

Undocumented activist responds to deportation notice

Western student speaks about her mother's Notice to Appear in immigration court

Emily Stout

THE WESTERN FRONT

Local immigration activist Maru Mora-Villalpando said she will continue to organize, despite being faced with deportation proceedings that supporters believe is retaliation for her social justice work.

"My community and I will continue to fight and will remember who stood by our side—that is the side of justice—and who did not. We will forgive but we won't forget," Mora-Villalpando said in an email.

Mora-Villalpando received a Notice to Appear, which initiates deportation proceedings, from the Seattle Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) office in December.

Mora-Villalpando is the policy advocate and media coordinator for Community to Community Development in Bellingham. She is also



Local immigration activist Maru Mora-Villalpando speaking at a farmworker march last February. // Photo courtesy of Josefina Mora

the leader of Northwest Detention Center Resistance, which fights deportations at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma and founder of Latino Ad-

vocacy, which provides consulting for nonprofits on racial justice.

Mora-Villalpando's daughter, Josefina Mora, is a junior at Western. She was born

in Seattle and has dual American-Mexican citizenship. She says that if her mom does get deported to Mexico, she will follow her there.

"I've always had a

fear that my mom may get deported," she said.

Josefina can petition for her mother to stay in the country after her

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Petition to 'Save VU Gallery' inaccurate

Gallery funds not being reallocated to Ethnic Student Center, future of gallery to be determined



Sophomore Emily Hill at the Andrew Yee art exhibit in the Viking Union Gallery Tuesday, Jan. 23. // Photo by Taylor Nichols

Aaron Gillis
THE WESTERN FRONT

A widely-circulated petition claiming that the Viking Union Gallery is set to be decommissioned isn't entirely factual, and the claim that gallery funding is being reallocated to the Ethnic Student Center is false.

The petition, titled "Save the VU Gallery," has amassed 625 supporters as of Tuesday night. However, employees at the VU and Associated Students say the petition is incorrect.

"There is lots of misinformation on what is going on. We need to shut down the rumor mill," said Greg McBride, the assistant di-

rector of Viking Union Facilities.

McBride said the gallery will close at the end of the quarter for construction. According to Western's Frequently Asked Questions about the renovations, the gallery will be closed during construction, but programming for the gallery during this time has yet to be determined.

Jenn Cook, the Associated Students program adviser, stated clearly that there is no plan of decommissioning the gallery.

"There is no decision as to the future of the gallery—and certainly not to fund the new center," Cook said.

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Emergency homeless ordinance declared

Giovanni Roverso
THE WESTERN FRONT

Temporary homeless encampments are now legal in Bellingham, which spends more than \$1 million every year on homelessness, after the Bellingham City Council passed an emergency ordinance provision on Monday.

The Bellingham City Council passed the provision after an executive session held earlier Monday, bringing city law in line with a state law allowing religious organizations to host temporary tent encampments. The ordinance allows camps to remain in place for six months with the possibility of a 90-day extension.

Members of the community came to speak about

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View our coverage of the Women's March and the People's Movement Assembly online.

Here to lend an ear



Alumnae Anastasia Ulinski, left, and Kristen Allshouse, right, sit in Red Square Jan. 16 with a sign that reads “Free Listening.” They said students talk to them about issues across the board, like suicide and depression, or their faith. “We just wanted a platform for people to share anything in their lives,” Ulinski said. The two are interns with the Campus Christian Fellowship this quarter. // Photo by Taylor Nichols

New bills may separate fees from tuition

If bills don't pass, AS deficit expected to increase, impacting student services

Sarah Porter
THE WESTERN FRONT

Student fees may be allowed to rise at higher rates than tuition if two potential bills, one in the Senate and the House, are passed into law. The bills are already halfway to being voted on, which means that they could be passed quickly.

Introduced in January of last year, these bills would allow schools to raise the mandatory Service and Activity (S&A) fees based on student need rather than tuition rates, according to House Bill 1433.

S&A fees are currently coupled with tuition, which means they rise and fall at the same rate as resident undergraduate tuition, according to the Senate bill summary. Decoupling the fees would allow them to rise at faster

rates than tuition, but these bills would not allow them to decrease.

At Western, S&A fees primarily pay for the Associated Students, athletics and department related activities such as student publications and theater. They also cover housing and dining costs, as well as campus recreation and club sports. The S&A fees are managed by fee committees which are led mostly by students at Washington colleges and universities.

Western's current AS legislative liaison, Rosa Rice-Pelepko, said she has been following the House version of the bill and that AS supports decoupling S&A fees from tuition.

“This is something that’s been on the AS agenda for several years now,” Rice-Pelepko said.

However, the extent that

fees would be allowed to rise is still up for discussion.

Rice-Pelepko said she has concerns about accounting for minimum wage increases in Western's AS budget as the law stands. Without being allowed to raise fees by a higher percentage than resident tuition, the budget is at a deficit.

In the 2016-17 academic year, S&A fees were \$615 per student, and AS pushed for S&A fees to increase by 3.9 percent. Because fees are coupled with tuition, they rose by 2.2 percent instead.

The AS had to dip into their reserve cash to cover wage increases, Rice-Pelepko said. If Western is not given autonomy to raise fees, she said the current budget would be unsustainable. There will have to be compromises.

Alexander LaVallee, the ASVP for Business and Op-

erations, said if the legislation does not pass, budget compromises could affect resource and outreach programs such as the Womxn's Identity Resource Center and the Legal Information Center. LaVallee serves on the S&A Fee Committee, and he recently went down to Olympia to lobby for decoupling fees from tuition.

“There’s not enough money,” LaVallee said.

Though members of AS have been pushing for the change, some students are not excited by the idea of increasing fees.

“I don’t like that. We already have to pay a lot of fees,” said Western senior Lily Murock.

Read the full story online at westernfrontonline.com

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

Asia Fields

Managing Editor

Melissa McCarthy

News Editors

Dante Koplowitz-Fleming

Monique Merrill

Features Editor

Rahwa Hailemariam

Sports Editor

Eric Trent

Photo Editor

Mathew Roland

Opinion Editor

Kira Erickson

Design/Interactives Editor

Maney Orm

Online/Audience

Engagement Editor

Kristina Rivera

Copy Editors

Landon Groves

Hannah Wong

Video Editor

Madeleine Banks

Letters to the editor:

westernfront.opinion@gmail.com

Press releases:

wfpres.release@gmail.com

Faculty Adviser

Jack Keith

Jack.Keith@wwu.edu

Advertising

Department

360-650-3160

Advertising

Manager

Megan McGinnis

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MARU

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21st birthday in August. They are hopeful she may be granted citizenship because Mora-Villalpando has been in the U.S. for more than 20 years and she owns her own small business.

Mora-Villalpando was at her Bellingham home on Dec. 20 with Josefina when the notice was delivered to their door.

Josefina said the notice came as a surprise to both of them.

“When I opened it, I was immediately taken aback,” she said.

The notice requires Mora-Villalpando to attend an initial immigration hearing on an unspecified date. Josefina said the immigration process is backed up and it can sometimes take months or years to get a scheduled hearing. But her mother’s case is already being looked at by ICE attorneys, she said.

“We wouldn’t be surprised if they tried to push it out a lot faster—to deport her more quickly,” Josefina said.

At a press conference in Seattle on Jan. 16, supporters said they suspected ICE was targeting Mora-Villalpando, and that they see this as a national trend of retaliation against activists.

ICE has not yet responded to specific questions, but ICE public affairs officer and spokesperson Yasmeen Pitts O’Keefe issued a statement confirming that Mora-Villalpando is being charged with unlawful presence and her case is under legal review.

“All those in violation of the immigration laws may be subject to enforcement proceedings, up to and including removal from the United States,” Pitts O’Keefe said in an email.

Matthew Albence, ICE executive associate director for Enforcement and Removal Operations, told The Washington Post that ICE does not tar-

get people “based on advocacy positions they hold or in retaliation for critical comments they make.”

However, Mora-Villalpando thinks otherwise.

“ICE only knows about me because of my political work,” Mora-Villalpando wrote in the press release. “I have spoken out to defend immigrants in detention and shared my story as an undocumented mother. I have sat in meetings with immigration officials and challenged their practices. They are an agency whose actions have already been devastating to my community. But with the letter they delivered to my house, they are showing themselves to be an agency that silences any opposition to their practices.”

Angela Fillingim, a sociology professor who specializes in immigration policy at

Washington Post, have reported undocumented leaders from across the nation being detained or deported by ICE for what supporters believe to be retaliation for their activism.

Angelina Godoy, director of the Center for Human Rights at University of Washington, has issued a Freedom of Information Act request and two requests for public records through Washington state on Mora-Villalpando’s behalf. This could shed light on the process and the reasoning behind the notice, Godoy said.

The requests are a part of the center’s exploration into the Washington State Department of Licensing giving personal information of immigrants to the authorities, as reported by The Seattle Times. Mora-Villalpando suspects

ICE received her information from the Department of Licensing.

Northwest Detention Center Resistance and Mijente have organized a petition asking that Mora-Villalpando’s notice to appear be withdrawn.

The petition is circulating online and has been shared by Western student groups, such as Movimiento Estudiantil Chicax de Aztlan, Bellingham Tenants Union, Blue Group and Students for Anti-Racist Action.

The Blue Group, a student club for undocumented students and their allies, will host a fundraiser at 11 a.m. this Wednesday, Jan. 24 and Thursday, Jan. 25 on Vendors Row at the Viking Union for Mora-Villalpando’s defense fund.

Josefina said that she is thankful for the support that her community has shown and expressed solidarity to others.

“We aren’t the only ones that have been going through this in Washington and in Bellingham,” she said.

“We aren’t the only ones that have been going through this in Washington and in Bellingham.”

- Josefina Mora, Western student

Western, said there has been a major shift in deportation tactics in the last year. Under the Trump administration, the threat of deportation has been broadened to anyone without citizenship instead of just those with a criminal record, Fillingim said.

Josefina said her mother has had no prior arrests and no former deportation orders.

“The only thing that she has done is be public about her status,” Josefina said.

Alejandra Gonza, director of the International Human Rights Clinic at University of Washington, said undocumented leaders suddenly being put through deportation proceedings isn’t just happening in the Pacific Northwest.

“We don’t see this as an isolated thing,” she said.

Other outlets, such as The New York Times and The



Artwork by Australian artist Andrew Yee on exhibit at the Viking Union Gallery. The artwork featured are all blends of ink on paper and digital work. // Photo by Taylor Nichols

GALLERY

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“The future of the gallery is currently being discussed among the VU staff, AS student staff and the art department faculty,” she said.

The creators of the petition expressed support for the ESC, but made it seem as if the two were in competition for funding.

McBride wanted to clear up more misinformation on the funding of the gallery.

“The gallery is not in competition for funds with the Ethnic Student Center,” McBride said.

Paul Cocke, director of communications and marketing, agreed with McBride. “The two are not connected in any way,” he said.

Keeping art in the building is top priority, Cook said, although there is no definitive plan on what it may look like.

“There is no desire to remove the program, but there is a possibility that the art program may look

differently,” Cook said. “The voices of students have certainly been heard to keep the gallery a gallery, not another form.”

Construction on the gallery is taking place in order to add structural footings for the building and expand current footings, said Cocke.

“New columns will be added to support the seventh floor addition, and new floor and roof structure will be erected above this area,” Cocke said.

Plans of expanding the Ethnic Student Center have been going on since spring of 2014, when the Associated Students allocated \$50,000 to start the design process. Scheduled completion of construction is set for June 2019, according to the Western website’s FAQs.

The Western Front will continue to cover this topic. See westernfrontonline.com for future coverage.

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Bellingham City Council building on Monday, Jan. 22, before an emergency ordinance addressing homelessness in Whatcom County was passed. // Photo by Giovanni Rovervo

HOMELESS
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concerns about people's living conditions, the safety of women and transgender people and the effectiveness of measures aimed at ending homelessness.

Planning and Community Development Director Rick Sepler said the new ordinance will allow the city to review an application for establishing a camp quickly by waiving unnecessary requirements.

"If we waited and used conventional means, it would take at least six months to meet our statutory notice requirements, do environmental review and process this — which means that someone who came forward would have to wait six months from now before being able to consider doing this work," Sepler said. All councilmembers voted in favor of the emergency ordinance except Council Chair Roxanne Murphy, who said it was not good enough in its current form, as it was rushed through the executive session.

Councilmember Murphy

said she envied other cities' programs, but the solutions must be proportional and fit in Bellingham's financial framework. She said she wanted to help provide affordable housing support and help with mental health and substance use.

A public hearing will be held within 60 days to take comment on the ordinance with the aim of developing permanent rules, Sepler said. Discussions could also touch on the use of public locations for camps, he said.

Sepler said 100-person camps are hard to manage, especially for a city like Bellingham, which should opt for smaller, more manageable camps. This would help in terms of sanitation, for example.

Mayor Linville said she was open to the idea of the city providing dumpsters and portable restrooms to homeless camps, tiny homes and religious organizations after these were requested by community members camping in front of City Hall in solidarity for those experiencing homelessness last December.

Community speaker Amy Glasser and other community members shared safety concerns for the current resources for homelessness. She brought up the issue of public and portable toilets being inaccessible after 10 p.m. during the public comment period.

Linville said that while it was challenging as a few people were misusing them, a better solution could be found quickly.

Community speaker Michael Studhoff said the Lighthouse Mission was the only option for many people experiencing homelessness other than being chased from one camp to the next. "Many women are in danger at this facility, those who have been raped are forced to stay with their attacker if they care to seek shelter," Studhoff said. "They'd rather face the elements and dangers of camping outside, struggling with basic needs, rather than stay in the vicinity of their harassers."

Executive Director Lighthouse Mission Ministries Hans Erchinger-Davis, who

was not at the event, commented on the concerns.

He said there was a police report about a sexual assault that happened a few blocks away from the drop-in center among people who had stayed there, but he was not aware of any cases within the facility itself.

"We do have some really challenging people. Thankfully we have staff there 24/7. We have a large open area which we monitor so there is nowhere for sexual assault to happen," he said.

Erchinger-Davis said he could imagine groping going unnoticed if unreported. He said there was potential for some harassment and there has been domestic violence between partners occasionally. He said men and women only mingle during the day and sleep in separate facilities at the drop-in center.

He encouraged reporting to the police about any incident occurring at or among people staying at shelters.

"We have a safety plan process before returning to our services. If someone has a restraining order against someone else, we work with

that person first to ensure their safety," Erchinger-Davis said.

Councilmember Michael Lilliquist said that while tent camps are necessary now, he looks forward to long-term brick and mortar solutions which the city is supporting, such as the proposed 200-person shelter which has faced several setbacks.

"It might not be enough, but we're trying," Lilliquist said, in response to community speakers skeptical of the use of large shared spaces.

Jim Peterson, HomesNOW! Not Later president, who spoke first during the comment period. He said the proposed 200-bed shelter was just a way of hiding the homelessness problem.

Councilmember April Barker said addressing employment, housing, consumer finance options and healthcare are important to help people stay on their feet. She said 70 percent of low income earners are not able to get help with legal problems and this should also be addressed.



Jim Peterson, HomesNOW! Not Later founder and president, speaks out on homelessness during the public comment period of Monday's meeting. // Photo by Giovanni Rovervo

Capital budget approved through 2019

Zoe Buchli
THE WESTERN FRONT

On Thursday, Jan. 18, the Washington State Legislature approved the long-awaited 2017-19 capital budget, which included a funding bill with money allotted for various improvement projects at Western.

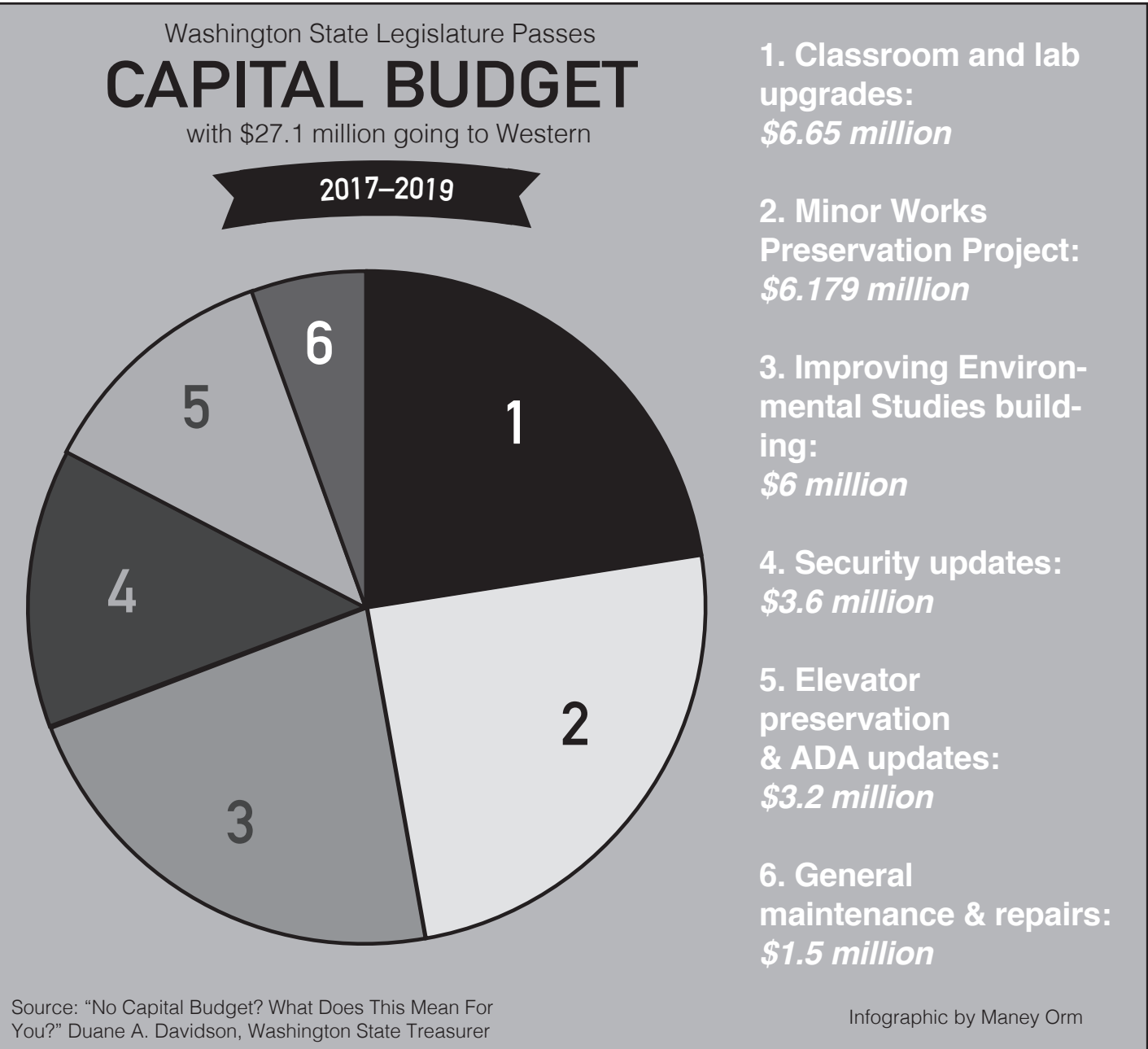
In July 2017, the state legislature adjourned with no final budget, postponing financing future projects at Western.

"Western's capital budget planning process involves input from the University Planning and Resources Council, the university's vice presidents and the president," Paul Cocke, Western's director of communications and marketing said. Western's Board of Trustees then approves the final list of budget priorities for the university.

The bill has funding for all public baccalaureate institutions in the state, as well as a handful of the state's community and technological colleges, Cocke said.

The capital budget is responsible for funding state-authorized projects in places like public parks and schools.

The bill now goes to Gov. Jay Inslee, who is expected to sign it into law.



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Child sex trafficking close to home

A look at sexual exploitation of children in Washington for National Human Trafficking Prevention Month

Melissa McCarthy
THE WESTERN FRONT

Content warning: This article contains references to the sexual exploitation of children.

The classified ad pictures a scantily clad young woman — young girl. She's positioned provocatively in the photographs, her face not visible.

"Ass up, face down. Come see Tasha, \$80 special," the tagline reads.

Within one minute, the phone starts ringing off the hook. Hundreds of adult men would respond to this ad and Tasha would be raped by 10 to 20 of them that night alone.

Tasha is in seventh grade. This ad appeared on Backpage.com, according to attorney Erik Bauer. Bauer recently represented three

"Most people think of pimps and vulnerable girls when they think of trafficking. There is a far more complex landscape of the commercial sex trade than what most of us understand."

Leslie Briner

Commercially Sexually Exploited Children's consultant

girls, ages 13, 14 and 15, in a lawsuit against Backpage in Pierce County with charges of contributing to the human trafficking of underage victims, a common occurrence in Washington state and the U.S. at large.

According to the Department of Justice, the average age of entry into the world of sex trafficking is 12 years old.

Backpage is the second largest classified advertising website, second only to Craigslist, and the host for an estimated 73 percent of sex trafficking reports in the nation, according to the National Center for Missing and Exploited

Children.

"Amazon's taking over the world of retail, and Backpage took over the world of human sex trafficking," Bauer said.

January is National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, and the best way to prevent trafficking is through awareness and education, said Western professor Babafemi Akinrinade, who teaches a course on human trafficking.

Washington law regarding child trafficking

Federally, the sexual exploitation of a minor is considered child sex trafficking. The law states, "If a child is being used to commit a commercial sex act, the child is considered a victim of trafficking; no further criteria are required," according to the Human and Smuggling Center.

There must only be an exchange of goods for sexual

acts to qualify as trafficking, according to federal law. There does not need to be a third party present facilitating the solicitation of the minor, nor the presence of force, fraud or coercion.

Nicholas Oakley with the Center for Children & Youth Justice, a youth social services organization in Washington, contributed to drafting the Model Protocol to Provide Victim-Centered Response to Commercially Sexually Exploited Children in 2011.

This approach covers 80 percent of the state's population today and penalizes buyers of sex instead of providers. Because of the resources

the protocol requires, some rural areas in Washington are unable to implement it, Oakley said. It is not an issue of unwillingness to participate, but a lack of interdisciplinary availability and funding.

"Before 2011, there were sort of two responses to commercially sexually exploited children," Oakley said. "One would be that they'd literally be prosecuted for prostitution — go through the juvenile justice system and be put in detention — or just be completely ignored. Folks didn't recognize these children and never bothered to look for the signs, so the trauma and exploitation and abuse just continued."

Those who buy or sell sex from children are being prosecuted more frequently in Washington today as a result of the protocol, Oakley said. The new approach heavily emphasizes the wellbeing of the victim by connecting them to services and, in most cases, not charging juveniles for prostitution.

Children can still be arrested for prostitution, though. Oakley said he philosophically disagrees with arresting minors for being victims of child sex trafficking. But, on the other hand, arresting children is sometimes the only way to get them out of a dangerous situation or provide them with a secure location, he said.

"It's ironic that you have to arrest the youth so that you can better investigate the victimization of the youth," Oakley said.

Tina Orwall, member of the Washington House of Representatives, created a work group in January 2017 to find ways to eliminate the arrest of victims and ensure no minor is prosecuted for their own victimization.

Many states are not as progressive as Washington in terms of preventing child sex trafficking.

"Washington is not doing much to deter human trafficking, but even that 'not much' is better than other states," Akinrinade said.

The Attorney General's Office has made combating human trafficking a top priority for the state. In 2003, it was the first state to pass a law criminalizing human trafficking, according to the Attorney General's Office website.

"What I think is happening is that Washington state is kind of on the forefront of legislation and efforts," Oakley said. "We have now a coordinated response with 80 percent of the state participating. I'm not aware of another state that has that large of a coordinated effort, although many are coming onboard and moving toward that direction."

The increased efforts may be in response to the increased prevalence of the problem locally. Washington is a hotbed for human trafficking, according to the Attorney General's Office. It has a shared border with Canada, numerous ports

of trafficking or because they believe that they won't seek services. Many boys do not seek services due to societal stigmas surrounding masculinity and homophobia, according to Roberts' study.

Another fallacy is that trafficking is an international issue rather than a domestic one. Americans tend to think human trafficking is a crime that exclusively occurs in foreign countries. This is a misconception. Trafficking happens in the United States to U.S. citizens in every state in the nation, according to the Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center.

Without regard to nationality of victims and with greed as their motivation, traffickers seek to exploit those who are vulnerable — the young, the desperate, and the easily manipulated," according to the Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center.

Americans generally do not refer to domestic victims of trafficking as trafficking victims. They are called criminals, prostitutes, addicts or juvenile delinquents. Traffickers are usually called pimps or criminals, according to the same study.

"I really have trouble with the word trafficking because the connotation is that there needs to be some kind of movement," Oakley said. "Trafficking simply means — in the cases of youth — exploitation."

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not be a victim of trafficking, or none of them and be a victim of trafficking," Briner said. "You have to take that all in context."

If you suspect someone is a victim of trafficking, contact the 24-hour hotline, the Human Trafficking Hotline, for confidential help and information. Local resources for trafficking victims include Northwest Youth Services in Bellingham, Engedi Refuge in Lynden or

ple on the margins of society. When students go into their careers — if they're making laws or designing programs to target traffickers — they can be protecting victims," he said.

Junior Katrina James, who also took Akinrinade's class, said this issue is extremely complex and solutions to it must be complex as well.

"Even though this is such a big, multifaceted issue, it's

"Things about trafficking are invisible. Bellingham people know Samish Way is the corridor, but we drive past it everyday. We don't see it for what it is."

Babafemi Akinrinade
Western professor

Youth Care in Seattle, to name a few.

What can Western students do?

Senior Emily Husa took Akinrinade's human trafficking course last spring. She said the most beneficial thing students can do is educate themselves about this issue.

"I was sad that I was so unaware of the prevalence," Husa said. "It didn't even occur to me that this could be happening in my own backyard."

Akinrinade attributes this to the nature of trafficking as operating under the radar.

"Things about trafficking are invisible. Bellingham people know Samish Way is the corridor, but we drive past it everyday. We don't see it for what it is," he said.

Akinrinade said that he knows this topic can seem depressing and daunting to take on, but remains positive about the improvements made so far and the ones to come.

"It comes back to the societal ideal of taking care of peo-

really important that we don't get discouraged. We have to keep striving toward the ultimate goal of letting children be children."

Briner said examining the practices in your own life can help to disable the exploitation of others.

"This is about building a culture of consent," she said. "The majority of people involved in this industry are exploitative. And even challenging those conversations — sexist jokes, trips to the strip clubs, etc. — would make more people get involved and speak out and create a more equitable world for everyone."

Editor's note: A survivor of child trafficking who was willing to be interviewed could not be reached for this piece. This topic is often presented through the lens of law enforcement or those removed from this reality. A conscious effort was made to include the lived perspective of this issue, but given its traumatic nature, that voice was unable to be included at this time.

Local resources

Human Trafficking Hotline: A national hotline offering confidential help and information. **1-888-373-7888**

Engedi Refuge: Safe housing and care facility in Lynden, offering care to adult women who have experienced sexual exploitation. **360-922-7600**

Northwest Youth Services: Non-profit organization serving homeless youth in Whatcom and Skagit Counties. **360-734-9862**

YouthCare: Operating out of Seattle, Youth Care was the the first residential recovery program in the Northwest serving child victims of sex trafficking. **206-694-4500**

DVSAS: Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services of Whatcom County **360-671-5714**

CASAS: Consultation & Sexual Assault Support services at Western **360-650-3700**

What's happening this weekend?

Friday

Yule Ball 2018

The Majestic Ballroom (1027 N. Forest St.)
6-10 p.m.
\$2 Students with ID, \$5 General — All Ages
The Harry Potter Club will host its annual Yule Ball in its new location, The Majestic Ballroom. Expect a night of dancing, food, and a performance by Swing Kids.



Photo courtesy of the Associated Students

The Spanel Planetarium Live Music

WWU Spanel Planetarium
(Third Floor of Haggard Hall)
Doors open at 6:30 p.m., limited seating
\$3 — All Ages
Local bands Dawn Bombs and Great Snakes will be playing live sets accompanied by video projections on the Spanel Planetarium full-dome screen.

The Co Founder (Acoustic) // Itemfinder // Porch Cat

Make.Shift (306 Flora St.)
7:30-11:30 p.m.
\$6 (cash at the door) — All Ages
Hear an acoustic set from musician The Co Founder and other musical groups local to Bellingham at the Make.Shift.

Saturday

Annual Black Drop Blackout Banquet

Black Drop Coffeehouse (300 W. Champion St.)
7 p.m.-midnight
Black Drop Coffeehouse is throwing its yearly banquet featuring karaoke, food and drinks.

Western Men's Basketball vs. Seattle Pacific University

(Sam Carver Gymnasium) — 3-5 p.m.
\$15 for Adults \$5 for Students
Western men's basketball team will play Seattle Pacific University in a televised event, alongside the Coaches vs. Cancer Game, which hopes to raise money for cancer patients and their families.

The Bellingham Public Market Health & Fitness Fair

Terra Organic & Natural Foods (1530 Cornwall Ave.)
Noon-4 p.m.
Terra Organic and Natural Foods has curated a wellness fair to feature local health practitioners, fitness trainers, and food vendors.

Closing Reception with Jamey Braden

Make.Shift (306 Flora St.)
2-5 p.m. — Free
Meet the Vancouver-based artist behind "Works from a Feminist Unconscious," currently on display at Make.Shift.

Dada Films, with live music by Lori Goldston & Friends

The Church House (1601 Mill Ave.)
7-10 p.m. — Donations appreciated
The Sprocket Society presents a unique program of short experimental films made from 1921-29, accompanied by Earth and Nirvana cellist and composer Lori Goldstein.

Events compiled by Isa Kaufman

Sunday

Rapid Response Training for Deportation Defense

Social Forum space at First Congregational Church of Bellingham (2401 Cornwall Ave.)
6-8 p.m. — Free

Imagine No Kages will be hosting a rapid response training and general meeting on how to prepare for issues concerning anti-immigrant state violence and deportations around Whatcom County.

Chaos and Order: A Mathematic Symphony WWU Spanel Planetarium

(Third Floor of Haggard Hall)
4-5 p.m. — Free
The Spanel Planetarium will showcase a new presentation called "Chaos and Order: A Mathematic Symphony," a mathematical and audio visual experience.

Mo's Parlor Anime Night: Sailor Moon Crystal and The Wednesdays

Alternative Library (519 E. Maple St.)
Doors open 7:30 p.m. — Music starts at 8:30 p.m.
\$5 at the door
Mo's Parlor and Alternative Library are hosting their monthly anime night featuring screenings of Sailor Moon Crystal and musical performances by The Wednesdays and Vellichor.



Photo courtesy of The Wednesdays

FRONTLINE

Opinions of the Editorial Board

So, you went to the Women's March this weekend. What's next?

The Western Front editorial board would like to recognize the work done every day by groups committed to social justice in our community. While annual marches can send a message, it is the tireless efforts of dedicated individuals that is really getting things done. To the Red Line Salish Sea, Bellingham Racial Justice Coalition, Community to Community Development, Northwest Detention Center Resistance, Riveters' Collective and to all those who are committed to working every day to make our community and world more fair and just, thank you.

To all the Bellingham Women's March participants this year: You didn't do anything wrong, but you missed the opportunity to do something right.

Around 2,500 people participated in Saturday's march, but they were likely not aware of the controversy surrounding the organization of this year's events. The organizers of last year's Womxn's March decided to put their weight behind an event organized by people of color, rather than a "Womxn's March 2.0." However, some community members planned a march anyway.

"One of the biggest problems we had last year was that it was white people holding a march for white people — that was the main complaint," Towhee Wean, one of the original organizers of the Womxn's March, said.

The women's marches have been criticized for not being inclusive, particularly for women of color and trans women. Many groups of people besides women have fallen under attack during Trump's presidency, including immigrants, DACA recipients, indigenous peoples and trans individuals.

When Wean was first approached by members of the Red Line Salish Sea, an advocacy group dedicated to the cause of indigenous rights, she

saw it as an opportunity to work together to become more inclusive.

Under the People's Movement Assembly, the original Bellingham Womxn's March leaders committed to recognizing the experiences of marginalized people, and following the leadership of groups in the community who take action everyday.

Wean voiced disappointment that not all members could settle on a sole event for the cause, and instead felt divided enough to create their own march. A march for women was still held this past Saturday, but it was not promoted by the original Womxn's March group or connected to their event with the assembly on Sunday.

"I feel like the two can really enhance each other," Lisa Distler, one of the six lead organizers of the Saturday march, said about the two events. "All events are super important and need to be celebrated."

However, this misses the point. The organizers of Saturday's march didn't do anything wrong by taking to the streets again. But they did miss the point of the former organizers' decision not to. The Womxn's March organizers' decision to take a step back from planning their event was not just a symbolic move, but a

representation of a conscious effort to follow the lead of people most affected by this presidential administration.

The Womxn's March group specifically received directive from the national and state movement that they would like a more inclusive, community-based event, Wean said. This was what her group's unifying with the assembly was hoping to achieve.

If a movement wants to really work for justice, it requires listening to the voices of marginalized groups and persons. It also needs members to stand in solidarity, not be divided. This was the problem Bellingham faced just this past weekend, with two separate events. The rift between the privileged and the marginalized cannot continue if we hope to see a more just world for all.

One of the most humbling things white women of Bellingham can do is to check their privilege, and recognize and support the leadership of people of color and different identities in groups such as the ones united under the assembly.

If you marched this weekend, we encourage you to channel that energy into getting involved year-round with local advocacy groups.

The Western Front Editorial Board is composed of Kira Erickson, Asia Fields and Melissa McCarthy.

Viking Voices

One year into Trump's presidency, how do you feel?



Katrina Maple
Junior, psychology and sociology

"I have overall concern for people. Pence is very against the LGBTQ and Trump is mocking North Korea, which is not what you're supposed to do as president. Trump wants to make America great again, but he is bringing down our reputation as a country instead."



Rich Graham
Sophomore, political science

"I wouldn't necessarily say I am a Trump supporter, but I am a conservative. As a conservative I am slightly disappointed, because Trump is becoming exactly what he said he wouldn't. But people voted for Trump because they knew he was going to do something, something different. Whether negative or positive, he was going to make changes, and we could learn from those changes."



Kathryn Anderson
Freshman, environmental science

"I think I'm not really happy with how he has conducted himself in his presidency so far but I'm excited for the reaction he's made. People are responding and uniting with things like the Women's March. Plus, more people have gotten involved in politics, even younger people."



Joseph Schermer
Junior, political science

"It makes me feel mad at the GOP for their remarkable lack of moral character and objective failure in leadership. It does make me proud, though, of my fellow Americans for standing up for the liberal values that are ingrained in our society."

Compiled by Vanessa Murphy

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This week's sports roundup

Men's basketball remains perfect in conference for first half of season

Eric Trent
THE WESTERN FRONT

Thursday: Vikings 86, University of Alaska Fairbanks 74.
Saturday: Vikings 70, University of Alaska Anchorage 61.

The Viking men, ranked No. 23 in the National Association of Basketball Coaches poll, cruised to a pair of conference road victories in Alaska last week, pushing their win streak to 10.

Western (15-3, 10-0 GNAC) remains the lone undefeated team in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference.

On Thursday in Fairbanks, junior guard Trey Drechsel had a game-high 25 points and sophomore forward Daulton Hommes added another 23 to help Western put the brakes on Fairbanks' three-game win streak.

The Nanooks (8-8, 6-4 GNAC) tied the game at 69 with 7:04 remaining, until senior forward Deandre Dickson's basket triggered an 11-0 burst by the Vikings, part of a 17-5 run that put the Nanooks away for good.

Western lit it up from long range, knocking in a season high 12 3-pointers at a red-hot 50 percent clip.

The Vikings claimed their 10th consecutive victory on Saturday, eighth-longest in Western basketball's 116 year history, with a 70-61 win over the University of Alaska Anchorage (8-10, 4-6 GNAC).

Western put four players in dou-



Junior guard Trey Drechsel, no. 5, combined for 40 points against Fairbanks and Anchorage. // Photo by Katie Webber

ble-digit scoring, led by 15 points a piece from Drechsel and junior center Logan Schilder.

The Vikings broke off a 14-2 run in the first half, then put the clamps on the Seawolves in the final nine minutes before the break, causing them to go 0-15 from the field.

Western closed out the game con-

necting on four of five free throw attempts to hold the Seawolves at bay.

The Vikings host Saint Martin's (13-5, 6-4 GNAC) on Thursday at 7 p.m. On Saturday, the Vikings host Seattle Pacific (11-6, 6-4 GNAC) at 3 p.m. in a game that will be regionally televised on ROOT SPORTS Northwest.

Men's basketball

BY THE NUMBERS

SCORING:	84.9 points per game, second in GNAC
POINTS ALLOWED:	71.6 points per game, third lowest in GNAC
FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE:	.496, second in GNAC
REBOUNDS:	41.8 per game, first in GNAC
BLOCKED SHOTS:	120, first in GNAC by 75 rebounds
HOME ATTENDANCE:	798 per game, second highest in GNAC

Women's basketball drops pair of road games; tied for ninth in conference

With a 1-6 record on away games, Alaskan road trip looming against first and last place opponents

Eric Trent
THE WESTERN FRONT

Thursday: Northwest Nazarene 82, Vikings 62.

Saturday: Central Washington 77, Vikings 73.

On Thursday, the Vikings (7-11, 3-7 GNAC) reduced an 18-point deficit to four points at the half, before Northwest Nazarene (12-3, 8-2 GNAC) blew the game open on a 10-0 run and never led by less than 15 the remainder of the game.

Western surrendered 32 points in the first quarter, the most given up to any opponent in one quarter this season by the Vikings.

The Vikings held the Nighthawks to only four points in the second quarter, tied for fewest by a Western opponent this season, but were unable to sustain the momentum in the second half.

Sophomore guard Lexie Bland, senior forward Hannah Stipanovich and junior center Nikki Corbett each finished with a team-high 10 points. Bland tied a career high of five steals.

On Saturday, the Vikings held a 73-71 lead with just over two minutes remaining before Central (10-8, 6-4 GNAC) took the lead for good on a



Freshman guard Gracie Castaneda is tied as the second-leading scorer for the Vikings with 10.4 points per game. // Photo by Katie Webber

pair of free throws.

The game was a seesaw battle, with 17 lead changes, 15 ties and no team leading by more than five points.

A miss on a potential game-tying 3-pointer and a turnover on an in-bounds pass with 14.7 seconds left prevented the Vikings from mustering a comeback.

Sophomore center Anna Schewecke put up a career-high 17 points to go

along with 10 rebounds, while Stipanovich contributed 16 points and nine rebounds in the loss.

The Viking women hit the road to Alaska for a pair of away games against first place Alaska Anchorage (16-2, 9-1 GNAC) on Thursday at 8:30 p.m., and last place Alaska Fairbanks (4-12, 0-10 GNAC) on Saturday at 6:15 p.m.

Life on the road for a student-athlete

Viewpoint of juggling schoolwork, practice, varsity games and more from first-hand experience

Hillary O'Connor
THE WESTERN FRONT

It's dead week, I've got two papers due at midnight and three finals to complete in the next five days, and I'm 1,900 miles away from campus competing in the NCAA National Championship. Welcome to the life of a Western student-athlete.

As a goalkeeper on the women's soccer team, I know what it's like to travel during the school year and plan around a demanding schedule.

Games can be played as far south as Monmouth, Oregon, as far east as Billings, Montana, and as far north as Fairbanks, Alaska.

Once in the playoffs, a team can travel anywhere in the country and are usually only given a few days notice as to their next destination.

Student-athletes can end up spending a large chunk of the quarter on the road.

"Depending on our schedule, on average I would say, we are probably on the road 10 to 15 days out of the quarter," assistant soccer coach Claire Morgan said.

The amount of time athletes spend on the road depends which sport they play and their team's



Women's soccer players, from left to right, Malia Maack, Elise Aylward, Emily Webster, Caitlyn Jobanek and Taylor Hallquist studying during a road trip. // Photo courtesy of Claire Morgan

travel schedule.

"On average, I'd say we travel about nine days during the quarter," volleyball coach Dianne Flick-Williams said.

With all this travel, it can be hard for student-athletes to find a balance between school and their sport. You'd imagine grades would slip and schoolwork would fall through the cracks. But Western's student athletes thrive during sea-

sons of competition, and some teams post higher GPAs in these quarters despite travel.

Morgan said women's soccer recorded a 3.2 GPA this fall, which came in as .16 higher than their yearly average. In order to compete, student-athletes need to display progress towards their degree and maintain a GPA of at least a 2.0.

Flick-Williams said that as a team, women's volleyball posted

a 3.5 GPA this fall, which includes grades from their first quarter freshman.

Student-athletes have to work to manage their hectic schedules.

"Balancing school and athletics is a difficult task," Garrett Strawn, junior defender for the men's soccer team, said. "You really learn how to manage your free time in the most efficient way. Balancing both your schoolwork and your sport is doable. You really cannot procrastinate and put work off or else it will come back around later and cause even more work."

Strawn was named to the Great Northwest Athletic Conference All-Academic team with a 3.83 GPA as a biochemistry major.

While on the road, student-athletes are still responsible for all tests and assignments. With the limited free time athletes get while on travel trips, they have learned to get pretty creative in their studying habits.

Read the the full story on The Western Front website at westernfrontonline.com

Western alumna and clubbell yoga founder to host yoga certification seminar

Compiled by Tanner Fricke
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western alumna and former kinesiology instructor Summer Huntington is holding a clubbell yoga seminar March 10 and 11 at the Wade King Student Recreation Center.

The cost is \$437 with the discount for students, and early registration ends Feb. 1.

The seminar provides participants with personal coaching from master trainers and an opportunity to receive a Clubbell Yoga Instructor Certificate, Huntington said.

"Clubbell Yoga is a fusion of strength training and yoga," Huntington said. "It's a full comprehensive program that allows you to develop coordination and muscle endurance in order to perform yoga optimally."

Students can register at the clubbell yoga website.



Alaina Sawaya, front left, Summer Huntington, back, and Scott Sonnon, right, practicing clubbell yoga on the Rec Center Turf Field and Track. // Photo courtesy of Brandon Sawaya

Women's basketball	
BY THE NUMBERS	
POINTS ALLOWED:	66 points per game, fourth lowest
FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE:	.411, fourth in GNAC
3-POINT FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE:	.343, third in GNAC
REBOUNDS ALLOWED:	34.3 per game, lowest in GNAC
BLOCKED SHOTS:	64, third in GNAC
HOME ATTENDANCE:	352 per game, second highest in GNAC

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Intramural tournaments on the horizon

Around 1,000 Western students vie for a chance to win the "The Shirt," the prize for capturing an intramural championship

Sydney Clanton
THE WESTERN FRONT

If you forgot to sign up for intramurals, Western is offering three tournaments during winter quarter including a badminton, indoor bubble soccer and a newly-added racquetball tournament.

Sign-up times for each tournament will be held later in the quarter and vary depending on the sport.

Sign-up information can be found on Western's website in the campus recreation services section.

Western's intramural coordinator Jennifer Holman encourages students to participate in intramural sports. She said it provides a good social and physical activity for people to bond over, as well as a sense of teamwork.

"Even though it's more recreational, it's a good way to tone your skills within certain sports and activities," Holman said. "It's also here for people to discover new avenues or activities that they want to do, which by the way, we are open to. If somebody comes to me with something we haven't offered before, we can do that."

To sign up for a tournament, students needed to sign up on IM-leagues.com with their student

email and follow the instructions online.

Participants must have valid student identification and can play on more than one team and in multiple divisions. Last quarter, around 1,000 people signed up for intramural teams and tournaments, Holman said.

Sophomore Alison Eddy has been participating in the intramural basketball program for the last three quarters with the same basketball team. Having basketball games once a week quickly became the highlight of Eddy's week. She looks forward to seeing her teammates and getting physical exercise to help with the stress of school.

"It offers a good way to relieve stress," Eddy said. "That's what I really take away from it."

Eddy plays on a co-ed basketball team made up of nine Western students. She described her team as both laid back and competitive. Students can choose to play in either competitive or recreational leagues, depending on the level of competition they want.

"I think it is pretty competitive playing co-ed, playing with guys there is always a certain level of competitiveness," Eddy said. "But I feel like the girls do take it a little

more seriously, they are a little more intense."

Eddy is hopeful to win this quarter's co-ed 5-on-5 basketball league. Winners acquire the championship T-shirt called "The Shirt" that all intramural sports champions receive and get to wear around campus.

Sophomore Samantha Payne values the friendships she has made through intramural sports the most. She said intramural leagues are an easy way to meet new people and create unique friendships.

"The friendships I have made in intramurals are hard to put into words," Payne said. "They are not normal friendships because it's not people I would have met if I wasn't playing an intramural sport, whether that be volleyball, basketball or

bubble soccer."

Along with friendships and memories, students will be able to get guaranteed physical activity, Payne said.

"It gives me a reason to get up and go to the gym," Payne said.



"The Shirt" from the 2016-17 season. Winners of each intramural championship take home one of these.

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