THE WESTERN FRONT

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Western reshelves books in response to antisemitic vandalism

Maddie Smith The Western Front

Over 120 items were added to Western Libraries as part of a reshelving ceremony on Tuesday, following antisemitic vandalism of seven books in the Jewish studies section of Wilson Library in March.

Some of these added materials are not held in any other libraries in the state, said Sandra Alfers, associate professor of German at Western, and founding director of the Ray Wolpow Institute for the Study of the Holocaust, Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity.

Western Libraries received donations from within the community to replace the vandalized books and add to the Jewish studies collection, Western's Dean of Libraries Mark Greenberg said in an email.

Donations came from individuals as close as the Western community and Whatcom County, to



Western Libraries hosts a book replacement event on Tueday, April 10 in response to seven Jewish studies books being vandalized at Wilson Library. // Photo by Kevin Lake

individuals as far away as Nevada, he said. "Library materials

that explore race, religion, ethnicity, gender identity, class, place and ability are critical elements in any effort to understand and improve

the human condition,"

see VANDALISM page 3

Masked vegan activists show slaughterhouse scenes in Red Square



Julia Berkman THE WESTERN FRONT

A demonstration in Red Square run by vegan group Anonymous for the Voiceless brought awareness to animal cruelty perpetrated by the meat and dairy industries.

On April 4, four masked demonstrators stood back-to-back with dustry, member Kayla Wilson said.

Jacqui Waters, another member of Anonymous for the Voiceless, has been vegan for almost two years.

Since changing her diet, she has lost nearly 100 pounds and is no longer anemic, Waters said.

Waters, who used to eat "like crap," now

ON THE INSIDE:

Features : Cities in the Pacific Northwest are considering opening safe-injection sites. // p.6

Opinion: Protest is an important part of activism, but strategy and follow-through are key in affecting change. // p. 9

Sports: Vikings cap home schedule with losses to Saint Martin's. // p. 11

Western named one of top producers of Fulbright recipients

Isabel Lay The Western Front

Western was named one of the top producers of the Fulbright Award, in line with institutions like Northwestern and Georgetown Universities, for the 2017-18 school year.

Four Western students were announced as winners on Feb.

see FULBRIGHT, page 5



Members of Anonymous for the Voiceless hold LCD screens to educate the Western community about animal cruelty. // Photo by Julia Berkman

LCD screens depicting scenes of violence and cruelty animals experience during meat or dairy processing.

Anonymous for the Voiceless considers themselves to be an abolitionist group, meaning they are in favor of a complete overhaul of the meat and dairy inowns several chickens, who live inside her house as pets.

"We don't eat dogs and cats because we get to know them," Waters said. "If we just got to know chickens and cows, we wouldn't eat them."

see VEGANISM, page 4

Cassidy Bartlett is one of the 2018 Fulbright Scholarship winners. // Photo by Isabel Lay



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Senior Phoenix Tagal skateboards in Red Square on Friday, April 6. Tagal has been skateboarding off and on since he was five years old and has recently picked it back up again. // Photo by Kevin Lake

AS board meeting

Julia Berkman THE WESTERN FRONT

A new residence hall, a Buchanan Towers renovation and more Real Food are in the works, according to the Associated Students Board meeting on April 6.

The meeting began with presentation by Leonard Jones, director of University Residences, and Kurt Willis, associate director of Hous-

Jones and Willis presented on the university housing and dining rates. According to the proposed Operating Budget, the housing and dining rates have steadily increased every year. The budget shows that the 4.5 percent increase is in line with the increases made within the past five years.

With new luxury student housing popping up, Jones and Willis are focusing on how to draw students back

In order to attract students to live on campus, Willis and Jones have two goals. For the immediate future, renovation of BT will add

hotel-style keycard access to the building and rooms. In the next few years, Jones and Willis are helping plan out a new residence hall.

"We've seen that it usually costs more to renovate an old dorm than to just tear it down and build a new one," Willis said.

A forum on the new dorm construction is scheduled for May 8. Students are encouraged to attend.

According to Willis and Jones, Western has renewed their contract with Aramark for another two and half years. With Aramark, they're trying to reach a goal of of 25 percent Real Food by 2020.

Real Food is healthy food produced in a way that doesn't put a strain on the environment, those who harvest it or the animals who supply the product.

Right now, Western is hovering around 19 percent Real Food.

The motion to approve the new fees and plans passed 5-1, with AS Vice President for Diversity Erick Yanzon abstaining.

Western Reads appoints new director after six years

A look into new faculty director Molly *Ware's plans to help Western students*

Stella Harvey THE WESTERN FRONT

Molly Ware, associate professor in the Woodring College of Education, has been hired as the new faculty director of Western Reads, a program on campus that aims to build community and encourage academic conversations across departments.

Dawn Dietrich, an associate professor in the English department, said Ware will replace her as the Western Reads faculty director. Dietrich said she has enjoyed getting to see the program develop over her time as director and looks forward to seeing how Ware moves it forward.

Dietrich said she is stepping down next year, after six years as director, to finish a book project.

"I couldn't be happier," Dietrich said. "When you step down from a program you really love, you want to see it thrive and continue.

I feel that the program is in such great hands with Molly."

Brent Carbajal, provost and vice president for academic affairs, agreed with Dietrich.

In an email, Carbajal said, "as a discussion facilitator, she thinks broadly about inclusion and about how to make conversations impactful for all, not just for some.'

Ware, a former middleschool science teacher, said the interdisciplinary positions she was offered at Western have given her a unique opportunity to help students become powerful teachers for their future students.

As a professor of education at Woodring College, Ware said she has grown into a dynamic and responsive educator and community member since she first arrived at Western.

see READS, page 4

The Western Front

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Mayor Linville opens farmers' market with cabbage toss Community comes together for vegetables, handmade jewelry, coffee and more

Molly Workman THE WESTERN FRONT

On a windy spring Saturday, vendors put up tents and laid out tables as they prepared for the first Bellingham Farmers Market of the season.

Mayor Kelli Linville inaugurated the Bellingham Farmers Market with a traditional cabbage toss to Sara Southerland, the food and farming manager for Sustainable Connections.

The cabbage toss, paired with ringing bells in the Depot Market Square on April 7, ceremoniously invited members of the community to open their reusable bags to local businesses in Whatcom County.

Linville spoke at the opening ceremony about the benefits of the market and the impact it has had on the local

VANDALISM continued from page 1

Greenberg said. "These materials must be present



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economy. She spoke about growing up in Bellingham and remembering a time when the farmers market only existed in a dirt lot.

Now, the farmers market houses up to 140 vendors every weekend on a paved parking lot and in the heated depot building.

Southerland said the market's theme this year is "cultivate community all year Long."

"I want you to ask yourself, what's one thing you can do to eat local?" she said.

Ken Ambrose, a Whatcom County local, said he looks forward to the market for the farm-to-table concept.

"The fresh vegetables, man," Ambrose said. "I mean, you go down to the store and that's been their process forever, but here it's straight to the market." Market-goers can find

in an academic library." Antisemitic incidents such as the book vandalism have been frequent on Western's campus. There

anything from fresh animal products and vegetables to

handmade products, such as wool and jewelry and live enter-

tainment. Bellingham locals young and old came pouring into the market. Some were looking for a quick coffee, and

others were looking to shop for their weekly meals or specialty items such as flowers and es-

were 11 antisemitic incidents between spring quarter 2016 and winter quarter 2017, according to a report released in late March 2017

> by Western's Task Force on Preventing and Responding to Antisemitism.

I n creased antisemitism on Western's campus parallel national trends, Greenberg said. In 2017, antisemitic incidents rose by 60 percent nationwide,

The Bellingham community can now enjoy the market every Saturday from 10

according to the Anti-Defamation League, an organization that works to end negative stereotyping.

Western's task force came up with 21 recommendations to respond to the antisemitism on campus. All of the recommendations, "acknowledge [the] interconnected nature of racism, bias and hate," Western's President Sabah Randhawa said.

The first of these recommendations was to create a working definition for antisemitism, Alfers said. Western is the first university to adopt such a definition for educational purposes, she said.

Speakers at the reshelving ceremony included Greenberg, Alfers and Randhawa.

Two attendees of the event, freshmen Tova Breen Maple Street and Railroad Avenue

and Dina Slipock, said they really enjoyed the speakers. "I really appreciate what

they're doing," Breen, a Jewish student, said.

Slipock said she admired the ceremony and revitalization of the Jewish studies collections.

"I think it's really important because knowledge is power," Slipock said. "The more you know, the more you can be a smart, educated human-being out in the world.

Alfers left her audience with words of inspiration to rise against acts of hatred such as the book vandalism.

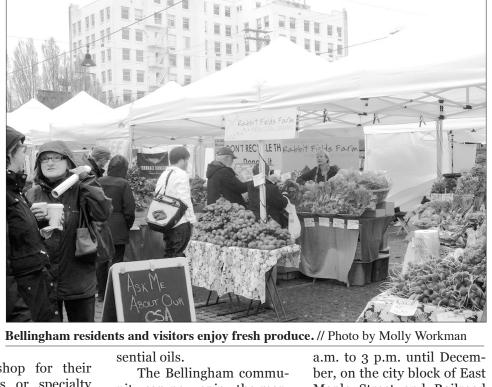
"Commit yourself to being engaged," Alfers said. "To actively, thoughtfully and respectfully building bridges, not walls, and create much needed change.'



Western students, staff and faculty came together with the community in unity against previous acts of antisemitism. // Photo by Kevin Lake

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VEGANISM continued from page 1

For some, the violent images shown were too much to handle. Several students left the site of the protest with looks of shock on their faces, including a group of visiting middle-schoolers.

"I think this is something that everyone needs to see," Wilson said. "This is the standard practice. These animals are brought into the world, and the only life they know is pain, suffering and fear."

University police were nearby throughout most of the protest.

Paul Cocke, Western's director of communications and marketing, said the protesters were cooperative with officers.

At one point, officers Todd Osborn and Derek Jones stepped into the middle schoolers' view to hand out stickers. One person in the crowd commented, "You're blocking the piece!" to which the officers did not respond.

Cocke said the officers handing out stickers is "normal community policing."

It was not the officerss intent to block the screens or prevent the children from viewing violent images, he said.

Cocke said Anonymous for the Voiceless did not receive approval to hold their protest,

READS continued from page 2

Ware said she has always been interested in changing systems and structures so they work better for everyone. Going about this involves building a community where students, staff and faculty can work together to collaborate on creative sothough Wilson has since stated they went through the necessary channels to register as a demonstration.

In an email, Anonymous for the Voiceless said they registered for their demonstration and received permission from Western Event Services Assistant Ash Peers on April 3.

"At first, we were confused [by the police presence], because we had set this up in advance hoping to be respectful of the school and its policies," Wilson said. "We understand though. The police have to keep the school safe.³

Some people believe Red Square is a free-speech protected zone, though this has recently changed and all demonstrators are re- University Police Officer Derek Jones passing out stickers to middle school students. // Photo by Julia Berkman quired to book time in advance

According to Western's rules of freedom of expression and assembly, "the university may reasonably regulate the time, place and manner of expression to ensure that it does not disrupt the university's activities or the legal rights of others."

Regardless of whether or not the demonstration was permitted by the university, it left an impression on students walking by.

Maggie Herriott, a senior who eats vegan, was in sup-

lutions.

She said she sees Western Reads as another outlet to utilize her community skills to positively impact incoming students.

"I'm an integrative thinker, and so I am really motivated to be thinking about Western's interesting challenge of wanting students to explore and try different things," Ware said.

graphic the videos were.

port of the demonstration.

consumers," she said.

mind.

"It's aggressive, but I think

that the whole meat industry

is a charade that's shown to

Herriott said if she wasn't

already vegan, she hoped this

demonstration would have

convinced her to change her

Freshman Kayla Sad-

lier was disgusted, but not

shocked, to see the the vid-

eos displayed in Red Square.

She said she supported the

demonstration despite how

Western Reads offers students and faculty the opportunity to engage in formal and informal conversations about each year's book choice through a variety of activities and events, according to the program's website.

Dietrich said book nominations from students and faculty are considered each year by a committee. The committee's selection is then provided to all firstyear and transfer students for free and can be found at a discounted rate in the bookstore.

Ware says her vision for Western Reads is going to be developed over time. Currently, she said

So you

to talk

about

race

Want

vince her to go vegan, Sadlier said

Waters said the goal is never to shame someone into changing their diet, because no one is born a vegan. Every vegan goes through the process of cutting out animal products.

"You can't shame someone if you were like them once," she said.

Wilson said this was Anonymous for the Voiceless' first demonstration in Bellingham and they have more planned for the rest of the year.

structuring events so they build off each other and having more opportunities to explore their academic interests through Western Reads could have a great impact on helping students find their way.

"I really want to center the challenge of pre-major student retention and getting students to thrive in their first-year experience at Western," Ware said.

Ware said she views Western Reads as an opportunity to bridge the divide many students and faculty members may be feeling in the current political climate. She also wants to create more ways for students to get involved in Western Reads.

"I think we're at a time where things are really divided right now, and I really see this as an opportunity to create spaces where we can start to forge new pathways," Ware said. "If Western Reads is really going to fulfill its potential, we're going to need to create really integral roles for students.'

For more information about Western Reads, visit their website http:// wp.wwu.edu/westernreads/.

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FULBRIGHT

continued from page 1 18, and will go abroad in various locations around the world.

The program, which awards about 8,000 grants annually, is an international exchange where students and professors are given money to go abroad and teach, research or study, according to the Fulbright Award website.

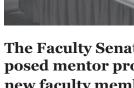
During its first year at Western in 2009, the program had seven applicants, with that number increasing to 16 in 2018.

Students can find Tom Moore, the Fellowships Office Adviser, and any information they might need on applying for fellowships and national scholarships, in the Fellowship Office in College Hall 05.

"The Fellowship Office has only been around for eight or nine years," Moore said. "Any university of this size will have had a fellowship office for 30 or 40 years. The students at [that] college are aware of the opportunities. The challenge here [at Western] is making students aware that these opportunities exist."

In the top 20 Master's institutions, Western had a 25 percent award rate. Research institutions Northwestern and Georgetown had 21 per-







Molly Ware, Western Reads' new director, plans to bridge the divide that students and faculty members may be feeling in today's current political climate. // Photo by Kevin Lake



"Obviously big companies

don't want you to see that

because then you won't buy

their products and give them

Although Sadlier eats ani-

mal products, she believes

there is a way to source it

"I've definitely been trying

to not get animal products

from places that don't source

their stuff ethically and treat

the animals with respect and

A demonstration like this

wouldn't be enough to con-

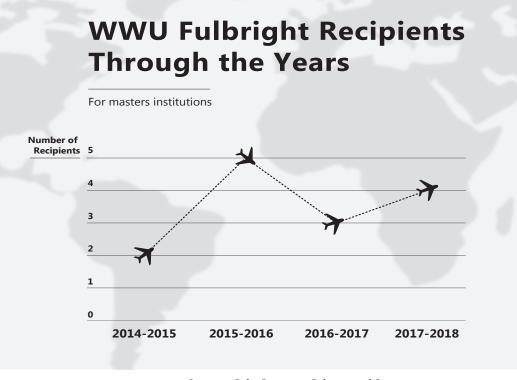
money," she said.

ethically

care," she said.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 2018 | THE WESTERN FRONT





Infographic by Sophia Greif

cent and 19 percent award rates, respectively. The top universities in cat-

egories like research institutions, rather than master's institutions where Western is ranked, have a much larger staff that contributes to their high percentage of winners, Moore said.

Michael Cavey is the public affairs specialist at the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State

"Quite a few were tied with [Western]," Cavey said. "It's a pretty good ranking."

Moore said what sets Western apart as one of the top producers is the capability of Western students to succeed.

"There's no fooling the [Fulbright] readers, they understand what good students are," Moore said.

Senior Cassidy Bartlett, a 2018 Fulbright Award winner, spent six months on the

application building a résumé, writing two personal statements, including a grant statement and a statement of purpose, and filling out the actual application.

Bartlett, an English major with a creative writing emphasis, is going to the Czech Republic for 10 months to teach.

"Just traveling doesn't seem like a genuine experience," she said. "I like the idea of actually contributing

to where you live, and I feel like that's what Fulbright allows.'

Because of the intensive application process, Bartlett felt that just applying opened up a lot of opportunities for her.

"I feel really honored because there are a lot of faculty here who are Fulbright Scholars," she said.

The Fulbright Scholarship has gained national recognition in the many years since its inception in 1946, and the prestige has become a large part of the award.

Moore said the Fulbright not only gives students the opportunity to teach and learn in another country, but it is also an accomplishment.

The award draws students to Western, according to Moore, and will persist now that Western has been named a top producer.

As for the future of the award, Moore said the upwards trend of applicants will continue, and the only thing holding them back is the staffing of the Fellowship Office.

"The Fellowship Office consists of me [part-time] and my student helper who works 10 hours a week. We would have more winners if we had a bigger staff," Moore said

Faculty Senate Committee discusses faculty retention rates

The Faculty Senate Committee discusses a proposed mentor program to assist minority and new faculty members. // Photo by Kevin Lake

Sandra Rees-Bowen THE WESTERN FRONT

Western's Senate Committee discussed initiating a mentor program to assist minority and new faculty members on Monday, April 9.

Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education Steve Vander-Staay has been heading a study for the past year that will be used to construct this program.

VanderStaay said there are studies that show how utilizing a formal mentoring program can result in the long-term retention of new faculty, and is particularly effective for minority and international faculty.

In 2009, Western released

a document titled, "Best Practices: Recruiting & Retaining Faculty and Staff of Color," which discusses examples of faculty-mentoring program successes at other universities. It states that mentoring is a critical component for professionally developing junior facultv

"It will be a highly timeconsuming and a highly beneficial program," he said.

VanderStaay said he was given great faculty to work with. One member, Samit Bordoloi, an assistant professor at the Woodring College of Education in Bellingham, has been extremely helpful, he said.

VanderStaay said Bordoloi's experience in mentoring for adults and faculty was invaluable and Bordoloi was able to recommend the model the committee is currently working with.

Bordoloi said minority faculty have been historically underrepresented and are recruited and retained at much lower rates.

This initiative is open to all new faculty and will help them as they adjust at Western, Bordoloi said.

Brent Carbajal, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, said a mentoring program is needed at Western, as it is difficult to retain minority and new faculty due to the intricate nature of university policies.

By Sandra Rees-Bowen THE WESTERN FRONT

As opioid overdoses are on the rise in Bellingham and across the Pacific Northwest, solutions have been proposed to combat deaths.

State legislators are pushing for more approaches to treat opioid addiction, including providing a place for users to reduce health risks in the form of safe-injection sites.

Whatcom County does not currently have safesites, injection but the Whatcom Health County

Department does have a pilot program that can aid opioid users. Their program, Syringe Services, offers the confidential exchange of used hypodermic needles for new, sterile syringes and clean injection equipment.

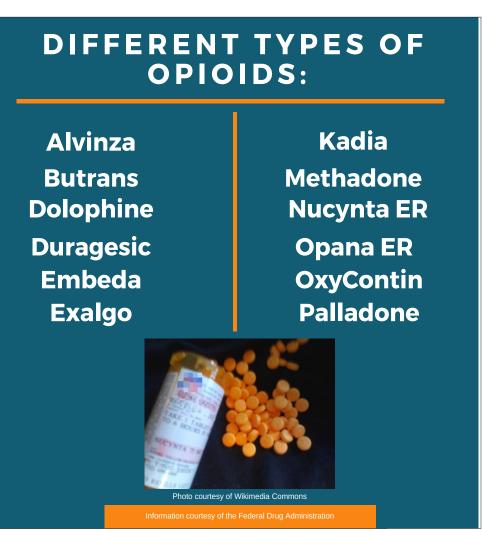
As a new program, Syringe

"Without Insite's supervised consumption services, Guy believes he would have died. He credits Insite for saving his life six times over a 10year period by its staff bringing him back from near-fatal overdoses."

> **Jean Kohl-Welles** Seattle City Councilmember

While the rate of opioidrelated deaths in Whatcom County is slightly lower than the statewide average, according to Whatcom County Health Department's 2016 Opioid Overdose Report, it's still rising.

The report found that, after



serious problem.

"Not only have opioid overdoses increased dramatically in recent years, we are see-ing a massive increase of overdoses in Whatcom County," said Charles Watras, manager of the medication-assisted treatment program at Sea Mar, a lo-

cal community health center.

Watras said need for their

services has been increasing as deaths from opioid overdoses are on the rise. He said thousands of people died last year in the United States due to opioids.

According to Jessica McAllister, Syringe Services program coordinator, currently about 80 people per week use this program, however, these numbers fluctuate depending on the time of year.

"Clients hear about our program mostly through word of mouth from their friends,' McAllister said. "But it is becoming more common forus to receive referrals from community medical providers as they become more

aware of and accepting of our program."

According to McAllister, the individuals who work or volunteer at Syringe Services, as well as the staff at Sea Mar's medication-assisted treatment program, have the same goal: to help those struggling with

and begin to lead happy and healthy lives.

King **Opioids** in County -

King County is fighting a similar battle.

According to a report by the King County Heroin and Prescription Opiate Addiction

was o n e of the members who voted for the task force's creation. She has also been an open proponent of safe-injection sites, saying that she has been particularly



The home of the Syringe Services Program at 1500 N. State St. in Bellingham. // Photo by Roisin Cowan-Kuist

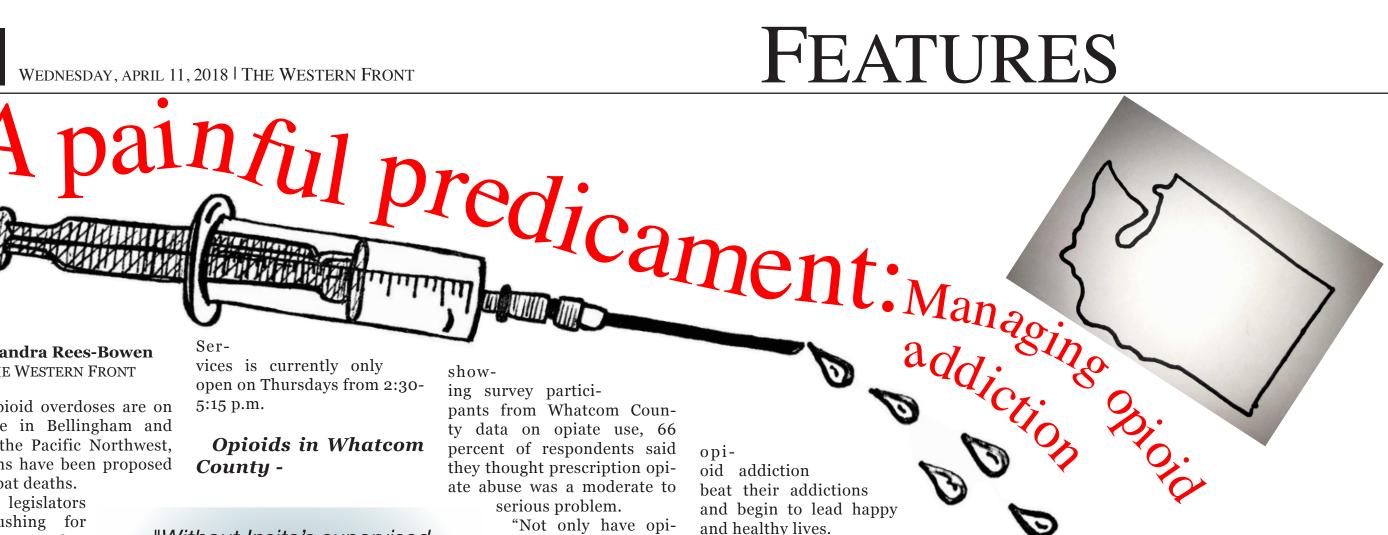
Task Force, 229 individuals died from heroin and prescription opioid overdose in King County in 2015.

While King County currently does not have safe-injection sites, there are vocal supporters of them.

Councilmember Jeanne Kohl-Welles of King County

motivated by the recent death of her nephew from an opioid overdose.

In an effort to learn more about other cities that have made safe-injection sites a reality, Kohl-Welles said she visited Vancouver, British Columbia, in Nov. 2017. Kohl-Welles accompanied



several other councilmembers as they visited two safe injection sites, a treatment facility and a day center which provides care to people experiencing homelessness and struggling with substance abuse.

Programs

like these aren't new to the Vancouver area. One supervised injection site, Insite, has been open for 15 years.

Kohl-Welles said she spoke with Guy Fellicella, a former user who credits Insite for saving his life and posted about him on her blog.

"He lived on the streets, using drugs Vancouver's in Downtown Eastside for over 20 years. Without Insite's supervised consumption services, Guy believes he would have died. He credits Insite for saving his life six times over a 10-year period by its staff bringing him back from near-fatal overdoses and by engaging him to even**QUICK NATIONAL STATISTICS**

Data from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention shows the rate at which opioids are prescribed for pain has increased dramatically since the 1990s. In fact, it has quadrupled.

According to a CDC study conducted from 2007 to 2012, one in five patients experiencing chronic pain were prescribed opioids, putting them at higher risk of addiction or overdose.

Due to the addictive nature of opioids, once those prescriptions run out, many people turn to sources other than their medical provider to obtain opioids.

The CDC reported that many users previously prescribed opioids or pain relief obtained some illegally after their prescription ran out, with 60 percent of those users getting the medication from friends or family members.

This trend gets more dangerous for users who instead get their opioids from dealers or strangers. They are four times more likely to overdose.

The King County Heroin and Prescription Opiate Addiction Task Force found that users who begin to obtain opioids illegally often turn to more dangerous alternatives when medications become too expensive or unavailable. For many users, this means heroin.



James Apa, King County Public Health Department public information officer, said while safe-injection sites

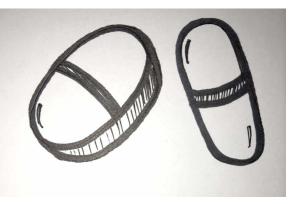
are not available at the moment, the King County Health Department has been working on making other resources more accessible.

"Recently we've been working to establish a new detox and treatment facility in King

This facility would be in addition to those currently open at Harborview Medical Center and at Schick Shadel Hospital in Seattle.

Apa said that while King County has yet to open a safe-injection site, that he and his team are striving to provide the community with crisis kits containing the opiate-overdose antidote naloxone to help

save lives in the meantime.



Resources for Whatcom County:

- Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention Programs
- Whatcom Prevention Coalition •
- www.stopoverdose.org
- Narcotics Anonymous of Northwest Washington •

tually seek treatment," Kohl- County," Apa said. Welles' blog post said.

Hungry, helpful and happening: THE BELLINGHAM FOOD BANK

By Alyssa Bruce THE WESTERN FRONT

This last year alone, staff and volunteers served an astounding 180,000 people at the Bellingham Food Bank, according to their records.

Mike Cohen, executive director of the Bellingham Food Bank, said the food bank was able to provide 3.5 million pounds of goods to the community last year.

He said these resources went to people of all ages, genders and backgrounds. As a result, the food bank was able to serve 20 percent of the Bellingham community.

Among those clients are Western students, Emilia Prosser and Gennady Ensley.

"I have been there before when I have had no food at all," Ensley said. "It is just nice to go and get food that you want to eat."

Ensley said supplies have been limited at other food banks, many of them giving away only starches, pastas and other boxed or canned foods. She said



Bank. Cohen

case

the

said he is proud of the wide variety of nutrients and selection of food options they have been able to offer the community.

"Most of the folks who come here are people who have jobs and families," Cohen said. "So the nutritional makeup of the food they get here is critical."

He said he is especially excited for the next agricultural season, because the food bank buys a lot of produce from local farms. Local bakeries, farms and other food purveyors are also major contributors to obtaining such high-quality goods for the community, Cohen said.

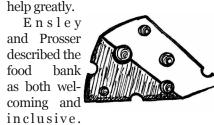
"We are one of the busiest food banks in western Washington," Cohen said. "But we also generate a tremendous amount of support from our local community, so we are able to keep up."

Ensley and Prosser said they were impressed with the quality and variety.



The glowing lights of the Bellingham Food Bank on Ellis Street. // Photo by October Yates

On a recent trip, they said they found lots of fresh fruit, milk, eggs and even an entire tri-tip steak. Ensley said the food bank also offers essential non-food items like toilet paper or even pet food that



They said part of that positive vibe comes from the volunteers who help run it.

Among those volunteers was Patrice Anderson, a friendly woman with silver hair. Packing up boxes full of goods, Anderson said she has been volunteering at the food bank for a few years.

Though she worked in retail for 37 years, the engaging atmosphere of the food bank has made her never want to leave. So many people want to be involved that volunteer positions are limited and it can take a while for one to open up because it is such a positive place to be, Anderson said.

"The rewarding part is knowing how appreciated it is," Anderson said. "Some of the same people come through the line, and they are still so thankful every

The general consensus among employees and volunteers is that the food bank is ultimately succeeding in its efforts to help the community, but they are able to do so only because of the support they receive from the Bellingham community.

Cohen said the food bank is regularly taking donations at their location on Ellis Street where they

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also provide goods three days a week. Anderson said the only requirement to receive goods is to provide a piece of mail to prove their residency

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in Bellingham. They can return once every week as needed.

For Ensley, this is a great system compared to other

food banks she has visited. Some require extensive paperwork and allow resources to be received on a MOLK monthly basis, she said.

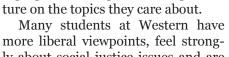
Cohen said that the Bellingham

Food Bank serves the young, the old, families and students regardless of background, with the most important part being that they reach as many people as possible.

"We are a friendly place," Cohen said. "Everyone is welcome here and we try to serve people with as much dignity as possible.'

vices provided

free of charge



more liberal viewpoints, feel strongly about social justice issues and are not shy about sharing their ideas and opinions.

It's no surprise that universities are hotspots for public demonstrations. Protests spread ideas and knowledge, which educational institutions are dedicated to, and allow people to channel their frustration and passion into action.

These demonstrations are a critical step in calling for change, but too often they are a crescendo in a movement that dies down soon after. It's easy for people to go out in Red Square, draw attention to the issue they're championing and go home because they're not sure how to move forward after that.

Protests act as a rallying cry and bring power, enthusiasm and sheer numbers to a cause but change requires a persistent, well-organized movement targeting specific concerns and providing a path forward.



Liam Bateman Junior

"If it is unorganized and the message is not clear I do not think that it does a whole lot. But when people are able to come together and really form a movement it brings a lot of attention to really important issues. The university is supposed to serve the students, so I think that if the students are able to show that they are unhappy with something it can really make a difference."



time."

Whatcom County Pregnancy Clinic

9 | OPINION

FRONTLINE

Opinions of the Editorial Board

Spring into action: Movements for change need more than protests

Student protests at Western are nothing new. From campus safety to climate change, students gather in Red Square throughout the year holding signs, chanting and sharing litera-

Historically, Western's administration has not changed policies in response to protests alone. When students have petitioned for change, the university has taken action when a targeted and organized campaign accompanied protests.

A group of RAs succeeded in pressuring the administration to address issues concerning fair compensation for their work when they put forth a strong campaign outlining issues and demanding specific solutions. They wrote a targeted letter to university officials including concerns about sexual harassment and student safety in dorms and created a website to aid their campaign with a list of testimonies and specific demands.

The students came in with a strategic plan and included solutions they wanted the administration to implement. They utilized protests to raise awareness of their movement, and the university paid attention because the students had a clear, organized plan of action to target the relevant officials and elicit a response.

In the end, the university raised wages and took steps to provide more support for RAs but their response to other concerns like resident safety were still inadequate.

A years-long student movement calling on the university to divest from fossil fuels included protests, sit-ins, open letters to university officials, a divestment resolution given to the AS Board of Directors and a presentation to the Western Foundation Board of Directors and officials involved with managing Western's investments.

The university finally responded by including language in the 2017 Sustainability Action Plan to consider environmental, social and governance criteria when selecting investments in the future. It took years of students organizing and pushing for change in many different ways to get those who manage Western's investments to make any changes.

It takes a lot of effort to sustain a movement and plan an organized strategy for activism when students have classes and extracurricular activities to juggle, and are graduating and moving on every quarter.

Even when students have created a cohesive and direct campaign and gotten the university to respond with action, that action has often been lackluster.

Protesting in Red Square is a great start, but the university needs to be convinced they will be negatively affected if they do not take student concerns seriously, which is why voting and encouraging civic engagement is such an important part of activism.

While students are certainly a primary concern for the university, funding is also a motivator for institutional change, and Western is funded in large part by taxpayer dollars allocated by the state legislature.

State legislators will pay attention to student concerns if they think it will affect whether or not they are re-elected – if they think students will vote.

Voting in state elections is critical for citizens because state legislators determine our access to everything from healthcare to financial aid. While national politics are important, decisions made at the state and local level have a more direct and immediate effect on our lives.

History shows that power will not be given easily – it must be fought for. It becomes more important every day for citizens to advocate for change and hold those in power accountable for their words and actions.

Protesting is a critical first step in demanding action, but it's unlikely to be effective unless it's followed with dedication, perseverance and a specific plan of action.

The Western Front Editorial Board is composed of Taylor Nichols, Kira Erickson and Eric Trent

Viking Voices

Do you think student demonstrations are effective?



Meghan Morrison Senior

"I definitely do. I think university is the perfect place to develop your voice because we are just now walking out into the adult world. Protests are definitely a way of developing our own opinions and our own voices and becoming independent beings. I think they are very effective and should definitely be allowed."



Joe Giordano Senior

"Yes, I think peaceful, thought out and well-executed protests can be effective but if the protests are fueled purely by anger or outrage then that can lead to actions that are counterproductive to what the initial cause could be.'

Rachel Rothberg Sophomore

"I think they can be, yeah. I know that sometimes I have been not aware of some issues and then somebody will stand out in Red Square and talk about them, and it will open my eyes to things that are going on in the world that I didn't necessarily know about. I also think that being part of a protest can be effective in learning more about it."

SPORTS | 10

Making waves on stage

Women's rower Carly Lant is a member of Western's improv troupe, the Dead Parrot's Society

Ian Haupt THE WESTERN FRONT

Audience members lie back in their seats, giggling as they gaze up at a domed screen. A comedy show at a planetarium?

That's where Carly Lant and the Dead Parrots Society performed a niche show Feb. 23. Improv scenes and stand-up routines were based on what was shown on the planetarium screen.

Lant, a sophomore at Western, competes on the women's varsity rowing team and performs improv and stand-up comedy regularly on campus.

"The end-all, be-all dream you could say, is to do something in comedy," Lant said.

She said the Dead Parrots Society, Western's improv troupe, was a big draw for her in deciding to come to Western. After attending open rehearsals put on by the troupe, she was called up to the performance team, an elite group of nine, last fall.

Lant began her comedy career by joining her high school's improv club. Bainbridge High School's club was student run and consisted of seven members. They rented their own spaces for shows, charging \$7 a person.

"And on occasion we made money from it, so it was cool," Lant said.

A friend from her high school improv troupe influenced her choice. She ran into him over winter break last year. He told her to try standup. She said a week later he was



Carly Lant is a sophomore on the women's rowing team and a member of the Dead Parrots Society. Lant's first time doing stand-up was at Western's Last Comic Standing. // Photo courtesy of Carly Lant

killed in a car accident on his way back to school. After that, she said she had to give it a shot.

Lant's first time doing stand-up was at Western's Last Comic Standing competition last year. She won. As a prize, she opened for comedian Ron Funches.

Lant joined the rowing team last year as a walk-on. She began rowing in high school, where her father

taught her to row at her school's Learn to Row Day.

Rowing is a family tradition in the Lant household. Her father, Mitch, rowed for Western in the 1970s. Her older brother, Henry, took it up in high school, and Lant followed in their footsteps.

"Carly is a natural athlete," John Fuchs, head coach of Western's women's rowing team, said in an

email. "She listens well, and brings a grinny comedic sense to the team." The Vikings are the defending NCAA Division II Women's Rowing national champions and are currently ranked No. 1.

Adele Houston, a new coxswain on the team, said Lant has helped her with her transition into the sport.

"She's a freaking goof!" Houston said.

Lant was competitive with her older brother. She said she developed her sense of humor by trying to best him.

She said she looks up to the late actor and comedian Chris Farley because of his commitment. Her uncle, Hal Smith, was also a big influence on her.

"He's just the funniest guy alive," she said.

She strived to make him laugh growing up. Her uncle performed stand-up throughout college and now writes for The Seattle Times.

Lant said she avoids using political or sexual humor on stage. She said her material is based around nostalgia instead. One of her past bits was on the television show "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition."

She opened the notes section of her phone and scrolled through a bunch of joke ideas.

"These are all just premises," she said. "There's not a lot of bulk involved, but it's just anything that you could potentially beef up and make a joke out of. If you analyze something enough you can make a joke out of it."

Softball team drops final two home games Western sits in 7 of 8 teams in the GNAC with less than a month until playoffs

Drew Stuart THE WESTERN FRONT

The Western women's softball team lost its final two home games of the regular season to Saint Martin's University Monday, April 9.

sit in seventh out of eight teams in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference with less than a month left until the GNAC Championships in Portland.

Two successive RBIs by the Saints in the top of the first inning of game one spelled a loss for the Vikings.

After getting shut out in a tripleheader against Montana State University Billings March 30, junior Shearyna Labasan knew they had to step up to beat the Saints.

"We just wanted to make sure to get our defense to work," Labasan said. "I think we did a good job overall."

Despite freshman Kira Doan's tough pitching, the Saints scored two runs in the top of the first inning. The Saints' batting was good, but not good enough to overcome Doan's excellent pitching as the game wore on.

Saint Martin's senior pitcher Kim Nelson was tough to hit. However, sophomore Paityn Cyr smacked a homerun in the bottom of the second inning, bringing the score from 2-0 to 2-1.

by the Vikings, the Saints' infielding made them worthy opponents. Most of the balls put in play were quickly scooped up, putting an increased importance on outfield hits for the Vikings.



Western to host wheelchair basketball tournament

Colton Redtfeldt THE WESTERN FRONT

Western will be hosting a 3-on-3 wheelchair basketball tournament for people of all abilities on April 14 at Wade King Student Recreation Center.

Kip Leonetti, administrative assistant for the Campus Recreation Department, said that the department planned the event because they had seen more students playing basketball in wheelchairs than ever before.

Leonetti said the tournament is Western's first wheelchair-accessible basketball tournament. Faculty and community members over 15 years old are also allowed to participate.

Leonetti said people can register in teams of three-to-four or as free agents. The 20-minute games

will be played on a half court and sports wheelchairs will be provided to those who need them by the tournament coordinators, according to Leonetti.

Registration is free for Western students and costs \$10 for others. Leonetti said proceeds from the event will go toward promoting more adaptive sports opportunities at Western like goalball, a team sport for visually impaired players that uses a ball with a bell embedded in it, and innertube water polo.

Registration can either be done online at IMLeagues.com or by filling out a registration form at the rec center's front desk.

Lisa Osadchuk, a senior outdoor recreation major, is one of the students planning the event. At age 30, she developed Cushing's disease, a rare disease caused by an overproduction of the hormone cortisol.

Before being diagnosed, Osadchuk coached a Special Olympics speed skating team and volunteered with an adaptive horseback riding program. After being diagnosed, she has been participating in local wheelchair sports.

"Many times we don't feel [like] a part of the campus community because events aren't inherently setup for us to attend," Osadchuk said. "For us to actually have an event that is all inclusive, that we don't necessarily have to make arrangements for, we can just show up and play and bring our ablebodied friends to, is huge."

Osadchuk said she hopes that events like the tournament will help bring people together, disabled or not.

"It's really important for students with disabilities on campus to feel like a part of the community and to have that full college-experience," Osadchuk said. "I encourage everybody to come and try it out, even if they have never played or heard about it. They might like it, they might not. But they might really enjoy it because, let's be honest, most sports are more fun on wheels."

"...let's be honest, most sports are more fun on wheels."

> Lisa Osadchuk Western senior

The Vikings (12-26, 6-13 GNAC)

Despite several excellent at-bats

After the second inning, both teams came close to scoring. A steady supply of fly balls and ineffective bunts by both teams kept the game rolling.

The Saints' infielding was airtight, and the Vikings were los-

"We needed to find gaps instead of people's gloves."

Amy Suiter Softball head coach

ing steam. At several points in the game, bases were given up with two errors made by the Vikings, while multiple failed catches allowed the Saints to advance across the bases.

Nelson kept the pressure on for the Saints, often drawing out at-bats with a series of dizzying pitches that kept the Vikings on their toes.

Doan was no slouch either. Doan consistently forced batters into hitting fly balls to the outfield. Neither team scored after the

second inning. The 2-1 score at the end of the second became final after both the Vikings and the Saints failed to score in the seventh inning.

Doan recognized the Vikings weren't hitting quite the way they

Western softball team members hold hands before a game against Saint Martin's on Monday, April 9 at Viking Field. Western lost both games by one run. // Photo by Katie Webber

Freshman Kira Doan throws a pitch against Saint Martin's on Monday, April 9 at Viking Field. // Photo by Nick Sadigh

wanted.

"We hit it hard, but we hit it right to them a lot," Doan said.

Western's head coach Amy Suiter agreed with Doan. "We needed to find gaps instead

of people's gloves," Suiter said. In the second game of the dou-

bleheader, Western dropped another one-run game, 3-2.

The loss allowed the Saints (19-14, 9-7 GNAC) to sweep the Vikings despite Western putting up a good fight.

Labasan struck out three batters and gave up 10 hits over the course of the two-hour game.

Labasan went into the game knowing she needed to be flexible against the Saints and described her mindset after the game.

"I would say just mixing it up," Labasan said.

Labasan's style allowed for three runs by the Saints, but the game was close throughout.

Doan sympathized with Labasan's situation.

"They're all really good hitters," Doan said. "So it was about not letting them hit hard.'

Labasan found herself with loaded bases at the top of the first inning, but a fly ball to the outfield allowed the Vikings to escape without any runs scored.

In the bottom of the second inning, Doan and Labasan were on third and second base respectively, but were unable to score.

It wasn't until the top of the third inning that any runs were scored. The Saints scored their first run on a hit to right field, allowing Saint Martin's junior Lauren Diuco to score.

However, the Vikings quickly

responded. Labasan hit a double down the left-field line and, after stealing third base, scored a run for the Vikings after freshman Rylie Wales hit a single to center field.

Unfortunately, the Saints scored an additional two runs the following inning. With the score now 3-1 at the top of the fourth inning, the Vikings needed to even the playing field.

Labasan came through once again with a single to left field that plated freshman Lauren Lo.

Labasan ended the game with a batting average of .405, getting a hit and both runs for the Vikings.

Neither side could translate hits into runs in the final two innings. After a few quick exchanges of line drives and fly balls, the game was over.

SEASON STATS

.251(8th)
125 (7th)
201 (8th)
58 (7th)
249 (7th)

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