

THE WESTERN FRONT

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BT residents to be moved again



Samuel Fletcher
THE WESTERN FRONT

University residence administrators met with residents of Buchanan Towers on Monday, Oct. 29, to discuss the logistics of the second phase of the Buchanan Towers Residence renovation, a two-year, \$24.5 million project which will require half of the residents to move.

According to a press

release from Associate Director of Facilities Karen Walker, the project started in spring quarter 2018. Then, the north wing was renovated to address some of the issues that have come with the building's age, including plumbing, ventilation, fire detection and various new interior aspects. The second phase will begin spring quarter 2019.

Buchanan Towers has been under construction since spring of 2018. The construction will force around half of the current residents to relocate to the other half of BT or to other housing on or off-campus. // Photo by Jaden Moon

This means relocating an entire wing of students to other campus housing — for a second time.

During the informational meeting in 2018, residents were assured that no one would be moving out at a time

that would disrupt their academics, second-year student and former north wing resident Irene Colodner said. For her, this simply wasn't true.

"I didn't get a housing assignment until around two

weeks before spring break," Colodner said in an email response. "I was forced to move out during dead week, which was very infuriating."

Students who move have priority preference in the
see BT, page 3

Ethics adviser steps down after ethics violation

Zoe Deal

THE WESTERN FRONT

A Western employee has been fined after a Washington State Executive Ethics Board investigation found she used a position of power to secure special privileges in the hiring of an employee, according to the stipulation.

The hiring process in question began in late December, when Director of Human Resources and former Western Ethics Adviser Chyerl Wolfe-Lee became invested in hiring the replacement for the position of wellness director,

pushing to hire the sister of the departing employee to expedite the process.

The ethics board fined Wolfe-Lee \$250 on Sept. 14 after finding Wolfe-Lee had violated the Ethics in Public Service Act. Western's Office of Internal Audit completed an investigation on April 3 and provided their findings to the board.

When President Sabah Randhawa sought to remove Wolfe-Lee from the role of Ethics Adviser in May, Wolfe-Lee requested to be removed permanently, according to the stipulation.

The Board stated in

the stipulation that it is a mitigating factor that the violation by Wolfe-Lee was unintentional. A mitigating factor is anything that lessens the severity of an act.

"I do regret choices I made regarding the hiring of a new person in the position of Wellness Administrator," Wolfe-Lee said in a response to the Western Front, "In retrospect, I simply was too close to the program to exercise the necessary detachment during the hiring process, and as a result was provided a valuable learning opportunity that will enable me to better serve the

campus community."

The role of ethics adviser has been shifted to Internal Audit Director Antonia Allen.

Wolfe-Lee was hired as the director of human resources in 2008 and later appointed as the Western's ethics adviser. In 2012, she was promoted to assistant vice president of human resources.

Previous Wellness Director Kaylee Lovelady resigned in early December of 2017. Lovelady requested to train her replacement by mid-February, and due

see ETHICS, page 3

Psychology department hires cannabis expert

Ian Haupt

THE WESTERN FRONT

The psychology department at Western has hired one of the 100 most influential people in the cannabis field.


Dr. Joshua Kaplan was included in High Times magazine's list for his freelance writing.

As a new assistant professor to the Behavioral Neuroscience Program, Kaplan said the goal of his research is to improve the medicinal benefits of cannabis, while further

understanding its effect on brain development and reducing its side effects.

Kaplan said he can use his expertise in cellular electrophysiology, a process which allows for the recording of communication patterns within the brain, along with his animal behavior background to study the brain responses of rodents exposed to cannabidiol (CBD). CBD is a non-intoxicating chemical found in the

see CANNABIS, page 3

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Western men's basketball forward Cameron Retherford lays up the ball during an exhibition game against the Seattle Mountaineers on Oct. 30. The Vikings won the game 91-87 before their season opener on Nov. 9. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin

Counseling Center to hold infossessions in ESC

Simon Thomas
THE WESTERN FRONT

In 2013, almost half of university students attended counseling for mental health concerns in the U.S. According to the Center of Collegiate Mental Health, that percentage has been increasing steadily over the past decade.

In order to adjust for growth, the Western Counseling Center has made changes to their system of care.

Christopher Edwards is a psychologist and one of four new members to the senior staff at the center. He said new policies are being put in place this year to deal with the growing number of students in need of services.

"Starting this year, [the center] has started a triage system," Edwards said. "What that means is someone comes in for initial consultation, those appointments are 15 to 20 minutes and really the purpose there is to help connect them and determine

what the best level of care may be."

Edwards said the center has a case manager who specializes in finding students the right off-campus help when necessary.

Edwards explained that the next step is called an intake, which is a more thorough assessment to get a better understanding of the patient. Then the patient either works with a counselor at the center or is referred to make an appointment with the case manager to set up off-campus care.

"We would re-evaluate at certain points, either at the end of the quarter or an ongoing basis, to see if their symptoms have been reduced or resolved in whatever way of measuring we'd use to track that," Edwards said.

Help from off-campus sources is most often used in cases where the center has limitations on ways to care for a patient, Edwards explained. He said there are certain services the center doesn't offer.

"We do not do evaluations, psychological or neuropsychological. So if someone wanted to be evaluated for ADHD or a traumatic brain injury, we would refer them off-campus," he said.

Edwards added that a student presenting a more severe version of a condition, like an eating disorder or substance abuse, would require comprehensive treatment, and the center would bridge connections to the Student Health Center or off-campus help if necessary. They also do not provide documentation to students for emotional support animals or service animals.

The center has two different counseling positions, Edwards said. There are senior staff members and doctoral interns, who are supervised by the three licensed psychologists at the center.

Edwards said this is their last training experience before they earn their degree. "They're very experienced

doing psychotherapy and working with college students," Edwards said.

Out of all the reasons Western students have for going to the Counseling Center, Edwards said that stress, anxiety and symptoms of depression are among the most common.

"Identity exploration, whether that's your gender identity or sexuality, or just figuring out who you are independent from your family system, are also common concerns," he said.

Edwards also said that the center works closely with the Student Health Center in order to match their patients with needed care.

"We meet with them once a week for consultation, so that we can share mutual patients and make sure there is wrap-around holistic care and treatment."

To find out more about the Counseling Center, staff members meet for informal support and consultation at noon on Tuesdays in the Ethnic Student Center.

The Western Front

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Have story ideas?
Email us at

westernfrontonline@gmail.com

to send them our way or discuss sharing information confidentially.

Corrections:

An incorrect number of Changemakers Fellows was listed. There are 14.

ETHICS

continued from page 1

to the short notice, suggested to Wolfe-Lee her sister Darcie Hill be considered for the position, according to the stipulation.

In an email to Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services Melynda Huskey, Wolfe-Lee clarified her interest in the hiring of Hill. The program was initially started in HR and Wolfe-Lee had hired Lovelady. In this email, Wolfe-Lee noted that she saw no ethical issue with the hiring of Hill because Lovelady was not involved in the hiring process, according to the stipulation.

Wolfe-Lee continued to be actively involved in all parts of Hill's appointment, including the pursuit of an Appointment of Opportunity, which accelerates the hiring process.

In an email to Wolfe-Lee sent on Jan. 11, Lovelady wrote, "I feel like the [Faculty and Staff Wellness Program] has come full circle, and of course it is back to you helping get things done, and again, setting the wellness program up for success. I am beyond grateful for the time spent on this."

Sue Guenter-Schlesinger

told the ethics board that she had questioned Wolfe-Lee as to why she was involved in the hiring process. Wolfe-Lee reportedly claimed that her involvement was due to the program and position being "her baby" due to her role in developing both. She was worried that the program would suffer if there was any delay in the hiring process.

Still concerned, Guenter-Schlesinger asked Wolfe-Lee again whether she felt comfortable being so involved, especially due to her role as ethics advisor. Wolfe-Lee confirmed that she did, according to the stipulation.

In a statement to the Western Front, Wolfe-Lee reflected on her actions.

"As assistant vice president-HR, my motivation was driven by the fact that this campus-wide wellness program began at HR, before moving to the recreation center. I was concerned about the importance of a seamless transition of this program to a new wellness administrator without significant delay so I became more involved than I should have been," she said.

Not long after the Appointment of Opportunity was approved, Health and Hu-

man Development faculty expressed concern with Hill's placement, acting as a catalyst for an investigation.

Wolfe-Lee's supervisor Rich Van Den Hul and Director of Campus Recreation Adam Leonard expressed their belief that Wolfe-Lee had acted appropriately.

In an email to the ethics board, current Ethics Adviser Antonia Allen said, "[Wolfe-Lee] used her position to inappropriately influence the hiring process by overinflating the importance of the position, making false claims that the position could not be filled by a qualified internal candidate within the desired timeframe and encouraging senior management to approve the direct appointment of an external candidate."

Randhawa said in an email to Board staff that he believes the appointment of Hill was an ethics violation. Randhawa noted that Wolfe-Lee expressed remorse when presented with his letter of reprimand.

Cocke said the situation will be reviewed to ensure future compliance with the state ethics legal requirements. Hill remains in the position of wellness administrator.

BT

continued from page 1

remodeled wing for housing the following year, University Residences Program Specialist Kaimi Deardorff said at the meeting on Monday. This is something the students of the previous year were told as well.

"When it came time for me to apply to housing and I asked about the 'priority' position I had, housing informed me that that's only for if you get drawn in the lottery, which I had not," Colodner said. Colodner was not made aware of the fact she might have to move when she chose BT, she said.

According to Deardorff, there will be more space for housing options this year than last. In the beginning of November, university residence administrators will send out a survey for current residents to fill out their room and roommate preferences.

First-year student Mason Dunbar is among the south wing residents who will be relocated next year. He

said he appreciates the transparency of the housing staff and the amount of time given to prepare.

The most frustrating part for Dunbar is moving to a place without cooking appliances, he said. Not all residence halls have kitchenettes, and he and his roommate use theirs every day.

"If we move to a unit that doesn't have a kitchen in it, then that means I'll have to up my meal plan or change my eating habits, which kind of sucks," Dunbar said.

Dunbar and his roommate met prior to moving into Buchanan Towers, but depending on available housing, there is no guarantee they will stay together.

"We will do our very best to accommodate [students] as best we can," Deardorff said. "But we can't do everything."

According to the spring 2019 renovation calendar, the south wing moves will be complete on March 4. After that, the final phase of the Buchanan Towers Residence renovation will begin.

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STUDENTS FOR SALISH SEA JOIN INSLEE'S ORCA TASK FORCE

Samuel Fletcher
THE WESTERN FRONT

The southern resident orca whales in Puget Sound made national news in July 2018 when a calf died moments after birth. The mother, in mourning, carried her offspring with her for weeks following. Often, other members of the pod would give the mother a rest and help her carry the calf's body.

This story is one of many of a starved population of transient whales, said Shari Tarantino, president of Seattle-based nonprofit Orca Conservancy.

In a time when only 74 southern resident orcas remain after a summer which took three of their lives, Western's Students for the Salish Sea club is continuing its efforts to take action and spread information about orcas.

Club facilitator Caitlyn Blair said Students for the Salish Sea is a group that brings together education, science, research, art and anything else to increase awareness of the Salish Sea and its issues.

On Oct. 5, the club hosted a workshop in response to Gov. Jay Inslee's creation of the Southern Resident Killer Whale Task Force, a government-funded group focused

on preserving the native animals. The workshop provided a space for members to discuss possible solutions to help the endangered whales, Blair said. She said this is an issue that is subject to much public pressure.

"We are going to be calling senators and government representatives to get our names on the list and let them know that we still care about [the issues the orcas face] and this is something that is extremely important and vital to the production of the Salish Sea and the southern resident orcas," Blair said.

One of the biggest solutions the club is advocating for is to get the Army Corps of Engineers to remove the four lower dams on the Snake River in eastern Washington, which would enable more Chinook salmon to flow through to feed the orcas, she said.

Removing the dams may have cultural significance as well, senior and activist Leah Olver said.

"I always circle back to the people who are being most impacted in any issue, as a form of accountability to myself," Olver said. "I like to look at what the tribes are asking for, what the people who live in those areas are looking for.

There's never going to be one solution that solves everything."

However, removing the dams is not as easy as it seems, Blair said, as there is an entire community of dam employees who would need to be compensated and resettled.

Beyond that, urbanization around the Salish Sea has diminished forage fish, the food the salmon depend on, which would reduce the newly introduced population, Olver said.

Orca Conservancy fully supports the removal of the dams, Tarantino said. In the last ten years, the organization has tried to boost the salmon population in the Puget Sound by working on various rivers including the Klamath, Eel, Rogue, Skykomish and Fraser rivers.

Orca Conservancy has advocated for much change recently to improve the livelihoods of orcas with projects all over the state. These projects include the opposition of tidal turbines and toxic waste facilities and supporting min-fish, Olver said. "I like to look at what the tribes are asking for, what the people who live in those areas are looking for.

age fish for the salmon to eat, Tarantino said.

Blair's passion for the southern resident orca dates back over a decade, she said,

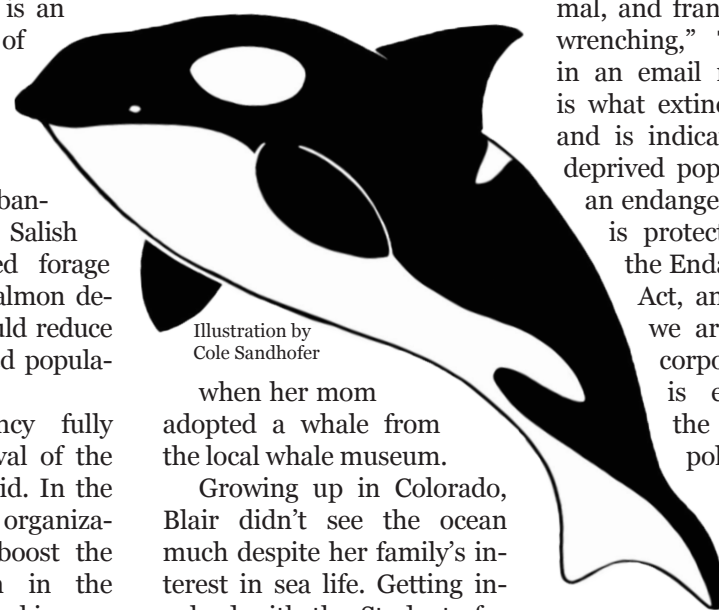


Illustration by
Cole Sandhofer

when her mom adopted a whale from the local whale museum.

Growing up in Colorado, Blair didn't see the ocean much despite her family's interest in sea life. Getting involved with the Students for the Salish Sea is a large reason why she applied to Western, she said.

To her, the problems facing the southern resident orcas are personal. Many have joined Blair in this sentiment.

"When that calf was dead, you could feel that," Olver said. "I think everybody saw that and felt it on a really deep level, even people that don't know a lot about the Puget Sound and aren't from here."

Three southern resident

orcas died over the summer, two of which had declining health for many weeks.

"What we witnessed over the summer was not normal, and frankly, it was gut-wrenching," Tarantino said in an email response. "This is what extinction looks like and is indicative of a food-deprived population. This is an endangered species that is protected by laws of the Endangered Species Act, and part of what we are witnessing is corporate greed that is exacerbated by the blatant lack of political will."

Tarantino appreciates the time and attention that has been given to the southern resident orca population by the state government, she said. Orca Conservancy remains hopeful that the necessary actions will be taken to recover the population.

"If the population dies, we die," Blair said. "Once that population goes away, it takes away the fish population, it takes away everything else, and everything falls out of balance."

the brain, he said.

Now at Western, Kaplan said he has a number of different experimental directions he wants to take the study. One path to study is the effect of CBD on the developing, or child and adolescent brain. The drug seems to be safe and well-tolerated by adults, but researchers are unsure of the consequences it may have on brain development, he said.

Another point of research is to discover if the use of a combination of cannabinoids, chemical compounds in the hemp and cannabis plants that possess psychoactive properties, including CBD, has more therapeutic benefits. Kaplan said this is an idea known as "The Entourage Effect," where the therapeutic aspects of the plants are improved. His goal is to empirically test whether this has truth to it and to find the optimal combination, he said.

Kaplan said he wants to answer the question: If CBD can relieve 40 percent of pain, hypothetically, could the use of multiple chemicals found in the cannabis plant combined with CBD increase relief to 60 or 70 percent?

"That's what I would love to know," he said. "Really, crack the cannabis code."

Kaplan said he is in the process of getting the necessary licensing from the



Dr. James Kaplan in his lab, where he researching cannabis' effects on brain signals and brain development. // Photo by Matthew Tangeman

state of Washington and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, since cannabis is still considered a Schedule I drug. According to the DEA's website, a Schedule I substance has a high potential for abuse and no currently accepted medical use. Because of its classification, Kaplan said before he can bring in the product to start his lab work, DEA agents must visit the lab to sign off that it has the proper

safety mechanisms required by law.

"We have cameras in the hallway, locked doors, just so you can't come in and steal my CBD," Kaplan said.

Through his research, Kaplan said he's also trying to better mimic the consumption methods of users. To do this, his lab will have a tool called a passive inhalation chamber.

"It's kind of a hot box for mice," he said.

As a student, Ramirez said

Meet the Student Trustee

Anelyse Morris
THE WESTERN FRONT

Senior Citlaly Ramirez first arrived at Western as a nervous freshman. Sad, homesick and without family for the first time, she was unsure of how to navigate her new life as a college student.

However, as time went on she made friends and built a support system. She knew that she wanted to prepare for the workforce, so she started to work for her resume.

Ramirez is now a student ambassador and Western's 21st Student Trustee. She was appointed by Gov. Jay Inslee to serve on the board from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019.

"A year ago I had no idea what a trustee was," Ramirez said. "I feel like a lot of people don't, but as I became more educated about the position, I realized that it was a great fit for me."

A student trustee is a member of the Board of Trustees, a governing board for regional public universities. It consists of eight members and is responsible for providing policy direction and guidance as well as representing student and faculty interest, according to the Washington State Legislature.

When she isn't dealing with trustee duties, Ramirez is working towards earning her bachelor's degree in management information systems, with minors in marketing and theatre.

She originally came to Western to pursue her love of technology with a computer science major.

While she loved computer science, Ramirez eventually discovered that she had a passion for business as well. Un-

she brings unique and valuable experience to board meetings and strives to represent student perspectives by questioning what she thinks will benefit students as a whole.

While she has only been in the role for a few months, Ramirez said she hopes to get more input from students in the future about how to improve their experiences at Western. Being a first-generation college student, Ramirez saw the position as an opportunity to help students in similar situations become successful.

"I know that they [first-generation students] have these challenges and I really wanted to do something to help," she said. "We have a diverse campus and everyone has diverse needs that need to be addressed."

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supposed to happen and just because things don't go as planned, it doesn't mean we should give up, she said.

Regardless of what career may lie ahead for her, Ramirez said that she wants to move back home to the Seattle-Tacoma area to be closer to family, who are a big part of her life and success so far.

Despite her busy schedule, Ramirez said that loved ones always come first. She tries to dedicate at least one day a week to spending time with someone she's close with.

"If I'm busy seven days a week, that's really not good for me or the people I love, it's important to balance that," she said.

When she is feeling burnt out, Ramirez loves to hike with

friends, focus on the scenery and remind herself of all the things she is grateful for.

"If you know Citlaly, you know that she's simply a wonderful human being. You want to be around her. You want to work with her. You want to help her succeed. You want to be a part of whatever it is that she's a part of," Roselli said.

Ramirez encouraged other-Western students to get out of their comfort zones and take advantage of all of the resources and leadership opportunities Western has to offer.

"I think it all starts being grateful for what you have and realizing why certain things happen to certain people," she said. "When I was younger I would ask 'Why me?' and now I just ask 'Why not me?'"



Ramirez seeks to use her position to help students of all backgrounds become successful. // Photo by Anelyse Morris

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Local author Ella Rhoads Higginson honored

Bronze bust to be placed in Western Libraries' Reading Room

Jack Taylor

THE WESTERN FRONT

Revitalizing the fame of a deceased author is no easy task. Just ask Western English professor Laura Laffrado, who has spent the better part of the last few years working to ensure that Bellingham native author Ella Higginson gets her due.

Starting Friday, Nov. 2, a bronze bust of Ella Higginson will be placed in the Western Libraries' Reading Room to honor her legacy.

Higginson, who began her writing career at the beginning of the 20th century, became best known for writing more than 300 poems as well as fiction and nonfiction works.

Laffrado stumbled upon Higginson's work at the Washington State Archives while researching other topics and was shocked at how unknown Higginson had become after her death.

"While I was looking, I looked at their list of holdings and saw that they had 12 linear feet of material about a woman writer named Ella Higginson," Laffrado said. "It took me a quite a while to realize how

prolific she was."

While describing Higginson's poetry as inspired by the Pacific Northwest, Laffrado commented that her fictional writing detailed the life of being a white woman during the turn of the century.

"Her short stories tend to focus on the role of white women in the colonization of the Pacific Northwest by whites, and how troubling and difficult their situation was," Laffrado said.

Laffrado elaborated on how Higginson's depiction of white women motivated her to continue her research.

"Her treatment of white women was completely different than the treatment of white women in other American writing from other regions," Laffrado said.

Laffrado mentioned how women in the Pacific Northwest were given more options and freedom than women back in the colonized East Coast who were often left widowed or poor.

"White women [in the Pacific Northwest] had many more choices to make such as to marry, to not marry or to

divorce. And so Higginson's writing about these women, I had never seen it before," Laffrado said.

Director of Heritage Resources Elizabeth Joffrion said she believes Higginson's bust will help people put a face to a well-known name on campus.

"People know Higginson Hall, but they do not always know the fact that she lived right down the street," Joffrion said.

Joffrion also credits Laffrado for doing the tiresome task of reviving Higginson's works.

"We have had the Ella Higginson papers for quite some time, and Laura Laffrado recovered those records years ago and that sparked her interest," Joffrion said. "We have been working with her, and I think it is really Laura's passion that has made this all to be."

Laffrado is not alone in promoting Higginson's work, either. Marielle Stockton, Laffrado's research assistant, said she believes it's important for society to honor and examine deceased women's work.

"We have such a big emphasis in the culture now that



Higginson resided where Mathes Hall now stands. A plaque has been placed in front of the building. // Photo by Jack Taylor

we have to record women's achievements to the same caliber that we record men's," she said. "And it is not really fair in my mind that we leave women whose careers happened in a culture that did not think that was important. We can not just leave them behind."

Stockton said she hopes her work will signify to the public that there are other forgotten female writers as well.

"There are other women that are out there that need this work to be done. If we are going to care about preserving today's women, we have to

care about preserving yesterday's," she said. "It is only fair if we are going to call ourselves a just society in terms of feminism, feminism cannot just exist in today's culture."

Currently, a plaque honoring Higginson can be found on what used to be Higginson's home between the Viking Union and Mathes Hall. Additionally, a plaque crediting her can also be found on the exterior of Edens Hall.

For more information on the upcoming ceremony, information can be found on library.wvu.edu.

Liners, tampons and pads - Oh my!

Brooke Wilson

THE WESTERN FRONT

Affordable and accessible hygiene supplies have been scarce on campus for years. However, environmental science student Hanna Bridgham plans to change that reality for Western students and faculty.

A Sustainability, Equity and Justice Fund grant currently in the works would provide free organic cotton pads, tampons and other sanitary supplies in women's, men's and gender-neutral restrooms. If instituted, these supplies would be available for approximately two to three years in academic facilities and the Wade King Recreation Center.

As for funding, Bridgham said the instillation period would be dictated by the grant budget, which all registered Western students contribute to through quarterly fees issued at 90 cents per credit up to a \$9 maximum, according to the Western sustainability webpage.

Refills on supplies would be paid for through the custodial budget. Bathrooms would be equipped with labeled cabinets that look similar to first aid boxes, Bridgham said.

Two years ago, a group of students campaigned for a similar reform with a movement called "Free the Toiletries." Fast forward to February

2018, Bridgham joined forces with the Associated Students Environmental Center as part of the first-annual sustainable period event.

campus currently offer hygiene products available for purchase at competitive prices compared to larger retailers in Bellingham.

Wellness Services, the Associated Students Environmental Center, Womxn's Identity Resource Center and Days For Girls International, a nonprofit

"Three years for free period products is not bad comparatively to institutions with similar bylaws, bureaucratic structures and size," Environmental and Sustainability Programs Director Katie Winkelman said. "This project entails talking with facilities, janitorial staff and building managers for the entire campus, which is no small undertaking."

Bridgham discussed the problematic existence of the consumer cultural phenomenon called the "pink tax," which poses an equity issue for all people who menstruate and denotes these sanitary products as luxury items. Additionally, the associated terminology that markets hygiene supplies as "feminine" excludes other folks from the narrative, Bridgham said.

Winkelman said the project recognizes diversity within the community of people who use menstrual products.

"Not all people who experience periods are women, and [the program] offers necessary support to people who experience periods who are non-binary or not femme-identifying," she said.



The grant would ensure personal hygiene products are easily available across campus, free of charge. // Photo by Kenzie Mahoskey

An estimated 600 people filled out a registration form to receive menstrual cups, cloth pads and other organically-sourced, reusable products after attending the community engagement event. Bridgham noted the large reception as a positive demonstration of student interest and a high demand for these products, despite exceeding the allocated budget.

According to Bridgham, the student store locations on

"My friend Gwen Larned, the Zero Waste Coordinator at the time, sent me an article about Pomona College giving away free [menstrual] cups and we thought, 'We can do that,'" Bridgham said.

Bridgham and Larned collaborated with a number of student clubs and divisions within the university to make the joint educational seminar and giveaway event possible, offering products to sample at no charge. Prevention and

organization that provides personal hygiene products for periods, were among the contributors who partnered with Bridgham and Larned.

"The more I learned, the more passionate I became about the idea," Bridgham said. Previously, the initiative to supply free personal hygiene products on campus had seen resistance due to health regulations and lengthy negotiations, among other issues, Bridgham noted.



PHOTO BY OLIVER HAMLIN

Indigenous culture and traditions celebrated at local powwow

Jack Taylor

THE WESTERN FRONT

Heavy drum beats echoed as excited children and elders from indigenous communities marched together in the opening ceremony of the Powwow on Friday, Oct. 27. Dressed in colorful apparel, ranging from bright yellows to deep blues, traditions and celebrations were interspersed with dancing and remembrance for everyone in attendance.

A powwow is an indigenous gathering often held during

summer months. The gatherings include songs, dances and even competitions rooted in tradition. The Powwow was organized by the Northwest Indian College.

"It is a great opportunity to be involved in your community," NWIC Dean of Student Life Victoria Retasket said.

Retasket has been dancing since she was 12 years old and sees powwows as both social and athletic events. Retasket said her 9-year-old daughter also participates in the tradition.

Speaking on the specifics of putting on a powwow, Retasket said much of the work is put into creating funding.

People from all areas of North America traveled to attend the Powwow, which was held in Lummi Nation. Retasket said \$6,000 was raised through donations and fundraising the event.

"Nowadays, powwows are competitive which means we pay out prize money to some of the best dancers who show up," Retasket said.

Matthew Sheka Sr. has

been attending powwows for 41 years. He traveled from Arizona for the event and said he is also passionate about coaching a new generation to sing and dance.

"The best part about powwows is that I get to see friends from Friday to Sunday, and I get to enjoy the time singing and dancing," Sheka Sr. said.

Keisha Jones, who came to the event from Vancouver Island, British Columbia, spoke on the misconceptions non-indigenous have surrounding powwows. She said there is

still confusion about who is allowed to attend and how to be respectful.

"Often people think that it is something that you are not allowed to show support for," Jones said. "But I think it is something that is really important for people to witness and what happens so that there are not misconceptions."

More information on Northwest Indian College can be found on its website, and more information on powwows can be found at www.powwows.com

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GET SEX-POSITIVE AT WINKWINK

A new sex shop in downtown Bellingham aims to give people from all walks of life access to safe and fun experiences

Anjali LeGrand
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western alumna Jenn Mason was on vacation in Nashville, Tennessee, when she wandered in a shop called 'Her'. She had assumed it was a woman-owned sex shop. Finding a soap store instead, Mason, who was in the middle of running for the Bellingham School Board, walked out with another purpose for her life.

Mason slowly pursued the idea of a gender-inclusive, woman-owned, all-ages sex shop. A little over a year later, she opened WinkWink, a sex boutique in downtown Bellingham.

After deciding to open the store, Mason started to pursue the idea by meeting with people in the local community. A successful pop-up event on Valentine's Day 2018 at Red-light, a bar in downtown Bellingham, proved to be the final push for Mason to open up the sex boutique. WinkWink opened to the public on August 3, 2018, just over a month after Mason got the keys to the location.

"I always thought that maybe I'd one day run for office, and maybe one day I would open a store, but I didn't expect that those could happen at the same time," Mason said.

Mason chose the name WinkWink because of its salacious reference to sex, combined

with the comfortability of even her mom being able to say it without embarrassment. She said the name represents the aesthetic of the store.

Those who visit the shop find an open, modern space with different artists' work hanging on the walls. The small but inviting space is filled with simple and cozy decor, an aspect that appealed to Western senior Rhododendron O'Boyle, a WinkWink customer.

O'Boyle said she liked the size of the space because it allowed her to wander without getting overwhelmed while always being within sight of an employee, should she need help.

Sections with books, lingerie, sex toys, personal lubricants and products for all bodies and sexual orientations are neatly organized with informational cards to go with every product. The cards are filled with information about each item including the price, instructions, ingredients and anything else useful or interesting, promoting a major goal of the store: education and openness.

Western senior Josefina Mora has been working at WinkWink since the shop opened and said the store is organized to ease customers into products from most comfortable to least. Books stand at the entrance of the store, followed by lingerie and eventually sex toys and other products.

Mora said Mason's mission for the store is evident in the open, cheery and comfortable atmosphere of the shop.

According to their website, WinkWink hosts brief in-store informational classes every Friday evening for around 30 minutes. Topics range from "Intro to Vibrators" to "Butt Stuff Basics."

The shop also has an additional space upstairs for classes including partner yoga, events and private parties. According to Mora, WinkWink is also trying to work with doctors and therapists in the area.

A lack of proper sex education has kept many people in today's society from becoming comfortable with their own sexuality as well as with talking about sex, Mason said.

"Many of us become adults that are still lacking in the language and information to have the type of sex life that we'd like to have," Mason said. "The classes are really to help broaden people's understanding and skills."

O'Boyle said while browsing, she

found items not normally sold in traditional sex shops, including books on more than just different sex positions. The store carries material covering how to take care of one's own body and understanding gender identities.

Prior to owning and running WinkWink, Mason worked as the education coordinator at Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services from 2005-2008. Shortly after, she held the role of development and education direc-

tor there.

At DVSA, Mason said she noticed a gap in the educational conversation about healthy relationships. While conversations often covered negative relationships, she said they rarely covered discussions of empowerment of people's bodies and healthy sexual desires.

"I've always done important work, but I really wanted to do something that was important and fun," Mason said. "There are few things more fun than getting to talk to people about sex all day."

Mason also has a goal of keeping WinkWink an inclusive space for people of all gender identities and ages. She said while the store only sells to those ages 16 and older, people of any age can be in the store.

That inclusivity is reflected in Mason's belief that sexual health and wellness are social justice issues. Because of this, Mason said WinkWink also carries items relating to gender identity, including packers, accessories that can be worn to mimic the shape of a penis, and chest binders, fabric that can be used to compress breasts. She said the store does fittings for such items in-person, being the first in Whatcom and Skagit counties to carry them in-store.

Employee Annette Parker met Mason through her involvement in the sex-positive community. Parker said she has previously worked at two sex shops, including chain store Lovers. She said WinkWink separates itself from other sex shops by focusing efforts on including people of any gender, sexuality and size.

Instead of organizing products by gender, WinkWink organizes them by body part. Sex

toys are categorized as "penis toys" or "butt toys" to keep from making assumptions about customers' genders or the genders of their partners.

"When I used to work at Lovers, I would have transgender people come in, and we didn't have anything to offer them," Parker said. "It was one thing that was important to Jenn, that we agreed on. We would be all-inclusive."

This includes inclusivity for body types as well. Parker said the lingerie the store carries comes in sizes XS to 4XL, and said she's able to offer special ordering on certain items, something she couldn't do at Lovers. Even though providing this many sizes can be pricier, Mason said inclusivity is always worth the investment.

According to Mason, many traditional sex shops are also outdated and tend focus only on the pleasure of cisgender men. She said having a woman-owned sex shop helps reach a wider audience and meet more people's needs.

O'Boyle said people who weren't used to gender and size-inclusive spaces could have a lot to gain from a place like WinkWink in terms of their own sexuality.

"There's so much information [WinkWink] can give you on how to have safe, protected and fun sex, which is really nice," O'Boyle said.

Mason said with the current political climate and conflicting messages in society regarding sex and sexual desires, stores such as WinkWink and the messages they present are important.

"I am a lifelong feminist and all of the work that I have ever done has been focused on people who have been marginalized," Mason said. "I'm always going to do my best to center marginalized people."

All four staff members at WinkWink, including Mason, have taken a 16-hour course from the Center for Sexual Pleasure and Health. According to Mason, all of her employees have experience working in sex shops and histories of activism.

"I myself speak Spanish as well, so I'm also trying to reach out to my community," Mora said. "It's trying to be more inclusive, and trying to get people to think of sex as a health issue instead of just a pleasure issue."

Mora said having customers ranging in age and experience has led to many positive ed-



Products like vibrators and dildos sit on the shelves for curious customers to touch and learn about. // Photo by Harrison Amelang

ucational experience in the community. She said many WinkWink patrons are younger and have newer ideas.

"Bellingham is still kind of a small town, we think of it as progressive, but there's still that lack of understanding," Mora said. "We see people who come in and they're not totally familiar with the items for trans folks or non-binary folks."

O'Boyle said she found the place to be clean and feel comfortable as compared to other places she's been in.

"There are a lot of people who rightfully feel uncomfortable in traditional sex shops and feel that there is sort of an engrained degree of safety when the shop is run or owned by a woman," Mason said. "It gives people an idea of what might be different about it."

O'Boyle said while shopping, the employee working answered all her questions and inquired about their interests, making the experience more comfortable.

"If I was interested in something she was like 'We don't have that but tell me about it, I want to learn more,'" O'Boyle said. "They're open to new things, to hearing what their customers have to offer and what they want in store."

Mason said another aspect she feels strongly about is the health and safety information of sex toys. She said all of the products sold at WinkWink are safe and non-toxic, unlike many of the products available on the market.

Sex toys can typically carry anything in them because they are considered novelty items, and as a result,

not regulated by the Food and Drug Administration, Mason said, specifying that they can contain components not even allowed in the soles of shoes.

"Having a place where people can shop and say these are all toys that are healthy for us and healthy for our bodies, to me is a revolutionary act," Mason said.

Mason also considers WinkWink to be a politically-involved space, hosting political fundraisers and voter registration. Considering this to be an important move in today's political climate, Mason said she hopes WinkWink can be a place where control over people's own bodies is constantly affirmed.

"There is an ongoing war on people's bodies," Mason said. "To take away people's rights based on their bodies, and to take away autonomy over people's own bodies."

The store's tagline, "Pleasure is our Revolution," is representative of Mason's belief that with the role of sexual politics throughout history, a place which allows every individual to own and affirm their gender, sexuality and desires, is both a goal and a revolution.

"All of us need to have our eyes wide open about the ways that conservatives want to legislate our bodies and that their actions will impact the people who are already more marginalized," Mason said.

Juggling her life as the owner of a sex boutique with her role as a mother, wife and Bellingham school board member has been a more positive and well-received experience than she expected from her community, Mason said.

Mason, who was voted downtown Bellingham's Resident of the Year in 2016, loves the community and wants to continue to promote education in all aspects, across the board, she said.

"I want to show people if sex isn't something to be ashamed about, then I should be able to be an elected official and own a sex shop at the same time," Mason said. "That's what it means to live your values."

"There are few things more fun than getting to talk to people about sex all day."

Jenn Mason
Owner

PLEASURE IS OUR REVOLUTION

Owner Jenn Mason said WinkWink focuses on including all genders through education and language. // Photo by Harrison Amelang



At 1305 Commercial St., WinkWink offers classes, events and safe products. // Photo by Harrison Amelang

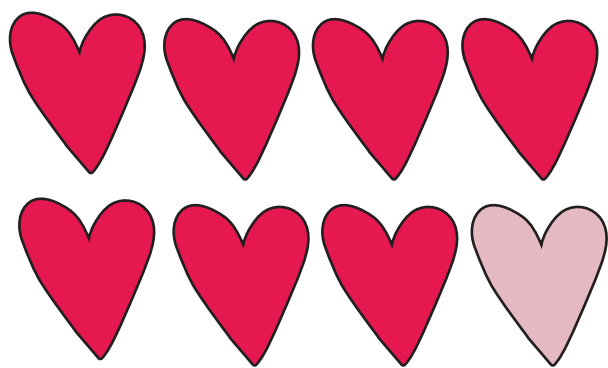
MORE THAN A COLOR

Emilee Kyle
THE WESTERN FRONT

For many people, the month of October represents more than pumpkins on porches and spooky decorations. It's also National Breast Cancer Awareness month. According to the National Breast Cancer Foundation's website, the yearly month-long campaign by multiple organizations aims to raise awareness about symptoms, treatment and the amount of people affected by the disease.

Quick Facts From the Susan G. Komen Organization

- Breast cancer is a disease in which malignant cancerous cells form in the tissues of the breast.
- Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in women.
- Contrary to common myths, caffeine, deodorant, microwaves and cell phones do not cause breast cancer.



One in eight women in the U.S. will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetimes.

Statistics from the Susan G. Komen Organization

ACCORDING TO THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY, THERE ISN'T AN ABSOLUTE WAY TO PREVENT BREAST CANCER. IT COULD HAPPEN TO ANYONE. IT'S IMPORTANT TO ALWAYS GET REGULAR SCREENINGS AND MAMMOGRAMS. EARLY DETECTION AND DIAGNOSIS CAN SAVE LIVES.

The 'Turtle Man' of Bellingham

Leroy Carlson finds joy in raising money for charity by selling his shell creatures

Kamiah Koch
THE WESTERN FRONT

On a rare day of clear, sunny skies at Boulevard Park in Fairhaven, visitors might stumble upon a man wearing a hat covered with turtles.

Known to locals as the "Turtle Man," Bellingham resident Leroy Carlson collects shells around local beaches, using them to hand-make turtles to sell so he can donate the proceeds to charity.

"It's a happy way to spend my spare time," Carlson said. "My wife thinks I'm obsessed but I just like to help people."

Carlson said his philanthropic hobby began over 20 years ago after health scares forced him to retire from the Georgia-Pacific paper mill in 1991. Carlson said after he retired, he and his wife of 60 years, Ann Carlson, decided they wanted to enjoy life for a while.

He said they decided to travel the coasts of Washington, Oregon and California in an RV. As they visited different beaches, Leroy Carlson said he began to pick up unique shells that glistened on the shores. With each coastline they saw, his seashell collection grew.

"Look how pretty they are," he said. "I thought something can be done with them."

His creativity was put to the test when wife Ann Carlson told him family friends were coming to stay with

them for a week and he had to decide what to do with all his shells.

"There were shells all over the house," he said. "She said 'Clean them up or I'm throwing the shells away.'"

That's when Leroy Carlson created his first batch of turtles. Made of just shells and hot-glue, he has perfected making turtles out of a variety of flatter clam shells and twisty drill shells over the years.

He said he also sells snail figures made of two shells creating the snails body and two hot-glue-eyeballs. Leroy Carlson said he hand-paints the eyes of each creature to be multicolored.

Some of his turtle or snail creations are lucky enough to receive a few extra dots of hot-glue on their shells, turning the snail into a ladybug.

When he first began making the turtles, Leroy Carlson said he didn't believe anyone would buy them. He

decided to start off by asking \$1 for each shell creation.

Carlson's claim to fame came when scouts from the movie "The Ring" came looking to film a scene in Bellingham. They were looking for something unique

to represent Bellingham and chose to include Leroy Carlson's turtle creations, he said. He still carries the movie contract folded in his wallet and will proudly show it to anyone who asks.

After making it on the big screen, he was told he should sell his magnets and pins for \$2 to \$5, a price many locals are willing to pay for a good cause. Carlson said the most he

has raised in one day is \$152.

Carlson said his charity of choice is the Bellingham Food Bank, but he



Leroy Carlson prepares to sell his charitable turtles at Boulevard Park in Fairhaven. // Photo by Kamiah Koch

According to the National Breast Cancer Foundation

3.3

million breast cancer survivors are alive in the U.S. today.

- Breast cancer occurs nearly 100 times more often in women than in men.

- Two out of three women with invasive cancer are diagnosed after age 55.

Early Warning Signs

- Lump, hard knot or thickening in the breast
- Change in the size or shape of the breast
- Swelling of all or part of a breast even if no distinct lump is felt
- Skin irritation or dimpling
- Breast or nipple pain
- A change in nipple appearance, including retraction, or turning inward
- Redness, scaliness, or thickening of the nipple or breast skin

POUR ONE OUT... FOR YOURSELF



Jack Taylor
THE WESTERN FRONT

Have you ever wondered what it would be like if a soda fountain poured beer and wine instead? Ferndale's new taproom, DownTime Taps, aims to give bar goers a brand new experience.

With 32 selections of beer and wine, DownTime Taps is Washington's first and only self-serve taproom. Located off Labounty Drive in Ferndale, DownTime Taps allows customers to be their own bartenders. According to Co-owner Tomas Aminnie, the beauty of the new style of bar is that customers can drink as much or as little as they want.

Aminnie said when a popular local bar, Maggie's, closed, people in Ferndale had to drive into Bellingham just to enjoy a drink. He saw a window to open a new place in town, and decided to get creative.

"As soon as [Maggie's] closed

down, we had nowhere to go and we thought Ferndale needed something in the taproom scene," Aminnie said.

Looking for ideas, Aminnie said the inspiration for a self-serve taproom came to him while he was traveling.

"I was doing some traveling on the east coast in Rhode Island and I saw the [self-serve] system and immediately fell in love with it," Aminnie said.

He said he was drawn to the system because as a consumer, he likes to sample a variety of drinks and often wants more than the average serving.

Alana Winborn, a Western senior and employee of DownTime Taps, said she heard of her current employer through Western's job site. She said she thinks the unique bar creates a fun atmosphere to work in.

"It is nice to be a part of something revolutionary, [and] something that is such a big change for the state and for the area," Winborn said. "Ferndale is such a small area, so I feel like this is really great for the community."



Beer and ciders wait to be poured by thirsty customers. // Photo by Harrison Amelang

Aminnie said when customers arrive, they get a wristband that is connected to their credit card and ID. Each wristband is also connected to a tab for each customer. Each time the wristband is used to activate the tap dispenser, the amount the customer dispenses is added to their tab.

However, he said there are restrictions to how much a customer can consume. According to Aminnie, the system has a limit of 24 ounces. When a customer reaches the limit, they have to approach a staff member and ask for another 24 ounces. Aminnie said he thinks this is more safe than other bars because the staff can easily keep track of customers' consumption to make sure they're not drinking too much.

Aminnie said he has seen an enthusiastic response from the Ferndale community so far.

"The community has been awesome about it, but it is a learning

curve because it is such a new thing," Aminnie said. "Every brand new customer that walks in, we have to educate about the system and how it works. As soon as they learn how it works, we have customers come in and mix different kinds of ciders and make their own fusion of cocktails."

Ferndale resident Brent Richards said he thinks having people bartend for themselves makes customers more aware of their alcohol intake.

"The whole vibe of being able to pour your own drink changes the game so much," Richards said. "You're not waiting for the bartender to say, 'Would you like another?' You've got to keep track of yourself."

Although he has no plans to expand, Aminnie said he hopes to continue to serve Ferndale and become a staple in the community.

More information can be found on DownTime Taps' website.



At 1730 Labounty Dr. in Ferndale, Downtime Taps welcome guests to pour their own drinks. // Photo by Harrison Amelang

Applications Sought for Two Faculty Grant Programs



Thaddeus Spratlen and Lois Price-Spratlen Inclusion and Diversity Grant Western Washington University is committed to creating and improving efforts to make our campus a diverse and inclusive community. Through this grant program, we hope to generate ideas, foster initiatives, and stimulate educational efforts that are tailored to the needs of the various colleges and constituencies at Western. This program seeks to engage a broader spectrum of faculty in the work of making Western locally responsive and globally engaged.

Fraser Lecture Series Fund
Funds have been established for the Fraser Lecture Series Fund. This endowment is one of six different endowments generously provided from the estate of Gordon H. and Alice C. Fraser. The purpose of this endowment is to support lectures, seminars, symposia or workshops in the natural, social and applied sciences, with emphasis on the Health and Life Sciences. Individuals of international and national reputation shall be invited to the University to share their knowledge with the campus community and help improve existing programs or initiate new programs.

Applications are due for both grants by December 1, 2018

Additional information about each grant, the application process, and the links to the on-line forms may be found at <https://provost.wvu.edu/grants>

Nominations Sought for Excellence in Teaching, Scholarship and Other Faculty Awards



WWU faculty members are committed to outstanding teaching, scholarship, leadership and community service and periodically the Western community has the opportunity to recognize some of our exceptional faculty members. The following annual awards are examples of the university community's efforts to recognize and show appreciation to faculty members and others for their service and outstanding achievements. Provost Carbajal encourages your nominations for these awards, each of which includes a payment for \$1,000.

Nominations are due for the following awards by December 1, 2018:

- Peter J. Elich Excellence in Teaching Award for faculty;
- Excellence in Teaching Award for faculty;
- Paul J. Olscamp Research Award for faculty;
- Outstanding Scholarship Award for faculty;
- The Outstanding Faculty Leadership Award for faculty;
- The Carl H. Simpson Bridging Award for faculty, staff and students.

Additional information about each award, the nomination process, and links to the on-line nomination forms may be found at <https://provost.wvu.edu/faculty-awards>

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMUNITY

Trans lives will not be erased

A letter from LGBTQ+ Director L.K. Langley

Yesterday [Oct. 21, 2018], the New York Times reported that a draft memo by the Department of Health and Human Services proposes to define sex as unchangeable and determined by a person's genitalia at birth. Legal and bureaucratic regulation of sex and gender identity are not new. But the broad and aggressive scope of the HHS proposal, and its utter refusal to recognize the reality of transgender people's existence and our basic humanity, are deeply concerning.

This draft memo does not undo the multiple federal and state court holdings recognizing the legal rights of transgender people. It cannot undo the Washington Law Against Discrimination, which explicitly prohibits discrimination against trans people in contexts including employment, education, public accommodations, housing, and access to credit. But it does ignore the prevailing medical perspective that gender identity exists beyond a limited binary and that invalidating transgender people's gender identities has damaging consequences. And crucially, it attempts to evade the reality that all people – including transgender people – are the best experts in defining who

we truly are.

While legal recognition and documentation do not dictate our humanity, they can be important to safety, particularly for trans people who experience increased vulnerability due to racism, anti-immigrant bias, ableism, and classism. For those of us who are transgender, who have trans family members and friends, and who care about the trans students and colleagues in our learning and working communities, the draft memo may feel threatening, dangerous, and cruel.

No memo can take away what we know is true about ourselves, our families, and our communities. Trans people, especially trans people of color, are no strangers to attempts at legal erasure. Trans people carry rich legacies of resilience. Our lives will not be erased. Trans people are beautifully, powerfully here.

With love,

L.K. Langley
LGBTQ+ Director

Note: This was originally published on Oct. 22 on the LGBTQ+ website



Langley began working at the Equal Opportunity Office in October 2011, and was Manager of Equal Opportunity Programs prior to their new position. // Photo courtesy of L.K. Langley

Students respond to divestment vandalism

Environmental club at Western denounces "activist" graffiti on campus

Students for Renewable Energy does not condone the vandalism done on campus on Tuesday October 23rd. The word "Divest" was spray painted in black and orange paint in multiple locations, and on several pieces of the sculpture garden. This vandalism does not reflect the views or investments of the artist whose work was violated, and is disrespectful to the artist and members of the campus community. SRE does not support this action. In the past, while our Divestment campaign has been combative, our campaign strategy has evolved, and now works towards Sustainable Investing.

Divestment, a broad international campaign, is the act of withdrawing your money from companies that don't align with your values. Fossil fuel divestment takes investments out of fossil fuel and oil companies as a response to climate change and the damage that these companies inflict on the environment. SRE's Divestment campaign, started in

2012, evolved into Sustainable Investing. This is due to increased knowledge of Western's investment structure from working with the administration, specifically the Foundation. Sustainable Investing involves screening out fossil fuels

the Sustainable Investing Campaign.

We will be holding a teach-in about Sustainable Investing, Divestment, and Climate Justice on the evening of November 15th; like us on Facebook for more in-

formation on the event. If you are interested in getting involved with this campaign, we invite you to email us at westernsre@gmail.com or to come to our weekly meetings on Tuesdays at 6

p.m. in Humanities 102. In Solidarity, Students for Renewable Energy



Illustration by Chelsea Consolacion



Illustration by Cole Sandhofer

Get ya sports here!

All things sports with Western Front staff

Claudia Cooper
THE WESTERN FRONT

Men's soccer shut out Northwest Nazarene University 3-0 on Thursday, Oct. 25. This was their second shutout victory against Northwest Nazarene this season. The Vikings kept up their winning streak with a win of 5-1 against Seattle Pacific University on Saturday, Oct. 27. Their overall record is now 9-6-1 and the team has moved into second place in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference with standing of 5-4-1.

Women's soccer also shutout Northwest Nazarene 2-0 earlier on Thursday, Oct. 25, continuing their winning streak. The team took the number one seat in conference after a 2-1 win against Montana State Billings on Saturday, Oct. 27. This was their final game before they will play in the GNAC conference championship.

READ MORE!

Read more sports coverage online at westernfrontonline.com

Leading lady takes the ice

Western hockey's only female-identifying player proves she can hang with the boys

Hannah Blank
THE WESTERN FRONT

Playing with the boys has never been an issue for freshman Anna Stensland. Having spent the better part of her youth as the only girl on her co-ed team in the Seattle Junior Hockey Association, Stensland has no trouble competing at whatever level she is placed in.

It's no surprise that nothing was going to stop her from continuing to play hockey in college, even the lack of a women's team. As one of the goalies for Western's club hockey team, Stensland gets to continue practicing her passion as the only girl on the team, a first in the club's history.

"She blew our minds," teammate Jake McCallum said. "She performed better than any of us expected absolutely on par with [the starting goalie's] performance as well, which will hopefully result in her getting more playing time."

McCallum continued to say that as far as the team dynamic goes, Stensland's presence has not changed how they approach the game and their competitive attitudes.

"One of my fa-

vorite parts of playing boys is going out there and being able to compete right with them," Stensland said. "Showing them I'm just as good as they are."

One of Stensland's long-term goals is to start a women's

people who are interested," Stensland said. "I'm basically starting a beginners program and building it from there."

To Stensland, hockey is a part of life. With an older brother who played, she said she was al-

playing college hockey, Stensland began to look into universities on the East Coast where women's hockey teams are present. The West Coast simply does not have women's hockey at the university level.

With the inten-

There wasn't a women's hockey team.

However, as luck would have it, Cameron Budnick, a teammate of Stensland's when she first played co-ed hockey at 8 years old, reached out and said Western's men's club team was in need of a goalie for the upcoming year.

"She played for the Western Washington Female Hockey Association and she was a good goalie for them – a couple years ago they were second in the nation," Budnick said. "We needed a goalie and I knew she might come [to Western]."

Stensland got connected and started talking to Coach Larry MacDonald, who eventually offered her a spot on the team.

According to assistant coach Colton Liebelt, Stensland is very coachable and learns quickly, which is all a coach can ask for in a player. He continued to say that when put in games, she exceeds expectations and makes big plays for the team.

"It's a lot of fun honestly," Stensland said. "They treat you differently because you're a girl but it's [not] a bad different – you have more of a chance to impress them."



Anna Stensland, left, keeps her cool in goal as Western faces off in a game against Boise State University on Oct. 21. // Photo courtesy of David Costello

club hockey team at Western. In order to do so, she first needs female-identifying students to sign up. With enough students, Stensland can create a club through the Associated Students and the funding provided would allow her to further establish it as a club program.

"There's not a lot of girl hockey players at this school but there are definitely

ways at the rink. By the age of 3, after a learn-to-skate program, Stensland jumped straight into the game herself. At 6 years old, Stensland said she realized she loved the sport.

After playing co-ed for many years, Stensland switched to the Western Washington Female Hockey Association where she was on an all-female team.

With dreams of

tion of leaving Washington, she ignored all of the in-state universities. When Stensland's plan to move to the East Coast didn't pan out, she looked into what the state offered and discovered Western.

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Archers, at your ready...

Western's Archery Club hits its marks as it rallies archery lovers new and old alike

Andrew McClain
THE WESTERN FRONT

On Oct. 24, in the chill evening air of the parking lot outside of Laurel Church, you could hear the thrum of bowstrings and slap of arrowheads hitting targets.

With over half a dozen arrows being loosed and striking home in tandem, the sound was more reminiscent of a battle scene or training yard from the days of yore than it was to a typical event at a house of worship. Except instead of war horns and drill sergeants yelling at recruits in the background, there was laughter and happy chatter.

For the time being, Laurel Church has agreed to let the newly re-founded Western Archery Club hold their practice sessions in the main room of their building. It's not a small room, but the 27 occupants in attendance to shoot, in conjunction with the space needed to create a firing range, made the large area feel a bit crowded.

That crowd was the direct result of two students who have worked hard to bring a neglected sport back into the new wave of fashion.

Freshman Vanessa Miewald and senior Olivia Hall are the co-founders of the current iteration of the Western Archery Club. The club was recently approved by Western as an official club after the founders went through what they described as a mountain of red tape in terms of liability paperwork.

Before they even got to that part, though, the club needed a little serendipitous intervention to help get the ball rolling.

Miewald, who has been shooting since she was a child, recently moved to Bellingham from Mill Creek to attend Western. As someone who says she takes her archery seriously and has aspirations for the Olympics, she was disappointed by the lack of an archery "club scene" in the area.

A quick Google search will confirm that if your interests lay in the realm of shooting bows, there are few resources in the area that cater to that market.

One of the stores that does, B r i s k y B o w s o u t o f F e r n d a l e, is where Miewald and Hall first connected.

Hall said she had b e e n t a k -

ing shooting lessons from owner Curt Brisky for a month or two when Miewald walked into his shop for the first time. Brisky and Miewald struck up a conversation, and Miewald expressed her disappointment over the lack of an archery scene in town. While he didn't have an answer to the club problem on his own, Brisky gave Miewald's contact information to Hall and suggested

they should get together to discuss their options.

After meeting for the first time, the answer to the co-founders' archery issue became apparent: If you build it, they will come.

However, they needed to do more than just fill out the paperwork. Miewald and Hall also needed to find a volunteer coach because they couldn't afford to pay one. Then, they had to find a venue to hold their meetings because they also couldn't afford field time at the Wade King Recreation Center on campus. Lastly, they needed equipment for beginners who might not have their own.

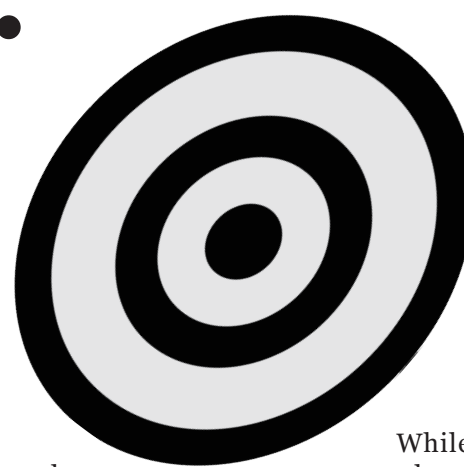
Thanks to Bill Stinson of Golden Arrow Archery Services, they found most of those things in one place.

Hall said they stumbled upon Stinson, an olympic-certified instructor and bow repairer who works out of his home, after a few phone calls around the local archery community. Stinson was already using the Laurel Church space to teach high school-aged students the basics of archery, and Hall said convincing him to let them use the space as well wasn't a hard sell.

The pair's dually expressed desire to "help create [an archery] community in Bellingham" resonated with Stinson to the point that he volunteered to be the club's main coach for the time being.

Stinson being the club's coach has benefits as well. As a certified Junior Olympic Archery Development coach, he has access to equipment that helps make the club a possibility. A rack of compound bows, a row of targets, safety netting to help catch stray shots and piles upon piles of practice arrows helped make their first shoot a success.

The co-founders said they had around 70 people sign up for the club, but they described the 27 that showed up to their initial fun shoot as a solid number for the first Western Archery Club event since the 1920s.



While she was happy with the turnout, Hall noted that she expected to have even more club shooters among their ranks after their Friday night practice shoot at Ebenezer Christian School in Lynden.

But the club's founders aren't satisfied with just a good start.

Stinson said one of his major goals with the club is to help get them a grant so they can provide more resources for club members and broaden their reach. Stinson said he hopes the grant would help to pay for field time, coaches, club equipment, repairs, tournament costs and adaptive equipment to help shooters with disabilities.

Adaptive equipment is an important investment according to Pam Stinson, an Olympic archery instructor and Bill Stinson's wife, who stressed that archery is an inclusive sport. Regardless of any perceived handicap, she said she wants to assure readers that everyone can participate. She related stories of shooters with one arm shooting with their teeth, shooters without arms shooting with their feet and shooters without eyesight using assistance to help zero-in on their targets.

"Archery is for everyone," Pam Stinson said.

The Archery Club meets every Wednesday from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Laurel Church off of Guide Meridian Road.

Many club members also participate in a "fun shoot" that takes place every Friday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Ebenezer Christian School. While the Laurel Church meeting is free and geared toward younger shooters, the Ebenezer shoot has a fee of \$5, is open to the public and is more "adult-oriented."

Come on and slam and welcome to the jam!

Viking basketball held yet another annual Viking Madness jamboree showcasing the teams' talent

Andrew McClain
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Western pep band could be heard from either end of campus as they blared away at the night sky to welcome guests to the Viking Madness basketball exhibition at Sam Carver Gymnasium on Friday, Oct. 26.

The Friday night event was billed as an opportunity for fans to see both the women's and men's basketball teams before the start of the season. The night also doubled as a pre-

Halloween event that included a costume contest and games set up by local businesses for attendees to win prizes and food.

An hour after the doors opened, the lights dimmed in the gym and the basketball teams were introduced to raucous cheers.

After that, it was all you can eat White-jersey versus Blue-jersey action as the teams were split up to play against themselves.

Festivities kicked off with the women's scrimmage. The

game timer was shortened to six minutes and substitutions were called frequently to get all the players on to the court for the exhibition. The result was a full-speed flurry of activity for the entire duration of the match. The contest was close throughout, but it was the White squad that snagged the victory 12-11 behind a solid three-point shooting performance from junior guard Dani Iwami.

The men's scrimmage followed closely after. While there wasn't a lot of defense played - much to the vocal dismay of the coaches on the sidelines - the athleticism on display was impressive. Alley-oops, big dunks and three-point shooting prowess were all included during the frantic six minutes of playtime that saw the White squad take a 26-20 victory over the Blue squad.

The three-point shooting contest came next, but with a twist. Instead of shooting as individuals, the contest was once again broken up into Blue versus White with five shooters on each squad.

While the three-point contest remained close, with the score tied going to the last shooters, it was the Blue squad that pulled out the win 37-33.



Junior Anna Schwecke, middle, fends off the ball from her teammates during a friendly scrimmage at Viking Madness. // Photo by Harrison Amelang

That left only one question unanswered for the night: who would be crowned Viking Madness Dunk Contest Champion?

The men's team competed as individuals in this event, with five players taking part in the contest. Each player was given the chance to perform two dunks before the crowd voted on who would advance to the final round.

Through those first two rounds, the clear fan favorite was junior forward Trevor Jasinsky, who said he's been able to throw down crowd-pleasing

dunks since his high school days. That experience appears to have benefited him, as his explosive athleticism and mid-air acrobatics earned him the loudest cheers.

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Read the full story online at www.westernfront.com



Junior Cameron Retherford goes for the gold during the dunk contest at Viking Madness on Friday, Oct. 26. // Photo by Harrison Amelang

Men's soccer battles to clinch runner-up spot

Western men's soccer beats Northwest Nazarene as they move to second place in GNAC

Ian Haupt
THE WESTERN FRONT

Two goals in two minutes for junior forward Christian Rotter set the sail for the Vikings' win over the Northwest Nazarene University Nighthawks on a cold and windy night at Robert S. Harrington Field on Thursday, Oct. 25.

The 3-0 victory jumped the Western men's soccer team from sixth to second place in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference with three games left to play. The Vikings have an in-conference record of 4-4-1 and season overall record of 8-6-1 for the 2018-19 season thus far.

Simon Fraser University has already clinched the GNAC championship title with an undefeated conference record of 9-0-0. Now, the excitement is in the battle for the runner-up spot, which is between five teams with one point separating them.

On a two-game winning streak, the Vikings have gained some momentum heading into the last games of the season. Head Coach Greg Brisbon said he hopes to keep the streak going.

"It's super tight," Brisbon said about the GNAC runner-up spot. "So hopefully we can

keep winning and get that second place."

From the first whistle, the Vikings looked intent on winning as they attacked with speed, moving the ball accurately and with pace in mid-field, while defensively putting

the Nighthawks' goalkeeper, freshman Alex Nadermann. As Nadermann rushed out of his net, Rotter chipped the ball over his head to give Western an early lead.

Only two minutes later, Rotter lasered a shot on goal from



Junior Taylor Allen jumps into the arms of teammate Jeremiah Lee after scoring a goal in a game against Northwest Nazarene on Thursday, Oct. 25. // Photo courtesy of Christian Serwold

pressure on the Nighthawks.

The first goal came in the 20th minute with a through ball from sophomore forward Drew Farnsworth. Rotter found himself one-on-one with

12 yards out that Nadermann could not get a firm enough hand on. The goal was assisted by sophomore midfielder Georg Cholewa. Rotter said his mindset coming into the

The third goal came in the 33rd minute with another assist from Cholewa when he crossed the ball into the penalty box from the right side of the field to set up junior forward Ryan

Schaefer for a close-range shot that he easily sunk into the back of the net. Brisbon credited the Vikings' defense for setting up shots early on in the game.

"I thought our defensive pressure was really good as a group and that created those early chances in the first half," Brisbon said. "So, scoring three goals in the first half, it's tough to comeback from. It was really a key to the game."

Northwest Nazarene was looking for a goal to get them back into the game toward the end of the first half with shots on goal to challenge Western's goalkeeper, redshirt freshman Brandon Walter.

The second half of the game was played largely in the mid-field. The Nighthawks' frustration was exemplified with 11 fouls committed in the half, compared to the Vikings' six. With a strong and organized defense, the Vikings held Northwest Nazarene to a clear shutout, solidifying their win.

The Western men will continue on in the GNAC with their upcoming home game on Thursday, Nov. 1 against the undefeated conference champions, Simon Fraser University. If the Vikings keep the wins rolling, they may be able to clinch a second place spot in the conference.

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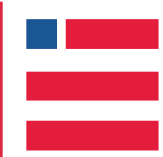
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