



## Meet the lacrosse team's lucky charm

SPORTS, PG. 10

## Juggling marriage and class

FEATURES, PG. 6-7



# THE WESTERN FRONT

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 31

## Sanctuary city status for Bellingham?

Asia Fields

THE WESTERN FRONT

Western's Blue Group, made up of undocumented students and their supporters, is pushing for the adoption of sanctuary status in Bellingham amid national debate over the legality of President Donald Trump's recent executive order.

The order, issued Wednesday, Jan. 25, claims that sanctuary jurisdictions willfully violate federal law and threatens them with the restriction of federal grants.

The Blue Group's Sanctuary Ordinance Petition for City Council calls for Bellingham to prohibit cooperation with federal immigration enforcement.

It also states that law enforcement should not detain, arrest or question individuals on the basis of immigration status or race. To ensure adherence, the group wants penalties for violators. For some students,



Western's Blue Group members march with other students through campus during an anti-Trump protest held Friday, Jan. 20. // Photo by Alex Powell

the issue is personal.

"To me, making Bellingham a sanctuary city means being able to sit in a classroom, not worrying about [Immigration and Customs Enforcement] busting into the room and dragging me out in handcuffs," se-

nior and Blue Group member José Carrillo said at a Monday, Jan. 23 City Council meeting.

Currently, Bellingham is not responsible for enforcing immigration law, as this falls under the mandate of federal agencies. The

Bellingham Police Department Policy 417 states that officers are not to investigate any civil violations of immigration law.

According to the Department of Homeland Security, local governments may choose to not comply with civil

immigration detainees, as they are voluntary requests.

Despite the policies already in place, many community members have called for more action.

see BLUE, page 3

## Hands-free driving laws may strengthen

Brooke Carlson  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Washington lawmakers proposed a bill for this year's legislative session aiming to ban all usage of hand-held devices behind the wheel of a vehicle.

Calling and texting while driving has been illegal in Washington since 2007 and is punishable by a \$124 fine, but the use of apps or other activity have not been outlawed.

Washington state legislators are seeking to change that by introducing House Bill 1371, the "Driving Under the Influence of Electronics Act."

Using hands-free devices have never been affected by Washington state laws.

The amount of crashes due to distracted driving increased steadily over the years. According to the Department of Transportation, 3,179 people were killed and 431,000 were injured in accidents involving distracted drivers in 2014, which was the last year data was available.

University Chief of Police Darin Rasmussen said distracted driving is any activity that takes attention away from the primary task of driving. Using apps, calling and texting all fall into this category.

see BAN, page 4

## CSCI classes continue to be canceled

Computer science department begins to restructure after million-dollar grant

Leah Allen

THE WESTERN FRONT

Four computer science classes were canceled before winter quarter after the College of Science and Engineering was awarded a \$1.6 million grant in June to hire four new computer science faculty members because of continuous class can-

cellations.

The grant came in response to the continuing growth of the computer science department, which has more than tripled in size over the last five years, said computer science Department Chair Dr. Perry Fizzano.

Last quarter, five computer science class-

es were canceled due to a shortage in faculty. This quarter, CSCI 101, 102, 202 and 351 were canceled for the same reason. All of these are required for the major.

Two of the four hires are computer science faculty members only. The other two hires are joint computer science and science education faculty.

The grant money will support the new faculty's salaries for three years. After that time, the university will take over the costs.

In addition to faculty hired through the grant, the computer science department will bring on another tenure-track faculty member for fall 2017 using money from a decision

package received in 2014, said the Dean of the College of Science and Engineering, Catherine Clark.

The department hopes to have two to three new non-tenure-track faculty for fall 2017 as well, Fizzano said.

see GRANT, page 5



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## ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

Westernfrontonline.com

Accounting students help community members with their taxes





## RACING WITH DETERMINATION IN HEART



Max Higbee Center Assistant Director Sadie Holwegner (second from left) and members hand out flyers in Red Square to promote the "Hearty Party 5k Run, Walk & Roll Race" Monday, Jan 30. The race is set to begin and end at the Max Higbee Center Saturday, Feb. 11. // Photo by Alex Powell

## Cops Box



## EVENTS

### Jan. 25, 3:38 a.m.

A man was arrested on charges of malicious mischief after smashing a window with a rock on the 900 block of W Holly St.

### Jan. 27, 6:07 a.m.

A man was cited for assault in the 4th degree because he threw a cup of coffee into someone's face.

### Jan. 28, 12:56 p.m.

A man shoplifted alcohol and a windchime from a store on the 1400 block of Cornwall Ave.

### Jan. 29, 11:00 a.m.

A woman with concealed items in her oversized bag was caught shoplifting from Lowes near Sunset Drive.

### Jan. 25, 3:26 p.m.

A man was arrested for urinating in a public place on the 1400 block of Railroad Ave.

### Jan. 28, 1:09 a.m.

Police contacted two people because they were throwing eggs on the street on the 1000 block of N State St.

### Jan. 28, 3:03 p.m.

A man was seen leaving a store on the 200 block of 36th St. with items that he didn't pay for. He ran away after an employee tried contacting him.

### Jan. 29, 12:57 p.m.

A report of a gold chain being stolen from Fred Meyer Jewelers was filed.

Compiled by Sophie Miller

What: Free Yoga  
Where: Viking Union room 464  
When: Wednesday, Feb. 1 from 4-5 p.m.  
Cost: Free

Weekly free yoga hosted by the AS Outdoor Center. Attend this class for a relaxing midweek break.

What: Last Comic Standing  
Where: Viking Union Multipurpose room  
When: Thursday, Feb. 2. Doors open at 7 p.m.  
Cost: \$2 for students, \$4 for general

For the ninth year in a row, the AS Special Events will be hosting a stand-up comedy competition. Get your tickets in advance at the box office, and be prepared to judge the funniest jokes in Bellingham.

What: SHHIP  
Where: Viking Multipurpose room  
When: Friday, Feb. 3 from 8-9 p.m.  
Cost: Free

Watch the WWU Hip Hop Dance Team perform their best routines in this showcase event.

## The Western Front

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### Corrections

The Western Front strives for accuracy and will correct errors of fact promptly and courteously. Please notify us of any factual errors at westernfrontonline@gmail.com

## Blue Group members find support at City Council

continued from page 1

The Blue Group estimates they now have around 1,300 signatures on their sanctuary ordinance. As of Monday, Jan. 30, the ordinance is open for additional support.

"We know many of the people who signed this have a lot to learn about the undocumented community, but morally they knew this was the best decision for the city to take a stance on," senior and Blue Group President Victoria Matey said.

The Blue Group appealed their ordinance to the Bellingham City Council at the Monday, Jan. 23 meeting.

The public speaking portion featured advocates for the ordinance, with one exception.

Carrie Kovaleski, with packets of information in tow, vocally objected to the adoption of sanctuary status. She argued sanctuary cities are magnets for criminals and Bellingham would be impacted by a loss in federal grant money.

"It is time to use logic and not your heart when it comes to making decisions for the city," Kovaleski said.

However, the City Council's fact sheet on the topic states that it is unpredictable what federal funding changes will occur. There is debate over what the impact in federal funding would be, as courts, Congress and the new administration navigate the legality of federal funding restrictions.

The term "sanctuary city" is widely used, yet the phrase lacks legal meaning. In general, the phrase indicates cities are committed to limiting cooperation with federal immigration enforcement.

There are a number of

policies that can fit under the term. President Donald Trump's executive order gives the Secretary of Homeland Security John F. Kelly authority to conclude which cities fall into the category.

The legal community has been frustrated over the lack of consistency in immigration policy implementation so far, according to local immigration lawyer Hannah Stone.

"If you're being inspected or if you're stopped by an officer, how you're going to be treated is unfortunately very dependent on who that individual officer is," Stone said.

Despite threats and confusion, mayors from prominent sanctuary cities have held fast on their decision. In a press conference Wednesday, Jan. 25, Seattle Mayor Ed Murray said that he was prepared to lose "every penny" of federal funding.

Local advocates made similar points at the council meeting, calling on council members to make what they saw as the moral decision. Speakers argued that sanctuary status would keep families together and improve the relationships between undocumented peoples and local

law enforcement.

"Even if we were to lose funding, declaring ourselves a sanctuary city is still the right thing to do," Carrillo said.

Larry Estrada, associate professor at Western, argued that simply having sanctuary cities is not enough.

"The easy thing for City Council to do is to say, 'Well, we're going to do everything up to the point of being a sanctuary city, but were not going to call ourselves a sanctuary city,'" Estrada said. "But that is the moral thing to do, and that is the courageous thing to do."

Mayor Kelli Linville expressed some frustration over this, as she said she believes Bellingham is already operating with sanctuary policies.

Linville said she understands the power of becoming a sanctuary city, as it could increase confidence in government.

"I believe that we should be a sanctuary city because people don't know what we're doing," Linville said.

Linville was going to propose the idea herself, but allowed the council to examine the issue.



A packed Jan. 23 City Council meeting in support of Bellingham becoming a sanctuary city. // Photo courtesy of Blue Group

### SURYA VANKA DESIGN IN THE AGE OF DATA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 5:30PM FRASER HALL 101

Surya Vanka is a designer, educator and author at the leading edge of physical and digital experiences for more than 25 years. He served as director of user experience at Microsoft, a tenured professor of design at the University of Illinois and a fellow at the prestigious Center for Advanced Study.

### ERIK FRETHEIM AND CORRINE SANDE WORKING TOGETHER IN CYBERSECURITY AND PRIVACY EDUCATION

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 5:00PM AT THE WESTERN GALLERY

Erik Fretheim is the director of the Computer and Information Systems Security Program.

Corrinne Sande is the Director of Whatcom Community College's Computer Sciences and Information System Program and the Principal Investigator for Cyberwatch West.

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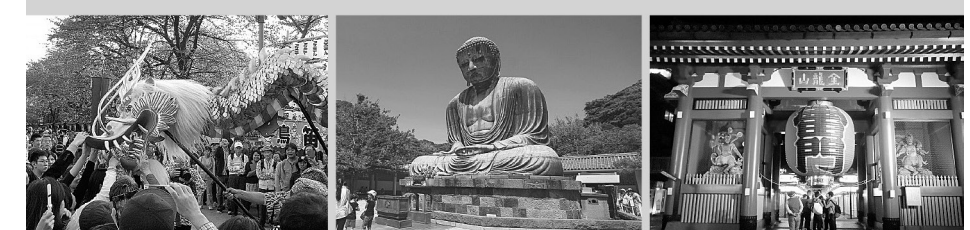
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Interested? Contact Dr. Massimiliano Tomasi, Professor of Japanese, Director, Center for East Asian Studies, Western Washington University  
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## Proposed ban on using smartphone while driving to cover more than texting

continued from page 1

"I don't think eating a cheeseburger driving down the road [puts] you in that condition," Rasmussen said. "But I do think it's arguable that making a cell phone call is the same as being at a .08 [Blood Alcohol Concentration]."

In 2016, University Police made 13 total stops for texting, 12 of which ended with the driver receiving a ticket. For Western, the ratio for tickets to stops were much higher in distracted driving cases compared to general traffic stops. Rasmussen said it was almost a 1-1 ratio.

Rasmussen said texting and driving is the greatest distraction facing drivers today.

In 2010, when using cell-phones to text or call while driving became a primary offense in Washington state, University Police cracked down on the offense by not allowing any grace period for drivers adjusting to the new state law.

Junior Jarita Hui, an education major, occasionally reads text messages while at stop signs and thinks the proposed bill is fair. While the bill would ban all hand-held device usage, it would

still allow hands-free devices.

Hui thinks Bluetooth is a good option that is already available to drivers.

"If you have Bluetooth built into your car, you can make use of it," Hui said. You could simply tell Siri what song to play rather than fiddling with a device, she said.

Psychology professor Ira Hyman doesn't think the proposed bill goes far enough.

Hyman is a cognitive psychologist who has studied primarily attention and memory. In his work with attention, he's focused on the failures to become aware of something in a situation due to focus on something else. For example, not noticing a stop sign because your attention is directed at sending a text message.

"It's what your head is doing," Hyman said. "Not what your hands are doing."

Hyman said the problem is not the physical act of talking on the phone. The problem is where your attention is focused.

A cellphone conversation is utterly disruptive, whether it's made through Bluetooth or not, Hyman said.

Hyman said many people are under the illusion they're aware of the world when they truly aren't.

"We think we're fine driving while talking on our cell phones because we don't see all the things we aren't seeing," Hyman said.

The bill would potentially raise the ticket fine from \$124 to \$350, according to The Seattle Times.

Western student Risa Askerooth is in support of the bill. Askerooth has seen the effects of distracted driving from watching her parents in the car.

"Even if they aren't actively texting or calling, I still can tell it has a huge impact on their driving," Askerooth said.

The bill was proposed on Jan. 18 in Washington's 2017 legislative session by Sen. Ann Rivers, R-La Center and State Rep. Jessyn Farrell, D-Seattle. It is currently in transit to a transportation committee where it will be reviewed.

### DISTRACTED WHILE DRIVING



**Drivers**  
Drivers in their 20s make up 27% of distracted drivers in fatal crashes. A driver who is texting is as impaired as a driver with a .16 blood-alcohol level. That's double the legal limit.

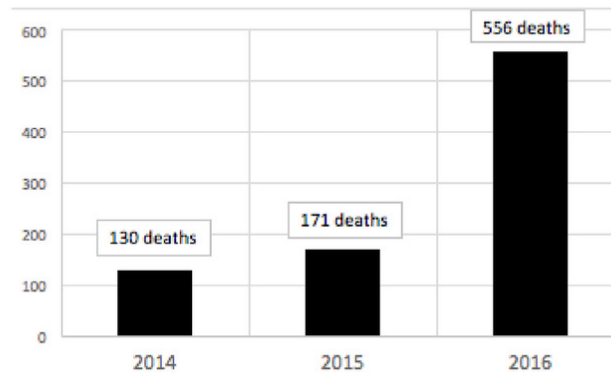


**Tickets**  
Talking or sending text messages while holding a wireless device carries a minimum \$136 fine.



**Car Accidents**  
Distracted driving caused 3,477 traffic deaths in the U.S. in 2015. In 2015, distracted driving accounted for 30% of the state's fatal collisions.

#### DISTRACTED WHILE DRIVING DEATHS IN WASHINGTON STATE



Source: Washington State Patrol

Infographic by Brie Cleveland

## \$1.6 million grant to fund future teaching staff

continued from page 1

With the new hires, the computer science department plans to offer more than 25 extra classes next year.

"Computer science will be the biggest major in the college next year," Clark said.

Senior computer science major Teddy Rivard is part of the waitlist-heavy major.

As a freshman, Rivard was around 30th on the waitlist for CSCI 141, the first class in the computer science major. Nonetheless, he sat in on the class, taught by Fizzano.

That quarter, Rivard spoke to Fizzano, telling him he would love to take his 141 class next quarter, but was far down on the waitlist. Fizzano told him he would see what he could do about it. Shortly after, a spot opened up and Rivard began his computer science journey.

Still, waitlists would stay with Rivard every step of the way.

The computer science department refers to the first five classes in the major as "the bottleneck." Those classes are CSCI 141, 145, 241, 247 and 301. Students must complete all five before applying to the major.

"The very worst one was after I made it through four of the five [bottleneck classes], and I had one class left," Rivard said. "There were two sections of it open and I was 50th on those waitlists."

Since becoming a computer science major, Rivard has been able to take at least one CSCI class every quarter, although they aren't always his first choice.

Some quarters he will only take 11 or 13 credits. He has



Seniors Nicolas Majeske (left) and Inyoung Cho (right) work on a coding project in the Communications Facility Monday, Jan. 30 // Photo by Alex Powell

enrolled in mathematics/computer science classes in lieu of straight CSCI. As a senior, he still finds himself on waitlists for desired electives.

"It's still happening," Rivard said. "It hasn't stopped or gotten better."

But despite the abundance of challenges, Rivard is managing to graduate in four years.

"I think it's sort of luck and also powering through all of the little obstacles that have gotten in the way," Rivard said. "[It's] just being like, 'You know, I really want to do this.'"

The College of Science and Engineering applied for the grant through the Washington State Opportunity Scholarship in March last year.

Five years ago, 150 students were computer science majors. Today there are nearly 550, said Clark.

"We didn't have full-time faculty who could take on that load because they had full loads with other courses," Clark said.

Non-tenure-track faculty were needed to fill those classes. Hiring non-tenure-track instructors is challenging because industry jobs offer higher pay than teaching positions, Fizzano said.

"It's difficult to find part-time instructors in computer science in Bellingham," Clark said. "There's not a deep pool of people that you can draw on."

Fizzano found tenure-track faculty are easier to

hire.

"At the tenure-track level, it's more of a commitment that they want to be in academics," Fizzano said. "We do well recruiting those people, but those positions don't just come up all the time."

Students of varying class standings have had different experiences with waitlisted classes.

Class standing is determined by credit amount. Freshman have 0-44, sophomores have 45-89, juniors have 90-134 and seniors have 135 or more, according to the Registrar's Office website.

The CS department instituted a prioritization for freshman and sophomores to enroll in CSCI 141 and 145. Juniors and seniors must

wait until freshman and sophomores register before they can.

As a result of the explosion in the program's growth, students seeking computer science classes are well acquainted with the waitlist.

JaCe Carter came to Western with 77 credits through the Running Start program. A year later, he decided to take computer science classes. At 122 credits, he had become a junior.

Getting into CSCI 141 was the first hurdle.

"It was a race for anyone who wanted to get in," Carter said. "I had to wait until three days before the final date of applying for classes, before classes actually started."

The upperclassmen restriction poses a particular challenge for transfer students, who often come in with junior status.

"That's a tricky situation," Fizzano said. "We're being really honest with transfer students about what the situation is before they come here so nobody is surprised."

Receiving the grant does not mean the College of Science and Engineering has stopped its search for additional funds.

The college is looking at ways to support hiring more computer science faculty through state funding and through the university itself, Clark said.

"The students can change like a sports car weaves and we change like a freighter turns," Fizzano said. "Tomorrow, 500 students could sign up for [CSCI] 141, but to be able to hire the number of faculty to teach that would take us a couple years."

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# Wedding Bells and Student Loans

Mikhaela Woodward  
The Western Front

**N**icole Ratcliffe was expecting a proposal. It wasn't until a tuxedoed, mustachioed man speaking in a pseudo-French accent surprised her at the Bellingham Marina that she realized the proposal was really happening.

The man, her boyfriend's best friend, handed her a bag filled with dress options, a curling iron and makeup. After getting ready, she climbed aboard a sailboat decorated in tulle and flowers, and sat down to a romantic meal with her now-fiance Jacob Peterson.

Seven months later, high school sweethearts Ratcliffe and Peterson, both juniors at Western, count down the days until their March wedding in their hometown of Issaquah.

Being a college student and a bride or groom-to-be can have its challenges. Between planning the wedding, juggling homework, staying connected with their significant other and planning for the future, it's not all easy.

Ratcliffe's mom wants to give her a big white wedding, but the details don't matter much to Ratcliffe. Simply marrying Peterson is the focus.

"I'm super low-key when it comes to wedding planning," Ratcliffe said. "For now I'm just like, 'I don't have time for this, I just want to marry him,' so I don't really care."

For senior Alex Shane and recent graduate McKenna Fishbook, ensuring a solid foundation for their future before marriage was important.

"We want to have jobs first. We wanted to make sure we both would be graduated with degrees," Shane said. "It's not all Hollywood."

Entering the job force isn't the only challenge faced when engaged as a college student. Often, polarizing opinions of friends, family and even casual acquaintances can get in the way. Getting married—and getting married young—is a lifestyle

choice not all can agree on.

"People have a lot of opinions on it. Some people are giving me high-fives, and some people are like, 'Watch out,'" Shane said.

Shane and Fishbook always saw

themselves as marrying at an older age. However, the two changed their minds.

"When you meet the right person, why wait?" Shane said.

Shane said the couple has always

maintained a positive outlook on marriage. Both Shane and Fishbook are fortunate to have parents who are still together and are very much in love, Shane said.

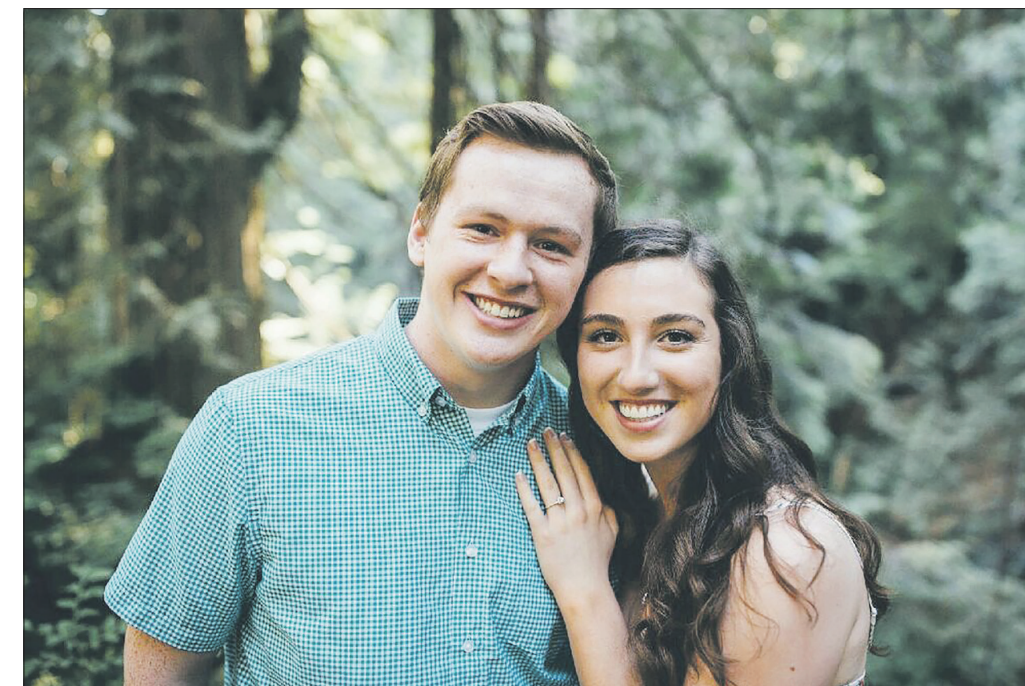
No matter the couple's age, wedding planning can seem like a seemingly dark and never-ending road. On the flip side, it could also be a breeze.

"I think it's different for every couple, but for us it's been super relaxed because we had such a long engagement," Shane said. "It's very polarizing. I think having a long engagement is really smart because I don't know anything about wedding planning."

Shane proposed to Fishbook in February 2016, after more than a year of dating. The couple will be married in September 2017.

Shane wrote letters on some of their favorite pictures, took Fishbook to their favorite places, then dropped her off and told her to get dressed up.

Later, she received a text telling her to look at the back of the photo album, where she found another note instructing her to walk



Jacob Peterson and Nicole Ratcliffe at Franklin Falls in North Bend, August 2016. // Photo by Max McDonald, courtesy of Nicole Ratcliffe

outside and get in a limo. The limo driver handed her one last letter from Shane and drove to the waterfront. Fishbook arrived to a flower-bearing Shane ready to lead her to the terrace where he proposed.

Shane said Fishbook has been

handling the stress of wedding planning like a pro due to her stint working at a wedding planning company in high school.

Betina Sanchez, recent Western graduate and newlywed, works with wedding preparations and newly en-

gaged couples. Hoping to get her foot in the door of event planning, she began working for Alicia's Bridal in Bellingham while she was engaged.

"It was fun because there were actually three of us who were engaged while working there at the same time," Sanchez said. "We were all excited, all brides-to-be, just like the brides we work with."

After eight years of dating, Sanchez's husband, Greg Sanchez, proposed to her on the Capilano Suspension Bridge in Vancouver, British Columbia.

"I always knew I wanted to get married. I'm a big fan of marriage," Betina Sanchez said. "I also respect marriage and think that it should be a one-time thing. I don't think it's something you should go into so lightly."

After a two-year engagement, the couple got married in September 2016, a month after

Betina Sanchez graduated from Western with a communication studies degree.

Because she was in school until the wedding, she spaced out the wedding planning over winter, spring and summer breaks. But there was still a lot to do.

"I thought I would have June until the end of the summer to do all the little details. I didn't find out I wasn't graduating until summer until we had already started planning," Sanchez said. "Graduating in August and then getting married in September was a stressful summer."

Despite the stress of being a student and a soon-to-be spouse, the couples all shared one feeling: genuine happiness. Ratcliffe pointed out the inevitable fade of "puppy love giddiness."

Each individual, however, seemed to understand the ability deep connections have to last a lifetime. In Ratcliffe's words, "Love doesn't have to be just a feeling, it's an action."

*"People have a lot of opinions on it. Some people are giving me high-fives, and some people are like, 'Watch out.'"*

Alex Shane  
husband-to-be



Alex Shane and McKenna Fishbook at the Hotel Bellwether, February 2016. // Photo by Reilly Kintzele, courtesy of Alex Shane



Dress display inside Alicia's Bridal Monday, Jan. 30. // Photo by Rachel Postlewait



# AN EFFORT FOR EQUALITY

Western employee strives to bring diversity to campus through curated programs

**Cali Goertz**

THE WESTERN FRONT

Life doesn't always end up as planned.

Nick Sanchez, Western's employment inclusion manager, can attest to that. His journey, however, brought him to help Western's campus. Sanchez works with a variety of faculty and staff to create workshops and programs to educate others about the importance of diversity.

"Visually, at least here in Bellingham, we are not as diverse as other cities and communities," Sanchez said. "What I find, and have always been optimistic about, is how willing and open people are to embracing new identities."

From an early age, Sanchez said he had a calling bigger than himself. He often had to work hard to receive the opportunities he has had in his life.

Sanchez struggled with financial barriers, troubled high school years and being the first in his family to go to college.

By the time Sanchez finished his senior year of high school, he had attended 11 different schools.

After high school, Sanchez joined the Marine Corps for four years and next attended six different community colleges. From there Sanchez went to Humboldt State University in California then to Santa Clara University School of Law to get his graduate-level professional law degree.

While attending Santa Clara University, Sanchez worked with a program at the university called Fresh Lifelines for Youth. As a law student, he taught young children on probation their legal rights.

Sanchez wants to set an example for his seven nephews. He's proved someone in their family could go to school, get a career and use their passion to help others, he said.

Sanchez said the programs he involves himself in are difficult since they challenge people to lean into dis-



Western's employment inclusion manager Nick Sanchez.

// Photo courtesy of Nick Sanchez

comfort.

Sanchez spent three years as a co-chair of the President's Task Force on Equity, Inclusion and Diversity.

Since then, Sanchez created four different workshops focusing on diversity that can be taken by faculty, staff and students. After attending all four workshops, attendees each receive a lifelong learning certificate.

Although workshops are Sanchez's main focus, they aren't the only pro-

grams he's spearheaded. Sanchez is working with journalism professor Maria McLeod on the play "First Person: Diverse Student Stories."

"Maria interviewed seven different students from diverse backgrounds, captured their stories, turned them into scripts and found seven actors to deliver those," Sanchez said.

The play is free and open to anyone and is set to show at Old Main Theatre Thu., Feb. 23 and Fri., Feb. 24. After

the play, workshops will be offered to students and community members to digest what they heard and express their thoughts about the play.

Chris Casquilho is the manager of marketing and special events for the College of Fine and Performing Arts and earned a lifelong learning certificate after going through the workshops last spring.

*"What I find, and have always been optimistic about, is how willing and open people are to embracing new identities."*

**Nick Sanchez**  
Western's employment inclusion manager

The different workshops include "Cultural Awareness of Self," "Experiences of Others," "Critical Conversations in a Work Place" and "A Call to Action."

"The facilitators were folks from these underrepresented groups, from these minority groups. You were talking to them and they were speaking from this place of absolute truth," Casquilho said.

To have someone who's experienced discrimination articulate why it matters to talk about it makes the open dialogue workshops so powerful, Casquilho said.

"[The lifelong learning certificate] is an agreement to continue on learning these things for a lifetime because one of the complexities of diversity work is that the learning's never done," Sanchez said. "You're never done learning about everybody."

## Frontline: Sanctuary city designation in Bellingham vital

### Opinions of the Editorial Board

Immigration has always been a hot button issue. This week, it got a hell of a lot hotter.

During the past week, President Donald Trump released an executive order severely limiting immigration from seven predominantly Muslim countries, as well as suspending refugee admission to the U.S. These are the first on the massive list of promises he gave on the campaign trail regarding immigration.

An outpouring of dissent and open rebellion is occurring. Immigrants in the U.S. are expressing fear over the rhetoric from the Trump administration. The country is responding with protests stretching across the country. Citizens, lawyers and even entire cities are standing up. That is what matters today.

Sanctuary cities are in open defiance of Trump's administration, which is calling for cuts to federal funding for cities and jurisdictions that list themselves as sanctuary cities. These are areas that protect undocumented individuals by not prosecuting them for violating immigration laws.

Whatcom County is considered a sanctuary county by the U.S. Immigration and



Illustration by Darby Womack

Customs Enforcement. ICE lists sanctuary counties as an area that will not honor ICE detainers. The American Civil Liberties Union defines an ICE detainer as a written request that law enforcement detain an individual past release date in order to provide ICE agents time to decide whether to take the individual into custody.

But Bellingham is not. Outcry against this is nothing new. Western's Blue Group, a group for

undocumented students, petitioned Bellingham City Council to create Bellingham as a sanctuary city last November, without resolution.

The rest of our state is not standing by idly.

Seattle is a long-time sanctuary city. Seattle Mayor, Ed Murray, has been insistent the city will remain a safe place for immigrants, regardless of legal documentation or status.

Not to mention Washington Attorney General, Bob

Ferguson, making Washington the first state to sue President Trump over his immigration policies.

Bellingham has been silent.

We cannot and should not rely on having a blanket protection for undocumented immigrants in the county and Seattle to the south. Creating an ordinance or definable documentation is a direct slap in the face to our new administration's ridiculous promises. If we want to claim we support and protect undocumented individuals, we must do it both nominally and in practice. We are a city of 80,000; yes, a fraction of the size of cities like Seattle. But 80,000 is all that matters for anyone who lives here. And how oh-so satisfying is it to use the power we are given as citizens to make a difference.

As citizens we still have our voices. Believing your government will hear your voice becomes difficult in times like these, when it feels like civic engagement is as useful as yelling at a brick wall. But there is power locally. Use your voice for people who cannot.

Show up. Attend city council meetings. Call

Mayor Kelli Linville. Find your representative's phone numbers and don't stop calling until you get a response. These actions do not go unnoticed. Involvement may seem like an easy solution to a convoluted problem, but it is the best tool in our arsenals right now. Movements start locally then grow. So start in Bellingham.

**Contact your representatives:**

**Mayor Kelli Linville:**  
Phone: 360-778-8100

**Bellingham City Council:**  
Phone: 360-778-8200

**The Bellingham City Council meets every second Monday of the month - next meeting: Feb. 13**

The Editorial Board consists of Anna Edlund, Alyssa Evans and Robert Johnson

## Viking Voices

What do you think is the biggest issue facing the Trump presidency?



**Sophomore Garrett Davies, biology**

"The biggest issue he faces right now, especially with the global political climate the way it is, would have to be his thoughts on environmental issues."



**Junior Cody Foust, sociology and social studies**

"The biggest issue facing our newest presidency is the huge amount of divide with the people who support him and the people who don't support him."



**Junior Tait Jensen, manufacturing and supply chain management**

"I'm not sure we really know, internationally, how he's viewed. We've seen him interact with certain countries; Pakistan, Russia, et cetera. But I think on the whole there's a lot of unknowns."



**Senior William Rubinstein, geography**

"I think just everyone turning against each other. There's one side or there's the other. There's the Trump supporter and there's the non-Trump supporter, this whole split."

Compiled by John Simmons



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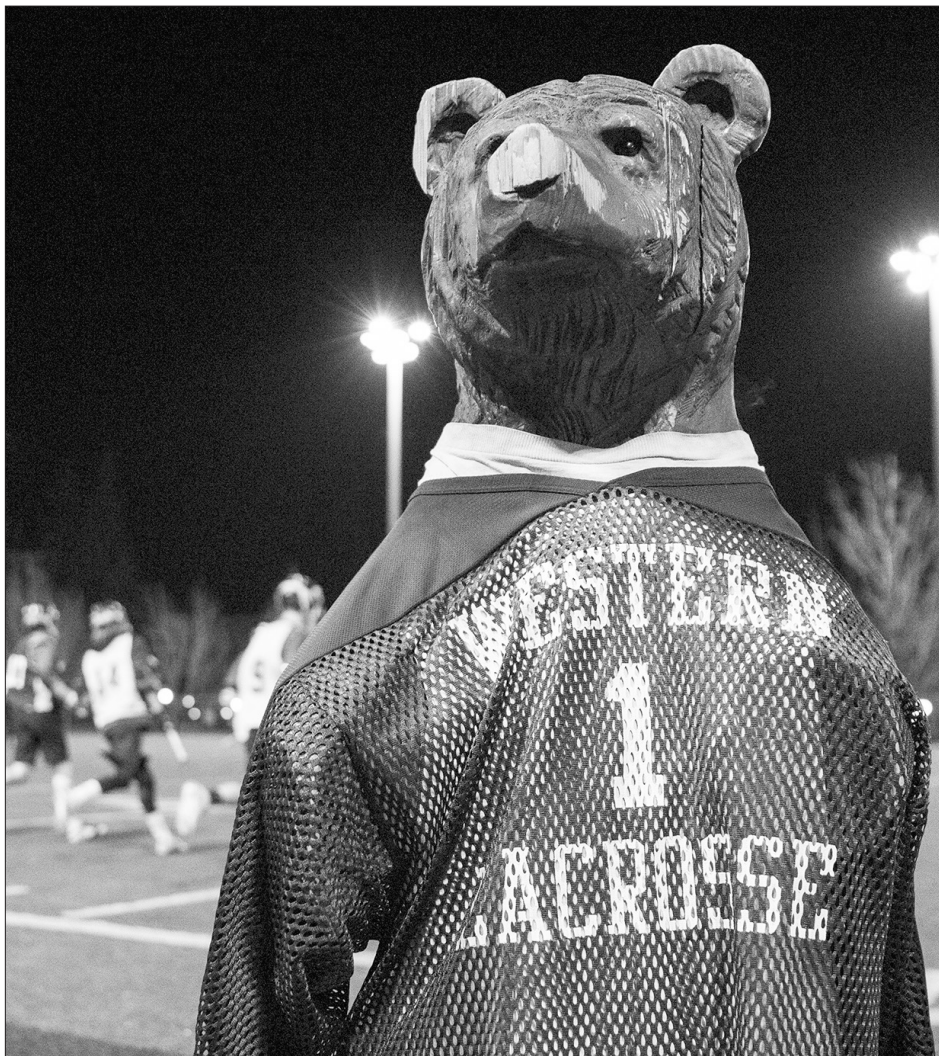
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# A beary good teammate



**Bruce the bear prowls the sideline during a men's lacrosse practice Friday, Jan. 27.** // Photo by Alex Powell

**Jake Gregg**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

The origins of Bruce are unknown by many and kept secret by few. Was he the tip of an old vikings ship that crashed in Bellingham Bay? Or possibly taken from a bar downtown many years ago?

Not many know the real story of Bruce, but one thing is for certain. A 100 pound and 5-foot tall bear statue is the Western men's lacrosse team's number one fan.

Bruce has been passed on through the years of the team. Bringing Bruce to every possible game has become a team tradition, by either driving him personally or taking him on the team bus for away

games. The team places Bruce at the 50-yard line and every player gives him a pat during their warm-ups.

Defender Zane Sharif said he enjoys the tradition and regards Bruce as a member of the team rather than a statue.

"We like to joke and say he's the original lacrosse player," Sharif said. "He's never left. He's never graduated. He's working on various degrees. I think he's working on a communications degree right now."

Coach John Heritage, currently in his first season with the team, said he wants the team to have traditions like Bruce because they can bond over them.

"Having some fun things like that can certainly help build team uni-

ty," Heritage said. "We want guys to enjoy being here and have fun, but also work hard collectively and have each other's back."

The team has been successful in recent years. In 2015 the team made it to nationals for the second year running, reaching the semifinals and finishing fourth.

Former captain and Western alumnus Lucas Marin was a member of the 2015 team. Marin said Bruce has been with them through it all.

"He's a great stand up guy," Marin said. "Long before my time at Western he was there, so he's seen a lot."

With no money and a lack of transportation, Bruce is passed around by the lacrosse team and is always given a place to stay, rent free.

Sharif said during the regular season the team sometimes makes it the responsibility of rookies to give Bruce a home, but during the summer he typically stays with upperclassmen.

Marin tried to start a way to pass around the statue, but realized the team enjoys it more when they just let him travel with no set path.

"We just have more fun letting him do his own thing," Marin said. "A lot of the older guys like to have him at their house. He just ends up places."

Whether the lacrosse team succeeds or not this season is yet to be determined, but one thing is for certain, Bruce will be with them every step of the way.

## UP NEXT

Vikings at Western  
Oregon University  
When: 6 p.m. Saturday,  
Feb. 11.  
Where: Monmouth,  
Oregon

# Basketball recap

**Nick Vitalis**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

## Men's basketball (17-3)

The No. 15 ranked men's team opened up a two-game lead over second place University of Alaska Anchorage in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference. The Vikings won both games last week, extending their winning streak to eight games. The men's team coasted to a 100-56 thrashing of last-place Simon Fraser University Tuesday, Jan. 24, and picked up an 81-68 win over Montana State University Billings Thursday, Jan. 26.



**Lexie Bland dribbles the ball against Simon Fraser on Tuesday, Jan. 17.** // Photo by Harrison Amelang

## Women's basketball (17-3)

The No. 15 ranked women's team extended its winning streak to 11 games with two victories in Oregon. The Vikings are in second place in the GNAC, with an 11-1 record, behind University of Alaska Anchorage. The women's team shut down Western Oregon University 65-45 Thursday, Jan. 26 and rallied past Concordia University 64-55 Saturday, Jan. 28.

# Rent-a-rower raises money for crew team



**Members of the men's crew team move a fridge for a client.** // Photo courtesy of Men's Crew

**Hailey Palmer**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Row, row, row your boat gently to manual labor. At least, that's what the Western men's crew team will do to raise funds.

The Rent-A-Rower program is exactly what it sounds like. One can rent members of the team to do any sort of odd job they need done.

Originally an idea started at Washington State University, the program made its way over to the men's crew team at Western and became their primary way of raising funds last year.

Landscaping, painting and "very mediocre construction" are among the jobs the team has been asked to do, senior crew member Corban McKay said.

Being a club sport on campus means the team is responsible for some of their own funding. The team only accepts donations as payment.

Like any club or sport on campus, the team has expenses that need to be paid. Senior crew member Severn Anderson said the funds

received from Rent-A-Rower are a way for the team to pay those.

"It goes to our general foundation fund," Anderson said. "From that fund we buy boat equipment, rowing machines and fund travel expenses."

Not only does Rent-A-Rower serve as a way to pay for team needs, it's also one way to implement team bonding.

"I've had some jobs where I just sit there with someone else for four hours pulling weeds," Anderson said. "It's hard not to get closer to people doing that."

So how do people in the community hear about Rent-A-Rower? The team has an option on their website to request to rent a rower. They also pass out flyers when they go on runs, along with replying to Craigslist ads, McKay said.

While the crew team is a club sport at Western, most of the teams it competes against are not. The team competes against programs from the University of Washington, who receive funding from various sources such as the school itself or alumni.

"It puts you in a nice comparative mindset with schools more wealthy than us," Anderson said.

Some of the larger schools the team races against receive endowments of over \$200,000 every year, senior crew member Jackson Wood said.

"We're working hard to make sure we have the money," Wood said. "We're paying our way through it. Competing up at a high level against crews getting a free pass makes it much more worth it."

Funding received through Rent-A-Rower financed the team's trip to nationals last year in Georgia.

Paying the team's way is something that the team takes pride in, Anderson said.

"It's good to feel like you've earned your ticket to Georgia or California," sophomore crew member Mason Starr said.

Along with Rent-A-Rower, the men's crew team also hosts a golf tournament every spring.

With the fall race season completed, the crew team will be training during winter to prepare for their spring season.

# Men's rugby topple Beavers

**Eric Trent**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

It took Western less than two minutes to get on the board, creating a tidal wave of first half scoring against an Oregon State Beaver squad that couldn't dam the momentum.

Sparked by a 43-point first half, Western men's rugby team, in its first game of 2017, shellacked Oregon State to the tune of 76-7 at Robert S. Harrington Field Saturday, Jan. 28.

Paul Horne, Western's director of rugby, said the team didn't foresee such a lopsided victory against a Division I opponent.

"I think that surprised everybody," Horne said. "Including our guys."

Junior inside center Cam Hazard led the way for the Vikings with two tries in the first half.

"We came out firing," Hazard said. "Our set-piece play is unbelievable right now. We're winning line-outs like nobody's business."

After taking a 43-0 lead at half-time, Western charged back to start the second half. Within the first minute, junior fullback Noah Hanks scooped up the ball from 20 yards out and scampered in for the try.

"They put the ball out to Max Stone," Hanks said. "The defender came, made the tackle on him and I was there for the offload. I picked up the scraps and took it to the house."

Despite the decisive victory, Horne said the team still has some areas to improve.

"Trying to get them to maintain the structure of the game rather than going one-on-one," Horne said. "Rugby's all about 15-on-15. You've got to play as a team. We'll continue to work on guys playing with structure and purpose."

Western heads to Eugene, Oregon Saturday, Feb. 4, to take on the University of Oregon.

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# Getting back on track

*Jumper Rudy Mataya returns to Western's track and field team after injury*

**Scott Blumenfeld**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Last year, Western's annual track and field end-of-the-year barbeque turned into a hospital trip, followed by an 8 month recovery process for junior long jumper Rudy Mataya.

"On the first lap, we were jumping over all the normal [steeple] fine, then we got to the water pit," Mataya said. "I landed with my right leg first and I just felt it go out."

Mataya suffered a spiral fracture on his right lower fibula, but did not require surgery.

Mataya's timeline for recovery was eight weeks in a cast, two weeks in a walking boot and two months in physical therapy. He started physical therapy by going once a week and transitioning to every two weeks.

"Physical therapy was basically just getting my ankle to function properly again by moving it up, down and side-to-side," Mataya said. "That was the end goal, to get all the motion back."

During physical therapy, Mataya said his workouts involved going on short walks, calf extensions, yoga ball exercises, squats and band exercises.

The hardest part about overcoming the injury was working for six months straight to get to where he was physically during the previous season, Mataya said.

"The first time I did a workout was two or three weeks before school started," Mataya said. "I lost an entire



**Rudy Mataya holds an x-ray of his broken fibula in one hand and his shoes in the other.** // Photo by Alex Powell

summer of training and that's where we do most of our work. There's a lot of competitiveness I couldn't exert, so that's built up."

Mataya would make his return to the team at the University of Washington indoor preview Tuesday, Jan. 17, where he placed 13th in the long jump.

"We were having some fun and he did something silly," track and field head coach, PeeWee Halsell said. "It was sad because it put him behind in his conditioning."

Mataya is currently contemplating the benefits of redshirting this outdoor season.

"I think [redshirting] would be good for him,"

senior runner Ryan McArthur said. "It would give him a good transition to get a feeling for the coaching again, a little more recovery time and then if he wants to come back for a fifth year of schooling, he can continue to run as well."

Halsell said there are no plans to change any events in the annual track and field end-of-the-year barbeque and steeplechase.

"I do the barbeque and they do the Steeple for the People. I don't organize that part of it," Halsell said. "It's up to them what they want to do."

Mataya said he is ready for his redemption in the steeplechase this year.



**Rudy Mataya practices on the Wade King Student Recreation Center Turf Field.** // Photo by Alex Powell

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