THE VESTERN FRONT

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TUESDAY, OCT. 17, 2017



Students and community members, such as Tim Eyman (left), pressed Sen. Doug Ericksen on climate change, tuition and the state budget. // Photo by Paul Kelly

Senator Doug Ericksen holds town hall meeting at Western

Joshua DeJong
Zoe Deal
THE WESTERN FRONT

Conservative views, college tuition, the environment, abortion. Republican state Sen. Doug Ericksen's town hall meeting on Thurs-

day, Oct. 12 at Western covered these controversial topics and more.

A Facebook event posted by the Whatcom Young Democrats called for students to protest against Ericksen and the student clubs hosting the event. The Young Democrats of Western came with questions, not signs.

"We want to protest by being here, by actually asking questions, rather than just standing outside and yelling," junior Skyla Sorenson said.

see ERICKSEN, pg. 5

Healing after hurricanes Irma and Maria

Western student, professor hit hard by damage to their home island St. Thomas

Kristina Rivera The Western Front

Western senior Jendayi Edmeade and professor Shurla Thibou were born on the small island of St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Today, the home where they grew up is unrecognizable to them.

On Sept. 6, the U.S. Virgin Islands and surrounding area were hit by Hurricane Irma, a Category 5 hurricane with wind speeds up to 185 mph, devastating homes and severely damaging infrastructure on the islands. Two weeks later another Category 5 hurricane, Hurricane Maria, whipped through the area again and wiped out what Hurricane Irma didn't.

The U.S. Virgin Islands



The streets in downtown Cruz Bay on St. John were littered with debris and pieces of homes after Hurricane Irma. // Photo courtesy of Jendayi Edmeade

are a U.S. territory located in the Caribbean, consisting of the main islands of St John, St. Thomas and St. Croix as well as smaller, surrounding islands. Edmeade was born and raised on the island of St. Thomas and has been dealing with the effects of Hurricane

see HURRICANE, pg. 3

Students feel unsafe after break-ins and 'peeping Tom'

Joshua DeJong THE WESTERN FRONT

A string of reports of burglaries and voyeurism have plagued the north neighborhoods of campus since the beginning of fall quarter.

Sophomore Cassie McHugh came home to find the screens of her house were torn off in an attempted break in about two weeks ago.

"That was, pretty obviously, someone who was trying to get in through a window," McHugh said.

Sophomore Lydia Rolfes returned home Saturday night, Sept. 23, to find a man in her bedroom.

"It was really crazy because it took me a second to fully grasp the situation," Rolfes said.

Rolfes' laptop, wallet, jewelry, backpack and water bottle were stolen.

Audra Anderson, Rolfes' roommate, said she came home about a minute after the burglar had left.

"She was just screaming, obviously really traumatized," Anderson said. "Anna [another roommate] and I went and checked the other rooms in the house and then called the cops."

The seven women that lived in the house were shaken, and those who had rooms on the bottom floor chose to spend the next few nights upstairs.

This wasn't the only incident they had this summer.

Anderson was the first woman to move into the home and spent a week staying with friends after she caught a man standing outside their residence, watching her from the woods behind her house.

"As soon as I looked up, he stepped behind a tree," Anderson said. "I didn't know what to do, I was really terrified."

The major frustration the women said they have is with

FEATURES: Western student's music featured on VICE, PAGE 6-7

OPINION:
University needs
to address
safety issues on
campus, PAGE 9

SPORTS: The ribbon is cut and Carver Gym is back, PAGE 11

their landlords.

Anderson had sent an email Sept. 8 about the lack of blinds or locks on several windows.

The window the burglar entered through had no lock.

"We had told them many times before this had happened, in emails and in-person, that we were uncomfortable with not having locks on our windows on the bottom floor," said junior Micah Litowitz, who lives with Rolfes and Anderson.

Officer Todd Osborn said there are a number of ways to keep yourself and your property safe, including checking locks and maintaining exterior lighting.

He said it is best to not wear headphones, walk with a friend when you can and use the campus escort service.

"The most beneficial thing a person can do for themselves is to maintain awareness of what is going on around them, and if something or someone makes you feel nervous or anxious, trust those feelings," Osborn said. "Don't put yourself in a situation where you feel unsafe because you think it is polite."

Osborn said it always OK to call police if you need to. It is not a bother for you to call them, they want to help you, he said.



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ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

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National Rifle Association speaker invited to campus, gives free NRA memberships

NEWS | 3

it wasn't for KVIK."

Johnston-Thomas said.

film they can still do that."

said. "The connections I made there

opened the doors for the opportunity for

an internship at the Pickford Film Cen-

ter, and I used all that experience to get

the film coordinator job. I don't think I

would have been the film coordinator if

minded filmmakers to meet up.

Now there are fewer spaces for like-

Johnston-Thomas offered some ad-

vice to students interested in filmmak-

ing. "Just get together with like-minded

people to try and make some films,"

The Show, a student-run club where in-

dividuals get together and create come-

dy films. "It's a bunch of cool people who

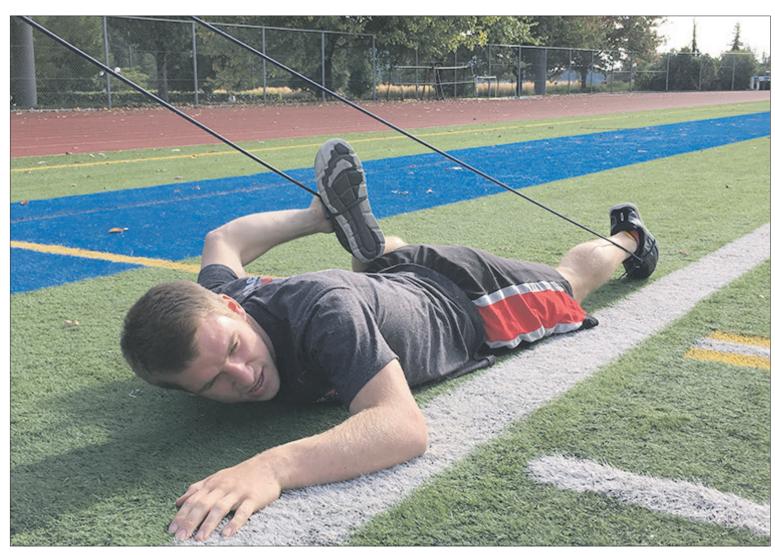
make comedy," Johnston-Thomas said.

"If people are still interested in making

James said she has high hopes for the

Johnston-Thomas is part of SHOW!

Training like a Spartan



Senior Cole Schwartz trains for an upcoming obstacle course race, the Spartan Race, in Toronto. Schwartz has been using Wade King Student Recreation Center to train for Spartan Races for the past four years. "I train for obstacle races because they challenge every aspect of athleticism and they also take you back to your primal roots," Schwartz said. // Photo by Joshua DeJong

Cops Box



Compiled by Ray Garcia

Oct. 16, 3:19 p.m. 4000 block Flynn Street

The possible theft of a gold chain was reported.

Oct. 14, 6:17 p.m. 1600 block C Street

Subject drove their car on a pedestrian trail and got stuck on a bridge.

Oct. 11, 11:24 p.m. **Outside city limits**

Police recovered a vehicle in the same neighborhood it was reported missing from the day prior.

Oct. 15, 11:05 a.m. 2800 block Patton Street

A report was made about someone opening mailbox-

Oct. 13, 11:34 p.m. 100 block Samish Way

Subject was given a citation for shoplifting a beer from a

Oct. 9, 5:28 p.m. 3400 block James Street

A piece of mail was given to law enforcement for safe-

Oct. 14, 5:50 p.m. 400 block S. State Street

An information report was given about someone selling flowers without a license.

Oct. 13, 3:04 p.m. **700 block Lakeway Drive**

Subject was sent a summons for theft after not paying for a\$20 taxi ride.

Oct. 9, 12:53 p.m. 100 block E Holly Street

Subject pushed someone because he believed the person insulted his girlfriend.

Western Front

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Megan McGinnis The Western Front is published once weekly in the fall, winter, spring quarters and summer. The Western

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James said she knows the impact film can have on people and the importance it serves in today's society.

A petition has been created for the Dean of Fairhaven College, Jack Herring, to establish a film major at Western. The Associated Students Board sion they grew up watching, decided to disband the student filmmak-James said. "If we are ing program, KVIK, last May, prompting really active minds

filmmaking as an area of study. Currently, there is no way to major in film at Western unless students design their own degree through the Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies.

students to take initiative to reintroduce

Jimmy Goulding

THE WESTERN FRONT

There is a minor available through Western's English department, but it focuses more on film history than filmmaking, senior and former member of KVIK Alex Johnston-Thomas said.

Junior Katrina James designed her major of social justice and film through Fairhaven College and has been involved with films for senior projects, as well as participating in Bellingham's horror film festival, Bleedingham. She started the petition through Change.org to get a film major started at Western. The petition received over 100 signatures within one week of its creation on Sept. 27.

"Film is so accessible. It has the power to form ideologies in people, and people get their values from the televi-

changing lives, then aren't changing lives in this

way?" James concerned about the future state of student film-

"By not providing a film major

we are doing a few different things. One of them is we are turning away prospective students who might be interested in going to Western, but because of the

James said. "We are excluding current and prospective students. We are ignoring one of the largest industries in the

world."

Students petition for film major at Western

making. DATE: UNKNOWN for Western,

lack of film major, they don't come,"

Without KVIK or a film major on campus, students who are interested in filmmaking and

> making connections with others within the community may have trouble finding that space. Former AS Films Coordinator Neal Dickinson is one example

> > of someone

who used his connections and what he learned at KVIK to

"Doing things like this [petition] is important," James said. "I've been talking to my friends about it, to my co-workers and I think I'm going to start sharing my petition in my classes."

Illustration by Shannon DeLurio

HURRICANE

continued from pg. 1

Irma and Hurricane Maria on her home and family.

"It's hard to be away from home," Edmeade said. "It took four or five days before I even heard from my parents [after] that first hurricane."

After Hurricane Maria hit, it took another three days for her to get back into contact with them.

Edmeade said not knowing if her family was okay and seeing pictures of completely destroyed homes was frustrating and emotionally difficult for her.

"It's been hard," Edmeade said. "It's been super, super hard."

During Hurricane Irma, the winds tore off the roof of Edmeade's childhood home and completely blew off the porch on her parent's current home, loosening the rest of the roof. Edmeade's sister. who has three small children, lost half of her roof on her home, while her cousin's house lost their roof completely.

After Hurricane Irma passed, Edmeade's father was able to patch what was left of their roof with tarps before the second hurricane, but her childhood home was completely exposed to the elements during Hurricane Maria.

"Not being able to help in the way that I would want to is frustrating and mentally draining," Edmeade said.

Edmeade also expressed she feels ignored by the lack of news coverage the U.S. Virgin Islands has received.

"I want people to know that we're U.S. citizens," Edmeade said. "Everything that happens in terms of government in the U.S. affects us." While she recognizes the impact Hurricane Maria has also had on Puerto Rico, she doesn't want the U.S. Virgin Islands to be forgotten.

"We've been in this situation since the beginning of September," Edmeade said. "People are still suffering and have been suffering for a long time."

Women's studies professor Shurla Thibou has also dealt with the effects of both hurricanes on her home in the U.S. Virgin Islands, Like Edmeade, Thibou

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HEAD TOE BUFFALO

was born and raised on St. Thomas. Like many others in the U.S. with family in the Virgin Islands, Thibou's

help him network and land a job per-

"I needed an outlet to meet people

and work on creative projects, and that's

exactly what I found there," Dickinson

taining to film.

hurricanes was scarce. "I actually stayed at home for five full days just waiting for those calls," Thibou

contact with her family following both

Thibou wasn't able to contact her sister on St. Thomas for two weeks until after Hurricane Maria passed. She still hasn't been able to speak with her father and, before the hurricanes, the two would speak weekly.

Thibou said her family is shaken up because they have never seen the effects of a Category 5 hurricane on their home.

Watching Hurricane Irma develop, Thibou expressed how difficult it was to see her family go through this time while she was so far away.

"It's almost as if I wish I could be there, just to make sure that I could be with my loved ones during the experience," Thibou said.

Life has taken a shift for Thibou's family and she refers to life after Hurri-

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cane Irma and Hurricane Maria as "the new normal." Although there are options for residents in the U.S. Virgin Islands to evacuate, Thibou's family chose to stay on the island.

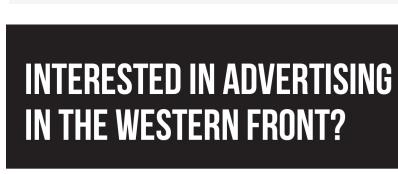
"They all have the option to leave, they all have U.S. status," Thibou said. "But they all opted to stay because it's

For any students who have been affected by Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria, Western counseling center director and licensed psychologist Shari Robinson urges those affected to be proactive and to utilize the resources available to them.

Robinson said it's not unusual for events like Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria to cause secondary trauma or stress, and the counseling center can help students work through their experi-

For anyone who wants to help provide relief for the U.S. Virgin Islands, Edmeade suggests donating to the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands or the 21 U.S. Virgin Island Relief Fund.





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Lockdown without locks



Illustration by Shannon DeLurio

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Matthew Tangeman THE WESTERN FRONT

With this week's upcoming lockdown drill, some faculty are unsure how to address the inconvenient and potentially unsafe elephant in the room: some classroom doors simply don't lock, making a true "lockdown" challenging.

> "If you are in a room, lock the door, or look for items to barricade the door," reads Western's Emer-Preparedgency ness training video, available at the University Police web-

> > This plan of action is straightforward enough, unless of course students are in the Humanities Building. Or Academic West. Or parts of the Communications Facility. Or other buildings on campus where some doors simply do not lock from the inside and may also

open outwards thus unable to be barricaded. "From a public safety standpoint, absolutely the doors should have

locks," said an adjunct professor who wished to remain anonymous during a job application process. "All public elementary schools have doors that lock, and that's why. I don't know what percentage of doors we have that don't lock, but I've been teaching for 12 years and I don't think I've ever had a classroom with a door that you could lock from the inside."

This problem is not unique to Western — other schools across the nation have faced the same issue. InsideHigherEd, an online publication focused on post-secondary education, reported one unnamed university spending approximately \$5 million in order to upgrade locks across campus, so high costs to upgrade Western's classrooms could also be expected.

Because of how unlikely an active shooter event really is, student Blake McLam doesn't think costs to the tune of millions would be worth it to refit doors.

"If a lot of [doors] don't lock, that's kind of scary. I feel like every room locking doesn't really matter," McLam said. "I don't think there will be a school shooting in the near future, or in the far future, but it's scary."

Other students view any additional expense that retrofitting doors may incur as an unfortunate, but necessary step to creating a safe

"I think that extra security is nec-

essary," student Austin Schmaltz said. "I believe it should be possible for the university itself to come up with the money, given that it is a student safety issue, but I do think that extra security would be worth paying a fee over time."

CNN reported that during an active shooter incident at UCLA in 2016, several students faced with the dilemma of being stuck in an unlockable room improvised by strapping the door shut with a belt, a table and a projector cord. It worked, but it's hard to count on those materials and ingenuity always being available.

"I know other faculty are concerned about it. Everyone I ask about it just kind of says, 'Yeah, I don't really know how we're supposed to lock the place down," said the same anonymous professor. "I get the sense it is something the university doesn't want to talk about a lot, because they don't want to give anyone ideas saying 'Hey, we're a big sitting target here.' But, I think attention needs to get brought to it or else nothing's gonna get done."

Paul Cocke, Western's director of communications and marketing, was unable to comment on this issue by the time of publication.

"It's such a no-brainer to me in this day and age," the professor said. "There's only so much you can do to stop people who are crazy with a gun, but you gotta do what you can

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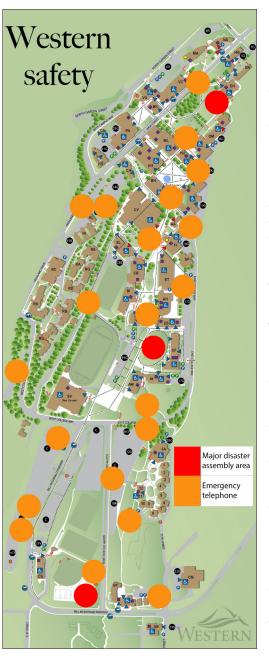
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IN CASE OF EMERGENCY AT WESTERN



Zoe Deal THE WESTERN FRONT

In recent weeks, hurricanes, earthquakes, fires, and other elements of

man-made destruction continue to shock the world, general concern of an event occurring close to home grows in the Pacific Northwest.

In the case of any emergency, Western will communicate with students, faculty and staff through the Western Alert system. This can include text messaging, building enunciation, social media and email alerts.

"We want people to be safe. We want people to be educated. And we want our community to know that we are very concerned that we are all on the same page," Western's assistant police chief Donnell Tanksley said.

Active shooter drill:

Western will test its emergency notification system and conduct the first ever campus-wide lockdown drill at 9:35 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 19, according to a press release. The drill is not mandatory.

Tanksley said the drill is meant to educate the entire campus community on what actions to take if there was an act of violence at Western.

To prepare for the drill, an orientation video is available on the University Police website. Director of Western's Office of Communications and Marketing Paul Cocke encourages the entire campus to voluntarily participate.

"There's been studies that show if people have thought about what to do in these situations they're much more likely to do something that will help their safety," Cocke said.

In light of the recent shooting in Las Vegas, many Americans are reminded

that a shooting or violent incident can occur at any time and in any location. In the event that a shooting would occur on campus, Western's Emergency Response Guide suggests people run, hide or fight.

"We aren't telling people to do things in order," Tanksley said. "It depends on where you are, your situation and your surroundings. These are options."

Fire on campus:

In the case of a fire on campus, Sue Sullivan, Western's director of environmental health & safety, had some advice.

"If an alarm sounds in the building, it's important to follow the instructions," Sullivan said. "For fire, it's imperative to evacuate the building immediately, move away from the building and wait for 'all-clear' instructions that it is okay to re-enter the building."

Throughout Western's campus, designated floor wardens are responsible for having a thorough knowledge of the space's hazards, alarm systems and assembly points, according to Western's general Safety Information Book. Wardens can be identified by their bright orange vests.

For students living on campus, RAs are instructed to cover emergency information during the first floor meeting. Campus Public Safety also speaks to incoming students during orientation at Summerstart and Transitions.

The last fires to occur at Western were the 2015 Chemistry Building fire, the 2002 Fairhaven kitchen fire and the 1997 Mathes Hall fire.

For students who feel uneasy before or after the drill, Western's Counseling Center is available at 360-650-3164.

Students are also encouraged to call SAFE Campus Phone Number: 360-650-SAFE if they are worried by the behavior of any persons on campus. University Police are available at their emergency line 360-650-3911 and nonemergency line 360-650-3555.

Earthquake:

Because Whatcom County falls near the Cascadia fault line, earthquakes are not uncommon in the area. Though most tremors are too small to be felt, Washington has seen 494 earthquakes in the past year, according to the United States Geological Survey.

If an earthquake occurs at Western, individuals should immediately duck and cover. The emergency preparedness video suggests finding a sturdy table to hide under and hold on to. This will provide protection from falling debris and stablility as the ground shifts.

Students should stay where they are, according to Western's Emergency Response Guide. But Tankslev clarified that actions should be situational. Try not to leave or enter a building, and find an open area away from falling debris if outside. When the threat has ended, individuals on campus should make their way to one of three major-disaster assembly areas: Old Main lawn, Communications Facility lawn and the field behind the Campus Services building.

Infographic by Ben Olson

ERICKSEN

continued from pg. 1

Senator Ericksen, a Western alumnus, said he thought the dialogue went very well. He said he was proud of the way community members handled themselves.

"There is nothing wrong with a spirited debate," Ericksen said. "You provide information to the citizenry, you hear their points of views and you listen and you communicate. Thats a great part of the governing process."

Young Democrats of Western member Gabbi Nazari said she preferred expressing her opinions directly to the senator rather than picketing outside of the event.

"It's more of an impact to actually be in there asking questions, showing that we don't agree with things and wanting to hear what he has to say," Nazari said.

Ericksen brought a rare conservative viewpoint to Western's campus.

"For the conservatives and the moderates of WWU, I wanted them to know they are not alone. There are a lot of people who agree with them, and they should not have to feel the pressure to remain silent while on campus," Ericksen said.

Ericksen was yelled at by the crowd when he disagreed with the statistic of 97 percent of scientists agreeing that climate change is due to manmade activities. He said the number is made up and not a true statistic.

According to NASA, 97 percent or more of actively publishing climate scientists agree, climate-warming trends over the past century are extremely likely due to human activities. In addition, leading scientific organizations worldwide have issued public statements endorsing this position.

Issues of the past were brought up by opposers of Ericksen, including a campaign in 2015 to have the senator's master's degrees in environmental policy and political science from Western revoked.

"I'm here to show my dislike of him as a political representative and as a person," junior Ignacio Perez said. "I think if you're flat-out attacking environmentalism then you should not be able to hold a degree from a school that gave you a degree for environmental policy."

One audience member asked Ericksen about his beliefs on abortion. She pointed out Ericksen's conflicting beliefs that the government should have less control over citizens' lives, but more control over the choices women make in regards to reproduc-

"So my question to you is, if a teenage girl is too young to decide for herself to have an abortion, which is a very personal and serious decision, how is she old enough to decide to become a parent?" she said.

Ericksen spoke on the importance of parental consent and parental notification in reference to abortion. He said there is overwhelming public support for restrictions against staff and faculty aiding minors in getting abortions, even though they can't get legislation passed in Olympia.

"That's just wrong, that is wrong, parents should be involved in that decision," Ericksen said.

The meeting was hosted by Western Washington University Young Americans for Liberty and Western Washington Students for Life.

Young Americans for Liberty President Sean Rita said he wanted an open-forum where everyone can ask questions in a respectful manner.

"If you hate that he's coming to speak, if you love that he's coming to speak, if you don't care, either way, come and ask questions, come learn,' Rita said. "An open-forum is the best thing for both sides to try and talk stuff out and give people a better understanding. Come with a level-head and an open mind."

A participant raises her hand in Viking Union during the town hall meeting with Sen. Doug Ericksen. // Photo by Paul Kelly

6 Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2017 | The Western Front Front Features

FINDING THE RIGHT MIX

Western student and music creator Michael Erickson attracts the attention of VICE



Michael Erickson performs his music at Wild Buffalo. // Photo courtesy of Michael Erickson

Walker Sacon THE WESTERN FRONT

Senior Michael Erickson has been making music for most of his life. Eager to create music from a young age, Erickson played various instruments his parents scattered around the house.

Since March, the music, which Erickson creates under the stage name WMD, has been featured on VICE and Spotify and continues to gain

Erickson adopted his stage name in middle school and began performing "chiptunes," a genre where artists use a Gameboy or similar device's sound chip to generate sounds, at school and church talent shows, his father said. The stage name matched the EDM-style of his chiptune songs at the time, and he continues to use it as an interesting contrast to his music, which stands out among aggressive acts using the same name, Erickson said.

Erickson was first exposed to professional audio technology around the same time he began composing chiptune music, chiptuners like Erickson often modify the devices for better sound quality, he said.

Music was a part of Erickson's life long before he started chiptuning and joined a youth group band

At 2-years-old, Erickson would pick up on

Beatles' songs and follow melodies on a toy keyboard, his father Dave said. When Dave taught him the intro to "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds" at 6 years old, Erickson realized he could really make music.

"That sort of opened the floodgates," Erickson said.

Last spring, a VICE music intern took note of Erickson's work when it was featured on Bandcamp, and brought it to the attention of VICE music supervisor Jackie Palazzolo [Palazzolo email] who contacted Erickson.

Palazzolo said in an email that her team usually knows right away if a song is "VICE material." The network will use multiple tracks from an artist if they fit a desired mood.

VICE has featured eight of Erickson's songs in the shows "Epicly Later'd" and "States of Undress" since March, he said.

The first time he heard his music on TV was pretty crazy, he said.

"Coming from a small town, with everyone telling me music wasn't a viable career and looking at where I am now, it's just the wildest feeling," Erickson said.

Realizing he could play songs drove him to learn more. He began learning chords on piano and guitar, with the help of his father, who played guitar in a band called the Pathetic Earthlings in high school.

The family lived in Ferndale until he was five, before moving to the town of Cashmere, about 20 minutes outside of Wenatchee.

In middle school, he joined the band at a youth group run by Christ Center Cashmere after the youth group leader saw him with a KORG Kaoss Pad sampler.

Erickson said he then had to find his place in the band, which at first meant drumming on found objects in support of the band's existing drummer. Dave remembered one instance at the Chelan County Fair where Erickson played with a drumstick on a traffic cone.

By the time he had settled in behind the drum set in the youth group band, Michael was also in charge of sound for the band and had his first experience with audio technology.

"Routing all the cables, running the board sometimes, that was my introduction to that world," Erickson said.

Western junior Keegan Townsend first saw Erickson perform at an eighth grade dance and said almost everything in the act has changed since then. His music has continued to evolve, Townsend said.

Erickson said in middle school he was exposed to the chillwave artist Washed Out's EP "Life of Leisure" and began to think about producing his own electronic music.

This exposure occurred right as he was begin-

ning to feel limited by the simplicity of chiptune programs, he said. He experimented with a series of music production programs leading up to his discovery of the music software Ableton Live, which he said he immediately decided was "the one" for him.

Erickson said his chiptuning experience translated directly into Ableton's session view, which allows users to edit clips and loops individually before sequencing them into an arrangement.

"That's the primary way I compose. I sketch out the skeleton of a song and then record it," he said.

Erickson knew he wanted to study music in an interdisciplinary program after high school which left him to decide between Western's Fairhaven College and Evergreen State College.

"Ultimately, I chose Western because I resonated more with the environment up here," Erickson said.

Bellingham's electronic music scene, and Olympia's lack of a similar scene, also contributed to his decision.

"There isn't much of a music scene to my knowledge in Olympia, for electronic music at least," he said.

The Bellingham area hasn't let Erickson down, as he said he continues to perform once or twice monthly, with most of his recent shows being at the Wild Buffalo. His last show there saw the venue sold out as he supported K. Flay on Oct. 7.

"It's been pretty awesome," Erickson said, "Every show I've done, the audience has been really supportive."

Erickson's latest album "Reminisce," which he wrote and recorded while living alone in an Everett mobile home last summer, was released last month, his second release of the year. His January release "Still," has steadily gained popularity since release, but Erickson believes his latest album shows notable improvement.

"There were a lot of ideas there I didn't really get to express fully [on "Still"]. With this album



Michael Erickson plays a set. Most of his local shows are at Wild Buffalo. // Photo courtesy of Michael Erickson

I really focused on taking my time and exploring more. I feel like it turned out way, way better," Erickson said.

Dave Erickson isn't surprised by his son's pursuit of a career in music and is proud of his music and the attention it receives, as well as of the features on VICE and in a short film.

"It gives you goosebumps, it's really cool," Dave Erickson said about hearing his son's music on VICE.

Townsend, who met Michael Erickson in middle school, said knowing his friend's music is on TV is incredible and almost surreal.

"I saw him grow up and I knew his music would

go and do something someday, but I didn't realize I would be close to him when it happened," Townsend said.

Michael Erickson hopes for a career creating music full time, but said teaching is a goal which he knows he can attain. Currently, he is a paraeducator at Shuksan Middle School and teaches a class on music production with Ableton Live. Paraeducators work with teachers to develop and carry out lesson plans with a specific academic focus.

He will graduate from Fairhaven this year with a bachelor's degree in music education and a minor in audio technology and immediately return for a master's degree in teaching.



VICE has used eight of Michael Erickson's songs in their shows. // Photo courtesy of Michael Erickson

VICE SHOWS ERICKSON'S SONGS WERE FEAURED IN

"Epicly Later'd"

"States of Undress'

Kristina Rivera

THE WESTERN FRONT

On the small stage of the Under-

ground Coffeehouse, three student

comedians discovered their comedic

One of those comedians, junior

Baldwin began performing stand-

up comedy at an open mic night at the

Underground Coffeehouse two years

ago. Since then, he's performed at ven-

ues such as the Old Main Theater, the

Performing Arts Center, The Upfront

Theatre and various open mic nights

comedy during a rough patch in com-

munity college where he was frequently

During this time, he watched come-

dian Mike Birbiglia's stand-up specials

and was uplifted by them. Listening to

Birbiglia's stories made Baldwin be-

For Baldwin, performing stand-up

Katie Webber

city," he joked.

Coming from a small town and coming from

a place where there's no one else your age,

it's really nice to get somewhere where there's

opportunity.

Cameron Baldwin

Student comedian

ident of the Stand-up Comedy Klub,

the Underground Coffeehouse is where

he was introduced to stand-up comedy.

Vancouver, Washington. Matusak de-

scribes his hometown as a transitory

"It's the Greyhound bus station of a

Mutusak's first time performing

stand-up was at the Underground Cof-

feehouse his freshman year during an

open mic night. There was an open slot

Matusak's set consisted of typical

available, so he decided to go for it.

Matusak was born and raised in

comedy is a form of self-expression for

his high-energy personality. To write

his material, he draws from his per-

sonal experiences and highlights the

high school and I make fun of those,"

he said. "Because I have a heart condi-

tion, I compare it to a fainting goat in

edy and letting it be his outlet was simi-

found it really helps me clear my mind

and get my life out there."

Baldwin said doing stand-up com-

"It's a good outlet," he said. "I've

For senior Stefan Matusak, the pres-

"I've had seizures that started in

lieve he could pursue comedy.

He was inspired to start pursuing

Cameron Baldwin, recalled his intro-

duction to stand-up comedy.

around Bellingham

absurdity of it.

one of my bits.'

lar to therapy.

in and out of the hospital.

come to Western, he probably would

coming from a place where there's no

one else your age, it's really nice to get

somewhere where there's opportuni-

Junior Andrea Entz also came to

She started performing stand-up

comedy at the end of the last school

year and, although she's relatively new

to the stand-up comedy scene, she's

no stranger to the stage. Entz has been

performing in productions at Western

Like Matusak and Baldwin, Entz

found her comedic prowess at the Un-

derground Coffeehouse. She was origi-

nally there to watch her friends perform

at the open mic night, but then they

convinced her to go on stage, sparking

Coming from a background in the-

"I like writing my own material, be-

With the encouragement S.U.C.K.

provided her, after only two perfor-

mances at the Underground Coffee-

house, Entz began branching out and

performing at open mic nights at The

Shakedown, The Green Frog and The

tunity for us to all have that camara-

derie and supportive environment for

fellow comics, that right there triggered

The Stand-Up Comedy Klub hosts

open mic nights every other Thurs-

day at the Underground Coffeehouse.

When there's no open mic night, the

club hosts meetings and workshops in

medians come from different places

and backgrounds, they can all trace

their comical origins back to a small

coffee shop three floors below the Vi-

king Union. Now, they're perform-

ing in front of bigger shows around

Western, Bellingham and the state of

Although these three Western co-

"By Western providing that oppor-

ing able to perform it and feel natural

ater, Entz likes stand-up because she

has more freedom when performing.

her interest in stand-up comedy.

on stage," she said.

Upfront Theatre.

my start," Entz said.

Humanities 108.

Washington.

since she started as a freshman.

Western for the opportunity to per-

ty," Baldwin said.

"Coming from a small town and

have never tried stand-up comedy.

THE MASTERS OF LAUGHTER

Western students express themselves through performing stand-up comedy around Bellingham

Junior Cameron Baldwin stands in Red Square. // Photo by

college freshman subject matter: dorm

bathrooms, dining hall pizza and even

really bad set, actually.

to the stage.

ham and Portland.

"It was a bad set," he said. "It was a

While his debut performance was

"With every stand-up set you will get

Matusak did keep going. He has

unsuccessful, he said the idea of im-

proving his act kept him coming back

better," Matusak said. "The failure sets

are the ones that are going to keep you

performed around Western's campus,

from the Viking Union Multipurpose

Room to the Old Main Theater. He's

also performed at house shows and

other open mic nights around Belling-

Matusak said being a part of S.U.C.K.

Baldwin is also a member of S.U.C.K.

at Western allowed him to meet other

comedians and learn about different

and, being from the small town of

Langley, Washington, said if he didn't

venues around Bellingham.

Opinions of the Editorial Board

A whirlwind of natural disasters and terrorist attacks across the globe has students on a college cam-

ally prepared? quakes and active shooters.

A Western Alert test is done at least twice during the academic year offering information to students, faculty and staff about emergency preparedness, and Western's Emergency Response Guide offers detailed information for specific emergency situations.

But there's one small "lockdown" on Thursday?

Western's Emergency Preparedness training vid-

With active shooter situations happening left and right across the nation, it's concerning that all of the Western community can't have the same opportunity to protect themselves because of the building they

happen to be in. If doors can't be locked or barricaded, Western's Emergency Response Guide suggests to run, hide or

Because it's realistic to

options Western could look into as well.

According to the Huffington Post, there are several devices that are easy to implement in classrooms, homes and offices — one of

The Sleeve is a device that is able to secure doors from the inside. Using a carbon steel case to enclose the door's closer arm, the device has the ability to disable the functionality of the door as well as effectively seal it

plausible solution.

The university should choose which areas on campus are safe, because it's

Relying on the unlikelihood of an active shooter on Western's campus as an excuse for not fixing the problem is ignoring proper safety precautions for all of the Western community.

Western needs to be looking into solutions now.

TUESDAY, OCT. 17, 2017 | THE WESTERN FRONT

FRONTLINE

Is Western really prepared for emergencies?

left many people on edge. As pus, it's easy to forget events like these could happen at any time. But is Western re-

In response to recent events, Western has taken measures to prepare students in the event of emergencies such as fires, earth-

Western will also be testing its emergency notification system with a campus lockdown drill Thursday, Oct. 19 to educate the campus community about steps to take should an act of violence occur on campus, Western's assistant police chief Donnell Tanksley said.

problem. Many classroom doors in buildings across campus don't even lock. So how will there even be a true items to barricade the door."

Buildings such as the Humanities Building, Academic West and parts of the Communications Facility building have doors that can't lock from the inside and only open outward. This leaves many classrooms vulnerable, especially as there is no use barricading doors from the inside.

person holding a gun. Other universities have

run into this issue as well, racking up approximately \$5 million at one unnamed university to upgrade locks across campus, according to InsideHigherEd, a post-secondary education-focused online publication.

Fixing the problem could be costly, but it's necessary for the safety of Western students, faculty and staff.

There are alternative

which offers door security.

shut. The device is made to fit any door and withstand more than 550 pounds of

Given Western's security problem across three different buildings on campus, the Sleeve sounds like a

not be able to pick and impossible to know when or where an act of violence will

Illustration by Jordan Carlson

eo, which is available at the University Police website, says, "If you are in a room, lock the door, or look for

expect someone to fight a

The Western Front Editorial Board is composed of Jordan Carlson, Alex Halverson and McKenna Cardwell.

Viking Voices

What is your favorite news source?



Tristan McGarr Sophomore, English

"Reddit, I guess. I don't really browse one site. I like getting all of it from general American news, world news, politics and even sometimes comedy."



Iris Moore Sophomore, environmental studies

"My favorite news source is probably OPB [Oregon Public Broadcasting] just because it is accurate and it is not very biased, but it is a little boring."



Emma Christensen Junior, history

"I really enjoy CNN because I think it is one of the more unbiased new sources. I mean, it does have its moments, but I think it definitely is the most reliable because it is not just about U.S. news."



Hanah Lee Junior, art

"I think it might be the New York Times. I have it as an app on my phone and it is easily accessible, so that is my favorite."



Compiled by Kaeli Hearn

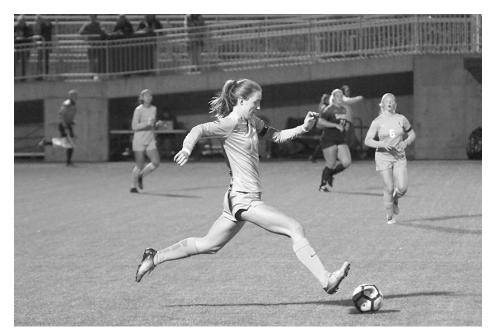
By Eliana Ala'ilima-Daley THE WESTERN FRONT

After spending the first five weeks of the 2017 season atop the Division II national standings, the women's soccer team's run as the No. 1 ranked team in the country ended when they dropped to No. 3 in the United Soccer Coaches D-II national poll.

The Vikings are the defending national champions, have a perfect 11-0-0 record on the season and have acquired

Western was ranked No. 1 in the nation following a historic 2016 campaign that resulted in a national championship and 24 straight wins, breaking the all-time Great Northwest Athletic Conference win streak record.

The Vikings held the No. 1 ranking while continuing to hold a perfect season record, until week five of the polls when Western dropped to No. 3. The Vikings are currently ranked behind the University of Central Missouri (12-0-0),



Sophomore defender Annaliese Laurila dribbles down the field in the Vikings' 4-0 win over Saint Martin's. // Photo by Katie Webber

36-straight wins.

and Kutztown University (11-0-0). Senior team captain and 2016 Division II National Player of the Year Sierra Shugarts said she was initially sad when she saw the polls, but that it gives the team an added chip on their shoul-

> "Obviously, it's more motivation," Shugarts said. "We know how good we are, but I think it fuels our fire. We've never been a team where we get down about those things."

> The team is still ranked No. 1 in the West Region.

> "Winning 35-straight is amazing," Western sports information director Jeff Evans said. "There's only a handful of teams at any level that have done what they're doing. It's a historical run. They're an awesome group, and anyone who watches them play knows they're

> The voting for the national polls is done by a panel of coaches who look at the results of each of the eight regions

They then put those results into a point system to determine which teams are worthy of the national rankings. Points are determined by categories like record, toughness of schedule and number of games played.

Students within the Western athletics department have also taken notice of the team's recent drop. Junior volleyball player Joslyn Bopray said she

first saw the news of the women's soccer team's new ranking on social media.

"I would feel robbed," Bopray said. "I would be wondering why they think another team is better than us when we've already proved ourselves."

Evans said while it was a shocking drop for the Vikings, you have to give credit where credit is due.

"Central Missouri is 12-0 and they have not allowed a goal all season," Evans said. "So I think anywhere in those top five is great, but it's interesting that a team who hasn't lost since the end of the 2015 season moves down in the

While the drop did come unexpectedly, the Vikings are trying to not pay attention to the rankings. Shugarts said at the end of the day, they're just focused on bettering themselves everyday, while continuing to keep a championship mindset.

"Even though it's the middle of the season, we still have girls come out early running, doing fitness, getting extra touches," Shugarts said. "Every game we just try to play like a championship team, and that's made us successful."

The Vikings are only about halfway through their GNAC schedule. Polls aside, the Vikings' true ranking will be revealed once postseason play opens up with the GNAC tournament beginning 11 | SPORTS

There's no place like home

By Alex Dupille THE WESTERN FRONT

As you walked into the new Sam Carver Gymnasium, the sounds of the pep band filled your ears and the Western cheer team was entertaining the crowd.

On display for everyone in the audience to see was a six-foot long sign that read, "Carver Gymnasi-

The sign on display was made from scraps taken out of the old Carver Gym floor, and the letters in the sign were from the former Carver sign.

Carver truly is an all-purpose academic, athletic and community facility.

> Sabah Randhawa Western President

On Friday Oct. 13, Western faculty, students and community members all assembled in the brand new state-of-the-art gym to witness the ribbon-cutting ceremony take

Former dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences LeAnn Martin opened the event with a speech expressing her feelings of finally getting to see this gym opened up after decades of President Sabah Randhawa and others cut the ribbon for the renovated Carver Gym. // Photo by Katie Webber waiting. Martin shared some lighthearted memories of the old Carver,

"This has been a day at least 25 years in the making, and many folks at Western, no doubt, thought this day would ever come," President Sabah Randhawa said. "Carver truly is an all-purpose academic, athletic and community facility."

versus the new Carver.

When Director of Athletics Steve Card took the podium, he went into great depth about the excellence Western athletics has displayed this

"We celebrated many successes on the field of play, including winning two team national championships in women's soccer and

women's rowing." Card said. "With Carver, we anticipate we will win many of those recruiting battles, and [Western] athletics will continue on this successful trajectory."

Division II All-American pole vaulter Anna Paradee closed the ceremony by sharing her perspective on how Carver is not only going to change the lives of the athletes that train here, but also the students who are going to utilize the new classrooms and equipment.

"The new space is just amazing to be able to learn in, not to mention having the beautiful academic facilities," Paradee said. "I went to a few of the volleyball games. It's been awesome because now we can

nouse more students. We can have that school spirit back that I feel we lost in the last few years."

TUESDAY, OCT. 17, 2017 | THE WESTERN FRONT

The renovated Carver has six gender-neutral bathrooms and new sustainability features, such as a green roof on the second floor and motion-sensor lighting.

VIKING VOLLEYBALL AT HOME THIS **SEASON**

WWU 3, Simon Fraser 1

WWU 3, Montana State 0

WWU 3, Concordia 0

WWU 3, Western Oregon 0

WWU 3. Saint Martin's 0

WWU 3, Seattle Pacific 0

Western athlete in Sports Illustrated

By Abby Owen THE WESTERN FRONT

Junior Gabriela Pelogi, a forward for the women's soccer team, was featured in this week's edition of Sports Illustrated "Faces in the Crowd." Pelogi is the only female athlete out of six mentioned in this article.

"I didn't even know they wrote an article about me," Pelogi said. The women's soccer coach, Travis Connell, is the one who first told her about it.

Pelogi said nothing has really changed since the magazine came out, but people

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have been texting or Facebook messaging her to congratulate her.

Pelogi's favorite part about being featured is that, "people can see see what I've done at Western," she said.

Pelogi has started off the season with 10 goals in 10 games, and is ranked eighth in the program's history with 31 goals scored in only 58 games played. Last season she started in 24 out of 25 games, and her freshman year she started in 12 out of 24 games, playing in 23

Pelogi said she chose to attend Western because she really liked the atmo-

sphere. Pelogi also talked about how coach Connell made her feel comfortable, and the girls soccer team was very

> Soccer was the first sport Pelogi played, but it wasn't the only sport. With her ability to move fast, Pelogi was on her high school track team her sophomore year, placing fifth in state for the 100-meter dash.

> She got offers for track from other colleges like Central, Eastern and WSU. Pelogi had to pick which sport she wanted to continue to play.

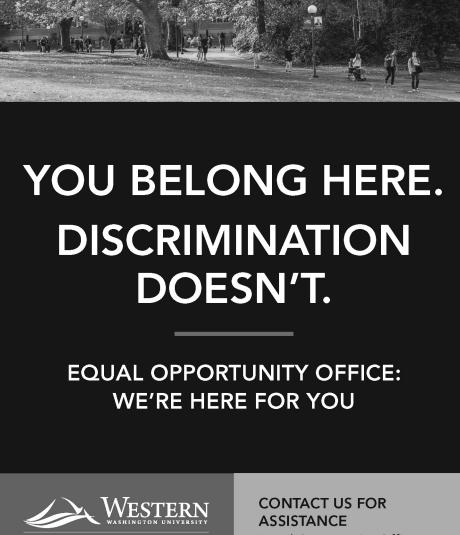
"It wasn't hard to pick between the

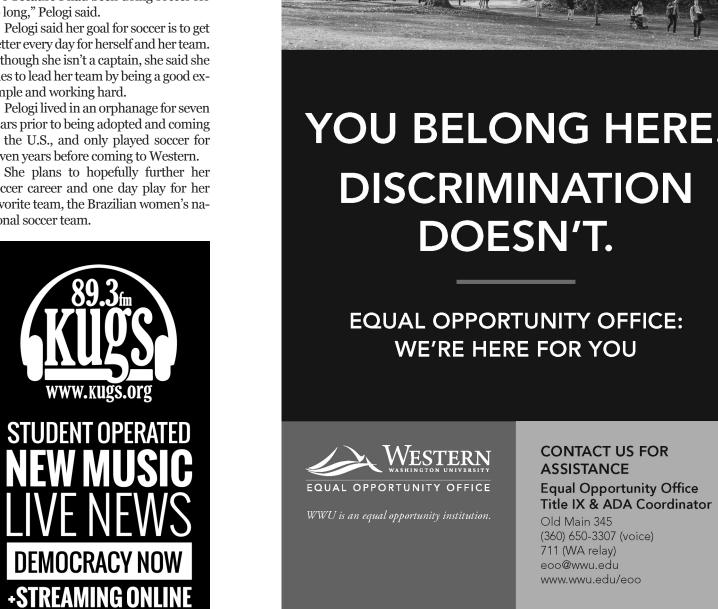
two because I had been doing soccer for so long," Pelogi said.

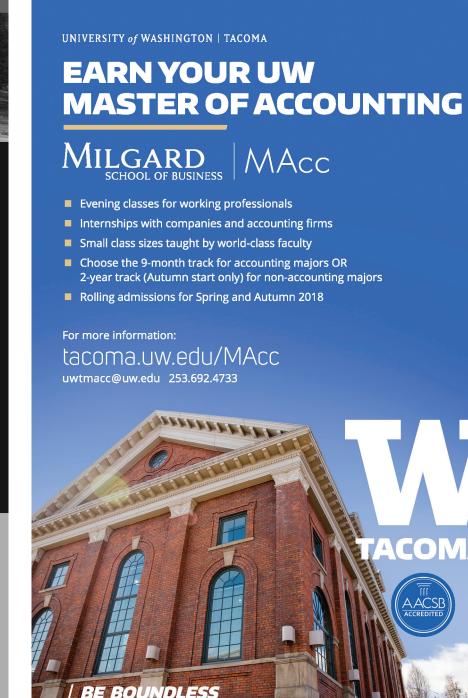
better every day for herself and her team. Although she isn't a captain, she said she tries to lead her team by being a good example and working hard.

Pelogi lived in an orphanage for seven years prior to being adopted and coming to the U.S., and only played soccer for seven years before coming to Western.

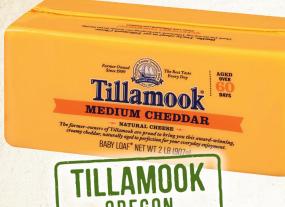
She plans to hopefully further her soccer career and one day play for her favorite team, the Brazilian women's national soccer team.











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