

THE WESTERN FRONT

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Wednesday, January 16, 2019

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Photo by Emily Porter

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Photo by Max Gleiberman

Student Senate unanimously votes to investigate AS board member

Following complaints from fellow board members, senate votes yes for investigation of Genaro Meza-Roa

Cody Clark
THE WESTERN FRONT

At their Monday, Jan. 14 meeting, the Associated Students Student Senate unanimously voted to launch an investigation into complaints about Genaro Meza-Roa, Associated Students Vice President for Business and Operations.

The meeting of the student senate, the first one of the newly elected group, featured discussions of concerns that Meza-Roa was not fulfilling his duties as a board member. According to AS VP for Academic Affairs Levi Eckman, Meza-Roa was invited to the senate meeting but did not attend.

Several student senators expressed concerns about the amount of work Meza-Roa is doing in his role on the Board of Directors.

“It seems like a really important issue. There’s a lot more to this and we should



Genaro Meza-Roa at the AS Board meeting on Monday, Jan. 11. Meza-Roa ran uncontested for his role as Vice President for Business and Operations. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin

consider a motion to start an investigative process,” Riley Embly, a senator from Huxley College of the

Environment said prior to the vote. “An elected official should be held to a higher standard.”

Since his election to the AS Board of Directors, fellow

members of the board have complained that Meza-Roa has left meetings abruptly, according to an article by the AS Review.

At board meetings fall quarter, behavioral complaints made against Meza-Roa, including his use of a derogatory term for people with mental

disabilities to describe a committee and misogynistic behavior, were shared by board members, according to the AS Review.

“It doesn’t make sense to me why this individual doesn’t want to have a good working relationship with everyone,” AS VP for Activities Ama

Monkah said.

The AS Student Senate has the power to investigate and discipline any AS Board member, according to senate bylaws. Disciplinary action for board members can range from an apology approved by 51 percent of senate members, to a formal removal of the AS Board member approved by 75 percent of the student senate.

“I did let [Meza-Roa] know there were consequences he could be facing,” AS President Millka Solomon said to the room of senators at the senate meeting.

AS Board members can also be recalled by a majority vote in a special election, which is initiated by a petition of at least 40 percent of the votes in the general election, according to the AS Board election code. The recall process can also be initiated by a vote of the AS Board.

Rep. Larsen holds town hall to discuss shutdown

Local residents express concerns as government standstill drags on

Sarah Nichols
THE WESTERN FRONT

The tension in the auditorium was evident as the rows filled with concerned civilians. By this time, the nationwide partial government shutdown had been going on for 22 days.

Washington state Congressman Rick Larsen facilitated a

town hall to discuss the partial government shutdown on Sunday, Jan. 13 at Whatcom Community College. Residents from Whatcom and Skagit counties gathered to voice their concerns and share their experiences with the shutdown.

“We have not been paid since the shutdown,” audience member Art Alaniz said.

“Last week was our pay period, and we didn’t get paid. We don’t know when we will be receiving that paycheck.”

This government shutdown has taken effect as President Donald Trump has continually pushed for funding to build a wall along the U.S.

see LARSEN, page 5



Photo by Zoe Buchli

Winter Haven, encampment shelter for people experiencing homelessness, opens behind City Hall. **see page 4**



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A person walks by the "Stadium Piece" sculpture outside the Communications Facility Building during an evening of heavy fog on Monday, Jan. 14. The fog didn't deter people from going outdoors, where humans and dogs alike frolicked in the cool mist. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin

The Western Front

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Have story ideas or suggestions?
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to send them our way or discuss sharing information confidentially.

Associated Students Board Legislative Goals

The AS Board discussed its lobbying agenda goals for Lobby Day in Olympia. Here they are:

- Funding to expand access to the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics programs on campus
- Environmental protections such as a statewide plastic bag ban and carbon-free utility providers
- Funding for the State Need Grant, which increases access to higher education for low-income undergraduates
- Lobbying to support undocumented students, including undocumented students' right to work on campus regardless of DACA status and lobbying to limit the expansion of the Tacoma Detention Center
- Funding to increase resources for survivors of sexual assault, such as funding for specialized staff to respond to and prevent sexual violence
- Lobbying for the Healthy Youth Act, ensuring comprehensive HIV and LGBTQIA+ education and healthy sex education in K-12 public schools
- Dedicated revenue to decrease high tuition costs, which disproportionately affect marginalized communities

Compiled by Olivia Kearney

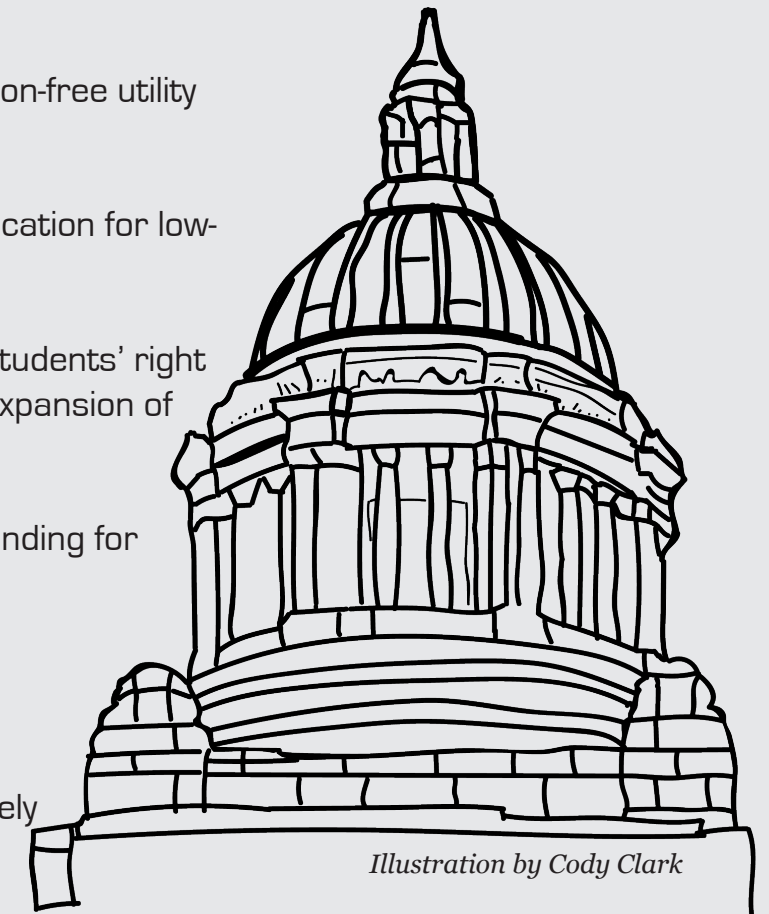


Illustration by Cody Clark

WEDNESDAY 1/16	THURSDAY 1/17	FRIDAY 1/18	SATURDAY 1/19
RE SOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES GUEST SPEAKER 7 P.M. @ THE RE STORE, 2309 MERIDIAN ST. FREE	WWU MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. MONTANA STATE BILLINGS 7 P.M. - CARVER GYM \$\$	FAIRHAVEN FUSION SOCIAL CLUB WEEKLY DANCE + SOCIAL 8 P.M. - FAIRHAVEN AUDITORIUM FREE	BELLINGHAM ROLLER BETTIES DOUBLE HEADER FRESHMEAT SKATE 5 P.M. @ LYNDEN SKATEWAY, 421 JUDDSON ST. LYDEN, WA \$10
SUNDAY 1/20	MONDAY 1/21	TUESDAY 1/22	WEDNESDAY 1/23
7 COMEDIANS. 7 MINUTE SETS 7 P.M. @ THE UPFRONT THEATRE, 1208 BAY ST. \$10 ONLINE \$15 AT THE DOOR	MOTHERS OF THE MOVEMENT: A CELEBRATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. 12 P.M. @ MOUNT BAKER THEATRE FREE	BEAT THE BLUES FREE S.A.D. SCREENING, THERAPY DOGS 11 A.M. @ VIKING UNION 565 FREE	NWAC: GOING DEEP UNDERSTANDING AVALANCHES 7 P.M. @ FRASER HALL 201 \$5 FOR STUDENTS

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- Pacific Seafood - Clackamas, OR
- Tillamook - Tillamook, OR
- Carlton Farms - Carlton, OR
- Hermiston Melons - Hermiston, OR
- Truitt Family Foods - Salem, OR
- Hill's Premium Meats - Pendleton, OR

aramark

Winter Haven officially open to residents

HomesNow opens temporary housing for those experiencing homelessness in cold months

Zoe Buchli
THE WESTERN FRONT

In the parking lot behind Bellingham City Hall, 15 brown tents have been pitched in a straight line. These shelters will be temporarily hosting up to 40 Bellingham residents who are experiencing homelessness during the cold winter months.

The encampment, called Winter Haven, is operated by HomesNow and on Jan. 3, opened its doors to people in Bellingham needing a place to live. Winter Haven will serve as a secure, community space with several amenities for residents.

HomesNow is a non-profit, volunteer-led group dedicated to finding shelter for people experiencing homelessness in Bellingham, as described by their website. HomesNow President Jim Peterson said the encampment is designed to provide its residents with stability.

name so as to protect her privacy.

The residents of Bellingham have been the main suppliers of food and equipment, including the tents, Anne said.

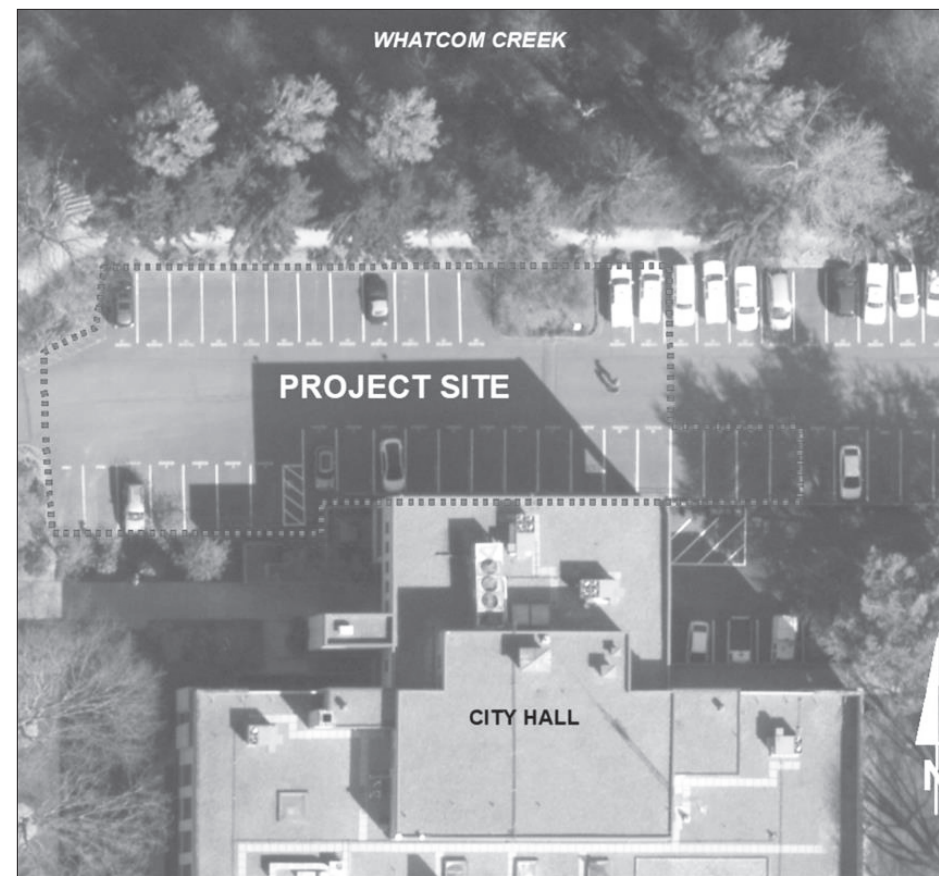
"The support from the community has been amazing," she said.

When residents request small items for cooking or personal care, Anne said it is not uncommon for them to be donated within a day.

She said the encampment has been home to mostly single adults for the first two weeks of operation, and that Peterson is working on bringing in couples and families too.

The permit for the encampment lists a series of provisions put forward by the city of Bellingham. For example, a volunteer monitor must be on-site at all times.

City of Bellingham Senior Planner Lisa Pool said the city developed this set of conditions to protect not only the camp's residents, but also the surrounding community.



A plan of the expected Winter Haven housing location // Photo courtesy of the City of Bellingham

The opening of Winter Haven comes after City Council voted 7-0 on Nov. 19, 2018, agreeing to work with HomesNow to open the encampment after being provided with an overview of the project, Pool said.

She said this was a unique circumstance because the city council typically does not review permits, but due to the location of the proposed site being on city property and the style of the encampment being brand

officially approved it following a 14-day appeal period.

Peterson said the permit is set to expire on April 3, and HomesNow is already discussing where they can relocate the camp once Winter Haven closes. They have been meeting with the city weekly to discuss potential future sites, Peterson said.

"We want to give this some time and make sure it's running smooth, and then we'll be looking for other



The camp has a covered kitchen area where residents have access to hot and cold foods, microwaves and a refrigerator. // Photo by Zoe Buchli

new to the city, it was brought before council members.

Following the vote, HomesNow brought the application to the Planning and Community Development Department on Nov. 20, 2018, who reviewed it and

sites," Peterson said.

He added that HomesNow has a long-term plan for 2019 — to build four tiny home villages this summer in addition to running a more permanent tent encampment.

LARSEN
continued from page 1

border with Mexico with strong opposition from Democrats. Larsen discussed the need for alternatives to the president's wall, saying he believes that strong border security starts with well-trained federal law enforcement, infrastructure and modern technology.

"Eight-hundred-thousand jobs lost. No pay. People who may have spent 30 years, maybe even 30 days on the job, and suddenly they aren't getting paid."

**-Jan Krick,
audience member**

"The president and I disagree on the need for a border wall," Larsen said. "There can be border security

without the wall. Building the wall on the southern border is not the answer in securing that border."

During the event, Larsen said that 75 percent of the federal budget has been approved and is funded through Sep. 30, 2019. The problem is the 25 percent of the federal government not currently funded. It's the groups within this percentage, such as the Department of Homeland Security that are experiencing the effects of the shutdown.

Other groups directly affected by the shutdown include the Federal Trade Commission, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and federally-funded laboratories, Larsen said.

One Skagit County resident who reached out to Larsen shared that she is currently

living in a motel because her Department of Agriculture and Rural Development voucher was not finalized before the shutdown went into effect.

A Marysville resident also said he is unable to file a consumer complaint with the Federal Trade Commission

about suspected consumer fraud because the trade commission isn't operating.

Larsen listened to these concerns and said his goal is to reopen all of the government and put citizens back to work. Since Jan. 3, Larsen has repeatedly pushed to reopen the government and ensure workers get their withheld paychecks that are owed to them. The President signed the bill to give back their paychecks last week.

The U.S. Senate's inability to come to an agreement on funding for the wall has left 10,000 people in the state furloughed as they continue to work without pay, Larsen said.

"Eight-hundred-thousand jobs lost. No pay. People who may have spent 30 years, maybe even 30 days on the job, and suddenly they aren't getting paid," audience member Jan Krick said.

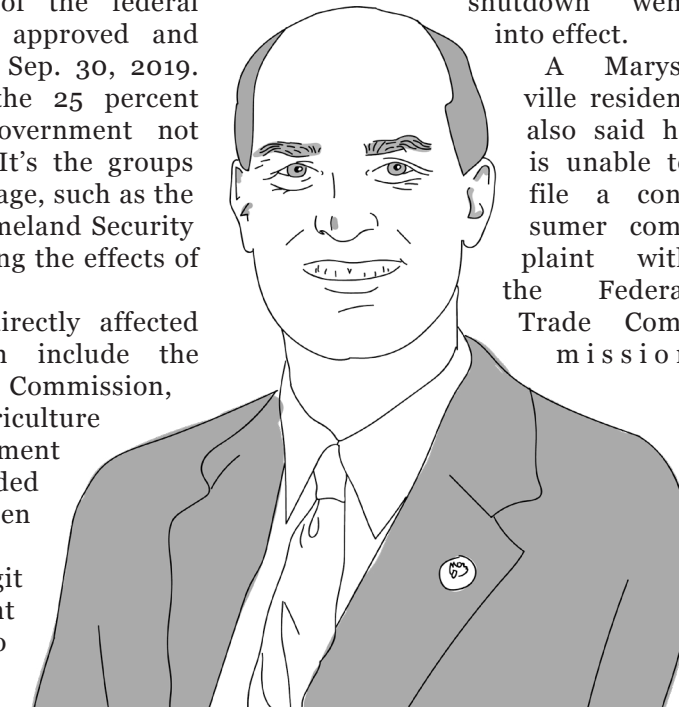


Illustration by Julia Berkman

Bellingham Public Library upgrades software

More secure, efficient cloud-based Integrated Library System updated with cheers from Board Members

Bryant Hill
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Bellingham Public Library Board of Trustees cheered as they celebrated the official replacement of their old Integrated Library System (ILS) for an upgraded ILS at their board meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 15.

ILS is the computer software program most public libraries use to keep track of checked and returned books, order items, catalog new materials and other vital library functions.

"It affects everything we do," Library Director Rebecca Judd said. "It feels great to be finished."

The library officially turned off services of their previous ILS program called "Horizon" at 1:05 a.m. on Jan. 1, activating a new software program called "Polaris," from Innovative Interfaces, Inc..

The previous ILS "Horizon," by the SirisDynix company, needed to be replaced before Jan. 31 of this month when the library's contract with SirisDynix expired and the li-

brary would have to pay for another year.

The upgraded software system "Polaris" is a cloud-based program that is more secure and efficient than its predecessor, according to Judd.

The Polaris program serves both the Bellingham Public Library (BPL) system and the Whatcom County Library System (WCLS), allowing both library networks to mutually exchange materials on the same platform.

Both libraries began contract negotiations for a new system in July and together signed a contract with SirisDynix on Aug. 1.

Head of Digital Services Jon McConnel credited the WCLS with the project's timely completion.

"Working together, we were able to do it," McConnel said.

As part of the transition process into the new software system, Bellingham libraries were closed on Dec. 3 and Jan. 2 to train library staff. Many library functions including checking items in, placing holds or making payments were



The Central Library Branch is equipped with new software. // Photo by Kenni Merritt, courtesy of Bellingham Public Library

unavailable from Jan. 1-7 while "Polaris" was coming online.

During that time, the library's central branch on 210 Central Ave faced a backlog of around 10,000 items that could not be checked in.

The Bellingham central library circulates around 1.5 million items each year, and items can easily accumulate in a short amount of time, Judd said.

The library is currently fully oper-

ational with the new and improved software system, and while bits and pieces are still being cleaned up, there haven't been any major issues so far, McConnel said.

The public's experience with the new library system will not be that different from what many are used to, as the switch mainly affected the administrative side of things, according to Judd.

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The fight for women's rights continues

National Abortion Rights Action League Pro-Choice Washington meets to discuss birth control legislation in 2019

Audra Anderson
THE WESTERN FRONT

Buttons illustrated with lips applying ruby red lipstick reading "Put on your war paint," were scattered across the table at a legislative session preview event on Thursday, Jan. 10.

The event, put on by the National Abortion Rights Action League Pro-Choice Washington, convened in an unoccupied space owned by the sex shop, WinkWink, on Commercial Street downtown.

People of all ages and backgrounds gathered in the space to discuss the legislative session beginning Monday, Jan. 14 in Olympia. The meeting's goal was to discuss pro-choice legislators and the 2019 legislative agenda surrounding reproductive health, according to the event coordinator Morgan Steele Dykeman.

Before the meeting began, the attendees sat chatting amicably in a circle of chairs. Some knitted to pass the time, while others enjoyed refreshments Dykeman had provided.

"What does reproductive freedom mean to you?" Dykeman asked the crowd, quieting the group and signaling the start of the meeting. Many individuals had different definitions of what reproductive freedom was and why it was important to them.

Kathy, 63, explained how she first got involved in the fight for reproductive rights.

"I've been involved with reproductive rights since I was a very young teenager," Kathy said. "It was at a time when, not only was abortion illegal, but contraception was illegal. My own sister got pregnant when she was a sophomore, and had to sneak

off to New York to get an abortion where it was semi-legal in New York at that time. She came home and described the experience as being in this dirty, filthy office, and indeed, she did get an infection."

Kathy requested her last name be left out to protect her sister's identity.

Kathy's account is not far from becoming a reality again, Dykeman said, referring to the current state of reproductive rights legislation.

"The reality of Roe v. Wade is that states have been chopping away at it

"What does reproductive freedom mean to you?" Dykeman asked the crowd.

since day one," Dykeman said of the 1973 Supreme Court abortion rights case. "And if we don't keep fighting, it will be gone, and we will lose access to abortion and also the freedom that comes with being able to choose what happens to your body."

However, Dykeman said she is dedicated to combating the changes at both the state and federal levels, calling her organization "scrappy." In other words, they are not afraid to fight, she said.

According to Dykeman, access to reproductive health care is personal.

She became pregnant in her mid-20s and decided to have an abortion,



Planned Parenthood Manager of Public Affairs, Jessica Hay, smiles after the meeting. // Photo by Audra Anderson

but was turned away by her primary care doctor in Seattle, she said. Dykeman said her doctor sent her out the door and told her that if abortion was Dykeman's choice, that she couldn't help her.

It wasn't until an abortion clinic ran some tests that she found out she had an ectopic pregnancy, Dykeman said. An ectopic pregnancy involves the fetus developing outside of the uterus and can be fatal to both the mother and the baby, according to the American Pregnancy Association.

After her experience, Dykeman said she dedicated her time to NARAL Pro-Choice Washington, becoming the Legislative Affairs Manager.

During the meeting, Dykeman explained the 2019 legislative agenda for pro-choice supporters. Dykeman said democrats have the majority in both the state house and senate in 2019, but that NARAL Pro-Choice Washington still has work to do.

Jessica Hay, the manager of public affairs at Planned Parenthood in Bellingham, also attended the meeting.

"It's going to be a fight, but it's a fight we can win," Hay said. "We're fired up and ready to go. The energy of these folks is just fantastic."

Western student and Planned Parenthood Generation club coordinator, Erin Montgomery, attended the meeting and plans to attend the NARAL Pro-Choice Washington Reproductive Freedom Advocacy Day on Jan. 31.

"I feel really empowered by the results of the 2019 election, and I feel that change is coming," Montgomery said.

NARAL Pro-Choice Washington plans to rally on the steps of the Capitol in Olympia on Jan. 31, according to Dykeman. The group is also push-

ing several bills that will revise bills that are already in effect and introduce new ideas, Dykeman said.

The group's priority bill is the Reproductive Health Access for All Act (RHAA). The bill is a revision of the Reproductive Parity Act (RPA), passed in 2018. The bill was writ-

"It's going to be a fight, but it's a fight we can win," Hay said.

ten by the Gender Justice League, a Washington State gender and sexuality civil and human rights organization, according to the GJL website.

RHAA aims to improve the RPA by defining insurance coverage for all Washington residents regardless of immigration status, gender identity, race or sexual orientation, Dykeman said.

Other bills on the agenda covered topics of improving sexual education, protecting doctors that are helping patients seek reproductive health care and preparing for state funding for family planning.

"Even when you think the work is done, there's always more progress to be made," Dykeman said, "And I love seeing the fire in people's eye when that clicks."

A bus with public seating available will leave from Bellingham for the 2019 Reproductive Freedom Advocacy Day on Jan. 31. If you would like more information on this event, you can contact Dykeman at morgan@prochoicewashington.org.



NARAL Legislative Affairs Manager, Morgan Steele Dykeman, led Thursday's meeting. // Photo by Audra Anderson

Bagel brunch and a safe space for all

Jewish students organize a morning of conversation and warm bagels on campus

Anelyse Morris
THE WESTERN FRONT

On a chilly Tuesday morning, a group of students gather at the Viking Union Market. They excitedly chat about their classes as they pass around a tub of cream cheese and prepare to chow down on a fresh batch of bagels.

This weekly bagel brunch is a tradition for Western's Hillel chapter. Hillel is a student-led Jewish cultural club that connects college campuses all around the world.

One of Hillel of WWU's many community events, the brunch gives new students the opportunity to check out the club and hear about the local Jewish community while enjoying traditional Jewish food, Program Coordinator Naomi Siegel said.

While Hillel is an international organization, its presence is particularly important at schools like Western where there is a small Jewish population, Siegel said.

"It is easy for students to get lost in the shuffle," she said. "So to be able to find people that share part of your identity and can connect you with an even larger community is a great opportunity."

Another beneficial part of the

Hillel community is how it provides comfort in times of extreme prejudice. Over the past few years, several anti-semitic incidents have occurred on Western's campus and the Hillel community is a great place to turn

largely threatening from 2016 in which a student received disciplinary probation after placing a headless doll in Ridgeway Beta alongside a note that said "death to all Jews."

Devine said incidents like this are



Bags of bagels wait to be picked apart by hungry students. // Photo by Emily Porter

to find support, third-year Rachel Devine said.

Devine said she wishes anti-semitic offenses were taken more seriously by the campus community, citing an incident she found particu-

larly important, and that it is an essential time for community outreach. However, she said it's difficult to reach out and find Jewish students on campus because they are a silent minority.

One of Devine's main goals for the academic year is to get the Jewish community involved with the multi-cultural center. However, there have been setbacks due to what Devine refers to as a perceived whiteness of Western's Jewish community. The perceived whiteness of Jewish people is a long-debated topic within the Jewish community, as is described in a 2016 article from the Atlantic.

"I identify as white, I have privilege that I want to acknowledge," Devine said. "I'm not trying to be disrespectful, but we do receive discrimination as well."

Overall, Hillel's main goal for the year is to reach out and get more students involved with the group, she said.

"Hillel is a place with open arms," Devine said. "We just want to help people and educate people who are not Jewish about Jewish issues and show that we have a presence on this campus."

Hillel's bagel brunches are held every Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the VU Market. Another event coming up is the Tu B'Shvat Dinner and Planting Party at the Hillel House on Jan. 22 at 6 p.m..

"Our doors are always open," Devine said. "The more the merrier."

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HALEY MCLENDON

Combining his desires to spread happiness through music and to inspire others to follow their dreams, DJ Trillivm took the stage Saturday night at the “24K Magic Dance” hosted by Happy Club, blasting “Caroline” by Amine over

the speakers.

William “Trillivm” Zayas, also a founding board member of the club, had a hard time staying at his station, frequently jumping off stage to join the dance floor and mingle with the guests.



Among those in attendance were second-year students Ellen Golden and Bethany Monsrud.

“We love dancing, so this is great!” Monsrud said when asked what she thought about the fundraising dance.

Guests were encouraged to dress up for the event, and were greeted at the doors by a red carpet leading to a balloon-archway entrance to the dance floor. The Multi-Activity Court Gym in the Wade King Student Recreation Center was adorned with black and gold party decorations, and the DJ stage was lit by pink, yellow and blue lights.

Along with being an opportunity to provide students with a fun night of dancing, the event was put together to be a fundraiser for a scholarship that Happy Club intends to give to incoming students. Their goal is to fund one scholarship per quarter to be given to a middle school or high school student who submits a video about recognizing and managing their own mental health, Walker said.

Happy Club founder Dimetrieze Walker said he hopes the scholarship can help generate a conversation among younger students as they consider going to college.

“How do we reach out to an incoming population and let them know that there is a place for them, and also how

do we create a conversation amongst a number of people about mental health?” Walker said, explaining the club leader’s thought process behind starting the scholarship.

About one-third of the way through the dance, an electrical fuse blew, causing the music and most of the lights to shut off. The sudden lack of music didn’t stop people on the dance floor, many of whom began clapping and chanting “no music” while they continued to dance and toss around balloons. A technician was present and was able to get everything back up and running within 10 minutes.

Walker was inspired to create Happy Club after realizing how many of his fellow students were struggling to juggle all of the stressors that college can pose. He noticed how different the college experience seemed from the movies he had seen and the stories he had been told.

Walker said it’s like everyone is trying to stay afloat in different pools of water. Each person is separated by a fence, so while they can see each other struggling to swim, they can’t help each other because they are stuck in their section. Walker said he wanted to create a space where struggling students could hop over the fences, come together and be resources for one another.

(Top) Students danced to Rihanna at the 24k Magic Dance hosted by Happy Club. (Bottom) Josiah Scott took the spotlight as he worked his way to the dance floor at the 24k Magic Dance hosted by Happy Club.

// Photos by Emily Porter



The leaders of Happy Club do not claim to be mental health professionals of any kind, Walker said. Their goal is to help teach people how to be there for one another by providing information on available mental health resources and by creating a space for people to have open and honest conversations about the things they are struggling with.

While the club wishes to promote happiness, they recognize that it isn’t possible for anyone to be happy all of the time, Zayas said. The group welcomes and encourages the acknowledgement of all emotions.

“When people usually hear ‘Happy Club,’ they go, ‘Oh, you guys just have to be happy all the time.’ And it’s like, that is the name of the club, because that’s what we like to promote,

but that is not realistic for anyone to be happy all the time,” Zayas said.

Zayas said that when he first started going to Happy Club, it was the first time he felt like a part of Western’s community. He described club meetings as a safe place to express traumatic experience.

Walker also emphasized the importance of creating a space for students to be vulnerable, but said he also wants the meetings to be a place where members can have fun. They like to alternate between having “hype” versus “emotional” meetings each week, he said.

At meetings, the officers devote a large amount of time to welcoming newcomers and hearing from everyone present about what is going on in their lives, Walker said. The club runs on a set of principles that they



(Top) Josiah Scott danced as students started gathering to watch at the 24k Magic Dance hosted by Happy Club.

(Left) William Zayas (DJ Trillivm), member of Happy Club, performed at the 24k Magic Dance hosted by Happy Club.

// Photos by Emily Porter

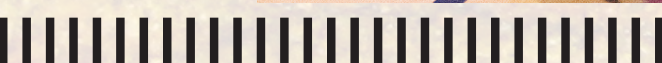
call “constitutions.” These include “speak your truth” and “respect your growth zone.”

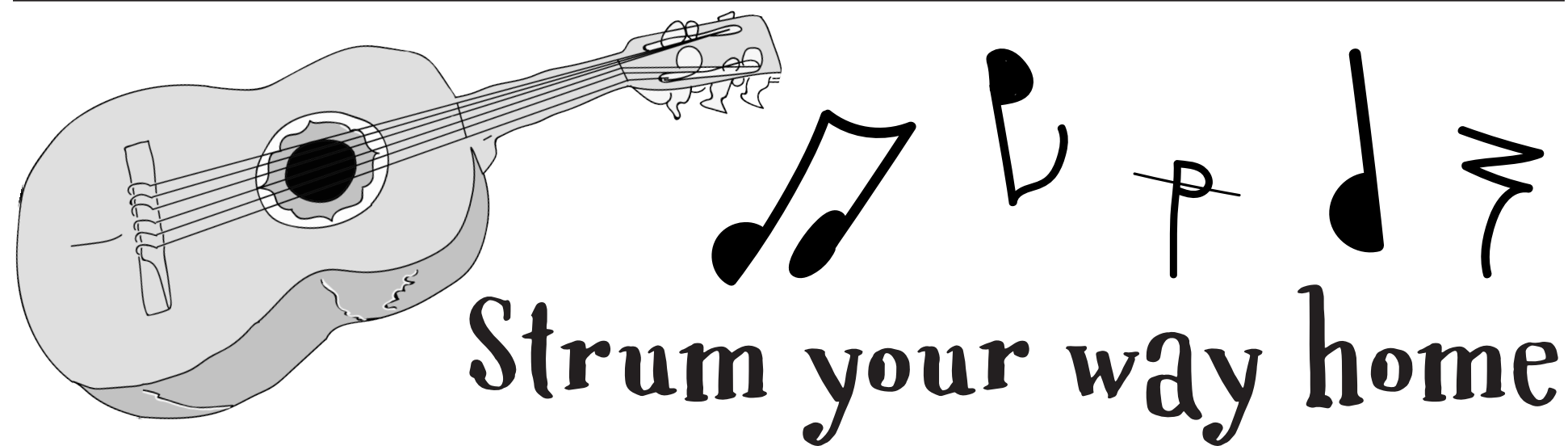
“The growth zone is the space just outside of being comfortable, but right before you become unbearably uncomfortable,” Walker said.

The leaders of Happy Club hope to avoid defining

the club too strictly, so that it can continue to grow and form with the needs and wants of future members even after the founders have moved on from Western, according to Walker.

Happy Club was started during Spring quarter of 2017. They plan to resume regular meetings soon.





Strum your way home

Mariachi Bahía Azul de Western Washington University creates a community for Chicanx students to spread their culture

Evan Upchurch
THE WESTERN FRONT

The strong sense of community shared by members of the Mariachi Bahía Azul de Western Washington University was obvious at their Thursday, Jan. 10 meeting. Members of the club warmly greeted each other and were busy chatting between bouts of playing mariachi, enjoying the space for musicians of all experience levels to connect with their heritage and find belonging on campus.

Gaby Salazar, a Bellingham resident and club member, said mariachi music has been a way to reconnect with her roots and find community.

"Second-generation Chicanxs, sometimes we have a loss of our heritage. So, this is really a way for us to get back into it with no judgements," Salazar said.

Salazar first learned the guitar in high school for extra credit but abandoned it shortly after. She credited the strumming patterns and simple songs in mariachi music with helping her pick up classical guitar again and reunite her with her heritage.

"I feel that it reaches definitely students who might be new to the country or are first generation, second generation, but it also reaches the masses too because the arrangements of music blend so well together," Salazar said. "I know that for our members that are not Latino, they really enjoy the community aspect of it. Whether they speak Spanish

or not, they learn it as they go, so it's a really great way to spread knowledge to others and also maintain that knowledge for others who grew up with it."

Club co-lead Beatrice Davis, a third-year business management major who plays the guitarrón and violin, previously played classical music and has enjoyed learning mariachi music and building relationships with other club members.

"I just really like the people here. I became friends with a lot of people in the club and I like the atmosphere," Davis said. "We're all just having fun trying to do what we like."

The club organized its first Mariachi Conference on campus last year, involving 42 student musicians from across Washington state and drawing in hundreds of students and community members.

Davis said she's excited to be planning the club's second annual conference, which will happen on April 14, and to have support from campus resources such as the music department.

"In the past years ... we've been kind of ignored," Davis said. "Since we've been doing more events and stuff, we've gotten noticed more which is super cool."

The club's presence has grown outside of the Mariachi Conference due to its appearances at events like the annual Ridin' Low in the 360 Lowrider Show, Day of the Dead celebrations, a protest at a detention center in Tacoma and at other performances across



Western students Alondra Jimenez, bottom and Ana Ramirez play violins during Mariachi Club practice on Thursday, Jan. 10 in the Fairhaven Auditorium. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin

Whatcom county and Washington state, according to Salazar.

This has made it easier for students like Ana Ramirez, a third-year political science major, to find a place to connect with mariachi music and Mexican culture.

Ramirez first learned about the club from a friend on campus and joined after taking a mariachi class offered through Fairhaven College.

"It's been a really important space for me and a place where I can practice my culture in a way that I wouldn't be able to in other clubs on campus," Ramirez said.

Ramirez said she often feels frustrated with issues involving race and culture at Western but feels at home with the mariachi club.

"A lot of white people on campus want to be colorblind, and so I feel like I can openly be Mexican in this

space because of the mariachi club," she said.

Through its events, the club has seen a growth in support of Latinx culture at Western, according to Ramirez.

"Especially with the conference that we had last year, there's a lot of support for that throughout all of campus in a way that we haven't really seen before for other forms of cultural performances," Ramirez said.

The club is open to musicians of all levels, from beginning to experienced. They meet every Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Fairhaven Auditorium, room 300A.

"You'll see that anyone's accepted into this group, whether it be community members [or] people who just share a passion for mariachi music," Salazar said.

Dorky Dancing shakes the town

Shame gets left at the door at this exercise class with twist

Sarah Nichols
THE WESTERN FRONT

Seriousness is not permitted once you walk through the doors of Sadye Osterloh's fitness class.

A room full of standard athletic wear and faces of dripping intensity is instead replaced with neon colors and laughter as people dance their way through their workout. Welcome to the Dorky Dance Fitness class.

Osterloh, the creator of the class, is a member of the Bellingham Circus Guild where she teaches trapeze classes.

"I used to do warm-ups in my trapeze classes that were 10 to 15 minutes long," Osterloh said. "I started playing dorky songs and dances to have fun and get the body warmed up, but also to get rid of nervousness and ego."

This warm-up was so popular among her students that Osterloh decided to turn it into a class, she said.

At the end of August 2018, the first Dorky Dance Fitness class had been held and everyone was hooked, Osterloh said.

Jen Owen, a Dorky Dance enthusiast, began taking classes in October. Every Wednesday she commutes from Arlington for the class, she said.

"I've been going through a really hard time this past year, and no matter how you are feeling, you spend an hour with Sadye and it's like therapy," Owen said.

With a room filled with eight to 20 people wearing neon leotards and tights, judgement is left at the door and "dorkiness" is celebrated according to Osterloh.

"You will leave feeling super happy, strong, sweaty and really good about yourself and your body in multiple ways," Osterloh said.

Osterloh's classes offer a range of cardio and strength training movements with modifications that allow each person to be in control of the intensity of their workout, she said.

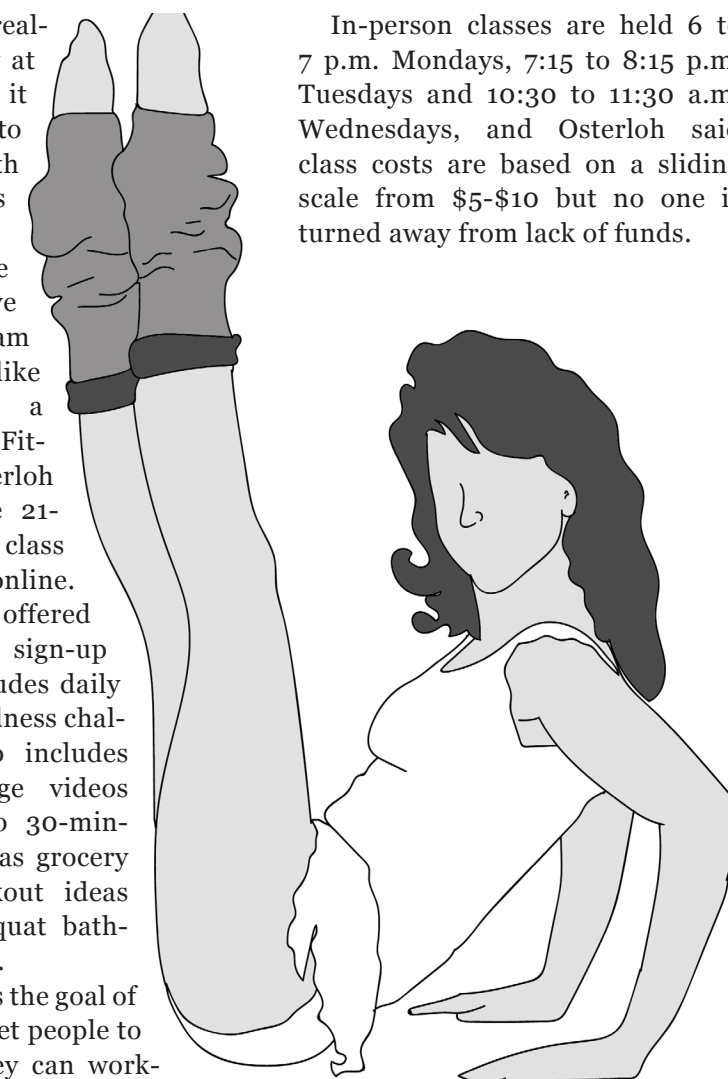
Dorky Dance Fitness participant Sarah Miles attends classes with her co-workers from the Fairhaven Veterinary Hospital.

"It's something we will continue to do together weekly. We don't do a lot of out-of-work activities together, so this worked out perfectly," she

said. "It was a really stressful day at the hospital so it was really nice to sweat it out with the co-workers and be goofy."

For those who do not live in Bellingham and would like to experience a Dorky Dance Fitness Class, Osterloh said an online 21-Day Challenge class is available online. The class is offered for a \$29.99 sign-up fee, which includes daily emails and kindness challenges. It also includes bonus challenge videos that are 20 to 30-minute-long, such as grocery shopping workout ideas or a sneaky squat bathroom challenge.

Osterloh says the goal of her class is to get people to realize that they can work-out anywhere.



In-person classes are held 6 to 7 p.m. Mondays, 7:15 to 8:15 p.m. Tuesdays and 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesdays, and Osterloh said class costs are based on a sliding scale from \$5-\$10 but no one is turned away from lack of funds.

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Alondra Sanchez, left, a Western alumna, and Gaby Salazar take break between songs during a Mariachi Club practice on Thursday, Jan. 10 in Fairhaven Auditorium. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin

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Trump loves wall more than country

President's stubbornness has pushed U.S. into longest government shutdown in history

The government is shut down. It has been shut down since Dec. 22. It has been shut down because Trump is demanding more than \$5 billion to fund the construction of a wall on the border between U.S. and Mexico.

The government are feeling the effects -- the TSA, the EPA, the FDA, the FBI and the IRS, to name a few. Put any three letters together and chances are it's an agency that's been affected.

would have Mexico pay for this wall. His website still has a plan on how exactly he intended to accomplish that. But, as one might expect, Mexico does not want to pay for this wall. Neither does the Democratic party. So, there is a partial government shutdown.

intentional) consequences of this shutdown affects exactly those who Trump wants to keep out with the wall -- migrant families. Those in detention centers after seeking asylum, or being picked up in ICE raids, those separated from their families, are still stuck, awaiting a trial indefinitely. Immigration courts are shut down, barring urgent cases from moving forward. All because of a wall.

A wall born from xenophobia that Trump thinks will solve problems with immigration more than, say, immigration court, the Coast Guard or any other part of the U.S. government. But no, the wall will be the thing that finally makes America great again.

Let this be a lesson on the importance of voting, because elections have consequences.

Yes, all because of a wall. Here's how this happened: the budgets for many federal agencies operate on annual approvals. The deadline to extend funding through 2019 was on Dec. 21. That is when Trump, in an effort to leverage the operation of the U.S. government to force payment for his wall, let the budgets expire. Now we are in a partial shutdown until a resolution can be met.

This has affected around 800,000 federal employees. About half are furloughed without pay, and the others are working without pay, like members of the Coast Guard.

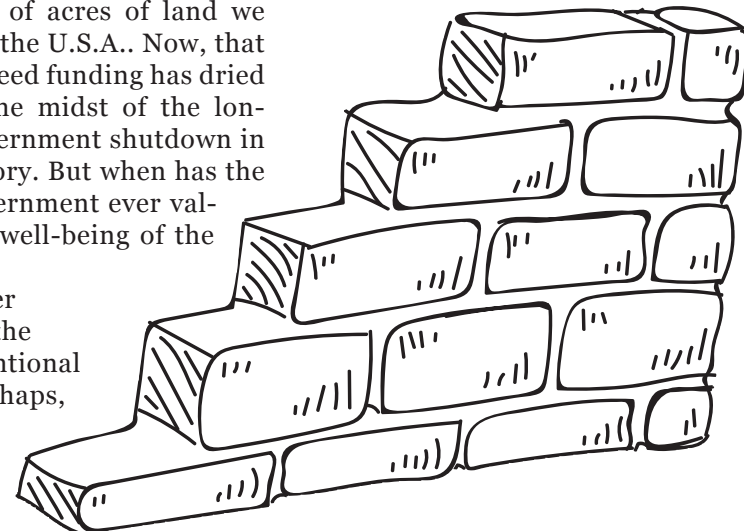
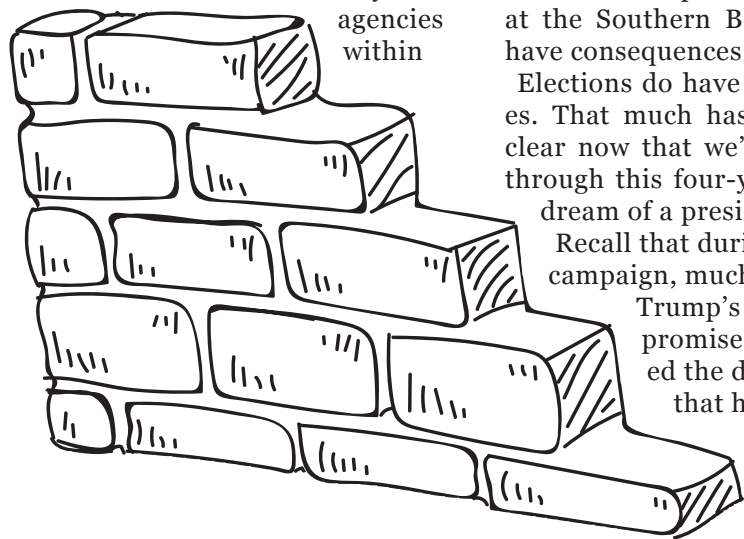
“Elections do have consequences. That much has been made clear now that we're halfway through this four-year fever dream of a presidency.”

Many agencies within Saturday, Jan. 12: "I do have a plan on the Shutdown. But to understand that plan you would have to understand the fact that I won the election, and I promised safety and security for the American people. Part of that promise was a Wall at the Southern Border. Elections have consequences!"

Elections do have consequences. That much has been made clear now that we're halfway through this four-year fever dream of a presidency.

Recall that during his campaign, much of Trump's wall promise included the detail that he

Another one of the unintentional (or perhaps, sadly, Native American tribes have also lost funding in the shutdown. The U.S. government is now violating the treaties that ensure funding for health care, education and other services to tribes in exchange for the millions of acres of land we now call the U.S.A.. Now, that guaranteed funding has dried up in the midst of the longest government shutdown in U.S. history. But when has the U.S. government ever valued the well-being of the tribes?



The Western Front Editorial Board is composed of Dante Koplowitz-Fleming, Monique Merrill and Laura Place.

Viking Voices

Why is it important to know about the government shutdown?



Austin Scott
Industrial Design

"Even if people try to avoid it, you are still a part of society. Just because you don't know about it doesn't mean it is not happening. It affects you even if you are not politically inclined."



Anna Courtney
Sociology

"One of my friends just graduated and she applied for a government job. Because of the shutdown she won't be able to hear back or interview for the position she really wants. It affects everyone."



Emma Kooyman
Biology

"It is absolutely important. We should all know what's happening in our system and know what we can do to make sure it doesn't happen again. How we can fix it and how we can be proactive as members of society."



Genevieve Gislason
Studio Art

"You should be involved in politics because this is where you live. It either directly or indirectly affects everyone's lives, whether you want to admit it or not. I went camping in the national park and the composting toilets were overflowing."

Compiled by Lauren Taylor

A letter to the editor

In response to "Throwing beauty standards out the window"

My name is Brette Boesel and I am writing in response to the article "Throwing Beauty Standards Out The Window." My initial thought as I started reading, was how cool it is that someone sought out the opportunity to address this particular subject with our student-athletes first hand.

Being a student-athlete myself, I really appreciated how real the athletes being interviewed were in telling their

journey through college athletics and their training.

I think these kinds of conversations are so important and inspiring to all athletes and non-athletes alike, because what you see and hear is yes, some personal struggle, but also self-love coming from women who are doing what they enjoy and maintaining a healthy body. A body of which will differ individually and by the activities

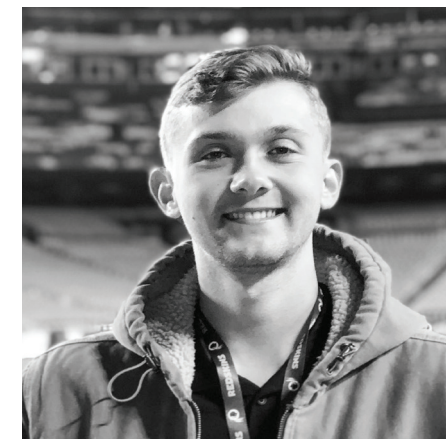
that you are involved in. A healthy feminine body image should be based off what makes YOU feel good and what physique will help YOU reach the goals you have in athletics or life in general.

This article makes me proud of our athletic department, the coaches we have, and the training and strength staff we have in Sam Carver Gymnasium and the Wade King Student Recreation

Center, because as these athletes gave credit to their coaches, I believe it also pertains to all the people surrounding our students and student-athletes who provide a confident, educated, and healthy environment where everyone is encouraged to strive to be the best they can be and learn to be comfortable with themselves regardless of the social norms and body image standards.

From the sidelines

The Seahawks are out of the playoffs, so it's time to jump on a bandwagon. Who do you think, or hope, will win the Super Bowl?



Dante Koplowitz-Fleming
Managing Editor

I'm going with the team that has a historic offense, a league-MVP quarterback and an offensive-mastermind at head coach. Still not clear? Let me be blunt: the Kansas City Chiefs are going to wake up on Feb. 4 as world champions. I don't care that their defense surrendered over 400 yards and 26 points per game in the regular season. I don't care that this is Patrick Mahomes first season as a starter. Andy Reid is coming off of a 31-13 blowout win over the Colts. Yes, Reid is coaching well in the playoffs, which is reason enough to fear the Chiefs.



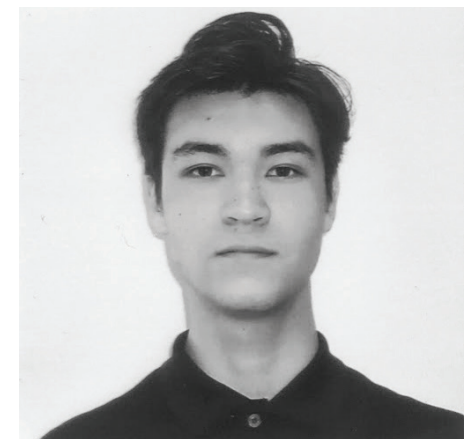
Andrew McClain
Sports Editor

With the Hawks out of the playoffs I think I'm probably pulling for the Saints to win it all. Drew Brees is already a guaranteed HOFer, having set the record for most passing yards in NFL history earlier this season (74,437 yards). However, adding another ring to the one he won in 2010 would help cement his legacy as one of the great quarterbacks of the last few decades. Besides, if I have to see the Pats win another championship I might become physically- ill.



Zoe Hilgedick
Reporter

If I had to bet money on who's going to win the Super Bowl, I'd go with the New England Patriots because Vegas currently has the Patriots at 6:1 odds of winning. Additionally, the Patriots have it all; an incredible ability to properly utilize individual player strengths to build upon team strength, genius strategy on and off the field, business-like levels of efficiency, a healthy indifference toward morality, and a liberal use of Androstenedione. However, when it comes to who I hope will win the bowl, I'll be rooting for literally anyone else.



Max Ellis
Reporter

I'm rooting for the Kansas City Chiefs, simply because I'm tired of watching the Patriots in the Super Bowl. I have no preference for who wins in the NFC, because the Rams and Saints are both exciting teams with young, talented players, most of whom are without a Super Bowl ring to their name. On the other hand, New England has played in four of the last seven Super Bowls, and right now Kansas City is the only team standing between them and yet another championship game.

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Vikings pull out win at home against Wolves

Rogers' timely 3-pointer helps propel Vikings to victory

Zoe Hilgedick
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Western women's basketball team was victorious against the Western Oregon University Wolves in its Saturday, Jan. 12 home game in Sam Carver Gymnasium. Despite trailing behind the Wolves for the majority of the game, the Vikings managed to pull ahead in the third quarter, eventually winning with a final score of 73-61.

"We were definitely playing to win tonight, instead of just playing not to lose," junior guard Lexie Bland said.

The Vikings had the hot hand, shooting 48.3 percent from the field and 50.0 percent from 3-point range, compared to the Wolves who shot 35.7 percent and 18.8 percent respectively.

More specifically, the tide was turned when sophomore forward Kelsey Rogers scored a 3-pointer, putting the Vikings into the lead for the first time during the game, where they stayed for the rest of the night.

"[Kelsey Rogers' 3-pointer] really changed the momentum," said freshman guard Avery Dykstra.



Head coach Carmen Dolfo makes an in-game adjustment against the Wolves. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin

man guard Avery Dykstra. "It was a huge shot."

The Vikings bench far outperformed the Wolves bench by a margin of 40-7. They also outscored the Wolves in the paint by 42-24, and had double their points off turnovers.

"We were working really well together," Dykstra said about the team flow and her six assists. "[My teammates] were easy to find."

Both teams did well on the boards with the Wolves out-rebounding the Vikings 38-37. However, the Vikings managed to take better care of the ball, committing only 13 turnovers, compared to the Wolves' 15.

"They kept their heads down a lot when they were driving," Bland answered when asked about the Vikings' win and her three personal steals. "They weren't really looking to pass."

The Vikings' ball movement was also stronger than the Wolves' with the Vikings totalling 13 assists to the Wolves' eight.

"We were more spread out," Dykstra said. "It made it easier to find each other...We were moving the ball a lot better, and our defense was more intense."

This win puts the Vikings' overall record at 9-5 for the year, and 4-2 in conference play this season. Many of the players mentioned that confidence was high going into this game, especially compared to the last, which they lost 70-62 on Friday, Jan. 10 to the Concordia University Cavaliers.

"The coaches have really been emphasizing the importance of going in confident and keeping the same mentality that you have during practice at the games," said sophomore guard Emma Duff.

"[Kelsey Rogers' 3-pointer] really changed the momentum," said freshman guard Avery Dykstra.

"[Kelsey Rogers' 3-pointer] really changed the momentum," said freshman guard Avery Dykstra.

When asked if she had any one else to thank, Bland voiced her appreciation for everyone and their unique personal contribution, as well as the bench and even the court for their energy. Duff thanked Anna Schwecke for her "unstoppable" defense.

"[Schwecke] shut down their post," Duff explained. "She had the green light tonight and she was just killing it."

The Vikings will be back out on the court Thursday, Jan. 17 at 7 p.m. when they play the Seattle Pacific University Falcons in Seattle at the Royal Brougham Pavilion.

Vikings Drop Home Game Against Concordia

Foul trouble gives Cavaliers the edge in close game

Sophia Crossley
THE WESTERN FRONT



Schwecke works under the hoop against the Cavaliers. // Photo by Emily Porter

Despite the Vikings holding the lead for three quarters, the women's basketball team eventually lost to the Concordia University Cavaliers 70-62 in Sam Carver Gymnasium on Thursday, Jan. 10.

The Vikings started strong, winning the tip-off and finishing the first quarter of the game ahead by eight points with the score at 20-12.

The Vikings continued to play well through the second quarter and held a 32-28 lead going into halftime.

After the half they managed to hold onto the lead, and let the Cavaliers narrow the gap by a single point in the third quarter. That left the score at 52-49 as the game entered the fourth quarter.

The Cavaliers tied with the Vikings at the top of the final quarter. Western then regained the lead until, with 3:06 left in the game, the Cavaliers took control. Foul trouble on the Vikings' part gave the Cavaliers opportunities which they exploited until, free throw by free throw, they ultimately took the game 70-62.



(Top) Castaneda surveys the floor with the ball in her hands. She ended the game against the Cavaliers with 10 points. (Bottom) Westendorf goes for a layup versus the Cavaliers. She added an assist and a rebound to the box score. // Photos by Emily Porter

Sports Roundup: Basketball bonanza and track teaser



Co-captain Tyler Payne works the ball on the wing in the Vikings' first home game in a week against SFU. // Photo by Emily Porter

Compiled by
Claudia Cooper
THE WESTERN FRONT

Women's Basketball

The Vikings fell to the Concordia University Cavaliers 70-62 on Thursday, Jan. 10 at Sam Carver Gymnasium after leading the game all the way through the third quarter.

On Saturday, Jan. 12, the Vikings recovered with a win against the Western Oregon Wolves 73-61 at home in Carver Gym. After trailing for most of the game, they went on a 15-0 run during the third quarter to help them seal the win. The team is now ranked fourth in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference with a record of 4-2 in conference and are 9-5 overall.

Men's Basketball

The Vikings traveled to Northwest Nazarene University and lost to the Nighthawks 82-74 on Thursday, Jan. 10. The Vikings had a 12-point run during the second half in an attempt to

close the gap, reducing the Nighthawks' lead to only four points, but fell behind again in the last quarter.

However, the men's team came back strong in their second consecutive away game at Central Washington in Nicholson Pavilion in Ellensburg on Saturday, Jan. 12 with a final score of 73-62.

The Vikings also beat Simon Fraser University on Tuesday, Jan. 15 at home with a final score of 89-81. They're now fifth in conference with a GNAC record of 4-3. Their overall record is 10-7.

Track and Field

Western Track and Field traveled to the University of Washington for the UW Preview indoor meet at Dempsey Indoor Center on Saturday, Jan. 12 to start off their indoor season. Several Vikings placed in the top-10 in their categories, and a few even broke into the top-five. Senior Maddie Taylor placed second out of 32 athletes in Women's high jump with 1.73 meters. Sophomore Seren Dances placed second out of 21 athletes in men's long

jump with a leap of 6.89 meters and sophomore Bryant Welch placed fourth in the men's 400-meter with a time of 49.92 seconds.

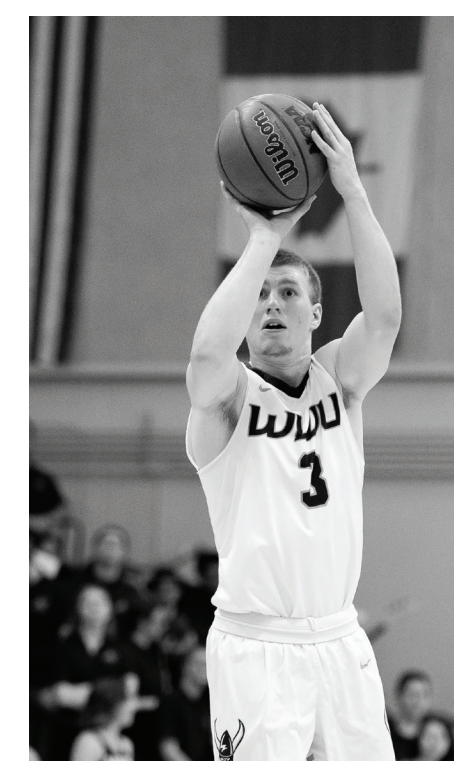
Upcoming Viking Action

Home

Men's Basketball
• Thursday Jan. 17 vs. Montana State Billings 7 p.m.

Away

Women's Basketball
• Thursday Jan. 17 @ Seattle Pacific 7 p.m.
• Saturday Jan. 19 @ Saint Martin's 7 p.m.



Enigenburg went 6-9 from the field, leading the Vikings with 21 points against SFU. // Photo by Emily Porter

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Vikings best conference rival Simon Fraser University

Hannah Gordon-Kirk
THE WESTERN FRONT

Vikings move into fifth place in conference with big win over SFU.

The Vikings escaped with a home-court victory, 89-81, against Great Northwest Athletic Conference rival Simon Fraser University on Tuesday, Jan. 15 at Sam Carver Gymnasium. Juniors Tucker Eenigenburg and Trevor Jasinsky each contributed 20-plus points to pace the Western win.

This contest was the first game back home for the Vikings after playing two on the road last week. The home cooking was evident as they entered the game with abundant hustle and high energy. They maintained a high tempo throughout the first half of the game with Eenigenburg leading the Vikings with his hot shooting, scoring 10 points in the first half.

At the break, the frustrated Canadian visitors retreated to the locker room, down 16 points. However after the break, Simon Fraser came back in the second half to nearly overtake the Vikings.

With 10 minutes left in the game, Simon Fraser evened the score at 64-64. At this point it was anybody's game, but the shift in tone made the Vikings dig deep and work harder. They utilized not only their defensive skills but especially their offensive skills to keep pace with SFU's improved second-half shooting.

Jasinsky was the top-scorer for the Vikings in the second half, and his 10 points through the half helped the Vikings match Simon Fraser's offensively-focused game style.

With 2:10 left on the clock the score



Anderson fights up the court against an SFU defender. // Photo by Emily Porter

was 78-75, with the Vikings only leading by three. Through the remainder of the game, both teams made numerous shots. But in the end it was the Vi-

kings' defense that came through and secured a close homecourt win.

The Vikings' victory improved their home record to 5-1 and confer-

ence mark to 4-3, good enough for fifth place in the GNAC.

The Vikings will take on Montana State Billings Thursday night at 7 p.m., Jan. 17 at Carver Gym.

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FREE COMMUNITY BREAKFAST: Western Campus

SPEAKERS: Western President Sabah Randhawa,
Bellingham Mayor Kelli Linville,

Student Speakers Shaneen Walter-Edwards
and Abdul-Malik Ford

TIME: 8AM to 9:30AM

VENUE: Viking Commons Dining Hall

ALSO: City of Bellingham celebrates
MLK with "Mothers of the Movement"
Jan. 21, Noon at Mount Baker Theater.



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Parking enforcement will be suspended in campus lots 11G, 6V, 7G, 6AM-11AM on Monday, Jan. 21.