information Office for WTA explained there are four securement stations on every bus, but new buses replaced two of the stations with the newer version.

"We only replace the buses at the end of their useful life," McCarthy said. "I think it is very likely that, based on other agencies, the new buses we ordered will have this mix of two of the traditional wheel chair securement and two of the new type."

Now, bus driver's don't need to get close to passengers to help. Instead of having the driver secure the wheelchair user in a four-point securement system, the passenger has the choice to position themselves. Passengers can place themselves backwards against a cushioned back while the driver lowers an arm at the user's side for them to hold onto.

"The big risk in a bus ac-

cident is that people will be thrown forward," McCarthy said. "Now, they are facing backwards against a padded device and would still be perfectly safe."

Keith Morris, a driver for WTA for 23 years, demonstrated how the new system works, flipping up the three seats at the front of the bus and lowering the sidebar, creating a space for the wheelchair to sit in seconds.

"I've had a couple of passengers in wheelchairs that I've used this for, and it was a lot quicker," Morris said. "Especially getting them off; they're able to just wheel right out."

Morris said he has had one Western student use it so far and she liked it, but it's a little different having to ride backwards on the bus. Morris believes this will be the biggest issue for people as some of them have expressed the feeling of carsickness.

Freshman Ben Hayes uses the buses as often as he can, only starting to use them late this summer. He agreed this change will be safer and quicker.

"It will improve efficiency," Hayes said. "With all the other students who take the bus, it will also benefit them. It will go by faster and gets them to where they're going quicker."

With the change of more chairs being able to flip up, Hayes thinks that will only be helpful depending when they are flipped, as it could make buses more crowded if they don't get put back after use.

## ESC seeks architectural vision

Opsis, who designed Western's Rec Center, Academic Instructional Center, appears to be frontrunner

Matt Svilar  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western students voted last spring to expand the Ethnic Student Center with a new multicultural center. Now discussions are underway regarding potential building architects.

With approval from the university, the ESC has

A team from Opsis presented its plan to students from the ESC on Thursday, Oct. 27, in an open forum.

"The idea of reaching out and including a diverse group of stakeholders is something that is very much part of how we work," Opsis partner Jim Kalvelage said.

Kalvelage thinks bring-

versation about diversity and ethnicity on campus.

Opsis helped design the Wade King Student Recreation Center and the Academic Instructional Center on campus, as well as created similar student centers at Gonzaga University and Oregon State University.

Opsis also designed the largest Hispanic multicultural center in the Northwest and a Tibetan peace center for refugees, both located in Portland.

"How you experience a place and how you walk away from it, giving you some type of feeling, is really important," designer Lisa Watt said. "We want you to be proud of this place."

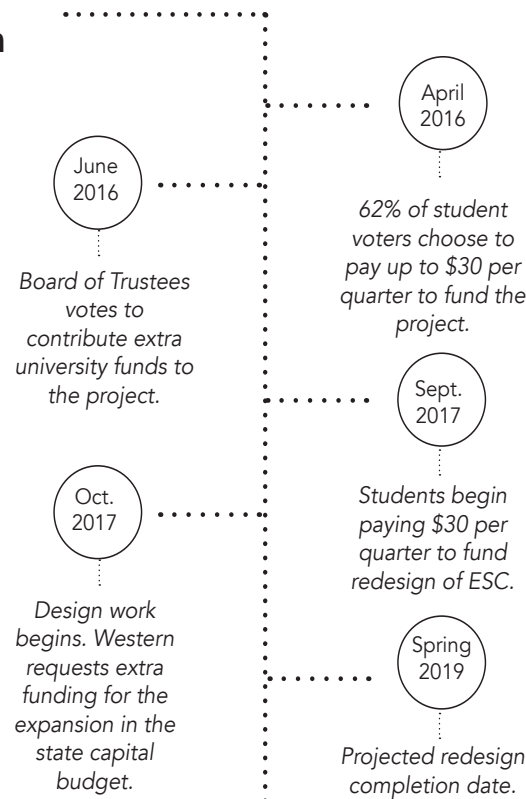
Watt is the founder of Tribal Museum Planners and Consultants, a firm specializing in designing museums and cultural centers for Northwestern Native American groups.

The proposed plan is to construct the new ESC on top of the existing Associated Students Bookstore, creating a third level, and Opsis suggested connecting the bookstore, Viking Union and the Viking Union Multi-Purpose Room.

There is no date planned for construction yet, but Opsis said student accessibility will be key during construction, and the Viking Union's entrances will make getting in and out easier.

"We would start working with [students] right on day one," Opsis Senior Associate John Shorb said.

### Ethnic Student Center Redesign Timeline



Estimated project expenditure \$15-18 million

Graphic by Gabby Roppo

turned to architectural developers to alleviate the problems. The front-runner in the search is Opsis Architecture, based in Portland, Oregon.

ing the ESC to a more prominent location on campus would do more than bring in more visitors, it would hopefully be the catalyst into creating a bigger con-

## Driscoll's berries boycott ends in Skagit

2-year boycott addressed unfair conditions, farmworker's rights abused

Natalie Breymeyer  
THE WESTERN FRONT

The boycott on Driscoll's berries by the Sakuma Brothers in Skagit County has officially been called off. However, the company's practices are still under scrutiny.

The boycott has been a two-year demonstration of solidarity with the farmworkers of Driscoll's who have been receiving unfair wages and labor conditions.

The Associated Students announced it was officially boycotting Driscoll's last spring. The WWU Students for Farmworker Justice club on campus has organized protests and some local businesses have stopped selling Driscoll's products.

On Tuesday, Sept. 13, after Familias Unidas por la Justicia had reached out to the Community Food Co-op in Bell-

ingham asking them to call off the boycott, the board voted to make it official.

FUJ is an independent union representing 500 Triqui, Mixteco and Spanish speaking workers located in Burlington. It was formed two years ago in hopes of bringing the Skagit farmworkers fair working conditions.

For two years, the Co-op upheld the boycott and was one of the businesses refusing to sell Driscoll's berries.

Adrienne Renz, outreach manager at the Co-op, explained its recent decision to call off the Driscoll's boycott.

"We were asked specifically by FUJ to lift the boycott, and since they were the ones who started this whole thing — it was in solidarity with them — that means we have to respect what they are now asking us to do," Renz said.

Sophomore Greta Merkel

is president of the WWU Students for Farmworker Justice club. The club has participated in pickets outside of establishments selling Driscoll's prod-



Illustration by Evan Matz

ucts, and Merkel said the club will continue to do so.

"The Skagit Valley farmworkers who belong to the union have called off the boycott because their employer has started the negotiation process for a union contract, so they had to call it off legally," Merkel said.

Merkel said the issue with Driscoll's farmworkers being treated unfairly still isn't close to being resolved.

"Students at Farmworker Justice understand that a lot of farmworkers, especially still in Mexico, are still calling for a boycott," Merkel said. "They face even worse violations of workers rights abuses, such as physical assault, sexual assault, racist harassment and wage theft. Just terrible stuff."

Merkel said it's been more difficult to push the boycott now that the Skagit farmworkers have joined a union, even though people in other countries are still facing unfair conditions.

"Even if they got a contract, I think there would still be racist harassment in the fields," Merkel said. "There's a long ways to go locally and even longer for the people in Mexico."

Renz said the board has

sent a note out to the produce managers of the Co-op saying they are now permitted to buy Driscoll's products.

"We're going to have a meeting with all of our members invited and with FUJ representatives so they can share with shoppers what it meant to them to have that boycott honor," Renz said.

Renz said the Co-op is focusing on domestic fair trade and what goes into fairly grown products with fair labor practices.

"It isn't the end of a conversation, but I think there's a chance to show people can make an impact even if you're not a huge corporation," Renz said.

The Students for Farmworker Justice club plans to continue pickets outside Whole Foods and Costco in the future.

## Standardized tests continue for post-graduate students

Students see \$205 test as unnecessary, too expensive

Alex Halverson  
THE WESTERN FRONT

School work and growing pressures of grades are common gripes among students, but students fresh off an undergraduate degree are finding an even more frustrating obstacle.

The Graduate Record Examination is a \$205 test many universities require for admission into master's programs.

Much like the SATs or ACTs most universities require for admission into undergraduate programs, the GRE is a standardized test measuring student's skills in knowledge they've learned over 17-plus years of education.

Alternatives to the GRE are available, but are more specific aptitude tests offered by specific programs, such as the Graduate Management Admission Test for business students.

Jacob Bonner is a business management graduate in the accelerated Master of Business Administration program who took the GMAT.

"I would say it's at least a little bit unnecessary," Bonner said. "It's expensive, a lot of people will put in hundreds of hours of study time for this one exam."

Standardized tests are the subject of much debate around the country, particularly regarding the usefulness of tests to measure aptitude. Despite meeting the need to measure knowledge, standardized testing is criticized for using unnecessary amounts of resources and instructional times, according to an article by the Harvard Political Review, "The Case Against Standardized Testing."

A 2013 report by the American Federation of Teachers found some teachers in North

Carolina high schools were losing 20 percent of instructional time to test preparation.

"It's an exam that's on math, reading and analytical skills, so it's not really something you'll be using in the workforce," Bonner said.

Another student found the test unnecessary, not because of what it measured, but because of how weighted it was in her application.

Molly Whipple is a student in Western's speech-language pathology graduate program who had to take the GRE.

"I understand why they do it, to compare to a huge population of people," Whipple said. "I didn't do so hot, but I still got in. I had a really good GPA, I'm outgoing, I know a lot of the people in the program, I know the professors really well."

Certain aspects of what is measured on the exam can still be useful, as the exam aims to

measure general knowledge.

"I understand how it can look at your critical thinking skills and obviously your vocabulary," Whipple said.

In universities however, test preparation is a responsibility students have to take upon themselves. Test preparation aides such as Kaplan, an online resource with GRE preparatory classes students can take, have prices reaching \$999.

Because of the already tight schedule students have, Whipple found the Kaplan GRE test prep to be both useful and a heavy workload compared to the exam itself.

"A lot of the things I was studying weren't on the test," Whipple said. "I studied the vocabulary so much, but none of the terms I studied were on the exam, so that was frustrating."

While no changes to the admission process is in sight, stu-

dents have alternative ideas to make the test more applicable to careers.

"I think a better approach would be a formal interview process, as opposed to a test," Bonner said. "If you have the grades for an undergrad program, you've proved you can handle yourself in a high-intensity environment."

Changing the application process may not be the answer, but decreasing the pressure placed on GRE scores might be, Whipple said.

"There are other ways you can set yourself apart, just in your application in general. I know going into staff member's offices, and asking them questions and telling them you're really interested in the program, you know, putting a face to the application, is what matters most," Whipple said.

## Potential tuition increases may affect Western Washington State Tuition Changes

Alex Van Valkenburgh  
THE WESTERN FRONT

After two years of tuition decreasing, it may be time for an increase.

In the upcoming 2017-18 academic year, the price of tuition could increase by 2.1 percent. The tuition increase is in response to the annual percentage change in Washington state's median hourly income over the past 14 years, according to documents released by Annie Pennucci, from the Washington State Institute of Public Policy.

"That is really terrifying," said Kaelyn King, a public relations senior. "I feel like it is already high enough, and if it keeps rising then it will make it harder for more and more people to start going to school."

State legislature reduced tuition of public resident undergraduate students by 5 percent in 2015 and this year's tuition was reduced by 20 percent.

Before the tuition decrease set forth by the Washington legislature, tuition was on a steep increase. Tuition in Washington state more than doubled between 2001 and 2012, with the largest increases happening after the 2008-09 academic year. The tuition increases only stopped after the Washington legislature on tuition fees was established.

"The university has not decided if they are going to adopt the 2.1 percent increase," said Bryce Hammer, Western's Associated Students vice president for governmental affairs.

"They haven't decided what they would do with it. Based on other schools like Central Washington University, I would say they would likely put it toward staff and faculty salary increases."

"The board of trustees is ultimately the people who set the tuition rates for the year," Ham-

# \$\$\$

Western's current estimated tuition rates per quarter:

- \$6,116 for in-state students
- \$20,060 for out-of-state students

Washington legislature lowered tuition 5% in 2015

Western adopted this change

State legislature passed 20% tuition reduction for 2016-2017 school year

Western lowered tuition by 15% for the 2016-2017 school year

mer said.

The process to determine if the tuition increase will occur or not has not started. The session is scheduled to end by April 23, but in the past the decision making processes have continued past the scheduled end date until June, said Steve Swan, vice president of university relations.

"I think it would make it harder for a lot of people to go to school," senior Kailey Mills, a linguistics major, said when discussing the potential for a tuition increase. "Personally I have my tuition paid through the [Veterans Association] for the next two years, but I know my first two quarters here, it was extremely hard to pay for tuition. If it was more expensive, I might have not been able

to go to school."

To join in the process, students can directly contact the administration about their preferences, voice their opinions to the Associated Students or join the Associated Students on a trip to Olympia to lobby legislators directly.

"If [students] want to do the lobbying, there's a couple different ways they could do it. They could find our application to go to Western Lobby Day on OrgSync, they can come directly to the AS and I can help them out, they can also just google it," Hammer said.

Western Lobby Day is on Monday, Jan. 15, and Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2017, and registration for the event ends Saturday, Dec. 10.

## More students accessing mental health resources at Western

Maddy Stewart  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western's Counseling Center has seen an 18.5 percent increase in unique clients, and new mental health referrals from the Student Health Center have tripled since the 2010-11 school year, but staffing levels remained the same, according to Western's State Operating Budget Request.

Efforts have been made by the university to serve more students by implementing a "brief and focused" model of individual counseling, which offers more group sessions and a reliance on a greater use of therapists in the community.

Other universities are experiencing similar scenarios. According to the Wall Street Journal, Ohio State has seen a 43 percent increase in the past five years in number of students seeking treatment at the school's counseling center, and the University of Michigan's demand for counseling services has risen by 36 percent over the past seven years.

"The biggest stress for college freshmen is being thrown into this new atmosphere, and now we don't have mom and dad to help guide us, or help us make decisions," said junior resident adviser Jake Curtis.

At Western, resident advisers are responsible for educating freshmen about all the resources on campus students can go to for help. These include tutoring centers in the library, clubs and counseling centers.

"We are trained to be the best resource possible for them and to be that plug to connect them with proper campus resources, so hopefully the stress doesn't become overwhelming." There is a confidentiality agreement between what freshmen tell residential advisers, as

long as no one's safety is in danger, and Curtis said he isn't surprised anxiety levels in college students are on the rise.

"We assume this high value in college...we think our entire future is based off of what we do right now...and that makes the anxiety and stress that much more," Curtis said. When midterms, dead week and finals week roll around, stress levels "sky rocket," Curtis said.

Ian Vincent, the men's resiliency specialist at the Western Counseling Center, is part of the Building Resilience and Voicing Empathy, or BRAVE, program on campus. The program is focused on suicide prevention and strengthening the campus community.

"It teaches you skills that you might need to have a conversation with a friend you're concerned about and how to refer them to resources on campus," Vincent said. "It is becoming more recognized that mental health is a serious issue on college campuses and there should be some sort of formal training for prevention."

Vincent blames increased anxiety levels on the fact college has gotten more competitive over the years, and on the difficulty of managing the stresses of school, relationships, finances and student debt.

During the first week of November, Western's Counseling Center will put on a Healthy Minds Fair offering activities to improve stress-coping skills — including massage therapists and relaxation stations.

In 2015, Western was one of seven schools awarded the "Active Minds Healthy Campus Award." The achievement recognizes U.S. universities that provide access to quality healthcare and an extensive approach to promoting and protecting student health.

## Caribou-clad protesters object to Starbucks' environmental impact

Susan Petris  
THE WESTERN FRONT

A protest was held at a new Starbucks opening in Fairhaven on Thursday, Oct. 27, over the company's economic footprint — namely its cups.

At 9 a.m., two protesters dressed in inflatable caribou costumes entered the Starbucks on Old Fairhaven Parkway, distributing cups and comics to customers detailing their desire for Starbucks to change.

Stand, an advocacy organization, is urging the company to begin using 100 percent recyclable cups, recommit to distributing 25 percent reusable cups and start using 100 percent post-consumer recycled material.

The organization's mission is to protect forests and climates, and has been working on the protest for months.

"We have been in touch with Starbucks since early this year about the cups that they use for hot beverages," Stand Execu-

tive Director Todd Paglia said. "The protest today was a line of many actions, protests and on-line activities over the last six months to try and change that incredibly destructive, forest destroying cup into something that has a lot less impact."

Paglia believes the current Starbucks cup has a high environmental cost. Starbucks cups are currently made from 10 percent recycled material.

Starbucks hands out 8,000 cups per minute every day, averaging about 4 billion cups a year, according to a comic passed out by the protesters.

"That takes a huge toll on our forest, on our climate, and it's completely unnecessary," Paglia said.

In a letter drafted to Howard Schultz, CEO of Starbucks, Stand outlined the importance of Starbucks' actions as an iconic and influential brand.

"The company is too successful and far too wealthy to continue to borrow from the next generation to increase



Protesters dressed as caribou hold a sign outside the Starbucks in Fairhaven. // Photo by Susan Petris

its profits," the letter reads.

"We believe that the breakout innovations you so ably bring to your operations — a business that has shifted the culture and buying practices of billions of people — can surely be a posi-

tive influence on forests and sustainability."

In 2008 Starbucks outlined a plan to serve 25 percent of all beverages in reusable cups by 2015, but the number was reduced to 5 percent in

2011. After seeing a decrease in customer use in reusable cups, Starbucks addressed its progress in the 2015 Global Responsibility Report.

"We continue to encourage customers to use personal tumblers by offering a discount on beverages, but we believe this behavior change is ultimately up to the customers," according to the report.

Stand wants Starbucks to recommit to its original goal of 25 percent reusable cups for all its beverages.

"There are people and there are creatures that suffer from the choices that Starbucks is making," Paglia said. "We wanted to bring a little life to the protest."

Stand's letter claims Starbucks is more interested in talking about environmental goals than achieving them.

The two men ended their protest by holding up a large banner on Old Fairhaven Parkway which read, "Starbucks, quit cutting trees for cups."

## Voters can recover lost ballots, vote from out of state

*continued from page 1*  
provided envelope.

### Replacement Ballots

If a ballot can't be forwarded to you or is damaged, voters can obtain a replacement ballot by contacting the elections depart-

ment in their city to request a new ballot. The elections department in Whatcom County is located at 311 Grand Ave., Suite 103, Bellingham, Washington. **Sending ballots by mail:**

Ballots can be mailed if post-

marked before Nov. 8. Whatcom County requires \$0.68 postage on ballots.

### Out-of-county voting:

Whatcom County sends ballots to the address registered by the voter. Updated addresses can be dorm rooms, apartments

or houses, but the county isn't sending ballots to P.O. Boxes.

Freshman Gage Tuttle registered to vote in Whatcom County after he moved into the dorms.

"It took a little while for me to get my ballot, but other than

that [voting] has been alright," Tuttle said.

### Out-of-state voting:

When voting out of state, the same procedures must be followed and voters will need to get a new ballot sent to a current address.

## VIKING FOOD

IS A LOCALLY-OWNED & OPERATED COMPANY WITH A MISSION TO PROVIDE A PROMPT & AFFORDABLE WAY FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES TO OFFER DELIVERY OPTIONS FOR THEIR CUSTOMERS

PUT IN AN ORDER ON THE WEBSITE OR VIA OUR APP & LET US DO THE REST

DOWNLOAD OUR APP IN THE APP OR PLAY STORE

ENTER CODE  
**VFOOD16**

FOR A FREE  
**12 OZ SODA**

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST  
\$5 TO MINIMUM ORDER



### Nominations Sought for Excellence in Teaching, Scholarship and Other Faculty Awards

WWU faculty members are committed to outstanding teaching, scholarship, leadership and community service and periodically the Western community has the opportunity to recognize some of our exceptional faculty members. The following annual awards are examples of the university community's efforts to recognize and show appreciation to faculty members and others for their service and outstanding achievements. Provost Carbajal encourages your nominations for these awards, each of which includes a check for \$1,000.

Nominations are due for the following six awards by December 2, 2016:

- 1) Peter J. Elich Excellence in Teaching Award for faculty;
- 2) Excellence in Teaching Award for faculty;
- 3) Paul J. Olskamp Research Award for faculty;
- 4) Outstanding Scholarship Award for faculty;
- 5) The Outstanding Faculty Leadership Award for faculty;
- 6) The Carl H. Simpson Bridging Award for faculty, staff and students.

Additional information about each award, the nomination process, and the links to the on-line nomination forms may be found at

[www.wvu.edu/provost/faculty/awards/index.shtml](http://www.wvu.edu/provost/faculty/awards/index.shtml)

# ADVERTISE IN THE WESTERN FRONT

# PRINT ONLINE

# CONTACT 360.650.3160 WWW.WESTERNFRONT@GMAIL.COM

## STUDY ABROAD IN SPAIN

JULY-AUGUST 2017

4, 6, OR 8 WEEK  
SPANISH LANGUAGE  
& CULTURE COURSES  
AT THE UNIVERSITY  
OF SALMANCA

APPLICATION DUE  
MARCH 1, 2017

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT  
[CENTROFRAYLUIS.COM](http://CENTROFRAYLUIS.COM) OR E-MAIL [BETO@SPU.EDU](mailto:BETO@SPU.EDU)

# Broadcasting a bromance

**Western alumnus Will Butela and his childhood friend Mike Duke began producing "Fun Brothers. A Podcast," after winning a trip to the 2015 MLB All-Star Game**



Will Butela and Mike Duke record their podcast in Butela's garage. // Photo by Morgan Stilp-Allen

**Jack Carballo, Ryan Parish**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

The sound of laughter echoes throughout Western alumnus Will Butela's garage. Located in Lynden, Washington, a glance inside reveals all the makings of what social anthropologists would classify a "man cave."

The walls of Butela's lair are adorned with various sports and film memorabilia. A giant flat screen broadcasting game three of the National League Championship Series is positioned in the corner of the room, next to a DVD rack barely able to contain the massive movie

collection Butela has assembled.

In the center of the room, Butela sits across from his best friend Mike Duke. Duke is behind a laptop, grilling Butela on current events.

"True or false, you know the name of Donald Trump's wife," Duke asks.

"False. ... Is Trump's wife named Melania? I get it confused with the daughter, what's the daughter's name? And then I get confused with the woman who's his like, what his coach?"

This is an example of the fun the two friends have recording their comedic podcast, "Fun Brothers. A Podcast."

Butela and Duke became friends

while they were in third grade, where they created a bond over a shared love for the Seattle Mariners and movies.

"We didn't do hard drugs or anything, so we had a lot of free time," Duke said. "That meant extra money for DVDs and Guitar Hero."

From playing on Little League teams together to working at the same Olive Garden in their early 20s, the two have always had a strong friendship. In June 2015, the two found themselves faced with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Butela entered a sweepstakes contest from Esurance to win a trip to the 2015 Major League Baseball All-Star Game in Cincinnati, and to his disbelief, he won.

"The only reason I opened [Esurance's email] is because it said 'You are going to the MLB All-Star Game,'" Butela said. "And I thought, 'that's a weird tagline. That doesn't seem legal for them to lie.'"

The email was no hoax and Butela told his buddy Duke immediately.

"[Mike] was mad," Butela grinned. "And then I told him he got to go too, and then he was excited."

Once the trip was arranged, Esurance surveyed each contest winner about their favorite things about baseball and the responses were produced into short profile videos.

"I guess I did good, because they did a two-minute video instead of a thirty-second video on us," Butela said. "Most peoples' got a couple thousand hits, and ours got over a million."

The chemistry and humor the duo displayed in the video impressed the producers with Esurance.

"When you first sat down with Will and Mike and interviewed them, then saw the footage they brought with them, we were just kind of bowled over that we just happened upon these guys who were talented comedians," said Sean Quinn,

producer on the video production crew.

Esurance asked Duke and Butela for help with additional promotional videos and red carpet interviews at the All-Star Game. Some of the players and coaches the two interviewed include Kansas City Royals Manager Ned Yost, as well as Tampa Bay Rays center fielder Kevin Kiermaier.

During the trip, Butela and Duke befriended Bradley Danyluk, a producer with the production company. Being approachable and funny made Butela and Duke unique, Danyluk said.

"I don't know many people that have a best friend relationship like those two. I know plenty of friends who need some time apart ... but I just don't get that feeling from them. If you can monetize that and make people laugh at the same time, do it."

After the trip, the two were guests on a podcast belonging to Aaron Kirby, who Butela met through stand-up comedy work, to discuss their experience at the All-Star Game. Instead, they rambled about sports for half an hour. After they finished recording Kirby's podcast, the two came to the realization they might be able to run a show of their own.

"We literally left that, looked at each other and said, 'yeah, we could do that,'" Duke said. "What was stopping us?"

From there, the first episode of the sports entertainment podcast "Fun Brothers. A Podcast," starring Duke and Butela, began production. The first episode was posted on March 2, 2016.

"Basically the podcast is an extension of us watching the game together and talking to each other, except instead of that we're talking to each other through microphones," Butela said. "We tend to find each other during important sporting events."

Topics covered in an episode range from performance trends of a certain team or player, to random one-off discussions, such as whether or not horses were the first animals to be ridden by a person.

"We've done skits, we've done raps, we've done a take on Drunk History," Butela said. "We have a segment called '5-On-It.' That's just us talking about the five best and five worst things of a given topic."

*"I guess I did good, because they did a two-minute instead of a thirty-second video on us. Most peoples' got a couple thousand hits, and ours got over a million."*

- Will Butela

In the past they've discussed movies, actors, vegetables and even sports teams. With the entertainment industry

being so competitive and rigorous, Butela and Duke's running start has been crucial to the podcast's growth and popularity.

"Ten years ago they would've had to move to Chicago or L.A. to get noticed," Quinn said. "Seeing them work in a very free form space like a podcast where they can really be themselves, write their bits, put some of their opinions out there, I think it really plays to their strengths, first of all. That's the great thing about the internet, they're funny guys from Bellingham, Washington, and they can reach the world."

The show not only acts as an entertainment medium for comedy and sports listeners looking for a laugh, but it's also a chance to catch up for the two best friends who share a common passion. The friends' comfort level with each other allows for an open and genuine structure to the podcast, Butela said.

Butela said his time at Western, specifically classes like communications and debate, highlighted his ability to think quickly on his feet.

"I really enjoyed doing stupid debates in debate class, about stuff like whether crushed or cubed ice was better, and then having to give a five minute speech," Butela said.

Duke would often help Butela study for his classes.

"I'd say I lived vicariously through his



Duke (left) and Butela (right) take a selfie while attending a Louis C.K. show at the White River Amphitheater on Sept. 5, 2015. The friends enjoy attending sporting and comedy events together. // Photo courtesy of Mike Duke

classes," Duke said. "If he had to practice

for a debate or write a paper, he'd run things by me or practice, as dorky as that sounds. I was kind of like a guinea pig for all his crazy thoughts for school."

The show has been running for about seven months, and episode number 35 aired on Wednesday, Oct. 19, on their official website.

Butela and Duke said they value the opportunity to express themselves creatively much more than the attention they receive for it.

"We're doing it for fun, so making it not stressful I think is the ultimate goal," Duke said. "We don't want to be the athletes who said, 'it was no longer fun anymore.'"

Duke and Butela hope fans are able to find release and distraction from everyday mundane tasks by tuning into the show.

"It's nice because we're best friends but we don't live near each other," Duke said. "It's a chance for us to keep being friends. We essentially are doing the show for each other, and it's just lucky that people happen to listen to it, it's just kind of fun for us."

**Duke (left) and Butela (right) dressed in pajamas to film an Esurance commercial in 2015, at Joe Martin Field in Bellingham. The two impressed producers with their initial Esurance short and were asked to film more. // Photo courtesy of Mike Duke**



Butela (right) and Duke (left) pose for photos with Cincinnati Reds legends and Baseball Hall of Famers catcher Johnny Bench (left center) and second baseman Joe Morgan at the 2015 MLB All-Star game in Cincinnati, July 2015. // Photo courtesy of Mike Duke

Listen to "Fun Brothers" at:

[therealfunbrothers.wordpress.com](http://therealfunbrothers.wordpress.com)

# The Feels on the Bus



While decorating the bus each holiday can be a lot of work, Margaret Anaya (left), Wayne Van Diest and Kay Van Diest enjoy the extra time they give the community to add to the holiday spirit. // Photo by Harrison Amelang

*Bus operators deck the walls with a myriad of holiday goodies as they drive all through the town*

Jose Salazar  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Spiderwebs, snowflakes and the Seahawks.

As they step out of the consistently questionable Washington weather, Whatcom Transportation Authority riders have been treated to buses decked out in festive gear for every Halloween, Christmas and Seahawks postseason. WTA Transit Operators Cathy Holland and Kay Van Diest have been the masterminds behind the decor for the past decade.

"One of the things that inspired me to do it is our passengers stand out in the rain," Holland said. "[So, when they] ride transit when it's cold and wet, they have something special for them for that time of year."

Holland began decorating her bus as a memorial for Shirley Petty, a former WTA transit operator. Petty would decorate the windows of the paratransit bus she drove for every holiday, much to the delight of her passengers, Holland said. Holland's bus was initially outfitted with wreaths and garlands during Christmas time, she said.

Holland's relationship with WTA began in 1998. After catching a bus home from the library because her car wouldn't start, Holland began a

conversation with the driver, Carmen Jackson, who informed Holland of part time work at WTA. Holland soon found herself splitting her time as a student at Whatcom Community College and being a transit operator.

Despite Holland's good intentions, she quickly discovered the challenges of decorating a moving vehicle. Stronger duct tape and command hooks soon followed.

"We found out what worked in buses and what didn't," Holland said. "How you put things up in a bus is very different than how you would a Christmas tree. Everything has to be really on there well."



Donna Klix attempts to untangle half of a decorative witch on Saturday, Oct. 29. // Photo by Harrison Amelang

The following Halloween, Holland continued the tradition by throwing on some platform shoes and an afro wig, playing disco music and setting up a disco ball in the middle of the bus. The decorating tradition has been in effect ever since.

It's now been over 10 years since Holland's initial holiday bus that doubled as a memorial for Petty. In the years since, passengers have come to love the decorations.

"I was really hoping it would kind of become iconic," Holland said.

The decorations stick out in the minds of students like junior Quinn Michael.

"People look forward to seeing the buses decked out," Michael said. "I would say the Halloween [bus], in particular, is a staple of Western life."

Until four years ago, Holland did most of the legwork herself. Kay Van Diest joined the WTA family in 2012 and, after a chance encounter with Holland, asked if she could help her with the holiday bus, Van Diest said.

Van Diest and Holland have partnered up since, and even after four years of coordinating the decorations, the work still requires quite a bit of preparation for each holiday.

"It takes one, or now two people, who are really willing to be thinking about it months in advance," said Maureen McCarthy, marketing and community relations manager for WTA.

*"People look forward to seeing the buses decked out," Michael said. "I would say the Halloween [bus], in particular, is a staple of Western life."*

Quinn Michael  
Western junior

In order to comply with safety regulations, how and where decorations are placed depends on the location of cameras, poles, windows and emergency exits, Holland said. Also, batteries for the lights have to constantly be changed because there's no plug-ins on the bus, Van Diest said.

"We work all year to get all the decorations and get everything ready. And we come up with a theme," Van Diest said.

Past holiday themes include snowflakes, candy canes and wreaths. For one holiday theme, there was a wreath decorated by WTA staff on every bus window. This year's theme is expected to be "winter wonderland," in which blue lights and wrapping paper will cover the bus, Van Diest said.



The Whatcom Transportation Authority has been decorating busses for the last 10 years. Supplies are stored beside the bus as it undergoes its transformation on Saturday, Oct. 29 // Photo by Harrison Amelang



Margaret Anaya sticks cockroaches on the roof of the bus. // Photo by Harrison Amelang

The holiday bus usually runs for two weeks, Van Diest said. One week before Christmas and one week after. However, the haunted bus can only be seen one day per year: Halloween. Past Halloween themes include disco, lighted-wire spiderwebs and blacklight.

The Downtown Bellingham Partnership throws a trick-or-treat event every Halloween, which WTA helps sponsor, McCarthy said. While parked downtown, kids are able to tour the decorated bus and receive candy, Van Diest said.



Margaret Anaya (left) and Kay Van Diest fit a sword into the hand of one of many skeletons to be put in the bus. // Photo by Harrison Amelang

This year's Halloween theme was supposed to be "killer clowns from outer space," but the idea was scrapped due to the recent clown-sighting reports, Van Diest said.

The 12th man bus, which only runs if the Seahawks make it to the playoffs, came about after members of the fantasy football league at WTA pitched the idea, Holland said. Not knowing much about football, she agreed to the idea only if the rest of the staff donated the decorations, to which the rabid Seahawks fans crew happily complied, Holland said.

Seahawks-colored skittles and blown up pictures of every player, with their name and position, were some of the decorations used on the 12th man bus, Holland said.

The response from customers, per usual, was positive, Holland said. "It's really hard and it's sometimes frustrating, but the people enjoy it so much," Van Diest said. "When you hear all of that feedback, it makes it all worth it."

Not ready to get pregnant?

Think about an IUD or Implant.

Call 1.800.230.PLAN today.  
mbpp.org

IUDs and implants last a long time, are easy to use, and are the most effective pregnancy-prevention methods. IUDs are safe for women of all ages, even for young women who have not had a child or are not married.



Primary Health Care, Family Practice  
Birth Control, Nexplanon, IUD  
Coughs and Sore Throats  
STI, ADD, UTI, Depression  
Acupuncture, Weight Loss

Sports & Travel Physicals

Discounts Available Call for Details

Bonnie Sprague, ARNP, Tay Kopanos, ARNP  
Steve Bogert, LAC

Near WWU  
Convenient Same-Day Appointments  
Most Insurance, Cash Discount

Call for an Appointment Today!

(360) 756-9793  
www.BellinghamHealth.com

Advertise in the

WESTERN WEEKEND

The Western Front's new weekly, weekend + lifestyle edition  
To learn more about advertising, call 360.650.3160 or email www.westernfront@gmail.com



# Frontline: Limited sustainability

Opinions of the Editorial Board

Whether it's in the Viking Union or The Atrium market, we've all been there — staring at a wide selection of garbage cans, wondering what's recyclable, what goes in the landfill and what goes in the mysterious unlabeled can at the end.

Often times, we make the wrong decision. We're only human, right? However, the problem doesn't stop there. Western has a reputation of being an eco-friendly school — we have a solid college of the environment, multiple waste receptacles in some buildings and an entire office centered around campus sustainability.

Still, there are a few things we aren't thinking about as an environmentally-minded student body.

Walk the halls of some academic buildings, the Communications Facility for example, and you only have one option for your trash on most floors — landfill. As it turns out, if you don't have the option of a food resource in your building, like the Starbucks in Arntzen Hall or the Panda Express in Viking Union, you can't choose where to put your trash. Realistically, you probably won't walk to another building just for the purpose of recycling a plastic Gatorade bottle.

In April 2014, Western banned the sale of plastic water bottles on campus. "Bottled water and water privatization is detrimental to the environment, to human rights to water and simply doesn't make sense in a region where we have clean, amazing tap water," said

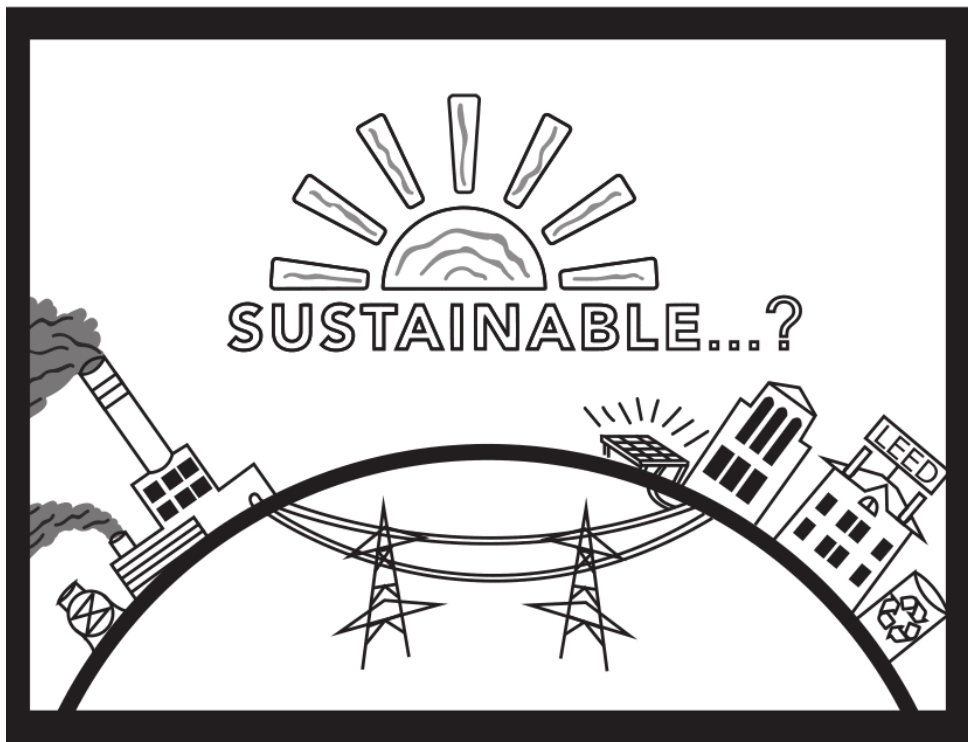


Illustration by Evan Matz

Carolyn Bowie, a member of Students for Sustainable Water at Western, in the press release for the bottled water ban.

Instead of selling plastic water bottles, there are filtered water refill stations in select buildings on campus, such as Arntzen Hall. However, in this same building, plastic bottles of Gatorade, SoBe, iced teas and flavored Aquafina water bottles can be found for sale in The Atrium market, as well as other food facilities and every vending machine on campus.

It seems like a step in the right direction to eliminate plastic water bottles, but why not stretch the initiative across the board? It seems our heart was in the right place, but we really only got rid of a fraction of the issues plastic bottles present. As a school priding itself on sustainability, we should commit to getting rid of the plastic bottle option as a whole, what's the point in the middle ground?

Another inconsistent choice Western's campus makes is refusing to divest in fossil fuels. According to the Associated

Students website, "the WWU Foundation Endowment, via its investments in certain commingled investment funds, maintains an indirect ownership interest in certain energy companies that are involved in the production or distribution of fossil fuel related products." As a campus "committed to carbon neutrality by 2050," it seems absurd we choose to spend our funds on direct contribution to fossil fuel production.

With what seems like a sustainability paradox surrounding our campus, there are ways to contribute to becoming a green student body with individual action. Wait until you're near an appropriate receptacle for your trash, recyclables or compost, become an active member of Students for Renewable Energy, take time out of your schedule to send an email to the WWU Foundation urging them to divest from fossil fuels. They can be reached by phone as well, at (360) 650-3027. The Western Front Editorial Board sees that it's important to add compost and recycling bins to all academic buildings. We also think getting rid of all plastic bottles would hold true to the ideals that Western has expressed.

It's a common misconception that one person saying something about unresolvable issues such as these isn't effective. Eventually, one turns into a few and a few turns into many. Having a voice is simple if you choose to actively use it.

The Editorial Board is composed of Layne Carter, Elizabeth Kayser and Evan Elliott.

## Viking Voices

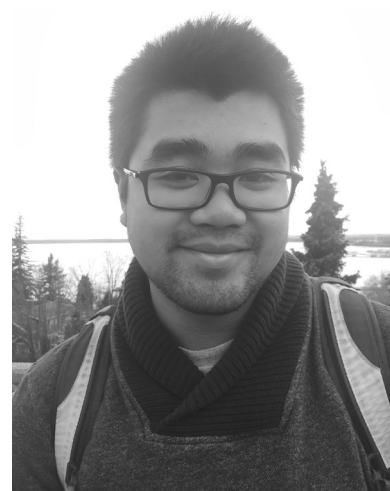
Compiled by Rachel Postlewait

Overall, do you think Western's campus does an adequate job focusing on sustainability?



Zachary Miller, 21, communication studies and business administration

"I think they do a pretty good job. I kind of think the no water bottle rule on campus is kind of extreme. I just don't really see what the point is, because if they are going to get rid of plastic water bottles, why not just get rid of plastic pop bottles as well? I feel like [the rule] would maybe even encourage people to drink soda pop more than it would encourage people from bringing a bottle of water to campus."



Johnathan Mao, 18, environmental studies

"I would say so. Considering every time I throw something away there's always these bins I have to look at and actually look at what I'm throwing away. Plus, it's green. So there's actual nature around it, which actually makes me connected to our environment."

## Letter to the Editor

Listening to all the endorsements fly back and forth, it is easy to forget that there are alternatives on the ballot to Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. Third party candidates are often touted as being detrimental to the election, acting like vote leeches and detracting from the mainstream candidates. However, I don't believe they should be viewed that way.

At Western, our motto is "Active Minds Changing Lives." As a university that prides itself in developing young, educated adults with active minds, we should not look to just join in on the hive mind mentality that is the two-party political system. Instead, we should look to educate ourselves and make our own decisions based on our own beliefs.

I've heard it said that even though people do not support either major party candidate they are just picking the lesser of two evils. To that I say, simply because one is less evil does not dispel the fact that given another viable option you would pick neither Trump or Clinton.

In response to the fear that by voting for a third party an unfavorable candidate will be elected, I point to our Electoral College. The all or nothing system of the Electoral College, in combination with Washington's tendency to light up blue on election day, should give one comfort in casting a third-party vote. In the wider view of things, our individual vote does not carry much weight, and therefore, why should we compromise our conscience and vote for the lesser of two evils? I implore the students of Western to go out there and gather political information about all of the candidates, and give each one of them equal consideration.

-Patrick Pham, financial accounting

## 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

# Row, row your boat

The rowing season has arrived for the Western men's and women's crew teams

Ben Olson  
THE WESTERN FRONT

## Women's rowing

The women's crew team, which competes at the NCAA Division II level, is hoping to return to the national championships for the second straight year. Last season, both the Varsity 8 and Varsity 4 boats finished third at the national championships in Gold River, California.

Junior Hannah Benson is beginning her third season as a rower on the women's team. Benson said expectations are going to be high this year as the team tries to build off its national championship appearance last season.

"We've been training a lot harder this year," Benson said. "We have more of a drive because we saw what it looked like, we were so close."

Benson said only two senior rowers from last season's Varsity 8 and Varsity 4 boats graduated, and competition for spots will be high this year.

Along with plenty of fa-

miliar faces, there will be new rowers with varying levels of experience. Junior Kenzie Hezel, a first-year rower for the women's crew team, said she has only been out on the water for about three weeks.

"I've never raced before," Hezel said. "I'm pretty nervous but I'm going to give it all I have."

Hezel said that some of the more experienced rowers on the team have given her plenty of tips to help her get ready for her first season.

"I'm very grateful to have made the team," Hezel said. "It's a great group of girls to be a part of."

The women's crew teams competed in the Island Head Race on Saturday, Oct. 29, at Lake Whatcom, with the women's varsity 8 boat finishing second.

The next event for the women's team will be at the Head of the Lake Regatta on Sunday, Nov. 6, on Lake Union in Seattle.

## Men's crew

The Western men's crew team is a club program that competes in the Northwest Collegiate Rowing Conference, the Western Intercollegiate Rowing Association and the American Collegiate Rowing Association.

As a club program, the men's

"With a young group of guys, any race experience is good experience."

Nick Jensen  
Junior men's rower

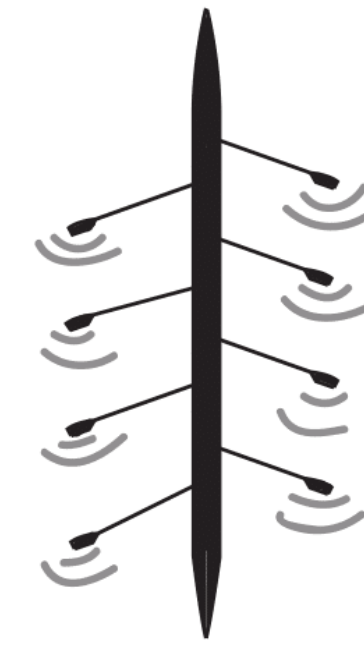


Illustration by Evan Matz

crew team has to raise money to fund the program. According to the team's website, it has a program called Rent-a-Rower, where members of the team can be hired to do yard work and manual labor. The money raised is put toward funding travel expenses and purchasing new equipment.

Junior Nick Jensen, who

is heading into his third year on the men's crew team, said last year wasn't a particularly strong season for the team. Injuries hampered the team, and Head Coach Jack Marolich left the program in the fall after six years at Western.

"Everyone was, more or less, trying to make something out of nothing," Jensen said.

The men's crew team is younger this year, but boasts more rowers with prior experience than it has had in past years, according to Jensen.

"A lot of the new guys have rowed in high school," Jensen said. "When I joined the team there were two other guys who had rowed prior to coming to Western."

While most of the races for men's and women's teams take place during the winter, races in the fall provide the new rowers with some experience.

"With a young group of guys, any race experience is good experience," Jensen said.

The men's team will compete alongside the women at the Head of the Lake Regatta on Sunday, Nov. 6, on Lake Union in Seattle.

ONLINE

**Flexibility = WesternOnline**

Western offers a variety of online courses and programs to fit your needs.

- Term-Based Courses
- Self-Paced Courses
- Degree & Certificate Programs

Review all course options online:  
[www.western.edu/WesternOnline](http://www.western.edu/WesternOnline)  
College Hall 133 • (360) 650-3308

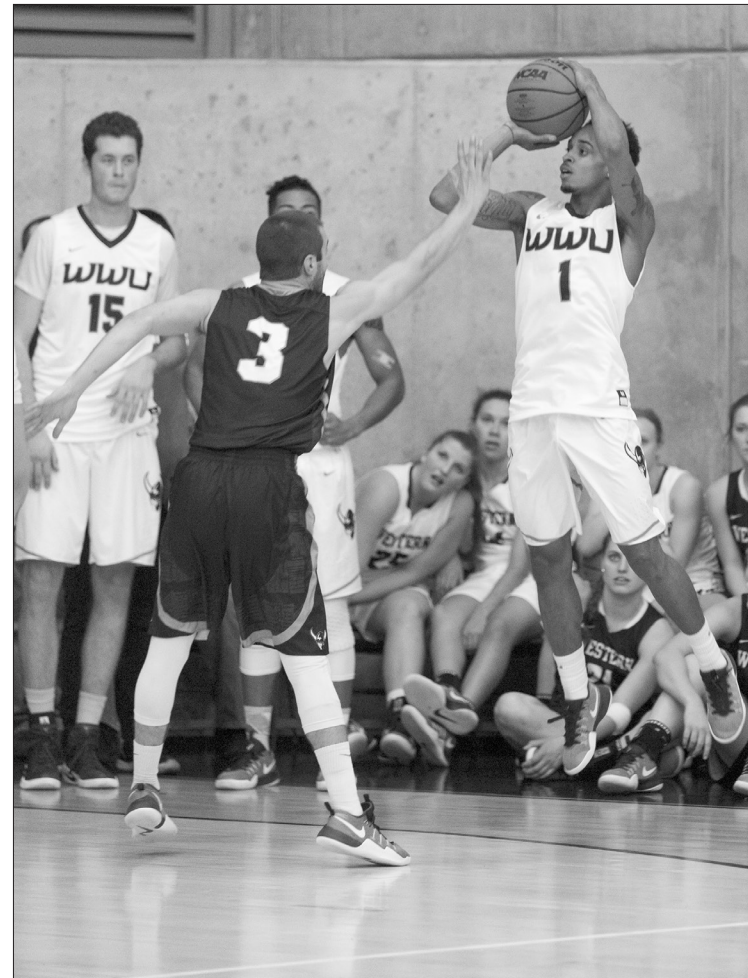
Active Minds Changing Lives A/AEO

FIND MORE  
WWU NEWS  
ONLINE @  
WESTERNFRONTONLINE.COM

# Running the court

Men's basketball player Taylor Stafford provides some perspective on the upcoming season

**Tyler Urke**  
THE WESTERN FRONT



Taylor Stafford shoots a three-pointer during the Viking Jam where he showed a wide variety of skills. // Photo by Caleb Albright

Recreation Center] know me because I'm always in there, I'm always working out, especially this past summer. I just put an emphasis on working out and making sacrifices because if this is what I want to do, I have to be all the way in. It was a good process, and I'm glad God blessed me with it because we all have to sit down sometimes and figure out what the situation is that you're sitting down for.

**Q: After being ranked second in the GNAC Preseason Poll, do you think your team should be rated higher?**

**A:** I'm one of those people that say what's meant to be will be. I see it as adding fuel to the fire. I already play with a chip on my shoulder, so I feel like all my teammates now have that chip on their shoulders. But we do have a lot of new guys that they haven't seen play, so second could be a good thing.

**Q: Which player in the NBA is your play**

**style like?**

**A:** Isaiah Thomas or Derrick Rose.

**Q: Favorite NBA team?**

**A:** Chicago Bulls, but Derrick Rose just got traded to the New York Knicks, so I got two favorite teams.

**Q: What sport would you play if you weren't playing basketball?**

**A:** It would be soccer. Throughout this past summer, I got to know some people who play soccer. They taught me the game. Now, when I go watch the game it's very different. I'm a fan of it now.

**Q: What's the background of your phone right now?**

**A:** The lock screen is my nephew. My sister just had a baby and he's about 7 months old. My home screen is me because that's all I got at the end of the day, so why not?

**Q: Favorite food?**

**A:** I'm a vegetarian, so I had a mushroom portobello burger the other day and that was amazing.

**Q: When did you become a vegetarian and why?**

**A:** This time last year. My brother, Ricardo [Maxwell], was on the team last year and he stopped eating beef and pork. We talked about it and then I said, "OK, I'll do it." And then I started doing research as the weeks and days passed by, and I just found out the good things about going vegetarian and the bad things about eating meat and the hormones that are out into animals. I just educated myself. To be honest, it really helped me. My body feels amazing. When I get injured my recovery is quicker.

**Q: What would be the one food you would go back to eating meat for, if there was one?**

**A:** My diet is Monday through Friday I'm a vegetarian, but on the weekends, I eat chicken. Chicken or fish. But if I could go back to eating beef or pork, I would probably have my grandma's ribs. They're so good, they just fall off the bone.

**Q: Favorite holiday?**

**A:** Mother's Day. I show my mom and my grandma how much I appreciate them, but I really get to show them on that day. I just try to let them know that it's their day, and I really appreciate them from the bottom of my heart. I wouldn't be here without my mom.

**Q: Who's the funniest player on the team?**

**A:** I would say myself. I know how to make a lot of people laugh on the team. I just say little side comments that are funny. Like Logan [Schilder] showed us his freshman year of high school ID and I told him he looked like a jelly bean. Everybody thought it was funny.

**Q: Hot or cold weather?**

**A:** I prefer cold. I like the heat for a certain amount of time; not all the time. I dealt with Arizona heat. Some days it was very

frustrating, so I like the balance of it. And in the winter, you can dress super fly. You could wear a hoodie with a coat over, some black jeans, some Timberlands; you'd be smooth.

**Q: What's your style?**

**A:** My go to would be all black. I'd probably wear a black jacket, black t-shirt under, a hat on, black jeans and probably some Jordans. I got a lot of Air Jordans.

**Q: Favorite Jordan shoe?**

**A:** The retro 6. I got a couple pairs of those.

**Q: Pre-game music?**

**A:** I'm listening to Kevin Gates all day, every day. Before the game he gets me locked in with that mentality to just go get it.

**Q: How far do you think this team will go?**

**A:** Personally, I really don't have expectations with anything I do. But the sky's the limit for us. We've got so much talent that we could go undefeated, but the camaraderie has to be there and other intangibles. But I see us going all the way.

**Last season:**

- Sixth in the GNAC, with a 16-15 overall record
- Upset the University of Alaska Anchorage in the GNAC tournament quarterfinals
- Lost to the University of Alaska Fairbanks in the semifinals, 91-90

**What's ahead:**

- First exhibition game: Capilano University 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 1, at Whatcom Community College
- Showdown against University of Washington 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 3, at Alaska Airlines Arena
- First regular season game: Sonoma State University at the Pioneer Challenge in Hayward, California

# Fool me once...

Opinion: the NFL needs to enforce a zero-tolerance domestic violence policy

**Alex Powell**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

A sad reality has cast a shadow over the National Football League; it has no idea how to handle domestic violence cases.

The most recent example of this glaring problem comes from New York Giants Kicker Josh Brown.

New Jersey Advance Media reported Brown initially came under investigation in response to an incident in May 2015, when he was arrested on a fourth-degree domestic violence charge. Somehow, in the past year, Brown fell through the cracks of the NFL's new domestic violence policy, with the league handing him a mere one-game suspension, and ceasing any further investigations regarding his arrest.

According to the New York Times, the Brown case was reopened Wednesday, Oct. 19, when the Washington State King County Sheriff's Department released documents and journals written by both Brown and his former wife, Molly, detailing Brown's physical and emotional abuse over the past several years.

According to NPR, Brown journaled he had "controlled her by making her feel less human than me, and manipulated her with money."

In February 2014, Baltimore Ravens Running Back Ray Rice was charged with simple assault and indicted for third-degree aggravated assault. In response, the NFL slapped him with a two game suspension and \$58,000 fine. It wasn't until September of the same year the Ravens terminated his contract and the NFL suspended him indefinitely.

His indefinite suspen-

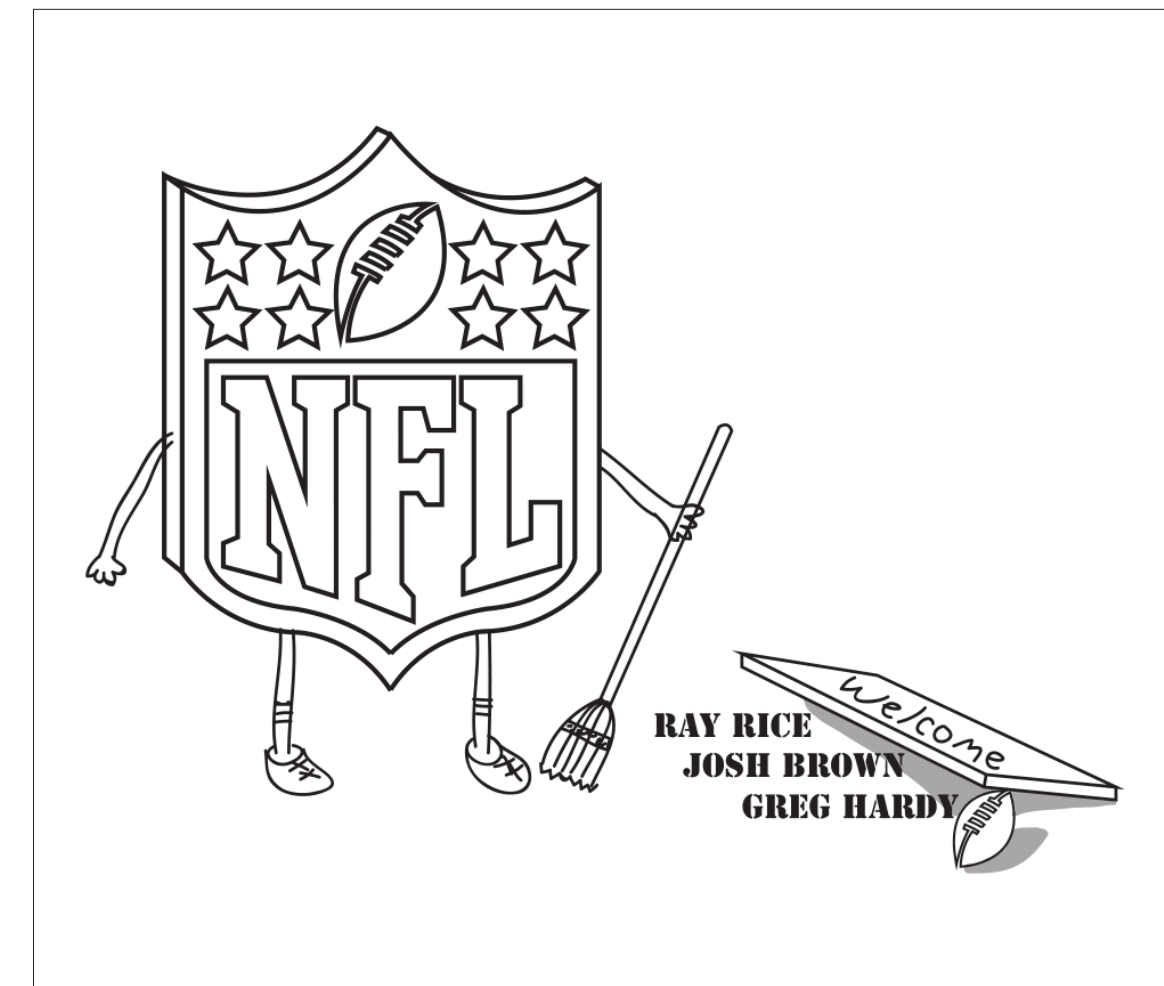


Illustration by Evan Matz

sion came after TMZ leaked security camera footage of Rice striking and dragging his wife out of a casino elevator. According to the Associated Press, the tape of Rice was sent to the NFL months prior to his termination from the league, while NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell claimed they never received such information.

In the fallout, the NFL created a policy to address domestic violence in August

**"No more suspensions. No more fines. No more second chances."**

2014.

According to the policy, the league now issues a six-game suspension for any NFL personnel who violate it once, and a lifetime ban from the league for those who violate it twice.

Giants staff, team owner John Mara, Goodell, and NFL officials knew of Brown's history for over a year and acknowledged Brown admitted several instances of his spousal abuse. Brown was never removed from the team or punished for his confessions until the abuse was made public.

The Times went on to say the documents submitted during the 2015 arrest caused his release from the Giants on Tuesday, Oct. 25, and likely ended his career.

Brown's contract termination came after a public outcry for justice, showing

the league is more reactive than proactive in its handling of domestic violence cases.

Based on these instances, it's becoming difficult to discern whether the league is incompetent when investigating these cases or simply chooses to ignore them.

Goodell and the NFL have set priorities in all the wrong places. From end zone celebration dances to tinted visors, the NFL has chosen to fine and punish athletes for trivial reasons, all in the interest of holding players to a certain set of standards it believes represent the league.

The NFL has produced advertising campaigns aimed at creating awareness of domestic violence, but these actions are meaningless if the league is unwilling to enforce its own

policies. The only solution for this issue is to strike down harder on players for breaking the personal conduct policy. If the NFL enacted and enforced a zero-tolerance policy, perhaps athletes would understand there are consequences for their actions.

No more suspensions. No more fines. No more second chances. A zero-tolerance policy for domestic violence would yield results. If a hard-nosed approach like this doesn't bear results, then a more drastic approach would be necessary, including a shift in league officials, beginning with those at the top. Goodbye Goodell, hello new management.

## Timeline of the Josh Brown case

- May 2015: Brown charged with fourth-degree domestic violence in Woodinville, Washington
- April 18, 2016: Brown resigns with the Giants
- Aug. 17, 2016: NFL announces Brown has been suspended one game for violation of the personal conduct policy.
- NJ Advance Media reports Brown was arrested in May 2015 for a fourth-degree domestic violence charge
- Oct. 19, 2016: Brown's journal entries are released by the King County Sheriff's office
- Oct. 20, 2016: Brown does not travel with the team for a game in London.
- Oct. 25, 2016: Brown is released by the Giants

89.3fm  
**KUGS**  
www.kugs.org

STUDENT OPERATED  
NEWS PROGRAMMING  
**DEMOCRACY NOW**  
+STREAMING NEW MUSIC  
40 HOURS / WEEK

Real Lives.  
Real Hope.

1310 N. State Street, Bellingham  
www.whatcomclinic.com  
Text "answers" to 41411

whatcom county pregnancy  
**WCPC**  
clinic

FIND MORE WESTERN FRONT ONLINE  
AT: WESTERNFRONTONLINE.COM



# Sports round-up

**Ben Olson**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

## Women's Soccer

Last Result: 2-0 victory at Montana State University Billings on Saturday, Oct. 29, in Billings, Montana.

Overall Record: 17-0-1

Standing: Finished the regular season ranked first in the GNAC, and number one nationally.

Next Game: GNAC Semifinal game held at Simon Fraser University at 7 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 3, in Burnaby, British Columbia.

The Western women's team completed a perfect 12-0-0 record in the GNAC. It also won 17 straight matches and is undefeated in its last 42 regular season games.

## Volleyball

Last Result: 3-0 (25-13, 25-23, 25-17) sweep over Concordia University at Whatcom Pavilion on Saturday, Oct. 29.

Overall Record: 16-6

Standing: Second in the GNAC and ranked No. 15 in the nation.

Next Game: At Northwest Nazarene University at 6 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 3, in Nampa, Idaho.

Western has won 11 straight matches. Sophomore middle blocker Kayleigh Harper moved into 15th place on Western's all-time career block list, with 256 career blocks.

## Men's Soccer



**Senior midfielder Eleazar Galvan shakes off a defender in Western's 2-0 win on Saturday, Oct. 29.** // Photo by Harrison Amelang

Last Result: 2-0 victory over Montana State University Billings on Saturday, Oct. 29, at Robert S. Harrington Field.

Overall Record: 7-4-4

Standing: Fourth in the GNAC.  
Next Game: Senior Night against Simon Fraser University at 7 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 3, at Harrington Field.

The Western men's team has three consecutive shutout victories and hasn't conceded a goal since Oct. 15.

## Cross Country

Last Result: The men finished third and the women finished fourth at the GNAC Championships at Lake Padden Park on Saturday, Oct. 22.

Next Event: NCAA Division II West Regional at 9 a.m. on Sat-

urday, Nov. 5, in Billings, Montana.

Nine members of the women's team and five members of the men's team were named to the GNAC All-Academic Teams. Senior Sofia Marikis was named to the All-Academic Team for the third time.

## Rowing

Last Result: The women's team competed at the first annual Island Head Race, with the Varsity 8 finishing second, on Saturday, Oct. 29, at Lake Whatcom.

Next Event: The Head of the Lake on Sunday, Nov. 6, beginning at 8 a.m. in Seattle.

John Fuchs, who is beginning his 19th season as head coach for the women's team, was

named the Western Intercollegiate Rowing Association Coach of the Year last season.

## Women's Basketball

Last Result: 105-50 victory over Quest University in an exhibition game on Sunday, Oct. 30, at the Whatcom Pavilion.

Next Game: Exhibition against University of Puget Sound at 1 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 5, at Whatcom Pavilion.

The women's basketball team was selected first in the GNAC 2016-17 Preseason Coaches' Poll. Senior guard Taylor Peacocke, senior forward Kiana Gandy and senior forward Tia Briggs were named to the All-GNAC Preseason Team.

## Men's Basketball

Last Result: The Blue team defeated the White team 84-67 in annual inter-squad scrimmage on Saturday, Oct. 22, at the Wade King Student Recreation Center.

Next game: First exhibition game against Capilano University at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 1.

The 2016-17 Great Northwest Athletic Conference Preseason Coaches Poll selected the Vikings to finish second in the conference. Senior point guard Taylor Stafford, senior forward Jeffrey Parker and sophomore forward Trey Drechsel were selected to the All-GNAC preseason team.



**Senior Jeffrey Parker throws down a between the legs dunk in the Viking Jam on Saturday, Oct. 29.** // Photo by Caleb Albright

# Fall CAREER FAIR

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3  
1PM-5PM, VU MPR

JOB & INTERNSHIP  
OPPORTUNITIES

[www.wvu.edu/careers](http://www.wvu.edu/careers)



Career Services Center (a unit of Academic & Career Development Services)  
Old Main 280 | Tel 360.650.3240 | [careers@wvu.edu](mailto:careers@wvu.edu)  
AA/EQ—For disability accommodation, please contact us

