

THE WESTERN FRONT

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Woodring students seek accountability

"Where are the deadlines for changes to happen?"

Laura Place

THE WESTERN FRONT

A month after an initial student-organized community assembly, Woodring College of Education students gathered again on March 1, this time eager to hear faculty's responses to their concerns about resources and support for students and faculty of color within the college of education.

However, by the end of the four-hour forum, students said they felt more disappointed and frustrated than before, as Woodring Dean Horacio Walker offered what students considered to be unclear solutions with undefined timelines to concerns raised last month.

"My peers and I are very much disappointed by the content shared in the second assembly



Woodring students gather after faculty presentations to discuss responses to the dean at the assembly on Friday. // Photo by Rachel Alexander

which was supposed to serve as a response for the demands and needs students shared on Feb. 1 with the dean and faculty and staff," said Gloria Guizar, student co-chair for the Woodring Equity and Diversity Committee, said. "However, the disappointment does not mean that we are not thankful to have faculty and staff

as well as the dean present and willing to converse with students even when the topics get uncomfortable and emotions start to take over."

During the initial Feb. 1 forum, student representatives from different groups spoke

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Dowding-Albrecht case dismissed

2018 Nash Hall sexual assault case dropped, according to deputy prosecutor

Zoe Buchli

THE WESTERN FRONT

The case against former Western student Isaiah Dowding-Albrecht, who was arrested on suspicion of second-degree rape in April 2018, was dismissed, and his \$20,000 bail bond was exonerated, according to court documents.

"After a complete review of the case, and considering all available and reasonably foreseeable defenses that could be raised under the evidence, this office concluded that ultimately we would not be able to disprove the defenses and/or convict beyond a reasonable doubt," Deputy prosecuting attorney Erik Sigmar said in an email.

Dowding-Albrecht was arrested on suspi-

cion of second-degree rape at Nash Hall after University Police were contacted for a report of sexual assault at 5:07 a.m. on April 28, 2018, according to the affidavit of probable cause.

According to court documents, Dowding-Albrecht entered a plea of not guilty, and was issued a no contact order with the survivor at his preliminary appearance at the Whatcom County Superior Court on May 4, 2018.

Dowding-Albrecht's defense attorney Ziad Youssef said in an email he cannot comment on the defense he was preparing for the trial.

As of May 2018, Dowding-Albrecht was no longer a registered student, University Director of Communications and Marketing Paul Cocks said in an email on Jan. 29, 2019.

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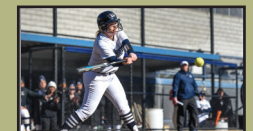
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Zoe Buchli

THE WESTERN FRONT

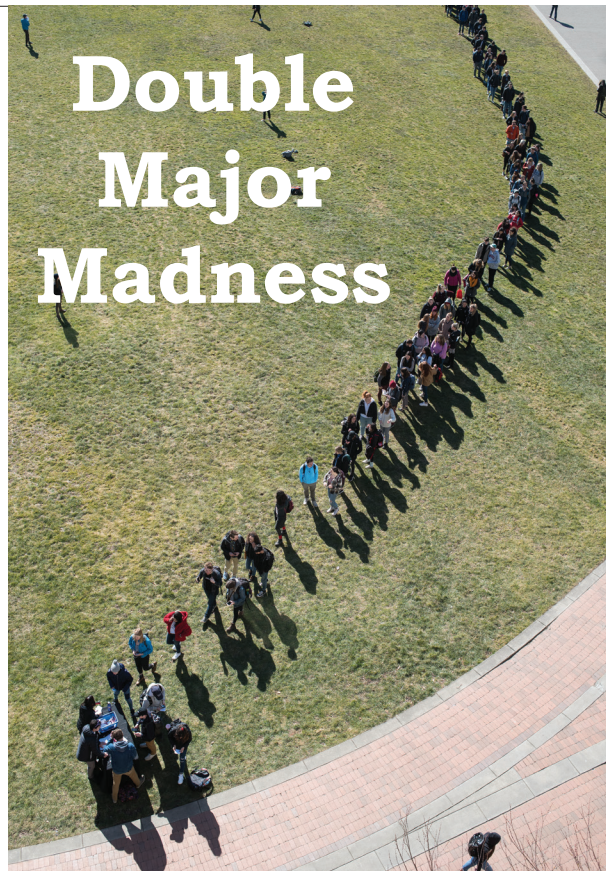
A 57-year-old Bellingham man was arrested on suspicion of reckless burning in the first degree on Wednesday, Feb. 27, in connection with the Feb. 18 fire at Hohl Feed and Seed, according to a city of Bellingham press release by the Mayor's Office.

Paul J. Wolfe was booked into Whatcom County Jail on Wednesday, Feb. 27, at 12:14 p.m. according to the Whatcom County Jail Roster, and remains in custody as of Monday, March 4, at 3:00 p.m.

At Wolfe's preliminary appearance at the Whatcom County Courthouse on Thursday, Feb. 28, Whatcom County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Kellen Kooistra read the probable cause statement and said the Bellingham Fire Department investigated the fire and determined its origin was at the brick chimney in the back of the building.

Still images of the people in the alcove were distributed to the local media to get the public's help in identifying them, Kooistra

see **FIRE**, page 3



Students wait in line for discount tickets to the ODESZA and Death Cab for Cutie concert on May 18. More information available online. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin

Fresh faces and fresh election codes

Evan Upchurch

THE WESTERN FRONT

Changes to the Associated Students Election Codes leveled the playing field for a historic special election in February.

The special election was for the position of AS VP for Business Operations, which was vacated after a recall election earlier in February.

The AS Board of Directors approved updates to their election codes and special election codes at their meeting on Feb. 8. The changes were written by AS Elections Coordinator Alec Willis, who said the recent recall and special elections were the first in Western's history and that they pushed him to make changes so



Nate Jo was elected as VP for Business and Operations for the remainder of the year. // Photo by Rachel Alexander

the elections would run more smoothly.

"Due to the fact that this is unprecedented, we've had to sometimes build the plane as we were flying it," Willis said.

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Ceramics students Allie Lapke, left, and Alisa Williams, right, work on sculptures in the art annex building at Western on March 5. Williams said these sculptures are part of their final pottery assignment. // Photo by Cailean Mcleod

The Western Front

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Have story ideas? Email us at westernfrontonline@gmail.com

to send them our way or discuss sharing information confidentially.

Corrections:
In last week's issue:
-In the Sheryl Gilmore story, "horizontal bat velocity vs vertical bat velocity" should say "rotational vs. linear bat velocity."
-See page 9 for editor note about "1968 to now: How BSU spoke out on need for Black student support."

FIRE

continued from page 1

said, and two Whatcom County residents contacted the Bellingham Police Department and were able to identify Robert Payne as being in the alcove.

The police department contacted Payne who said that he was with Wolfe in the area and started the fire in the chimney to get warm, Kooistra said.

Payne said that within minutes he and Wolfe could see sparks and flames coming out of the top of the chimney and that he and Wolfe panicked and left the area.

Payne also told police he saw smoke coming from the Hohl Feed and Seed building before leaving the area in a taxi while Wolfe left on foot, Kooistra said.

The Bellingham Police Department then interviewed Wolfe, who said he didn't start the fire.

In the defense response, Public Defender Darrin Hall said the fire was not intentional and does not suggest Wolfe is a danger to the community.

The temperature in Bellingham dropped as low as 25 degrees Fahrenheit on the morning of the fire, according

to the AccuWeather report for Feb. 18. On Feb. 11, a week before the fire, community members demanded that the city provide more shelter for people when temperatures are below freezing.

"Every way you look at it, this is a tragedy in many ways. We lost a historic building, a long-standing local business, the small animals that perished. Also we have the tragedy of an unsheltered person who's just trying to keep warm, allegedly, on that night," Court Commissioner Angela A. Cuevas said.

Kooistra said the video footage shows at 3:35 a.m. two people entered the small alcove behind the pet store building near the brick chimney and remained there for about 30 minutes, and at approximately 4:00 a.m. two people are seen leaving the alcove on the surveillance camera footage.

At about 4:05 a.m., he said, what appears to be a third person runs into the alcove while flames were visible and tries to remove what appears to be a backpack before running out of the area.

Kooistra said the prosecutor's office spoke with the owner of Hohl Feed and Seed, who asked the prosecutor's office to pass along his request for a

reasonably high bail given the damage done to the business. Cuevas set bail at \$50,000.

Cuevas said the maximum penalty for this offense is up to five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. However, Hall said people who are found guilty of this offense typically serve one to three months in jail.

Reckless burning in the first degree is a class C felony, according to Washington State Law.

Wolfe's arraignment is scheduled for Friday, March 8, at 9 a.m..



The fire at Hohl Feed and Seed started in the chimney, according to police. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin



Firefighters contained the blaze at 9 a.m. on February 18. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin

WEDNESDAY 3/6	THURSDAY 3/7	FRIDAY 3/8	SATURDAY 3/9
ERINA / AN INTIMATE EVENING W/ BEN & MOLLY OF THE DAWN BOMBS 7 P.M. UNDERGROUND COFFEEHOUSE FREE	WWU JAZZ COMBO NIGHT 7 P.M. UNDERGROUND COFFEEHOUSE FREE	GNAC BASKETBALL SEMIFINALS 12 P.M. SAM CARVER GYMNASIUM \$5 FOR STUDENTS	GNAC BASKETBALL FINALS 5:20 P.M. SAM CARVER GYMNASIUM \$5 FOR STUDENTS
SUNDAY 3/10	MONDAY 3/11	TUESDAY 3/12	WEDNESDAY 3/13
UNIVERSITY CHOIR CONCERT 7:30 P.M. PERFORMING ARTS CENTER FREE	WWU ORCHESTRAS PRESENT PURCELL, WALKER, GREENSTEIN, AND STRAVINSKY 7:30 P.M. PERFORMING ARTS CENTER FREE	SOFTCORE: TEXTILES EXHIBITION 11 A.M.-8 P.M. SOCIAL FABRIC 1302 CORNWALL FREE	INFRA-SUPRA 2019 10 A.M. - 4 P.M. FINE ARTS BUILDING FREE

EVENT CALENDAR
WEEK 09

Compiled by Hannah Gordon-Kirk

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Chef Manager Ridgeway

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DINNER

Viking Commons

5:00pm-7:00pm

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Lunch - MP Holders - 1 Meal Swipe
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- Mashed Yukon Potatoes - Basin Gold Potatoes - Warden, WA • Sky Valley Garlic - Monroe, WA • Edaleen Dairy - Lynden, WA
- Roasted Root Vegetables - Bolthouse Carrots - Prosser, WA • Hilltop Produce Parsnips and Turnips - Troutdale OR
- Pesto Grilled Vegetable Wrap - Kings Gourmet Pesto - Everett, WA • Bolthouse Carrots - Prosser, WA • Sunset Farms Onions - Prosser, WA
- Chicken, Bacon, Pesto Pizza - Draper Valley Farms Chicken - Skagit Valley, WA • Hemplers Bacon - Ferndale, WA • Kings Gourmet Pesto - Everett, WA
- Mushroom Pizza - Ostroms Mushrooms, Olympia, WA
- Lentil Kielbasa - Hemplers Sausage - Ferndale • WA, Bobs Red mill Lentils - Milwaukie • OR, Sunset Onions - Prosser, WA • Bolthouse Carrots - Prosser, WA
- Roasted Corn & Potato Chowder - Reser's Potatoes - Beaverton, OR • Sunset Onions - Prosser, WA • Hemplers Bacon - Ferndale, WA • Edaleen Dairy - Lynden, WA
- Split Pea Soup - Bobs Red Mill Split Pea, Bolthouse Carrots - Prosser, WA • Sunset Farms Onions - Prosser, WA

Menu by Chef Mark Hubbard

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Displaced animals from Hohl Feed and Seed find new homes at adoption event

"I think the majority of people I saw walk in ended up taking an animal home. And that was just in the first hour."

Brooke Weisbecker
THE WESTERN FRONT

At the Small Animal Adoption event on Saturday, March 2, the Whatcom Humane Society was packed with people eagerly waiting to adopt an animal displaced by the Feb. 18 fire at Hohl Feed and Seed.

The fire displaced over 75 animals, many of which were taken to the Whatcom Humane Society to be cared for, according to Kelcie Faber, the manager of Hohl Feed and Seed.

Multiple animals were available for adoption from Hohl Feed and Seed, including rabbits, domestic rats, hamsters, gerbils and mice, according to Faber.

Event attendee Erica Huynh commented on the high volume of attendees waiting to adopt an animal.

"There were dozens of people lined up and ready to adopt whatever little animal needed some help," Huynh said. "I think the majority of people I saw walk in ended up taking an animal home. And that was just in the first hour."

Faber said the event was an emotional experience for her.

"We're sure going to miss everybody down at the store, so it's kind of nice to be here and see people coming in," she said. "It's a little sentimental too. I worry if that's my last time I'm going to teach some little kid about a hamster, I hope not."

Faber's favorite part of her job is seeing how excited people are about taking an animal home. She said



This rabbit was adopted at the Small Animal Adoption event. // Photo by Brooke Weisbecker



A mouse that was available for adoption at the Whatcom Humane Society. // Photo by Brooke Weisbecker

the event exceeded her expectations.

"It's different when everybody says a million nice things on Facebook, but to see everybody show up is really

great," Faber said. "To see a line out the door is great."

The number of people who attended the event was unexpected, so Whatcom Humanity Society employees

"Knowing that the animals were saved and have been well-cared for at the Humane Society has been such a weight off of our shoulders and one of the few comforts for all of our staff during this tragedy,"

Kelcie Faber

animals as possible get adopted," Faber said. "I hate to think they'll all get stuck here for too long. I'm sure not all of them will find homes today, there's a lot of them."

Faber said the support given by the Whatcom Humane Society has been a comfort to her and other employees.

"Knowing that the animals were saved and have been well-cared for at the Humane Society has been such a weight off of our shoulders and one of the few comforts for all of our staff during this tragedy," Faber said. "We love those animals, and it means so much to us that they all find homes."

Luke Price, the assistant manager at Hohl Feed and Seed, said he has seen a lot of concern for the animals' wellbeing and the response from the community has been positive.

"I don't know if I realized how big it was to the community before all of this," Price said. "But the response has been really awesome from everybody. I'll just go to the grocery store and somebody will have something nice to say about it."

Whatcom Humane Society mentioned in a Facebook post that three-fourths of the animals from Hohl Feed and Seed were adopted at the event. Animals that remain available for adoption include domestic mice, rats, gerbils and a hamster, according to the post.

sent small groups of people at a time to the room the animals were being held in so the lobby didn't get too crowded, Faber said.

"I want to see as many

WTA offers bus riding lessons to middle schoolers

WTA pairs up with Smart Trips to give free bus passes to 1,764 students over the span of two weeks

Anelyse Morris
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western students may be seeing more people on their morning bus route starting in March, when nearly 1,800 seventh-graders will be given free bus passes.

Whatcom Transportation Authority along with Smart Trips, a program run by the Whatcom Council of Governments, are teaming up to provide the middle schoolers of Whatcom County with lessons and experience on the public transportation system.

Maureen McCarthy, community relations and marketing manager at WTA,

said the two-week long program will give kids who aren't yet at the age to earn their driver's licenses a feeling of independence.

This program will take place from March 18-21 and March 25-29. It aims to provide seventh-graders with all the tools they'll need to take public transportation on their own, McCarthy said.

"We have seen a lot of kids light up realizing that they can start to plan and do things entirely on their own," she said.

The program is largely funded by a grant from the Washington State Department of Transportation, McCarthy said. WTA will provide the free

bus passes to all students who filled out permission slips, and will provide a bus and driver for one of the sessions as well, she said.

McCarthy said the program will include all school districts of Whatcom County except Lynden School District, who has not confirmed its involvement yet.

Susan Horst, the director of Mobility Programs at the Whatcom Council of Governments, said that Smart Trips will provide trip information, maps and discounts to local businesses in Whatcom County.

Each day will be broken down into hour-long sessions

during which the kids will learn to pull the chord, pay the fare and store their bikes, McCarthy said. This will last for two weeks until all 1,764 students complete the program, she said.

"Our goal is that within that one hour, each kid will get everything they really need to learn how to plan and take a trip," she said. "[The sessions will last] everyday for those two weeks; it is a very tightly timed scenario that allows that all to happen."

While there may be initial hesitation from parents, people have become more comfortable with the idea after clear communication between

parents and their children, she said.

Part of the reason why bus drivers are included in the sessions is to let parents know there is someone on that bus looking out for the new riders, McCarthy said.

"I think that people forget that things you've never done before are intimidating, even if they're really easy," McCarthy said. "This program is supposed to help with that. We can make it really easy."



Illustration by Cody Clark.

WOODRING

continued from page 1

to failures within the college when it came to support for students within the college as well as preparation of students for the education field. This time, Walker and faculty representatives from different departments within Woodring shared action plans to specifically address areas of student need.

Walker explained plans of action that addressed four main areas of expressed need: Curriculum, student support, information, and communication and professional development.

"We decided to use the word 'needs' instead of 'demands,' because if we focus on needs, we were able to think in a long-term basis," Walker said. "Saying no to a demand doesn't mean saying no to a need. These were areas of needs students expressed."

Following faculty presentations, Woodring students were quick to point out gaps in the presented plans.

"Where are the deadlines for changes to happen? Overall, we didn't see timelines or people attached to a lot of these points," Anne Lee, a member of the Human Services Student of Color Union and the Associated Students Vice President for Student Life, said. "For next time, for human services, we want to see a timeline, who's going to do it, who will do all the things that you all say you'll be doing."

Guizar also expressed disappointment with Walker's blanket use of the term 'needs' rather than the original descriptors used by students.

"We did not appreciate that the dean labeled the 'demands' students had to 'needs.' The dean does not experience

Woodring the same way students do, therefore should not downgrade how students feel," Guizar said. "I believe he could have just explained that some demands were going to take longer than others instead of totally disregarding students' feelings by removing the labels

they originally used."

In response to the need expressed by students at the initial forum for more social justice-focused curriculum throughout the program, Walker and other faculty continually referred to social justice-centered trainings and workshops. Students and faculty within the Education and Social Justice minor challenged Walker on these plans for more specificity.

When asked by students whether he planned to allocate more money toward the ESJ minor, which generally funds and puts on social justice-centered workshops and events like those mentioned by faculty, Walker stated that budget issues within the department would not permit more funding for ESJ specifically.



Dean Horacio Walker.
// Photo by Rachel Alexander

"We don't have money to increase support of specific programs. At this point we cannot ensure a stable line of funding to additionally support ESJ," Walker said. "ESJ has the funding that it has."

Students did not accept this answer, pressing Walker as to why more funding could not be acquired for the minor.

Associate Professor and ESJ Director Verónica Vélez described how the ESJ minor, which spans a variety of departments on campus, is not given a sufficient budget. Vélez also said conversations surrounding increased funding for the ESJ minor are rarely pursued.

"When we address the

budget, we're given the runaround. No one really wants to help when it comes time," Vélez said. "ESJ is basically funding all kinds of programs on campus and not getting any reciprocity back."

Multiple ESJ students and faculty agreed the ESJ minor and the Center for Education, Equity and Diversity, or CEED, are frequently co-opted by Woodring as a claim to diversity, without much financial support within the college.

"Is it fair to continue to name ESJ and CEED as college resources if you're not providing the money for them?" fourth-year human services and ESJ student Cindy Marquina-Negrete asked Walker.

According to ESJ Administrative Assistant Elaine Mehary, one of the most effective forms of professional development organized by ESJ was the Justice Speaks Series, which featured different speakers who focused on topics of diversity and social justice. According to Mehary, due to lack of funding and capacity to continue these events, the series didn't happen this year, despite a steady attendance rate in past years.

"We have had to back off from that because we don't have support financially," Mehary said.

Walker repeated that while funds for ESJ have been requested, they cannot be guaranteed.

"I do have conversations with the provost about strengthening funding for ESJ, about hiring new faculty for ESJ, that's an ongoing conversation that I have with the provost, that I have with [Vélez]," Walker said. "We are aware of that need. But that's not to say that because we request additional funding that we are going to get it."

Multiple students said classes within the ESJ minor are where they've had their most valuable learning experiences within Woodring, despite the fact that the minor does not receive full recognition or funding as an actual Woodring

program.

"For me, ESJ is my connection to Woodring," Elena Dan, an ESJ student, said.

Walker and other Woodring faculty also stated their recognition for the need for more diversity within the college and stated their commitment to hiring more diverse faculty. Students pressed faculty for more details regarding this commitment, specifically what they meant by "diverse."

"What do you mean by diversifying faculty, and how will they be supported when they get here? Because we know this institution does not support faculty of color or faculty of marginalized identities," Lee said.

According to 2018 data from Western's Office of Institutional Effectiveness, 117 out of the college's 154 faculty members are white. Minority identities such as Hispanic/Latino, Black and Asian make up 24 percent of the college, according to the data.

Within Woodring college specifically, students referenced Diversity Recruitment and Retention Specialist Nat Reilly as an example of a minority faculty member in need of more departmental support and recognition. Walker said Western's 2019-2021 Operating Budget includes requests for funding for more support in Reilly's department.

"We have submitted a budget proposal to support Nat's work, but again, we hope we will get it. I cannot guarantee that we will," Walker said.

Reilly addressed the room and apologized to students for the lack of support currently offered to marginalized identities within the college, apologizing for what she called a failure in that regard. Emotional statements of support arose from students for Reilly.

"You haven't failed us," students echoed across the room.

Following the forum, Guizar spoke to the importance of Reilly's role and the need for

either higher pay or more personnel to assist her in her role.

"Nat is valued greatly by students as well as respected for always going over and beyond when serving students. Without her Woodring would not be where it is right now, especially when it comes to the diversity of the college," Guizar said. "Nat Reilly as one is doing the work of multiple individuals and that is something that numerous individuals have noticed."

According to Walker, he has decided to designate professional development resources toward CEED and ESJ. However, Vélez said there is still more discussion to be had before she can co-sign on the decision for the minor to take on these responsibilities.

"Until we sit down and determine what compensation will look like, I have made it very clear to Horacio that I can't sign on to something," Vélez said. "At the end of the day, one of the things that is complicated is that ESJ is a minor, and we need more staff and faculty that are rooted in our program."

Following faculty presentations, Guizar expressed her disappointment with the solutions offered by faculty, but acknowledged that more work needs to be done by both sides to pursue better solutions.

"You told us how you are gonna do it, and even though we don't agree, we are here to work with you," Guizar said.

Raine Dozier, head of the health and community studies department in Woodring, acknowledged the ways in which students of marginalized identities have had to do extra work as not only students, but educators of white peers in their classes. Dozier said Woodring faculty need to continue revising curriculum that incorporates topics of diversity.

"You are not getting the education you deserve in this moment. I don't think white students are getting the education they deserve either," Dozier said to students in the room.

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Good news for cat lovers.

New **cat cafe** downtown provides a space for humans and felines alike to relax and socialize



Audra Anderson
THE WESTERN FRONT

Cat and coffee lovers alike will soon be able to enjoy both at NEKO: A Cat Cafe, coming to Bellingham in late-fall 2019.

NEKO, which means cat in Japanese, is owned by Western alumna Caitlin Unsell and her partner, Cory James. Unsell, who graduated from Western in 2005 with a degree in journalism, first opened NEKO in Seattle in November 2017, she said. Unsell is excited to be opening a second, larger branch in Bellingham at 1130 Cornwall Ave later this year, she said.

Unsell credits her inspiration for the quirky cafe to her two years spent living in Sapporo, Japan, where cat cafes are a common part of the culture, she said. NEKO offers drinks including beer, wine, coffee, tea and kombucha as well as snacks, and the opportunity to lounge with cats, all of which are up for adoption, Unsell said.

"It's unique," Unsell said. "When people walk through the door they always have this look of shock and excitement on their face, and most people are like, 'oh my



NEKO offers a unique experience, owner Caitlin Unsell said. // Photo courtesy of NEKO: A Cat Cafe in Seattle

goodness, did I die and go to heaven?"

Unsell wants everyone to feel like they have a place at the cafe, she said. The cafe opens its doors to anyone, from people in bachelorette parties to families on a Saturday morning coffee run, Unsell said.

"I know that the community would love something like this because it's something different to do," she said. "It's just a fun way to spend your afternoon."

Unsell said her favorite part of her business is the cats. Most of the cats that come and go through NEKO have been in a shelter for years, she said.

The cafe finds cats from all over the US, often hosting special needs cats that were on track to be euthanized. Specifically, NEKO works with cats diagnosed with feline leukemia, who are typically the first ones to go when shelters are full, she said.

"It's just incredible to

watch [the cats] blossom," Unsell said. "Most of the time when they first arrive they're terrified, and they've been through so much. Then a month down the road they're cuddling in people's laps and snuggling and getting all the love they had never had before."

Although Unsell said the majority of customers aren't looking to take a cat home when they walk into the cafe, NEKO adopts out around two cats a week.

Being a Western graduate

and longtime Bellingham resident, Unsell has strong ties to the town, she said. Unsell also said she has learned so much since opening in Seattle, and she is excited to bring the changes to the Bellingham location.

"I can't wait to have an excuse to move back to Bellingham," Unsell said, laughing.

The cafe will be separated into two rooms by a glass wall: the cafe area and the cat area, Unsell said. This way the cafe is accessible to everyone, and even people who have allergies can sit in the cafe area and watch the cats through the glass.

Anyone can enter the cat room for a small cover charge, where they can bring their drinks and snacks, Unsell said. NEKO Bellingham plans to expand to around three times the size of the Seattle location, offering places to lay, sit and play with the cats in the cat room, she said.

"Animals are like therapy," Unsell said. "If you're having a bad day and you come and hang out with cats, you can't help but leave a little bit happier than when you arrived."

STUDENTS CELEBRATE HAIR-ITAGE AT MISO EVENT

The Mixed Identity Student Organization hosted a hair care and appreciation event at Western.

Anelyse Morris
THE WESTERN FRONT

Curls, coils and kinks: Never had Western hosted so many in one place. Excited chatter echoed throughout the room as students came together to learn, connect and celebrate their hair-itage.

The Mixed Identity Student Organization (MISO) held its first large-scale event, Kinks, Coils & Curls: A "Hair"itage Event, on Friday, March 1 in the Viking Union.

MISO Co-Chair Kiaya Wilson said MISO, along with several other organizations within the Ethnic Students Center, started planning the event in November after observing a lack of naturally

curly-haired people on campus.

"Having a place for people who may not know how to take care of their hair, or just want to learn more and haven't found the right place yet, is good for everyone," she said. "This whole event is about your identity and how to take care of natural hair."

The event included four information tables, all of which had a designated type and definition of curl to learn about, along with helpful products and tips for how to care for their type of hair.

Prior to the event, Middle Eastern Student Association (MESA) member Pardis Davari said she was looking forward to expanding her knowledge about different

hair types.

"I really only know how to take care of my own," she said. "So I'm really excited to find out how to take care of other kinds [of hair]."

MESA was among many clubs from the Ethnic Students Center to attend. The event also included the participation and support of the African Caribbean Club, Arab Students Association, Black Student Union and Latinx Student Union.

Two local salons attended, giving them the opportunity to network and show off their products. Keiko Massey from La Conner Hair Design came prepared with her hair knowledge and a large supply of Deva Curl products.

"We specialize in curls,"



Western students strike a pose at the Hair-Itage Event while learning about different hair types. // Photo by Anelyse Morris



Illustration by Julia Berkman.



Four different prize baskets full of hair products were raffled off at the event. // Photo by Anelyse Morris

"WE SPECIALIZE IN CURLS, SO I'M HERE TO HELP PEOPLE EMBRACE THEIR NATURAL HAIR AND HELP THEM FIND WAYS TO MAKE IT EVEN MORE CREATIVE."

- KEIKO MASSEY

Massey said. "So I'm here to help people embrace their natural hair and help them find ways to make it even more creative."

Many attendees voiced their excitement for the event's raffle, which offered a chance to win up to \$130 worth of hair care products in the form of four different prize baskets.

While the hair products were definitely a perk, MISO Publicity Coordinator Chloe McDougall said she thought the best part of the night was seeing people from different campus groups connect.

"I don't think there's a lot of public space for events like this in this area," she said. "It's really important to hold space for the various communities that fall within the curly-haired community."

A large portion of the

night was dedicated to guest speaker Jacqueline Hale-Young, a local long-time cosmetologist and instructor. Hale-Young gave a speech about the different types of curly hair and the different kinds of care they require, hosting a Q&A afterward.

"There is no such thing as good hair or bad hair, it's just hair," Hale-Young said. "It used to be that if you had straight hair you wanted curly, and vice versa, but now we have embraced what we have."

Snaps of agreement reverberated around the room as she ended her speech with a reminder to accept and love one's natural hair.

"Embrace your kinks, your coils and your curls," Hale-Young said. "God made it that way just for you."

50 years of business and wisdom

Professor Farrokh Safavi started at Western in 1968. He's taught over 15,000 students - as many as are enrolled in Western right now.



Professor Farrokh Safavi teaching a lecture at the Moscow State University of Medicine. // Photo courtesy of Moscow State University of Medicine

Colton Redfeldt
THE WESTERN FRONT

While Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin were taking their first steps on the moon, Western professor Farrokh Safavi was just settling in for his first month at Western.

Nearly 50 years later, at 78 years old, remnants of his

time at Western are all over his office on the top floor of Parks Hall. One wall is covered by a bookshelf with old textbooks. Pushed against the bookshelf are stacks of boxes and file cabinets full of past research projects, student papers going back decades and photos of countries where he's done research. A white board on

another wall is covered in drawings and messages from students.

But there's one item, if you point it out, that will get Safavi really excited.

Proudly hanging next to a coat rack near the door is a wooden plaque awarded to him by the United States Patent office.

Safavi was awarded the patent in 1998 for a teaching method for statistics students.

"I was an innovator from the beginning. If I wasn't here in the university, I would be the inventor of many useful devices," Safavi said.

It was that innovation that helped him find his way to Western.

Safavi grew up in Tehran, Iran. He came to the United States in the 1960s and soon afterward completed his doctoral dissertation at the University of Southern California in 1964. After getting his doctorate, he got his first teaching job at Northrop University in California and soon afterward got a job at California State University Chico.

In June 1969, the then-Chairperson of Western's Economic and Business department heard about Safavi and invited him to join the faculty of the growing business department. At the time, Safavi said the department had around 20 faculty members. Safavi said he developed a curriculum for seven new classes in the department and helped turn it into its own college, known today as the College of Business and Economics.

Since then, Safavi has taught over 15,000 students. For reference, in fall 2017, Western's student body was 15,915 students, according to Western's admissions office.

Safavi said he has invested time into each of those students. Ask him for proof

and he'll happily hand you thick stacks of graded papers marked in copious amounts of red ink.

"An educator is a person who creates the preparations for living a good life. For a just system."

-Farrokh Safavi

Fourth-year student Miles Fields, one of Safavi's international business students, said he takes more time to read their papers than any other teacher.

"His dedication to his work and his students are phenomenal," Fields said. "He's here on the weekends. Every weekend. Same hours."

That dedication seems to pay off in the end for many of his students.

Safavi said he routinely gets calls from past students who tell him about the work they're doing and how his teaching helped them in some aspect of their career.

Safavi said he tries to instill curiosity in his students. He wants them to question the world and why things are the way they are. He emphasizes educating them as opposed to instructing them.

"An instructor is someone who provides knowledge of a

skill or a profession or how to follow a procedure to get a job done," Safavi said. "An educator is a person who creates the preparations for living a good life. For a just system."

Safavi has witnessed a lot of change at Western, including 10 different presidents.

He said the university, in its effort to increase diversity, looks only at the color of someone's skin and doesn't account for the way people think, their language or their backgrounds.

Western, Safavi said, has not encouraged faculty and students to understand this.

"Diversity does not mean that you increase the percentage of [people of color] here if [they] are forced to change their behavior," he said

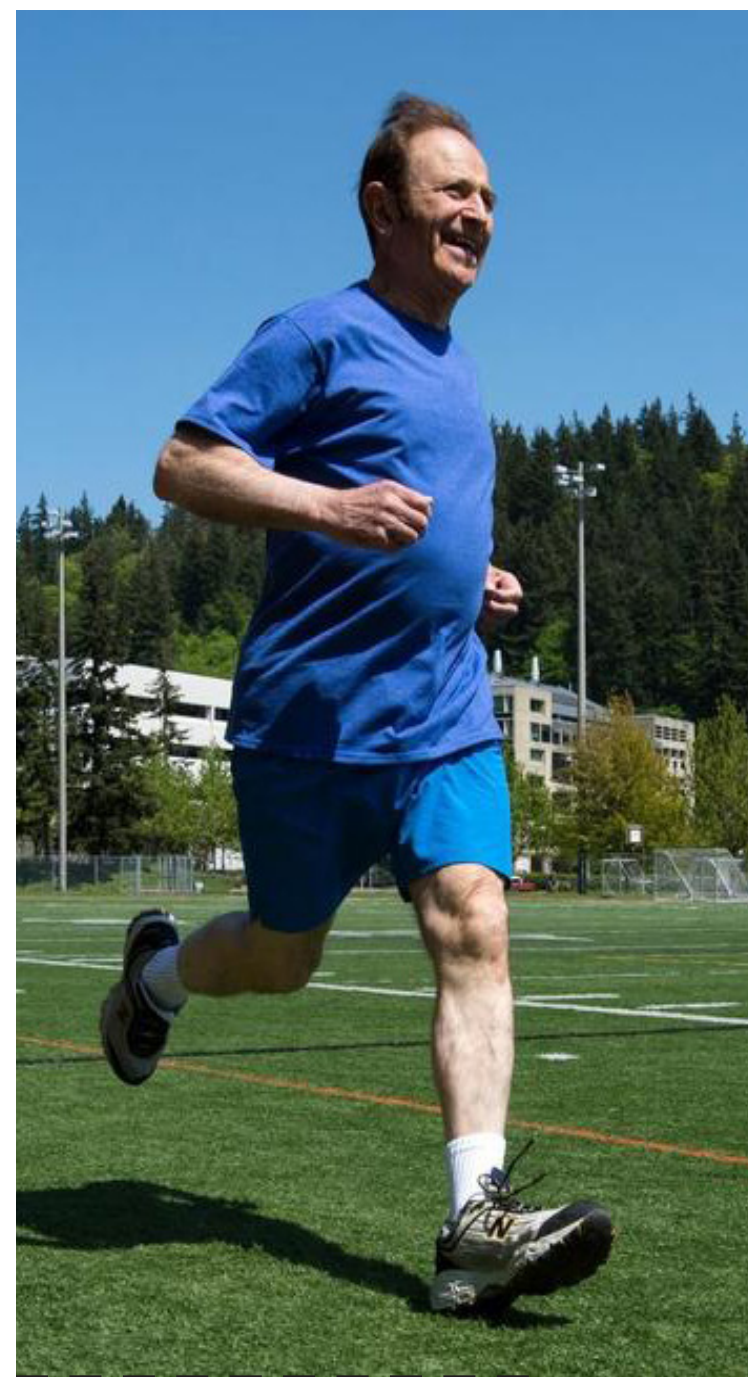
While teaching is one of Safavi's biggest passions, fitness is another. He can often be seen running around campus or working out at Wade King Recreation Center. He attributes his good health to his daily exercise.

He has been a member of Western's Ski to Sea Race team since 1993 - making him the longest-serving member. Ski to Sea is an annual multi-sport team relay race that has been hosted in Bellingham since 1973.

Safavi's passion for fitness was even featured in an article by the Iran Times, where he spoke about his Ski to Sea team. All of the other members are Western students, Safavi said.

Even with all the accolades he's earned in his life, Safavi said his students are his proudest accomplishments.

"I want to continue to educate as long as my students receive benefits from my education," Safavi said.



Safavi running on the track at Western. The business professor has been a member of Ski to Sea since 1993.// Photo courtesy of the Iran Times

Friends don't let friends spread prejudice

There's a difference between saying something problematic and being problematic. For starters, one is much easier to correct than the other.

You like your roommate, sure. They keep the space tidy, cook a mean chili, but maybe they call things "gay." Or maybe they frequently use accents from languages that are not their own to land a joke. Maybe they tell you to "stop acting like a girl." And maybe they said all of that in the privacy of your dorm. And maybe you didn't say anything.

Next time, say something. Combating these behaviors at an individual level is something we can all do. Yes, these examples are not extreme, but they're emblematic of a larger undercurrent of intolerance. And yes, it is "PC culture" in full swing, but language is powerful and using inclusive and inoffensive language is not hard to do.

If you're privileged enough to be excluded from the wrath of prejudice (hello my fellow white, cisgendered friends), it's on you to step in and attempt to correct that behavior. If it's not safe to do so, then don't. If it's

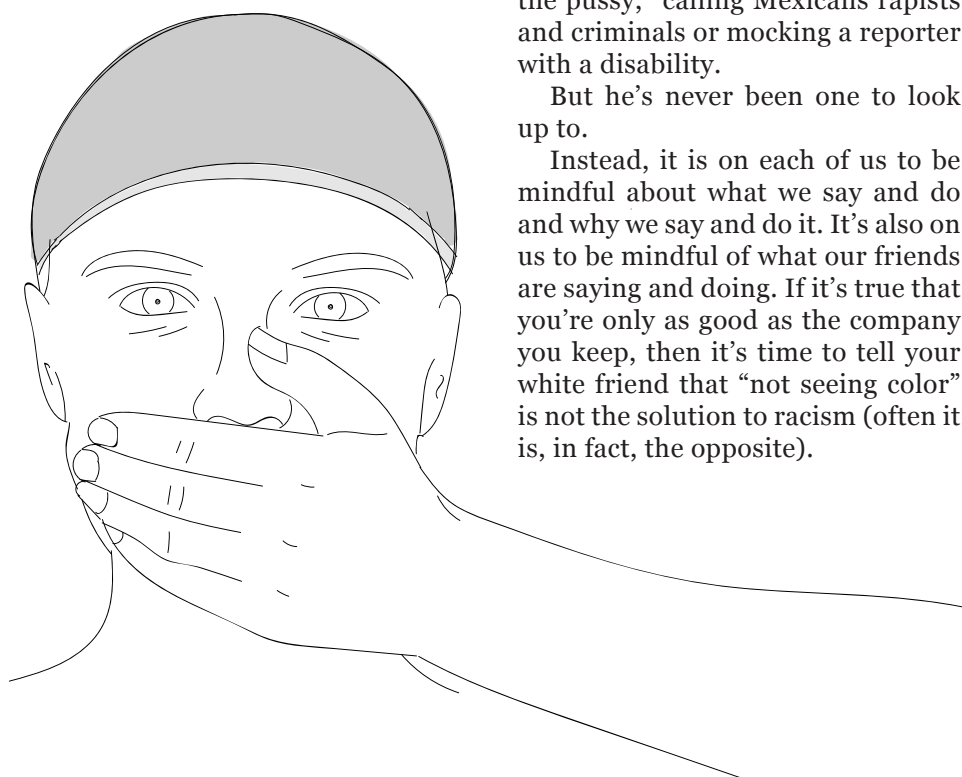
not comfortable to do so, then do. This doesn't mean the friendship is over. You should be able to have a conversation with your friend without nuclear fallout. It's not always the easiest thing to do (Robin DiAngelo's "White

Fragility" could tell you as much) but it's better than ignoring it altogether.

At the national level, there is no accountability for the "leader of the free world." President Trump has no qualms with "grabbing [women] by the pussy," calling Mexicans rapists and criminals or mocking a reporter with a disability.

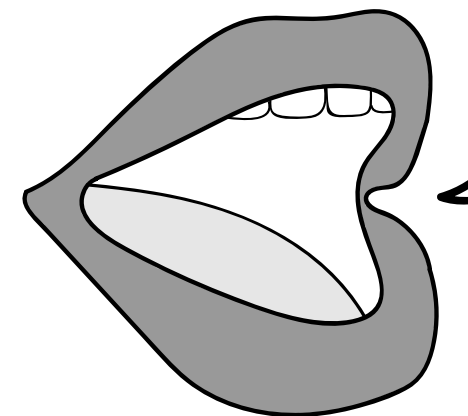
But he's never been one to look up to.

Instead, it is on each of us to be mindful about what we say and do and why we say and do it. It's also on us to be mindful of what our friends are saying and doing. If it's true that you're only as good as the company you keep, then it's time to tell your white friend that "not seeing color" is not the solution to racism (often it is, in fact, the opposite).



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

Overheard on campus



And they were roommates!

"I'm just not funny."
"It always comes back to 'Tron' with you, doesn't it?"
"That looks like my mom's friend except she has a face tattoo."
"You know, the best time to get a good cry is in the tail end of an acid trip."
"How am I suppose to watch Emma Chamberlin's videos when I have this much to do?"
"I'm giving up on journalism. I'm gonna do acting instead."

If you've overheard something Western Front-worthy, submit it online at westernfrontonline.com. But don't be weird about it.

A letter from the editors

Dear Western community, Last week, as our staff put together the paper, we were excited to release a story re-written by our campus life editor titled "1968 to now: How BSU spoke out on need for Black student support." This story came together as we took parts of a piece originally about the history of student activism on campus in general and developed it into a more specific piece about the actions of BSU. However, by the time we made the decision to run it in the paper around 11 p.m., the story had not been as refocused as it should have been to do justice to the experi-

ence of the people it featured. What this article needed, and did not end up receiving under our watch, was specific recognition of the unique experiences of Black students on our campus and inclusion of voices from today's BSU. The feedback we received the next day was understandable: Disappointment that the article did not include a current Black voice and instead included general observations on the value of student activism from a source who had a different understanding of what the final form of the story would be. Despite our intentions to highlight

what we considered to be an important student movement, we ended up undermining those efforts by rushing the process, and for that we apologize. We want to be transparent about our process of writing, editing and decision making, because there's no need for us to be mysterious or secretive about how we do things. We mess up sometimes, and while it's easy to fix a story with a mistake, it's not something we take lightly. We look forward to doing better. Laura Place, EIC Dante Koplowitz-Fleming, ME

What do you want to complain about, Western?



Joseph D'Ambrosia
Elementary Education

"I always wish that the bus system went further. I want the bus system to drop me off at the trailhead so I don't need a car to go to the forest."



Hope Peterson
Environmental Policy

"All coffee cups on campus are actually compostable, meaning that they are made with corn syrup instead of oil so they can be turned back into soil. But still 10 percent of what Western sends to the landfill are coffee cups."



Coleman Mitchell
Business Management

"I wish there was more collaborative space to work on stuff. I know whenever I get done with class and I go somewhere to work on something with someone, all the seats are taken. Usually it is a huge table that is taken up by one person that isn't actually using all the space."



Dustin Linder
Accounting

"The prevalence of Kombucha. Like what the fudge? That stuff is everywhere."

Western gets ready to host GNAC tournament

New facilities and smart bidding leads to hosting opportunity for conference championships

Tyler Urke
FOR THE WESTERN FRONT

Imagine shouldering a 30-pound camera and following eight hours of playoff basketball. Now imagine doing it again the next day. That's what is in store for some athletics event staff as Western hosts the 2019 Great Northwest Athletic Conference Basketball Championships March 7-9.

"It's a long day, there's no doubt about it," Associate Athletic Director for Facilities and Operations Steve Brummel said. "We've hosted a lot of these over the years. It's still a lot of work but it's not like it's our first rodeo."

Western has hosted events like the NCAA Division II West Regional for volleyball, but this will be the first time Sam Carver Gymnasium has hosted the GNAC Basketball Championships. Western submitted a bid to the GNAC a year ago and were competing against other schools for the opportunity.

With Western being along the I-5 corridor, having a ticket sales plan in place and transportation to and from Carver Gym were major selling points, Brummel said. Montana State University Billings hosted the tournament in 2017 and Brummel said

it was a challenge with only so many flights in and out of Billings.

It comes at an ideal time for Western athletics as the new \$75 million Carver Gym is in its second year of operation. Director of Athletic Communications Jeff Evans said it should be a fun event, regardless of what teams are in it.

"Anytime we get to host events like this, it is really neat to showcase Carver Gym, our campus and the Bellingham community to student athletes, their families and fans," Evans said.

Western's women's basketball team (16-12, 11-9 GNAC) captured a playoff berth and will play Simon Fraser (17-10, 13-7 GNAC) on Thursday at 2:15 p.m..

The Western men's basketball team (15-15, 9-11 GNAC) was in contention to play in the GNAC Basketball Championships until late in the season, but just missed out after losing their last game and failing to earn a top-6 spot in the regular season.

Western will also look to showcase its premiere video streaming services during the tournament. Carver is equipped with six high-definition cameras and instant replay that Brummel



With strong efforts from the front-court tandem of junior forward Anna Schwewecke, pictured, and sophomore forward Kelsey Rogers, the Vikings clinched the sixth seed in the upcoming GNAC tournament.

// Photo by Oliver Hamlin

said is on par with a Fox Sports Go or ESPN3 broadcast.

"Our video streaming service is at least as good if not better than anyone's in the GNAC," Brummel said.

While Western is the host of the event, Brummel said it's the GNAC's show.

"They'll be here to make sure it's run the way they want

it run so we're just assisting," Brummel said.

Regardless, Western event staff are in for a long couple of days. Teams can start half-hour shootarounds at 7 a.m. and games start at noon on Thursday and Friday. This means event staff will be operating Carver Gym in some capacity from before 7 a.m. until after the final

game finishes around 9:30 p.m.. Brummel said staff will likely be on campus until 11 p.m..

Western will have a shuttle running from the C lot to the front door all day Thursday, Friday and Saturday for the two championship games.

"Parking is always a tough nut to crack on this campus, as we all know," Brummel said.

Western's inside center man Avery Louis also came up with a bloody nose and fingers after a tackle. He said WSU had a tough time getting behind their line.

"It was kind of weird, because of all the weather we had a couple of practices cancelled," Louis said. "We haven't played in three months, so I'm happy with the way we came back."

Western will go on to play the NCRF Finals on Saturday, March 9 at Harrington Field against Oregon State University, who won their semi-final game against University of Oregon by a score of 23-24 on Monday, March, 4. The last time Western played against OSU, they won that game 66-7.



The men's rugby team hadn't practiced since before the February snow storm. // Photo by Cailean McLeod

Jojo Alkhedairy smashed his head after a tackle and had to be subbed out in the first

half for forward Mohammed Aljanoubi.

"A couple of our subs came

off bench and played really well for us in the backs," Alkhedairy said. "Brandon

Western softball takes no Ls during weekend series blowout

Clutch pitching and productive at-bats led Vikings to sweep over conference opponent

Mitch Farley and Hannah Gordon-Kirk
THE WESTERN FRONT



Senior pitcher Makinlee Sellevoid threw the 25th no-hitter in GNAC history against MSUB. // Photo by Claudia Cooper

The Western women's softball team opened Great Northwest Athletic Conference play this weekend with four wins over the Montana State University Billings Yellowjackets in back-to-back

doubleheaders. Senior Makinlee Sellevoid pitched both games on Saturday and gave up just one hit over both games, closing them out 10-0 and 8-0, respectively.

In the opener, Sellevoid notched a career-high 12 strikeouts, surrendered one hit and blanked the Yellowjackets over five innings.

Sellevoid continued her lights-out pitching and the umpire called the 10-run mercy rule in the bottom of the fifth.

"The first game felt amazing. I think it showed what we were capable of," junior second baseman Tamia Hirano said.

In the second Saturday game, pitcher Sellevoid threw the 25th no-hitter in GNAC history. Her near-perfect pitching earned Sellevoid her 49th and 50th career pitching wins, making her mark in the Vikings' softball record book for most pitching wins in program history.

The second game, like the first, ended in mercy rule in the bottom of the sixth inning.

The Vikings started Sunday by taking a 3-1 victory and followed that with an 18-9 win in the last game. The Vikings won the second game in the bottom of the sixth inning due to the eight-run mercy rule, after consecutive home runs by senior first baseman Emily Benson and junior outfielder Jackie Lucido.

Benson went a perfect 4-4 in the second game, hitting for the cycle and ending the weekend with a two-run dinger. Lucido went 3-8 on the day and had a total of five RBIs in both games.

As a team, the Vikings struggled from the plate in the first game, batting .273 as a team. However, they woke up the bats in the second game and batted .484 en route to their 18-run performance.

The Vikings were trailing by four runs in the second game until the bottom of the third inning when Palmer roped a line drive triple to right field with three runners on, knocking them all in. The Vikings proceeded to go on a

10-run rally to take the lead.

The Vikings held the lead for the rest of the game with solid pitching from sophomore Kira Doan. Doan pitched all six innings and had seven strikeouts. Head coach Sheryl Gilmore said Doan showed grit.

"She came up big for us. After she gave up those home runs,

every single time she struck the next batter out. That just speaks to her resiliency," Gilmore said.

The Vikings went on another eight-run rally in the bottom of the sixth inning and put the game away.

The Vikings' next game is against Concordia University at Porter Park in Portland on Saturday, March 9.



The Vikings outscored the Yellowjackets 39-10 over the course of their four-game series.

// Photo by Oliver Hamlin

This gang keeps the good times rolling

Weekly wheelchair get-together encourages inclusivity and staying active, regardless of ability

Sarah Nichols
THE WESTERN FRONT

Wheelchair Gangball is a sport that brings wheelchair users and able-bodied players together for a game of fun.

Gangball is played every Monday at the Bloedel Donovan multipurpose room. Participant Steve Miedem said players of all ages and abilities are encouraged to come play.

Out of the 10 players that came to play on March 4, only one person, Miedem, was a wheelchair user in everyday life, while the rest of the members were there for the fun and the experience.

Miedem said he was paralyzed from the waist down in a motorcycle accident that broke his back seven years ago. He has been playing Gangball with the weekly



With no previous signup necessary, gangball is open to all and new players are encouraged.

// Photo by Oliver Hamlin

group for the past five years.

"The exercise is awesome and it's fun. We have a lot of laughs," Miedem said. "I wish

more wheelbound and paraplegics would come out, but we are in need of anyone to come play."

Gangball is a combination

of rugby and keep-away that requires contact to stop opponents. Wheelchairs turn into bumper-cars as players try to keep their competitor from scoring.

The goal of the game is to wheel the ball to the opposite side of the gym and through the opponent's cones. This can be done by dodging and out-wheeling the defenders or passing to a teammate. The ball can be taken from a player's lap at any time.

Sister Smith, from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, said she comes with her Sisters and Elders to partake in the exciting game.

"It's one of my favorite activities. I am not very coordinated so it requires less skill than other sports," Smith said.

All the wheelchairs are provided

for the players from donations.

Jennifer Vijil has been playing for the past three years after being asked to play when she was walking her nephew through the park.

"I was walking by one day and they needed more players and I have been doing it ever since," said Vijil. "I have a bad ankle, so it's nice to be active."

Wheelchair Gangball meets every Monday from 3:30-5:30 p.m. September through May and 5-7 p.m. June through August. If at least six people do not show up for a game of three on three, the group is forced to cancel the game for the week.

If you are interested in playing or would like to donate a wheelchair, contact Jeff Bergman at (360) 303-2130.

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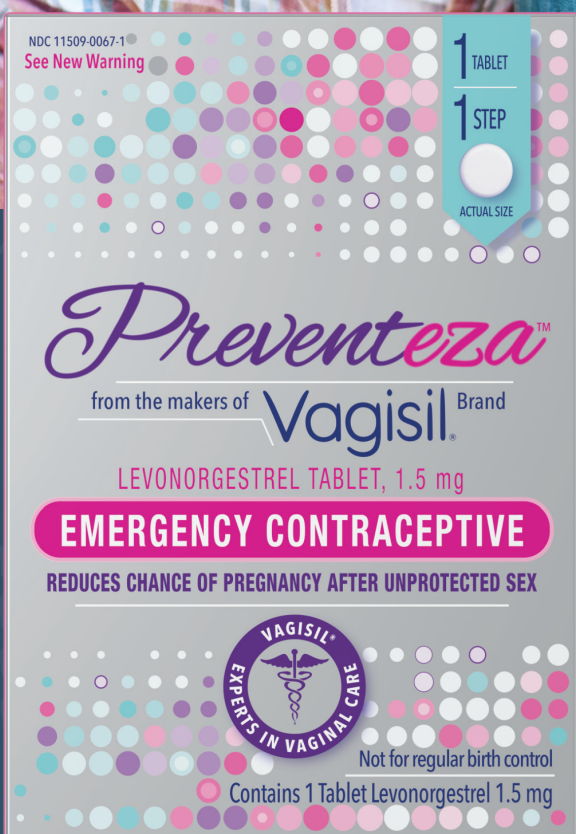
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