

**Stafford represents  
Western in All-Star Game**  
SPORTS, PG. 10

**Professor creates  
app prototype**  
FEATURES, PG. 6-7



# THE WESTERN FRONT

Volume 179, Issue 1

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TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2017

## AS Restructure to go to ballot

*New senate, programming council could assume some of board's duties*

**Sanyu Namome**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Associated Students Board is beginning the process of restructuring to divide their duties.

One proposed change is reinstating the student sen-

ate after a four-year hiatus. The senate was suspended in 2013 for lack of direction and went through review, according to AS Board minutes from 2014.

Academic matters would be referred to the senate, rather than the AS Board.

The number of senators from each college would be proportional to the percent of students in the colleges.

Students will vote on a proposed constitution in this spring's election which will go into effect fall 2018. Upon approval, the new con-

stitution would go before the Western Board of Trustees.

AS Vice President for Governmental Affairs Bryce Hammer supports the proposed changes.

*see AS, page 3*

"Because of the amount of things we have to do, we are not always able to communicate with the students that we represent to the best of our ability."

-Bryce Hammer, AS Vice President for Governmental Affairs



**A sign for a scent-free zone in Miller Hall. Woodring's special education department has led in implementing the zones.** // Photo by Rachel Postlewait

## Change is in the air

Scent-free zones float to Viking Union

**Rose Carr**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

For those who suffer from allergies or asthma, even the slightest fragrance wafting through the air can cause a serious reaction, including severe migraines, nausea and asthma attacks.

As a result, the Associated Students Management Council voted in favor of putting up scent-free zone signs. Signs will go up in the Viking Union as a pilot project in mid-May.

Groups from Western have proposed creating scent-free zones through the entirety of the campus to accommodate those who are sensitive to certain aromas. Those supporting scent-free zones include the Disability Outreach Center coordinator, Students with Disabilities Advocacy Council and the vice provost for Equal Opportunity and Employment Diversity.

*see SCENT, page 4*

## Protesters object to new Whatcom county jail project

**Questen Inghram**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

As the Whatcom County Council's work group on the proposed jail met inside Bellingham City Hall, protesters opposed to the jail rallied outside.

"No means no," the crowd of over two dozen chanted, in reference to the previous proposal to build a new jail in Whatcom County, which was

rejected by voters in 2015.

The rally on March 31 was organized by the Restorative Community Coalition and the Young Democrats of Whatcom County.

Tatum Kenn, a freshman at Whatcom Community College, is a member of the Young Democrats.

"Our organization is strongly against the mega-jail," Kenn said.

"I think that we need to stop mass incarceration. It's to me one of the biggest issues in this nation."

Members of the workgroup include Mayor Kelli Linville, Sheriff Bill Elfo, Police Chief Cliff Cook and members of the Bellingham City Council and Whatcom County Council.

Todd Donovan, political science professor and Whatcom County

councilmember, is one such member.

"[The protesters] are rightfully linking increasing the potential size for incarceration to larger national issues about incarceration," Donovan said.

Senior Kurt Price, president of the Young Democrats, has concerns with the implications of the jail's size.

*see JAIL, page 5*



**Opponents of the new county jail project assemble in front of city hall.** // Photo by Questen Inghram



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**ONLINE  
EXCLUSIVES**

**Westernfrontonline.com**

Look for a story about how AS Restructuring is affecting KVIK this Thursday



## A SUNNY DAY FOR A FUNDRAISER



Students and community members gather on the Communications Facility lawn, Apr. 3, for the Pull Together campaign fundraiser put on by Students for the Salish Sea. The goal of the campaign is to stop the Kinder Morgan pipeline from crossing through native lands and waters. // Photo by Rachel Postlewait

### The Western Front

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

#### Editor-in-Chief

Alec Regimbal

#### Managing Editor

Natalie Breyemeyer

#### News Editors

Erasmus Baxter

Asia Fields

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McKenna Cardwell

Ben Olson

#### Sports Editor

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Jordan Carlson

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Brie Cleveland

#### Photographers

Kirstyn Nyswonger

Jonathan Pendleton

#### Illustrator/ Cartoonist

Shannon DeLurio

#### Web Developer

Maxwell Prenderghast

#### Letters to the editor:

westernfront.opinion@

gmail.com

#### Press releases:

wfpres.release@

gmail.com

#### Faculty Adviser

Jack Keith

Jack.Keith@wwu.edu

#### Advertising Department

360-650-3160

#### Advertising Manager

Kaelen Morris

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## Cops Box



## Tenant Resources

### Mar. 25 7:24 p.m.

An individual from the U.K. watched a video stream of a resident of the 1600 block of 22nd Street threatening his roommates at gunpoint. He called the police and officers responded. It was determined nothing had occurred.

### Mar. 27 10:27 a.m.

An individual received a call from Kazakhstan and contacted the police over concerns of her phone being tampered with.

### Mar. 27 3:38 p.m.

A strange and threatening letter was placed under the door of an office on the 200 block of 34th Street.

### Mar. 29 8:14 a.m.

Police officers spoke with an upset resident of the 800 block of High Street regarding construction in a neighboring unit.

### Mar. 30 10:00 a.m.

On the 700 block of Lakeway Drive, a resident found a toy gun and the police impounded it for destruction.

### Apr. 1 7:59 a.m.

A prowler was reported peering into a window of an apartment on the 3100 block of Racine Street.

Compiled by Hailey Hoffman

### Legal Assistance by Whatcom Advocates Tenant Clinic

Whatcom County Courthouse fifth floor  
Fridays 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.  
A free consultation with a lawyer about tenant issues on a first-come-first-serve basis.

### AS Legal Information Center

VU 517, [as.legalinfo@wwu.edu](mailto:as.legalinfo@wwu.edu)  
Peer advising on legal issues. They can look over your lease, give advice on rental issues and refer you to lawyers for further follow-up. Their website also has a rundown on common issues renters face at [as.wwu.edu/legalinfo/resources/](http://as.wwu.edu/legalinfo/resources/)

### Rental Inspection Results

[westernfrontonline.com](http://westernfrontonline.com)  
The results of the city's rental inspection program are available in an Excel file on the Western Front Website under "The Data: Take A Look At Information About Rentals Inspected." You can search the address of properties in Sehome and York to see what issues they might have, and if they've been resolved.

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### Correction

The article "Vigils pressure local government" referred to a case in which a young man was detained after a traffic stop in Bellingham and the legal response, but did not specify a date. The detention occurred on June 20, 2015.



# AS hopes to add senate, programming council

continued from page 1

“There are seven elected board members that try their best to represent 15,000 students,” Hammer said. “Because of the amount of things we have to do, we are not always able to communicate with the students that we represent to the best of our ability.”

The heavy workload the AS endures is too much for the limited staffing in the organizations, Hammer said. Staff members feel they are overworking themselves to meet student needs and fulfill day-to-day duties.

The redistribution of duties would allow the Board to increase focus on advocacy, Hammer said.

Also proposed is the creation of a programming council to give AS programs

and services more control over matters concerning them, Hammer said.

Sabrina Houck, the AS Board program coordinator, is optimistic about the proposed changes underway. There are many aspects of the AS that have not been optimized due to understaffing and ignorance about what the AS does, Houck said.

She referred to events, advocacy and support services; as well as being a bridge among faculty, administration and students, as resources the AS provides.

Houck said she hopes more students can interact with the AS, which is the ultimate goal of the changes.

“If we’re not engaging with the students and having their needs met, then

we’re failing as an organization,” Houck said.

AS Assistant Director for Student Activities Lisa Rosenberg and Assistant Dean for Student Engagement Director Eric Alexander agree.

“Two key hopes are that workload issues [are solved] and ultimately through that, how the board can serve students is enhanced,” Rosenberg said.

The addition of a strong student senate would bring greater opportunities for student and faculty voices to be heard, Alexander said.

The AS Board will present the changes to the Board of Trustees on April 21, Houck said.

## PROPOSED STUDENT SENATE

- The student senate was disbanded in 2013 after review
- The senate would be in charge of academic matters
- Senators would be elected and represent their prospective colleges
- Membership would be proportional to student percentage of students in the colleges

## PROPOSED PROGRAMMING COUNCIL

- Representatives from AS programs and services, such as AS Productions
- Would give more autonomy to these organizations

# Club fosters discussion about racism

*Students for Anti-Racist Action attendance has increased since the election*

**Questen Inghram**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Does having a personal stake in ending racism matter? What issues arise when we self-identify as allies?

These were questions asked and discussed at the “Solidarity Not Charity” meeting of Students for Anti-Racist Action.

Sophomore Emma Bigongiari, lead officer and founding member of Students for Anti-Racist Action, said the idea for the club came after the 2015 incident regarding racist comments on Yik Yak. These comments were directed toward the Associated Students president at the time and received coverage by national media.

The main suggestion Bigongiari heard from students of color after the incident was for white students to organize and take action. She and some friends decided to organize the club, which began to meet fall quarter of 2016.

Students for Anti-Racist

Action is currently focused on working with the Ethnic Student Center and creating dialogue about the role of white people in anti-racist action.

The club has held meetings discussing the Standing Rock protest against the Dakota Access pipeline, cultural appropriation and post-election actions.

Bigongiari said club meeting attendance in-

order to care?” she said.

The club is planning to host discussions this quarter about state violence against people of color, gentrification and activist roles for white people.

Bigongiari said that while the group is run by and focused on white students, meetings are open to all identities.

“I want students of color to know we are very open

would love to take that on.”

Bigongiari said that white supremacy in the community is still a problem.

“I think in Bellingham we often like to think of ourselves as extremely progressive and maybe even post-racial, but the reality is that there is still patriarchy, there is still white supremacy, there is still sexism and heteronormativity — all types of oppression

they are going to school.”

“It is important because as white students we need to be constantly in the process of trying to dismantle systems of oppression and using our privilege to do that is really the only way we can,” Crisp said.

Junior Trisha Patterson said she attends club meetings to become more involved and educated in anti-racist work.

“The point of this club is to help educate and act in solidarity with people of color on campus and in the community. I’m here to learn a little bit more about how I can help,” Patterson said. “It’s a space where white people can explain and unpack white supremacy and racism, without having to put that emotional labor onto people of color.”

Students for Anti-Racist Action meets in Academic Instructional Center West room 305 every other Thursday from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

*“It's a space where white people can explain and unpack white supremacy and racism, without having to put that emotional labor onto people of color.”*

**Trisha Patterson**

Students for Anti-Racist Action member

creased dramatically after the presidential election.

“It was exciting but also a little frustrating because there was definitely a feeling of, ‘Where have you all been and why do we have to wait until tragedy strikes in

to feedback and critiques,” Bigongiari said. “We believe everyone’s liberation is tied [together], and so if there is work that a student of color or an organization of students of color feel needs to be done on campus, we

on our campus,” Bigongiari said.

Junior Griffin Crisp said the club is “a space [where] white students can caucus in order to decolonize their minds and start decolonizing the institution in which



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# AS takes on student health issue

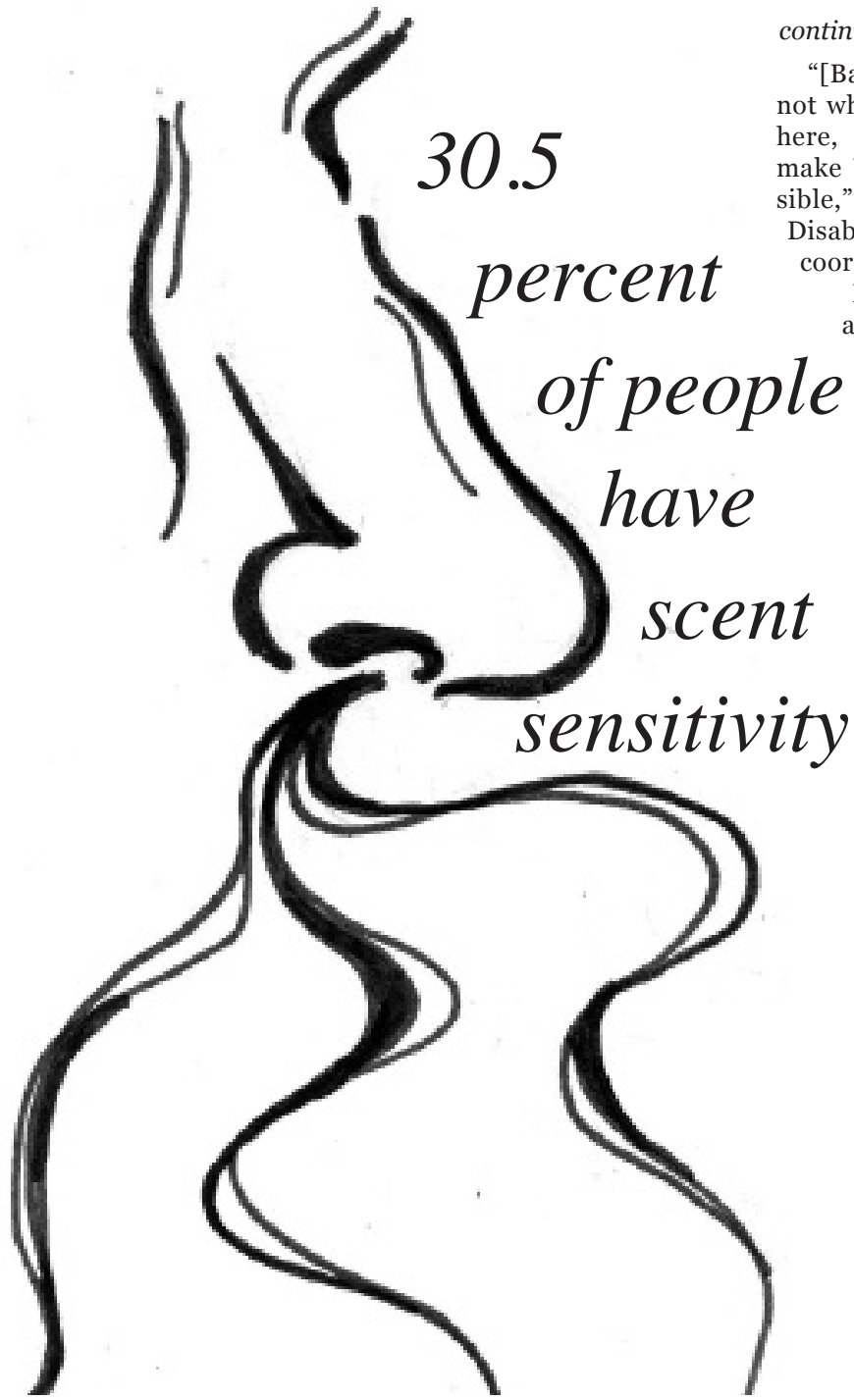


Illustration by Shannon DeLurio

continued from page 1

“[Banning all scents] is not what we’re trying to do here, we’re just trying to make Western more accessible,” Courtney Manz, AS Disability Outreach Center coordinator, said.

Manz has asthma and has experienced the effects of strong fragrance in the classroom setting. There were days where she couldn’t stay in class because of irritants in the air.

“We don’t want people to leave campus because they’re feeling sick or miss educational time,” Manz said. “We’re here to learn and we’re

here to support each other and create a supportive environment.”

Scent-free zones are areas free of any fragrance or irritants in the air from perfume, scented lotions, body sprays, cologne and other scented products.

Around 30 percent of the American public found heavy fragrances cause some kind of irritation, according to a 2009 study by the University of West Georgia.

Mary Moeller, AS vice president for business and operations, said the signs will help inform students that scent sensitivity is an important safety issue. She hopes the scent-free zone policy will spread to the rest of the university.

Moeller said students should try to limit the

amount of scents they wear on a daily basis.

Sue Sullivan, director of Western’s environmental health and safety office, said posting signs is a great first step to bringing awareness about scent sensitivity to Western without overwhelming people with information.

Wayne Rocque, AS vice president for student life, encourages students to contact the AS for help with a disability or to make recommendations for campus initiatives if students feel that there is a need that isn’t being met.

“The AS is trying to be as proactive as we can with these issues, but also sometimes we don’t know what issues may be out there,” Rocque said.



Fragrance-free sign on campus. // Photo by Rachel Postlewait

## Western gets a report card

Accreditation report from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities to be released in June

**Cailean Mcleod**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

An analysis of Western’s staff and faculty will be the final test to determine if the institution passes.

That is, in the eyes of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities.

Western conducted a confidential faculty and staff forum last Monday to accrue data on the performance of teachers and staff, with the assistance of accreditors from the commission.

Susan Kalina, chair of the evaluations committee, said Western has gone through a seven-year accreditation cycle to determine the quality of Western as an institution. Right now, the committee already determined Western to be fully accredited.

“[Western], at the end of

seven years, is requesting to have accreditation reaffirmed, and the evaluation committee comes on behalf of the commission to see how it’s doing,” Kalina said.

According to the commission’s website, they are a nonprofit organization that evaluates colleges based on a set of standards using accreditation and self-evaluation.

Kalina said her evaluation committee consists of eight members from different colleges and works with multiple institutions across the country.

Steven VanderStaay, vice president for undergraduate education and the accreditation liaison officer, said the faculty and staff forum is kept confidential at the discretion of the committee accreditors to make sure they

are comfortable enough to speak freely.

Over the past seven years, Western took part in a self-evaluation program with the committee. During which, Western is measured against a set of standards that the committee sets.

One of the methods Western and the commission use to accomplish this is a comprehensive evaluation of its own staff, as this year the committee starts to visit Western to do a cumulative status report of the institution.

According to the commission’s website, there are 55 standards colleges must meet.

“What we are looking at is [whether] the institution meets the standards. [Western] responded to that in a self-study report, we read

the report, and then we come to campus to more fully understand how the institution is meeting those,” Kalina said.

VanderStaay said the final accreditation report will be posted to Western’s website by June 2017.

“I think we are an exemplary institution within our region both because of our strong student performance and because we tend to get many commendations in our accreditation activities,” VanderStaay said.

But VanderStaay also said Western’s faculty and staff could improve on fixing what he calls achievement gaps where a specific group of students excel far more than students of another group, such as students with low and high incomes.

“Faculty are already working to try to correct for that and I think we can all do a better job in serving those [low-income] students,” VanderStaay said.

According to the commission’s list of standards, Western needs student services that help students of all groups to succeed.

Western does have services and programs that cater to all students such as Prevention and Wellness Services and the Scholarship Center, according to Western’s website.

Both the faculty and staff evaluations occurred at the Old Main Solarium. The open staff forum ran from noon to 12:45 p.m. and the open faculty forum with the accreditors ran from 1:15 to 2 p.m.



# Opposition to jail workgroup



**Protesters wait outside the mayor's board room to share their opposition on March 31.** // Photo by Questen Inghram

*continued from page 1*

“Building a mega-jail, or any jail that’s just going to increase the size and capacity of who we put in isn’t going to do anything for the community,” he said. “It will just allow more people to be put in for profit.”

While the original proposal for the jail was a 521 bed facility, that has since been scaled down, yet still undecided, Donovan said.

Many from the rally proceeded to walk into the mayor’s board room, where the meeting was held, and spoke out against a new jail during the public comment period.

The workgroup will make a recommendation to the council on the financial agreements of the proposed jail, which will be put on a ballot measure no later than November 2017, according to the Whatcom County website.

The main speaker at the rally was Joy Gilfilen, president of the Restorative Community Coalition, an organization advocating for alternatives to incarceration.

“We need to do restorative justice, we need to do community rebuilding, we need to start doing rehabilitation, retraining and reeducation,” Gilfilen said. “[We need to do]

all the rest of the stuff that builds community, [and] doesn’t tear it apart.”

Donovan said the workgroup negotiated that the proposed jail would be financed by sales tax. The workgroup is also working on how to portion the costs between cities and the county.

“The current facility is decaying,” Donovan said. “At least among my council colleagues there is a sense that we do need something better.”

The workgroup has met six times since September 15, 2016. The next meeting is scheduled to be 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., Thursday, April 13.



*Illustration by Shannon DeLurio*

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# REPROGRAMMING YOUR BAD HABIT



Illustration by Shannon DeLurio

*Western assistant professor creates prototype application to help people who are trying to quit smoking*

**Kira Erickson**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

In the United States, one in five deaths are related to the smoking of cigarettes, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Those currently smoking may desire an effective way to quit. Western assistant professor Moushumi Sharmin said she hopes to assist people in quitting the habit with the creation of her app, MyQuitPal.

"I have been working with health data and physiological data for some time now," Sharmin said. "I started working in 2013, and I was looking at stress, and how we can manage it. We all are stressed, all the time, right?"

The computer science professor has been working on developing a prototype of the app since 2016 with some of her students.

The app would incorporate sensor technology, either in the form of a wristband—reminiscent of a Fitbit—or as a chest band.

"We know these are life-long problems, and we cannot ask people to wear re-

search devices all the time, so we are looking into Fitbit and other lightweight options," Sharmin said.

The devices would measure respiration and heart rate, indicators of stress, and it would also determine a person's location. If the user is near a spot where they have smoked before, the app will recommend an alternate route, Sharmin said.

"Whenever you feel the strong urge of smoking, we will detect that in real time and provide some

kind of intervention," Sharmin said. "Subtle distractions can help them to pass through that strong urge, that moment of vulnerability."

These distractions may include a phone call to a close family member or friend, Sharmin said.

Sharmin considers the app a cost-effective way to manage and reduce stress without the help of physicians, because it addresses behavioral problems.

"Now we have the technology available to help people manage their own problems—at least people who are not critically ill," Sharmin said.

Senior Theodore Weber, one of Sharmin's students, meets with her each week to discuss research regarding the app.

"Originally, I was very interested in smoking prevention and addiction," Weber said. "It's still a pretty serious problem, even at a personal level."

He said the encouragement will be different for every user of the app.

"Some people wouldn't be as adept to certain intervention techniques versus others.

Some people might need more aggressive intervention, some people might be turned off by that," Weber said.

Sharmin realizes there won't be one versatile solution.

"We don't think there will be one technique or one intervention that will work on everyone. But we can still create a set of interventions that may help different types of people in their own situation," Sharmin said.

On a Friday afternoon in a room on the top floor of the Communica-

tions Facility, Sharmin meets with a group of her students whose involvement with the app's creation has helped it become closer to a reality.

Seniors Zellie Macabata and Blen Desta, two of Sharmin's students, are currently responsible for the web application of the project.

"I got involved because I'm doing [my] senior project for the computer science department," Macabata said.

She is currently on her second quarter of the senior project, a three-quarter series.

Like Macabata, Desta also chose the research option for her computer science senior project.

"I think it's really interesting because it's programming to help people," Desta said. "The project is meant to help people quit smoking."

Desta said the two are starting studies this quarter on people with the app to test its effectiveness. She said people who use other methods,

such as the patch, may still be unsuccessful in giving up nicotine entirely.

"It is kind of interesting how

people stop smoking and then start smoking and stop again. They go through these cycles," Macabata said. "We're trying to see what actually causes the lapses."

Sharmin said her father struggled to quit smoking.

"If something bad happened, something stressful in work or on a personal level, he would start again. So it was kind of this idea that people want to do it, but they cannot," she said.

Her goal is to provide a convenient way to help with quitting.

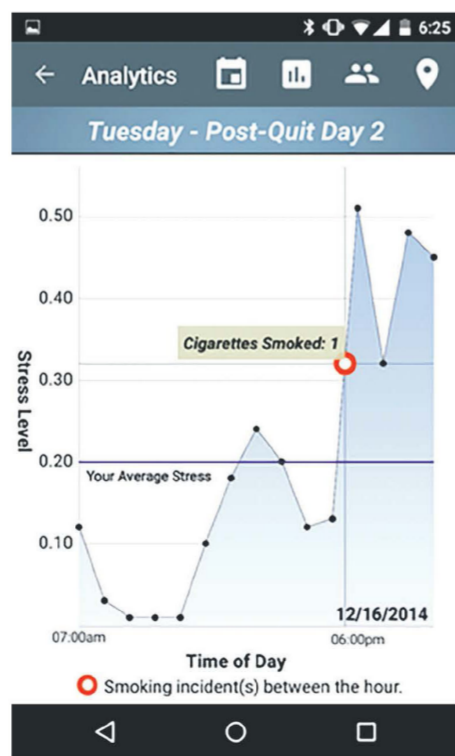
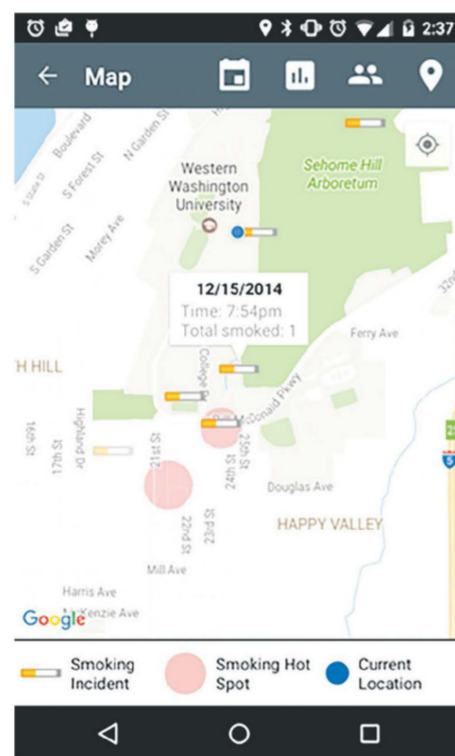
"That means, people need help. Help that does not require them to drastically change their lifestyle, or spend lots and lots of money, because that won't be feasible for many people," Sharmin said.

*"Subtle distractions can help them to pass through that strong urge, that moment of vulnerability."*

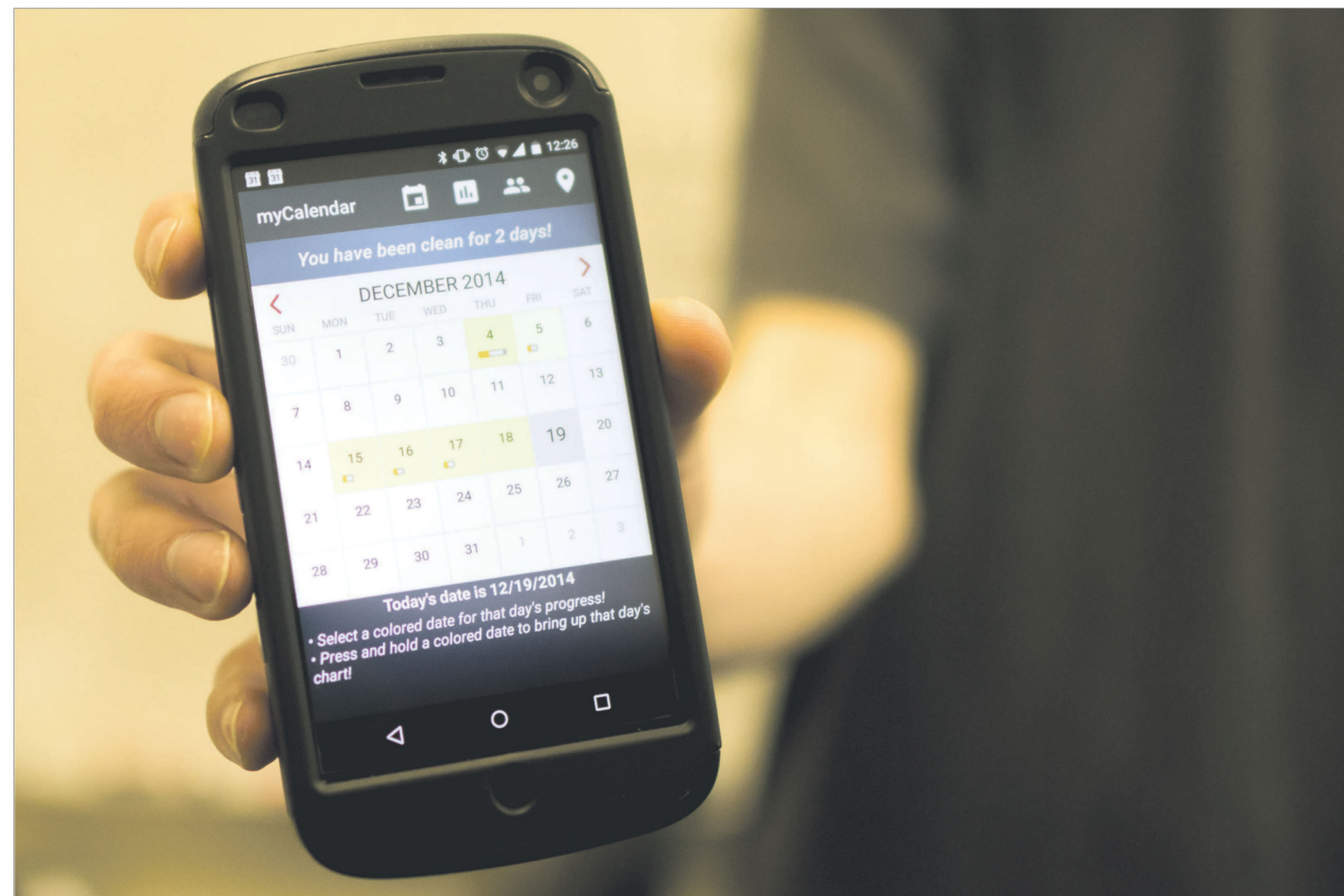
**- Moushumi Sharmin**  
Assistant professor



Moushumi Sharmin poses for a photo on April 3. // Photo by Jonathan Pendleton



Screenshots of the prototype. // Photographs courtesy of Kira Erickson



Senior Ted Weber displays the monthly calendar keeping track of which days the user smokes cigarettes on April 3. // Photo by Jonathan Pendleton



# Moving your feet

**Dan Thomas**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

An audience gathered in the basement of Make.Shift Art Space to dance, listen to music and raise money for a debilitating disease.

The show was held to raise awareness and funds for Multiple Sclerosis. Specifically, the donations will go towards the Walk MS: Bellingham fundraiser.

Sophomore Andrea Entz, the event coordinator and Walk MS team captain, introduced the bands playing at the event.

Entz has two family members who were diagnosed with MS. Entz's father, Herb, has very few symptoms while Jessica, Entz's sister, has more severe symptoms, Entz said.

"I know everybody comes from different experiences and there's the whole, 'You shouldn't not be sad because someone is sadder,'" Entz said. "But sometimes when I think, 'I'm not going to go to the gym today,' or, 'I'm not going to dance because somebody's going to look at me like I'm stupid,' I think about Jessica and I think about how she doesn't even have the option to do that."

Herb and Jessica's experiences are the reason Entz works to organize events like this.

"It was an idea in the back of my mind and then I saw that the [Make.



**Local band, The Blood Capsules, performs at the Make.Shift on March 31.** // Photo by Dan Thomas

Shift] does benefit shows and I was like, 'Hey, what if we did the thing here?'" Entz said. "Bellingham is so full of artists that I knew I had friends who would perform."

The benefit lasted three hours, with each artist performing six songs and short breaks for stage changes.

"Not only does [the money go] towards research, it also focuses on

housing and disability access for these people, and I think it's a really good cause," Max Koh, the single member of Full Time Part Timer, said. "Bringing the community into it is always fun."

For 28 years, Walk MS has worked to fund research and critical programs for people affected by MS, according to the National MS Society.

The event ended with an energetic performance from alternative indie band Girlo and Chef.

"I really enjoyed that they all had a unique and different energy," sophomore Karlee Foster said.

The performances by Full Time Part Timer, The Blood Capsules, Neon Lilies and Girlo and Chef helped to bring in a crowd, Entz said.

The bands and artists played for free, allowing the \$6 door charge and all donations to go to Walk MS.

"Any time you throw an event like this, one of the main goals is to raise awareness," Entz said.

Entz presented at previous Walk MS events and organized a similar fundraiser through Western in 2014.

Entz will walk with more than 400 people at Walk MS: Bellingham event to show support and help raise more money for MS research and critical programs.

The walk will take place 10 a.m. Saturday, April 8, at Hotel Bellwether.



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## Frontline: Investing in jobs means investing in environment

### *Opinions of the Editorial Board*

**Kaitlin Eslinger**

THE WESTERN FRONT

Living in the greater Bellingham area and spending most of our days on campus, it almost feels like we can't escape our cozy liberal think tank.

Collectively, it's difficult to understand those who still deny and actively worsen climate change. We are surrounded by a wide array of groups on campus advocating for environmental protection, supporting the future of sustainability and everything in between. If you're anything like me, it's frustrating when our president doesn't understand basic concepts that the majority of college students do.

On Tuesday, March 28, President Donald Trump signed an executive order to rollback Barack Obama's Clean Power Plan. Obama focused on shutting down coal-fired power plants and regulating carbon emissions. In an effort to fulfill his campaign promise to bring back American jobs, Trump signed this order with the coal workers in mind and literally by his side.

During the presidential campaigns, the majority of candidates failed to notice those who economically depend on coal country. This oversight gave Trump an upper hand during the election. Because this demographic was largely ignored, Trump was able to capitalize on their vulnerability. He made



*Illustration by Shannon DeLurio*

a commitment to revive the coal industry. The president is now trying to keep his promise to these worried Americans, and I respect that — as much as it pains me to admit it. However, if Trump truly cared about the longevity of these workers' careers, he would be investing in clean energy.

The first section of the executive order states actions must "promote clean and safe development of our Nation's vast energy resources, while at the same time avoiding regulatory burdens that unnecessarily encumber energy production,

constrain economic growth, and prevent job creation."

Coal is not clean. Coal is not infinite. Coal does not create economic growth nor does it have the ability to create enduring jobs. The same can't be said for clean energy.

There are 1.9 million jobs in energy efficient industries which include solar, wind, hydroelectric and alternative vehicles. That means there are 30 times more jobs for Americans in clean energy than there are in the coal business. Although the fossil fuel industry isn't dead, it is dying. Clean energy jobs exceed

fossil fuel jobs 5 to 1.

As seen by his beginning stint as president and longtime hobby of complaining on the Internet, Trump doesn't have the best foresight. His need for immediate and dramatic action overshadows the necessity of long-term planning.

States across the nation, Washington included, have realized the benefits of investing in clean energy. Washington has been a leader in the anti-coal movement. Due to the amount of hydroelectric dams and wind farms, the northwest doesn't rely on coal like the rest of the U.S. does.

The state has struck a deal with two Centralia coal plants to phase out by 2020 and 2025. States need to set a precedent for one another. Although ahead of the curve, Washington must keep pushing for clean energy policies. We must keep pushing for energy policies.

In order to create more clean energy jobs, we must advocate at the state level to encourage development. Contact your representatives and let them know these are the issues you care about. Get involved with local protests like Bellingham March for Science taking place Saturday, April 22.

The rest of the country unfortunately doesn't live in our Western bubble. Maybe if they did, they'd understand we can protect our planet while protecting our economy.

*The Western Front Editorial Board consists of Kaitlin Eslinger, Alec Regimbal and Natalie Breymeyer*

## Viking Voices

Compiled by Kevin Lake

*What simple thing do you do to to be environmentally conscious?*



*"In terms of day-to-day activities, I compost, recycle and try to keep my footprint fairly low."*

**Sarah Watson**

Sophomore, abnormal psychology



*"For a large part we don't use paper towels or paper napkins; we have lots of cloth napkins."*

**Quinlan Wong**

Junior, English



*"I like to grow my own food. I like to source my food to local places and not waste it."*

**Ruby Williams**

Junior, undeclared



# Stafford, Western's shooting star

Taylor Stafford recognized as first-team All-American and selected to Division II All-Star Game

**Nick Vitalis**

THE WESTERN FRONT

Western men's basketball senior captain and guard Taylor Stafford was going to be special when he was in the third or fourth grade, his grandma Flora Woodfork said.

"Taylor played his coach and won, and his dad was standing on the sideline laughing, [but] when it came his time to play, Taylor beat him too," Woodfork said.

Stafford recently added to his growing collection of accolades. He was announced as a first-team All-American for Division II basketball, as well as being selected to the first team for the Reese's DII All-Star Game.

"I was very humbled, and when I first heard it, I was just simply thanking God because I know He's the reason for all of this," Stafford said.

Western's head coach Tony Dominguez said Stafford has worked hard for the award.

"He's a tremendous young man who worked very hard to be excellent, and I'm excited [for him], he's achieved a lot," Dominguez said.

Stafford didn't start with basketball, though. His first sport as a child was gymnastics, Woodfork said. Stafford said though he didn't take basketball seriously until his junior year of high school, he always had the love for it.

Stafford grew up on the South Side, where basketball was an escape from the violence around him.

"[Playing basketball] became therapeutic for me at a young age," Stafford said. "Living in an impoverished environment, it took me and my family away from the shootings and killings."

However, Stafford nearly quit basketball his sophomore year of high school, before his coach convinced him to stay on the team.

"[He] saw great things in me I never saw in myself," Stafford said. "I'm not sure what made me want to focus on basketball, it just was a gut feeling to take it serious."

From a young age, Woodfork, Stafford's legal guardian, said she tried to instill certain values in him, most importantly to go to school. That paid off, as Stafford was also named to the Great Northwest Athletic Confer-



Stafford with Division II All-Stars in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. // Photo courtesy of WWU Athletics

ence All-Academic team.

Stafford's college career ended in the first round of the NCAA tournament, in a game he called bittersweet.

"My belief and my faith keeps me strong. What was meant to be will be, so I was very accepting of everything," Stafford said. "I was just enjoying it. It was bittersweet because I'm going to miss the experiences with my teammates, but I don't let wins and losses define me as a person."

After the loss to Chico State though, Stafford had the opportunity to start in the DII All-Star game in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

"To go into it, I was like, 'I ain't talking to nobody, I'm going to keep to myself, which is normally how I am,'" Stafford said. "But the people, the players and organizers were so great. It was fun. Ultimately, it was a good experience," Stafford said.

Even though he's traveling across the country to play hoop, Stafford said a lot of his motivation still comes from his roots.

"Mainly, I just want to be a role model for my brothers and sisters and show them, 'If I can do it, you can do it,'" Stafford said. "With where we grew up, the situations [there], I just wanted to provide a better way for my family, and I knew through basketball and through school I could do that."

Looking forward, Stafford might be taking his career to the next level. Stafford recently signed with an agent to explore opportunities to play professionally, either in the NBA or abroad, something he described as surreal.

However, Stafford isn't worrying about where he's going or planning ahead too much.

"That's my agent's job," he said with a smile.

Dominguez believes Stafford can make a living of this.

"I think he's as good as anybody and has NBA po-

tential," Dominguez said.

Stafford was concerned at first, Woodfork said, about leaving her alone if he was to go overseas to play in international basketball leagues. However, she encouraged him to pursue it, saying if he wants it to be a career, it's what he has to do.

For now though, Stafford is working on finishing his degree. He graduates this spring and then, he said, the grind is back on.

That grind is what took the South Side kid from schooling his dad in front of his classmates, to making just about every All-American list across the country and having too many awards to keep his grandma up-to-date on.

## STAFFORD'S ACCOLADES

First-team All-American

Division II All-Star

Second player to average 22+ ppg

First Western player to score more 640+ points in a season



Stafford takes a shot for the East squad in the Reese's Division II All-Star Game, March 24. // Photo courtesy of WWU Athletics



# Viking baseball hungry for nationals

*Baseball sweeps three-game series against Washington State at Joe Martin Field*

**Katie Webber**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Last year, they were division champions but lost the regional championship. This year, the Western men's baseball team aim to advance even further.

With eight seniors who graduated from last year's team, a lot of younger players have had to step up. The team hasn't been to nationals since 2013 and hopes to return this season.

Senior shortstop and outfielder Kyle Pegram said player development is how the club is continuing their success.

"The seniors really have to lead the way and kind of show the younger guys this is how we do it. That's what we do," Pegram said. "Just bring a family environment to the game and try to have the best chemistry we can."

Sophomore catcher Christopher Smith said nationals are certainly on their minds and they know it's something they can accomplish.

"We definitely have the set of guys to do it," Smith said. "We know we have the talent, so really that's what we're striving toward: the ultimate goal, to get to nationals."

The team started off the season with three games against Eastern Washington University, coming out with a record of 2-1. Western is tied for first in the division with Gonzaga University. Smith said Gonzaga has a strong program and always puts up a good fight.

Senior head coach Conner Celli said they aren't one of those teams that are just out there to have fun.

"We're definitely a talented group of individuals that make stuff happen," Celli said.

On Saturday, April 1 and Sunday, April 2, Western continued their season with three games against Washington State University. The Vikings swept the series 3-0, improving their overall record in the conference to 5-1.

"It's all about making it happen throughout the



**Baseball battles Washington State April 1 and 2.**

// Photo by Kirstyn Nyswonger

game and being up and cheering on each other," Celli said. "That's something we definitely need to work on and I can see that improving."

Coming into the season, Pegram said hitting

was one of their weaknesses because they had lost some of their "big bats" at the top of their lineup, but after their series sweep against WSU, things are looking up. He said the younger players

are stepping up and the seniors are a big source of strength, especially the pitching staff.

The team is working on staying focused and making sure the younger players are comfortable, Smith said.

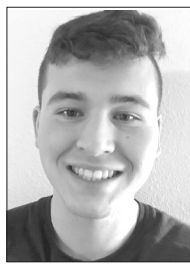
"We play a real competitive league," Smith said. "Losing one game could completely change the rest of the season and determine our success. Remembering every single game means as much as the next; I think that's definitely going to be big for us, especially when the postseason comes around."

## UP NEXT

Three-game series against the University of Idaho  
**When:** 4 p.m.  
**Saturday, April 8**  
**Where:** Joe Martin Field

*Opinions from The Western Front staff on all things sports*

**Is the triple-double an important stat to keep track of in the current NBA MVP race?**



**Jake Gregg**  
Reporter

I think the triple-double is an important statistic, but it is not a necessary one. With Russell Westbrook and James Harden getting triple-doubles for fun, it is easy to say they are the two most valuable players in the league this season. It can be misleading as being a one-man team will not get you an NBA title.



**Dante Koplowitz-Fleming**  
Reporter

The triple-double is impressive, but it does not necessarily mean it is important. Russell Westbrook, the current NBA king of triple-doubles, posts crazy stat-lines, but when you put into context that sometimes his teammates get out of the way of rebounds so that he can grab them, the triple double loses some of its meaning.



**Nick Vitalis**  
Reporter

The triple-double stat is super important when evaluating a players worth in something like the MVP race. A triple-double measures how much of a total basketball player you are. Westbrook is averaging a triple-double and is in the race, but the last person to do so, Oscar Robertson, wasn't even runner-up. We'll see what voters value.



**Zachery Schmidt**  
Reporter

The triple-double is an over-rated stat. Stats like field goal percentage, performance efficiency rating and the plus/minus rate tell more about a player than a triple-double does.

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# Cougars take down women's soccer

Vikings fall to Division I Washington State in spring exhibition game

**Hailey Hoffman**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Western women's soccer team was shutout by Washington State University during their spring exhibition game, marking their first loss since August 2016.

The 2016 NCAA Division II Champions faced WSU, a Division I school, on Sunday, April 2 in the second of seven games scheduled for the women in the spring season. WSU scored three times on the Vikings, all of which were set piece goals - a goal made after a corner kick, free kick or a throw in.

This season allows for the team to play against more competitive schools they would usually not face during the regular fall season.

"We are looking for an opportunity to play against some of the best teams in the region," assistant coach Claire Morgan said. "We don't get to see athletes like this on a regular basis."

The team will play other high-performing and Divi-

sion I teams such as Trinity Western, the University of Montana, Highline Community College, the University of Idaho and the University of Washington in the coming weeks.

Upper division teams provide a greater challenge for the Division II champions who were undefeated since their loss to Trinity Western in August 2016. These other teams perform at a higher level than all the Division II teams the Vikings defeated during the 2016 fall season.

"They're strong, fast and technical. It's really good for us," midfielder Emily Webster said. "We don't see as much of that talent when we play in the league."

Webster said they are forced to be more aware of their surroundings on the field and to think fast in the already fast-paced game.

"It just allows us to practice what we are ultimately trying to get better at," Morgan said.

After their first loss in eight months the Vikings will continue to practice



**Women's soccer seeks opportunity for higher competition at Harrington Field, April 2.** // Photo by Jonathan Pendleton

and learn from the off-season.

"It's never easy losing," Webster said. "It's really just character building for us. We'll take it in stride

and try to do better next time."

Ultimately, the team hopes to use this game to continue to grow as they prepare to face future op-

ponents in the spring season, Webster said.

After the spring season the Vikings will return to playing schools in the same division for the fall season.



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