

THE WESTERN FRONT

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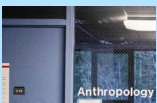
Multi-title winner Anna Paradee is vaulting into school records



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Anthropology students and faculty meet to discuss how to decolonize the major



Boycott of Aramark dining brings the divestment efforts to Huskey's office



Students and community members gathered in Red Square to demonstrate their commitment to boycotting Aramark dining services on Friday, March 8. // Photo by Claudia Cooper

Mollie Clements and Claudia Cooper
THE WESTERN FRONT

On Friday, March 8, Shred the Contract held a boycott of all Aramark eateries on campus in order to make a statement to Western's administration. Their message was clear: Stop contracting with Aramark and find a way to start a self-operated dining system.

Shred the Contract

walked through Old Main to the office of Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services Melinda Huskey to discuss the boycott and provided Huskey with a list of demands.

"The focus of [the boycott] is to expose the ties between our food system, not only here at the university, but focusing on the university exposing the ties between our food system and the prison in-

dustrial complex in this country," Shred the Contract group member Matt Svilar said.

Aramark owns all of the dining halls on campus, Miller Market and The Atrium. Starbucks, Panda Express and Subway are run through the purview of Aramark.

"Aramark contracts with a pretty large number of private prisons to serve food," Svilar said. "In that process, they end

up recruiting people who are incarcerated for essentially unpaid labor: be it farm work, be it food service."

Western, New York University, Concordia University, University of Central Oklahoma, Scripps College and Barnard College are boycotting against the three big food service companies, Aramark, Sodexo and Compass

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CANNABIS FOUND IN RED SQUARE VOLUNTEERS' PASTA

Boycott participants affected after unknowingly consuming THC in food brought by community volunteers

Mollie Clements
THE WESTERN FRONT

During a boycott of Aramark dining services held in Red Square on Friday, March 8, several attendees were unknowingly fed food containing marijuana, resulting in adverse effects in some participants, who went to the Student Health Center.

According to Shred the Contract, the organization hosting the boycott, volunteers unaffiliated with Shred the Contract served food they had cooked themselves in order to feed students participating in the boycott. One of those dishes contained cannabis, although a volunteer said it was non-psychoactive.

The volunteers serving the food said they were affiliated with the

see **PASTA**, page 5

Maddie Hurd touched the lives of everyone she met during her time as a recreation major and active community member

Stella Harvey
THE WESTERN FRONT

Madeline 'Maddie' Hurd is described as a bright light of love and optimism by her friends, family and even those she only met briefly. A Western student and a recreation major, Maddie's love for human connection and making people feel good is what her loved ones say set her apart from the crowd.

Maddie's friends and family lost her suddenly in a car accident on Feb. 20 when she was driving up to

Remembering Maddie Hurd

Mt. Baker Ski Area, where she worked as an instructor.

Eliza High, Maddie's close friend, said Maddie touched many people in her time at Western. Having worked together at Mt. Baker, High said Maddie's loving energy was a source of inspiration for others.

"[Maddie] would just bring the atmosphere of an entire room up as soon as she walked into it, no matter how you were feeling," High said. "If you are already excited, she would make you even more excited. If you were crying or sad, she would make you laugh in less than five minutes."

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Maddie Hurd worked as a ski instructor on Mt. Baker and attended Western as a recreation major. // Photo courtesy of Rachel Hurd

AS Board plans to include disregarded sustainability VP position

Mitch Farley
THE WESTERN FRONT

Sustainability at Western is not a new subject, but in past years the efforts have been led primarily by student clubs. There hasn't been representation for the cause at the student-government level, according to Associated Students Vice President for Student Life Anne Lee.

In the 2017 AS

Board, the student body voted for an AS VP for Sustainability position to be created. The position was supposed to be on the ballot the following spring. At the Feb. 8 Student Senate meeting, it was announced that the position was not created.

AS VP for Governmental Affairs Natasha Hessami said in spring of 2017 students voted for a new constitution which outlined new job

see **AS**, page 3



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Sophie Mabrouk, Bellingham Pinpals attendee, plays her favorite pinball game "Revenge from Mars." Bellingham Pinpals is open to all queer and womxn identities who want to socialize and play pinball. They meet every Tuesday at 6:30 Ruckus Room Arcade. // Photo by Emily Porter

The Western Front

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titles for Western's Board of Directors. AS VP for Sustainability was included in this new constitution.

Hessami said the board elected in 2017 failed to change the job descriptions and didn't create an updated slate of candidates for the spring 2018 election and the position was never advertised. Hessami said the AS is working currently to add the position among other changes such as removing two current AS positions and updating the language of the constitution to better reflect the current senate.

AS President Millka Solomon said the upcoming spring ballot will include the new position.

Lee said they are currently handling all things sustainability as a part of their responsibilities. They believe the position requires too much time to be lumped in with their position and the creation of a new position for sustainability will be highly beneficial.

Lee also explained how clubs like Students for Renewable Energy have worked on projects in the past like divestment from fossil fuels.

"[Clubs] don't always have the capacity to institutionally bring these movements forward to administration or to the policy-change

level," Lee said. "I think this new VP position can support those clubs in those ways too."

According to Lee, the lack of this position has also meant extra work for Environmental and Sustainability Programs Director Katie Winkelman. Although the student body has yet to reach out to the AS to express interest in the position being created, Lee said they believe it is the right time for the new position.

"When working with our environmental and sustainability programs director, there are a lot of responsibilities she's taking on that aren't really in her job description. So, this is the right time to restructure so the future of the AS has the capacity to do more work in sustainability," Lee said.

Lee said the new VP will be able to tackle tough issues and bring them to the forefront of debate at Western. Issues such as environmental racism and the injustice component of sustainability, something Lee said has been lacking in conversations.

Candidates for the new position can be expected on the spring 2019 ballot, along with the removal of AS VP for Academics and AS VP for Business and Operations. Campaigning begins on April 12 and lasts until May 4.

MADDIE continued from page 1

Rachel Hurd, Maddie's mom, said from an early age Maddie had a big personality. She said Maddie learned to walk on the pool deck of her family's neighborhood swim club in San Ramon, California, where her two older brothers swam. As Maddie got older, she wanted to help teach other kids how to swim.

Hurd said other members of the swim club started to notice Maddie's natural ability to help other kids learn, so they started asking her for help.

"[Maddie] was just really good at watching what they could do and tweaking it and [telling them] 'Work on this.' And then she'd be there for their race and celebrate with them afterward," Hurd said. "And so she had this following of little ones and their moms and dads."

Maddie continued her involvement in sports through working at a local pool in San Ramon as soon as she was old enough, and later competing with California High School's water polo team. Hurd said Maddie also had dyslexia, which made school and homework particularly hard.

"She really tried to not let dyslexia be an excuse for her. It was 'I have this challenge, this is what I need,'" Hurd said. "She got really good at being a self-advocate, you know, even in middle school."

Maddie persevered through school and health challenges related to her involvement on the varsity water polo team, and was excited to start fresh at Western, Hurd said.

"She had nothing but good things to say about school, especially the rec program. She was so excited about the community that she found," High said. "[Maddie] had to say no to a lot of fun things in order to do school, but she never [felt] down about it. She knew that she needed to do school and it was actually enjoyable for her and more important."

"She really touched people and that was what she wanted to do."
-Rachel Hurd

Randall Burtz, Maddie's advisor in the recreation program, said with her big smile and boisterous laugh, Maddie was always a friendly face in the department. Maddie's friends organized a candlelight vigil in honor of Maddie on Feb. 21, at Laurel Park.

"At the candlelight vigil, there was a student there speaking that was just in one of her classes, and they had just met," Burtz said. "[They said] they can't picture a day without Maddie now because she'd always sit down and just start chatting and see how they were."

Through the recreation department, Maddie participated in an internship with Alaska Crossings, a therapeutic program for young people who are struggling at home or in their community. According to its website, the program uses a wilderness-based

model, which includes canoe trips and camping, to teach social functioning skills.

Maddie traveled to Alaska in the summer of 2018 to help prepare food and plan for the canoe trips, as well as assist in guiding the participants.

"Maddie had this really calm, loving way about her, so I could see her really deescalating [situations] quite well just with her nature," Burtz said.

High said Maddie had shared a few stories from her trip over the summer. She said Maddie was always making friendship bracelets out of embroidery floss, and there was one night on the trip where one of the participants was upset.

"Maddie told me that she had kind of pulled this girl aside and asked what she was mad about, and this girl was just so angry that life wasn't fair," High said. "I don't know if that little girl had ever been told in her life that she was important and she mattered and someone loved her, but Maddie told her that and gave her one of the bracelets."

From California, to Alaska and Washington, Maddie's loved ones agree she touched people wherever she went. When Hurd and her husband visited Bellingham to celebrate Maddie's life, they were happy to see Maddie had so many people who loved her.

"She had these deep connections with people. That's really what I walked away with from Bellingham," Hurd said. "She really touched people and that was what she wanted to do."

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WEEK 10

Compiled by Lauren Taylor



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HUXLEY ADVISER CONNECTED TO 1988 MURDER

Kathryn Patrick was a suspect in the stabbing of Carolyn Able in Seoul, South Korea

Cody Clark
THE WESTERN FRONT

In mid-January, a Huxley College undergraduate adviser was visited on Western's campus by the CBS News program 48 Hours in connection with a 1988 murder in Seoul, South Korea.

Kathryn Patrick, an undergraduate adviser for Huxley College of the Environment, was originally sought by police in 1989 under the name Ellen Patrick Casey, according to a 1989 story by the Associated Press.

According to the Associated Press, South Korean police found Carolyn Abel, who was teaching English in Seoul, South Korea with Patrick, stabbed to death in her apartment in 1988.

Patrick worked as an English teacher at a private tutoring school alongside Abel and another woman, Sandra Ames, in South Korea, according to the Associated Press.

Patrick left the country the month after the murder, and could not be forced to return to South Korea in 1989 for questioning because the U.S. and South Korea did not have extradition agreements at the time, according to CBS news.

Investigators of the case told CBS News they suspect Patrick



Kathryn Patrick is an undergraduate adviser in Huxley College. // Photo from CBS 48 hours

of committing the crime, according to The Bellingham Herald.

Western's Director of Communications and Marketing Paul Cocks sent out a statement in response to the coverage from CBS News on Friday, March 8, saying that Patrick has been determined to pose no threat to the campus community.

"Kathryn Patrick is a program coordinator at Western Washington University, and has worked at Western since 2000. During her 18 years of service at Western, the University has had no concerns. The University asks that her privacy as a Western employee be respected. An assessment by University officials shows no evidence of a current threat to Western students, faculty or staff. University officials will continue to monitor the situation."



Boycott participants line up outside Old Main to present Melynda Huskey with their list of demands and a plan to end the contract with Aramark. // Photo by Max Gleiberman

BOYCOTT

continued from page 1

Group, according to Svlar.

Before the boycott event, an open letter to student workers was put together by Shred the Contract. Svlar said the point of the letter was to clarify that Shred the Contract is boycotting and criticizing Aramark as a company, and that criticism wasn't aimed at the student workers.

In fact, Shred the Contract actively seeks justice for student workers at Aramark who have experienced discrimination or harassment, according to the letter.

"We recognize that you are an essential part of our dining system at Western, and it is very important to us that we prioritize the voices and needs of dining workers in this campaign," Shred the Contract said in the open letter. "The food system that we seek to create cannot exist without justice for workers."

There is a higher number of undocumented immigrants and people of color incarcerated in the private prison system, and Aramark is known for using their labor at disproportionate rates, according to Shred the Contract's website.

Eli Ferate, a student who participated in the boycott, said he hoped that this event will raise student awareness on Aramark ties with labor and prison industrial complex and the long term impact of this will be that Western does not renew its contract with Aramark.

"Aramark is profiting off the backs of undocumented immigrants," Ferate said, referring to the private prison labor Aramark contracts with. "The private prison system is not only exploitive, but inherently racist. Western contracting with Aramark is profiting off that system."

It was no coincidence that the boycott was held on International Women's Day, according to Svlar.

"The majority of women incarcerated in prison are survivors of domestic violence

and on top of that, the prison system exploits them for their labor," Svlar said.

According to Svlar, Shred the Contract does not have an issue with the quality of the food as much as they have an issue with the company's unethical practices.

Grant Thomas, a first-year student, said that participating in the boycott and demonstration opened his eyes.

"[Aramark] is way bigger of a problem than I anticipated of how people are being exploited, whereas I just thought this was about being served bad food," he said.

Margaret Thompson, a first-year student participating in the boycott, thought it was alarming that students are trying to solve these issues and not Western.

"I think this is something the university should explore more because they're the ones that are paying for this," Thompson said. "I'm held accountable too. I have a meal plan, I eat on campus a lot."

They also encouraged people participating in the boycott to support Vendor's Row instead of eating at Aramark-owned businesses. According to Svlar, they handed out flyers to the vendors to let them know that there might be an influx of customers.

Emmaline Bigongiari, an organizer of Shred the Contract, held a livestream in Red Square to show students how they are boycotting the dining system.

"We want a self-operated dining system," Bigongiari said. "[Western] would hire [its] own staff without Aramark in the middle."

The students made their way to Huskey's office to speak with her about their demands.

"If we determine that self-op is an option, that will be a set of processes because we do have to decide if that is a best option for us as an institution," Huskey said.

Western is looking into hiring consultants on what it would take for Western to

transition from a contracted system to a self-operated dining hall before Aramark's contract renewal in 2021, according to Huskey

If Western does decide to keep dining services contracted, Huskey said she would have students be more involved on the decisions made for our dining services.

"We would have students serve on the committee that

"The private prison system is not only exploitive, but inherently racist. Western contracting with Aramark is profiting off that system."
-Eli Ferate, Western student

would set the parameters, choose the criteria and be part of that process," Huskey said.

According to Huskey, she previously worked at Washington State University as interim vice president for student affairs where she oversaw WSU's self-operated dining services, but has never been involved with a transition from a contracted system to self-operated.

When students asked Huskey about how Western holds responsibility with Aramark's ties with the prison industrial complex, Huskey said that the institution does recognize responsibility of Western to consider the impacts of contracts that the school enters into.

"I think our school's plan is very clear about our responsibilities to make decisions that are ethically aligned with our values," Huskey said.

The organization then shared its demands that Western and the five other

schools participating in this boycott want met by administration.

These demands include a break from the prison industrial complex, upholding worker's rights for current dining services employees, prioritizing student involvement and supporting the Real Meals campaign, which would allow more local and sustainable food to be served in the dining hall.

The organization asked if Huskey could commit to any of these demands presently.

"No, I think that would be premature," Huskey said. "I can certainly commit to being transparent about how this process will unfold and in what way student forces will be included."

About 30 percent of campuses in the U.S. have self-operated dining system, according to Shred the Contract's website. Bigongiari said having a self-operated dining system is uncommon, but possible.

Shred the Contract has been in contact with administration for a few years regarding its concerns with our contract with Aramark, but March 8 is the first time they have asked for a commitment to follow the list of demands the organization has given.

The main concern when it comes to becoming a self-operated dining system is money, but it's up to the administration to prioritize food costs, Bigongiari said.

"There is no room for local and sustainable vendors because of Aramark," Bigongiari said.

If Western's dining hall became self-operated, it would allow chefs to have more freedom with what they prepare, as they currently must cook the recipes which Aramark provides, according to Shred the Contract's website.

According to Svlar, if Western's dining halls become self-operated, one of the demands would be that current employees would be able to keep the jobs they already hold.

PASTA

continued from page 1

Bellingham Alternative Library, but declined to provide their names.

Shred the Contract discovered that a dish of pesto pasta had marijuana in it. An organizer for the event ate a serving of the pasta and felt the effects, which rendered them unable to participate in the rest of the event, according to a statement posted on Shred the Contract's Facebook page. According to the statement, several other students who ate the pasta also experienced the effects and had to visit the Student Health Center.

Future Man, the director of the Alternative Library, said because of how many people volunteer at the library, there's no way to know for certain whether or not the volunteers serving food were affiliated with the library.

"We have an open membership policy and simply speaking, there's no way we can be aware or accountable for actions taken by any of our members when they are acting on their own behalf outside of our space," Future Man said in an email.

Shred the Contract posted on its Facebook page the evening after the event.

"We are disappointed and frustrated that this incident occurred and led to difficult situations for some people and derailed the focus of the action itself," the statement read.

The boycott was focused on dining services on campus affiliated with Aramark. Shred the Contract said despite the incident, the organization's message remains strong and it will continue to advocate for Western to end its contract with Aramark.

"We are sorry that we weren't more vigilant, we should have asked for [the] ingredients," Matt Svlar, a Shred the Contract group member, said. "It's unfortunate that this happened, but our vision and what we were advocating for yesterday are still the same."

Community to Community Development takes fight for agricultural workers, immigrant rights to state legislature

"It's not in our interest to have workers fighting with other workers, especially when we're trying to build solidarity and organize."

Anelyse Morris
THE WESTERN FRONT

After strikes by farmworkers over inhumane working conditions and the death of worker Honesto Silva Ibarra in Whatcom County, Bellingham's Community to Community Development is taking the fight to the State Legislature by advocating for a bill that would increase protections for Washington's agricultural workers.

Community to Community Development is a local grassroots organization dedicated to food sovereignty and immigrant rights, according to the organization's website.

Ibarra was an H2-A worker at Sarbanand Farms, a blueberry farm in Sumas, Washington. The 28-year-old passed away from natural causes on Aug. 6, 2017, according to the King County Medical Examiner's Office. Ibarra's fellow farm workers went on strike and were met with job termination, according to The Bellingham Herald.

Following an investigation, Sarbanand was ultimately found non-negligent but fined nearly \$150,000 due to poor working conditions. The fine has since reduced to \$74,825, according to The Herald.

The Washington State Senate recently passed Senate Bill 5438 by a 26-21 margin, which proposes amendments to the current H-2A program, specifically by creating an advisory board in charge of overseeing the program, according to the Washington State Legislature website. The bill is currently pending in committee at the House of Representatives.

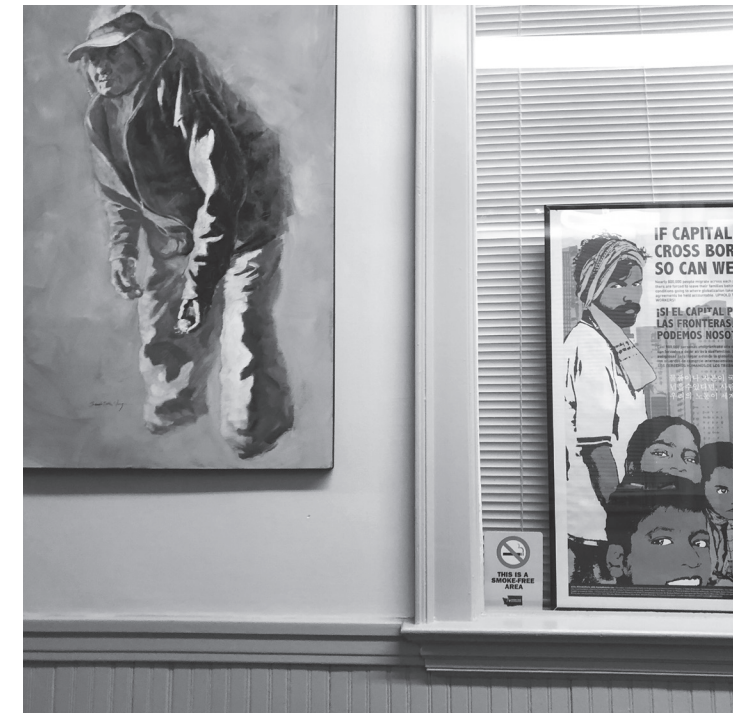
The H-2A program allows U.S. employers to bring foreign nationals to the U.S. to fill temporary agricultural positions, with certain requirements, according to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website.

Whatcom County currently has two farms operating under the H-2A program, one of which had 90 farm workers go on strike in 2017 after not getting

paid for a month, Edgar Franks, the civil engagement program coordinator at Community to Community Development, said.

Franks said Washington state has experienced a 1,000 percent increase of incoming workers through the H-2A program since 2008.

Thirty-thousand workers are expected to enter the state in 2019, making Washington the state with the second-highest



Community to Community Development is dedicated to food sovereignty and immigrant rights. // Photo by Anelyse Morris

number of H2-A workers across the nation, he said.

"We are seeing this trend that it is not slowing down, but at the same time there have been no state agencies available to take accountability when issues like this start to happen," Franks said. "So we see that as a problem and a recipe for disaster."

Maureen Darras from the Cooperative Development Program of Community to Community Development said the advisory board that would be created by the bill would involve a transfer of accountability from local grassroots organizations such as Community to Community Development and Familias Unidas to state agencies.

"The creation of the

advisory board recognizes that farmworkers have a part to play in the oversight of the program," she said. "It can't just be institutions and the industry regulating itself."

Franks said he and his colleagues at Community to Community Development think the way the program is being used by growers is causing a displacement of local workers in an attempt to lower

conditions, most workers will put up with anything to make a few extra dollars," he said. "It's unfortunate, growers see that and take advantage of it."

Community to Community Development held a forum on March 5, updating the community on the state of the bill and the issues surrounding the H-2A program.

Rosalinda Guillen, executive director of Community to Community Development, spoke at the forum and urged members of the community to call the legislature and push for the bill.

"It's getting worse because of the sheer amount of numbers coming in," Guillen said at the forum. "The state agency's funding and staffing has not grown with it, it's unmanageable."

Community to Community Development will hold the sixth annual Farmworker Tribunal on Monday, March 18, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Legislative Building in Olympia. This tribunal will allow hundreds of farmworkers from across the state to testify in front of three tribunal judges about their experiences in the H-2A program.

"It's important that whatever policy comes out of this comes directly from the people who are impacted: The farmworkers," Franks said. "It lends credibility to the policy and gives us something worth fighting for."

The organization currently voices its activism in a radio series called "Community Voz Radio" hosted by the Racial Justice Coalition. In a segment called "No Way to Treat a Guest," Darras discusses the issues within the H2-A program and the farmworker community in Whatcom County.

Franks said his main hope for the advisory board is that it will include people who are well-researched and will work efficiently, because the workers deserve to be taken care of.

"It shouldn't be up to community organizations like us, we get no funding," he said. "We do it because we believe that every farmworker should have justice."

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Faculty Senate postpones conversation about racial slurs

"I'd like to see it taken seriously and discussed as soon as possible." AS President Millka Solomon says

Esther Chong
THE WESTERN FRONT

On March 11, Associated Students Vice President for Academic Affairs Levi Eckman presented a statement from the AS Executive Board to Western's Faculty Senate regarding use of racial slurs in the classroom and the university's collective bargaining agreement on academic freedom.

A brief discussion at the Faculty Senate meeting on Feb. 25 occurred after the release of a Western Front article regarding anthropology instructor Paul James and his use of a racial slur in a classroom discussion.

"It is important to address statements made during the Faculty Senate meeting on the Feb. 25, specifically towards comments surrounding academic freedom," the statement from the AS Board read. "Academic freedom does not mean freedom to use racial slurs without social consequences."

According to an Equal Opportunity Office meeting transcript from Oct. 31, 2017, Vice Provost for Equal Opportunity and Employment Diversity Sue Guenter-Schlesinger explained to James that the Equal Opportunity Office did not want to infringe on his academic freedom as an instructor. James was advised to apologize to his class and to use different language in the future, however, no further sanctions followed, according to Equal Opportunity Office documents.

According to an agreement document between United Faculty of Western Washington and the Board



The faculty senate postponed the discussion to the senate meeting in April. "I do think the senate is a good place for the conversation to occur, but I don't have the tools to prepare me to facilitate this kind of discussion. I don't know if any of us have those tools." Jantzen said. // Photo by Esther Chong

of Trustees titled Collective Bargaining Agreement 2015-2020, Section 2.2, "Academic freedom ... is defined as the freedom to discuss all relevant matters in the classroom, and to speak or write as a public citizen without institutional discipline or restraint on matters of public concern."

AS President Millka Solomon, AS VP for Governmental Affairs Natasha Hessami and multiple student senators-at-large were present at the meeting to support the

statement presented by the AS Executive Board.

"I wanted to urge you to take this really seriously, the conversation about academic freedom and racial slurs in the classroom. As students we're concerned and disturbed by this and the slowness of the process in lack of action," Solomon said. "This is really serious to us in our learning and safety, in the environment of the classroom. I'd like to see it taken seriously and discussed as soon as possible."

In response, Faculty

Senate President McNeel Jantzen asked for specific topics of discussion for the next meeting's agenda. Faculty senators questioned whether the conversation would be within a broad context of academic freedom or targeting a specific issue regarding the agreement, such as racism on campus.

"There is fear in faculty to do it well and do it right," Faculty Senator Jasmine Goodnow said.

Jantzen said the Faculty Senate was not the appropriate place to discuss

specific faculty members, and in order to discuss academic freedom in the future, specific administrators such as Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services Melynda Huskey and a facilitator needed to be present.

"I do think the senate is a good place for the conversation to occur, but I don't have the tools to prepare me to facilitate this kind of discussion. I don't know if any of us have those tools," Jantzen said.

Faculty Senate member Regina Barber DeGraaff said the faculty senate needed to discuss appropriate classroom conduct, and had concerns of a broader conversation becoming less productive.

"Do not use racial slurs in the classroom, do not use the n-word if you're white. There are things in our society we're fighting to make obvious and there are people of color who feel that these things are not about discussion. It's about certain conduct, period," Barber DeGraaff said.

Faculty Senate Executive at Large Devyani Chandran stressed the importance of establishing goals for the discussion, and finding a conversation facilitator who recognizes the issue of using racial slurs in the classroom. She said academic freedom and racism were two separate things.

The Faculty Senate will discuss academic freedom as an item on the next meeting agenda for April 8, according to Faculty Senate Parliamentarian Lizzy Ramhorst.

Local church 'shocked' by decision about LGBTQ+ membership

"I think God wants people to celebrate the diversity of God's creation and all the wonderful ways that God has made people," Reverend Kathy Hartgraves says

Anelyse Morris
THE WESTERN FRONT

Shock and disappointment hit members of the Garden Street United Methodist Church after Feb. 26, when the United Methodist Church General Conference took a vote that may cause the division of the nation's second-largest Protestant denomination, according to The New York Times.

The United Methodist Church officials and members voted in favor of increasing punishments for churches that violate current policies against homosexuality, such as the officiation of LGBTQ+ weddings or the inclusion of gay and lesbian members into clergies, according to the Times.

The 53 to 47 percent vote occurred after three days of debate, resulting in mass disappointment and outrage for many of the 12,000 members of the church across the country, according to the Times. The U.S. Western Jurisdiction rallied against the decision, with a video statement released on its website on Feb. 28.

"Once again, [the] General Conference has turned you [LGBTQ+ members] into an issue instead of recognizing how essential you are to the body; we have talked about you, rather than with you," the statement said. "We have not deserted you. We see you. We stand in solidarity with you."

While the Western Jurisdiction has currently not made plans to separate from the church, some pastors and bishops across the nation are discussing the possibility of leaving the denomination in favor of a more inclusive faith alliance, according to the Times.

Reverend Kathy Hartgraves of The Garden Street Union Methodist Church in Bellingham expressed similar sentiments about the vote, calling it a huge step backward for the church.

"Initially, it was very devastating that the church that ordained me was at this place," she said. "But then as the days progressed, I see that there's new hope and there's probably going to be a new birth, and that's a good thing."

The Western Jurisdiction will be hosting "table talks," from March 10 to May 11, to discuss how they plan to move forward while the judicial council decides if the vote was constitutional. The talks will include members of the church from Alaska, Oregon, Idaho and The Greater Pacific Northwest area, Hartgraves said.

Hartgraves said while she would be disappointed if the council were to proceed with the vote, she would be equally disappointed if things just went back to the way they were.

"When this happened, it really birthed a lot of support within the LGBTQ+ community," she said. "Even

with Methodist churches that haven't taken stands - they're screaming about the injustices of it, and that's a good thing."

Marie Kuch-Stanovsky, a United Methodist Church delegate, said she was ultimately disappointed by the larger church's decision to punish progressive and inclusive churches. However, she said she is hopeful for the future.

"I think God wants people to celebrate the diversity of God's creation and all the wonderful ways that God has made people," she said. "So I think that eventually, the UMC will get there."

The Garden Street church continues to welcome members of the LGBTQ+ community into their congregation, some of which include Western students.

"This is my first experience being out as a gay, queer kid at a church, and it's just been really amazing to know that God does love me," Western student Ren Santucci said.

While a lot remains up in the air, locally and nationally for the Union Methodist Church, Hartgraves said she looks forward to a new inclusive and loving institution.

"There's a lot of beauty that could happen, it doesn't seem that way quite yet, but I really have a lot of hope that that's where we're going," she said. "Bigotry never has a place in the church, never."



The Garden Street United Methodist church continues to welcome members of the LGBTQ+ community into their congregation. // Photo by Anelyse Morris

Celebrating Latinx identities at heritage dinner

"We wanted a night to come together and celebrate our Latinx heritage and culture, to dress up fancy and eat some good food"

Colin Murphy
THE WESTERN FRONT

Bellingham community members packed the Wade King Student Recreation Center gym for a celebration of Latinx heritage through music, dance and food on Saturday, March 9.

While the black-tie gala was organized by the Latinx Student Union, the event was the result of the greater Latinx community coming together to make it happen, union member and Fairhaven student Jessica Alvaro-Glantz said.

"We wanted a night to come together and celebrate our Latinx heritage and culture, to dress up fancy and eat some good food," Alvaro-Glantz said. "We wanted to bring the whole community together and have one night that really speaks to us."

Tables were filled to capacity as the event started, and after an acknowledgement of land

and introductions of the students in the Latinx Union, dinner began. The event organizers came up with a trivia game relating to Latinx culture to determine which tables would eat first from the food provided by Tadeo's Mexican Restaurant in downtown Bellingham.

According to Itsi Gomez, public relations officer and historian for the Latinx Student Union, the club wants to ensure there is an active effort to be inclusive of all Latinx identities. The flags of many of the 33 Latin American countries were prominently displayed around the gala space.

"We are trying to be all-inclusive, and not so Mexico-centric, which we see in a lot of other LSU clubs," Gomez said. "We are trying to get rid of that influence, making sure that every country is represented- even the ones you see the least."

After event-goers had time to eat, the performances

began with a dance from the South Asian Student Association.

Other performances throughout the rest of the night came from students in the African Caribbean Club, Baile Folklorico de WWU and the Filipino American Student Association.

Third-year student Gretchen Visperas performed a dance with the Filipino American Student Association called Bina Swan, which translates to "With A Use Of a Drinking Glass," in which they balanced wine glasses filled with water as a part of the dance.

Rodolfo Mata, another faculty member at Western who teaches Spanish linguistics as well as Spanish as a heritage language, said he came to support his students and their peers since he works mostly with heritage learners and speakers, who are native speakers of Spanish who were either born or raised in

the United States.

"I came to the event to celebrate with my friends and peers and those who I identify with when it comes to race and ethnicity- to eat, celebrate, [and] enjoy each

other's heritage," event-goer Gloria Guizar said.

The Latinx Student Union has more events planned for the spring, including the annual Lowrider Show.



Community members celebrated Latinx heritage through music, dance and food. // Photo by Colin Murphy

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BREWS BEFORE BROS

Society of women brewers come together to celebrate International Women's Day with self-brewed beer

Brooke Weisbecker
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Brut(ure) is Female, the 2019 Pink Boots Brut IPA beer, was released in celebration of International Women's Day at Stones Throw Brewery on March 8. The beer was brewed entirely by women in the Pacific Northwest brewing community in collaboration with the Pink Boots Society, according to Stones Throw Brewery events coordinator Meagan Walker.

Walker said the goal of this event is to raise and donate money for the Pink Boots Society, which she has been apart of for the last three years.

"Stones Throw, along with many of the other breweries in town, are happy to support Pink Boots Society," she said. "Pink Boots is a collaborative group of women in the industry that encourages and supports women's education in brewing."

Walker said the money raised for the organization will go toward a number of educational opportunities for women in the beer industry.

"Some opportunities are as big as a scholarship to travel to Germany and learn more about brewing," she said. "How cool would it be if one of our very own lady brewers in Bellingham were given that chance?"

Walker mentioned having a support system for women is important to encourage them in the brewing industry.

The Pink Boots brew day gathered about 15 women, two or three of which were experienced brewers and the rest of whom were there to learn, she said.

"Let's face it, the beer industry is pretty male dominant," she said. "However, I know a lot of women that have interest in brewing, or learning more about the process. Having a friend or a group for support is a lot less intimidating when approaching something new."

Walker said in previous years the Pink Boots brew day was on International Women's Day, but this year the group decided to brew in January.

"This way on International Women's Day we get to come together and celebrate all women for various reasons over a pint we made ourselves," she said.

Jen Knutzen, who helped brew The Brut(ure) is Female beer, said the Pink Boots Society is great as a support group where you have the opportunity to talk to other people doing similar things.

"It's a very cool group of women, they're all very supportive," she said. "If you have any questions or are new at what you're doing, they're always going to help you."

Knutzen started her brewing career in 2013 as a homebrewer and decided to go pro about two years ago, she said. Knutzen also attended the 2018 Cardinal Craft Brewing Academy



Brittany Collins performed at the Pink Boots Beer Release event at Stones Throw Brewery. // Photo by Brooke Weisbecker

as a cohort, she said. She mentioned she is noticing more women involved in the brewing industry since she started out.

"It's definitely happening more," Knutzen said. "Originally, women were the brewers. Brewsters, historically speaking, made the beer for alehouses, and they were ladies."

Knutzen also said that the organization offers opportunities for women of all brewing skill levels, and they help women find many different positions in the beer industry.

"You could be a bartender in a tap room, you could be an accountant for a brewery, you could be a brewer assistant or a seller, or just someone who homebrews," she said.

The event also featured musician Brittany Collins, who performed original songs and covers throughout the evening.

"If you like beer and you like supporting women, this is the place to be!" Collins said to the crowd.

Collins paused between songs and made a toast to all the women at the event.

"Can everyone raise their glasses and toast the women who brewed the beer you are all drinking," she said. "They kicked ass!"

Knutzen said The Brut(ure) is Female beer will also be served at The Firefly Lounge on State Street in addition to Stones Throw Brewery and will be available until it runs out.

"LET'S FACE IT, THE BEER INDUSTRY IS PRETTY MALE DOMINANT. HOWEVER, I KNOW A LOT OF WOMEN THAT HAVE INTEREST IN BREWING, OR LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE PROCESS. HAVING A FRIEND OR A GROUP FOR SUPPORT IS A LOT LESS INTIMIDATING WHEN APPROACHING SOMETHING NEW."
MEAGAN WALKER, STONES THROW EVENTS COORDINATOR



The Brut(ure) is Female is a beer featured during the Pink Boots Beer Release event at Stones Throw Brewery. // Photo by Brooke Weisbecker

CELEBRATING FEMALE DIRECTORS AND THEIR FILMS AT THE PICKFORD

Pickford Film Center hosts film series featuring female directors from the '70s only to see a gap still remains

Molly Todd
THE WESTERN FRONT

4 percent of the top 100.

8 percent of the top 250.

15 percent of the top 500.

These small percentages represent the amount of women directors working on the top films in 2018 alone, according to a program statement released from the Pickford Film Center.

The Pickford Film Center hosted a series of four different films directed by women from the 1970s to bring attention to the lack of representation they receive,

Susie Purves, the executive director of the Pickford Film Center, said. She also came up with the idea to create the film series, which she named "The Distaff Side: Women Directors of the 70s."

Located in downtown Bellingham, the Pickford Film Center is a nonprofit theater that acts as a resource for independent film and a place for the Bellingham community to come together through education, dialogue and film, according to its website.

The Pickford Film Center opened in 1998 and is named after Mary Pickford, who, according to the website, was "innovative, creative,

and had an entrepreneurial spirit." She also produced her own films, was an actress and created United Artists with Charlie Chaplin and Douglas Fairbanks, according to the website.

"One of the things that surprised me about programming this entire series was how few films were made by women in the 1970s," Purves said. "In 1978, there were only four films directed by women."

The four films included in the new series are "Wanda" (1970), directed by Barbara Loden; "Hester Street" (1975), directed by Joan Micklin Silver; "Micky and Nicky" (1976), directed by



Vintage movie posters are displayed inside the Pickford Film Center. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin

THE DISTAFF SIDE
WOMEN DIRECTORS OF THE 70s

Programmed by Susie, the Pickford's Executive Director, this new series presented with support from the National Endowment for the Arts focuses on four influential directors of the 1970's. To recognize the ever-present wage gap, tickets will be discounted for female-identifying patrons.

- 3.4 **GIRLFRIENDS** (Claudia Weill, 1978)
- 3.11 **HESTER STREET** (Joan Micklin Silver, 1975)
- 3.18 **WANDA** (Barbara Loden, 1970)
- 3.25 **MIKEY & NICKY** (Elaine May, 1976)

Susie Purves selected the new films featured in "The Distaff Side" movie showings. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin

"WOMEN WORKING IN THE FILM INDUSTRY TODAY CAN THANK THE SMALL GROUP OF WOMEN, ACTIVE IN THE 1970S, WHO WORKED HARD TO QUANTIFY DISCRIMINATION AND RAISED THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF MANY INDIVIDUALS IN THE INDUSTRY LEADING EVENTUALLY TO STUDIOS HIRING WOMEN EXECUTIVES."

PROGRAM STATEMENT

Elaine May and "Girlfriends" (1978), directed by Claudia Weill.

Tickets are available for purchase at the Pickford Film Center, but the nonprofit is doing something else to bring attention to the underrepresentation of women directors: Tickets are \$4 for women and \$7 for men, according to Purves. This is to reflect the gender wage gap during the 1970s, which according to the program statement released from Pickford, was 59.4 percent in 1978 specifically.

"The ticket price difference just goes along with this series, I think it's a nice fit," Mikayla Nicholson, education outreach coordinator for Pickford, said.



The Pickford Film Center is located in downtown Bellingham on Bay Street. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin

Because the ticket price difference is adjusted for women and men, those who identify as non-binary or use they/them pronouns can also feel included, Nicholson and Purves said. They expressed that it would be up to the person to decide what they wanted to pay for the ticket price, or be charged the discounted price.

"It's not really a monetary difference between \$4 and \$7 in the long run," Nicholson said. "I would rather give a discount to an underrepresented person."

This is not the first film series that Pickford premiered in which there were women directors featured, Nicholson said. A few months ago the film center featured films by Ida Lupino in a series called "The Director," according to Nicholson.

In 2018, the film center also showed a series called "Beauty, Brains & Know-How: Screwball Comedy in

the Glamour Age," which starred strong female leads from the 1930s and '40s, Nicholson said.

Purves expressed that while it's important to give recognition to the women directors of the 1970s, it's also important to note that not much has changed since then.

"Women working in the film industry today can thank the small group of women, active in the 1970s, who worked hard to quantify discrimination and raised the consciousness of many individuals in the industry leading eventually to studios hiring women executives," the program statement noted.

The film series, "The Distaff Side," will continue throughout the rest of March with film showings every Monday of the month. The next film in the series, "Hester Street," is playing on March 11 at 6 p.m..



Attendees of the Pink Boots Beer Release event filled Stones Throw Brewery for the Pink Boots event. // Photo by Brooke Weisbecker

Local charity gets a new home

100-year-old Hope House building renovated after almost 19 years of service

Zack Jimenez
THE WESTERN FRONT

A group of people have already gathered outside waiting for the doors to open as volunteers inside join hands to say their morning prayer. It's 9:00 a.m., the doors open, and people quickly file into the front room of the new Hope House.

The Hope House, a local Catholic-affiliated charity, has been in operation since October of 2000. They provide food, clothing, hygiene products and financial assistance, at no cost, to community members in need, Hope House program manager Cheri Woolsey said.

In April of 2018, a \$600,000 construction project was started to build a new Hope House. The project started with the demolition of the previous building that was more than 100 years old, and was completed in October 2018, Woolsey said.

The new facility is at the same location as the old building at 207 Kentucky St. next to the Church of the Assumption.

"We have two public restrooms and we have more room for everybody to move around," she said. The new building also has an accessible front entrance.

"It's been a blessing. They are able to help more [in the new building] compared to the old building because it was so small," community member

Maggie Miller said during her visit to the Hope House to get clothes.

The Hope House is a community outreach program operated by Catholic Community Services of Western Washington and also is supported by the Church of the Assumption, Woolsey said. Catholic Community Services of Western Washington, the Church of the Assumption and private donations each covered a third of the cost the new Hope House, Woolsey said.

The Hope House receives around 20,000 visits annually and serves an estimated 5,300 unique individuals, she said.

"The bathrooms get a lot of use; they were definitely a need that was not being fulfilled [before]," Woolsey said. "If someone really had to use the bathroom, they would have to leave Hope House and go find somewhere else."

The old building had a lot of issues including lack of accessibility, inadequate storage, heating issues and a rodent problem, she said.

In a previous interview in 2018, Woolsey described the problems with the old building as "an issue of human dignity," due to its lack of accessibility.

The old building had one ramp at the back entrance and narrow hallways which were difficult for people in wheelchairs, she said.

Woolsey said she started pushing for a new building



A view of the front of the new Hope House. // Photo by Zack Jimenez



Sandy Hayner, a Hope House volunteer, sorts out donated clothes. // Photo by Zack Jimenez

back in 2010. The original plan was to remodel the old facility, but it quickly became clear a new building was necessary, she said.

During the construction process, operations moved to a small shed in the alley behind the old building. It was dubbed the "Hope Shed" by volunteers, and services were cut back to food and hygiene products only due to the lack of space, she said.

"It's a good feeling to know that you are contributing," a Hope House volunteer Patricia Almarez said. "I am here to help [the community] and let them know that someone does think of them."

There has been an increase in visitors and donations since the Hope House reopened, Woolsey said.

"We've actually had to close our doors to donations for a few days at a time because we got overloaded," she said.

Woolsey said the Hope House has a financial assistance program that provides vouchers for food, gas and other needs. This program is solely funded by the Church of the Assumption.

Hope House volunteers are considering adding hours on Wednesdays in the coming months, the only weekday the organization is currently closed, to keep up with demand, she said.

"I got kicked out from each and every one of them for trying

Western's barefooted students march on

"Sometimes if I'm not wearing shoes and I see someone else who isn't, and they notice, they'll be like 'ayy'"

Coel Cable
THE WESTERN FRONT

Anyone familiar with Western's campus is probably aware of the many different surfaces that students walk across every day. Grass, brick, dirt, gravel and concrete are just some of the surfaces that layer the Bellingham campus.

Traversing these walkways is a small but dedicated group of barefooted students. According to Ian McDaniel, a former Western student who went barefoot during his time at Western, it's not as crazy as it might sound.

One of the main reasons McDaniel chose to go barefoot while at Western was body heat.

"I always run really warm, like incredibly hot," McDaniel said. "My friends call me a polar bear or the human furnace."

When he found out that feet release a lot of body heat, he decided to try going barefoot.

"I just decided that I can't just stand with my arms up all day and I don't want to shave my head, so I might as well go shoeless," he said.

McDaniel also said that the only time he hurt himself while going barefoot was stepping on a toothpick in Wilson Library.

McDaniel also mentioned how some services on campus do not accommodate people going barefoot, the dining halls in particular.

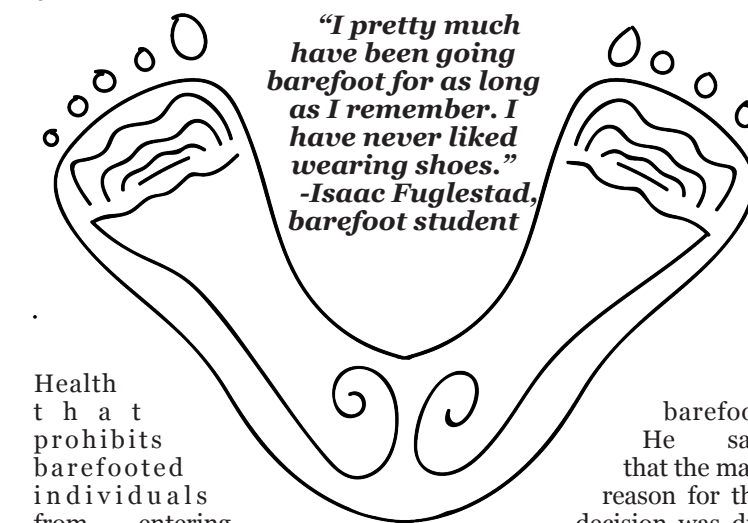
"I got kicked out from each and every one of them for trying

to do that," McDaniel said.

To help with this, McDaniel would attach flip flops to his bag using a carabiner, guaranteeing a pair of shoes would be on hand when needed.

According to the Society for Barefoot Living's website, an advocacy group for people who choose to go barefoot, there is no law in the Washington State Department

o f



Health

t h a t

prohibits

barefooted

individuals

from entering

business or public

places.

However,

businesses do have a right to

set their own policies, but this

is unrelated to any state law.

Besides food services on

campus, another area on campus

that students are not allowed

to go barefoot in is the

Wade King Student Recreation

Center. The Rec Center's policy

states that the "minimum

workout attire must consist of:

Athletic closed-toe shoes..."

According to Fitness Coordinator Ron Arnold, the policy is standard in the industry, with the reasoning being determined by "precedent of litigation, determinations from risk management analysis and advised through professionally associated governing bodies."

After graduating and moving to Europe for a year, McDaniel decided to stop

g o i n g

year student at Western said she has had similar interactions as McDaniel with barefooted students.

"Sometimes if I'm not wearing shoes and I see someone else who isn't, and they notice, they'll be like 'ayy,'" said Stratton. "Sometimes it extends to more conversation."

For Stratton, going barefoot is much more of a recreational activity than a lifestyle choice. To her, it's a form of therapy.

"Typically, when people hear the word therapy it's talk therapy, psychiatry, something," Stratton said. "To me, that's essentially what walking without shoes is."

Stratton said that going barefoot is an inside joke in her friend group and she's often compared to her friend Isaac Fuglestad. Stratton and Fuglestad met freshmen year in the dorms. Both of them coincidentally have an interest in going barefoot. However, unlike Stratton, Fuglestad had been going barefoot long before attending Western.

"I pretty much have been going barefoot for as long as I remember," said Fuglestad. "I have never liked wearing shoes."

According to Fuglestad, one of the best parts of going barefoot is the feeling of the ground under his feet. Both the Old Main Lawn and the Arboretum are two areas on campus that he suggested as good places to go barefoot. However, Fuglestad remarked

that this winter has been a particularly tough one to go barefoot in.

"I was so happy, it was the first time in three weeks it was warm enough to go barefoot," he said.

However, last year he had no issues with going barefoot during winter while living on campus.

Fuglestad said that often times when people notice him going barefoot, their reaction is one of concern, particularly when he is hiking. Even on rough terrain, going barefoot for so long means Fuglestad has little issue adventuring outdoors. The way he sees it, we aren't born with shoes on, so we don't need to live with them on either.

When it comes to the dining halls on campus, Fuglestad also has strong opinions on the policies relating to going barefoot.

"When was the last time you washed your shoes?" asked Fuglestad. "You shower like every day, but you never throw your shoes into the laundry."

As spring approaches, some students may decide that they want to try walking Western's campus barefoot for the first time. For those new barefooted students, one thing is for sure: They won't be walking alone.

Illustration by Julia Berkman

Jewish Voice for Peace members host an evening of music and community at the Alternative Library

Anelyse Morris
THE WESTERN FRONT

The crowd filled the room wall-to-wall, but the only sound heard was the gentle strum of a banjo and the slight flicker of flames from shabbat candles.

A single spotlight illuminated the stage as performers made their way one-by-one to the microphone, turning a quiet Friday night into a musical gathering of cultural connections.

The community came together to break bread at "An Evening with Brivele and Other Jewish Anti-Fascists," hosted by Western's chapter of Jewish Voice for Peace at the Bellingham Alternative Library

"JVP is a very important organization in my life and in the world, I have seen it over the years grow exponentially, and I'm so proud and thrilled that there's a force here in Bellingham,"

Elaina M. Ellis

on March 8.

"To us, this event is about reconnecting or introducing ourselves to music and words passed down and created through the Diaspora," Jewish Voice for Peace said in a statement. "This event is about building and revitalizing radical, anti fascist [and] anti-zionist communities."

The show featured readings by poets Elaina M. Ellis, Robert Yerachmiel Sniderman and Deborah Woodard. The event also featured a musical performance by Seattle-based group Brivele, a folk-punk trio that combines Yiddish language with various contemporary and old-country musical mediums, according to the group's website.

Sniderman, a poet and performer, assisted in organizing the event, he said. The night was inspired by a similar show in Seattle which featured a performance by Brivele, and after seeing them play, Sniderman immediately wanted to bring them to Bellingham, he said.

"[In this show,] you're seeing an interest in revitalizing the Yiddish language and the tradition of the Yiddish left," Sniderman said. "Singing songs and telling stories that respond to the antisemitism,

racism, islamophobia and ethnonationalism of our current political moment, this will bring people together."

All of the performers spoke to this theme, drawing from their experiences as Jewish people in the United States as well as their relationships to history, Sniderman said.

Deborah Woodard, one of the featured poets, gave a reading from her book "No Finis; Triangle Testimonies, 1911," which spoke about first-hand accounts of the triangle shirtwaist factory fire: A historical occurrence that killed many Yiddish-speaking immigrants.

Jewish Voice for Peace consultant and poet Elaina Ellis read some original pieces,

We are all responsible for the fire

Having a home is a luxury. Having a home during the winter is life-saving.

The responsibility for the fire at Hohl Feed & Seed lies on no single person's shoulders. If we had to point a finger, though, that finger would point at the city.

It's hard to live in Bellingham. Rental vacancy rates are low (.24 percent) and the average rental price is high (\$985 per month). Most of the available housing is snatched up by students, as with many of the jobs.

There are housing vouchers that families and individuals in need can receive, but they usually cover about \$700 and can be subject to discrimination from landlords when applying. (Yes, that is illegal. Yes, it still happens.)

Not everyone has a safety net. Even the city doesn't provide a safety net. Shelters have been proposed and struck down for years: They're too inconvenient, they require too many resources. Community members want to see progress, but they want

that progress to happen miles away from their homes.

We, as a city and a community, can't pretend this isn't our problem, or that homelessness couldn't become our reality. Some of us here at Western are as close to homelessness as defaulting on a student loan or missing rent.

The fire at Hohl Feed & Seed was tragic. It devastated a historic building and the lives of small pets. There is no arguing that the community suffered from the fire. But it's not fair to blame someone who didn't have the luxury of a home to keep him warm in the midst of this shortage of shelter.

A man, who the city described as a transient, was arrested for starting the fire. His bail is set at \$50,000.

The fire happened after a long stretch of cold winter nights. The night time temperatures are still below freezing, and just last week police responded to another fire started outside under a bridge at the edge of downtown.

In both cases the fires were started by people without shelter. In both cases the fires were started to stay warm.

The Point In Time Count (an annual measurement of who is without home on a given night) from 2018 counted 815 people outside in Bellingham, unhomed on a January night. Before the snow this year, the city announced there were 220 bed

spaces available between the Lighthouse Mission Ministries and Fountain Community Church.

Shelters are great resources, but not the answer. Some people aren't safe in shelters, and many people don't want to be separated from their families who often can't find a place to stay together. They're not longterm answers, but they're vital on cold nights.

Weather is out of our control, but practical solutions are not and the city should recognize its role in creating desperate circumstances.

We need a comprehensive plan to create more temporary and permanent housing, not just nightly shelters. We need to provide stability.

We need to provide warmth.



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

How to survive finals week

Finals are undoubtedly the single most important week in your college career. They make you, but too often, they break you.

Here are some fun tips on how to remain alive long enough to make it your next finals week, and the one after that, and the one after that and the one after that all the way until you're \$40,000 in debt and prematurely balding:

Tip #1: Take it easy! Life is too short to "do well in school" or "pass your classes." Throw on some Netflix, turn off Canvas notifications and put those tired lil feet up, you earned it!

Tip #2: Stay hydrated! The absolute best way to prepare your mind and body for copious loads of stress is to drink, drink, drink! Make sure you are consuming plenty of clear liquids all day and night. Uncork a crisp bottle of Pinot Grigio and keep them coming after that.

Tip #3: Sleep? Never heard of it! There is a common myth that floats around campuses during

this time of year that urges students to, but do not be fooled. It's nothing more than old urban legend meant to prey on the minds of gullible students. The truth is that sleep can actually erase your memories, rendering all of your studying pointless. How crazy is that?

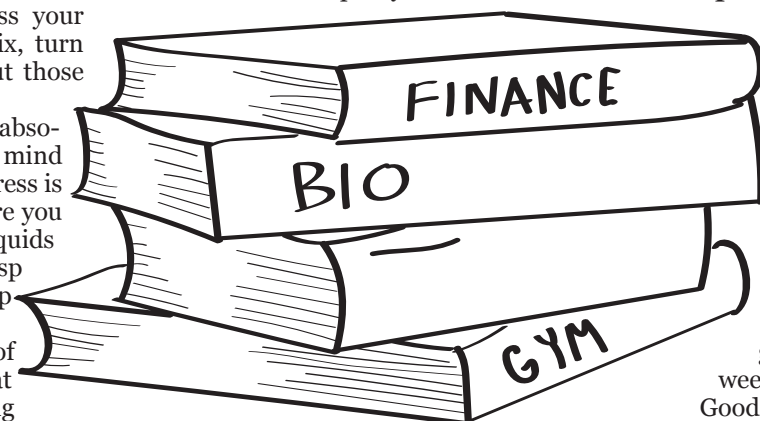
Tip #4: Distract yourself! Don't let finals consume your every waking thought. Instead, try taking care of some of those pesky

to-do's that have been on your list for a while. Stage that intervention for Kevin or finally break up with your boyfriend. Nothing will get your mind off of bio-chemistry more than dealing with soft and steady weeping of the man who thought you were the one.

Tip #5: Feast on the blood of a goblin! It's as simple as it sounds and a surefire way to guarantee success.

Tip #6: Hit up the library! The library is a phenomenal place to spend time during finals week. In fact, don't leave the library! Don't ever leave the library. Find a quiet place on the third floor and begin to stake your territory. Soon enough you'll have crafted a shelter from mid-century romance novels and forgotten all about silly finals week!

Good luck!



WESTERN FRONT SERVED WITH CEASE AND DESIST FROM RODENT

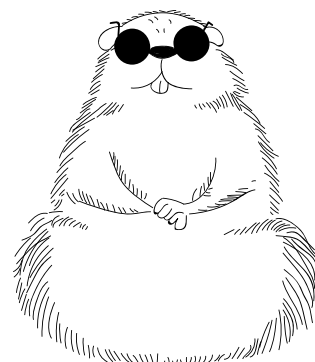
BELLINGHAM – Reputable college newspaper "The Western Front" of Western Washington University has been served with cease and desist papers from the legal representation of Punxsutawney Phil, best known for being the worst marsupial meteorologist in the country.

The documents come after a string of "defamation" of the groundhog by the newspaper. The grievances include the claim that Phil looked "foolish" and for claiming he is incompetent.

The office of Murray & Ramis, Phil's legal team, initially denied request for comment. Upon further prodding, they simply stated "read the document, dummies."

At this time, it is not sure whether the case will move to court. The only certainty in this world is knowing that Punxsutawney Phil is absolutely underqualified to serve in his current position.

More on this as it unfolds.



What do you want to complain about, The Western Front?



Laura Place
Editor-In-Chief

"How I was shamed for my seventh grade interests but now they're cool again in college."



Dante Koplowitz-Fleming
Managing Editor

"When people ask you how you are, not because they care, just to say something."



Julia Berkman
Campus Life Editor

"White people."



Ian Haupt
Copy Editor

"Intramurals is run by the overprotective soccer mom whose child never got to play, and yet she still forgets the orange slices."



Monique Merrill
Opinion Editor

"Too many microwaves on campus. A few would be fine, but this is just ridiculous. Where are all the toasters?"

Compiled by us, the Western Front.

An open letter to city council from undocumented community leaders

This letter was originally published by Noisy Waters Northwest. It is being included in The Western Front with permission from the writers to share their message.

On February 25, 2019, the City of Bellingham, in Washington State, reviewed the ordinance #2017-02-008 and BMC Chapter 2.25 regarding immigration matters in the city. Two years ago, undocumented students and community members advised the city not to collaborate with federal immigration officials in order to make Bellingham a safer city for everyone by addressing racial profiling. Instead, the city passed an ordinance that not only dismissed everything the undocumented community was collectively working towards, but also passed an ordinance supposedly to protect the undocumented community with zero enforcement and accountability, and with no promise of keeping our community safe from immigration enforcement families being torn apart.

After the ordinance was passed, there was no effort by the City Council members to work with the organizers to strengthen the ordinance or to protect our undocumented community from the deportation machine attacking cities throughout the U.S. Since the ordinance passed, we have seen the Trump regime continue to threaten immigrant communities and activists, increase federal agents, increase funding for border security and detention, threaten DACA, and tear children apart from their families and cage them for profit. In the Bellingham undocumented community we have seen ICE strategically target numerous families, and our City officials have done nothing but keep silent.

After the ordinance was passed some community members began

leading public weekly demonstrations outside City Hall. Back then those were led by undocumented leaders residents of the city, that is no longer the case. These were meant to show the City Council how serious the issue of immigrant enforcement is and generate further support. In our view this has not been accomplished. Around the same time, City officials started to

identify residents for the "Whatcom County Human Rights Task Force." The purpose of this Task Force as well as their members are unknown to us. The undocumented community living in Bellingham has no knowledge of what this group was, or what their intent had been regarding this ordinance. As far as we know no undocumented leaders have been informed about further

processes regarding the ordinance or changes to it.

Back in late 2016 and early 2017 we began pressuring the City to introduce our ordinance, but we were merely used for local political theater, not only by local electeds, but also by other community members and groups, and it's still happening today. There have been multiple times that white community members, including at least one Council member, used our names and community to appear aligned with us in order to appeal to the progressive voters of Bellingham, but instead ignored our leadership and never consulted with us.

The latest hearing regarding the immigration ordinance we first pushed for is a clear example of this:

Before the February hearing a white woman representing a local community grassroots group called one of us to "turn out people" to the hearing.

The day before the hearing, another white woman from the same community group interrupted a presentation one of us was doing to talk about how they knew more about the topic than us.

The Councilperson calling for changes to the ordinance reached out to one of us the day after the public hearing.

Not one of us has been contacted in good faith, yet our name has been thrown around by elected officials trying to appeal to the white "progressive" voter base, and when local community groups want to appear aligned with us to invite people to their weekly demonstrations which are not led by undocumented leaders.

Whatever results of the ordinance are we want to make sure our undocumented community, the larger Bellingham community, local community groups, elected officials and the community supporting us know the following:

1- The undocumented leaders that brought this issue and demanded real political action have not been consulted; we were not only marginalized but merely used as a prop for political gain.

2- Community groups have been relying on tokenizing and victimizing us even further by using our names and our struggles to gain supporters and validity for their groups.

3- A local attorney only reached out to one of us after the hearing had occurred, and in our view to cover her mistake.

4- The local elected officials of Bellingham have ignored the issue of immigration enforcement but are willing to use the anti-Trump environment to appear progressive.

5- Whatever results are of the ordinance at hand, we don't support them and we are sure it won't stop the racial profiling undocumented communities of color face in this city every day.

6- We call on the real progressives out there to join us in calling out the City's efforts to use our tragedies for their own gain. If in reality there is even an intent to correct things, the ordinance would be rewritten by us – undocumented leaders of color living in Bellingham.

7- Everyone in Bellingham, community groups, white women with good intentions, elected officials, we demand that you stop using our names in any publication, social media or event without our consent.

- Victoria Matey and Maru Mora Villalpando
Undocumented leader residents of Bellingham, Washington

Softball transfers bring passion to program

Bellingham provides a new life experience for these Edmonds Community College transfer students

Alex Barnes
THE WESTERN FRONT



Seli Aholesi has eight strikeouts in 11 innings as a Viking.
// Photo by Oliver Hamlin

Seli Aholesi is a junior pitcher who transferred to Western after playing two seasons for the Edmonds Community College Tritons. Aholesi grew up in Honolulu, Hawaii, attending Henry J. Kaiser High School, and feels blessed to have grown up where she did.

"Life in Hawaii is pretty much like paradise. You've got warm weather, friendly people, good local food and beautiful beaches," Aholesi said. "Growing up there was even more of a blessing because you know that you're still surrounded by the things that your parents grew up with."

Aholesi picked up softball when she was 9 years old and said at the time, she didn't know if softball was going to be something that she would continue with long-term.

"I didn't immediately know if [softball] was something I'd still be doing [later], but it was for sure

something ... that I really wanted to give a go," Aholesi said.

Aholesi said the reason she was drawn to playing pitcher was because of the challenge that playing such an influential position provides. She said that her goal every game is to make life easier for her teammates by controlling the game from the mound.

"What I love about being a pitcher is that ... it's my responsibility to make sure my defense works less," Aholesi said. "I grew up not wanting to have others work hard for me, so it's just an instinct to want to make sure no girls get on bases."

Aholesi decided to transfer to Western after being amazed following a tour of campus.

"Everything about this school is amazing, from the education, to the staff, or all the other activities that you're able to do around [Bellingham]," she said.

Aholesi also credits the

kinesiology curriculum at Western for her desire to transfer. As a kinesiology major, she is studying to become a sports psychologist post-graduation.

"My dream job is definitely to work with the NBA, NFL or maybe Olympic athletes, because it would be amazing to see women in the field conquer their dreams and goals," Aholesi said.

In the next 10 years, Aholesi says that her major goal is to graduate with a bachelor's degree in kinesiology so she can find a job that enables her to provide for herself and family back in Hawaii.

For now, she's just enjoying her time at Western.

"I don't regret the decision of coming to Western to play ball for this school. I'm definitely living a dream here," Aholesi said.

Tamia Hirano is a junior who plays middle infield, and like Aholesi, also transferred to Western after playing two years

for the Tritons. Hirano grew up in Oahu, Hawaii, and said moving to Washington took some getting used to.

"I never thought leaving home would be such an adjustment for me, but it was a great chance for me to grow independently and get an experience that other people don't have the opportunity to get," Hirano said.

Hirano is currently majoring in kinesiology and said she was drawn to it because it will allow her to continue to work in an athletic field after she finishes playing.

"I know that softball is definitely not something that I'll be doing forever, so allowing myself to work with the body and its movements can potentially allow me to work with athletes and help them understand their own body, its movements and athletic injuries," Hirano said.

She plans on using her kinesiology degree to find a practice back in Hawaii that focuses on personal therapies and trainings. Over the next 10 years, Hirano wants to work and travel before she buys a house and starts a family.

"Before starting a family I would like to take time to discover different parts of the world that I've never been to," she said.

Hirano said she has enjoyed her time at Western so far thanks to the atmosphere the team has created.

"Western softball is a great group of people to be around. It's such a great atmosphere with positive vibes and it's full of girls who are wanting to get better each day and that is something that I love being a part of," Hirano said.

on my toes," she said.

Hirano said senior Shearyna Labasan and head coach Sheryl Gilmore were major factors that led her decision to transfer to Western. Hirano played high school softball with Labasan, and said that both of their mothers played softball together as well. Hirano also said that it only seemed right to finish her college career playing for coach Gilmore.

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Vaulting into the school record books

Anna Paradee's time as a Viking is marked by multiple titles and record-setting efforts



Anna Paradee's current coach held the previous Western indoor pole vaulting record. // Photo courtesy of Western Athletics

Malia Cantimuhan
THE WESTERN FRONT

Anna Paradee broke her personal record, the school record and became an All-American in one jump.

Paradee is the athlete every coach hopes will come through their program. Her coaches describe her as having impressive raw athleticism, passion and being driven and dedicated to her sport and teammates.

Before Paradee became a pole vaulting champion, she was a competitive gymnast for 10 years in her hometown of Federal Way, Washington. She began in elementary school and continued all the way through high school.

During her freshman year of high school, one of her high school gymnastics coaches, who was also the high school pole vault coach,

encouraged her to try out pole vaulting. She did and ended up having a successful first year. She stuck with pole vaulting throughout the rest of her high school career and hasn't looked back since.

Paradee, who is now a fifth-year student at Western, looked at multiple schools before choosing to become a Viking. She said the track program was one of the biggest factors when deciding. She considered Division I schools, but when she visited them, she said it didn't feel like they were the right fit.

"I didn't really feel like I was going to get the attention that I wanted to be a successful athlete. I felt like I wasn't good enough coming out of high school to go to Division I," Paradee said. "When I visited Western, it just felt right. It felt like I was really going to be supported as an athlete. And as a

person, I felt like I was going to be a valued part of the team, not just some freshman walk-on."

And valued she was. Paradee earned titles as Great Northwest Athletic Conference Outdoor Pole Vault Champion in 2016, 3.53m, U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Division II All-American in 2017, and GNAC Indoor Pole Vault Champion in 2017. She also beat Western's pole vault record of 3.90 meters, previously set by Karis Anderson in 2012, with a 3.92-meter vault at the 2017 NCAA II Indoor Championships.

Paradee believes her successful collegiate career has been due to the support of her coaches. She said throughout the years, her teammates change as they graduate, but her coaches will always be there.

Paradee's teammate and best friend, Rachael Robert, said she looks up to Paradee on and off the field.

"She is confident, she is a leader and she is incredibly kind," Roberts said. "She's always someone that you can go to for advice. She's always willing to help anyone that's around her. No matter if she has time for it or not. It makes things hard for her, of course, but she cares so much about the people in her life."

Previous Western pole vault record-holder Karis Carter is Western's Pole Vaulting Coach, and has been coaching Paradee for the past five years.

Carter described Paradee as a competitive athlete with resilience, who executes well under the pressure of competition. She recognizes

Paradee as a person who will always be the first to help. Whether it's coaching the pole vaulting camp at Western or being a stellar charity campaigner for the program, Carter said she's there to represent the Vikings.

Carter said there's one day that she'll always remember from her time coaching Paradee.



Anna Paradee's strong showing this season resulted in her third Division II All-American track and field selection. // Photo courtesy of Western Athletics

"The greatest moment I had with Anna was when she broke the indoor school record at [the 2017] Indoor Nationals. I held the record before Anna and I knew Anna was going to be breaking that record after her freshman year. It was just a matter of time," Carter said in an email.

"In that moment, time slowed as she went over that bar. As a coach, coaching one of your athletes to break your own record is one of the best feelings ever."

Paradee said the indoor championship title meant a lot after

reshirting last winter.

"Last time I competed indoor, I won a title. But the last two times I competed outdoor, I lost," Paradee said. "I didn't jump as well as I had wanted at those outdoor meets. It could have been a time where I put a lot of pressure on myself because you know, you want the win and you want the recognition for all the hard work that you put in and sometimes it doesn't come together at the meets, but this time it did."

The GNAC Indoor Track & Field Championships this past February was her last conference with Western, and taking home the win made the title that much more special.

"I think I just went there and proved that I am still a competitor and that I have more things to come with nationals coming up this week," Paradee said.

In early March, Paradee competed for a national title at the 2019 NCAA Division II Indoor Track & Field Championships in Pittsburg, Kansas, coming in 12th and taking home Second Team All-American honors. It was Paradee's third time being named to an All-American team.

After graduating from Western, Paradee said she will go on to graduate school at the University of Puget Sound to pursue a career in physical therapy. She said she'll also continue to be involved with the track program at Western. She said her involvement will include coaching the Western Pole Vaulting Camp in the spring and, when Carter can't make meets, she will be there to coach Western athletes.

Vikings knocked out of GNAC tournament semis

The Vikings stayed competitive against the No. 2 seed to the very end

Hannah Gordon-Kirk
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Western women's basketball team ended its season Friday, March 8 after a hard fought 83-78 loss to No. 2 Northwest Nazarene University.

The first quarter was injected with high energy from Vikings guard Lexie Bland who went 2-3 from the field. The Vikings took a seven-point lead early in the game that stirred the competitive spirits of the favored visiting Nighthawks.

The first quarter's frenetic energy carried through halftime. The fast-paced contest resulted in an offensive spectacle as the teams raced to trade buckets. Sophomore Kelsey Rogers put eight points on the board in the second quarter, going 4-5 on field goals. However, the Nighthawks fought back with a 15-6 run right before the end of the half, taking a one-point, 44-43 lead over the Vikings.

The two teams entered

the second half with the same intensity as the first. However, shortly into the third quarter there was a big shift in momentum against the Vikings.



Despite solid offense, including shooting 61.5 percent from deep, the Vikings couldn't quite top the No. 2 seed Nighthawks.
// Photo by Oliver Hamlin

The Nighthawks' shooting and rebounds were on point, hitting 50.0 percent of their shots in the quarter, while the Vikings cooled off, only shooting 36.4

percent in the third.

The Nighthawks had an eight-point lead on the Vikings when the fourth quarter started. With the score at 64-56 and 10 minutes left on the clock, it was anybody's game going into the final quarter, but the Vikings couldn't quite rally and fell short in the end. Despite hot shooting from sophomore guards Gracie Castaneda and Emma Duff, who had five 3-pointers between them, the Nighthawks' 41 rebounds, more than double the Vikings', made all the difference.

In an unfortunate turn of events, Bland took a spill toward the end of the game, injuring her left leg. She did not return to the floor.

The Vikings continued to fall behind as the Nighthawks ran down the clock and got some fortunate shots to fall. The result, though disappointing for the 11-9, No. 6 seed Vikings, was well fought against the No. 2 seed Nighthawks.

This freshman has the greenlight

Washington native Jalen Green's collegiate career is off to a solid start as a Viking

Alex Barnes
THE WESTERN FRONT

One campus tour in the summer of 2018 was all it took for freshman guard Jalen Green to know that Western was the perfect place to grow on the basketball court and in the classroom.

"I came up here and [the coaches] let me play with the team a little bit, they showed me the campus and some of the classrooms. After we went out to eat I told my dad 'this is where I want to go,'" Green said. "It was like 'I have to go here. This is a good option for me.'"

Green grew up in Renton, Washington with his mother, father, two sisters and older brother. Like many younger siblings, he got into basketball after watching his older brother, University of Washington forward Dominic Green, play.

"When he was in eighth grade I used to go to his games ... and it seemed like so much fun that I had

to play," Green said.

Although he enjoyed playing basketball from the start, Green said it wasn't something he immediately knew he would end up pursuing. In fact, it was a full year before he, with the help of his dad, started taking the game more seriously.

"For about the first year I was kind of [apprehensive] until my dad started to help me work out and I got better at it," Green said. "I realized that it was a lot of fun and that I didn't want to stop playing."

Green graduated from Lindbergh High School as a scoring machine, finishing his career with 1,079 points over 56 games. In his senior season he averaged a massive 26.7 points, 13.6 rebounds, 4.4 assists and 4.4 blocks per game.

Green said he didn't model his game after anybody in particular, but his favorite player growing up was Kobe Bryant, which could

see GREEN, page 16

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GREEN*continued from page 14*

explain his love for the offensive side of the ball.

“Offense is something that’s just more fun to me than defense. While I do enjoy playing defense and being able to stop the person in front of me from scoring, being able to put the ball in the hoop in ways that other people can’t is always fun,” Green said.

According to assistant coach David Dunham, Green’s high school play was a key factor in the decision that the coaching staff made to bring him to Western.

“He came up for a visit and really played well. He had a great high school career ... his stats were really good,” Dunham said. “He shoots well, can defend well and can handle [the ball] well, and all of those factors played into us thinking he would be a great fit here.”

Upon his arrival at Western, Green found the jump from high school to college to be somewhat overwhelming. He said that finding the balance between more challenging school work and basketball was something that took a while to figure out.

“The transition hit me at first, I’m not going to lie to you, and I’m still getting used to it now. My first two quarters I struggled with my school work a lot because I was trying to balance it in ways that I wasn’t used to,” Green said.

However, Green said roommates D’Angelo Minnis and Luke Lovelady, who are also members of the men’s basketball team, were vital in helping him settle in, both on and off of the court.

“Luke was a big help to me in getting used to the workload and D’Angelo would come and work

out with me at first so I wouldn’t have to do it alone,” Green said. “With the help of my coaches and teammates, I feel like it’s getting a lot easier and I’m making better use of the time that I have.”

Minnis, who is also a freshman, believes that having someone else around who was going through the same new challenges that Western presented was extremely helpful.

“We went through everything at the beginning together because we were both new up here. Being able to go through that together and have Luke there to help us through it made the process a lot easier for both of us,” Minnis said.

While he was learning how to cope with the challenges of becoming a collegiate athlete, early-season injuries forced a lineup change for the team that saw Green gain consistent playing time, a feat that is difficult for many college freshmen to accomplish.

“The adjustment from high school to college is a huge one and a lot of times players don’t realize that until they get here and see that the players are bigger, stronger and jump just as high,” Dunham said. “We just felt like what he was able to bring [to the team] in the absence of the players we lost would help us win games.”

Dunham also believes Green’s outgoing and approachable personality was a big factor in his ability to settle in quickly with his new teammates.

“Once he gets to know you he’s very outgoing. He’s a very nice young man who expects excellence from himself ... you want someone who expects that,” Dunham said. “The fact that he was able to come in and be a part of the guys who were already here, especially as a freshman, was a good thing.”

Minnis agreed with Dunham’s assessment and claimed that he knew instantly that Green was someone he was going to get along with.

Egyptian mythology, and playing video games both with the team or by himself.

“I’ll play any video game. I’ll be bored one night and just download

As of now Green has not yet declared a major but he is looking to go into broadcast communications with the ultimate goal of achieving a career in sports broadcasting



Jalen Green’s defensive efforts placed him fifth on the Vikings for the season in both blocks and steals.
// Photo courtesy of Western Athletics

“He was super friendly, really funny and he also loved basketball so we got along quickly. From a roommate perspective he’s really funny and brings a lot of positive energy to the atmosphere,” Minnis said.

Aside from basketball Green said his passions include reading fiction books, especially ones involving Greek, Roman and

anything I see,” Green said. “Usually we bring Xboxes [on road trips], so there will be eight of us sitting in a room playing NBA 2K and messing around.”

In the next 10 years, the top three goals that Green has are to be paid to play basketball professionally, graduate with a degree and get his foot into the door of his post-playing career.

should playing basketball not pan out.

“Being able to be around sports even if I can’t play them would be a beautiful thing,” Green said.

For now, Green is just excited to be a Viking.

“I look forward to my future and I hope you guys are watching,” he said. “What’s the point of being quiet?”

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