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THE WESTERN FRONT

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Victims: Mishandling of sexual assault cases prevalent at Western

Alex Halverson
THE WESTERN FRONT

Since 2012, Western received at least four complaints about sexual misconduct investigations that victims said lacked sensitivity and

transparency. Victims also said mild punishments are given to the accused, according to public records obtained by The Western Front.

Sexual assault investigations are now handled by the Equal

Opportunity Office rather than the Office of Student life, University Director of Communications Paul Cocks said.

“The university determined it would be most useful for students if there was one

single office that investigated these types of complaints,” Cocks said when asked why the EOO handles sexual misconduct investigations.

see ASSAULT, page 3

Lost, stolen keys prompted multiple rekeyings



Illustration by Evan Matz

Alex Halverson
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western was forced to rekey buildings after multiple sets of keys were lost in early 2016, according to a public record request filed by The Western Front.

In February 2016, 22 university keys to various buildings were lost, prompting an expedited rekeying process of buildings across campus mid-quarter, University Director of Communications Paul Cocks said in an email.

In an unrelated incident during the rekeying process, approximately 121 keys to Birnam Wood stacks two through five and a tub of keys for guest housing in stack one were stolen from a cabinet on July 26, 2016, according to a report from the University Police Department. of that, Birnam Wood was rekeyed a second time as a security measure,” Cocks said.

Western’s 2017-2018 budget request allocates \$7.2 million for access control security upgrades, which include rekeying projects. The cost to replace the keys in Birnam Wood was estimated at an additional \$5,050 from the original allocated budget for the rekeying, according to the University Police report.

An unnamed janitor notified University Police of a cabinet in the Birnam Wood Community Building, that was usually locked, was open on the morning of July 26. The keys were kept in a plastic tub which was missing, according to the police report. There were no signs of forced entry to the cabinet.

On Aug. 25, the plastic tub containing keys for Birnam Wood stack one was found in the 1400 block of Nevada Street. The only person of interest was a woman spotted sleep

see KEYS, page 5

200 wins for coach Connell



Women's soccer head coach Travis Connell // Photo courtesy of Western Athletics

Ben Olson
THE WESTERN FRONT

An undefeated record, Great Northwest Athletic Conference regular season and tournament champions, No. 1 ranked team in the country, West Region champions and one win away from the NCAA Division II National Championship game. Saying that the 2016 Western women’s soccer team is having a good season would be an understatement.

Orchestrating this success from the sidelines is head coach Tra-

vis Connell.

In his 14th season as head coach for the women’s team, Connell has an overall record of 200-64-26, earning his 200th win in Western’s 5-1 victory over the Colorado School of Mines in the NCAA Division II Tournament quarterfinal on Sunday, Nov. 20, in Golden, Colorado.

Western has reached the Final Four of the NCAA Division II Tournament for the third time in the last four seasons, and is one win away from reaching the NCAA Division II Na-

tional Championships for the first time in program history.

Sierra Shugarts, a junior center back and

GNAC player of the year, said Connell’s success is evidence of his great coaching ability.

“[Travis] means everything [to the program],” Shugarts said. “His 200 wins are very well deserved.”

Connell was selected as the GNAC Women’s Soccer Coach of the Year for the fourth straight season and the sixth time in his career.

“He is very humble about his success,” Shugarts said. “He doesn’t look for any of the awards.”

Before coaching, Connell won the NCAA Division II National Championship in 1993 as a member of the Seattle Pacific University

see COACHES, page 15



Western women's soccer team huddles before a match // Photo by Caleb Albright



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DANCE UNTIL YOUR FEET FALL OFF



Senior Tai Pham completes a one-hand freeze in the Wade King Student Recreation Center on Sunday, Nov. 27. A member of the Western Washington University Hip-Hip Association, Pham regularly practices his breakdance moves in the Rec Center. // Photo by Morgan Stilp-Allen

Cops Box



Nov. 21 2:30 p.m.

A person reported their former employee, who previously made threats, tampered with their vehicle in the 2700 block of Meridian Street

Nov. 22, 5 p.m.

A person was reported stuffing two thermal bags full of merchandise and fleeing the store in the 300 block of Telegraph Road.

Nov. 26, 9:47 p.m.

A person reported being sprayed in the face with pepper spray by an unknown male in the 3700 block of Byron Avenue.

Nov. 22, 8:05 a.m.

A vehicle was found abandoned and blocking an entire lane of traffic in the 3500 block of Connelly Avenue. It was ticketed and impounded.

Nov. 23, 2:16 p.m.

Officers checked on the wellbeing of a person in the 2300 block of View Ridge Drive who reported hearing voices because of the CIA.

Nov. 27, 8 p.m.

A person was reported walking through the neighborhood with no pants on near the 2900 block of Plymouth Drive.

Compiled by Mikayla Nicholson

EVENTS

What: Milk + Honey Crew & Midnight Pasta
Where: The Wild Buffalo
When: Doors at 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1.
Cost: No cover, 21+

The Wild Buffalo is hosting DJ Midnight Pasta for 100 night on Thursday. No cover and drink specials all night, with a mix of DJs playing bass-heavy music from the familiar to the eclectic.

What: Moonlight
Where: Pickford Film Center
When: Four showtimes on Saturday, Dec. 3.
Cost: \$8.50 for students
Following the plight of a gay black man from childhood to adulthood, this is a tender story of a young man's struggle to find himself, experiencing the pain of poverty and abuse, love and sexuality. Already generating Oscar buzz, "Moonlight" is playing at The Pickford this weekend, tickets are regularly \$10.50 and \$8.50 with student ID.

What: Bellingham Tree Lighting Ceremony
Where: Depot Market Square
When: 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3.
Cost: Free
The tree lighting ceremony downtown will feature Santa, hot cocoa and cookies provided by Woods Coffee. Featuring live music by Wild Hare Music School and a Nutcracker performance by Harper & I Dance. The event starts at 5:30 p.m. and the tree will be lit at 6 p.m.

The Western Front

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Equal Opportunity Office now handles sexual assault

University determined students benefit when investigation is left to a single office

continued from page 1

Complaints for light sanctions

Last year, The Bellingham Herald published an article which highlighted several Title IX violation cases against Western. One of the cases involved former student, Connor Griesemer, who was accused of second-degree rape stemming from a January 2015 incident, according to a sexual assault complaint in The Bellingham Herald. He pleaded down to fourth-degree assault with sexual motivation and was found in violation of Western's Student Code on sexual misconduct.

Griesemer received a no-contact order against the victim and was barred from Western's campus until Sept. 6, 2016. He was allowed to complete his final exam of winter quarter 2015, according to a report obtained by The Western Front. He also spent 30 days in jail, according to The Bellingham Herald article.

Griesemer declined to comment on the story, and it has not been confirmed by faculty that he is enrolled for the upcoming quarter.

Another student in October 2014 was found forcing a classmate to perform oral sex on him and was barred from campus until June 30, 2016, in violation of the Student Conduct Code. The student was given a 25-foot no-contact order against the victim, according to a report ob-

<p>Oct. 2014 Sexual assault report made. Result: student suspended, no-tresspass order until June 2016.</p>	<p>Dec. 2013 Two sexual assault reports were made. Result: Sledge's tone was described as disrespectful and condescending.</p>
<p>Dec. 2015 Student claimed Sledge did not properly handle the sexual assault claim that they made. The same student felt they weren't given enough information in regards to maintaining their personal safety.</p>	<p>June 2014 Student filed Title IX complaint against Office of Student Life, Equal Opportunity Office and University Police after feeling discouraged to file a report due to the outcomes of doing so.</p>
<p>Jan. 2015 Student reported two sexual assault scenarios that had taken place over two years. Result: student wasn't given enough information as to how the verdict was reached. Two no-contact orders issued</p>	<p>Jan. 2015 Second-degree rape case was pleaded down to a fourth-degree sexual assault with sexual motivation. A no-contact, no-tresspass order was put in place.</p>

Information obtained from public record requests sought out by The Western Front.

Compiled by Gabby Roppo

tained by The Western Front.

Distance of no-contact orders can change depending on whether individuals share a class, which happened in a case covered by The Belling-

ham Herald.

One complainant was concerned with the fact they could not receive definite reasons for sanctions made against their attackers, ac-

ording to public records.

Complaints for lack of transparency

In January 2015, a female student reported two sexual assaults occurring over the duration of two years at Western, according to public records.

Assistant Dean of Students Michael Sledge of the Office of Student Life issued no-contact orders to both students accused in the sexual assault complaint. Upon further investigation, Sledge and the university couldn't find any evidence of misconduct, according to summarized interviews in the process review report.

The no-contact orders were not dropped, but no further sanctions were given to the accused students, according to a timeline of the case.

In a final report of the complaint, the student felt she was not given enough information as to how any final decisions were made in the investigation handled by Sledge.

A student who filed a Title IX violation complaint toward the Office of Student Life, the EOO and University Police stated she felt Sledge discouraged her from filing a report with Bellingham Police Department by telling her only the negative outcomes of that option, according to the student's statement in the report. Students filing a complaint of sexual misconduct at Western are able to file a report with BPD simultane-

ously, according to several sources on the final report.

"[Sledge] told me he could 'solve this, faster,' if I didn't file with the police and if I chose to be formal, it could 'take years,' before anything was done," the student said in a letter filed with her complaint.

The final report stated Sledge said he had no recollection of discussing the option to file a BPD report with the victim, but it is standard for him to walk through the delays and higher standards of proof involved with police department investigations.

"While survivors are encouraged to report to Bellingham Police Department

see *SEXUAL ASSAULT* page 6

Sexual misconduct includes

- Nonconsensual sexual contact
- Sexual exploitation
- Sexual assault
- Dating violence
- Domestic violence
- Stalking

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Victims say investigations need sensitivity, transparency

Temporary suspensions, no-contact orders are mild punishments, victims say

continued from page 3

(for off campus incidents) or to University Police (for on-campus incidents), it is important that they make the decision," Cocks said in an email.

Complaint for lack of sensitivity

A Western student, student A, filed a complaint on Dec. 8, 2015, against his roommate, student B, who was accused of continually sexually harassing him despite repeated direct requests to stop, according to a public record.

Student A's complaints against student B include repeated "sexual advances" and unwanted terms, such as "babe" and "boyfriend," directed toward student A. After sexual advances

subsidized following a direct request to stop from a resident director, student A said student B started masturbating while the two were in the same room, according to notes on a Dec. 8, 2015, meeting between a resident director and student A.

The resident director filed the complaints of student A in a Simplicity Incident Report and contacted Sledge notifying him of the incident.

Sledge scheduled a meeting with student B regarding the complaints and was told student B made the comments jokingly, that they had been inside jokes dating back to high school where student A and student B had met each other. Student B also denied masturbating in the room, Sledge said in his response to the Simplicity Incident Report.

Sledge emailed student A on January 13, 2016, saying he believed no violation occurred after the meeting with student B, according to the final report.

The resident director felt Sledge's email to the student could be perceived as condescending and in doubt of student A's testimony because Sledge never met with student A and only worked off of the incident report, according to a statement in the

final report.

Student A filed a Title IX complaint with Title IX Coordinator Sue Guenter-Schlesinger and Deputy Title

sexual harassment should be kept aware of the investigation process and found Sledge didn't give student A enough information about

multiple sexual assault victims toward Sledge were discussed, namely his demeanor when he met with victims, according to the letter.

Multiple complainants referred to Sledge's tone as disrespectful and condescending and said he reached decisions without further input from those who initially brought problems to his attention, according to a final report on the January 2015 investigation of two sexual assaults and the January 2016 investigation of repeated sexual harassment.

The recommendations for Sledge included mindfulness training, a program to teach him how to be more sensitive of victim's perceptions after an assault. Sledge was also recommended to take a thorough training on how to investigate sexual assault cases, including a component that is survivor-centered, according to the letter.

Sledge was also recommended to discuss specific cases with the EOO before going forward with decisions and other findings.

The January 2016 investigation regarding repeated sexual harassment found Sledge could improve with staying in contact with the complainant, according to a final report of the investigation.

The same improvement was suggested in the investigation of the January 2015 sexual assault cases, as the complainant felt she was not given enough information, according to the final report. The report agreed information was unfairly withheld from her.

Since the suggestion by the EOO to take training sessions, Sledge has completed six training programs dealing with how to talk to sexual assault victims, be mindful of different identities and conduct sexual assault investigations.

Changes in administration

Sledge and the Office of Student Life handled the investigation of sexual assault cases prior to Sep-

tember 2016 when the EOO took over the responsibility, Cocks said.

Sledge was not subject to any punitive actions following student complaints and could not be reached for comment as the Office of Student Life no longer investigates sexual misconduct complaints. He is still Western's assistant dean of students.

Recommendations for future reports

After the complaints against Sledge were filed, the EOO developed a formal list of recommendations for trainings regarding communicating with Title IX complainants. The recommendations, filed in May 2015, also included sensitivity training. The EOO gave Sledge advice on how he could handle sexual assault and sexual harassment complaints with more transparency to the complainant, according to a letter sent to Dean of Students Ted Pratt from the EOO obtained in a Western Front records request.

The recommendations followed a meeting between Pratt and Guenter-Schlesinger in which the complaints of

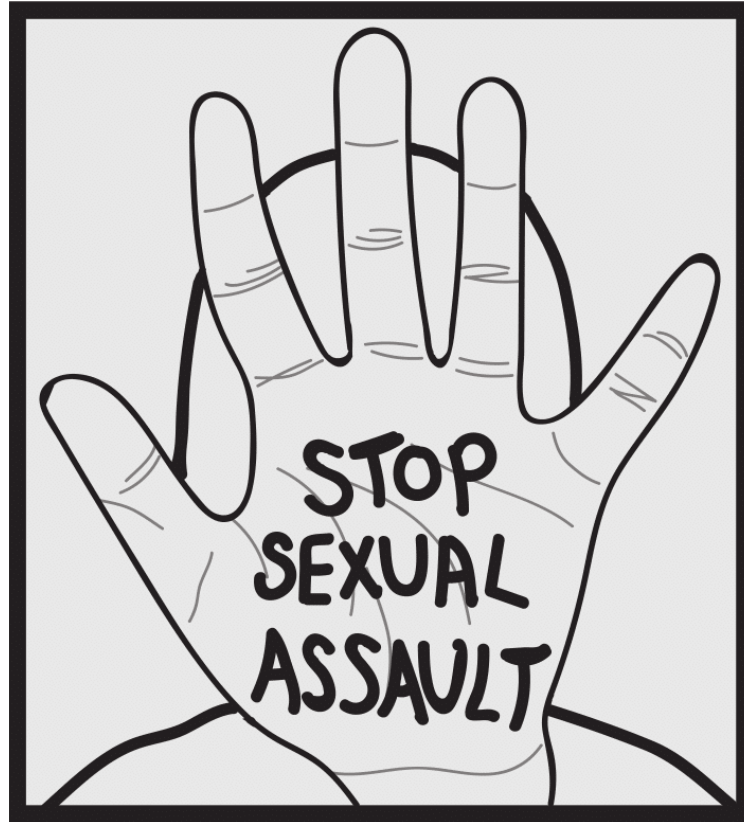


Illustration by Evan Matz

Where can you turn for help?

CASAS
(360) 650-3700
OM 558B

Western's Title IX Coordinator
Sue Guenter-Schlesinger
(360) 650-3307
OM 345

Student Health Center
(360) 650-3400

Counseling Center
(360) 650-3164
OM 540

University Police
(360) 650-3911

Bellingham Police
911

tember 2016 when the EOO took over the responsibility, Cocks said.

Sledge was not subject to any punitive actions following student complaints and could not be reached for comment as the Office of Student Life no longer investigates sexual misconduct complaints. He is still Western's assistant dean of students.

Washington marijuana sales rival alcohol

Sales gap between marijuana, alcohol closes to \$37 million for the first time

Mikayla Nicholson
THE WESTERN FRONT

For the first time, marijuana sales in Washington State have surpassed \$200 million in one quarter and the sales gap between marijuana and alcohol is shrinking, according to the Associated Press.

During April, May and June marijuana sales reached \$212 million, while alcohol reached \$249 million — a sales gap of \$37 million. For January, February and March the sales gap was \$54 million, according to the Associated Press.

Top Shelf Cannabis and Trove Cannabis are two recreational marijuana shops that have seen the increase in sales firsthand.

Top Shelf Cannabis

The first recreational marijuana shop in Washington, Top Shelf Cannabis,

opened in Bellingham on July 8, 2014.

Zachary Henifin, an employee at Top Shelf Cannabis, said marijuana sales are increasing as stigmas attached to marijuana begin to fade, a change he attributes to education.

"Imagine your government and other powers telling you this plant is evil and dangerous since... forever," Henifin wrote in an email. "That is going to stick with you until you give it a shot yourself."

Customers at Top Shelf range from lawyers to former smokers who are ready to light up since marijuana has become legal, Henifin said. Additionally, more people are comfortable smoking outside their homes.

The increase in sales helps more than just local shops, Henifin said.

"Seeing sales go up does further cement marijuana into Washington State's

economy, which is good for everyone," Henifin said.

Top Shelf Cannabis has expanded to two shops in Bellingham and one in Oregon, with a second Oregon shop in the planning stage, Henifin said.

Henifin said the discrete location of Top Shelf Cannabis' store on Hannigan Road has allowed more people to feel comfortable in the store.

"Prices and selection are key for us, but what really drives it home is our relaxed atmosphere," Henifin said. "We want everyone to feel comfortable."

Trove Cannabis

After graduating from Western, Moe Herbert took a job at Trove Cannabis, another recreational shop in Bellingham. He is currently the marketing and vendor coordinator at Trove, which celebrated its one-year anniversary on Nov. 13, 2016.



A collection of glass pipes inside Trove Cannabis. // Photo by Ben Johnson

Herbert said one of the biggest misconceptions people have about marijuana is the idea the drug will make you lazy and the image most people have of the typical stoner.

"Those misconceptions are slowly falling away," Herbert said.

The social attitudes toward marijuana have become, at least from the retail side, much calmer, Herbert said.

"People feel like they can experiment with marijuana again and not feel so scared, because they are doing it legally and in their own homes," Herbert said. "Every month seems to be better than the next."

Trove is largely supported by college customers, especially because of its location near Western's campus. But Herbert said he also sees a wide variety of people from the 20 to 30 year-old range.

"You see all sorts of people come in, which is the best thing ever," Herbert said. "You get to talk to different people from all walks of life."

With such a rapidly growing market, Herbert said Trove is going through a lot

of changes, trying to figure out what works. Herbert has been experimenting with different marketing techniques because marijuana is a trend market, he said.

During the summertime, when Bellingham residents tend to be more active and social, edibles and pre-rolled joints sell quicker, Herbert said. While in the fall and winter, more routine smokers come in on a weekly or daily basis to get their usual product.

The upward trend in marijuana sales is something Herbert believes will increase.

"I definitely see it surpassing alcohol, or at least always being able to match it," Herbert said. "Just because as more people are open to the idea of smoking it, now that it is legal, people are enjoying it more so than alcohol."

Herbert said he hopes other states follow Washington's lead and legalize or decriminalize marijuana use. Herbert said legalized marijuana has made the state more money, created more jobs, moved the economy along and kept people out of jail.



Trove Cannabis is a licensed marijuana distributor in Bellingham. // Photo by Harrison Amelang

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THE HISTORY OF HOLLY STREET

With its historical walking tours, Bellingham's Good Time Girls hopes to educate on the city's history, help learn from past

Katie Meier

THE WESTERN FRONT

Sara Holodnick and Marissa McGrath have a passion for local history. In 2010, the two decided to share their passion for Bellingham lore by founding Good Time Girls, a series of three guided historical walking tours.

In December 2013, Holodnick and McGrath opened The Bureau of Historical Investigation, a gift shop doubling as the base of operations for the tours. The tours have gained notoriety over the years, but the duo still remembers the strange looks they would receive during their initial tours.

"When we first started people were like, 'What are you? What is going on?' because we dress in costume," Holodnick said. "I remember giving our first tour; we were dressed in

corsets, walking down Holly Street and somebody leaned out the side of the car and yelled, 'What is happening?'"

Five years later, the tours have expanded in content material.

"We cover a wide range of topics, specifically about women and marginalized groups," Holodnick said.

Currently, The Bureau has three different tours: the Sin and Gin Tour, the Gore and Lore Tour and Holly History Tour.

The Sin and Gin Tour focuses on the brothel and saloon history of Bellingham, while the Gore and Lore Tour focuses on murder mysteries, ghost legends and the history of transient populations in Bellingham.

Holodnick said the Good Time Girls have recently designed The Holly History Tour to respond to the current political climate.

"The Holly History Tour has been really awesome for moments like right now with our political landscape," Holodnick said. "We have been giving people an opportunity to see where they fit into history as they are trying to process what's happening in the world right now."

The tour focuses on different controversial aspects from Bellingham's history, including topics like sexism and racism, that occurred when the town was first getting its start in the late 1800s through the early 1900s.

The Holly History Tour is led by Hayley Forney and Jane Burleigh. The duo have been working these tours from the very beginning.

One of the first topics Forney and Burleigh cover on the tour is the treatment of women in Bellingham in the 1800s and 1900s. During this time period, many women turned to sex work because it provided more



A portrait of Alfred Lee, the architect of the Whatcom Museum. The building was originally the City Hall for New Whatcom before the town joined surrounding towns to become Bellingham. // Photo courtesy from Whatcom Museum Photo Archive

financial stability than traditional jobs available to women at the time. Teachers earned about \$50 a month, seamstresses earned \$1.26 a week and women who worked in the cannery made \$1.24 a week, compared to sex workers who worked in brothels and made \$1 for every 15 minutes of service.

"We had a rampant illicit area where sex work was happening a lot as well," Burleigh said. "The reason being for that, if you were a middle-class or upper-class man who wanted to see a sex worker, you wouldn't be caught dead going into the red-light district. Everyone would know why you were there."

At the time, sex work was legal and taxed by Whatcom County. In fact, 11 percent of the city's budget came from money gathered from sex workers, Burleigh said.

The Horseshoe Cafe has been a staple in Bellingham since it opened in 1886, making it the longest continuously open restaurant in Washington. When the cafe first opened, it was one of the few businesses in town welcoming sex workers, Burleigh said.

In the 1800s and 1900s, the city of Bellingham had a law against street walking. This law kept women from going outside, shopping, restaurants and, most importantly, banks. Instead they would take their money and put it in a safe located inside of The Horseshoe Cafe.

Women could hang out there and drink knowing their money would be safe, Forney said.

For those who took part in the tour, the history of sex work in Bellingham came as a surprise.

Western alumna Zoey Ferenczy, 23, was visiting friends and decided to attend the tour with them.

"I had no idea that [Bellingham] had a big red light district down here or that there was a difference between the red light district that was legalized and the one that was not," Ferenczy said.

One of the first documented instances of racism in the city were riots caused in response to a large Sikh population. In 1906, an influx of Sikh immigrants moved to Bellingham to work at the lumber mills, Forney said.

By 1907, there were about 200 Sikh immigrants living in Bellingham. The white population in the area became enraged because they thought they were losing jobs due to the immigrants, Forney said. Sikhs were attacked and dragged from their living quarters and places of employment.

Police did little to combat the violent hate crimes the Sikh



Hayley Forney (left) and Jane Burleigh (right) stop to give information as tour guides for one of Good Time Girls historical walking tours. // Photo by Caleb Albright

immigrants were experiencing. The only action that was taken was rounding up all of the Sikh immigrants and putting them into the jail in City Hall, ostensibly for their own safety. The police force held them there until they could force them to leave town by train and go to British Columbia, Forney said.

No participants in the mob were ever prosecuted.

Another instance of racism in Bellingham was the large Ku Klux

Klan presence that had offices downtown, located right above what is now Bayou on Bay, in the late 1920s early 1930s.

The Washington State Klan was part of the second wave of KKK activity in America. It was mostly founded by members from the Oregonian chapter, which had one of the strongest chapters in the country at the time.

Forney shared photos taken in 1926 of the Daughters of the KKK,

dressed in their robes, as they walked down Cornwall Avenue.

The Klan didn't have much to protest pre-World War II in the Northwest, so they turned attentions to other groups and became increasingly anti-Catholic and anti-foreigner.

For Ferenczy, going on the tour and learning the history didn't change her opinion of Bellingham.

"The history is proof of how far we have come, and even though our history is pretty tainted we are definitely taking the steps forward," Ferenczy said.

Forney and Burleigh said they are trying to make sure people are educated and don't forget the way the city used to be.

"This is really important history that we should know and history that we should denounce," Burleigh said.

At the end of this year, Holodnick and McGrath will close the shop, refocus and get back to what they love: providing the tours.

"The overhead of maintaining a physical location can be challenging if you're wanting to actually make a living off of owning a business," Holodnick said. "We've also determined that retail is not what our passion is: The history and the sharing of the stories is the bigger piece of it for us."



Bellingham's waterfront shortly after the old City Hall was built in the late 1800s. // Photo courtesy from Whatcom Museum Photo Archive



Bellingham's downtown as it looked near the turn of the 19th century into the 20th century. // Photo courtesy from Whatcom Museum Photo Archive

FUSION FRENZY

Dance the fright away in a safe-space for self expression

Isabelle Morrison
THE WESTERN FRONT

Every Friday night, a group of students meet in the Fairhaven Complex lounge to cut loose, socialize and express themselves through an eclectic style of dance. This is Fairhaven Fusion.

The group formed in 2012 when a handful of students from Swing Kids, Western's swing dance club, began meeting underground in a small dance studio in Stack One of the Fairhaven Complex.

As the group attracted more members, meetings needed to be moved to the larger Fairhaven Complex lounge. In 2014, they became an official Associated Students club in order to start requesting the space.

Senior Hayley Gehman, president and original member of Fairhaven Fusion, was hesitant about joining the AS at first. Gehman said she felt her experience as a Swing Kids officer in 2013 required her to meet a lot of cookie-cutter expectations.

"I was like, 'I don't want [Fairhaven Fusion] to lose all of its soul and heart, that makes it what I love so much,'" Gehman said. "But it turns out we managed to become part of the AS without losing our personality, which I really appreciate."

In the beginning, group members thought they were dancing blues because they didn't know what to call their dance style. They soon discovered it had a name: Fusion.

"The idea is that a lot of dances, like swing, salsa, zouk or waltz, have a step



Fairhaven Fusion members practice on Friday nights in the Fairhaven lounge. // Photo by Isabelle Morrison

or structure they follow. Fusion is more of a free-form improvisational dance," Gehman said. "I really like it because it allows dancers from all different backgrounds to come into the same space; dance to the music we like and pick; and communicate with each other."

Every week the club features a different DJ, lesson and teacher.

"Being a dance teacher is difficult because there's a huge cloud of topics to try to pick from," Gehman said. "It can be really scary because it can feel like there's nothing at all to teach. What we end up doing is pick different aspects we feel the community needs help with."

Past lessons have included improvisation in dance and having a deep connection with one's dance partner.

Teachers are chosen from other Western dance clubs or venues in the area.

"We try to make sure other people in the Bellingham dance community get a chance to come and teach our students," Gehman said. "The more instructors for dance the better because then you can get a lot of different perspectives."

Gehman works hard to make sure the club is a safe environment for students.

"Every quarter we have something we call a 'fireside chat,' and basically ask questions like, 'Do you like the music? Do you like the space? Do you feel safe?'" Gehman asked.

Senior Cory Briar, vice president of Fairhaven Fusion, supports the welcoming environment Gehman has created.

"People can just come here and be

who they are and be accepted for that, which I really appreciate," Briar said.

Briar has been involved in the club since he was a freshman.

"This is such a great community," Briar said. "I'm a musician, so I express myself a lot through music, and I really like expressing myself through my body and reacting to the music with my body instead of playing it."

Briar's favorite memory was from one year when the club was dancing to Ed Sheeran's "Thinking Out Loud," and halfway through the song the speakers cut out. After the initial groans of disappointment, some students started singing acapella and the dancing continued.

"We finished up the song that way, and we all just collapsed into this giant cuddle puddle at the end," Briar said. "It was just so overwhelmingly amazing that it pulled together like that."

Senior Connor Frenndt joined the club after a friend convinced him. He had never danced before and wanted to try something new.

"It's just a lot of fun for me," Frenndt said. "It's a nice getaway from studying and school and whatnot, to hang out with friends too."

Frenndt likes the freedom Fusion allows dancers.

"It's not necessarily freestyle where you go crazy, but you can pretty much do whatever you want," Frenndt said. "It's nice to not be necessarily controlled, but you can go off in whatever direction you want, and you can take any style and incorporate it."

CUISINE WITH A CULTURAL CONNECTION

Don't just taste your food — understand the inspiration

Bryn Yasui
THE WESTERN FRONT

Guests enter through the glass door only to be whisked away to another country. The walls, painted a deep, red hue, are adorned with paintings and Spanish memorabilia. Noses wander along with the delectable aroma in the air from foreign dishes some may find unfamiliar.

However, the customers come for more than just the mouth-watering tapas or the wide selection of wines at Tasca del Tinto — they come for the experience.

Residents of Bellingham are always scoping out restaurants for something new, so when Miguel Losada wanted to add a Spanish restaurant to the mix, Tasca del Tinto was born. Nestled in the center of downtown Bellingham, it's the city's first and only Spanish restaurant.

After moving to Spain from Texas at age 3, Losada grew up among his family and became embedded in the local culture. He then joined the U.S. Navy and was stationed in Oak Harbor, Washington. This is when he adopted a newfound love for Bellingham's people and their hospitality.

"I've been able to bring something different to people. I use that word because there's a variety of options in this town," Losada said. "There's Italian, Mexican, Greek, Indian and even Ethiopian food. So I thought, 'Why not Spanish food?'"

Tasca del Tinto has been open for about six months. So far, customer responses and business have been favorable, Losada said.

Senior Paolo Bicchieri stumbled upon Tasca del Tinto as a customer after his dinner plans at Boundary Bay didn't work out. As soon as he walked in, Bicchieri said his expectations were exceeded.

"I had just gone to Spain this summer, and what was cool was that I didn't have any expectations of this place. It really felt like the places in Spain that I had gone and had food and wine," Bicchieri said. "I've never had this experience of a shop owner also being the chef and also being the server and actually really connecting with the people"

Once Bicchieri soaked up the at-



Miguel Losada, owner of Tasca Del Tinto, poses in front of his restaurant on Thursday, Oct. 20. // Photo by Morgan Stilp-Allen

mosphere of Tasca del Tinto, he decided to join Losada on his mission to interlace the restaurant with Bellingham.

"[Losada's] hope is to be Bellingham's tapas bar. That, to me, means being able to really connect with the communities in town, like the student community, but also the downtown scene and the people who don't really know what he has to offer," Bicchieri said.

According to Bicchieri, on occasional nights, Losada will rent out the entire restaurant for an event called Paella and Flamenco Night. Bicchieri said the evening always includes Spanish dancers, musicians and paellas, an obligatory Spanish food.

"People get this huge night of looking into what Spanish culture is like. It's still about the food and wine, but his interest goes beyond that into music and dance," Bicchieri said.

The main attraction of Tasca del Tinto is its food, which is always aesthetically garnished, exotic and flavorful. Its menu rotates items every four-to-six weeks to keep both the customers and chefs intrigued.

Benjamin Ayers, an assistant chef, had to do a bit of researching before becoming Losada's right-hand man.

"I've never even considered this type of cuisine before," Ayers said.

"I've been learning a lot."

Tasca del Tinto offers an assortment of dishes, from paellas to jamón, all imported from Spain and recreated in the kitchen. Ayers and Losada personally enjoy the jamón, which is a dry-cured ham. According to Losada, the jamón is a very special and unique item in Spanish cuisine.

Similar to his food, Losada's inspirations for cooking are full of character and culture. He accrued his culinary flair from life and schooling, which he shares with his customers

through an intimate dining experience.

"People are fans. They come for a good ham or a paella. But people are like, 'You know what? I've never had that before.' They really get surprised, and they keep coming back. So far, it's been a great trip," Losada said.

Ayers said he finds himself informing guests and peers about the difference between Spanish and Mexican cuisine.

"I constantly have that argument that [the food is] not Mexican. That's part of it; it's not just food, it's educating people to a new and different cuisine," Ayers said.

Ayers witnesses Losada interacting with guests, often educating them about where the food comes from and how it's made.

Nonetheless, the presentation and mixture of flavors is what brings people back, Ayers said.

"The most amazing feature of this place is the people," Losada said. "Very open-minded people who are always eager to try new things and new flavors, tastes and experiences."

Losada holds high aspirations for his career in restaurant management. He hopes to build customer loyalty and essentially create a haven for Bellingham residents to come in for a quick tapa, small chat and a glass of wine on all occasions.



Tasca Del Tinto owner Miguel Losada waits on a table on Thursday, Oct. 20. // Photo by Morgan Stilp-Allen



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Frontline: Act on frozen America

Opinions of the Editorial Board

At the start of fall quarter, Washington State was shocked by an active shooter who killed five at the Cascade Mall in Burlington. As always, this issue was surrounded by questions of race, motive, mental health and citizenship status. In the aftermath of the attack, there was collective hope that America could improve in preventing motives for tragedies like these and begin to move forward toward being a better country overall.

At the end of fall quarter, we feel stuck in a rut — in fact, many feel we have stepped backward as a country. For millions of Americans, the results of the presidential election was causal of this regression, especially after a massive increase in hate crimes occurred in the days following President-elect Trump's win. Those most affected by this election — minorities, women, immigrants, impoverished Americans and everyone in between — expressed a great deal of fear about the lack of progress our country was shamelessly putting on display.

Much of this seems to be about politics, but it really comes down to remembering we are all humans and we must adopt the change we wish to see in our country on both an individual and campus level.

Recently, Western students have been taking steps toward seeing these changes on campus through organized walkouts and protests.

Tangible kindness: WesternCares Campaign

On Monday, Nov. 28, a student at Ohio State University attacked and injured 11 other students and was fatally shot by police.

Unfortunately, in the opinion section of The Western Front, we bookend the quarter with stories of mass violence — this one, as well as the first issue covering the Cascade

Mall shooting in September.

Many people attribute mass violence solely to mental illness, which isn't always a correct assumption, and creates a negative social stigma blanketing everyone with a mental illness as violent.

the hashtag #WesternCares.

WesternCares is a concrete way to promote kindness on an individual level. Bettering our country goes so much further than just thinking and feeling, but rather acting and doing.

Action for Childhood Arrivals.

Randhawa also listed the values Western holds in regard to undocumented students, that Western makes no admittance decisions based on documentation status, shares no documents revealing the documentation status of students and doesn't enforce federal immigration law.

"In taking this action, university and college presidents are urging business, civic, religious and nonprofit sectors to join them in supporting DACA and undocumented immigrant students," Randhawa said in the email.

Issues concerning undocumented students have been brought up in several instances since the election, and Randhawa closed his email with a final thought about the holistic student body at Western.

"I am proud to be the president of this great university, and I am honored to represent every student and employee in standing up for what is right."

A Hopeful Manifesto

It's important to remember we all have something in common: We are human. Whether we're a student or community member, documented or undocumented, affected by the results of the election or not, each of us, as human beings, thinks and feels.

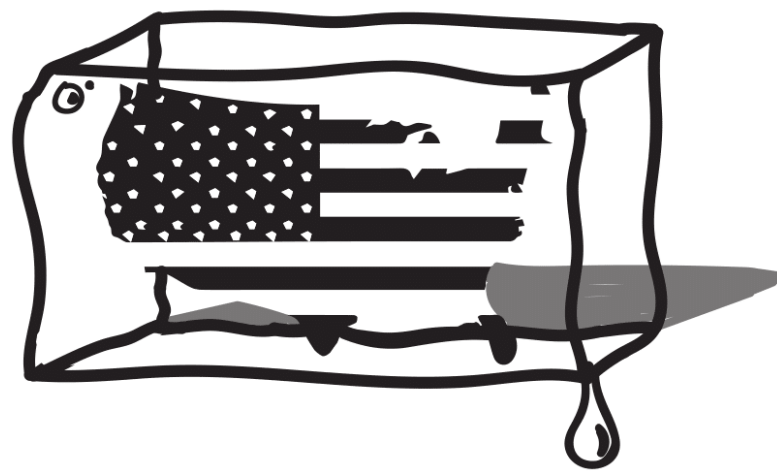
At the end of the day it's crucial to remember one thing: What we have in common is much more important than our differences. In a crucial time in American history, it's important to act on these thoughts and feelings. This is no longer about politics but about human compassion and care for another person. Every action should have purpose and that purpose should be unity.

Western Washington University: a sanctuary school

In lieu of hate crimes against different cultural groups following the election, many cities such as Seattle have declared themselves sanctuary cities for those feeling oppressed or disenfranchised. Many Vikings are urging other students and University President Sabah Randhawa to make Western an ally for undocumented students by declaring itself a sanctuary school.

On Monday, Nov. 28, Randhawa responded to this sentiment by sending an email to the student body announcing a commitment, alongside 300 other higher education leaders, to Deferred

Illustration by Evan Matz



Instead, taking steps to be kind to every person one comes in contact with is a preventative action to instances of violence.

WesternCares sent an email on Monday, Nov. 28, calling for students to lend their voices to the 2016 WesternCares Campaign, which "traditionally involved random acts of kindness and promotion of support resources and events on campus."

The email urges students to take part in random acts of kindness on campus, whether large or small, to be an ally to other students and promote an inclusive campus. Students can participate by posting about these acts of kindness, using

The Editorial Board consists of Layne Carter, Elizabeth Kayser and Evan Elliott

Letter to the Editor

Providing sanctuary is a primordial response of compassion and courage in the face of vulnerability and injustice. Bellingham has a history of extending sanctuary, dating to the 1980s when many residents assisted Central Americans as they fled to Canada in search of refuge. Our community and campus today include people of many origins, faiths and statuses. All deserve protection from hostility and threats, including those emanating from powerful or official sources.

Millions of people may now be subject to sanctions and criminalization, many for simply for having been a child in a family on the move. Vast

expenditures on securitization and surveillance were promised repeatedly during the Presidential campaign, and Standing Rock shows clearly how authorities can exercise draconian measures.

Amid vast uncertainties and potential endangerment, students must be able to pursue their education without fear. Educators and students alike have ethical responsibility to help ensure this. Expressions of solidarity and commitment to democracy and academic freedom are particularly important at times when are under threat.

So please urge the AS Board,

Faculty Senate and other university units to recommend that President Randhawa declare Western a sanctuary university, dedicated to principles of diversity, inclusion and safety of everyone who makes up our university community.

-James Loucky
Professor of Anthropology

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

"Poetry in motion"

Senior Louie Henson is back in Western rugby stripes to continue the legacy his father began

Rachel Postlewait
THE WESTERN FRONT

From attending his father's games, to becoming the water-boy, to joining the scrum himself, senior Louie Henson has always been surrounded by rugby.

Raised by a former Western rugby player, Henson followed in his father's footsteps and is now a standout player for the team his dad once played for.

Like his father, Henson is team captain of the Western Men's Rugby Club and plays the forward position.

Henson began his rugby career in the 10th grade and is currently in his fifth year as a Western rugby player.

During his freshman year, the team advanced to the Final Four of the USA Rugby College National Championships. Western advanced to the Elite Eight in Henson's junior year.

Being at nationals was surreal, Henson said. He considers it his greatest rugby accomplishment at Western. Both times, the team's games were broadcast live on YouTube to a significant audience.

In rugby, there are two kinds of positions: forward and back. Henson plays the position of tight head prop, which leads the pack of forwards.

Henson described his position as, "just being a big body in there to do all the dirty work and clear the way for the little guys to do all the flashy stuff."

Perhaps Henson is being modest. Rugby Club President Tripp Marotto said on the field, Henson is "poetry in motion."

Junior rugby player Augie Beimborn described him as intense, aggressive and poised.

"When he's on the field, he's a dominant force," Beimborn said. "He's super savvy and super athletic. He knows rugby extremely well."

Where it Began

Originally, Henson planned on attending St. Mary's College in California but immediately switched course when he heard



Photo of Louie Henson courtesy of Caleb Galbreath

who was coaching at Western: Paul Horne.

Horne played rugby with Henson's father at Western and the two still have a close bond.

"As long as I've been a kid, I've always watched teams coached by Paul Horne and seen how successful they've been and how well he's done as a coach," Henson said.

"He was the first person who I identified right away as the leader."

Augie Beimborn
rugby player

Previously, Horne was coaching at the University of British Columbia and trying to recruit Henson. He then took a coaching spot at Western and quickly called Henson's dad to tell him about the change.

"So I said, 'I don't want to put him on the spot, but if he wants to come to Western and play rugby with me, tell him to

give me a call in a couple days,'" Horne said. "[Louie] called me right back and said 'yep, that's where I want to go.'"

With a group of Western rugby alumni, Horne and Henson's father helped start a rugby team called the "Huna Hogs."

About the time he was in middle school, Henson was brought along with Horne's Chuckanut rugby team when they played in Ireland. That was Henson's first introduction to rugby at a higher level.

"I think that all had a lot to do with determining who he was as a player," Horne said.

By high school, Henson was on the team and played his first game with the Huna Hogs, Horne said.

Having played closely with Henson's father and now coaching Henson, Horne sees similarities between the two. Henson's father, Jerry Henson, was an equally aggressive player. He was known widely as "the dump-truck" and often played the same position Louie Henson does now.

"Louie is a very similar kind of player to his dad," Horne said. "He goes forward and if you get in his way, he'll punish

ing the opposing teams, as well as welcoming and thanking the referees.

"Louie leads by example. One of his characteristics is that he's able to demand quite a bit from his teammates and anything he demands, he can deliver," Horne said. "His on-field performance is never questioned."

Beimborn stressed Henson's commitment to the team, saying he was always on time to games and practices.

"He was the first person who I identified right away as the leader," Beimborn said. Henson spoke fondly of his teammates.

"[My favorite part is] the camaraderie, the brotherhood," Henson said. "You build a really tight bond, not only with the guys you play with but the guys you play against."

Bouncing Back

Horne said when the coaches were looking at Western's team last season, they knew there was one player they couldn't replace: Henson.

"We just all agreed that he's so important to the team that it would be devastating to lose him," Horne said. "And we did."

Last year during a preseason game at Oregon State University, Henson tore his anterior cruciate ligament. He underwent surgery, but the recovery put him out for the whole year.

Henson was cleared to play as of Friday, Nov. 25. His first game back will be Saturday, Jan. 21 in Vancouver, BC against the University of British Columbia U-20's.

"I expect some rage to be unleashed on the field. I feel bad for who we're playing against," Marotto said. "He is hungry and he's been working. I'm excited."

Horne said Henson will be putting his own stamp on the game. "We're looking forward to a very successful season with Louie leading the way as captain."

you."

As team captain and team president, Henson's father shared a passion for leading with his son. Horne said he was a leader both on and off the field, the kind of guy who takes charge of a team.

"A bit of a legacy," Henson said.

Leading the Team

As team captain, Henson has many responsibilities.

In rugby, no one is allowed to talk to the referees except the captain.

"You want to make sure that you have selected the right kind of person to be able to handle any kind of adversity in the game or calls going the wrong way," Horne said. "The captain must maintain credibility with the referee and make sure the other players are under control."

On the field, Henson is in charge of making decisions. There are no timeouts in rugby and coaches can't come out on the field to make changes. It's all in the hands of the captain.

The captain's duties do not end when the whistle blows, Horne said. Henson is responsible for welcoming and orient-

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Giving thanks, getting Ws

Women's basketball goes 2-0 in Lynda Goodrich Classic, Peacocke named MVP

Gabby Ramos
THE WESTERN FRONT



Guard Taylor Peacocke drives into the lane against Holy Names University on Saturday, Nov. 26. // Photo by Morgan Stilp-Allen

hit double digits during the game, adding 11 points to the team's final score. The Vikings extended its

win streak to three games on Saturday, Nov. 26, with a 89-57 blowout victory over Holy Names University. Peacocke led the team with 20 points and Junior forward Hannah Stipanovich added 15 points. Senior guard Jessica Valley notched a double-double with 11 points and 10 rebounds.

The Vikings never trailed the Hawks, shooting 50 percent from the field and converting 28 of 39 free throw attempts.

Peacocke averaged 22 points-per-game and was named co-MVP of the invitational along with junior forward Elin Johansson of Saint Martin's University. Peacocke averaged seven rebounds and four assists

over the two games. She also earned MVP honors at the Sodexo Tip-Off Classic and the West Region Crossover Classic.

Now with 1,340 career points, Peacocke is Western's ninth most prolific career scorer.

The Vikings will begin Great Northwest Athletic Conference play with two games in Alaska. Western will play University of Alaska Fairbanks at 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1, before taking on the University of Alaska Anchorage at 3 p.m. Saturday Dec. 3.

Varsity sports round-up

Ben Olson
THE WESTERN FRONT

appearance in the NCAA Tournament semifinal in four years.

Volleyball

Last Result: 3-0 (25-15, 25-19, 25-19) sweep over Montana State University Billings on Thursday, Nov. 17, at Whatcom Pavilion.

Overall Record: 21-7 Standing: Second in the GNAC and ranked No. 18 in the nation.

Next Game: NCAA Division II West Regional against California Baptist University at 1 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1, in Anchorage, Alaska.

Sophomore middle blocker Kayleigh Harper, junior outside hitter Arielle Turner and sophomore outside hitter Abby Phelps were first-team selections to the All-GNAC team. Phelps was also named the GNAC Defensive Player of the Week with nine kills and 12 digs against Montana State



Sophomore guard Trey Drechsel goes up for the shot in Western's game against Quest University on Sunday, Nov. 27, at Whatcom Pavillion. // Photo by Morgan Stilp-Allen

Billings.

Men's Basketball

Last Result: 102-61 victory against Quest University Canada on Sunday, Nov. 27, at Whatcom Pavilion.

Overall Record: 5-0 Standing: First in the GNAC. Next Game: Saint Martin's University at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1, in Lacey, Washington. Senior forward Jeffrey Parker

picked up a double-double against Quest with 24 points and 10 rebounds. Senior guard Taylor Stafford had a game-high six assists in the victory over the Kermodes.

Women's Basketball

Last Result: 89-57 victory over Holy Names University in the Lynda Goodrich Classic on Saturday, Nov. 26, at Whatcom Pavilion.

Overall Record: 5-1 Standing: Third in the GNAC standings.

Next Game: Against the University of Alaska Fairbanks at 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1, in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Senior guard Taylor Peacocke was named co-MVP in the Lynda Goodrich Classic Tournament after scoring 44 points in two games. Peacocke is now No. 9 on the Western all-time scoring list with 1,340 points.

Commanding excellence

Connell steers Western women's soccer to another Final Four appearance

continued from page 1
men's soccer team. Junior midfielder Emily Webster said Connell's experience as a player helps him understand the stress players go through.

"I think it's really important for a coach to recognize the emotions that come with the stress of an intense game," Webster said.

While Connell is more reserved on the sideline than most coaches, Webster said he knows how and when to get his message across.

"When he does speak up it's a really important point," Webster said. "He knows what he is talking about, so we try to do exactly what he asks us to do."

Beginning in 1999, Connell was at the helm of the men's team. In 2003, Connell took on the head coaching position of the women's team as well. He was the head coach of both programs for 10 years before transitioning to full-time head coach of the women's team in 2013. Greg Brisbon took on the head coaching duties of the men's team for Connell.

Claire Morgan, an assistant coach for the women's



Women's soccer head coach Travis Connell walks off Robert S. Harrington Field. // Photo courtesy of Western Athletics

team, was a forward for Western from 2007-2010. Morgan said her former teammates are always telling her how envious they are of today's players who play for a full-time coach.

"It allows both programs to thrive on their own," Morgan said. "You saw that with the success of the men's team this year. When they [hired two full-time coaches] it allowed both

Western.

As Western competes for a spot in the national championship game, it will look to break a streak of dominant seasons that failed to materialize into anything more than a semifinal appearance.

"We have never made it over that last hurdle," Morgan said. "[The Final Four] is the game that always tripped up the team."

The Vikings will play Kutztown University in the Final Four at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 1, in Kansas City, Missouri.

A live stream of the game will be available at ncaa.com. The Western Front will be live tweeting from the game @WFSportsLive and @TheFrontOnline as well as snapchatting from thefrontonline.

Sounders in MLS Cup Final

Gabby Ramos, Joseph Calabro
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Seattle Sounders advanced to the Major League Soccer Cup final after a 1-0 win (3-1 on aggregate) over the Colorado Rapids in the Western Conference Championship on Sunday, Nov. 27.

Jordan Morris scored his second career postseason goal in the second half of the game with the assist from Nelson Valdez. Morris has scored a team-high 14 goals this season.

Seattle will play the winner of the Eastern Conference Championship, which features Montreal and Toronto. The second-leg of their matchup will be played at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 30.

Montreal leads 3-2 on aggregate, but Toronto scored two key away goals in the first leg. If Toronto takes the series, it will host the MLS Cup final. However if Montreal prevails, the Sounders will host the match at CenturyLink Field. Either way, the game will be played at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10.

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. Olscamp 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

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