



Western's Counseling Center understaffed – students suffer.

Read "DARK DAYS" online

Drop by the Art Drop. FEATURES, PG.6



WESTERN FRONT

Volume 180, Issue 3

westernfrontonline.com



@TheFrontOnline

TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2017

Sink overflow causes Fairhaven flood

Langston Thomas
THE WESTERN FRONT

As of July 10, Facilities Management staff were still in the process of repairing the damage to a Fairhaven stack following flooding.

On Friday, June 23, a pipe on the second floor of Fairhaven Complex stack 8 broke, filling a sink with water and spilling onto the floor. Over the weekend, the sink continued to overflow, causing a large amount of the second floor to become flooded before draining through the ceiling and into a lounge one floor below.

"It's hard to say how much water [there was], other than I think it had been leaking for probably the course of the weekend," said Western's Central Shops' construction manager Brian McCaulley.

"The ceiling of the lounge below has an area that's affected of probably 60 square feet of ceiling that will need to be removed."

As of June 30, what used to be the foam-tiled ceiling of the first

floor lounge of stack 8 is now a dark, damp gaping hole. However, the maintenance staff did not know the specifics of what caused the pipe to break.

The Fairhaven stacks have been vacated for the summer, so no students were affected by the incident, Associate Director of Residence Facilities Terence Symonds said. Although outside groups sometimes use the stacks for conferences, other accommodations can be made readily available for them, he said.

Symonds, who was previously an electrical engineer, is familiar with the amount of work that goes into keeping Western's facilities in working order.

"You name the building and I can tell you what we've got going on [there]," Symonds said.

Although he was not directly working on the recovery effort for the flood, he had an idea of what Facilities Management was going to need

see *REPAIRS*, page 3

LET YOUR PRIDE FLAG FLY



Pride flags filled the air as attendees gathered in front of demonstrators congregated outside of the main festival Sunday, July 9. Read the full story pgs. 4-5. // Photo by Dan Thomas

Former AS Board members support Ramirez

Meredith Karbowski
THE WESTERN FRONT

Thirty former Associated Students board members signed a letter sent on Thursday, July 6 to university administrators in support of Ana Ramirez. Ramirez is currently being prevented by AS administrators from serving as AS

Vice President of Governmental Affairs due to not having work authorization.

The letter was written by 2014-15 AS VP for Governmental Affairs Sarah Kohout and 2014-15 AS VP for Academic Affairs Josie Ellison. They contacted former board members from school years as far back as 2009-10 to col-

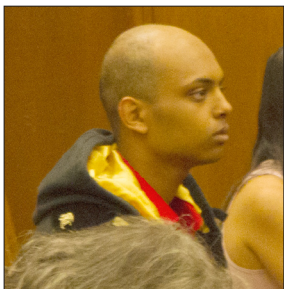
laborate with and sign the letter, Ellison said.

"It's really important that the university looks toward the future in finding a solution for folks who don't have DACA," Ellison said. "Relying on a program that the current [national] administration has quite literally promised to end seems short-sighted."

The letter states that Western should be held accountable to their statements supporting undocumented students, and that they create a solution to allow Ramirez and future undocumented students to assume positions on campus.

see *FORMER*, page 2

Student pleads guilty to misdemeanor harassment



Noah at the Whatcom County Courthouse. // Photo by Josh Steele

Josh Steele
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western student Yonathan Laine Noah, 21, pleaded guilty to misdemeanor harassment on July 6 in Whatcom County Superior Court.

The charge stemmed from an incident in 2016, in which

Noah made threats to two Western students over Twitter and texts, according to a University Police report.

"2days until I pull the trigger #bangbang Christians and Vietnamese people," the tweet read, according to the report.

The original charge of felony harassment

was reduced to a charge of harassment, a gross misdemeanor, according to court records.

The judge also waived 334 days of jail time from the harassment charge of 364 days, according to a sentencing document. This left Noah with a sentence of 30 days in

Whatcom County Jail, with the option for alternatives.

Noah's available alternatives for jail time include out-of-custody work crew, work release and electronic home detention, according to the guilty plea sentencing document. Noah is required to continue to follow a

no-contact order with the victims.

Noah must make alternative sentencing arrangements before Aug. 3, otherwise he must serve his time in the Whatcom County Jail, Superior Court Judge Charles Snyder said.

When asked if he see *CYBER*, page 3

@thefrontonline

@thefrontonline

facebook.com/westernfrontonline

ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

Westernfrontonline.com

Check out "Dark Days", the first in a series of stories by an advanced reporting class about issues facing Western

KUGS 89.3 FM: PROVIDING THE WAVES SINCE 1974



Sophomore Gabe Postle is a new DJ for Western's radio station. He started volunteering at KUGS-FM during spring quarter and began hosting Music for the Masses this quarter. KUGS -FM's programming continues through the summer from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. weekdays. You can tune in to KUGS at 89.3 FM and online on the KUGS website. // Photo by Kevin Lake

Cops Box

Family Feud

"Name what mothers and daughters are likely to fight over." Survey says: Allocation of bank funds in daughter's account.

On July 5, on the 200 block of Jerome Street, officers responded to a family dispute between a mother and daughter about the allocation of funds in the daughter's account.

Holiday Hangover

At 5:23 p.m. on July 9, two teenagers were reported to be drinking and setting off fireworks at Bloedel Donovan Park. The fun did not last long, however, as the minors were arrested on suspicion of possessing alcohol as minors.

Compiled by Brian Cary

Former AS Boards support Ramirez in letter

continued from page 1

"This is one of the only times that this many former board members have come together to do something like this," Kohout said.

The letter was addressed to President Sabah Randhawa, Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services Melynda Huskey, Dean of Students Ted Pratt and AS Program Adviser Eric Alexander.

University administrators have responded to the letter, but have not been able to go into depth about their plan publicly due to legal issues, Ellison said.

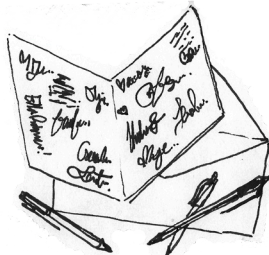


Illustration by Hunter Smith

Cyberstalking charge dropped in plea deal

continued from page 1

had anything to say to the court, Noah said, "I just want to apologize to the victims for feeling victimized, and if I knew that my rap lyrics would have gone this far I definitely wouldn't have posted on social media."

Noah had claimed his tweet was rap lyrics, according to a University Police report.

Because Noah pleaded guilty to the crimes, the state attorneys were able to make recommendations for sentencing to the judge.

They recommended the dismissal of the cyberstalking charge, along with accepting the waived time for the harassment charge, according to the guilty plea sentencing document.

Noah was enrolled for summer classes at Western as of July 5, according to the Registrar's Office.

Noah has completed his disciplinary sanctions imposed by Western last year, including eviction from the dorms and a suspension which ended before winter quarter 2017.

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

Erasmus Baxter

Managing Editor

Asia Fields

News Editors

Questen Inghram

Laura Place

Features Editor

Gwen Roley

Sports/Daily Editor

Hailey Palmer

Photo Editor

Eythan Frost

Online/Social Media Editor

Kelsie Noble

Online Producer

Lauren Drake

Opinion Editor

Suzanna Leung

Copy Editors

Melissa McCarthy

Rebekah Way

Photographers

Kevin Lake

Dan Thomas

Illustrator

Hunter Smith

Web Developer

Sameen Ahmad

Letters to the editor:

westernfront.opinion@

gmail.com

Press releases:

wfpress.release@

gmail.com

Faculty Adviser

Carolyn Nielsen

Carolyn.Nielsen@wwu.edu

Advertising Department

360-650-3160

Advertising Manager

Megan McGinnis

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.

INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING IN THE WESTERN FRONT?

FOR RATES, DISCOUNTS, AND MORE INFORMATION
EMAIL WWW.WESTERNFRONT@GMAIL.COM OR CALL 360.650.3160

Corrections

The Western Front strives for accuracy in our coverage. Please notify us of any inaccuracies at westernfrontonline@gmail.com

Western, B'ham seek improvement of student-neighbor relations

Dawson Finley
THE WESTERN FRONT

A joint proposal from the City of Bellingham and Western works toward improving student relationships with the neighborhoods surrounding the university by tackling common areas of dispute between students and local residents.

The plan, known as the "Town & Gown Implementation Strategy," was introduced at the June 19 Bellingham City Council meeting by the city's Planning and Community Development Department. The "town & gown" strategy, referring to Bellingham and the university, is set on tackling issues of strife between students and town residents, Lindsay Kershner, a planner with the department, said to the council.

"The purpose of this program is really just to fill in the gaps and improve on the programs that are already in place," Kershner said.

The strategy is based off a similar one used at Colorado State University, Kershner said. Last year, Kershner and

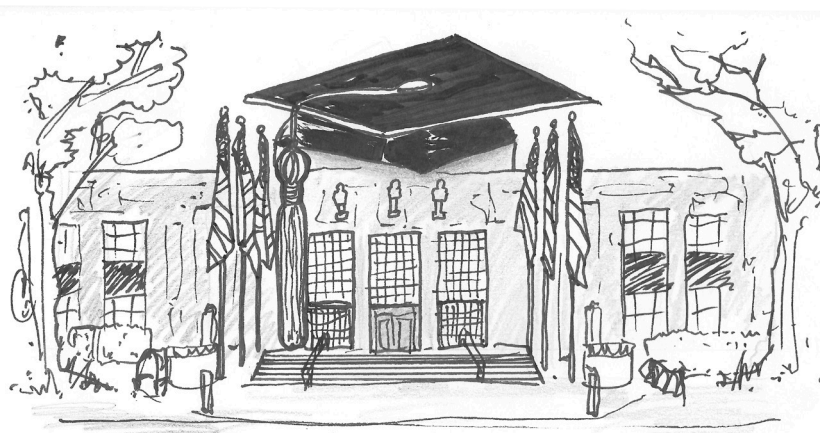


Illustration by Hunter Smith

other members of the planning department went to Fort Collins, Colorado to inquire about how the system worked for the city.

"What Fort Collins found was after a couple years of having this program in place, their calls to dispatch with noise complaints cut down drastically," Kershner said.

The Bellingham plan still has items to be worked on before it's ready to be implemented, said Steve Swan, Western's vice president for university relations and community development, before his recent retirement.

It's been a work in progress for about a year and the exact future timeline is unknown, Swan said.

"We're still going through a due diligence process to decide what is or will not be put in the agreement [between the city and Western]," Swan said.

Kershner said the action plan identifies five issues the city and university would focus on: litter, parking and traffic, housing, nuisance ordinance update, and noise and parties.

Dealing with litter from students would include streamlining litter enforcement policies as well as educating students about proper furniture disposal through events like Western's Move-Out Madness that provide areas around town to donate

unwanted items, Kershner said.

To address parking, the city would look at establishing new residential parking zones in areas where cars spill out into the streets when room isn't available on the properties, Kershner said. The city would also increase parking enforcement in the fall when school starts and inform students on where they are allowed to park around the Western, Bellingham Technical College and Whatcom Community College, she said.

The plan looks to require rental agencies and landlords to clearly state zoning restrictions in rental advertisements, including the limit to unrelated individuals who can rent a unit, Kershner said. According to the plan, the city would also create a training program for landlords to teach them about laws related to rental properties, as well as what their obligations are to the city and tenants.

An updated nuisance ordinance would allow the police department to issue citations instead of misdemeanors for

litter and parking violations, Kershner said.

The fifth action would attempt to reduce noise complaints through a party registration program, Kershner said. The system would work by having a student register their party through Western, which then would send the information to police dispatch. If dispatch received a call or complaint, the host would receive a 20-minute warning and, in that time, they would have to quiet down or end their party at the risk of receiving a citation, she said.

"A lot of information is given to the person hosting the party when they're registering about how to deal with issues if something start to get out of control," Kershner said.

While some councilmembers expressed concerns about spending city money on the proposed programs, others were in support of adopting the strategy.

"I'm really proud to be a part of a community where our different city organizations and departments want to work with the college," councilmember Roxanne Murphy said.

Repairs continue following flooding in stack 8

continued from page 1

to do.

"When you get that much water on the ground, you've got to dry it out before you can start doing recovery," Symonds said. "The dry out process is closing the rooms, getting air de-humidifiers and air movers to get that [drying] done."

Since water leaks can be a common problem in old buildings, Western has a response team trained in water mitigation to deal with these types of situations. One of the first to arrive at the scene of the flood,

special supervisor and building inspector Gennaro Carbone said floods, sewer leakages and pipe breakages happen relatively often due to the age of the plumbing in Western buildings.

While the drying process of flood recovery can be long and tedious, the importance of this step would be hard to water down.

"The worst scenario is to take wet things away, have an interior wall cavity that still has moisture in it and then encapsulate it because that's the formula for mold," McCaulley said. "Mold starts growing

in about 72 hours. Basically, [mold] needs a fuel, which on drywall would be paper, and it needs some heat. That's it."

Although drying can potentially help salvage many of the flood-affected areas, McCaulley said if drywall retains a moisture level between 15 to 17 percent, it needs to be removed before mold starts growing.

"Second floor, we cut out almost 100 square feet of Sheetrock. First floor lounge we cut 200 square feet of Sheetrock [on the] ceiling," Carbone said.

Because many of Western's

buildings are relatively old, hazardous building materials remain a potential danger when opening up walls and ceilings. The recovery team working on the stack 8 flood had to take special precautions, wearing coveralls and masks to remove asbestos-containing adhesive.

"In every dorm, the old glue dots have asbestos in them," Carbone said.

The use of asbestos-containing adhesive in construction was common practice for decades, and poses no danger to students unless it is directly

handled, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. When handled, asbestos can separate into microscopic particles that are easily inhaled and potentially harmful.

As of Friday, June 30, McCaulley said he is unsure of the cost of the repairs in progress, but much larger floods in the past, such as the 2010 flood in Old Main, have ended up costing up to \$250,000. The timeframe for these repairs depends entirely on how long the drying process takes.

ADVERTISE WITH THE

WESTERN

FRONT

360.650.3160



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

Sports & Travel Physicals

Discounts Available  Call for Details

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

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

Call for an Appointment Today!

(360) 756-9793

www.BellinghamHealth.com

Bellingham Pride citywide

After 18 years, Bellingham Pride Parade and Festival has grown to be the second largest pride event in Washington state



Lydia Denney
Samantha Frost
THE WESTERN FRONT

theme "Queens in the Streets" was meant to give recognition to the Stonewall riots in New York City, when transgender women of color and LGBTQ+ community members rose up against a police raid carried out on a gay bar by the New York City Police Department in 1969.

The stage for the Pride drag show used to be in the Depot Market Square, but this year, it was moved into the street per the request of the drag performers. Betty Desire, a former Pride committee member and local Bellingham drag performer for the last 23 years, said she is extremely proud of Bellingham's Pride.

"I think it's very important that gay and lesbian people in the smaller cities and towns have that opportunity to come together and connect again and be visible. It's good for the soul," she said.

Betty Desire has been involved in Bellingham Pride since its second year. The Betty Pages, a monthly alternative-lifestyle tabloid created by Betty Desire, sponsored the first Bellingham Pride family picnic.

"I see people at Bellingham's Pride Festival who I don't see for the rest of the year, and it's so much fun to connect with old friends," she said.

Another drag performer, Cassie O'piah, has been a part of the festival for three years. For her, Bellingham has a much more communal feel than other Pride events in the area.

"There is a lot more emphasis on local vendors and people who live in the area or support the area, especially when it comes to sponsorships," O'piah said. "I know that with [British Petroleum's] sponsoring, there was a lot of uproar about that. But honestly, if they are willing to accept us, why can't we accept them?"

BP's Cherry Point Refinery was one of the sponsors for the festivities, which created some backlash at the event. Around six protesters attended the festival in opposition to the parade representing EPIC, an Episcopal campus fellowship associated with St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Since it was the

of BP's support. Neyens and members of the board of Bellingham Pride struggled over the decision to allow BP to sponsor the event, he said.

"We decided that because it was queer employees of BP who reached out and wanted to be involved, what kind of message would we be sending if we said, 'We don't want your money?'" Neyens said. "We decided it would look like we were



The Bellingham Fire Department participates in the Bellingham Pride Parade on Sunday, July 9. // Photo by Kevin Lake

saying, 'No, you're not the right kind of gay, you're not the acceptable kind of gay.' And we're not here to discriminate."

While Western student and protester Emma Bigongiari was excited to celebrate the 18th annual Bellingham Pride Festival and Parade, Bigongiari was also there to protest BP's sponsorship of the event.

"To me, this is about racial justice and climate justice, and I don't think we can have a celebration for queer folks without also recognizing the intersections of other struggles," Bigongiari said.

She said that as a queer woman it was important for her to remember the origins of Pride, which she felt BP's sponsorship took away from.

For Ryan Hintz, BP cost and schedule analysis team lead, BP's role is more than just a corporate sponsorship. While Hintz said he cannot make an official statement for BP, his own role and ideas on Pride are based on community support and involvement.

"I am representing BP in the Pride Parade because I work for the company and I believe that our company is a forward-thinking, progressive group that is actually a very inclusive company that believes in all walks of life," Hintz said.

While some took the streets against BP, others were happy to take part in the festivities.

Eli Gemora, a Western alumnus, also participated in the parade representing EPIC, an Episcopal campus fellowship associated with St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Since it was the



Alexander McIntyre protests BP, a Pride Parade funder Sunday, July 9. // Photo by Dan Thomas

church's first year participating in the Pride Parade, Gemora wanted people to know that despite some stereotypes, there are Christians who are okay with people being a part of the LGBTQ+ community.

"I feel like it's important that people know if they want to be religious, but they are also queer, then they can be both of those things," he said.

The Bellingham Roller Betties, the local women's roller derby league, have been a part of the Bellingham Pride Parade since the league's establishment in 2006, said Sorrell Joshua, also known as Chaos Fury of the Roller Betties.

"I love seeing the community come out to support everybody, and every year it just grows and grows," she said.

Neyens has also acknowledged the growth of the festival over the years. Neyens said that a goal of the organization is to show Bellingham: "We're here, we're queer and we're not going away."

Senior Jamsie Biondi, a human services major, is an intern for Lifelong, a community health organization that serves



Betty Desire addresses the crowd at the Bellingham Pride Festival on Sunday, July 9. // Photo by Dan Thomas

people with or at risk of HIV or other chronic conditions. A group of Lifelong representatives marched in the parade and had a booth at the festival that provided free HIV testing and condoms.

"More and more families come out," Biondi said. "There's more people you don't see during the rest of the year."

Neyens said he hopes that as Bellingham Pride expands, the money that is fundraised will be used to fund Pride events as well as give back to the community. Neyens also hopes any money Pride doesn't need will be donated back to underfunded organizations, like Northwest Youth Services, that serve the community as well as people who are LGBTQ+.

"We are always welcoming of other voices and bringing more people to the table, especially for next year's planning process," Neyens said. "We would really like to grow Bellingham Pride into something even bigger than it is now."

Editor's Note: Jordan Neyens is currently a reporter at The Western Front, but spoke in his role as executive director of events for Bellingham Pride.

Lorin Lindell contributed reporting to this story.

"I think it's very important that gay and lesbian people in the smaller cities and towns have that opportunity to come together and connect again and be visible. It's good for the soul."

Betty Desire
Bellingham drag performer

"To me, this is about racial justice and climate justice, and I don't think we can have a celebration for queer folks without also recognizing the intersections of other struggles."

Emma Bigongiari
Western student protesting BP



Top left corner photo by Kevin Lake. Background photo by Dan Thomas.

Indispensable art dispenser

Student artists' work showcased and sold in recycled vending machine



A close-up of the Art Drop in the Fine Arts Building. // Photo by Eythan Frost

Joely Johnson
THE WESTERN FRONT

Tucked away in a corner, wedged between recycling bins on the second floor of the Fine Arts Building, sits the Art Drop, a seemingly forgotten old-fashioned vending machine that dispenses art for a small fee.

Rather than your regular lineup of sugary snacks and fizzy drinks, this vending machine is filled with rows of original art pieces made by Western students. From vinyl stickers to dream catchers, to tiny felt mushrooms, each piece is vastly different from the next, displaying each student's original art style.

The Art Drop, originally known as the B-Machine, has been in the art department for 12 years, and was created with the help of photography professor Garth Amundson.

When Western terminated its contract with B&P Vending, Amundson asked a B&P worker what they were doing with the old vending machines. When he found they were getting rid of them, Amundson asked if they could donate one to the art department. He then took the machine and modeled it after one that he had seen by "Art Vending Machine," a group of artists who sell small, affordable art pieces in old, recycled vending machines.

The Art Drop went on to be passed around the art department for years and never really found its place. Through many locations, many art pieces and many malfunctions, the machine fell into disrepair. Then Amundson decided to take on the project again and bring it back to life.

Amundson decided to face this project again with the help of his one of his upper-division art classes, professional practices for studio artist. They brought the machine back from disrepair, gave it a new name and filled it with their art.

The artists create their art for a grade, but also to expose their work to the rest of the world on a slightly larger sale. Each piece goes for \$3, and all proceeds go toward an art department scholarship.

"My question in the context of a professional practice class was: 'Can you sell anything? Do you have the ability to make something that someone will want to buy? And if so, what would that be?'" Amundson said. "So, that was kind of the premise for the project. Can you sell something for \$3?"

Art and accounting alumna Aria Lampi's original art pieces are still for sale in the machine today. Lampi created wire and bead "dreamy trees" for her installment in the Art Drop and spent a couple hours on each piece.

Lampi thinks that the Art Drop could receive more exposure and have greater revenue if others knew about it. She said flyers in other buildings are one option to promote student art sales.

"Some students don't even go into the art building," Lampi said. "So if they are going to advertise, it would have to be in much more frequented places."

Many Western students, including senior Sierra Raines, were not aware that the Art Drop existed.

"Now that I know about it, I think that sounds really cool," Raines said. "You can just be walking by and be like 'Hey, that's cool,' pop in some money and it's easy as that. I think that the convenience is really nice."

Sophomore Katy Caskey, on the other hand, knew that the Art Drop was there, even before she was a Western student.

"I sometimes bring quarters around with me to go see if there's anything new in there, because it's so cool," Caskey said. "Once I bought this little satchel that had a little note in it, a little bottle of glitter and a watercolor painting of an elephant. I really liked it."

Caskey is surprised people don't know about the machine, and always tells people that the Art Drop is something that they need to check out. Caskey also appreciates how the Art Drop works to give exposure to student artists.

"I think it benefits the one selling it because it gets their art out there and I think it's a way to help others appreciate it," Caskey said. "And the one buying it because you get to appreciate student art. You're supporting local artists. So it's great for everybody."

Although the Art Drop is a staple part of Western to students like Caskey, it is an old machine that often malfunctions, Amundson said.

"That poor machine, I love it and I love the way it looks — it has this lovely, retro, nostalgic vibe. But it is falling apart," Amundson said.

Although it needs regular repairs, Amundson hopes that the art department will continue to keep up with the project. He said the department is planning to do another professional practices class to revamp the machine yet again this coming fall.



All Art Drop proceeds go to an art department scholarship. // Photo by Eythan Frost

Forgot your pill again?

**NOT
ANYMORE**

Learn about LARCs

LARCs are long-lasting effective birth control that you

don't have to take every day!

Call 1.800.230.PLAN today.

Bellingham • Mount Vernon • Friday Harbor
mbpp.org



Planned
Parenthood
Care. No matter what.
Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood

89.3fm
KUGS
www.kugs.org

STUDENT OPERATED
**NEW MUSIC
LIVE NEWS**

DEMOCRACY NOW
+STREAMING ONLINE

FRONTLINE

Opinions of the Editorial Board

State legislature undervalues Western students' need for mental health services

The number of students utilizing Western's counseling center doubled from 2011 to 2016, according to data the university reported to The National College Health Assessment survey. Unfortunately, the school's limited resources have not caught up with the rising demand.

"Dark Days," an article from The Western Front's online-exclusive series produced by students in an advanced reporting class, showed that Western's Counseling Center has not been operating in accordance with the International Association of Counseling Service's recommendations. The recommended student-to-staff ratio for an institution of Western's size is one clinical staff member per 1,000 to 1,500 students. But Western's Counseling Center is understaffed, with a ratio of one counselor for every 1,700 students.

In an interview from "Dark Days," Counseling Center Director Shari Robinson reported the average number of sessions the center is able to offer students is 3.5. Robinson said if the counseling center were to give students an unlimited amount of sessions, it would only be able to see 2 to 3 percent of students.

Currently, the center is only able to provide brief on-campus counseling for 11 to 12 percent of students.

A big part of this issue involves a lack of state funding for counseling services.

Western lobbied for a Student Success and Achievement package in the past year, a request for an additional \$5.8 million for student success and enhanced equity, diversity and inclusion programs. The school wanted to allocate \$3.4 million of the package to support proactive advising and tutoring, entry-level math courses, students with disabilities and mental health services.

On June 30, the legislature passed Western's package, but not without compromise. The \$3.4 million that Western had initially requested for student success was reduced to \$1 million.

It is extremely important that Western receives the proper funding from the state to support counseling programs for students.

We understand there are other legislative priorities that also require state funding, but providing sufficient funding to counseling centers on campus is imperative to student success.

The increasing demand for counseling services has been a growing concern on college campuses across the nation. Students are finding themselves in a stressful environment, filled with big life decisions and heavy course loads that could determine future success.

The National College Health Assessment survey by the American College Health Association from fall 2016 found 39.1 percent of undergraduate students reported feeling so depressed that it was difficult to function at least once in the past year. The survey also found 61.9 percent of students had experienced overwhelming anxiety, and 11.2 percent reported they had seriously

demanded year.

With the rising demand for mental health services on campuses, the state needs to provide more funding so the university can increase counseling services on campus to meet the needs of students. Allowing Western's Counseling Center to go understaffed hurts students and staff within the center, as well as the overall climate at Western.

The legislature may have given Western \$1 million in additional funding, but that money is split between five different areas of need for student success. This is not enough to fix the disparity between students and counselors.

In comparison, the legislature allocated \$1.52 million to Washington State University to research elk hoof disease. If the state can invest in the health of elk hooves, it can surely provide more funding for the mental health of its students.

Robinson hopes to embed counselors in residence halls and form more group therapy sessions to serve more students. To do this, Western needs to hire more counselors so they are more readily available throughout the campus. However, once again, this can't happen if Western does not receive the proper funding from the state.

It is extremely difficult for many students to gather up the courage to see a mental health specialist because of our society's stigma toward those experiencing mental illnesses, and when students finally are able to see a counselor, it can be discouraging to be told your resources are limited.

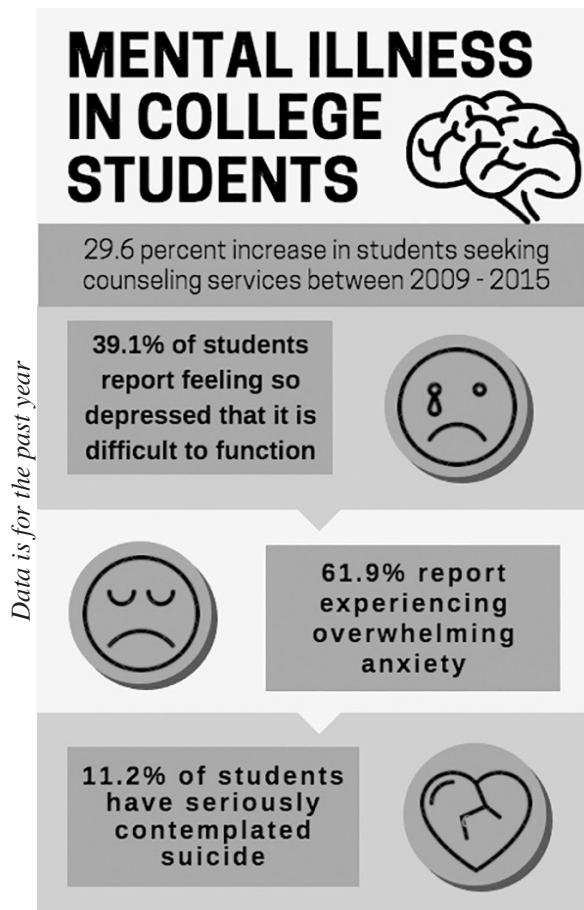
Sarah Cederberg, a Western student interviewed in "Dark Days," detailed her difficulties with seeking help from the counseling center. She said at first, she reasoned against seeking help, but when she finally did and was referred to an off-campus provider she was discouraged by the distance and cost.

"[The counseling center] is close," she said. "And I didn't really want to go to the counseling center either. I did it because I needed to."

This is the experience of many students seeking counseling on campus.

If the legislature truly cared about the success of its students, it would provide the resources they need to be successful.

To read more about the Western counseling center's need for more funding and resources read "Dark Days" on The Western Front website.



Infographic by Suzanna Leung

contemplated suicide in the past year.

Comparatively, 18.5 percent of adults in the United States experience any form of mental illness in a given year, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

In order to treat these students, colleges need to provide sufficient counseling services.

The Center for Collegiate Mental Health also collected data from 93 different colleges and found a 29.6 percent increase in students seeking counseling services from the 2009-10 academic year to the 2014-15 aca-

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

Viking Voices

How well do you think Western handles sexual assault cases?



Grace Schmidt
Graphic design & English
Junior

"I am pretty much uninformed about sexual assault cases on campus, as disturbing as that sounds. That being said, I am definitely not made aware of it. I am pretty much clueless, but not by choice necessarily."



Paige Morris
Sociology
Senior

"Western could do a better job handling its sexual assault cases. Especially how they present that to the public. If that happened to me and that person was allowed back to school — I don't know. That just isn't right."



Brandon Irons
Undecided
Freshman

"I'm not sure. I have seen the emails and have done the training through that, but I personally haven't experienced or ever been involved in a sexual harassment issue here."



Marina Torres
Spanish
Senior

"I haven't really heard a lot about any cases like that. Other than just one time in the dorm, on the Ridge, where someone was in the bathroom taking photos. But I don't really know how that was handled."

Compiled by Samantha Frost

Started from the bottom, now woman of the year

Two-time national champion and Western alumna Bethany Drake nominated for NCAA Woman of the Year

Malia Cantimbuhan
THE WESTERN FRONT

Former Western track star Bethany Drake has been nominated for the prestigious 2017 NCAA Woman of the Year award.

The Sandy, Oregon native was part of a record-topping group of 543 nominated female college athletes from all three NCAA divisions. She is one of 117 Division II nominees and 87 track and field nominees.

In its 27th year, the NCAA Woman of the Year award honors graduating female collegiate athletes who have distinguished themselves in academics, athletics, community service and leadership positions throughout their college career.

"I was absolutely blown away when [athletic director] Steve Card told me he wanted to nominate me for that award," Drake said. "For me, it was kind of a capstone of looking back

and everything I've gone through and accomplished in the last five years. It's very bittersweet."

Drake is a two-time NCAA Division II national javelin champion and College Sports Information Directors of America Track & Field/Cross Country First Team Academic All-American.

She graduated with her bachelor's degree in art education in 2016 and completed graduate school this

spring with a 4.0 cumulative GPA, obtaining her master's degree in teaching.

Drake has served the last three years on the National Strength and Conditioning Association committee. She has also served on the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee at Western.

"It's been a really cool experience getting to have a voice in that and understand the different groups that make up our university as a whole," Drake said.

She has also been involved in a variety of education programs, like Compass 2 Campus and an afterschool program that is offered at Shuksan Middle School.

Drake said being nominated was an incredible way to end her time at Western.

"I had no clue what I was getting myself in for when I decided to do track at Western," Drake said. "It gave me such an incredible community of people and Western Washington University is an incredible place."

Track and field assistant coach Ben Stensland shared his memories of coaching Drake on the field.

"Bethany has been such a blessing to this program and I'm so incredibly proud of her," Stensland said in an email.

Stensland believes every high schooler who wishes to

be a collegiate athlete needs to know what Bethany has done with the opportunity she was given.

"Bethany is the athlete she is because of her tireless work ethic, her complete dedication to what she has set her mind to [and] the many sacrifices she has made to be great at what she is passionate about," Stensland said.

Drake recently accepted a job teaching art to junior high and high school students at Bellevue Christian School.

"The next chapter in your life comes with an opportunity to make it more incredible than you could ever imagine," Stensland said. "You have to go for it [and] you can't hold anything back. That's Bethany Drake's story."

Of the 543 female athletes, the selection committee selects the top 30 honorees — 10 from each division. From the top 30, the selection committee determines three finalists from each division. The Committee on Women's Athletics selects the winner from the top nine.

The top 30 honorees will be recognized and the 2017 Woman of the Year will be announced at an awards dinner at the JW Marriott Indianapolis on Oct. 22.



Bethany Drake poses for a photo on the Communications Facility lawn Thursday, April 20. // Photo by Kirstyn Nyswonger.

From the sidelines

Opinions from The Western Front staff on all things sports

What's your opinion on All-Star games in professional sports?



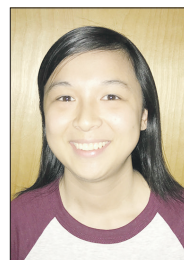
Dante Koplowitz-Fleming
Reporter

All-Star games can be exciting for both the athletes and the fans, but they can also have tragic implications for the participants. Cincinnati Bengals tight end Tyler Eifert suffered an injury during the 2015 NFL Pro Bowl that sidelined him for half of last season. All-Star games should be more focused on younger players, like the Rising Stars Challenge and the Futures Game that the NBA and the MLB host, respectively.



Malia Cantimbuhan
Reporter

I enjoy All-Star games. Talented players play imaginary defense or go soft on a challenge, but All-Star games are more of an event of a good time and entertainment rather than cutthroat competition. If viewers are wanting more of that competitive fire out of players, they shouldn't watch an All-Star game. To see talented, popular players play together with other great players they might play against during a regular season game is awesome.



Hailey Palmer
Sports Editor

All-Star games are fun. If you watch an all-star game thinking you're going to get a highly competitive game, you're going to have a bad time. The NFL has done a better job lately of making the Pro Bowl at least somewhat more competitive too. The MLB All-Star Game actually has implications behind it too, with the winning league receiving home field advantage in the World Series. They're fun if you don't expect much.



Eythan Frost
Photo Editor

It's a good idea if the players actually tried, but it seems like most of them are too afraid to get hurt. Most of the All-Star games take place in the middle of the season, so players, especially ones on teams making a run at the playoffs, aren't going to try very hard in order to avoid injury. There's really nothing in it for the players in All-Star games besides the chance to win a car they'll probably never drive.