



**Bellingham  
breweries  
continue to grow  
FEATURES,  
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PG. 8**



# THE WESTERN FRONT

Volume 180, Issue 1

westernfrontonline.com



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TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2017

## AS VP, administration at impasse over work authorization

*AS VP not allowed to assume position due to undocumented status, considering lawsuit*

**Laura Place  
Questen Inghram**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

After being elected Associated Students vice president for governmental affairs, sophomore Ana Ramirez, who is undocumented, has been told by university and AS administrators that she will not be able to assume the position due to her current lack of work authorization under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA.

DACA is a federal program that allows undocumented people who came to the U.S. as children to defer deportation and ob-

tain work authorization.

"I just really want to do my position, preferably paid," Ramirez said last week before she had met with administrators. The typical salary for a vice president on the board is \$11,107 a year.

Ramirez, a member of Western's undocumented student organization Blue Group, said she is the first undocumented student elected to the AS Board. According to a June 19 press release, she filed to obtain DACA status days after being elected, and is currently waiting on approval.

Western adminis-

trators said that under federal law, she cannot legally be paid for her position until her DACA is approved, nor can she volunteer for tasks that would normally be paid, according to Paul Cocke, director of university communications and marketing.

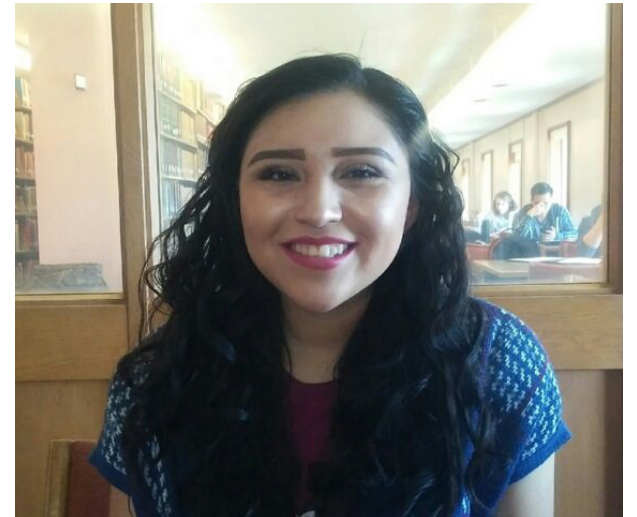
"Until or unless an undocumented student candidate receives DACA approval, that student cannot be employed by the University in any capacity," Cocke said in an email. "The University clearly communicated to Ana Ramirez her status of not being able to work at the University as an

undocumented student until she received DACA approval."

Cocke's statement was in response to the press release stating that the university has not offered Ramirez another option that would allow her to fill the position.

Ramirez said she is planning on suing the university for discrimination at the end of the month.

Cocke did not confirm if Ramirez will be replaced with someone else, but said the AS election coordinator will review Ramirez's situation in order to make a final decision and run it by the AS Board.



**Ana Ramirez when she was running for office in April.** // Photo by Angela Wissmar

"No one has taken the role away from Ana; rather she received the most votes but is currently ineligible to serve based on candidate requirements," Cocke said in an email.

On Thursday, June 22, Ramirez, along with some of her professors, Victoria Mathey of the Blue Group and other Blue Group members.

see **RAMIREZ**, page 3

## Rocking for a cause



**The lead singer of Lalochezia plays at Mosh Eisley June 23, 2017. Several bands played at the benefit show for a Venezuelan family.** FEATURES, PG. 5 // Photo by Kevin Lake

## City Council stands with transgender community

**Kamiah Koch**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

At its June 19 meeting, the Bellingham City Council approved a resolution asking Bellingham residents not to sign the petition for Initiative 1552. The initiative would restrict individuals who identify as a different gender from that assigned at birth from using their desired restrooms.

Initiative 1552 would change Washington state law, which currently prohibits discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation in relation to public facility uses. The law went into effect in December 2015.

The Just Want Privacy Campaign is the organization driving the initiative. The campaign has organized a petition to put the initiative on this November's ballot. According to the Just

see **COUNCIL**, page 2



**GENDER NEUTRAL & FAMILY RESTROOM**

**Gender-neutral restroom signs in Western's Fine Arts building.** // Photo by Eythan Frost

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Photo gallery - Seahawks come to Fairhaven

## BELLINGHAM FLAG FLIES OVER CITY HALL



The Bellingham flag, designed by local graphic designer and Western alumnus Brad Lockhart, flies outside City Hall Monday, June 26. It was raised June 14 in an officiating ceremony. Lockhart's design won a 2015 flag design contest put on by the Downtown Bellingham Partnership. The flag grew in popularity, and on April 24 of this year, Bellingham city council voted in support of making the flag official. // Photo by Eythan Frost

## Cops Box



### Keep your day job

On Monday, June 19, someone called 911 as another person screamed and yelled they were being attacked at the 1000 block of York St. Responding officers found it was an intoxicated person attempting, but failing, to be funny.

### Caw for help

University police received two reports of a crow stuck in Old Main on Wednesday, June 21.

### Stick a spud in it

A known subject was caught at the 1000 block of North Forest St. placing a potato in the tailpipe of someone's vehicle on Sunday, June 25.

## Resolution adopted in opposition to I-1552

*continued from page 1*

Want Privacy website, they are attempting to reach 330,000 signatures by July 7 in order to make the ballot. As of June 21, the petition had 150,100 signatures. Based out of Mill Creek, Washington, the campaign relies on churches to reach statewide voters.

Council members Roxanne Murphy and Dan Hammill moved to pass the resolution asking Bellingham residents to decline to sign the petition supporting the initiative with unanimous approval from the council.

Council member Murphy stated the need to pass the resolution in order to show Bellingham's support for the transgender and LGBTQ community.

"People should have the right to be who they are," Murphy said.

The majority of community members who spoke also expressed support for the resolution.

"I think it's fair to say that the vast majority of family physicians throughout the country are very much opposed to these bathroom bills for all the obvious discriminatory reasons," Bellingham resident and family

physician Dr. Chao-ying Wu said during the open comment section of the meeting. "But also because they have very real health effects on our patients and, as physicians, we see the adverse health effects of discrimination on a regular basis."

Council member Pinky Vargas showed support for the resolution to protect Bellingham's transgender community.

"I fully, wholeheartedly think this is atrocious that we are dealing with this in this day and age, so we have [the LGBTQ community's] back," Vargas said.

Final approval of the resolution evoked immediate cheers and applause from the audience.

Council members also discussed the proposal for the new Whatcom County jail. Areas of confusion remained on the specifics of the jail, and a motion was made to curate a list of questions to be answered by the Whatcom County Council.

The council deliberated on matters of housing and declared intent to discuss the barriers residents face with the Affordable Housing Program and bring those concerns to council during this summer.

## Trial date pushed back for alleged Highland Hall intruder

**David Whorpole**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Tanner Boyd appeared in Whatcom County Superior Court on Monday, June 26, for his scheduled jury trial. The prosecution and the defense agreed to push his trial to August 14.

Boyd is facing charges of third degree theft and residential burglary. He was arrested in connection to break-ins that occurred in Highland Hall on November 12, 2016. Boyd plead guilty to a similar set of charges from November 2014, accepting a plea deal just three days before the Highland Hall arrest.

Adrian Martinez Madrone, Boyd's stand-in attorney, said the defense does not expect the case to make it to trial.

Boyd graduated from Western in 2015 and remained a volunteer for the track and field team until his arrest last fall.

The next pretrial hearing is scheduled for July 27.

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

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## Ramirez's name not listed among other elected board members on AS website

*continued from page 1*

met with administrators in hopes of finding a solution, Matey said. After meeting for an hour and a half, Western's Assistant Attorney General Robert Olson concluded Ramirez would not be able to fulfill her position without DACA, she said.

"They were there to say no instead of saying, 'Let's find a solution,'" Matey said. "They think law is everything. But law has to change, because laws are created to benefit white people."

While administrators say DACA requirements were clarified early on, Matey said they don't always understand the difficulties surrounding applying for and receiving DACA. Along with having to be renewed every two years, the DACA application requires undocumented immigrants to hand over detailed in-

formation, including former and current addresses, bank statements and employment records.

"I remember clearly when I first met with my lawyer [about DACA] and he told me, 'I want you to understand that you're giving yourself up,'" Matey said. "It's terrifying — you literally give them everything."

Strict guidelines also increase the risk of not having an application approved, Matey said. Along with the combined lawyer fees and additional \$500 application fee, it's an unrealistic prospect for many undocumented students, she said.

"This is not an inclusive program. There's no pathway towards citizenship — it's us handing them money to be working, in their terms, legally," Matey said.

Ramirez said her attorney believes there are alternate ways

Western can let her assume the position, such as a stipend, using a university special grant or fund, paying for tuition or housing, providing a scholarship, using a W-9 or deferring payment until Ramirez's DACA comes in.

"Administration had told Ramirez's adviser that they would look into the situation and explore other possibilities for Ramirez to get paid while she applied for DACA and her DACA is approved," Ramirez's press release said. "It has now been five months since administration was first informed of Ramirez's case and they claim to not have found an alternative way of paying her yet."

AS administrators consulted with Western attorneys to explore "creative alternatives" that would allow Ramirez to keep the position, but none of the options were viable, said Eileen

Coughlin, senior vice president and vice president of enrollment and student services, in a June 13 email provided by Cocke. When asked to clarify which "creative alternatives" were explored, Cocke did not specify.

"Attorneys in the Attorney General's Office at Western researched the issues. Their legal advice came after a thorough review; this review did not occur until after the April 24-28 election, when she won election to an AS board position," Cocke said.

Coughlin emailed Ramirez on June 13 outlining further reasons for the decision.

"The University values and seeks to encourage strong student leaders. Despite your clear talent and leadership, the University is obligated to separate the individual talent and contributions from legal requirements as the law makes no exceptions based on

those personal characteristics," Coughlin said in an excerpt from her email, provided by Cocke in his response.

The AS Board of Directors stated their support for Ramirez in a letter sent to Dean of Students Ted Pratt, AS Board Program Adviser Eric Alexander and Coughlin on June 13.

"Ana and her position have a strong impact on the student body because of the importance, meaning and effect of her work and the work she will do in the position, and it is important that Ana remains in the position and is allowed to complete the full term of the position," AS Board members wrote in the letter.

As of Monday, June 26, Ramirez's name was not listed on the AS Board website alongside the other newly elected board members.

## Proposed carbon tax discussed at climate forum

**Chancellor Gardiner**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy presented its new carbon tax initiative at a public forum beginning their state-wide tour on Tuesday, June 20, at the Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship. The hope is to put the initiative on the 2018 ballot.

The proposed policy is a performance-based carbon tax that will increase over time if the state is unable to keep up with emission reduction obligations set by the policy.

The alliance describes itself as a coalition of individuals, organizations and businesses across Washington who advocate reducing climate-change causing pollution and strengthening the economy.

"We are talking about public investment, not relying on corporate investment anymore," Steve Garey, panel member and former president of the lo-

cal United Steelworkers union, said. "We've seen that and they're doubling down on the fossil fuel industry."

The alliance will be taking a tour across the state, stopping in 20 destinations to hold similar forums, Ahmed Gaya, a staff member at the alliance, said. The forums will be used to explain the policy and answer questions about it because of its complexity and the group's need for citizen support, Gaya said.

"I definitely learned a lot," junior Abigail Ernest-Beck said. "But it was a lot of information to process."

The alliance's carbon tax differs from the carbon emissions tax that failed on the 2016 ballot by investing the tax revenue into the solutions to climate change, Gaya said.

"The current administration is working to undo all the Obama-era climate policies," said Eddy Ury, a clean energy organizer at RE Sources who

*"We need a just transition, not just a transition."*

**Eddy Ury**

Clean energy organizer at RE Sources

spoke on the panel. "This really leaves it up to the state and local level, where we are going to take up this burden."

The alliance estimates the tax would bring in around \$1.1 billion, which would be broken up into four investment funds. Sameer Ranade, a member of the Washington Environmental Council, said the first part, about \$250 million, would be put toward a transition fund. The fund would be developed for heavily impacted and lower-income areas in Washington to transition to sustainable resources, he said.

"We need a just transition, not just a transition," Ury said. "[We need] a fair and equitable transition to clean energy."

The remaining \$850 million from the tax revenue would be broken into three parts, Ranade said. Seventy percent would go to investment funds to promote the transition to a clean energy economy, which includes infrastructure overhaul, such as shifting transportation away from fossil fuel use. Twenty percent would go toward clean and abundant water, and the last 10 percent would go towards promoting healthy for-

ests that absorb carbon emissions, he said.

The tax would create accountability for those who pollute and harm the environment, and grow the state as a producer of sustainable resources, Ranade said. Two-thirds of every dollar put towards fossil fuels in Washington goes to out-of-state pockets, and the state would not lose money if the bill pushes out fossil fuels because Washington does not produce them, he said.

The alliance's goal is to reduce carbon emissions to the levels of the 1990s by 2020, to reduce emissions 40 percent below that by the 2030s and to reduce emissions an additional 40 percent by 2050, Ranade said.

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# BREWED IN BELLINGHAM

The local brewing community is growing at a rapid rate thanks to Bellingham's thirst for beer



Beer is served at Stones Throw Brewery in Fairhaven. // Photo by Lexi Foldenauer

Lexi Foldenauer  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Bellingham is known for its scenic hiking trails, consecutive rainy days and a vast selection of locally crafted beers with plenty of places to drink them. Despite its small size, Bellingham now has more breweries per capita than Seattle or Portland, with 12 breweries currently in operation. As the beer scene has expanded, brewery owners have created a community of support so that bar-goers can always enjoy a frosty pint.

Sales in the craft beer industry have continued to grow, and not just in Bellingham. According to the Brewer's Association, craft breweries increased to 12.3 percent of the overall U.S. beer market in 2016 from 5.7 percent in 2011. Bellingham's love of beer is evident in its recent brewery-boom. Within the last five years, Bellingham has welcomed eight new breweries onto the scene: Kulshan Brewing Company, Aslan Brewing Company, Wander Brewing, Stones Throw Brewery, Gruff Brewing Company, Structures Brewing, Menace Brewing and now Melvin Brewing Bellingham.

Melvin Brewing is Bellingham's newest addition to the brewery scene. Located on Meridian Street, Melvin opened its doors on Saturday, June 3, for a soft opening.

Although Melvin Brewing originated in Jackson, Wyoming, owner Jeremy Toft has ties to Washington, since he is originally from Mount Vernon.

Melvin currently has three local beers on tap from neighboring brewers: an amber from Kulshan, French India Farmhouse Ale from Aslan and Together Belgian Dubbel from Wander.

Some might think Bellingham's student population would contribute to the number of dedicated beer drinkers keeping the brewery industry afloat. However, local brewery employees say students do not necessarily make up the majority of patrons. Kamarie Astrid, a bartender at Kulshan, said the

amount of students frequenting Kulshan's locations is actually very low.

"The college population is probably the least influential in the actual breweries because the students generally tend to go to Aslan or whatever is downtown, when we have lots of breweries popping up everywhere," Astrid said.

Astrid has observed that Kulshan tends to attract more of a Generation X crowd.

"I think what it has to do with is the fact that we have a really great culture of people that are owning [and running] businesses in town," Astrid said.

Boundary Bay Brewery & Bistro is Bellingham's largest operating brewery. It has earned both local and national acclaim for popular beers like the Scotch Ale, which has been brewed since the day Boundary Bay opened, and the Cedar Dust IPA. The brewery will be celebrating 23 years of business in September of this year.

Bailey Pugmire has worked for Boundary Bay since she started washing dishes at 12 years old. Her mother has worked at Boundary Bay since a year after it opened, and is the longtime partner of Boundary Bay's owner, Ed Bennett. Now 26, Pugmire continues to work various positions throughout the brewery, including on the floor, in the kitchen and in the office. Pugmire plans to continue working in the brewing industry long-term.

As more breweries make Bellingham their home, the town attracts beer connoisseurs from near and far. Pugmire views the rise in the number of breweries positively.

"The more breweries that come, it's also putting us on the map too. So we're a location to come to now," Pugmire said.

Pugmire mentioned that Boundary Bay has seen a change in sales from the popularity of beer to-go in bottles and cans, which gives drinkers the options to enjoy their beer outside of the brewery. This is partially due to the fact that there's so many more locations to get beer to-go, like gas stations, grocery stores and other bars and breweries. Boundary Bay plans to expand their canning efforts to meet growing demand.

Bellingham's craft beer selection ranges in its variety of styles. Jack Pflueger, owner of Stones Throw Brewery in Fairhaven, was excited to join the growing number of craft brewers in Bellingham when he and business partner, Tony Luciano, opened the brewery in 2016.

"We definitely had to be a part of a high-caliber industry being in Bellingham. It's exciting to become a part of that, and learning how to was very motivating," Pflueger said.

Pflueger said he was not intimidated by the competition from other breweries, because of Bellingham's appreciation for local craftsmanship.

"Bellingham definitely enjoys seeking out things that are made locally, by local artisans and

local craftsmen," Pflueger said. "In other towns, big industry may speak louder than what we have here."

Patrons of Stones Throw appreciate a good IPA, which Pflueger said is their best-seller. For Pflueger, the best part of working in the beer industry, aside from making something, is the people that he has the opportunity to associate with.

"It's working within a group of people that are much like family. The other brewers in town, and the company that we work with, are all very good-hearted. We're all working as if we were family."

Astrid from Kulshan said they've found their niche in earthy beers with a high hop profile. Astrid said she often visits other breweries to try what else is out there.

"Chuckanut Brewery makes the best light German-style ales of anybody, probably in the state, probably in the Pacific Northwest. They have internationally award-winning beers," Astrid said.

Astrid also gave a nod to Boundary Bay's Scotch Ale, and explained how people in the brewery scene enjoy each other's individual craft.

"Boundary has the market on Scotch Ale in this town like nobody's business. I don't know that we'll ever make a Scotch Ale. Why would we?" Astrid said.

In addition to building a relationship between fellow breweries, Bellingham brewers make an effort to stay connected to the local community through various volunteer efforts. Employees from Kulshan and Boundary Bay both dedicate time to bike maintenance on the Galbraith trail.

"The brewery itself donates a lot of beer to a lot of not-for-profits in town, and we have a softball team and a soccer team. We just try to be involved in the community as much as we can," Astrid said.



Kelsey Kennedy (left) and Jaci Fisher (right) enjoy beers in the sun outside of Melvin Brewing on Monday, June 26. Fischer tried Killer Bees and Kennedy had the 2x4 DIPA. // Photo by Lexi Foldenauer

Boundary Bay recently adopted Cedar Dust trail on the Galbraith trail, which is where the name of their IPA originated from. Each year at the end of Bellingham Beer Week, an annual tour of local breweries, Boundary Bay hosts a bocce ball festival.

"We are a very close family when it comes to the other breweries," Pugmire said. "I love everybody in the brewery scene."

Bellingham beer lovers will have to wait and see who will be next to join the brewery scene.

Beer glass photo by Lexi Foldenauer

## NUMBER OF BELLINGHAM BREWERIES OVER TIME



\*Data compiled from founding dates available on Bellingham breweries' websites

# Rocking for a cause

Mosh Easley benefit show raises money for Venezuelan family



Cat Bomb performs at Mosh Easley on Friday, June 23. // Photo by Kevin Lake

Adelaide Sandstrom  
THE WESTERN FRONT

On Friday, June 23, roughly 100 people, including musicians, artists and other members of the Bellingham community, gathered at Mosh Easley on Ellis Street for a benefit show. The event was put together to raise money for a family struggling through the crisis in Venezuela, where many people are without basic necessities like food, power and medicine.

The event, at York District house show venue Mosh Easley (formerly the Loud House) featured local bands Asterhouse, Guillotine Eyes, Tetrachromat, Lalochezia and Cat Bomb.

Deborah Mendoza, who moved to Bellingham last year, was born in Barquisimeto, Venezuela. The city of about 2 million people, located in the northwestern corner of the country, is where some of her family, including her grandparents and uncle, reside. According to Mendoza, her family members need life-saving medication that is not only expensive, but hard to get.

"My mother and I have had to buy these medications from Spain or Mexico because they're impossible to find there. This has been difficult for the both of us to keep up, with the cost of the medications, shipping and fees being paid all out of pocket," Mendoza said on her YouCaring fundraising page.

The event, which had a \$5 suggested donation, was able to raise \$375 for the Mendoza family. For Mendoza's grandparents and uncle, \$150 is enough to pay for basic food, medications and utilities for a month.

"I was surprised for this show about how many people came out and were supportive, and so many bands were on this lineup and willing to do this," Mendoza said.

For decades, oil revenue fueled Venezuela's economy, but recently, a combination of events has produced an economic crisis. Dwindling oil prices, severe drought and leadership issues have left the country with the highest inflation rate in the world.

When Bellingham resident Zev Papageorge heard about Mendoza's situation, they decided to take action, organizing a benefit show on her behalf.

Since moving to Bellingham, Papageorge has been active within the music scene, and recently has become passionate about organizing events that positively impact community members.

"Listening to marginalized voices is so important," Papageorge said. "I see a lot of the time that folks will speak up about their suffering or discomfort, and other people will say, 'That's not my problem' or 'What could I even do about that?'"

Papageorge organized the show hoping that when people heard Mendoza's story, they would be

prompted to do more research about the crisis on their own and realize anything they can do to help would be beneficial.

"I wanted to bring light to what's going on in Venezuela, because I actually had no idea about it until I met Deborah," Papageorge said. "Seeing the stress she's been under, seeing the fear. And I'm sure that it feels isolating. I wanted to do more to help."

Brandin Tolbert, a recent Western grad, was one of the show's attendees.

"I haven't been to a house show in a very long time, just because of work, school and life. But I knew that I needed to be here tonight," Tolbert said. "Not only is it going to be a great time, but the proceeds are going to a cause that I believe in, and is going to heavily affect someone within my community."

Tolbert said that after touring colleges throughout the state, it was the art community that brought him to Bellingham.

"In regards to this event, this is just the starting point," Papageorge said. "Outside of Deborah and her family, there's so many shows in Bellingham where the artists make money, which is great, but hosting more benefit shows is not that hard and a good form of activism."

Both Papageorge and Tolbert hope that more benefit shows are in Bellingham's future.

"This event shows that Bellingham has an incredible music scene, but also that the shows aren't just for fun, there's a reason behind them," Tolbert said. "I'd love to see more shows like this, benefiting causes for those who need our help. Why not help with music?"

If you are interested in learning more about the Mendozas' situation you can do so at: [www.youcaring.com/deborahmendoza-853894](http://www.youcaring.com/deborahmendoza-853894)



The crowd watches the show at the Mosh Easley. // Photo by Kevin Lake

## FRONTLINE

### *Removing Ramirez from office could further fracture administration's relationship with students*

Opinions of the Editorial Board

On April 28, Western's student body elected Ana Ramirez as the Associated Students vice president for governmental affairs. She is also the first undocumented student to be elected to the AS Board. However, administrators could remove Ramirez from her position due to her current lack of work authorization. This should not be the case.

Ramirez has applied for work authorization, but Western's administration claims because she hasn't yet received it, she cannot be employed by the university in any capacity. Ramirez said her attorney disagrees. Ramirez believes she could be paid through a stipend, university grant, scholarship or even deferring payment until her authorization has been approved.

It is undoubtedly more difficult to pay an undocumented student without work authorization, but it is the school's job to make it happen. The student body chose Ana Ramirez because her vision resonates with the potential students see for Western.

Removing Ramirez from the position she was granted by her peers would not only disturb the democratic process of the AS elections, but also displays Western's administration as actively ignoring the needs of the students they are meant to be serving, including the needs of undocumented students seeking the same opportunities as other students on campus.

It's no secret that Western students have been feeling distant from their administration lately. Cas-

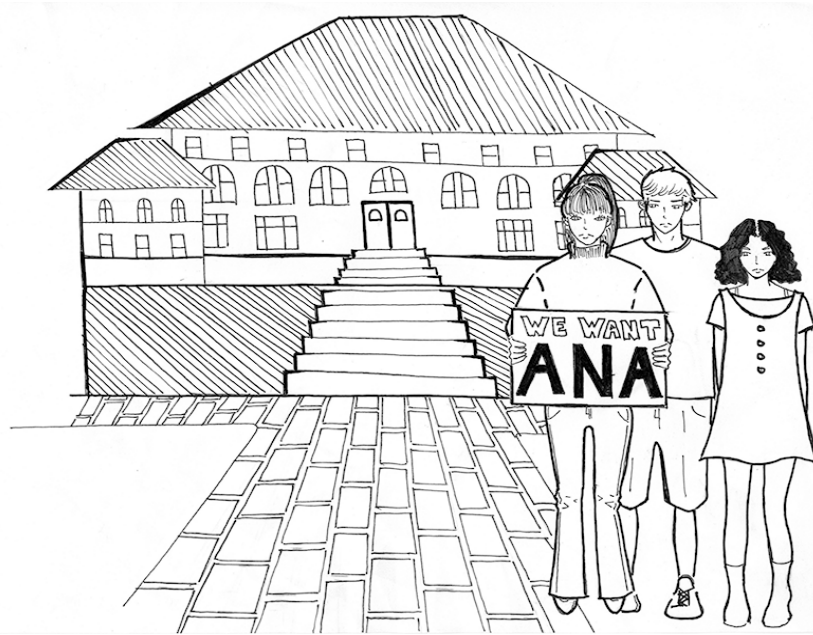


Illustration by Suzanna Leung

es like the Resident Advisers' movement, the Highland Hall break-in and the readmission of a student convicted of sexual assault have served as examples of the continuing transparency and communication issues the school has been facing with its students.

Ramirez's case was not exempt from the school's poor communication habits either. A press release from Ramirez detailed the administration's lack of communication with her, stating administrators excluded her from meetings, withheld information and refused to answer her questions. The release also

said Ramirez heard the school was looking to hire another student to replace her only because another AS board member told her.

Since then, administrators have met with Ramirez. But at this point, the issue has dragged on for months.

In order to win back the trust of the student body, the administration is going to have to show students that it will finally be willing to stand up for the issues we care about, starting with keeping Ramirez in office.

Early on in the 2016-17 school year, President Sabah Randhawa expressed that Western was committed to its undocumented students.

"Western has supported undocumented students in the past," Randhawa said in an email to students and staff in November. "This commitment of support by the university for these students continues unabated."

What time could be better than now for Western to prove to its students these are words they continue to stand by, and show our undocumented peers Western truly promotes equal opportunity for all of its students? If the administration wants to rebuild its relationship with the student body, it needs to show us that it is going to walk the walk and stand up for what it says it believes in.

Western's administration has a duty to meet the needs of its students, regardless of the tough situations it may put them in. It is Western's job to make the compromises and find a way for Ramirez to take her rightful place in office.

*The Western Front Editorial Board is composed of Suzanna Leung, Erasmus Baxter and Asia Fields*

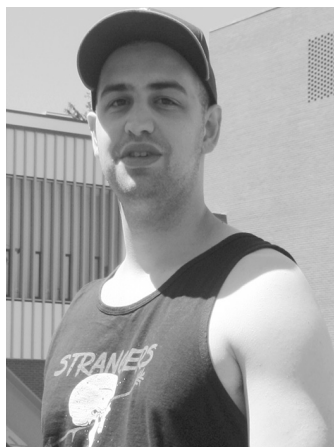
## Viking Voices

*Do you think Western's campus and administration treats undocumented students fairly?*



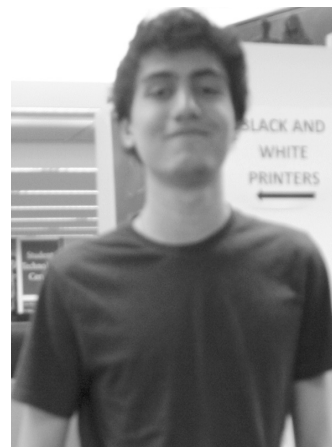
**Aubrey Marks-Johnson**  
Piano performance  
Senior

"I'm not really informed well. Really the only thing I know about [the subject] is that the incoming AS [vice president] is undocumented and therefore was unable to take office. I guess I would say that isn't fair to her."



**Gabe Feely**  
Economics  
Senior

"For the most part yeah, I guess. Hearing in the news what happened to the [incoming AS vice president] seems unfair. She did win the election fair and square. It's not like she's running for public office, that's different."



**Jagi Natarajan**  
Computer science  
Sophomore

"It's not even something that Western's administration necessarily has control over. I think people should look at the entire facts of the situation before coming to judgement and trying to blame people."



**Cimaje Horace**  
Math & computer science  
Junior

"I think that, in the past, they've kind of rallied for students who are undocumented. And then this whole thing with them not wanting to support Ana, that's kind of a weird twist. So in that aspect, probably recently not."

*Compiled by Justin Thompson*

# MAILBAG Letters received by The Western Front Spring quarter.

## Reproductive health

As a young college student with a limited income, Planned Parenthood provides the much needed security that no matter my financial state, I will always be able to afford high-quality essential health care to maintain my reproductive health.

I know countless individuals who have relied on Planned Parenthood throughout their lifetimes as their source of reproductive health care in the direst circumstances, or the most mundane checkup.

Planned Parenthood reaches far and wide to provide services to the 2.5 million patients a year who visit health centers to receive care regardless of their zip code, income, sexual orientation, race, religion, gender or country of origin.

When Republicans attack Planned Parenthood, they are devaluing the reproductive and sexual health and security of women across the country. If Planned Parenthood were to be defunded, millions of patients would be denied cancer screenings, birth control, HIV testing and much more.

It has been made clear that Washington state stands with Planned Parenthood and strongly believes that women deserve the best care possible, along with millions of people across the nation.

It is time to put an end to this scheme, that is nothing more than a blatant political attempt to attack women's health and rights. Hold your representatives accountable, and let them know that you stand with Planned Parenthood.

- Stella Harvey

As a student at Western Washington University and a Planned Parenthood patient, I know the crucial role that family planning centers play in the community. The current administration's talks of defunding Planned Parenthood is an attack on women's rights and is deeply concerning. Shutting down Planned Parenthood would deny millions of men, womxn and teens access to contraceptives, STI and cancer screenings and other preventative care. Planned Parenthood provides care to everyone regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation. With the modern hook-up culture and Tinder-reality of this campus, supporting health centers like Planned Parenthood should be a priority of every student. Without Planned Parenthood, many patients would have nowhere to go as other health centers would not be able to absorb the number of patients for which Planned Parenthood cares. Every person has the right to receive affordable, quality health care and the right to protect their own body. I stand with Planned Parenthood. I fight with Planned Parenthood. Will you fight with me?

- Erin Montgomery

Last Wednesday was a huge victory for Washingtonians, especially those of us who have a uterus! On the final day of 2017 Legislative Session, the state senate passed HB 1234, a bill requiring insurance companies to reimburse patients for up to 12 months of birth control at once. The bill garnered bipartisan support. Only one legislator voted against the bill: Senator Mike Padden.

HB 1234 is a great representation of Washington's values. We will join Oregon and California (in which similar bills were passed in 2015 and 2016, respectively) in enacting this progressive, common-sense law. We have a right to plan our families and our futures, and we have a right to protect our own bodies and our lives. With consistent use, the birth control pill has a failure rate of less than 5 percent. Consistent use is difficult for low-income women and women who live in rural areas in particular, since these factors complicate getting to the pharmacy every four weeks. By passing HB 1234, our legislature (except Mike Padden), has demonstrated that we believe in making birth control accessible for women, regardless of their income or zip code.

Please call your state senators and thank them for supporting the bill. (Unless, of course, your senator happens to be Mike Padden.) Hooray for accessible contraception!

- Ali Brenes

## The sparkle behind the shine

Regarding "The sparkle behind the shine" by Julia Phillips, I was really stoked to see a piece done about a demographic here at Western we don't hear about too much, let alone custodians employed elsewhere. It was a great glimpse and is very nice to show gratitude to those who work hard to better our campus but I wish there was more in-depth detail about the custodians. It would be really cool to get to know them through the eyes of journalism and see them get recognition they deserve. In the piece, wishes of not being overlooked were expressed. "Giving voice to the voiceless." Would be cool to see a more in-depth follow up piece! Keep up the good work.

- Michael Nguyen

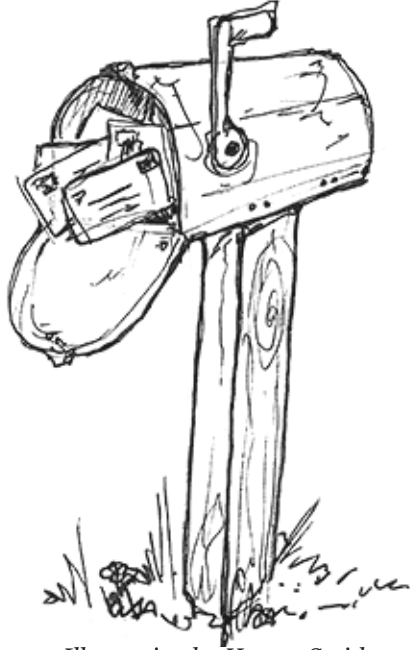


Illustration by Hunter Smith

## Campus unity

As Western Washington University students, we pride ourselves on our community focus and social inclusiveness. Unfortunately, our school severely lacks any sense of unity or spirit. This is most likely due to our lack of school-wide athletic programs, as well our lack of "Greek life." Although we have voted against these initiatives fairly, we have not replaced the sense of community or unity (that those programs naturally instill) with any other form of school-wide bonding! This has led to a fracturing of the student population and a proliferation of cliques and niche groups that ultimately have little or no interaction with each other, and hence have stunted growth. Much of the Western population's focus is indeed on strengthening ties with the surrounding community, building relationships with underprivileged and recognizing the unique strengths and qualities that everyone brings to the table. However, we often forget that our school spirit is a part of our community!

Luckily, we have options if we desire to take action. One of the most fulfilling, productive, connection-focused bonding practices is precisely what many employers and professionals also admire in aspiring students: service to our community. It organically creates a sense of purpose, worth and connection with each other. With myriad volunteer opportunities, our biggest roadblock now is the lack of outreach to Western students regarding volunteer opportunities and benefits. That is, we need to strive to create an environment where community service is held in high standards and with deep appreciation. After all, many of the facilities that we ourselves use on a daily basis were created through some form of volunteer initiative or donation proceed!

- Koven Wollrab

## Food waste

I was at lunch in Viking Commons today and witnessed what they do with their leftover food.

Due to their policy of not allowing anyone to remove food from the dining hall (in a Tupperware, for example), it is wasted instead. This seems in my mind to be rather ironic, given that Aramark expressly encourages students not to waste food. I spoke briefly with one of the workers there and found that this is not an infrequent occurrence.

"It's a large-scale enterprise," I can hear you saying. "There's going to be leftover food. There simply aren't any alternatives to throwing it away."

In 2016, there were 719 documented homeless individuals in Whatcom County. Assuming that the supply of wasted food is great enough (which I am almost certain that it is), this food could be used to feed them, rather than simply being discarded. Aramark's practice of disposing of perfectly acceptable foodstuffs demonstrates both an extraordinary lack of responsibility to our homeless community and a breathtaking level of hypocrisy, given their sententious admonition to us, their customers, not to take more food on our plates than we can eat. Compounding this is the humiliation that on-campus students are obligated to purchase a meal plan, thereby becoming complicit in the wasteful actions of this corporation.

I'm writing to you today to ask you to write about this issue in the Western Front; I am certain that I am not the only one who notices the profligacy inherent within the day-to-day operation of Viking Commons.

A good day to you all.

- Michael Lee



## Black hair politics

Interesting piece that made me think about how different Western standards/ideals of beauty differ from the rest of the world. To what degree do institutions influence our social biases? Or maybe it's too much of an individualistic question to answer. Keep up the good work!

- Michael Nguyen

## Lacing up for a national title defense

Women's soccer heads into fresh season aiming to tackle the goal of repeating as national champions

**Cody Levy**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Western women's soccer team is coming off the program's most successful season in its history. Now, as the 2017 season approaches, they must start all the way back at the beginning.

The Vikings avenged their 2015 national semifinal loss, when they defeated reigning champion Grand Valley State University 3-2 in the championship game last season. The Vikings, having been to the semifinals in three of the last four seasons, finally brought the title back with them to Bellingham.

For senior defender Sierra Shugarts, the beginning of last season was anything but historical.

"We actually lost our first two preseason games," Shugarts said. "We were all kind of freaking out."

That apprehension turned out to be short-lived, as the Vikings set numerous school and conference records, including 24-straight wins on their way to the program's first national championship.

Now, they have a different bridge to cross, as the team begins a new season and attempts to defend its title.

"It's all going to be mental from here," Shugarts said. "I think our biggest competition is going to be ourselves."

Competition amongst the team will be a formidable task. The Vikings are returning all but five players from last year's team, which delivered the program's first number one national rank-

ing. They scored a school record of 2.64 goals per game, and allowed just 10 goals in 25 games. They also tied the Great Northwest Athletic Conference record of 17 shutouts.

Sophomore midfielder Jordyn Bartelson said she thinks such a successful season could lead to a championship hangover this year,

The Vikings will be adding seven recruits, and embarking on a season where there will be new positions to fill on a different team from last year's.

"A lot of people are going to have to step up. A lot of people are going to play in roles where they haven't played before. It's going to be a completely different

for themselves on this year's squad.

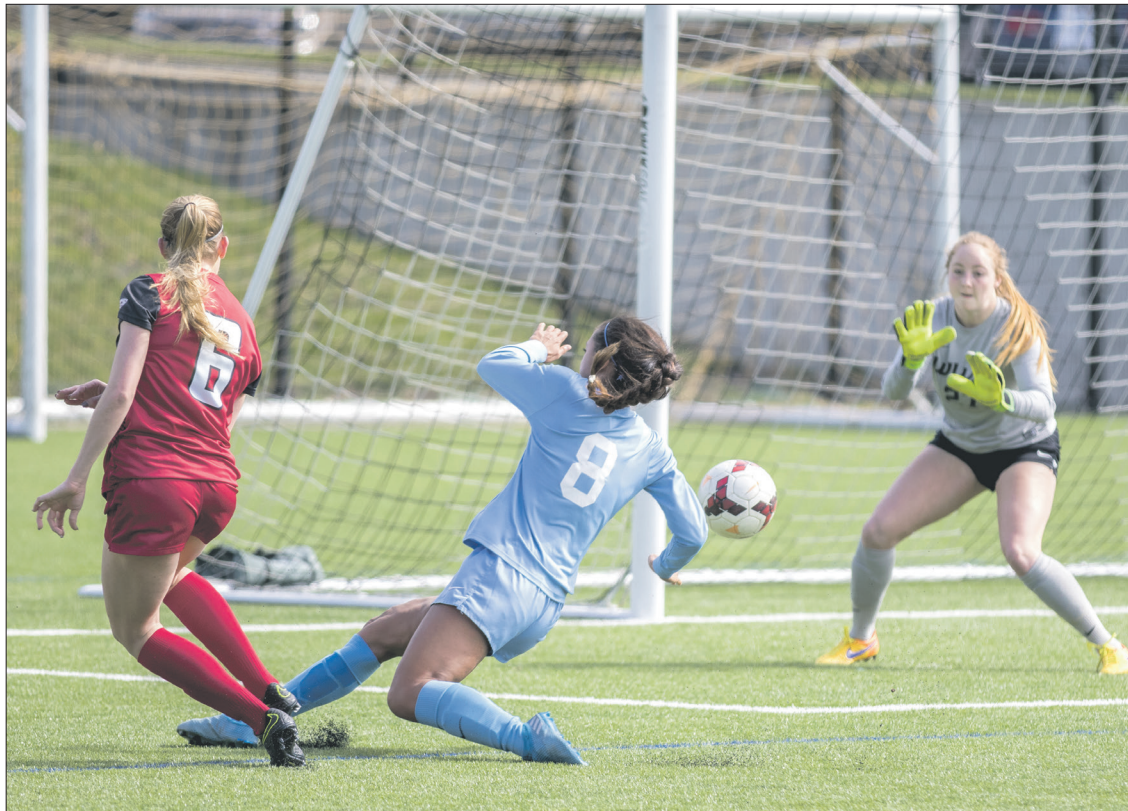
"Obviously we lost some really good players, but I think the freshmen coming in have really good pace," Bartelson said. "They're going to be good contributions to our team, and [for] a lot of the people that left, we had other players being put in those spots to take over."

said. "I think it is going to be a huge factor that everyone comes in fit, so we don't even have to worry about fitness and we can just play."

Nevertheless, Shugarts' goal for the season is no different from last year's outcome.

"I think we should have a lot of energy, and I think, hopefully, the girls' mindsets are to win again," Shugarts said.

While every year is different, the Vikings will look to build off last year's historical success. With a large amount of returning talent, they hope to make their fourth Final Four appearance in five years, and repeat as Division II Champions.



Sierra Shugarts defends in a game against Washington State University at Harrington Field, Sunday, April 2. // Photo by Jonathan Pendleton

but doesn't anticipate it being a problem for this team.

"I don't think our group of girls are like that," Bartelson said. "We play for the next, and always work hard. [We] have a great coaching staff that keeps us focused on the goal, which is to get better each game."

team," Shugarts said.

The Vikings must replace pieces from last year's record-breaking season. Along with the incoming players, the returning players who may not have had as large of a role the previous season will get the chance to carve out significant roles

One way Shugarts thinks the team can start with a leg up on last year's season is to come into this year's with improved fitness levels, something she says can be difficult in the off season.

"It is really easy not to go out on a run, or on your day off not to recover," Shugarts

### 2016 WOMEN'S SOCCER

Overall record:  
24-0-1

Goals scored: 66

Goals allowed: 10

Goals allowed per  
game: 0.4

GNAC champions

NCAA II national  
champions



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