

Student arrested on suspicion of second-degree rape in Nash Hall

Julia Berkman
THE WESTERN FRONT

CW: Sexual Assault

A freshman student was arrested on suspicion of second-degree rape of a 19-year-old student at Nash Hall

in the early morning of Saturday, April 28, according to Paul Cocks, director of communications and marketing at Western.

After being arrested by University Police, Isaiah William Dowd-

ing-Albrecht, 19, was booked into Whatcom County jail that morning, according to the jail roster. He was released on \$20,000 bail Sunday afternoon, according to county records.

The survivor is working with the Equal Opportunity Office, according to Cocks. In the meantime, Dowding-Albrecht is temporarily evicted from Nash Hall and is temporarily trespassed from all res-

idence halls. He may return to campus and attend classes pending his investigation from the EOO, Cocks said.

This story will continue to be updated as more information becomes available.

Blue Group takes City Hall, advocates for immigrants' rights

Drew Stuart
THE WESTERN FRONT

Undocumented students and other supporters took over City Hall, advocating for the Bellingham Municipal Court to turn the town into a sanctuary city on Thursday, April 26.

The demonstration featured students demanding stronger protections for undocumented immigrants in Bellingham. Many of the protesters were Western students who feel their city has not done enough to protect its residents.

Blue Group, an Associated Students group that supports undocumented students in their academic careers at Western, led the protest. Attendees adorned the steps of City Hall with signs decrying U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and supporting immigrants' rights.



Maru Mora-Villalpando, a local immigration activist, addressed the City Council and her battle with ICE at the demonstration on April 26. // Photo by Drew Stuart

Victoria Matey, a spokesperson for Blue Group, said not enough was being done for undocumented students and immigrants in Bellingham.

"Right now, multiple community members are at risk of be-

ing deported," Matey said. "City Council isn't doing anything about it."

Several speakers took to the steps with megaphones in hand. Matey spoke at length about the hardships that come with being undocumented, as did other members of Blue Group, a student from Whatcom Community College and more.

Members of the Socialist Alternative, a group from Western, also attended the protest in support of undocumented students.

The protest drew attention to the dangers of border crossing. A monument outside city hall was

erected for people to pay their respects to the migrants who lost their lives crossing the U.S.-Mexico border.

Over 400 migrants died on their journey to the United States in 2017, according to a press release from the International Organization for Migration.

In February 2017, the City Council passed an ordinance instructing local police forces not to enforce federal immigration laws or collaborate with ICE. However, it stopped short of officially calling Bellingham a sanctuary city.

Many of the protesters felt that this action was a mistake.

Prior to the ordinance, Matey and fellow members of Blue Group told the City Council that becoming an official sanctuary city was the best course of action, according to a 2016 Bellingham Herald article.

Cindy Marquina-Negrete, a Blue Group member, said their version of the ordinance would've been better for undocumented immigrants in Bellingham.

While there is no concrete legal definition of what a sanctuary city is, many of the student protesters

see BLUE GROUP, page 2

ON THE INSIDE:

Features: Power through spring quarter with helpful study tips // p. 10-11

Opinion: City continues to fail undocumented community in silence on deportation issues // p. 15

Sports: Men's and women's track finishes first at last home meet of the season // p. 19



Western signs brief supporting DACA

Nicole Martinson
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western has signed onto an amicus brief challenging the Trump administration's ending of the Deferred Action for Child Arrivals program.

The document, signed by Western and 70 other member institutions of the Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration, opposes the decision to end DACA.

According to the brief for "amici curiae" (submitted with the intent of influencing the court), the rescinding of DACA is not only harmful to the country but specifically higher education institutions. It explains that since the implementation of the program, DACA has

see DACA, page 4



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A student takes a nap in the sun at the top of "Stadium Piece" on Monday, April 30. Temperatures in Bellingham are slowly climbing and expected to reach the 70s by the end of the week. // Photo by Kevin Lake

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Have story ideas?
Email us at

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to send them our way or discuss sharing information confidentially.

Corrections

In last week's issue, on the students ending homelessness story, Emily Jackson was improperly credited for the photos. Grace Parziale took the photos.

Localizing the opioid epidemic

Experts say services are lacking and addicts are turning to illegal substances

This story is one of a three-part collaborative report on the opioid epidemic by Melissa McCarthy, Rahwa Hailemariam and Katie Meier. They collectively obtained and analyzed data, and interviewed sources.

Melissa McCarthy
THE WESTERN FRONT

Editor's note: Names of individuals suffering or recovering from drug addiction have been changed to respect their privacy and protect them from any possible legal ramifications.

He can't remember, but has since been told that he'd turned a violent shade of blue as he lay unconscious in the car on the side of a Bellingham road.

Moments before, he had used heroin for the first time in weeks, but had adjusted his intake for his reduced tolerance. Something else must have been cut with the drug. All he remembers is being extremely disoriented and realizing something was wrong.

The next thing he knew, he was surrounded by paramedics. He had just received four shots of naloxone, an emergency treatment in cases of opioid overdose, to bring him back from the brink of death.

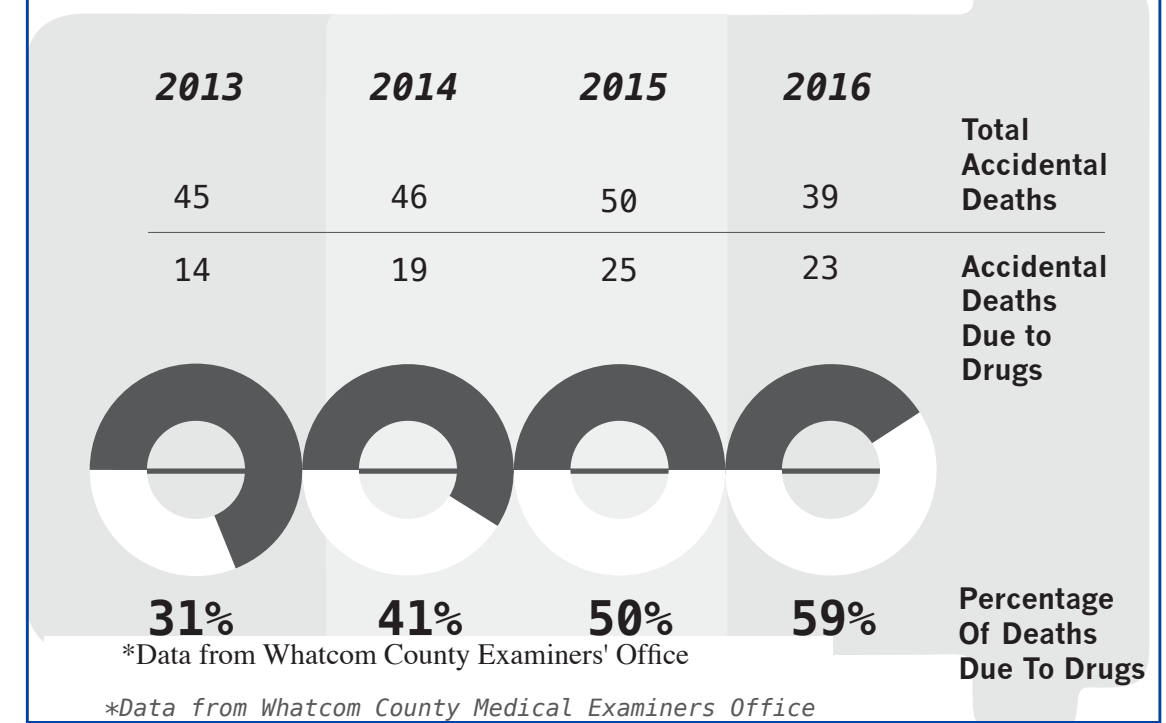
approximately nine percent each year for the past four years. In 2016, 59 percent of all accidental deaths investigated by the Whatcom County Medical Examiner were found to be drug overdoses, up from 50 percent the year prior.

From 2006 to 2016, the annual reports consistently showed that heroin and other opiates were the leading substances found in toxicology reports postmortem, except for 2007 and 2013 which did not specify the prevalence of different types of drugs.

This only includes drug overdoses found to be accidental. Accidental deaths include drug overdoses, motor vehicle accidents, fires, falls, etc. The Medical Examiner also investigates suicides, homicides and other suspicious circumstances of death.

In Bellingham, opiate abuse differs from the national narrative. The prevalence of heroin on death certificates illustrates that this

Drugs and Death in Whatcom County



Infographic by Sophia Greif

County Councilmember Todd Donovan said the impacts of opiate addiction are at the individual level, in the criminal justice system, in emergency medical responses, along with many other implications. On April 10, the Whatcom County Council voted unanimously to enter into a contract to file a lawsuit against Purdue Pharma, Endo Pharmaceuticals and Janssen Pharmaceuticals for their damage to public health.

"A lot of this is a result of not just the opioid addictions, but the heroin addictions that came from the opioid addictions," Donovan said. "Hopefully we'll get financial resources to fund programs in response to the addiction crisis that these companies, we think, are responsible for."

The lawsuit is being drafted by a Seattle based-firm, Keller Rohrbach L.L.C., and aims to hold these companies accountable for the public health crisis that is accused of being a direct result of their marketing strategies which led to misinformation and overprescription.

Donovan hopes the public dollars spent on services to help treat this public health crisis will be compensated by these companies.

In the meantime, funding toward services and treatment options are present, but far from meeting the need, Brian Wilson, manager of emergency services at St. Joseph Medical Center, said.

"It's going to get a lot bigger before it gets better," he speculated.

Opioid addiction manifests locally
National headlines characterize opioid use in American as an epidemic, but that characterization from the mouth of a struggling addict makes one truly realize the magnitude of the problem.

"It's an epidemic out here. It's a full-blown epidemic," said Suzanne, a 25-year-old

female who regularly uses both heroin and methamphetamine. She is just entering Whatcom Drug Court, where she will be directed to treatment and long-term strategies for coping with substance abuse disorder. She will also have her drug-related felony charges absolved upon completion of this program.

"Some of us are lucky," Suzanne said. "We get to go to Drug Court and get help. Ending up in jail over and over, that doesn't help anyone."

Suzanne started using as a coping method after the death of her boyfriend. Yvonne Prouty, spoke care navigator at Cascade Medical Advantage and counselor at Whatcom Community Detox, said the majority of individuals she encounters struggling or recovering from drug addiction use heroin in combination with another drug.

Washington State Department of Health death reports shows that the combination of opiates and methamphetamine is extremely common, as is the combination of opiates and benzodiazepines, a class of drug often prescribed for treating anxiety, insomnia and epilepsy.

Read the full story at westernfrontonline.com

AS elections begin

Polls have opened for the Associated Students board positions.

Voting opened Monday, April 30, and closes Friday, May 4.

Three of the seven positions are uncontested, including AS President, VP for Business and Diversity and VP for Diveristy.

Positions with multiple candidates include VP for Academic Affairs,

VP for Activities, VP for Governmental Affairs and VP for Student Life.

You can vote online at <http://wwu.edu/vote> with your Western universal login.

For more information on the candidates, visit westernfrontonline.com

If you have any questions, contact AS Elections Coordinator Francesca Cruz at as.elections@wwu.edu

Service and Activities Fee Committee update

Chelsea Smiley
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Services and Activities Committee agreed to propose a 4 percent increase, about \$8 per student, to the Services and Activities Fee at an open hearing on Tuesday, April 24.

The increase will go toward the Student Loan Fund, housing, dining and a music copyright fee.

The Services and Activities fee would raise from \$209.50

per student, per quarter, to \$217.50.

The committee will prepare a document for Melynda Huskey, vice president for enrollment and student services, to either accept or reject.

The committee can then appeal the decision before the Board of Trustees meeting in June, Sara Wilson, assistant to the vice president for enrollment and student services, said.

BLUE GROUP

continued from page 1

said they felt formally labeling Bellingham as a sanctuary city would make them feel safer.

Maru Mora-Villalpando, a local immigrant-rights activist, spoke at the protest. Her speech addressed both the City Council and her battle with ICE.

"ICE continues destroying our families and our communities," Mora-Villalpando said. "They're relentless."

ICE was formed in 2003 as a part of the U.S. Department of Homeland security. ICE conducted 226,119 removals of immigrants in 2017, according to its website.

In January 2018, ICE issued Mora-Villalpando a notice to appear, marking the beginning of deportation proceedings against her. Mora-Villalpando has lived in the United States since 1996 and does not have a criminal record. Her daughter, Josefina

Mora, is a Western student.

Mora-Villalpando said the City Council needs to adopt stronger measures to protect not just herself, but all undocumented residents living in the city.

The protest came to a close at 1 p.m., but Matey said Blue Group wouldn't stop fighting for the rights of undocumented immigrants living in the United States.

"I hope people see the urgency in what is happening," Matey said.

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Sexual harassment program aims to educate students and faculty

Isabel Lay
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Equal Opportunity Office has spearheaded a sexual harassment prevention training program which includes a class and access to Haven, an online sexual violence and harassment training.

Haven, which Western started requiring for faculty and students in 2015, was created in 2013 by EverFi, an education technology company. It was introduced as a way for campuses to educate students on sexual harassment and promote prevention.

Rob Buelow is the vice president of prevention education for EverFi.

"We worked with the nation's leading prevention experts to base the course on research and best practices, specifically bystander intervention and social norms," Buelow said in an

email. "It's great to see such strong results in these areas, given their importance to prevention."

In addition to Haven, the Equal Opportunity Office also implemented a mandatory two-hour in-person training session for faculty. L.K. Langley, manager of Equal Opportunity Programs, leads the training.

"Sometimes, doing good trainings, in some ways, means that reports go up, because people are coming from a lifetime of acculturation that influences how we engage and think about these issues," Langley said.

Langley said in an email that people become more aware of their rights, reporting responsibilities, and where to go for assistance.

As for which is more effective, the class or training, Langley said that both were equally valuable and



The prevention and wellness center offers pamphlets and resources to students on Tuesday, April 24. // Photo by Roisin Cowan-Kuist

offered different kinds of education.

"We've gotten a lot of feedback over the years, especially from faculty

who say, 'I kind of came begrudgingly to this and I

actually got a lot out of it,' they said.

[Read the full story at westernfrontonline.com](http://westernfrontonline.com)

Academic dishonesty at Western: is there a solution?

This story is one of a three-part collaborative report on academic dishonesty by James Egaran, Logan Portteus and Hailey Palmer. They collectively obtained and analyzed data, and interviewed sources.

James Egaran
THE WESTERN FRONT

A professor has a box of tissues nearby as they wait for the student to walk into their office. The conversation is going to be painful for both of them and the student may end up crying because they fear it will affect their lives negatively.

After the student arrives and sits down, the professor's office becomes filled with feelings of anxiety. It is a position no college student should ever want to be in. A conversation of cheating.

"Once I see the fear in their eyes, I try to frame it as a learning opportunity," Environmental Studies Associate Professor Rebekah Paci-Green said.

At Western, academic dishonesty rates have been continuously rising from the academic years 2012-17, according to the academic dishonesty reports from Melinda Assink, assistant to the provost and secretary for the Academic Honesty Board.

In the 2012-17 academic years, the overall total of consequences given was 515. The top three consequences were 206 reports of 0 on the assignment, 114 reports of F as a final grade in the course

and 36 reports of zero on the exam.

From the enrollment data provided by Assistant Director of Institutional Research Sharon Schmitz by public records request, the academic dishonesty data was organized by department, by type of cheating. From there, the enrollment data helped determine what the top five departments were by rate percentage per enrollment

data and Academic Dishonesty Incident Reports were obtained by a public records request through Western. According to the data from academic years 2012-18, the top five methods of cheating were 159 reports of plagiarism, 106 reports of cheated on test, 94 reports of unauthorized collaboration, 86 reports of submitted another student's work and 39 reports of unauthorized resources.

When an academic dishonesty report is filed against a student, it is up to the student to decide to appeal it or not. From a professor's perspective, it requires filing a report, meeting with the student and going through an uncomfortable conversation about the assignment or exam on which they have been accused of cheating on.

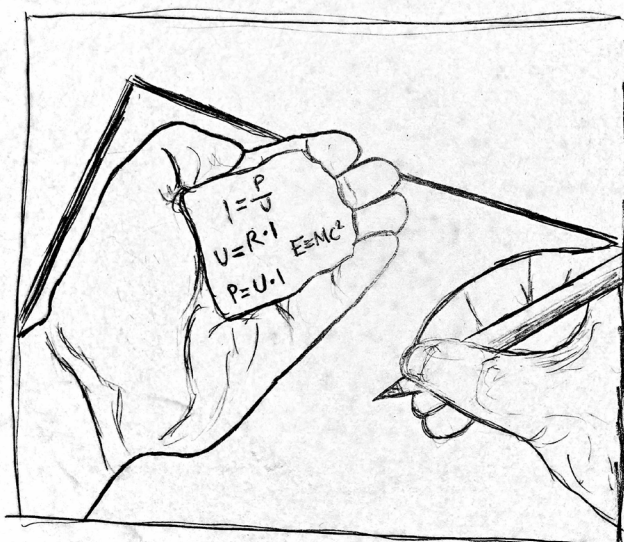
There are different reasons why a student decides to cheat on an assignment or exam. It can be due to stress, not being prepared or simply the student is just plain being lazy.

amount.

From academic years 2000-17 the top five departments with the academic dishonesty highest rates are finance and marketing, computer science, journalism, math and environmental studies.

The academic dishonesty

[Read the full story at westernfrontonline.com](http://westernfrontonline.com)



DACA continued from page 1

benefited thousands of universities and students.

Western President Sabah Randhawa signed on as a member of the Presidents' Alliance a few months after updating Western's diversity-related initiatives, according to the President's Office website.

"Western, like many other institutions, is greatly enriched by the contributions our undocumented students make to campus life, and we are committed to helping them be successful," President Randhawa said in a Western Today article.

According to the amicus brief, after DACA was rescinded in September and the district court ordered the program be maintained, multiple lawsuits were filed challenging the government's original decision to end DACA. Collectively and under the Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration, more than 70 university and college leaders signed onto the brief to support those challenging the end of DACA.

The brief provides insight to the court on the decisions surrounding DACA. According to the brief, "DACA students contribute immeasurably to our campuses... to campus diversity, a key component of the educational experience... [the] rescission of DACA will harm American colleges and universities."

Miriam Feldblum, executive director at the Presidents' Alliance, said she sees DACA recipients as an integral population of student bodies. As the program allows students to access this education while

working, she said it opens doors that those students wouldn't have otherwise.

"The integral role that DACA plays is that it enables a larger number of Dreamer students to actually access higher education, to be able to stay at colleges and universities because they can work," Feldblum said.

When the goal is to have access to education for all, she said, DACA is vital to our communities.

"I think that there is a great urgency across the country for students, faculty and staff to pay attention to the contributions of immigrants on college campuses and in our communities," she said.

Western students also see the urgency to immerse themselves in a diverse and accepting culture. Sophomore Kris Tsuchiyama agrees with Western signing onto a cause that helps "more people try to make this country better."

"Western students should care [about the brief] because, as students, we do get a lot out of being a campus that supports Dreamers. I think a big thing that Western signing onto the briefing does is that it shows we are now advocating with Dreamers," Tsuchiyama said.

Feldblum said supporting these students can be done by increasing awareness and resources. She said that when you explain "why this program really matters," you should bring in research and narrative to the benefits of the program.

"The question of immigration itself is such a high priority. Not just for higher education, but really for the United States," Feldblum said.

Allegiant Airlines faces criticism for aircraft failures

Studies show Allegiant planes are over three times more likely to have serious in-flight mechanical problems

Alyssa Bruce
The Western Front

Allegiant Airlines, one of the primary flight providers at the Bellingham International Airport, is facing scrutiny from customers, Congress and manufacturing professionals after years of consistent delays and safety concerns.

Over the last two years, the low-cost carrier has had more than 100 significant mechanical incidents, including hydraulic leaks, exposure to dangerous fumes in the cabin and mid-air engine failures, according to their safety records.

Peter Haug, a Western professor and the director of the manufacturing and supply chain management department, said this company produces profits and keeps ticket prices down by flying older, used aircrafts.

Haug said it can be reasonably affordable to remodel the interior of a plane, making the aircraft seem as good as new to the regular traveler.

"As long as you have a new interior, bright colors, new side panels, new seats, you think, 'oh this is like a brand new plane,' but it probably is not," Haug said.

Allegiant planes have been over three times more likely to have serious in-flight mechanical failures than other companies, according to safety records filed with the Flight Aviation Administration.

These planes on average are 22.9 years old, meaning they use the fourth-oldest planes of any commercial fleet internationally, according to flight crash documents.

Haug said he was surprised the FAA has seen these statistics and not done a further investigation into

how Allegiant is operating their maintenance to inspire any sort of change. The FAA did investigate Allegiant in 2016, but their investigation ended with no major enforcement actions, according to Mike Hogan, the administrator of public affairs for the Port of Bellingham.

"Allegiant has been servicing Bellingham International Airport for nearly 14 years with no major safety events at the airport," Hogan said. He also said Bellingham is ranked first for on-time performance with Allegiant Airlines.

Yet customers remain unhappy with Allegiant Airlines. Senior Kailee Hickey said she will never fly Allegiant again after a bad experience in 2013.

"We went through four planes," Hickey said. "We were delayed, I believe, five hours. They kept saying we were having mechanical issues and then they did not have the flight crew. It was nuts. Who does that?"

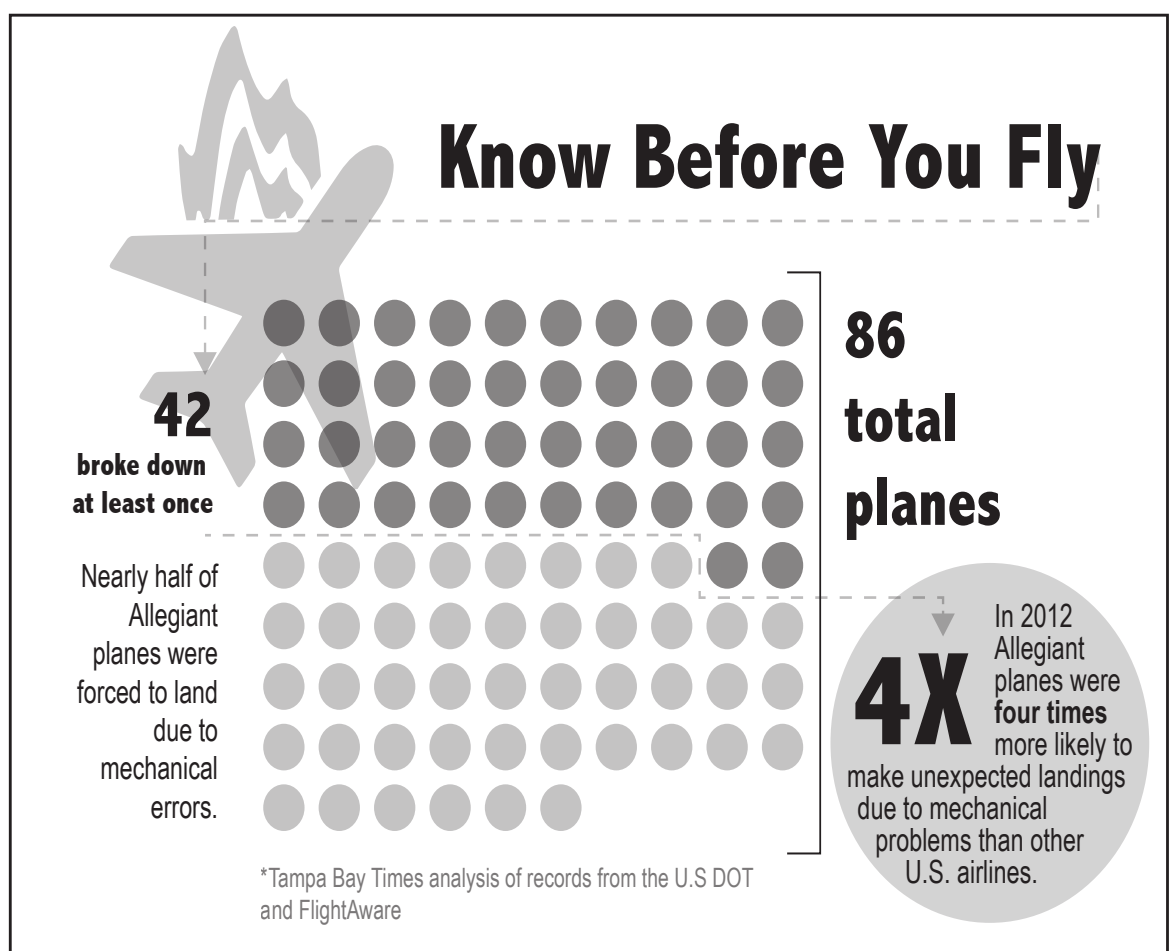
Hickey said her family was not given any compensation for their inconvenience.

"I really hope they have changed over time because it really scared my family," Hickey said.

Statistics show that the company has not improved their operations since Hickey's experience.

Within a 48-hour period in July, 11 aircrafts leaving Las Vegas faced delays or cancellations, according to flight records.

"Allegiant's planes are older. They are going to take more work," Haug said. "What are the qualifications of the mechanics? Are they really that well-trained to be able to predict when a particular component might need to be replaced, or do they have to always wait until it fails?"



Infographic by Sophia Grief

In 1996 a commercial plane with a company by the name of ValueJet crashed into the Everglades after a maintenance contractor mishandled oxygen generators, leading to an ignition in the cargo area. The crash killed all 110 passengers and crew members, according to CBS. CBS's program "60 Minutes" revealed that Maurice J. Gallagher, the same man who once owned ValuJet before its devastation, now owns and operates Allegiant Airlines.

Along with mechanical and maintenance problems, Allegiant is facing judgment for their recent decision to fire pilot Jason Kinzer.

Kinzer was told to hold off on an emergency evacuation of his aircraft but deployed emergency shoots and continued evacuation

anyways as he followed safety protocol upon seeing smoke in his engine. He was fired six weeks later for his actions, according to CBS.

A "60 Minutes" segment brought in John Goglia to get his opinion on these incidents. Goglia served as presidential appointee on the National Transportation Safety Board for nine years.

"I hate to make comparisons, but we've seen that before in airlines that are no longer with us that had experienced a number of accidents and killed a bunch of people," Goglia said. "I don't want to repeat that, so I try to push on Allegiant to clean up their operation."

Haug looked at statistics, customer complaints and maintenance records in complete awe.

"I was surprised they have

not had a fatal accident," Haug said.

Senator Bill Nelson of Florida is demanding the Department of Transportation conduct an audit of the FAA's enforcement practices following frustration in the Allegiant Airlines case.

Meanwhile, Congressmen Rick Larsen, Peter Defazio and Luis Guterrez have requested an explanation of what the department is going to do to be sure these encounters do not continue, according to NBC.

There have been no fatal cases or crashes in Allegiant Airlines planes. Last year Allegiant Airlines flew 12 million passengers on 99 different planes to 120 destinations, according to their records.

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Lummi artist donates 15-acre island retreat to Western



Ann Morris, creator of the bronze sculptures in the "Sculpture Woods," donated her forested property to Western, which will be used to enrich the university's creative and artistic learning. // Photo courtesy of Mark Brovak

Ali Raetz
The Western Front

Western has been gifted a donation of 15-acres of retreat space and forested land on Lummi Island from a renowned sculpture artist.

Ann Morris, the creator of the bronze sculptures that inhabit the tranquil forest surrounding her studio, is donating her forested property known as "Sculpture Woods" to the Western Washington University Foundation.

Western will sustain Mor-

ris' creations, maintain the landscape and use the space to enrich the university's creative and artistic learning, according to a pamphlet made by the Western Washington University Foundation.

The pamphlet said the space on Lummi Island will be used as an alternative learning environment, as well as a place to hold scholarly activities, recitals and retreats for Western students and special guests.

Kit Spicer, the dean of

Western's college of fine and performing arts, has been a key figure in making this donation possible for Western.

"Everyone that I've talked with that's been [to Sculpture Woods] feels that this is a special place for creativity," Spicer said. "You can just feel creative energy in the land, the woods, the sculptures, the structured studio. Everyone has been delighted by the whole idea of this."

While the space is not yet fully operational, Western plans to experiment with

small events, Spicer said.

Morris is a notable artist whose unique work has been shown all across the country.

In an essay to the Museum of Northwest Art, Morris said she finds inspiration for her bronze sculptures of humans from "the forested land of mist and rain, where ravens rule and bones wash up on beaches."

She said she is especially fascinated with bones, which can be seen in many of her art pieces.

According to a Western

Today article, Morris said,

"Sculpture Woods has been in the making since 1995. The studio, in its quiet natural setting, has been the home of my creative work. What has emerged is a place where my art lives and more can be generated. The gift of Sculpture Woods to Western Washington University Foundation is given in the hope of this Place continuing to inspire creativity in all who come here, Western students, professors, the public. May it be a gift that continues giving."

Senior Matt Gudakov said it will be exciting to have more options for music students to host their senior projects.

He said it can be difficult to secure a spot in the main concert hall with the number of music students who need to perform final recitals.

Western has been in communication with Morris about the donation since winter 2014, Spicer said.

The final papers of transferring the property over to the WWU Foundation were signed December 2017.

Spicer said Morris is currently leasing back the land from Western, and under her discretion Western events may be held there. She will continue to lease the property for as long as she desires. When she decides to end her lease, the full rights of the property will turn over to the foundation.



The bronze sculptures that inhabit the Lummi Island space were inspired by the "forested land of mist and rain." // Photo courtesy of Mark Brovak

Bellingham ties for first in cleanest air quality report

The city's geographical location, wind and air patterns are reasons for its high ranking

Stella Harvey
The Western Front

Breathe in, breathe out. Bellingham's air is among the cleanest in the country, according to the American Lung Association's 2018 State of Air report.

Each year, the ALA compiles and analyzes data to inform people about their city's air quality, according to its website.

This year, Bellingham tied for first place in both cleanest metropolitan areas in the U.S. for ozone and 24-hour particle pollution, according to the report.

Brian Heinrich, chair of the Northwest Clean Air Agency Board of Directors and deputy administrator of the City of Bellingham, said the American Lung Association's report is great for Bellingham residents.

"When I look at the report, I think of what it means for folks who live here, particularly those at risk for respiratory illnesses," Heinrich said.

"For folks who suffer from asthma or any sort of lung ailment, [Bellingham] is a little bit of a respite."

The NWCAA has been in charge of protecting the air in Island, Skagit and Whatcom counties since the passage of the Washington State Clean Air Act in 1967, according to their website.

Seth Preston, communications program manager at NWCAA, said this report is important for people across the country who need to know the state of the air where they live.

He said high levels of air pollution can make people's existing health problems worsen over time, or even be the cause of new health problems for people

who did not previously have a condition.

"The bottom line is pollution follows people," Preston said. "Where you have more people, you are likely to have more pollution."

The 2018 State of Air report examines levels of

takes those events into consideration in future reports.

Preston said ozone levels are a measure of how different chemicals react with sunlight and heat to combine with ground-level ozone, the air people breathe. He said these

Heinrich said Bellingham's geographic location near the bay, normal wind and air patterns and the fact there are no large polluters inside city limits are some reasons the air here is highly ranked.

For some students, this report confirms what they

"I'm surprised, just considering how many people I know and see around smoking. I'm happy, but was not expecting that," Singer said.

Preston said the Northwest Clean Air Agency works with more than 500 sources of air pollution to help limit the emissions from their operations. He said these efforts, combined with the natural geography and conditions in Bellingham, help keep the air clean.

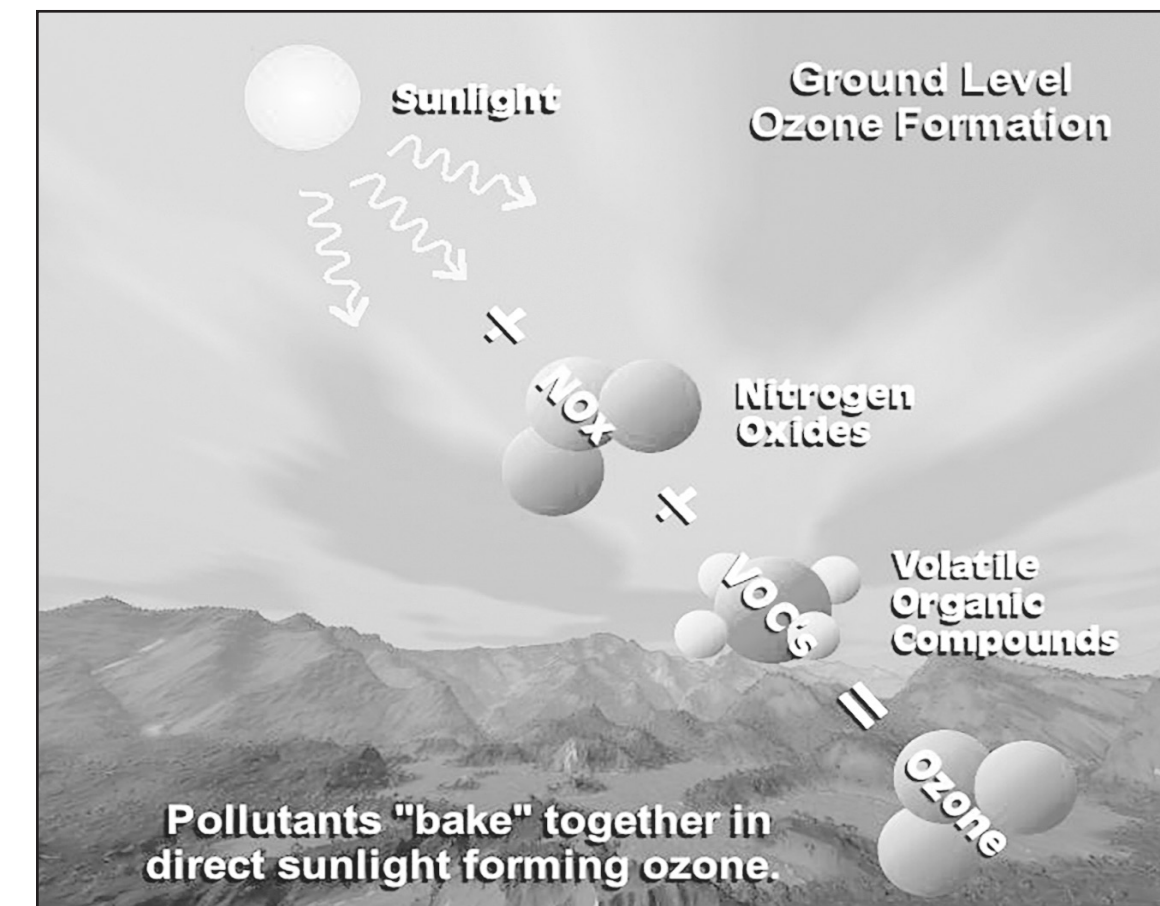
Heinrich agreed, saying the agency has a very good working relationship with many industries within the Whatcom, Skagit and Island county region.

"I think one big takeaway is [that] this is a good example of how regulation can work," Heinrich said. "We have a number of refineries in the area, as well as other industries that have an air-polluting component to their activity, but through regulation and cooperation this is a way we can make it work together."

Preston said the report is a reflection that Bellingham is on the right track, but there is always room for improvement. He recommends everyone look at their own contribution to air pollution to keep the air clean for everyone.

"People tend to focus on the other person or industrial sources as the big source of pollution, but it's vehicles and wood smoke that really play a major role," Preston said.

For more information on the 2018 State of Air report, or to find out how your hometown ranks, visit the American Lung Association's website.



Infographic courtesy of Seth Preston

ozone and particle pollution found in official monitoring sites across the U.S. from 2014-16, according to the American Lung Association's website. The report uses the most current data available for analysis.

Preston said it is important to take into consideration that the report does not include the 2017 wildfires in the area that sent smoke into the region. He said it will be interesting to see how the ALA

chemicals, also called volatile organic compounds, can be released during everyday tasks like filling a car with gas or running a lawn mower.

Twenty-four hour particle pollution measures what is in the air at a specific time and date and can be impacted by wood stoves not working properly, outdoor burns or industrial sites that release a lot of air pollutants, Preston said.

already thought about Bellingham.

Freshman Hayley Hagen said she is not surprised to hear Bellingham's air is among the cleanest in the country.

"I think Bellingham is pretty clean. I don't see a lot of pollution. And obviously Western is very green," Hagen said.

Freshman Sky Singer did not think Bellingham would receive such a high ranking.

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City Council holds educational forum on deer ban ordinance

Senior legislative analyst says feeding wildlife will have negative effects on the animals and environment

Grace McCarthy
The Western Front

Around 30 residents attended an educational forum on a new deer and racoon feeding ban at Bellingham City Hall on April 16.

The ordinance went into effect November 2017 after passing 6-1 by Bellingham City Council. Black-tailed deer were the primary concern for the ordinance as residents became more concerned with their neighbors feeding the deer.

The City Council has received approximately 40 complaints since the issue gained notoriety in 2017, Mark Gardner, senior legislative policy analyst for the City Council, said.

A \$250 fine attached to the ordinance is only to be used as a last resort, Gardner said. Education and spreading awareness are first on the agenda for 2018. Only residents who are repeat offenders will be subject to the fine.

According to the City of Bellingham's website, bird feeders, landscaping used as food and food intended for domestic or farm animals are exempt from the ban.

According to Gardner, deer that are fed will congregate in large groups, causing risks to both humans and deer. This



Both student and deer respecting the other's realm. When fed, deer will congregate in large groups, resulting in digestive disorders and disease. // Photo by Mathew Roland

heightens their impact on landscape and gardening, causes digestive disorders for the deer and spreads disease.

Cole Caldwell, supervisory biologist for the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, also spoke at the forum. Caldwell informed the public that deer can attract predators such as black bears and cougars.

"People think if they didn't feed the deer, they would all die," Gardner said. "So hopefully we are educating them that they don't need to do that. The deer know how to get food."

Gardner said there have been no scientific surveys to measure deer populations in Bellingham.

However, there are early talks of conducting a deer census to track populations over time, possibly in partnership with Huxley College.

"The issue is that there are obviously a lot of deer and, regardless of the exact number, feeding makes it worse," Gardner said.

According to Gardner, the City of Bellingham and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife are the entities that have enforcement powers, de-

pending on the issue and the magnitude involved.

Residents expressed the need for more collaboration between city departments on this issue. Concern also arose surrounding habitat fragmentation, the reduction or separation of an organism's natural environment. In this case, roads are a big culprit in deer getting hit by vehicles.

Heidi Zeretzke, Western lead gardener, is no stranger to deer on Western's campus. Spring beckons brazen deer to campus rose gardens.

To mitigate this, Zeretzke said she and her

team spray an egg-water solution on the most popular plants and occasionally wrap the tree trunks.

"They just stroll down the street, in front of the bus, or across the Old Main lawn, and they just don't seem to have any fear of people," Zeretzke said.

She said deer are most pesky around the Ridge-way residence halls due to the native plants there.

David Wallin, department chair of Western's environmental sciences, agrees with Zeretzke that urban deer don't have many natural predators.

"My guess is that there are as many, or more, deer here than there ever have been, historically," Wallin said.

Wallin doesn't see deer as a problem, but understands people shouldn't be feeding the deer. He imagines if one of his neighbors was feeding deer and there were 20 to 30 deer in his yard, he'd be upset because of the effect on his landscaping.

For Gardner, there is no perfect solution in urban wildlife management.

"We're learning and trying to work together, and hopefully we'll come up with some things that make it all work a little bit better for everybody," Gardner said.

Western's Society of Plastic Engineers utilize waste for 3D printing

Daniel Lee
The Western Front

Sustainability is a long-term goal of Western's facilities. Robust compost and recycling services are available, and campus is littered with fill-up stations for reusable water bottles.

But what can you do with non-reusable plastic bottles?

One club on campus is working to develop a way to melt down plastic bottles into filament that can be used in 3D printing.

Senior Nick Wisner, chapter president of the Society of Plastic Engineers, spoke about the club's mission and goals.

"Last quarter we collected materials, worked on the cleaning process [and] shred-

ded a bunch of material into pellets that we can extrude," Wisner said.

The 3D printers on campus are extrusion printers, which means melted plastic is carefully applied to a surface, like frosting a cake, through a computer-driven nozzle and then solidified into a durable, solid piece of plastic, Wisner said.

The goal of the project is to turn old water bottles into a filament that any extrusion printer around campus can use. Companies have already successfully printed with recycled plastic before, but the goal of the club is to create cheaper printing all around campus, Wisner said.

"We believe there is a demand for this," he said. "And we think that if we can recycle materials on campus into usable 3D printing filament that's safe to print in a not closed-off environment, this will be something that everyone on campus will be interested in."

A few buildings on campus already have 3D printers and could utilize a cheaper source of plastic, Wisner said.

Wisner said work on the project has been slow but methodical. The club has to work closely with Bellingham recycling facilities.

Members of the club are already going around campus looking for plastic bottles

to collect. The club uses #1 bottles, which denotes what plastic the bottle is made of and can be seen by a number one on the label, Wisner said.

Some students on campus are excited at the prospect of 3D printing becoming more accessible.

Junior Ryan Everett is especially excited about the project.

"It's a really good idea," Everett said. "One, to reduce the amount of plastic at landfills and ending up in the ocean. It's being used for learning purposes, so it's two good things in one."

Freshman Brandon Stott said he is optimistic about the sustainability and environmental side of this project.

"I'd say that [it's] a reasonable source for your materials," Stout said. "If it's recycled material, then that'd be better than someone going out and creating new materials for this instead [of] using what we already have."



In the production line, non-reusable plastic bottles are turned into usable filament for 3D printers. // Photo by Daniel Lee

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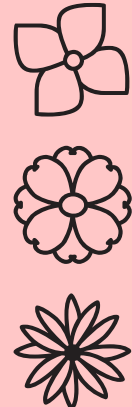
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STRIVING FOR SPRING QUARTER SUCCESS

"THE MUSIC LIBRARY BECAUSE IT'S A VERY CALMING ENVIRONMENT. I LIKE THE NATURAL LIGHTING IN THERE. IT'S USUALLY PRETTY EMPTY, WHICH I ENJOY, ALSO AND I REALLY LIKE THE PLANTS IN THERE, IT MAKES ME FOCUS MORE"



Suzie Marco, junior



With the end of the year just around the corner, here's some advice to help find the perfect spot to buckle down and finish strong.

Photos and interviews by Isabel Lay THE WESTERN FRONT

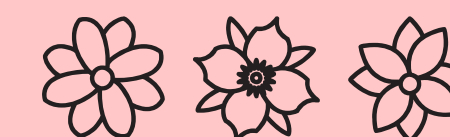
"I LOVE STUDYING IN HAGGARD. THERE'S A STUDY NOOK TOWARDS THE BACK CORNER WITH A DESK THAT SHIELDS YOU FROM EVERYTHING, SO I GET TO FOCUS MORE"



Amelia Flores, sophomore



"DEFINITELY DURING SPRING QUARTER, OUTSIDE-SPECIFICALLY THE LAWN OUTSIDE OF OLD MAIN."



Casey Ryan, freshman



"IT WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO BE THE FOUNTAIN. IT'S REALLY RELAXING"



Bella Ann Luis Camacho, sophomore



"THE ACADEMIC WEST SKYBRIDGE BECAUSE IT'S FULL OF NATURAL LIGHT, THERE ARE A BUNCH OF COMFY CHAIRS AND OUTLETS ACROSS THE WALL"



Rachel Geiger, senior



"I LIKE THE BASEMENT OF THE ESCI ARNTZEN AREA, I CALL IT 'SAD BOYS CLUB.' IT'S MY FAVORITE, IT'S QUIET DOWN THERE"



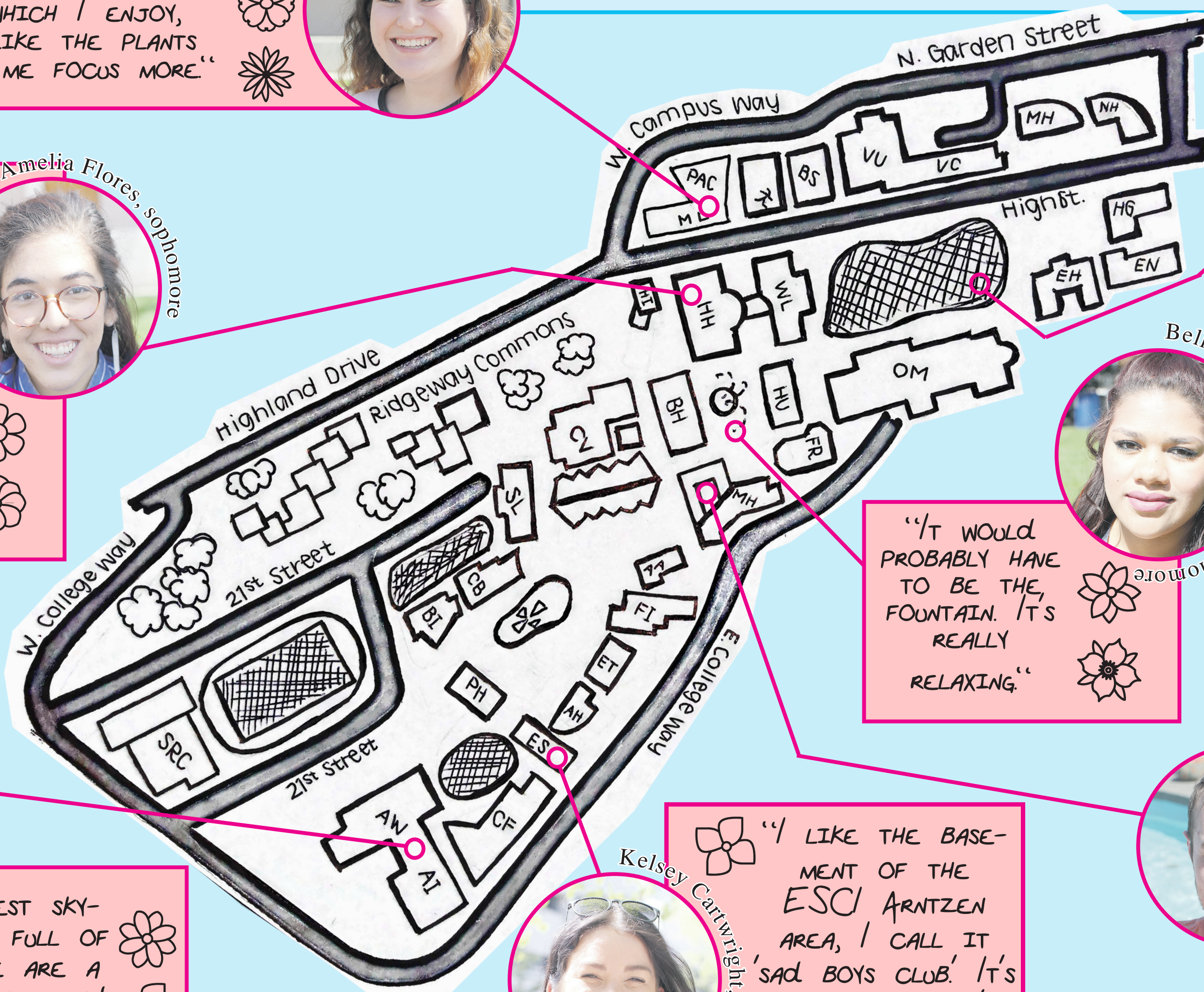
Kelsey Cartwright, junior



"I REALLY LIKE THE FISHBOWL IN MILLER HALL, SOMETIMES IT CAN GET A LITTLE TOO POPULATED THOUGH. I TRY TO FIND SOMEWHERE REALLY LOW-KEY, WHERE IT'S QUIET."



Jake Hawes, senior



Students helping students

Help from peers at the Tutoring Center can help ease the spring quarter struggle

By Alaena Fletcher
THE WESTERN FRONT

Spring quarter can be rough. Summer is right around the corner, but despite the improving weather there is still studying to be done. That's where the Tutoring Center comes in handy. Western's Tutoring Center, located in Wilson Library 280, is a resource anyone can utilize, from the freshman taking their first college course to the senior getting ready for graduation.

Katrina Buckman, a coordinator at the Tutoring Center, said the center is popular at the start of fall quarter but sees a drop in attendance as the school year goes on.

She said often during fall quarter, the center is packed with students needing help. Long wait lines can scare some students away for the rest of the year, she said.

"Especially in the spring, we could definitely accommodate more students, so I wish they knew that coming now would be more productive," Buckman said. "They'd have more time with the tutor."

Drop-in tutoring is the main service offered at the center. Students can get help with their math and science GURs ranging from chemistry and pre-calculus to economics and astronomy. Study groups with a few students working together are also offered.

"We also do study skills [education] where students can make appointments that last about 45 to 50 minutes to go

over an individualized plan to help them succeed in college," Anna Or-tung, a peer advisor in the center, said.

She said those skills include time management, test-and-note taking and study tactics.

Barb Quick, the assistant director, said the Tutoring Center has about 75 employees. She said five to six tutors with different specialties are on hand at any given time.

In order to work at the center, tutors are required to have taken and passed the course they are tutoring for with a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Sarah Schnadelbach is an office assistant at the center and said the tutoring sessions are never about tutors giving the right answer. Instead, they are intended to encourage active participation with the student.

"It's supposed to be a process that engages the students in solving the problem themselves," Schnadelbach said. "So when they leave the Tutoring Center they have started to develop to work on those challenging problems on their own."

Senior Nathan Hopkins said he has been coming to the Tutoring Center for over a year after a friend suggested it when he was struggling with Chemistry 121.

"What's nice about here is they're not professors, they're students just like me, and they want to see it an easy way just like I do," Hopkins said. "So I'll come here and I walk out feeling so much



A tutor and student work together in the tutoring center. // Photo by Roisin Cowan-Kuist

more confident with the material."

According to Buckman and Schnadelbach, the Tutoring Center tracks about 45,000 visits a year. That comes out to an average of about 200 students per day.

The Tutoring Center doesn't offer help with humanities or social sciences, leaving that to the Hacherl Research and Writing Studio. However, they have recently added tutoring on an engineering class and will offer tutoring on certain courses if they get enough requests, Or-tung said.

Quick said it looks like the center will be receiving extra funding in the fall to increase staffing as well as a pilot program for a Tutoring Center Quiet. It will be on the third floor of Wilson Library and contain about three to four tables,

open 16 to 20 hours a week.

"The TCQ - that's not the official name yet - would be for students who are not able to study when it gets really noisy in here and want an alternative venue," Buckman said. "It wouldn't be as collaborative, but they could work one-on-one with a tutor and get support in a more conducive environment."

Quick said she has been pursuing the idea of a quiet Tutoring Center area for a year. Her goal would be to, one day, offer satellite tutoring, with small centers around campus located near difficult classes to provide help for students all over campus.

"Sometimes, all [students] need is a boost in confidence," Buckman said.

Fashionable finds on a college budget

Score a new spring outfit without breaking the bank



By Mia Steben
THE WESTERN FRONT

Although the Bellis Fair Mall is a tempting place to shop, thrift stores are not only a cheaper alternative but one that can result in some great looks, as well. Thrift shopping can also help the community and recycle clothing.

For the majority of college students, finding extra cash to spend on clothing can be difficult, but that's when secondhand stores come in. Thrift stores like Buffalo Exchange

and Goodwill can provide better deals and brand names for students, plus shopping locally also brings money back into the local economy.

A \$20 bill might not get you much at a department store, but at a thrift store in Bellingham that bill can buy an entire outfit.

Following the budget, each person chose an outfit that fit their personal style--and wallet.

BUFFALO EXCHANGE

Sophomore Laura Martin is wearing an American Eagle dress and a Victoria's Secret satchel. At Buffalo Exchange, the dress cost \$8.50 and the bag cost \$12.

Totaling \$20.50 without tax, the outfit was ever-so-slightly over budget. However, Martin said she was fine with that.

"It was a nice material, decent price and you could pair it with anything," Martin said.

Buffalo Exchange had a quick turnover from winter to spring items, showcasing many springy dresses and lighter colors.

"It was a bit of a treasure hunt. It was quite fun," Martin said. "If you're looking for your own unique style, thrift shopping is the way to go."

Sophomore Kaili Laasko found a



Laura Martin shows off her new backpack. // Photo by Mia Steben

pair of comfy kick-back jeans and a Hawaiian t-shirt, a casual spring look.

Excluding tax, Laasko paid \$20 total for both items. She said she loved the top and bought it for an upcoming event.

"I'm going to wear it for a concert," Laasko said. "I saw some of those shirts in Forever 21, like that style, for \$20-\$30, and I found that for like \$10."

After spending time in both thrift shops, both Western students were satisfied and excited about their findings.

Both Western students were surprised and excited about their findings. "At first I was a little unsure because I wasn't really into thrift shopping," Laasko said. "I don't really like using used items, but I was actually pretty surprised [with] what I found."

GOODWILL

Laura's simple outfit of a white T-shirt and black shorts both only cost a low price of \$2.99 each.

Martin said she was happy with the casual t-shirt she found.

"It wasn't an extravagant look, but for just one for walking around campus kind of day," she said.

Kaili is wearing a bomber jacket, black cropped t-shirt and high-waisted jeans, totaling around \$18.97 without tax. In fact, Kaili also went and bought



Kaili Laasko sports her new outfit from Goodwill. // Photo by Mia Steben

the pants. Laasko was excited about her purchase. She said, "They felt like they were pretty brand new, they didn't seem very worn."

They were well-maintained Ralph Lauren blue jeans, which retail for over \$50 or more. Goodwill was also gearing up for the springtime with a huge selection of shorts and T-shirts.

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IT'S A DOG-EAT-DOG WORLD

Director Wes Anderson's new movie, "Isle of Dogs," is a story of adventure, friendship and a journey to return a lost friend

By Drew Stuart
THE WESTERN FRONT

There's no other filmmaker like Wes Anderson.

This is nothing new to anyone familiar with his work, but it is a remarkably fitting sentiment to put forth after watching any of his films for the first time.

Anderson's distinctive symmetrical shot composition and his loose, dry writing style are immediately noticeable and easily enjoyable.

With his latest film, "Isle of Dogs," Anderson's work has never been stronger.

"Isle of Dogs" was written and directed by Anderson, and follows Chief, a stray dog exiled along with the rest of his city's dogs to a landfill called Trash Island.

Voiced by actor Bryan Cranston, known for acclaimed TV series "Breaking Bad," Chief and his fellow dogs must learn to survive after the mayor of Megasaki City bans all dogs and ships them to Trash Island.

However, when a young boy named Atari, voiced by Koyu Rankin, leaves Megasaki City to find his dog Spots on Trash Is-

land, it's up to Chief, Rex, voiced by Edward Norton, King, voiced by Bob Balaban, Boss, voiced by Bill Murray and Duke, voiced by Jeff Goldblum, to reunite Atari with his faithful companion.

Anderson fans will likely appreciate Murray's appearance. Murray is an Anderson veteran, appearing in every one of his films since his second film, Rushmore.

Initially, "Isle of Dogs" might seem to have a standard adventure story plot, but it's the execution that makes it stand out.

Right off the bat, the style of "Isle of Dogs" is markedly different than Anderson's past films. Instead of his usual palette of vibrant pinks and yellows, "Isle of Dogs" is painted in stark reds, grays and browns.

Trash Island is fittingly dotted with murky brown colors and gray blocks of garbage everywhere, while Megasaki City is washed with deep crimson throughout most of the film. Under the rule of an authoritarian cat-loving regime, Megasaki City's red color palette provides a perfect backdrop for the desolate tone of the movie.

And, of course, the scenery is some of the best around.

Rarely are any backdrops reused and yet each location in the film is filled with detail. It makes the world Anderson creates feel richer and deeper, immersing the viewer into the film with ease.

All of this lends itself to the simple story and succinct comedic writing. The story isn't complicated, allowing more time to develop the characters Chief, Atari and Tracy, voiced by Greta Gerwig, director of last year's Oscar nominated film, "Lady Bird."

Each of the main dogs has ample opportunity for recurring jokes too, incorporated in deceptively-conversational dialogue and quirky remarks. "Isle of Dogs" revels in its mountain of chuckle-worthy humor.

Of course, the camerawork is classic Anderson.

His most recognizable trait is clearly present in "Isle of Dogs." The great thing here is that it doesn't feel overused. Yes, nearly every shot is symmetrical, but it provides cohesion. At times, it's used for dialogue. Other times, it's



Spots, the lost dog. // Illustration by Julia Furukawa

used comedically to emphasize the dynamic between characters. Anderson's style here is distinct, but not pedestrian. It's masterful.

It's time to give a disclaimer: this is not a kids movie.

Despite this movie being about dogs, there's enough bloody violence and death in "Isle of Dogs" to warrant its PG-13 rating. The restrained, sarcastic humor is a dead giveaway as well.

This isn't "Minions" and it isn't "Shrek." It's a movie about dogs that is both heartwarming and bleak. It might be a better choice for an adult date night.

However, despite its many merits, "Isle of Dogs" is not perfect. Most of the film is in Japanese, except for the universal language of barking.

With this language barrier, the movie becomes slightly less accessible. There are no subtitles for the Japanese dialogue spoken by most human characters, but in their place are characters in the story who often translate the human dialogue into English.

The work is so well done in these instances that at several creative moments in the film, the acting is so human that any language speaker can infer what is happening without subtitles or translation.

Then comes the issue of romance. Some viewers might have an issue with Anderson's portrayal of

the female characters and their romantic endeavors. Tracy and Nutmeg, voiced by Scarlett Johansson, are practically the only female characters in "Isle of Dogs." That's not bad at face value, but each faces problems related to their role in the story.

Tracy is a fleshed out character, yet has a romantic element with another character in the story that isn't well explored. Why it's even in the movie is something of a mystery.

As for Nutmeg, she contributes little to the story, aside from being a vessel for Chief to develop his character. She has great dialogue, but her role in the film is so miniscule that it feels like she's only there to serve as part of Chief's character.

Still, "Isle of Dogs" is an excellent film.

It captivates the audience from beginning to end developing likable, adventurous characters who encounter palpable danger. The film has style, but doesn't forego substance, the two elements are instead bonded together and strengthen the movie.

"Isle of Dogs" is another quality film by Wes Anderson, and it'd be a shame if you were to miss it. It is now being shown at Regal Barkley Village Stadium 16.

FRONTLINE

Opinions of the Editorial Board

City's silence fails immigrant rights activist and community

If you've been keeping up with local activism, Maru Mora-Villalpando is probably a familiar name by now.

Mora-Villalpando has been called a "modern day freedom fighter" for her years of activism in the Seattle and Bellingham area and is known nationally and internationally as an immigrant rights advocate.

She is outspoken about her undocumented status and has been fighting deportation since she was issued paperwork to begin the deportation process in December.

Mora-Villalpando is one of at least 16 undocumented leaders in the immigrant rights movement who have been targeted by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. She believes she's being targeted because of her activism. This sentiment is echoed by advocates about her and other activists, like Ravi Ragbir and Jean Montrevil.

Western's Blue Group, a group for undocumented students and their allies, has become a local leader in immigrant rights activism and is among the groups raising funds, circulating petitions and acting in solidarity with Mora-Villalpando.

To publicly come out as undocumented and advocate in solidarity with others strengthens the community. Members of Blue Group do so despite their unique position as undocumented students and the inherent risk that comes with activism.

The group organized a demonstration at Bellingham City Hall last week pressuring the Bellingham City Council to publicly support Mora-Villalpando and other community mem-

bers at risk of deportation. They also condemned the council's choice not to officially become a sanctuary city last year or adopt an ordinance advocates believed would provide the support our undocumented community needs.

The council voted to approve a less-effective ordinance instead, despite hours of testimony from community members advocating in favor of becoming a sanctuary city.

The AS Review reported that, while many people at the City Council meeting supported becoming a sanctuary city, council members seemed like they felt torn due to the number of phone calls and emails they received from

community members are at risk of being deported.

In targeting Mora-Villalpando, ICE is sending a clear message to undocumented people: stay silent and do not dissent, or you will be next. Members of the community have been quick to support and stand beside her in her fight, but the city's silence again leaves the undocumented community lacking support.

If someone from the city or council were to come out in solidarity with Mora-Villalpando, it wouldn't be the first time a city official advocated in support of immigrants at risk of deportation. New York City Mayor Bill

both documented and undocumented, have been marginalized, exploited, abused and dehumanized for more than 100 years. Talking about immigration today without including this context ignores the heart of the issue — people are being mistreated.

ICE tears families apart. They arrest parents dropping their kids off at school. They target people through the Department of Licensing. This creates a culture of fear that undocumented people must live in every day.

To live in fear of deportation means to live on edge, fearful that your family will be taken away, or feeling like you don't belong in the place you call home, as many undocumented immigrants and their families say they feel. Being undocumented comes with a whole other world of barriers that most U.S. citizens don't experience.

Supporting Mora-Villalpando and the rest of our undocumented immigrant community may seem political in this current climate, but it doesn't have to be. It doesn't have to mean you agree with unauthorized immigration, it just means you agree that human beings should be treated with dignity and respect. It's not about legality, it's about providing support and visibility to a marginalized group who are being exploited.

The City Council has an obligation to support Mora-Villalpando and the undocumented community in Whatcom County. For the city to withhold public support for a vulnerable community is to stay silent in the face of injustice and condone their systematic oppression.

"Without that solidarity, undocumented people fighting for visibility and support are left to stand alone."

community members who were opposed.

The City Council effectively adopted measures to make undocumented immigrants feel safer without using the official term "sanctuary city," which is what the protesters at City Hall last week said they need.

The city essentially said "we support you" without letting undocumented people dictate their need for support. By avoiding the term, the city may have wiggled out of "getting political," but they also failed our immigrant community. They failed to stand with them. Without that solidarity, undocumented people fighting for visibility and support are left to stand alone.

A year later, the city is again failing them by staying silent when our com-

de Blasio wrote a letter to ICE asking them to allow immigrant rights leader Ravi Ragbir to stay in the U.S. when he faced deportation in February. State Senator Maria Cantwell brought Mora-Villalpando as her guest to President Trump's first State of the Union address one month after ICE began her deportation process.

Much of the Bellingham community prides itself on being inclusive and fairly progressive on topics like LGBTQ rights and environmental issues, but in failing our undocumented community, the city has failed to be truly inclusive.

Regardless of your political stance on immigration and undocumented people, the fight for immigrant rights spans a much larger issue.

The U.S. immigrant community,

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

Viking Voices

Do you think the city should do more to support undocumented immigrants?



Anthony Barrios
Junior, design

"Yeah, I think that they contribute to society and they contribute to the city. They work and they pay taxes like everybody else, so they might as well be treated just as fairly as everybody else."



Sabrina Batingan
Junior, sociology

I definitely feel if there was more being done we would know about it. I feel like there can always be more that can be done for minorities."



Matthew Ferris
Senior, human services

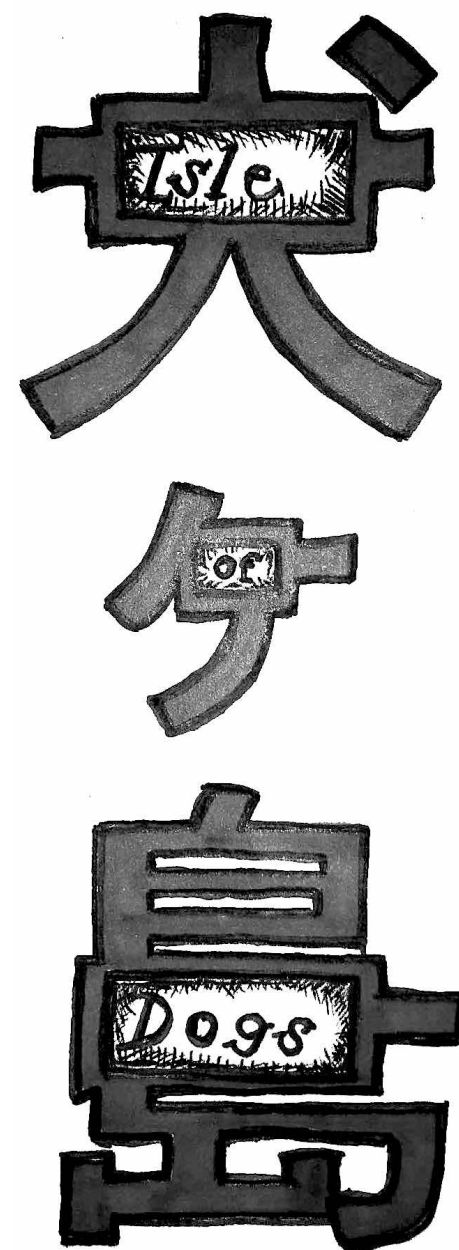
"Yeah... I think that in Bellingham, in particular, there is a very liberal atmosphere, and a lot of the time it can go just into the talk. Like 'yeah, we should do more.'"



Jeremy Talusig
Senior, chemistry

"Yes, I think any city should. I think Western does a pretty decent job because I've heard the president of the school saying he supports it in the weekly newsletter that he sends out. That he'll try to protect the students here."

Compiled by Chelsea Smiley



Anderson's logo for the movie poster. // Illustration by Julia Furukawa

Western gets outdoorsy

The Outdoor Center has a variety of options to aid your excursions this spring

Alison Eddy
THE WESTERN FRONT

Night hiking, mountain biking, bioluminescent bike and swim, rock climbing, sea kayaking, mountaineering and white water rafting are just some of the trips students can take this quarter through the AS Outdoor Center, located on the first floor of the Viking Union.

According to its mission statement, the Outdoor Center provides outdoor-related opportunities for Western students, faculty, staff and alumni. It rents out equipment, plans excursions, provides training and educational clinics and has a bike shop where students can learn how to fix their bike.

Kelly Oberbillig, AS Outdoor Center's marketing and resource coordinator, said she encourages everyone to participate in the outdoor center excursions, regardless of their experience level.

"They are really designed for anyone with no experience level, and they are really custom to whatever the experience level of the participant is," Oberbillig said.

Sophomore Mazzy Flynn has participated in seven trips so far at Western. Flynn said last spring, she went on a sea kayaking trip around the San Juan Islands. She said she saw hundreds of jellyfish, sea urchins, otters and other aquatic life.

People of all abilities can come on these excursions, she said.

"I've been on trips where I had no experience in the trip type, but the guides were really good and helped everyone learn everything they needed to know," Flynn said.

Oberbillig said the Outdoor Center provides free instructional clinics every Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. to educate people on the different trips and equipment. She said she really wants to engage people who aren't as familiar with outdoor activities and might hesitate to join an excursion.

"The clinics are a free opportunity to learn how to get out and interact with your local environment," Oberbillig said.

There is a free clinic on May 29 where the guides will go over the best adventure spots in Bellingham, she said. The clinic guides will talk about all the different outdoor activities and spots students should visit over the summer.

The outdoor center also provides instructions



Freshman Heath DeMartini repairs his bike at the Outdoor Center on Monday, April 23. He's had the bike for over a year. // Photo by Kevin Lake

and recreation opportunities for more water-based activities at Lakewood on Lake Whatcom, Oberbillig said.

Jeff Davis is the program manager at Lakewood. Lakewood is a waterfront facility with over 60 watercraft available for recreational use five days a week spring and fall quarter and seven days a week in the summer.

Davis said Lakewood has canoes, kayaks, paddleboards, windsurfers, sailboats, small boats and big boats which are available for recreational use or for instruction through private lessons or classes through Western.

He said people can rent equipment for a low cost to try on their own or with help from Lakewood staff.

"The goal is to encourage people who don't traditionally participate in this sort of thing to give

it a try under the circumstances of it not costing very much and our staffing approach," Davis said.

In addition to the lake activities, Davis said there is also a challenge course on the property that is run by the Outdoor Center.

"There is just no reason to sit in your room or stare at your phone."

Jeff Davis
Program manager

Sophomore Iva Reckling is a facilitator at the challenge course. She works to take groups out on the course and run the different programs.

"We are mainly safety-oriented," Reckling said. "We want to make sure all of our participants have the correct briefings on how to use their harnesses and helmets."

Reckling said groups will come to the challenge course with a goal, and she will design a program to help them meet that goal.

She said groups start on the game field for activities that don't require equipment, move to the low ropes to practice building the skills they want to work on and then finish out the day on the high ropes.

"The challenge course is a very cool opportunity for people on campus or in the community to facilitate in-team building and leadership," Reckling said.

Davis also said there are many parts of campus that are opportunities for people they won't have in their working lives.

"There is just no reason to sit in your room or stare at your phone," Davis said.

The Outdoor Center is open Monday through Friday for all four quarters. Oberbillig said she encourages everyone to stop by, ask questions and get outside.



The Outdoor Center at Western on Monday, April 23. // Photo by Kevin Lake

Men's soccer ties with Highline Saturday

Naomi Schapiro
THE WESTERN FRONT

Perseverance and strong defense led to a tied men's soccer game between Western and Highline Community College on Saturday, April 28.

The first home game of the season was at 2 p.m. at Robert S. Harrington Field. This was the men's soccer team's fourth game of its eight-game spring season.

The game started out slow, with no score until 26 minutes into the game when Highline broke the tie.

The score remained 1-0 until the 36th minute, when Western senior defender/forward Stephan Jinneman scored a goal. He then scored another goal in the 40th minute.

Western's defense and resilience were positives in the game that helped lead to its comeback, Reed Smith, an audience member and soccer player at Sehome High School, said.

Despite this turnaround, no one scored for the remaining minutes of the game after Highline's second goal was scored by freshman forward Ryley Johnson, and it ended in a tie.

"I think that if they continue to perform like they did in the second half, they are going places," Smith said. "They looked really strong and if everyone stays active and hungry, it'll go really well."

For senior midfielder/defender Garrett Strawn, this wasn't the result he wanted, but he said spring season is all about getting better.

"We brought out more energy in the second half," Strawn said. "We want to represent Western well."

The Vikings are set to compete at the Great Northwest Athletic Conference Championships at Western Oregon University May 11-12.



The Western men's soccer team tied 2-2 with Highline College on Saturday, April 28, at Robert S. Harrington Field. // Photo by Naomi Schapiro

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Notice of Public Hearing:
Proposed Rule Changes to Chapter 516-36 WAC and adoption of new Chapter 516-35 WAC

Notice is hereby given that Western Washington University is proposing amendments to its Washington Administrative Code related to use of university property - freedom of expression and assembly and use of university facilities - scheduling. A public hearing will be held at 12:15 p.m. on May 22, 2018 in Old Main, Room 340 at the Bellingham campus located at 516 High Street.

The purpose of the hearing is to allow all interested persons an opportunity to present their views, either orally or in writing, on the proposed changes to Chapter 516-36 WAC and adoption of new Chapter 516-35 WAC.

Proposed changes to Chapter 516-36 WAC include: change in title from "Use of University Facilities-Scheduling" to "Use of University Property-Scheduling and General Use. New Section WAC 516-36-001 describes the general policy and purpose of the chapter. New section WAC 516-36-004 directs readers to chapter 516-35 WAC for rules regarding freedom of expression and assembly. New section WAC 516-36-008 defines terms used in the chapter. Amended section WAC 516-36-020 states how to request use of university property and who should receive the request. New section WAC 516-36-025 outlines the duties of the requester and states provisions that may be placed on use of university property. Amended section WAC 516-36-030 includes limitations on use of university property. New section WAC 516-36-035 concerns fees. The current rule has a fees sections; however, due to organization of the amended chapter it was relocated and a new section was created. Amended section WAC 516-36-040 states how university property may be used for private or commercial enterprise or charitable use. New section WAC 516-36-060 describes how to obtain a permit for a parade.

Proposed new Chapter 516-35 WAC is titled Use of University Property - Freedom of Expression and Assembly.

Advance copies of the proposed rule amendments and the proposed new rule may be obtained by contacting Jennifer Sloan, Rules Coordinator, 516 High Street, MS 9015, Bellingham, WA 98225-9015, by email at Jennifer.Sloan@wwu.edu, or by phone at 360-650-3117. Copies will also be available at the hearing.

Persons wishing to provide written comment may submit their remarks to Ms. Sloan at the above mailing or email address by May 21, 2018. To request disability accommodation for this hearing, please contact Jennifer Sloan at 360-650-3117 or by email at: Jennifer.Sloan@wwu.edu by May 11, 2018.

Community rallies for Western hockey alumnus

Sixty four players on four teams raised money for Andrew "Rusty" Liebel who was diagnosed with ALS

Maddie Smith
THE WESTERN FRONT

Community members far and wide came together to raise over \$16,000 for a Western men's hockey alumnus on April 21.

"Rivets for Rusty," an ice hockey tournament fundraiser, was held at Bellingham Sportsplex for Andrew "Rusty" Liebel who was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, in December.

Retired Vancouver Canuck Garth Butcher was among a list of donors for the fundraiser.

Butcher donated signed jerseys, VIP tickets to a Canucks game and dinner in the press box, Debra Bray, the event organizer, said.

The Canucks tickets were bid on for thousands of dollars, she said.

The event was also organized by Kyle Neal, another Western alumnus who played with Liebel on the hockey team for four years. Both graduated fall quarter 2017.

Excluding beer sales, all of the money raised in the tournament will be donated directly to Liebel and his family, Neal said.

The money that was raised will go toward Liebel's medical bills and the renovation of his house to make it more accessible to him in the future, Neal said.

There was plenty of interest in the tournament from community hockey players. It didn't take long to get 64 players to fill the rosters of the four teams that played in the tournament, Neal said.

"It's not a big community, but it's a really tight community," Neal said.

Support for the fundraiser included a beer garden from Aslan Brewery, a silent auction, players from the Western men's hockey team, community hockey members, El Tapatio taco truck and All Star Design.



Andrew "Rusty" Liebel poses with other Western hockey players during the "Rivets for Rusty" fundraiser on April 21. // Photo courtesy of Ellie MacDonald

Throughout the event, Aslan beer sales and El Tapatio taco truck sales were constant, Neal said.

Billy Holbrook, another Western men's hockey alumnus who graduated last spring, traveled from Nashville to be at the fundraiser. Holbrook said Liebel is one of his best friends. The two were responsible for much of the administrative work for the team, Holbrook said.

Holbrook and Liebel said they shared the common goal to "strengthen the program for when we were done."

Liebel did all of the scheduling for the team, which was no small task, Neal said. Most players do the scheduling for one year and then pass the responsibility on to another player, but Liebel did it all four years, Neal said.

One Red Square bench still a skater's paradise

Nolan Kirby
THE WESTERN FRONT

There is one specific bench at Western that every skateboarder loves. Most students just see it as another bench to sit on.

But this one specific bench in Red Square is different from all the other benches. It isn't capped off with metal bars, meaning this is one of the only skate-able benches on Western's campus.

Skateboarder Muk De Guzman, a senior who loves to skate the bench, said, "A lot goes on in Red Square and skateboarders bring another dynamic. The bench is one spot on campus we can all come together to skate. It's like a vector for community."

Another skateboarder, senior Erick McGee, said there are good vibes at Red Square where there is "great flat ground, lots of space and people skating around the same skill level."

When it comes to skating the bench, De Guzman said, "We respect other people, we keep an eye out for people walking. Respect first."

But there are issues that come with the bench, too.

Amites Sarkar, a math professor in Bond Hall, comes out to ask skaters to leave who are disrupting his class.

"There are two things: The main one, when I'm teaching a class it's distracting for my students and me," Sarkar said.

The second problem, Sarkar said, is he isn't the only person who dislikes the noise skating brings to Red Square.

"I have been told by students and professors that the noise is a problem," Sarkar said.

Sarkar made it clear that he doesn't hate skaters.

"I have nothing against [skaters] at all," Sarkar said. "I really believe in freedom of expression."

But Sarkar emphasized that it's because of the

problems skateboarding is causing for his classroom.

De Guzman and McGee said they have been asked to leave by Sarkar more than a few times.

"He's come up to me so many times," McGee said. "He's nice about it though."

De Guzman agreed with McGee.

"It's like seeing an old friend, I feel like I interact more with him than any other faculty member," De Guzman said. "He's brave and probably speaks for a lot of people. At the same time I still wanna do it."

When Sarkar asks skaters to leave, he said, sometimes he'll go down and the skaters can be polite and it's heartwarming. But that's not always the case. Sarkar said there is also pushback from the skaters someday.

"I think it's a great thing, it's just not compatible with me teaching my classes," Sarkar said. "I have nothing against them."

According to Western's transportation policy, skateboarders are restricted from the following areas on campus: Lawns, stairways, steps, sculpture, artwork, hand rails, loading ramps, building interiors and benches.

They must also dismount and walk in areas designated as permanent or temporary walk zones from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. during regular class days during the academic year.

"The bench is one spot on campus we can all come together to skate. It's like a vector for community."

Muk De Guzman
Skateboarder



Students in Red Square practice skateboarding tricks on a bench popular among skateboarders at Western. // Photo by Roisin Cowan-Kuist

Track places first at final home meet

Men's and women's track has strong showings in effort to earn GNAC-qualifying marks

Mckenna Hunt
THE WESTERN FRONT

Even with the wind and the rain, the Vikings came to compete at their last home meet of the outdoor season on Saturday, April 28.

Both the women's and men's teams placed first overall with the women racking up a total of 147.5 points and the men at 184 points.

The 37th annual Ralph Vernacchia Track Meet, held at Civic Stadium and hosted by Western, proved to be a successful day for the Vikings as many athletes won their events and attempted to beat their personal records, despite the stormy weather.

Pee Wee Halsell, head coach of the track team, said so far he's seen some good stuff from his athletes, including junior high jumper Maddie Taylor. Taylor won her flight with a height of 1.63 meters, just short of her personal record.

"Maddie went at PR heights, and I think that's happening in the hammer," Halsell said. "Brandon Pless was getting there and Avery Lux was getting out there with some PR's as well so the weather shouldn't affect it."

Bryan Lee, a Western junior who was officiating the hammer and discus throws, confirmed that Pless and Lux were doing well in their throws with Pless winning his flight and Lux following close behind in third.

Redshirt freshman Avery Lux PR'd by a meter and a half and threw 174-feet while Pless, a senior, threw two feet under his PR.

In addition to Western athletes, some Western alumni showed up to compete against their former teammates.

In the javelin, Western alumnae Bethany Drake

and Katie Reichert placed first and second, with sophomore Raquel Pellecer following in third.

Pellecer was hoping to hit the automatic national provisional mark of 50.03 meters, which would confirm her spot to nationals, but was just short with a mark of 47.18 meters, which has been a consistent mark for her throughout the season, according to past meet markings.

Junior javelin thrower Alex Barry won his flight with 60.87 meters but came up a little short of his PR of 64.77 meters.

"I won, which was a bonus, but I threw 15 feet under my PR," Barry said.

Barry has been battling injuries including a strained groin and tendinitis in his elbow and leg, but will still head into the Greater Northwest Athletic Conference Championship ranked No. 1.

"I'm just trying to win conference for my team," Barry said.

Tupre Wickliff, junior high jumper, proved to be another strong competitor who won his flight at 1.98 meters and is currently leading the GNAC rankings.

"Going into this meet I just wanted to get some good jumps out," Wickliff said.

Wickliff said he had some good attempts at 6 feet 10 inches, which if hit, would've secured his spot for nationals.

"GNAC is where I'll hit 6-foot-10 and 6-foot-11 and then get that nationals spot," Wickliff said. "Overall I think it went really well. It's been a really consistent season so I'm happy."

Assistant coach Eric Dudley explained his goals for the last home meet.

"It's late in the season so we're trying to get people qualifying marks to get on the bus for the GNAC championships in two weeks," Dudley

said.

Hosting the meet at their home field may also prove to be an advantage, Dudley said.

"I feel like you have a little more control over your environment and that feeling of control tends to lead to great performances," Dudley said.

Dudley also explained that having family, friends and alumni out to watch creates a great vibe and a feeling of support for the athletes.

Dudley said he was confident that his athletes would perform well under the weather circumstances.

"You know, we've run fast in the rain before, and we'll run fast in the rain again if we have to," Dudley said.

The Vikings are set to compete at the GNAC Championships at Western Oregon University May 11-12.

"You know, we've run fast in the rain before and we'll run fast again if we have to."

Eric Dudley
Assistant coach



Students compete in the 37th annual Ralph Vernacchia Track Meet at Civic Stadium, on April 28. These athletes are competing in the 110-meter men's hurdling event where sophomore Cordell Cummings placed second. // Photo by Kevin Lake

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