

THE WESTERN FRONT

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Inside



Landlords speak up about rising rent, low vacancy
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Western student arrested, charged in connection with vandalism case

Julia Berkman & Julia Furukawa
THE WESTERN FRONT

A Western student arrested in connection with recent racist and bigoted vandalism on campus was charged with second-degree burglary on Tuesday, Nov. 27.

Residential Burglary:
a class B felony unlawfully entering or remaining within a dwelling with the intent to commit a crime.

Second-degree Burglary:
a class B felony unlawfully entering or remaining within a building (excluding a dwelling or a vehicle) with the intent to commit a crime.

The suspect, 20-year-old Shayne Merwin of Gold Bar, was arrested on Sunday, Nov. 25 by University Police and booked into Whatcom County Jail on suspicion of residential burglary and malicious mischief, according to a WWU Campus Advisory sent out Monday, Nov. 26. A resident of Birnam Wood, Merwin was trespassed from all university housing and dining halls, according to the advisory.

On Nov. 19, nine name tags in Nash Hall were defaced with racist and homophobic language, as well as a threat of sexual

violence, according to the advisory. The following day, a racial epithet was written on the "Wright's Triangle" art installation near the Ross Engineering Building and on a poster outside Arntzen Hall, the advisory reads. The messages are believed to be part of one continuous incident, but have all since been removed according to the advisory.

In a campus-wide email sent out on Nov. 19, President Sabah Randhawa condemned the vandalism.

"I want to be absolutely clear: hate has absolutely no place

on our campus," he said. Merwin was heard in Whatcom County Superior Court on Monday, Nov. 26. With

Recognizance:
the pretrial release of a defendant from jail without bail. The defendant is released with a promise to return to court.
source: uslegal.com

no prior charges filed against him in Whatcom County, Merwin was released on personal recognizance, and so will remain out of custody with a contractual agreement to reappear in court at his next date.

According to Deputy Prosecutor Erik Sigmar,

on Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 27, the Whatcom County Prosecutor's Office charged Merwin with second-degree burglary. This is a class B felony, punishable by up to 10 years confinement and a \$25,000 fine, according to state law. Washington state law defines second-degree burglary as entering or remaining in a building unlawfully with the intent to commit a crime against a person or property there.

Merwin's arraignment is set for Dec. 7 at the Whatcom County Courthouse.

Additional reporting by Cody Clark.

Double trouble!

School may have been out on a break last week, but the Vikings sure weren't.

Both the women's and men's basketball teams dominated the Thanksgiving Tournament and each went 2-0 on their home court on Nov. 23-24.

See page 12

Right: Forward Katrina Gimmaka battles it out against a player from the University of Mary on Saturday, Nov. 24. // Photo by Jaden Moon



Proud Boys deemed hate group

Zoe Deal
THE WESTERN FRONT

The FBI has recently categorized Proud Boys as an extremist group "with ties to White Nationalism," according to a Clark County Sheriff's Office internal affairs report. Federal authorities are warning local law enforcement that the group is actively recruiting in the Pacific Northwest.

Self-defined as Western chauvinists, or aggressive patriots, the group "longs for the days when 'girls were girls and men were men,'" according to their website.

Vice Media Co-founder Gavin McInnes pioneered the group during the 2016 presidential election, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center. Since then, the group has spread across the nation, appearing alongside hate groups at protests.

The Bellingham chapter

of Proud Boys gained notoriety in 2017 when they spread flyers downtown.

According to a previous Western Front article, the flyers read: "We glorify the entrepreneur. We venerate the housewife. We cherish free speech. We love our guns."

In a 2017 interview with the Front, Bellingham resident and Proud Boys member Aaron Laigaie said potential members are vetted to ensure they aren't racist or white supremacists.

David Burghart, a founder of the Whatcom Human Rights Task Force, said this is far from the truth.

"No matter what claims they make regarding that they're not racist, the arguments that they're putting forward, and the ideas that they're promoting are in fact grounded in racism," he told the Front in May 2017.



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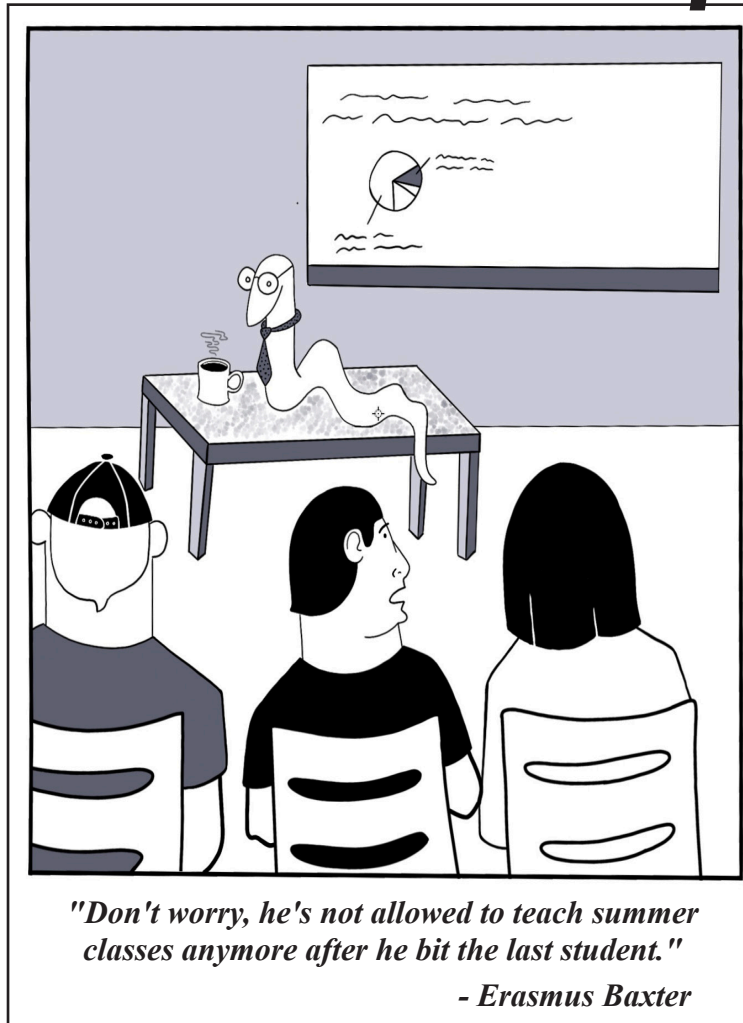
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"Don't worry, he's not allowed to teach summer classes anymore after he bit the last student."
 - Erasmus Baxter

Hey Western! We know you all have some good one-liners. Why not get them published? Submit your caption to the unlabeled cartoon on the right and you could be featured as the winner in next week's issue of The Western Front. // Illustrations by Cole Sandhofer

Student documents acts of kindness

Alexia Suarez
 THE WESTERN FRONT

Western community to raise awareness about the importance and value that kindness has within society. Anderson is requesting that individuals send in photos or stories of them performing or receiving an act of kindness to her Instagram page or email. She hopes to see generous acts stem from this reminder and hopefully spread throughout campus.

"My belief is if you're a kind person, a welcoming person, you're going to be more ready to have a difficult conversation if you have a difference with someone," Anderson said. "It creates an inclusive society that doesn't exclude anybody."

Anderson said that kindness is vital due to its ability to bridge the differences in a diverse society, expand one's worldview and create a society built on mutual respect. She has created buttons that she is passing around campus reading Be a Nice Human. Anderson said this practice often gets thrown to the wayside because it's hard for people to be vulnerable.

"[It] seems like people associate kindness with weakness, and it definitely is not a weakness. I think it says more about you - if you're willing to be open and kind - than it does to be closed off," Anderson said.

Eva Waltz, former leader of the Acts of Kindness club believes that with positivity and love, change can organically grow to mold society.

"Kindness is important because it is so simple—but makes a world of change," Waltz said.

Waltz said due to her busy schedule, she is not active in the club now, but still values the impact that a smile or a sincere compliment has within society.

She believes that being nice and caring is simple. From holding a door for someone, to smiling at a

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Have story ideas? Email us at westernfrontonline@gmail.com to send them our way or discuss sharing information confidentially.

Western composts

Compost bins and supplies have been installed in residence halls following student-led effort

Samuel Fletcher
 THE WESTERN FRONT

This week Western is launching a university-wide composting program which will put state-of-the-art bins in every dorm room on campus.

The effort was completely student-led. Students Jessica Loveland, Abby Severns and Risa Askerooth are mentors in the Sustainability Representative Program, located in Western's Office of Sustainability. As such, they were tasked with doing a year-long project focused on improving sustainability on campus.

During her freshman year, Loveland took it upon herself to make a compost bucket and walk it to the nearest food-waste bin on campus when it filled up, she said. Making the ecologically-conscious activity more accessible to other students, seemed like a no-brainer to her.

"It was just common practice for me," Loveland said. "When I came up here and that wasn't accessible that was like the strange part, rather than actually doing those things being the strange part, which is the case for some residents."

The students first coordinated compost-sorting and bucket-decorating events and noticed an interest among

other dorm residents, Loveland said. To move the project forward, the next step was to look into funding.

Loveland, Severns and Askerooth initially submitted the project grant request to the Sustainability Action Fund in October 2017, Loveland said.

Then they went to housing administrators, the facility operations manager and custodians to fine-tune the plan, University Residences Associate Director Terence Symonds said. When the plan was brought to the Residence Hall Association and various hall councils, all expressed support for it.

The team looked at the cost of labor and materials and condensed the concept to a 5-year program, at which point they would reassess the budget depending on the need, Symonds said.

For the cost of the buckets, biodegradable liners and custodial labor, they calculated the cost for the 5-year period to be about \$74,000, he said. The approved grant request covered \$41,000 of this, and University Housing covered the remaining portion.

"At the end of the day, it made sense to launch this thing," Symonds said.

One compost bucket will be distributed to each room, he said. While student participation in the compost program is voluntary, residents will



The new compost buckets are specifically designed with odor-canceling ventilation. // Photo by Jaden Moon

be encouraged to empty the buckets at least once a week.

The program is set up to run from September through June of each of the five years, because students would have to be fairly ecologically-minded to want to do that.

Their goal is to develop an environmentally-conscious culture in which students who might not have thought about composting before get inspired to participate, she said. Another aspect that sets the program apart is that it has the potential to be sustainable over decades.

Nash resident Waverly Kenny said if they were available, he would definitely use the compost bins. Aside from compost being easier to sort than trash and recycling, he thinks it could actually eliminate some of the concerns present in the trash and recycling bins.

"In one of my friends' room, he has a lot of fruit in there, and he is always getting fruit flies and whatnot, like his room is infested right now with them," Kenny said. "The bins would definitely be a big help."

Aside from reducing greenhouse gasses, the program will have economic and social benefits as well, Loveland said.

Compost is cheaper to collect than landfill waste, she said. Furthermore, it can be resold to the community.

Additionally, landfills are also disproportionately located in communities with higher populations of people of color and lower socioeconomic statuses, she said. Launching the program could also help relieve some of the burden on those communities by diverting waste away from landfills.

According to Symonds, the program would not be possible without the dedication of the students.

"I've been here four years, but I think we have the right people here now that pushed it forward and wanted to go global with it," he said. "Hopefully the next batches of Jessicas and Risas and Ab-

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Who is to blame for rent increases?

Bellingham landlords speak on why student rental prices keep rising



A "For Rent" sign stands outside a house on North Garden Street. Hammer Properties owner Mike Hays said landlords can make more by renting to students. // Photo by Harrison Amelang

Schuyler Shelloner
THE WESTERN FRONT

Framed by rugged mountaintops, with picturesque islands dotting its bay and craft breweries on practically every corner, it's no wonder so many people want to move to Bellingham. But affordable homes have been in short supply and rentals are scarce, too.

According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Bellingham's apartment vacancy rate in 2017 was a mere 3.4 percent. According to rental-propertyreporter.com, an online resource for landlords and property managers, a vacancy rate under 5 percent is great for landlords, but not so good for renters.

In an online survey conducted by The Western Front, large rent increases and maintenance issues were the main complaints made by the more than 40 people who responded. But for junior Nick Spevak, neither rents nor broken faucets were big concerns.

"A lot of my bad experiences here haven't been the places themselves, it's been trying to find a place," he said.

Spevak said he had to pay approximately \$70 for a non-refundable application fee for an apartment leased by Windermere Property Management. He said he never heard back from them about the place.

According to Taylor Assink, office manager at Windermere Property Management, Windermere charges a \$40 application fee and a \$25 co-signer fee

when applicable, both of which are non-refundable. Since non-refundable fees for applications and co-signers are fairly common property management practices in Bellingham and elsewhere, finding rentals can be an expensive process.

Spevak currently rents from a private landlord and pays \$450 for a basement room in a house he shares with three roommates. He said it's more affordable than the other apartments that he's rented in Bellingham, but still much more expensive than anywhere else he's lived.

"Even Pittsburgh, it's like \$400 for a studio apartment downtown, and it's a pretty hip city now," Spevak said. "Out here, it's insanely expensive. This place isn't as bad as Seattle, but I paid \$880 for a studio apartment in downtown Bellingham. This isn't Manhattan, this is a small town."

Mike Hays, owner of Hammer Properties, said low vacancy rates are to blame for high rents. If supply is low and demand is high, rents will continue to climb. There's little that can be done besides building more houses, Hays said.

Hays started Hammer Properties with the intention of renting to students, a good investment, he said, because many students receive help from their parents with living expenses. Most of the properties Hammer manages are in the Sehome neighborhood, close to Western. Hays said vacancy rates near campus are close to zero, lower than anywhere else in the city.

"We have families that are looking for houses, and we have students that are looking for houses," Hays said. "The students, for the most part, will pay more than the families can. If it's a six-bedroom house, you're talking \$3,000 a month. A family's not gonna rent a house for \$3,000. Students, the way they look at it, it's just \$500 for a room. As high as our rent prices are, it's still cheaper than the dorms."

According to the University Residences website, a standard single unshared room in a residence hall without a meal plan costs \$8,725 this academic year, approximately \$970 per month. A single unshared room in Birnam Wood costs approximately \$840 per month, or \$7,545 for the academic year without a meal plan.

Kurt Willis, associate director of University Services, said residence halls and campus-owned apartments come furnished, with utilities, internet, cable TV, laundry, toiletries, restroom custodial services, security patrols, safety escorts and other staffing included in the rent. He said Western's campus housing does not require first and last month's rent to be paid up front, and the \$200 deposit is almost always returned in full. Students who stay the whole nine months may also stay over winter and spring break at no additional charge, Willis

said. Although it may be cheaper to find a room off campus, many of those interviewed for this article still complained about high rents. Students or renters aren't the only people struggling to find affordable housing. Would-be homeowners also have a hard time finding affordable homes in Bellingham.

Kulshan Community Land Trust Executive Director Dean Fearing said in a statement for a previous Western Front article that there's a lack of starter homes for purchase in Bellingham, which are homes under

rental units in downtown Bellingham.

Turk said she's had to raise rents to cover rising insurance and utility costs, as well as the landlord licensing fee, but not more than a 5 percent increase per year. When she can be sure she's paid all her expenses, Turk doesn't like to charge more than what she pays for her own mortgage, she said.

"We have incurred more expenses, but my approach, even though I know I could charge more rent, is it's better to have good tenants who can afford to be there, instead of just having people filter through and beat on the place," Turk said.

Turk also runs Blossom Management, a commercial property management company owned by former Mayor Ken Hertz. One of the companies the agency manages is called Workstudios, which offers commercial space for lease to local small businesses and startups.

Hertz said he does not raise rents for these spaces - he wants to help the small businesses that rent from him thrive. He isn't motivated by profits.

"A landlord that only wants to maximize income and doesn't give a rat's diddle about anything else, they can double their rent," Hertz said. "People don't want to blame the landlord, but the landlord's going to get as much out of it as possible. That's the bottom line."

"A family's not going to rent a house for \$3,000. Students, the way they look at it, it's just \$500 for a room."

Mike Hays
Owner, Hammer Properties

Practice space limited for recreational clubs

Athletics Department given priority, resulting in cancelled practices and storage issues

Brooke Wilson
THE WESTERN FRONT

Several recreational clubs on campus have spoken out about an ongoing struggle to reserve space in the newly-renovated Sam Carver Gymnasium.

Priority for practice space in Carver Gym is given to Western's Athletics Department over club sports and Associated Students clubs, causing both to move between Carver Gym and the Wade King Recreation Center, according to Western's wrestling team president Nathan Swanson-Dinsmore.

A recurring issue is last minute practice cancellations. According to Swanson-Dinsmore, 20 percent of the scheduled 70 practice sessions over the course of the wrestling team's competitive season were cancelled or temporarily moved elsewhere.

That means wrestling club members are not permitted to practice in Carver Gym facilities about 15 times during the competitive season between fall and winter quarter, Swanson-Dinsmore said.

These actions are done with authorization from the Athletics Department. Swanson-Dinsmore said he anticipates that judo club will encounter a similar dilemma acquiring accommodations for space and equipment storage, despite not being a fully-established club yet.

"Athletics does not contact any of the clubs directly in any way," Swanson-Dinsmore said. "[The department] works with the Administrator for Sports Clubs Caitlin Sommers, and Associated Students Program Director Jennifer Cook to in-

form us of the schedule."

Other student-organized athletic groups at Western are no stranger to scheduling complications.

Fencing club secretary Kyle McCaffery had difficulty coordinating arrangements for practices.

"We ended up talking to six different people before we finally figured out the right person," McCaffery said.

While Steve Brummel, associate athletic director for Facilities and Operations, may preside over booking the gym, McCaffery explained that Sommers leads the charge for managing time and space allotted to clubs.

Each academic quarter, clubs are asked to submit practice requests. Sommers said that these divisions on campus aim to provide adequate time and space for each club.



Intramural volleyball teams practice in Carver Gym's upstairs C Gym. // Photo by Matthew Tangeman

Before renovations wrapped

up at Carver Gym, fencing club members would practice in the Rec Center fitness studio, wrestling booked space at Sehome High School and borrowed mats. Women's volleyball club scheduled practices at 6 a.m. in the Rec Center and men's volleyball also utilized the Sehome High School gymnasium. Additionally, Sommers said that the external facilities come with a high rental cost.

According to Brummel, the Campus Recreation department has been allocated specific times in Carver Gym to divide amongst student organizations. Typically folks from Campus Recreation are permitted to reserve space in the evenings during the week and on weekends. An exception would be additional sporting events or if any practices through the Athletics Department ran late.

With an attempt to book the

facility for earlier routine meetings during 2018-19, McCaffery said that practices for the cheerleading squad were instead assigned the time frame in consideration for the fencing club amidst negotiations with Sommers.

After finally securing both a location and regular time to practice, McCaffery said the club received specific dates that would be cancelled due to sporting events hosted by the Athletics Department.

Last Sunday, Nov. 18, the fencing club competed against University of British Columbia in Canada but could only practice once in the two weeks leading up to the tournament.

In addition to routine practices, locating permanent storage space for the training mats has been rather challenging for Swanson-Dinsmore.

"With the growth of our club, using only four of our

seven mats would be dangerous due to issues involving space and possible collisions," Swanson-Dinsmore said. "It's a problem when clubs that are attempting to be competitive do not have consistent access to practice spaces."

Due to the large amount of safety equipment required for training, McCaffery explained that the fencing club isn't able to change locations on such short notice when the gym has been reserved.

"Even if we could, our equipment is stored in a closet within the gym which we aren't able to access on days we can't practice," McCaffery said.

Brummel said that Campus Recreation has designated areas in Carver to set aside equipment, as does Athletics, Health and Human Development, Health and more.

"There is always a shortage of storage and Carver is no exception," Brummel said.

Feeling that his concerns are not being properly addressed, McCaffery said his frustration mainly deals with how the university has been handling student athletics in Carver Gym.

"Anytime there is any event which has ticket sales, all other sport teams are cancelled in the gym," McCaffery said.

Due to the sheer number of clubs requesting space and the limited hours available in each facility, intramurals and club sports are scheduled first. Any remaining availability will be offered to AS recreational clubs, Sommers said.

"Campus Recreation and the Sport Clubs Office work very hard to make scheduling as equitable as possible," Sommers said.

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>

SKATING FOR LIFE

Whether competitive or recreational, local coaches instill a lifelong love for ice skating

Hannah Blank



Keri, left, poses with instructor Sherry Winder, right, in a newspaper clipping titled "Small Package of Ice Dynamite" by Don McLeod, *The Oregonian*. // Photo courtesy of Keri Ferguson

Award-winning coaches offer ice skating lessons year-round at the Bellingham Sportsplex, giving students of all ages an opportunity to learn, whether competitively or recreationally, from the best.

Skating Academy Director Keri Ferguson knows what it's like to do all of it – from competing at a national level to coaching and now, directing the skating program in Bellingham. She has incorporated skating into her life at all levels.

As a child, Ferguson had a couple bouts of bronchitis, so her pediatrician recommended she go ice skating to help build the strength of her lungs. Growing up in Portland, Oregon, Ferguson said she was surrounded by ice rinks, so she picked up some skates and got started at the young age of 4.5 years old.

At just 8 years old, Ferguson took gold in the 1969 juvenile division of the Pacific Northwest Championship. Then at 11 years old, she took another gold at the South Atlantic Junior Ladies Competition.

Ferguson began her career at a young age, but ended her competitive days around the time she was 15 years old. Soon after she stopped competitively skating, the ice rink she skated at in Portland, Oregon asked her to start coaching at 16 years old. She credits her ambitious coaching career to how young she was when she started. She said she maintained her competitive spirit which allowed her to successfully train young athletes.

Ferguson calls her coaching style "grassroots to champions."

She said she has taken skaters at the introductory level and seen them through to the national level of competition. She said this is usually unheard of because skaters tend to switch coaches for various reasons throughout their skating careers.

In her more than 40 years of coaching, Ferguson said she has instructed multiple U.S. National gold medalists. She said she is incredibly proud of her students and where they've gone in life, noting many of them are now well-recognized national, international and Olympic coaches.

For Ferguson, skating is about the journey of goal setting. It's not all about the end result.

"Sometimes you don't reach the goals that you have set, but the drive to get to that level of a goal has helped you accomplish a lot of other things along the way," Ferguson said.

As director of the Skating Academy, Ferguson said she wants her coaches to work within the framework of their skaters' goals, not their own. A coach's job is to set up their skater for success, however, that may look different for each individual. If a skater wants to compete at a national level, Ferguson knows what kind of training it takes to get them there.

According to Ferguson, there's a necessary collaborative triangle between the coach, the skater and the skater's parents in order for the student to succeed at a high level. She said a skater needs to have the drive to compete, parents who are encouraging and there needs to be

a coach who knows the business. This is the trifecta of factors for a successful, competitive skater.

Although she didn't compete in her youth, figure skating coach Marina Shoff found herself back on the ice after a 28-year hiatus. She even competed in a few competitions in 2006.

Shoff had been living in Bellingham for 14 years before she found out there was an ice rink in town. She said the day she found out there was a rink, she got a pair of skates and got right back into training like she had in her youth: two hours a day, five days a week.

"Skating does not get easier as you go forward," Shoff said. "It gets harder and takes more time."

Shoff said she believes skating is an underrated sport because of how easy the professionals make it look. She said if you equate what you see to how you feel on skates, it's drastically different and only then can you understand how much work skaters put in.

Shoff said she was spending so much time at the rink, she ended up becoming a volunteer for the Learn to Skate program, a program similar to one she attended as a child that sparked her love of skating. Before she knew it, volunteering turned into teaching and she became a part-time figure skating coach at the Bellingham Sportsplex.

She said her job is not just to teach figure skating, but to instill a love of skating so they can always come back to it later in life, like she did. Group skating programs for beginning ice skaters are where



At 8 years old, Keri took first place in the 1969 Northwest Pacific Juvenile Ladies Championship. // Photo courtesy of Keri Ferguson

Shoff was first formally taught to skate. Outside of group lessons, Shoff didn't have personal training; she put in all the hard work herself. With that background, Shoff said the Learn to Skate program is something she finds to be very special.

The Learn to Skate program is offered at the Bellingham Sportsplex Skating Academy where the basic skills of ice skating are taught to participants starting as early as 3 years old.

This program, supported by U.S. Figure Skating, USA Hockey and US Speedskating, focuses on the fundamentals of skating in a fun and safe environment, according to their website.

These group lessons are where many competitive skaters start. Tassie Kowal's daughter, Savannah, is one of them.

As president of the Bellingham Figure Skating Club, Kowal is familiar with the demands of being a skater. On top of having a skater of her own, Kowal is in charge of the club's meetings and the logistics that come with being affiliated with U.S. Figure Skating, such as following all of their rules and regulations.

At 4 years old, Savannah was skating. By the end of kindergarten, she was competing. Now as a freshman at Sehome High School, she's one of the oldest skaters in

the club. Savannah competed at a national level in Michigan over the summer. Kowal said it has been fun to see the growth her daughter has gone through in skating. She said skating is what feeds her daughter's soul.

Kowal said she took skating lessons when she was in middle school with her sister, but never reached the level her daughter is at. She said that as she watches her daughter skate, she can see that Savannah is one with the ice in a way that she never was able to accomplish.

Kowal said when Savannah hits the ice, she can leave everything at the door and for a period of time, just skate.

Both Ferguson and Shoff shared similar sentiments about the time they spend on the ice. While they have many years of experience on Savannah, they expressed the same love for the pastime.

The view of skating as a lifelong sport is a theme repeated by both Ferguson and Shoff, not in a competitive sense per se, but as a habit.

"They don't have to go to the Olympics," Shoff said. "I want them to come away with a sense of accomplishment and that they can always go back to the ice and just skate."



Keri surrounded by her coaches at the Bellingham Sportsplex. // Photo courtesy of Keri Ferguson

A TREASURE TROVE FOR ARTISTS

Local organization provides art supplies and education

Anjali LeGrand
THE WESTERN FRONT

Tucked away next to the Limelight Cinema and down the hall from Film Is Truth is Allied Arts of Whatcom County, a local art gallery in downtown Bellingham with a mission to enrich the community with arts, education and seasonal festivities.

The nonprofit organization has been in its present location for almost 20 years, working with artists to put on shows and sell their work. Katy Tolles, the artist services coordinator for Allied Arts, said. The organization has been working with schools in the county and planning events to help bring arts to the people.

Tolles said she began working at Allied Arts as an intern during her last year

as an undergraduate majoring in fine arts at Western. Tolles accepted a full-time position with the organization after graduating in 2009 and has been the artist services coordinator for the last eight years.

"We hope to be a clearing house for the arts in the community, where you go to learn about arts activities, arts happenings," Tolles said. "To make the arts accessible to everybody in our community no matter what their demographic is."

Allied Arts of Whatcom County sprung out of what was originally a holiday art festival put together by a group of artists in Bellingham. After holding festivities during the weekends of the holiday season year after year, the group grew into an art gallery, Tolles said. Over time, a location in downtown Bellingham became Allied Arts' new home and it has grown as an organization since.

Since its founding, the organization has developed an arts education program for students in local elementary schools, launched a thrift store, hosted many community-based events and continued its tradition of the annual holiday festival.

"It's a great place to find 100 local businesses, all in one place and support local artists and local businesses," Tolles said.

Wendy Jones,

an employee at the gallery, said because of its central location downtown, Allied Arts sees a variety of visitors to match its wide collection of work. Jones said the gallery hosts different art exhibits every month ranging from oil paintings, watercolors, jewelry, fiber art, acrylic and mixed media, among others. The shows typically open the first Friday of the month.

She said artists, tourists, community members and Western students are all regulars at the both the gallery and the Allied Arts Reuse Thrift Store, which is set up inside.

The Reuse Thrift Store receives donations constantly and brings in customers looking for new art mediums to try, cheap supplies to keep their creativity going, or even small pieces of decor for their homes.

Tolles said she and Executive Director Kelly Hart were the forces behind starting the thrift store three years ago.

Community members and artists often bring in donations to contribute to Allied Arts' educational programs in elementary schools. Seeing the overload in donations, Tolles and Hart decided to do something with them, having received more than they have storage for.

Having seen similar concepts of selling used art supplies, like Urban Source in Vancouver, British Columbia and Scrap in Portland, Oregon, Tolles and Hart decided to create a space dedicated to repurposing art supplies within the community.

All the items in the thrift store come as donations from the community. The supplies are then organized and priced



Allied Arts hosts art exhibits and sells reused art supplies. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin

by volunteers and sold back to those interested in getting creative without breaking the bank.

While the thrift store is a part of the gallery, it has a different feel from the rest of the space. When walking up the stairs from the white-walled gallery with simple decor and layout, visitors enter a room filled with art and office supplies of every kind - ranging from paint brushes to decor and even yard sale items.

"It's a treasure trove, different every day," Jones said.

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FRONTLINE

Opinions of the Editorial Board

Working while in college: A juggling act, not a holiday show

Over the long weekend, Western's ranks thinned out as many college students traveled home for the holidays, leaving behind a small portion of students who either chose not to or couldn't make the trip.

Many students had to cut their holiday breaks short because of work. Every year, the national shopping holiday known as Black Friday begins earlier and earlier. This year, some stores began sales before Thanksgiving dinner could even start. Best Buy along with some stores in Bellis Fair Mall opened at 5 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day, according to The Bellingham Herald.

Students who work were forced to decide between working the holiday or relaxing with loved ones. Although it might sound like an easy choice, employers are making it more difficult.

Some businesses offer increased holiday pay, which for a struggling college student, can be hard to turn down. Other employers threaten to fire those who refuse to work the absurd hours without

providing financial compensation.

Either way, it leaves students who rely on a job for financial support in a rough spot with little choice but to work. Other students who do not need to work or receive aid from family, grants or scholarships are able to walk away and unwind throughout the holiday season - returning only when desired.

Even though Western is actually one of the more affordable universities in Washington state, it remains costly for students who support themselves entirely. According to data from Western's admissions office, 60 percent of Western students receive some sort of financial aid, but that statistic encompasses all types of aid, including loans.

Loans should not be considered aid.

Yes, loans make it possible for many students to attend college who do not qualify for alternative forms of aid, but at the end of the day, it is unfair to expect students to settle for graduating in debt. The cumulative national student debt reached \$1.52 trillion in 2018, according to Forbes.

To expect a student's parent to pay a portion of their tuition is also unfair. There is no way to guarantee what type of relationship a student has with their parents or that a parent has the additional funds outside of their monthly bills and expenses to pay a student's tuition, too. Expecting financial help from parents also assumes all students have a parental figure in their life, which is not always the case.

Many students are forced to work to support themselves at

least partially. But there is an ongoing divide between students who work part-time, full-time and those who don't work at all.

The problem isn't that students can't or shouldn't work at all. However, the minimum wage in Bellingham of \$11.50 hardly exceeds the living hourly wage of \$11.02 in Whatcom County, according to the living wage online calculator. Therefore, that leaves students who work full-time and don't have additional help barely above the poverty line with no extra funds whatsoever to pay for an education.

Over the course of the 2017-18 school year, approximately 3,500 students worked on-campus jobs, according to Western's Student Employment Office. Western limits on-campus student employees to only 19 hours of work a week while classes are in session. But Western has no say in how many hours students work off campus.

This leaves students who don't receive financial aid choosing between graduating with thousands of dollars of debt or to work themselves to exhaustion. About 40 percent of undergraduate students work at least 30 hours a week, according to the College of St. Scholastica.

Working while in college can have many benefits aside from the financial gain. According to Ashford University, 91 percent of employers prefer potential hires to have previous work experience. But there is no doubt that working while in college can have negative effects on a student's social life, GPA and health.

Working over 20 hours off campus can even increase the likelihood of dropping out of college before earning a degree, according to a study conducted at Brigham Young University Idaho.

So what can we do to support students who are left with working nearly full-time as their only option?

One solution proposed in The Daily Illini suggests giving class credit to those who work a sufficient amount of hours per week. This would make it possible for students to gain elective credits to ensure timely graduation without over exhausting themselves.

Another argument mentioned time and again for students seeking financial support is to apply for scholarships, but scholarships regularly pit students against each other. In a competition to win scholarships based on comparison of GPA, extracurriculars and community service, who is going to win out? A student with more or less free time?

Another potential way to help working students is to grant them priority registration. Some Western athletes already receive priority registration so they can balance their beloved sport with school. Why wouldn't we give student workers the same support?

At the end of the day, we need to find a better way to help bridge this gap. At a school that promotes student success, it is absurd that we don't make more of an effort to recognize and accommodate working students. After all, they wouldn't be able to afford their educations at Western if it weren't for their jobs elsewhere.



Illustration by Cole Sandhofer

The Western Front Editorial Board is composed of Alyssa Bruce, Julia Furukawa and Ray Garcia.

VIKING VOICES: "WHAT DID YOU DO OVER THE HOLIDAY BREAK?"



Sarah Demsky
Early childhood and elementary ed. major

"I stayed home with my family. My dad and my friend's dad are best friends and so we went to their house this year. We brought the desserts and appetizers."



Alex Swanson
Art major

"I spent time with my family here in Bellingham. I made the stuffing this year, which turned out pretty amazing and is my all-time favorite thing to eat on Thanksgiving."



Freya Lemon
Psychology major

"I spent five days at my family's house in Spokane. I brought some meat and helped with the cooking and special table setting."

Compiled by Rachel Carruth



Kevin Herriman
Marketing major

"I spent it with my girlfriend whose dad was sick, but is now starting to recover. We went to the Tri-Cities area and brought the pecan pie."



The gallery hosts different art exhibits every month ranging in medium and artists. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin



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Coach of the Year, friend for life

Women's volleyball Head Coach Diane Flick-Williams honored as GNAC Coach of the Year for the tenth-time

Andrew McClain
THE WESTERN FRONT

Coach of the year awards are old hat for Western women's volleyball Head Coach Diane Flick-Williams.

Still, it must feel nice to be named the American Volleyball Coaches Association Division II West Region Coach of the Year for the third time, and the Great Northwest Athletic Conference Coach of the Year for the tenth time.

These accolades come as little surprise to those who have paid attention to the way this year's volleyball team has dismantled its competition. Finishing the season with a 28-3 record, and going 20-0 in conference play, Flick-Williams has led her team to the Division II Elite 8 Tournament for the third time in her nearly two decades as head coach.

But if you listen to Flick-Williams talk about her success as a coach, she'll try to tell you that it has little to do with her.

"I didn't even touch a ball," Flick-Williams said of this year's stellar win record on the court.

Flick-Williams is the first person to point out that coaching awards are really team awards. She redistributes the credit equally to everyone on the floor, from the players to the assistant coaches and athletics staff.

Flick-Williams wants to make it clear that she couldn't have earned that kind of recognition by herself. It takes a village, so to speak. However, she does tend to skim over the fact that it takes a village that is willing to listen to its leader.

So what kind of person can inspire that brand of loyalty and respect from their peers?

If you chat with her players and staff, they'll let you know that it's not just who Flick-Williams

is as a coach that makes them willing to follow her to war. It's who she is as a person.

Senior players Abby Phelps and Brette Boesel have been working with Flick-Williams since 2014. Their opinions of their long-time coach could be best described as "gushing" as they make no effort to hide their love for her.

"She's one of the most selfless people you'll ever meet," Phelps said. "We are the program that we are, and the people that we are, because of our leadership. And that starts with Diane."

As a coach, they describe her as an intensely competitive person, but said that she never lets her desire for victory overshadow her personal relationships with her players.

"She wants to win and gets us fired up, but she's there to lift us up, too," Phelps said.

When the women's volleyball team started the season on a three-game losing streak, Boesel credited Flick-Williams' leadership with helping get them back on course.

"She's just got such an amazing relationship with everyone on the team," Boesel said. "She tells you what you need to hear, even if that isn't always what you want to hear."

Flick-Williams' people-first approach to the game has resulted in Boesel's time with the volleyball program being what she described as one of the best experiences of her life.

Assistant coach James Suh has been Flick-Williams' partner-in-crime for 18 years. Few people have watched Flick-Williams' career progress from such close proximity, and Suh believes that her years of coaching have given her a broader perspective on life.

"She's competitive and wants to win, but she's also understanding of the more impor-



Volleyball Head Coach Diane Flick-Williams. // Courtesy of Western Athletics

tant things in life outside of the game," Suh said. "It's less to do with volleyball and more to do with making better people."

Phelps couldn't agree more. "Our relationship is probably 90 percent outside of sports," Phelps said with a laugh. "I talk to her about everything."

Those deep personal connections translate onto the floor when it's time to suit up and play.

One of the oldest sports cliches is "buying-in" to what a coach is selling, but with Flick-Williams it appears to be more of a barter system. She invests part of herself into each of her players, and the return she gets on that investment is pretty obvious when you take a glance at her trophy case.

For her part, Flick-Williams said she most values the culture she's been able to cultivate in the volleyball program and claims that her coaching philosophy is simple.

"Give them roots and wings," Flick-Williams said.

Her goal is to give her players a solid foundation to start with, and then let them try to fly. Flick-Williams also stressed that it's natural to fail sometimes and to feel vulnerable as a result.

"It's okay to cry," Flick-Williams

said, quoting one of her old volleyball coaches. "Just don't slip on the wet spot on your way to the next drill."

It's not just good advice for volleyball, but for life in general. Many of the lessons Flick-Williams teaches translate into the everyday world for her players, and they're grateful to her for those learning experiences.

Boesel's own personal lesson from Flick-Williams is one that she said she'll treasure for life.

"She taught me that I have a voice, and that my voice matters," Boesel said. "It's okay to be myself."

Phelps said Flick-Williams encouraged her to be confident

in herself and her abilities. It must have been good advice, because that confidence has led to Phelps becoming the all-time GNAC kills record-holder in women's volleyball.

Boesel's own personal lesson from Flick-Williams is one that she said she'll treasure for life.

"She taught me that I have a voice, and that my voice matters," Boesel said. "It's okay to be myself."



The team celebrates a victory against Cal State East Bay on Nov. 15. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin

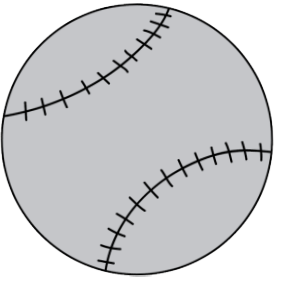


Flick-Williams fires up her players during a game against Cal State San Bernardino on Nov. 17. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin

FROM THE SIDELINES

Opinions from The Western Front staff on all things sports

"DO YOU THINK THE ALLEGATIONS OF RACISM MADE AGAINST THE MARINERS WILL INFLUENCE FREE AGENTS SIGNING WITH THE TEAM?"



Julia Berkman
Editor



Brooke Wilson
Reporter



Emily Erskine
Reporter



Kyle Fang
Reporter

The problem I so often see with racism in sports is that team owners need POC to make their teams more successful. People of color are talented and hardworking and constantly excel in their sport of choice. It's sad that groups will take on these players but won't do the work necessary to fully accept them as a part of their team. It feels dishonest and immoral to me to hire people of color without doing any sort of diversity training for upper-level staff and the rest of the team. Why would you want to join a team where you hear these types of things said about people like you? I feel like Martin has nothing to gain from making these allegations and denying them looks unprofessional and irresponsible. If I were an executive on the team, I would be embarrassed. I should expect better from Seattle, but at this point if you're brown you don't, so...

In light of the recent allegations, the situation does not bode well for the Mariners. If racist remarks were indeed stated by several prominent front office employees, the comments not only reflect poorly upon the Mariners organization, but on the greater Seattle community. Prospective players and free agents would be justified in considering the environment and philosophy created within a team before donning its colors on the field. Based on data collected by The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport from the previous season, the highest percentage of Latino players (31.9 percent) and total players of color (42.5 percent) in league history were represented on the field; a contribution to the game that simply cannot be ignored or diminished.

Probably not- unfortunately free agencies seem to rely mostly on money. If the Mariners are going to keep paying players, then the players are going to keep coming to Seattle. Same goes for other teams in other cities as well. And this scandal doesn't seem big enough to make a lasting impact, at least not enough for players to stop signing contracts. In the recent history of Major League Baseball, issues involving racial insensitivity such as slurs from Boston Redsox fans, as well as gestures from Astros player Yuli Gurriel have not created any noticeable negative effects on the organizations good will amongst players or the reputation of the team. I hope that in the future of pro sports these kind of things are taken more seriously. I also hope that more people will come forward and call others out that aren't being stand-up teammates, coaches or fans. But I don't really see that happening any time soon.

I do not believe the racist allegations made against the Mariners organization will have any effect on pending free agents this season. Not only is this an allegation that has been denied by the Mariners general manager, but they also have a good reputation. Because this allegation came from an employee of the organization, rather than a player, it's hard to see it affecting players that wish to be in Seattle. No player from the Mariners organization has come out to say they have been the victim of racist remarks. I believe free agents will not be affected by this because there are latino players in the organization who have not had any experience like this. If this allegation cannot be proven and no other players from this organization have had these experiences, it will not affect pending free agents.

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Western basketball gobbles up competition

Thanksgiving weekend shows a tournament sweep for both men's and women's basketball

Mitch Farley
THE WESTERN FRONT

The record books show a perfect weekend for Western basketball. Not allowing the turkey coma to slow them down, both the men's and women's team went 2-0 at Sam Carver Gymnasium.

The games were part of the Thanksgiving Tournament at Carver Gym on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 23 and 24. The

Just before halftime, red-shirt junior Elijah Cotton-Welch helped the Vikings gain some momentum. Cotton-Welch intercepted a pass from a Capilano point guard and flew down the court for a wide-open layup.

"My team needed energy and I knew I could bring that," Cotton-Welch said.

On Capilano's very next possession, he made the exact same play.

weeks ago. Dominguez added that he sees Bosco as a valuable weapon for the team going forward.

"I've been waiting for my time to go, and I finally got it," Bosco said.

Junior guard Tucker Eenigenburg had a weekend for the books as he led the Vikings in scoring in both games. Friday, he scored a career-high 15 points.

The women's team followed up with a nail-biting tournament sweep on Friday, Nov. 23, showcased during the 21st annual Lynda Godrich Classic over the University of Mary. The final two buckets for Western were perfect showcases of junior guard Dani Iwami and Anna Schewecke's talents.

Schewecke, a junior center, helped her team battle all night and scored the points that tied that game at 70 with under a minute left on the clock.

Rick Neumann, head coach for the University of Mary, said he was happy with the way his team competed.

"In the end, Western made one more play than we did and took the win. Their pressure defense really got to us in the fourth quarter," Neumann said.

The Vikings reset with Iwami at point guard. She made a quick step to the left and beat Mary's center for a one-handed layup to put the Vikings ahead 72-70.

"I saw there was no one on help side and it just worked out," Iwami said modestly.

Head coach Carmen Dolfo said she was very happy with the way her team stayed composed in the last seconds of the game.

"Dani is such a good creator, her penetrations are definitely huge for us," Dolfo said.

Friday wasn't the only winning day for the Vikings as they went on to seal secondary victories on Saturday, Nov. 24. The men's team breezed past Langara College in a 129-55 victory. The women's team followed with a victory over University of Minnesota Crookston, 78-68.

Eenigenburg continued the heat from Friday and led the Vikings in scoring again. He scored a new career-high on Saturday with 28 points. Eenigenburg was wet from the 3-point range as he shot an impressive 8-9.

Redshirt junior guard Micah Winn showed his usual composed presence and impressive ball control and finished the game with a solid 21 points. Cotton-Welch was another threat, following up his



Guard Lexie Bland scans the court in a game against University of Mary on Saturday, Nov. 24.

// Photo by Jaden Moon

men's team started the weekend with a 107-81 win against Capilano University and the women's team followed with a win over University of Mary, 73-72.

Men's Head Coach Tony Dominguez said the team didn't quite get off to the start they'd hoped to, but quickly turned up the intensity in the second half.

"[Cotton-Welch is] a defensive stud," Dominguez said. "His niche is he's a very good defender and 3-point shooter."

KJ Bosco also played a vital role in the Vikings' second-half success with 14 points and nine rebounds. Dominguez said the junior forward had knee surgery last year and wasn't healthy until two



Guard Gracie Castaneda goes straight to the hoop for a layup against the University of Mary on Saturday, Nov. 24. // Photo by Jaden Moon



Forward Braden Ahlemeyer rebounds the ball during a game against Langara College on Saturday, Nov. 24. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin

Friday performance with four steals and nine points.

Dominguez said he's excited to see the young guys step up.

"I think we have the best freshmen in the country," Bosco said. Music to the ears of Western basketball fans.

The fun didn't stop as the women's team took the court next against Crookston. The Vikings' efforts were spearheaded by sophomore center Kelsey Rogers who scored 23 points. Iwami also added a characteristic seven assists with a smooth touch, feeding Schewecke in the paint.

The score was close throughout the first three quarters, but the Vikings' press defense and efficient offense helped them pull away in the fourth.

The rally started when junior guard Lexie Bland took a

charge from a Crookston player who drove down the lane to make a layup. The basket was counted as no good and the Vikings proceeded to go on a 10-2 run. A lead they held for the rest of the game.

Dolfo said each week the team focuses on one aspect for improvement. This week it was composure. Schewecke said the team did very well at staying calm and didn't get too frantic.

The Great Northwest Athletic Conference season play began this week. The women's team plays against Montana State University at home for an in-conference game on Saturday, Dec. 1.

The men's team moved to 5-1 after securing the victories. They begin conference play against Concordia University on Thursday, Nov. 29.



Cameron Retherford, left, and Jalen Green celebrate during a game against Langara College on Saturday, Nov. 24. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin