

THE WESTERN FRONT

Volume 187, Issue 2

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

PURSUING A SEAT AT THE TABLE

Womxn of color take action to raise money to attend Wonder Women Tech Conference in D.C.

Erikah Guillen
THE WESTERN FRONT

A collective of womxn of color from the College of Business and Economics at Western have come together to raise money for a business conference in Washington D.C. from April 30 to May 1. Womxn is an intersectional term used to promote inclusivity of all women, including women of color and trans women.

The collective have so far raised \$7,685 of their \$15,000 goal as of Tuesday afternoon, according to the Viking Funder website that was set up in late March. If the full amount is raised, 15 students will be able to attend the Wonder Women Tech Conference. This conference strives to bridge the gaps that exist for women in technology, engineering and business-related pursuits.

The group of womxn



Womxn of color from Western's College of Business and Economics are raising money to attend a conference in Washington D.C. // Photo courtesy of collective womxn of color

of color at Western raising money to attend this conference believe the conference will provide them the resources to succeed after college.

"I think being at this conference will give us an opportunity to meet womxn of color even just other womxn that are in these fields that are

dominating in their respected careers and see how they were able to get there and how they were able to navigate these spaces that weren't

meant for them," fourth-year marketing major Joselyn Chavez said.

see **WOMXN**, page 5

FACULTY SENATE DISCUSSES USE OF RACIAL SLURS

Colin Murphy
THE WESTERN FRONT

On Monday, April 8, Western's Faculty Senate addressed the use of racial slurs in the classroom and its relation to academic freedom, holding an open discussion intended to gather the opinions of faculty and guests. The senate brought a mediator to facilitate the discussion from the Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center.

The discussion of racial slurs followed another Faculty Senate meeting on Feb. 25, during which Associated Students President Millka Solomon and AS Vice President of Academic Affairs Levi Eckman brought attention to a previous Western Front article regarding Paul James, an anthropology instructor who used the N-word slur in a lecture.

Anne Lee, AS VP for Student Life, spoke openly to the senate, proposing that the senate commit to actions such as creating mandatory training and rules regarding racial slurs to be included in the faculty handbook.

"When we talk about academic freedom—academic freedom for who?" Lee said. "How will you integrate new training when you sign on new faculty? This goes for current faculty as well."

Levi Eckman, who spoke on behalf of the AS Executive Board, said while curriculum that discusses race and may have inflammatory language should not be removed from curriculum, it is possible to teach these topics without the use of slurs.

Moonwater, the executive director of Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center and facilitator for the discussion, made it clear at the beginning that the intention of the discussion was not to conclude with firm action, but to

see **FACULTY**, page 3

Civil rights lawsuit filed against Community Food Co-op

In an attempt to create institutional changes, Co-op member speaks out against an alleged racial profiling experience

Ian Haupt
THE WESTERN FRONT

Members of The Community Food Co-op have filed a civil rights lawsuit in United States District Court against the business for alleged racial discrimination against a member in 2017.

Gia Buu Dam, a Vietnamese refugee and Bellingham resident, reported suffering multiple alleged instances of racial profiling and discrimination by Co-op managers and employees, according to a press release by Junga Subedar, a community lawyer for the Whatcom



Customers stand outside the Community Food Co-Op in Cordata on April 2, 2019. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin

Civil Rights Project.

Subedar said Dam hopes the lawsuit will create institutional changes at the Co-op. Dam and husband Adam Nyman, a math professor at West-

ern, filed the complaint.

"Ms. Dam is bringing this [case] to try to bring positive change that's necessary to make it safer at places like the Co-op

see **CO-OP**, page 8

Pro-life speaker event will be met with protest

"Lies Feminists Tell" Tour will come to Western on May 9

Mallory Biggar
THE WESTERN FRONT

Students for Life of America, an organization with a chapter at Western, is hosting the speaker event "Lies Feminists Tell" with Kristan Hawkins, the president of Students for Life of America. In response, students in Western's Feminist Direct Action group have organized a protest.

The Lies Feminists Tell Tour will come to Western on May 9 and take place in Communications Facility 105, with the protest being held outside of the building the same day

according to the Feminist Direct Action.

Hawkins is speaking at colleges around the United States, discussing the "lies of mainstream feminism," according to the Students for Life of America website.

Hawkins has expanded Students for Life of America to over 1,000 campus groups since being hired to launch the organization in 2006, according to her website.

Kristi Hamrick, media strategist and spokesperson for Students for Life, said

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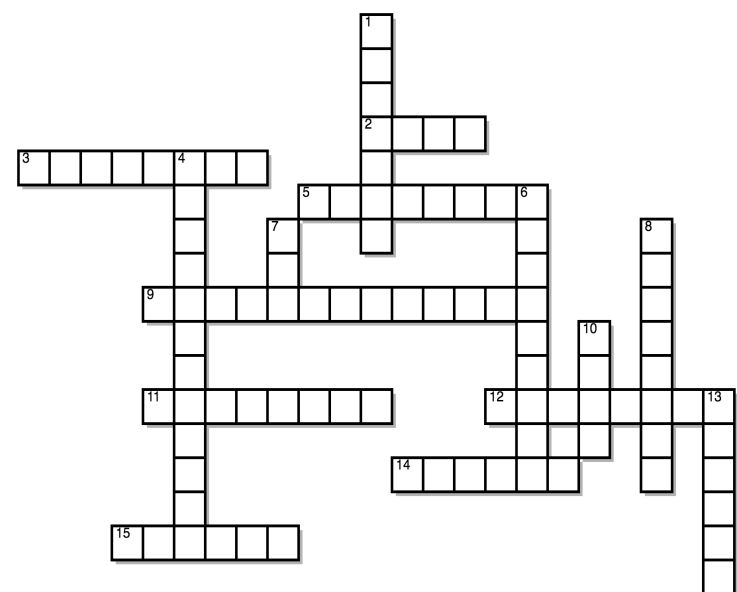
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Guest column: Looking back on 20 years of diversity goals at Western



Choir students from Mount Vernon rush toward Fisher Fountain during a visit to Western's campus on April 9, 2019. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin

Check out these events this week!

- APRIL 10** Faculty Biennial Art Show | Fine Arts 124
The Globalization of Irish Song | 12 p.m. Fairhaven College
Financial Literacy Booth | 11 a.m. Old Main Lawn
- APRIL 11** Percussion Ensemble | 7:30 p.m. PAC 155
Is Obtaining an Education a Political Act? | 12 p.m. 6th floor VU
Cookies and Tea | 5 p.m. Underground Coffee House
- APRIL 12** Research Poster Workshop | 10 a.m. HH 210
Live Music | 8 p.m. \$6 The.Make.Shift Project
BMC Night Beat | 7:30 p.m. PAC 155
- APRIL 13** Men's Soccer v. Washington | 4:30 p.m. \$8 Harrington Field
WWU Great Puzzle Hunt | 10 a.m. \$5 Harrington Field
Piano Area Event | 3 p.m. PAC 155
- APRIL 14** Free Yoga | 4 p.m. VU 464
SYML & Prolly Knot | \$15-\$18 7 p.m. The Shakedown
- APRIL 15** The Open Science Movement is for All of Us | 4 p.m. AW 204
Free Yoga | 4 p.m. VU 464
Salsa & Bachata Lessons | 8 p.m. VU 464
- APRIL 16** Cross Cultral Marriages in Whatcom | 4 p.m. WLSC
Mental Wellness for Graduate Students | 4 p.m. HU 110
Trivia Night | 7:30 p.m. Twin Sisters Brewing



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The Western Front

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Corrections

- In the story titled "Safe Haven permit begins today," public comments were received after the Notice of Complete Application, not after the Notice of Decision.

- In the story "Mayoral campaigning begins," four candidates had announced their intention to run by the date of publication, not three. Seth Fleetwood had also announced his candidacy.

Bellingham residents demand release of Mueller Report

Ian Ferguson
THE WESTERN FRONT

Hundreds of Bellingham activists rallied together as part of a national mobilization demanding the public release of the entire Special Counsel investigation report by Robert Mueller.

The rally, organized by local activism group Indivisible Bellingham on Thursday, April 4, encouraged activists to voice dissatisfaction with Attorney General William Barr, who declined to release the full investigation despite requests from congressional leaders.

According to a report by The Associated Press, the nearly two-year-long investigation concluded on March 22 when Mueller submitted the report to Attorney General Barr. On March 24, Barr addressed a four-page summary to leading members of congress detailing the key findings of the report.

According to Barr's summary, the investigation was focused into two parts: Russian interference in the 2016 Presidential election and potential obstruction of justice regarding the actions of President Donald Trump.

Barr stated there was no evidence of collusion linked to President Trump or his campaign, and that the report is inconclusive as to whether the president has obstructed justice.

In a letter addressed to Attorney General Barr following the summary release, six leaders in the U.S. House of Representatives demanded that Congress receive the full report by April 2.

This demand was not met, prompting the national activist organization, MoveOn, to call for mobilization across the country to voice the public's dissatisfaction. Indivisible Bellingham took the call, catalyzing action for Bellingham activists.

Kevin Leja, one of the co-leaders of Indivisible Bellingham, said the public has a right to read the report because it was funded off the backs of American taxpayers.

"It's not anybody else's, it's ours," Leja said. "Because we paid for it, we feel that we should be able to see it and all of it."

According to PolitiFact, the Mueller investigation has cost \$25.7 million through "direct" and "indirect" expenses. However, the PolitiFact report said the costs have only been reported by the special counsel's office through Sept. 1, 2018 and have likely accrued to a higher value.

"We're saying, what's there to hide? Everyone wants it released, release it. And that's why we're rallying today," Leja said.

Indivisible Bellingham started as a small political action group following the 2017 inauguration of President Donald Trump. According to Leja, the group's primary goal is to hold



Douglas Brown of Indivisible Bellingham rallies the crowd outside of City Hall on Thursday, Apr. 4, 2019. // Photo by Hailey Hoffman

elected officials accountable for their actions while striving for societal equality, justice and fairness.

Co-leader Douglas Brown said the organization has no end of issues to address. Rallies like this are part of the bigger story of activism, he said.

"Fairness in government, the green new deal, too much money in governance, healthcare for all. It's all related," Brown said.

The rally began at 5 p.m. and lasted for about an hour. Activists gathered at the steps of Bellingham City Hall with signs and pickets in hand, mingling together and discussing the issue. Ralliers also huddled around two tables, where they were encouraged to write postcards

addressed to Attorney General Barr, personally voicing their demands.

Brown was the first to address the crowd. At a podium on the top steps of city hall, he revved up the ralliers chanting, "Release our report! Release our report!" intermittently throughout his speech, where he addressed the high magnitude of importance in community rallies.

"Look around and say hello to the people around you," Brown said to the crowd. "Connections like these are why we rally, connections like these are why we live!"

Brown said the event was a success, but he had hoped for a larger turnout. By his estimates,

a crowd just shy of 300 attended the rally. While these were good numbers, Brown's hopes were set in the thousands — a feat that is not uncommon for their rallies, he said.

"The people that were here were engaged, energetic and receptive, and I think that was a very good thing," Brown said.

Colton Lanning, a third-year political science and Japanese double-major at Western, said it is important for communities to rally around particular issues like this.

"I've met so many new people today and really talked about important issues," Lanning said. "[Rallying] is a really good way to bring people together and talk about things we don't always talk about on a daily basis."

According to Brown, the low rally numbers are also due to issue-dependant circumstances. The Release the Report rally was more of a legal issue, he said, which may be the reason fewer than expected showed.

"Something less cerebral, more visceral," is what motivates people to get involved, he said.

Brown said in the coming weeks Indivisible Bellingham's core crew will be meeting with Rep. Rick Larsen to voice concerns about four main issues: election reforms, a Green New Deal, healthcare for all and tax cuts.

FACULTY

continued from page 1

make sure a diversity of voices were heard. Some students and faculty were upset that neither the executive statement from the Senate Executive Council nor a proposed resolution committed to any action.

The Senate Executive Council, a voting body composed of faculty members from different departments across campus, opened the meeting with their executive statement, officially condemning the use of racial slurs in the classroom.

"We the Faculty Senate Executive Council of Western Washington University believe the use

of racial slurs is inexcusable," the statement read. "Academic freedom does not protect nor provide cover for racism in the classroom and while academic freedom does allow for challenging and difficult discussions in the classroom, appropriate context and consideration for students with marginalized identities is essential."

At their previous meeting, Faculty Senate President McNeel Jantzen said the senate was not the appropriate place to discuss specific faculty members, and in order to discuss academic freedom a facilitator needed to be present.

In an email, the AS Student Senate gave a statement regard-

ing the meeting.

"As elected representatives, we, the At-Large Senators, urge the Faculty Senate to take decisive action to ensure racial slurs of any kind are not used in the classroom. There is absolutely no place in our community for the use of derogatory language," the statement read. "We hope that the Faculty Senate comes to a decision on this issue that advocates for minority students and to make sure that Western is a safe learning environment for everyone."

Kristen Larson, who served from 2016-2017 as Faculty Senate President, said she was disappointed and embarrassed about the Faculty Senate's view because

they lost a chance to make a strong statement against the use of racial slurs.

"The board of trustees has to listen to the Faculty Senate but I think there is fear, a very modest risk at that," Larson said. "I think that there is a misunderstanding about the role that we [as faculty] play in systems of oppression. I think there is this feeling that we can somehow opt out and I don't think that's true."

Jantzen proposed the AS Executive Board attend the next Faculty Senate executive session to assist in the drafting of a resolution as a next step.

According to an agreement document between United Faculty of Western Washington

and the Board 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."

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 EOO did not want to infringe on his academic freedom as an instructor following his use of the N-word in the classroom.

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Debate team claims nationals

Hybrid team of Western, UC Berkeley students collaborate for a joint win in Utah

Chris Johansen
THE WESTERN FRONT

After three days of competitive debates at the National Parliamentary Debate Championship, the Western Debate Union secured the title of co-national champions with UC Berkeley for the 2018–2019 season.

The championship was hosted in Salt Lake City at the University of Utah from March 15-17.

In team competition, Chris Coles, a third-year Western student, and Jessica Jung, a fourth-year at the University of California, Berkeley formed a hybrid-partnership and won seven of their eight parliamentary debates. These wins earned them the second seed headed into elimination rounds.

A hybrid team is a partnership of two students from different universities competing alongside one another for the same title, according to Margaret Rockey, assistant coach of the Western Debate Union.

The topic in the final round regarded sanctions against Venezuela: U.S. Congress should pass legislation to rescind Executive Order 13850, according to Assistant Director of Forensics for WWU Debate Union Kory Harvey.

“Our teams are well-versed in anti-colonialism, so this was right up our alley,” Harvey said.

Taking victories over the University of Utah, El Camino College and William Jewell University, Coles and Jung made it clear they came to win.

After defeating Lewis & Clark College in a 7-0 blowout vote by the judges in the final round, Western was declared the national champions of the 2018–2019 season, according to Harvey.

Coles and Jung pursued a set of innovative arguments that covered critical



Members of Western's debate team: (left to right) Emily Dietzel, Emily Merrill, Gavin McCormick, Chris Coles, Jessica Jung, Evan Shuster, Cameron Allen, Korry Harvey, Brenner Barclay, Travis Cram, Michael Van Der Linden (center front). // Photo courtesy of the Western Debate Union.

philosophy, gender studies and a strong mission for social justice, according to Travis Cram, director of forensics for the Western Debate Union.

Coles' knowledge in the area of gender studies, social justice and her ability to do critical research for

“We have been incredibly fortunate to have her on the team the past few years,” Harvey said. “She has been an incredible leader for our program. While some successful debaters try to keep their knowledge to themselves, Chris is always willing to help.”

and are some of the smartest people I know who have made it a lot easier to be successful,” Cameron Allen, a third-year Western student and a member of the Western Debate Union, said.

The debate teams' coaching staff are nationally-ranked competitors in the collegian debate sphere, and team members said it was this leadership and experience helped bring home a national title for the Vikings.

“The two coaches who deserve a lot of credit... are Kinny Torre and Margaret Rockey,” Allen said. “They were actually the ones who convinced Chris to join the team.”

Rockey attended Whitman College in Walla Walla as a member of the Whitman debate team. Her third year on the team, she ended the season ranked third in the nation, according to the Debate Team homepage.

Torre has been involved in debate since 2010 and

competed at the high school and collegiate level. Torre has been a coach at Western for three years and has worked with teams across Washington and Vancouver, British Columbia, according to the debate team homepage.

Winning a national championship in collegian debate is no easy feat, and it is a title many contenders do not get the opportunity to claim, according to Harvey.

“Winning a national championship in competitive college debate is incredibly difficult,” Harvey said. “It takes not only an awful lot of individual skill but also hundreds of hours dedicated to difficult preparation.”

The coaches said they feel fortunate to for the opportunity to have them on the team.

“To end their competitive season with a national championship is a really good vindication for all the exhaustion and trials that you face,” Rockey said.

“It takes not only an awful lot of individual skill but also hundreds of hours dedicated to difficult preparation.”

Korry Harvey

Assistant Director of Forensics

debate topics and personal experience in these discourses were crucial in helping to secure the win for Western's debate team, Harvey said.

Another aspect of Western's debate team that makes them so successful is their elite coaching staff.

“The coaching staff has been absolutely fantastic

upset, it is also important for students to listen to opposing opinions

“It's good to listen, but if they're telling blatant lies, it's very hurtful to many people who need services from Planned Parenthood or from any other health clinic,” Gomez said. “Anyone can have their opinion as long as they're not hurting anyone.” Gomez said she believes it's important to make sure any counter-conversation is as inclusive as possible.

“Something that isn't talked about is that trans men can have abortions,” Gomez said. “I think just having those dialogues, and making sure that all these counter-protests and counter-conversations are including everyone is really important.”

According to Hamrick, Students for Life of America encourages people with different points of view and all backgrounds to attend the event. For this reason, anyone disagreeing with the speaker will get to ask their question first.

“We've had great exchanges at the campuses we've gone to throughout the country,” she said.

Hamrick said this tour is not about reaching across the aisle, but to bring people from a variety of religious and political backgrounds together for one common goal: to end abortion.

“Too many feminists parrot the Victorian, misogynist point of view that women can't multitask and succeed,” Hamrick said. “Old-school feminists say

that women can't succeed in relationships and mothering at home and have a career, so they should stay at work, but women are fully capable of succeeding in all areas of life.”

Last June, Western's Students for Life of America chapter had their chalkings erased. The messages expressed pro-life views and offered resources to women who have had abortions. The organization posted a video of the students involved on YouTube, which received over two thousand views.

Clark Krusemark, a student involved in erasing the messages, said they were confused by the messages at first, but once they read enough of them, it was clear the messages were attempting to lead people

towards certain resources.

“[It's] a terrible thing to do to people,” they said. “Being pregnant is already such a complicated situation regardless of whether you want to have a baby or not.”

According to Krusemark, the resources were heavily religious and anti-abortion.

“I don't think that anyone should be given only one half of the story, or coerced or convinced of what they should be doing, but should be given as much information from as many resources as possible,” they said.

In regards to the protest, Krusemark said the best thing Western students can do is to not make a big deal out of the Students for Life of America event.

WESTERN CLUB KICKS OFF STI AWARENESS MONTH

Planned Parenthood Generation invites medical director to erase stigma around Sexually Transmitted Infections

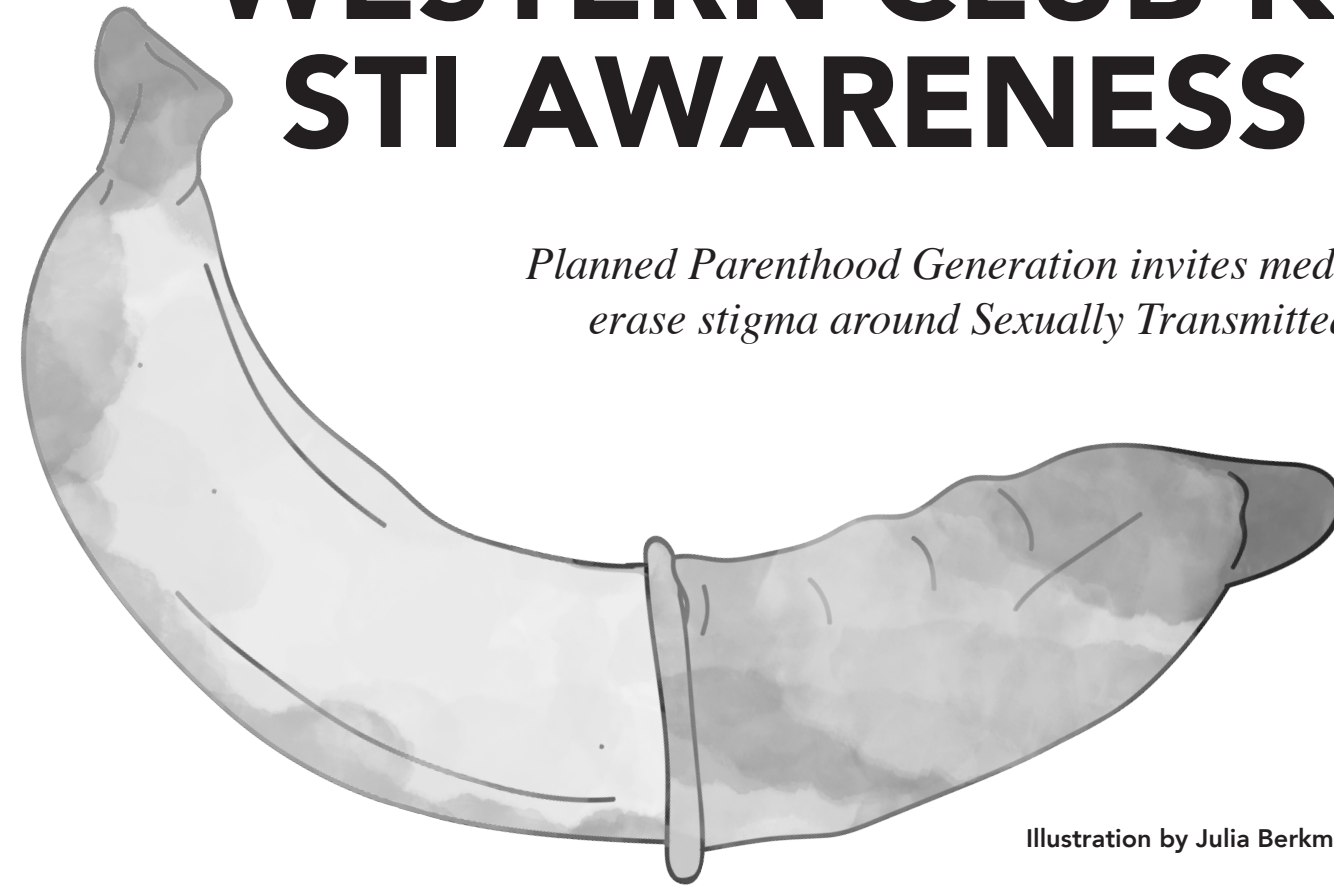


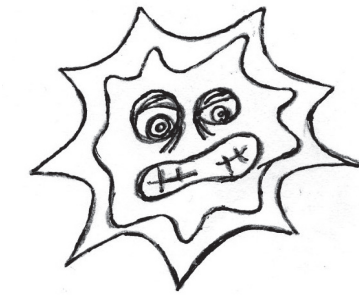
Illustration by Julia Berkman

Jordan Burrell
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western's Planned Parenthood Generation chapter opened their Sexually Transmitted Infections educational event playing “Candy Shop” by 50 Cent on Tuesday April 2, to kick off STI awareness month.

The group addressed when, where and why students should get tested for STIs. So, don't lick that lollipop before you know where it's been.

Sean G. Trafficante, the medical director for Mount Baker Planned Parenthood, answered questions and concerns at the PP Gen.



WOMXN

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Angelica Sanchez, a fourth-year business administration student and member of the collective of womxn of color, said the lack of resources available to womxn of color at Western is rooted in deeper issues of sexism and racism that exist in science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) related fields.

“Historically womxn of color have been underrepresented and unsupported in the business field and there have been many barriers. The importance of this conference is to give us the tools to succeed after our post secondary education as we transition into our future careers, which is important to us to see that womxn of color can be successful in a field that is heavily dominated by white

meeting and addressed the stigmas surrounding STIs.

Trafficante said the negative stigma around STIs and STI testing prevents sexually active adults from discussing them with new partners and getting themselves tested. By speaking at the meeting, he wanted to break down some of the negative feelings students may have about STIs and enable them to make safer choices for their sexual health, he said.

One in two adults get an STI by age 25, according to the American Sexual Health Association, and most are unaware so the risk is high for sexually active college students. One focus of the meeting was the importance of getting tested for STIs regularly.

Trafficante recommended people under 25 get tested once a year since many symptoms often don't show. Trafficante said being tested is the only way to know for sure if someone has an

STI, and cannot be treated without testing. He said common infections, like chlamydia and gonorrhea, are curable.

“You don't need to get tested for everything,” Trafficante said. He told the group that analyzing epidemiology and the type of sexual activity its engaged in helps determine which STIs a person is at risk for. Trafficante said getting tested for what you're mostly likely to have been exposed to is a more effective way to use testing services.

According to Trafficante, a person who engages in receptive anal sex near a major city would be at higher risk for contracting HIV than someone in a small town engaging in vaginal sex. He said not all exposures are of equivalent risk and not all STIs are equally common.

“Going to get tested can be really daunting,” Haley Cable, a social media manager for Planned Parenthood Generation, said.

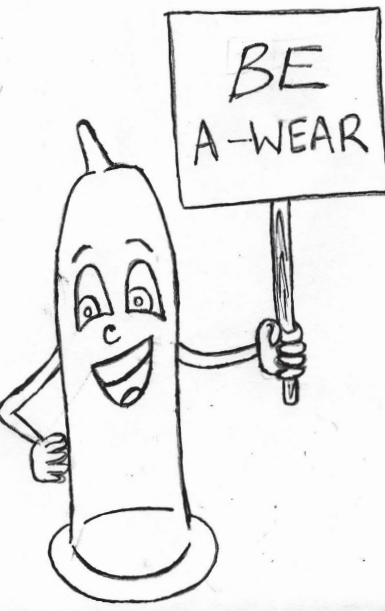
She said having Trafficante, an MD, coming to educate the club helped clear away some of the anxiety and fear students might have about getting tested for STIs. Cable said getting tested is an important part of caring for your health.

The club discussed how one of the biggest shortcomings of young adults in caring for their sexual health is not starting a conversation about STIs with their new partners. Trafficante said there is a huge stigma around STIs and people often feel as if they're implying something negative about their partner if they bring them up. However, he said knowing what you could be exposed to and how recently your partner was last tested can save you a lot of trouble down the road.

Graciela Gomez, another social media manager for the club, said having a clinic MD speak to the club and provide a safe space where members could share their experiences getting tested

helps normalize the process.

Both Cable and Gomez wanted students to know that getting tested is not as scary as some might think and it's a huge way to protect oneself and take responsibility for their sexual health.



Illustrations by Audra Anderson

nizations that value the voice and work of the underrepresented and are constantly striving to innovate, empower and spark the potential of future innovators,” Brunson said.

According to a 2018 report by Lean In, women of color are more underrepresented compared to their white woman counterparts. Women of color only make up 4% of executive positions within the corporate pipeline, while white men make up 68% of those upper-level positions.

Joselyn Chavez, a fourth-year marketing major, said she believes the learning environment in her classes excludes perspectives of womxn of color like her.

“I think representation would be the greatest challenge, being that a majority of our classes are taught by cis white men and their perspectives of globalization and expansion of business some-

times places profit over people,” Chavez said. “The negative impacts of capitalism that affects our communities need to be acknowledged in the classroom and women of color need to be supported and given access to tools that have been systemically withheld from us.”

According to the Viking Funder website, the conference is expected to not only impact these 15 women but the educational communities they associate with, as well as Western's campus as a whole. Any extra financial support from the fundraiser will go directly toward starting a club called The Multicultural Business Scholars Association, which will support students of color in the College of Business and Economics.

“We are set to be recognized as an official club this upcoming week with the Associated Students. The name

right now is the Multicultural Business Scholars Association and with this name we are hoping that it encompasses all multicultural identities,” Sanchez said.

The group also plans on presenting current technology trends learned from the conference to Western faculty and student club leaders when they return, as stated by the Viking Funder website. These will be showcased with the same themes of diversity, equity and inclusion to help Western students stay up-to-date with the growing trends that emerge with more womxn working in the STEAM field.

“Women of color are outpacing other demographics in the attainment of bachelor degrees but need to know the uphill battle is worth the fight, and even if there isn't a seat at the table, there is space to bring their own chair,” Brunson said.

FEMINISTS

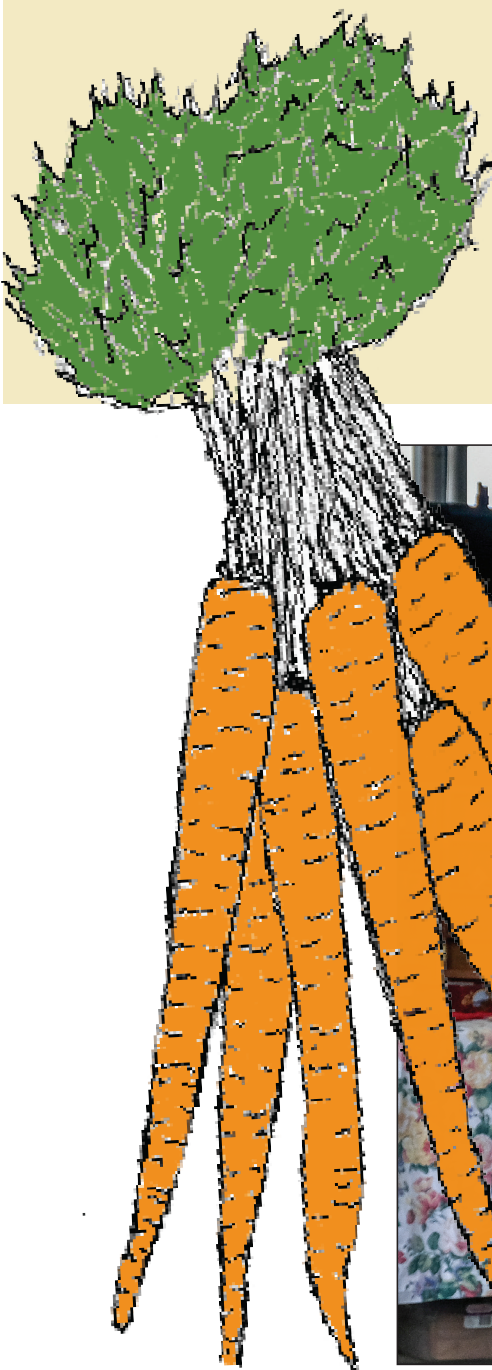
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Hawkins has spoken at many universities around the country, including Harvard University, Dartmouth College, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, and Gonzaga University.

“[The tour] is aiming to ensure that students at universities have an opportunity to hear these points of view, because they may not hear a message of female empowerment from a pro-life perspective in their classrooms,” Hamrick said.

Graciela Gomez, a member of Western's Planned Parenthood Generation club, said while seeing the Students for Life of America event on Facebook made her

WITH SPRING COMES THE RETURN OF THE FARMERS MARKET



Mayor Kelli Linville gives a speech to the crowd before her last cabbage toss as Mayor of Bellingham at the Bellingham Farmers Market on April 6. // Photo by Zachary Jimenez

By Alisha Dixon
THE WESTERN FRONT

A head of cabbage from Broad Leaf Farm was airborne this Saturday, April 6, as Mayor Kelli Linville passed it to her great-nephew. Continuing the cabbage toss tradition, the flying vegetable marked the opening day of the Bellingham Farmers Market.

Vendors, attendees and performers crowded in at Depot Market Square for the market, which has long showcased local Bellingham vendors and food.

The mayor became teary-eyed in an emotional moment before the cabbage toss, as it is the last year she will be serving as mayor of Bellingham.

"The Bellingham Farmers Market

is iconic of the city of Bellingham," Linville said. "If you want to know what people in our community like to do, just look around you."

Linville and farmers market staff explained how the market is an integral part of the Bellingham community.

"This market has done more than help the businesses and the enterprises that participate in the market," Linville said. "It has generated over \$1 million for the businesses within the city and surrounding area. We are thrilled that this market—every Saturday until the end of the year—is going to be giving people a chance to hone their entrepreneurial skills, to sell their great produce and food to our community."

The opening day also welcomed

Lora Liegel as the new director of the Bellingham Farmers Market. Liegel reminisced on visiting the market rain or shine, and said she is excited

new changes to the market this year include opening up a market in Barkley Village to run from June through September.

"We are thrilled that this market—every Saturday until the end of the year—is going to be giving people a chance to hone their entrepreneurial skills, to sell their great produce and food to our community."

Kelli Linville // Mayor of Bellingham

for new beginnings and growth opportunities for the market.

Bellingham Farmers Market Board President Nick Spring said

Vendors lined the Depot Market Square as customers and community members flocked to the market. Sarah Chan, founder of Calypso Kitchen, said the farmers market allows her to share her grandmother's authentic Caribbean recipes with the community and helps grow her business.

"I get to meet everybody and share with people my food," Chan said. "On top of selling the products that I sell, I teach Caribbean cooking classes, so I use the farmers market as a platform to advertise my classes and catering. It's a good platform for marketing, for meeting all the local vendors and getting to know everybody and the food we're eating here. I think it's a really holistic experience."

Chan is passionate about food security and sees that value shared in the farmers market, she said.

"Being around all these farmers and seeing how passionate they are about growing the food, but not just growing the food and selling it, they are passionate about making sure everybody has access to the food," she

that's left over, and I do the same.

I love that about the community we live in," she said.

Community was a shared theme among vendors. Western student Emma FitzGerrell worked her first market with BeeWorks Farm.

"It's really fun to be here and create a community with food," FitzGerrell said.

Navigating the chaos of the market, FitzGerrell said knowing enough about the honey and the bees is im-

bright and sunny—that's the objective."

Inside the covered area of the Depot Market Square, Western alumni Dan Sweaney lined up his glass birds for display. A carpenter at Western for 30 years, he has been passionate about glass art for 45, he said.

When it comes to new goals and expectations for this season at the market, Sweaney said he wants to focus on making affordable glass cylinders.

"I quit my job at Western for a year

"The colors and the designs and being able to express myself and make everything bright and sunny—that's the objective."

Emma FitzGerrell // BeeWorks Farm vendor

portant. People like to know what is happening with their food, especially when it comes to local produce, she said.

While new faces like FitzGerrell worked their first year at the market, Barbara Plaskett has been selling pottery through her business Creative Muds at the market for the last six years.

As an artist, Plaskett said she has a different experience at the market. While some vendors use it to start off a small business, Plaskett uses the market to bring joy into her life, she said. She discovered and found passion in sgraffito, a pottery technique that reveals layers of colors in different decorative designs.

"My day job is dark. When you open up the kiln it's like Christmas every day," Plaskett said. "The colors and the designs and being able to express myself and make everything

and went to Finland, where I learned to make the cylinders," Sweaney said. "Making as many of them as I can—that's what I want to do."

Right across from Sweaney's booth hung handmade shirts, sweatshirts and tote bags under the name Coral Sue.

"I don't use any presses," Coral Sue owner Coral Black said proudly.

All of Black's products start out with her own drawings, inspired mostly by the outdoors, she said. She hand-carves the designs into blocks to use for printing onto her products by hand, she said.

Outside, crowds gathered around the Hot Lunch Sing-Along Fun Band, a group playing songs to raise donations for the Bellingham Food Bank. Consisting of Pam Sennett, Rachael Leedy and Judy Pine, the band played instruments and harmonized to songs like "Yellow Submarine" and "Don't



Daniel Sloan performs with an acrylic ball for a crowd of onlookers at the Bellingham Farmers Market April 6. // Photo by Zachary Jimenez

Worry Be Happy," encouraging others to sing along. Kazoos and percussions were up for grabs for market attendees passing by, a factor that drew in many children to dance and play along.

"I like coming out on a Saturday morning. It seems really peaceful," attendee Kendall Kelly said. "It's cool seeing the things people can create. It's nice being out here in the com-

munity," she said.

The Bellingham Farmers Market runs every Saturday from April through December at the Depot Market Square from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Suzanne Glick spins yarn at the Bellingham Farmers Market. // Photo by Zachary Jimenez



Illustrations by
Audra Anderson



Locals browse vendor stands at farmers market opening day. // Photo by Zachary Jimenez

Dirty Revival shakes up The Shakedown

Portland-based rock and soul band performs in Bellingham

Jordan Shepherd
THE WESTERN FRONT

Dirty Revival, a seven-piece Portland, Oregon band featuring rock and soul sounds, shook up The Shakedown on Friday, April 5.

Hitting the stage at around 9 p.m. and playing until 11:30 p.m., Dirty Revival showcased the talents of the seven musicians playing the saxophone, keyboard, trumpet, guitar, bass and drums, tied together by lead singer Sarah Clarke.

This marked the first time Dirty Revival played The Shakedown, but it was not their first show in the area, Clarke said. The band has played several shows at Wild Buffalo alongside Bellingham bands: Snug Harbor and Baby Cakes.

"I don't think we have ever had a bad show in Bellingham, and I'm hoping that this one will be equally as good as all the rest," Clarke said before the show.

The band played a variety of original songs, such as "Dirty Love," as well as covers from some of their favorite artists including "War Pigs" by Black Sabbath.

"I have seen them a couple of times now, and one thing I always love is the amount of energy they have, and the variety of styles they can play, and how they can take covers of already famous songs and

make them their own," Bellingham resident and concert attendee Kimberly Anderson said.

Event attendee Ciana Deberry said one of the most impressive features of the band was Clarke's vocals and her ability to cover a wide variety of tones and pitches.

"The lead singer's vocals are amazing, the notes she can hit and the way she can use her tone is just beautiful," Deberry said.

The band consists of lead singer Clarke, guitarist and emcee Evan "Evvnflo" Simko, drummer Terry Drysdale, bassist Jon Shaw, keyboardist Ben Turner, tenor saxophonist Chris Hardin and trumpeter Thomas Barber.

Dirty Revival, which formed in 2013, will be turning 6 years old in May, 2019. The band came together slowly but surely, Clarke said.

Clarke went to high school with Drysdale and Hardin and knew the two had been playing music together for fun, she said. Eventually a simple invitation for Clarke to come jam in the basement with the group led to the start of Dirty Revival, she said.

"From there on we just kept going, eventually I think we had 11 people involved," Clarke said. "We started with a house show which was really fun and led to our first real show and second show,



Audience dances as Dirty Revival plays at The Shakedown downtown. On Friday, April 5, 2019. // Photo by Jordan Shepherd

and it kept going from there. As we kept going it was really obvious that our 11-piece band wasn't going to cut it on the road, so we cut it down to what we thought were the key essentials."

Ultimately the band settled on its seven members and was discovered by the owner of Dutch Records, Scott Lublink, Clarke said.

"I started working with Dirty Revival about a year ago," Lublink said. "I had been a big fan of them for

some time, and I was a buyer for a whiskey festival in town. One of the years I booked them and since then we have been friends."

With his knowledge and the connections Lublink had made over the years, he decided to start his own record label, he said.

"[Dirty Revival] was the first band I approached when I started reaching out because I knew how great they were and how much potential they have to be something

big," Lublink said.

Dirty Revival released their self-titled debut album in 2015 and has since released singles throughout the last couple of years.

Dirty Revival is currently on tour until the end of August and will be traveling to Oregon, Washington, California, Idaho, Iowa and Minnesota.

It is important to those running the gallery, such as Gallery Director Claireasa

Student artists present their creations at the B Gallery

Claire Ott
THE WESTERN FRONT

On Monday, April 8, Western's B Gallery opened its new exhibit "Much Improved" to the public eye. Located in the Art Annex, the show is held in a small, well-lit room which displays the work of Suzie Marco, Hank Reavis, Lily Foss and Riley Itano.

The B Gallery is a student-run exhibition space, advised by Ryan Kelly, a ceramics professor for the Department of Art & Art History, which organizes a variety of exhibits displayed throughout the year. The group is entirely volunteer-based and provides students, staff and faculty of all areas of study with the opportunity to display their creations in a professional setting.

The gallery experience allows students to build up their resume in a way that feels less high-pressure than an off-campus establishment may, said gallery publicity coordinator Newt Warren.

Once involved, gallery volunteers have the ability to tell potential employers they have had hands-on experience with running a gallery, and the artists are able to say that their work has been featured in a real exhibit.

It is important to those running the gallery, such as Gallery Director Claireasa

Golden, that it remains a space where the members of campus are given a chance to hone the skills they've learned in their classes and from their peers.

"We want it to be a Western experience; not a Bellingham experience," Golden said.

The gallery is hoping to obtain more funding in order to maintain its purpose of providing campus members with professional gallery experience by fall of 2020. Currently receiving \$250 per school year, according to Claireasa, the B Gallery is long overdue for new ceilings, as the current ceiling is water damaged. The volunteers have a variety of other adjustments they'd like to make to the room in hopes of improving the experience for campus members in the future.

Warren noted how while artists have the capacity to collaborate, the showroom does not have a specific theme.

"All of the artists curate the show themselves," she said.

Having been around for nearly a decade, the gallery has had submissions from students of multiple majors. The gallery encourages artists of all kinds to apply, including those who have pursued differing programs. Since



Suzie Marco and Hank Reavis stand next to their fabric playing cards. // Photo by Claire Ott

these projects are not created for a class or grade, the group encourages all to take advantage of the opportunity.

They are also accepting applications for new volunteers to help direct, prepare and publicize future events for the 2019-2020 school year that are due May 5 at midnight.

Hours upon hours of care are put into these events by all who are involved in the process; the artists have bonded over their shared experience of working with each other on these pieces, according to Itano, a third-year student.

Being that all four of them are currently enrolled in the same program, the students have been able to strengthen their connection with each other even further than they'd be able to if they mere-

ly shared a campus.

While all of them have their own distinct style, there is a sense of unison throughout the exhibit that can be noted upon viewing.

"We didn't start making the show from the standpoint of having a central theme across all of the works. We're a group of friends and we always interact with each other while making stuff. We bounce ideas off of each other, and we knew that we wanted to work together on something," Itano said.

He mentioned that all four artists admire the other's artistic style. Itano mentioned that in working together, the artists were able to learn from one another and refine their skills in areas that are less commonly displayed in the fine art community, such



Riley Itano, an artist showcasing his work in "Much Improved," observes the gallery. // Photo by Claire Ott

CO-OP

continued from page 1

in town," Subedar said. "Where people feel safe to shop there, people of color especially, so that they have access to healthy food and groceries that are there, just like everybody else."

The complaint says Dam was deprived of accommodations provided by the Co-op to members who are white.

"The Community Food Co-operative strives to be an inclusive and welcoming environment for everyone. While we are unable to comment on pending litigation, we are saddened to hear a customer that had a poor experience in one of our stores. We take all customer concerns seriously and have been actively engaged in training and education since the original complaint in 2017," outreach manager Amy Esary said in their official statement.

The Co-op promotes on their website striving towards a goal of equity, diversity and inclusion through their strategic plan. They say they challenge systems of oppression and their effects on their business and the community.

The complaint states 10 causes of action, facts that if true provide a right to sue and would justify Dam and Nyman's right to compensation. They also request the Co-op take necessary steps to prevent future discrimination of customers.

According to the complaint,

the Co-op's actions allegedly violated the Civil Rights Act of 1866 and 1964, the Washington Law Against Discrimination and the Consumer Protection Act. It also includes torts such as breach of contract, defamation, intentional infliction of emotional distress and negligent supervision.

In the complaint, Dam alleges junior store manager Britany Wahlberg, senior store manager Wynne Marks and the Co-op discriminated against and racially profiled her by accusing her of stealing from the store.

According to the complaint, in March of 2017, Dam and Nyman went to The Community Food Co-op Cordata, 315 Westerly Rd., for dinner at the hot bar and to use a soon-to-be-expired member coupon for groceries. While shopping, Dam used the store restroom to try a face-cream sample but was confronted by Wahlberg, according to the complaint.

The junior manager allegedly accused Dam of putting a pastry in her pocket and bringing it into the restroom in an attempt to steal it. The complaint reads, "Wahlberg told Ms. Dam, 'You have to come with me.'"

Dam said Wahlberg then escorted her into the cafe and eating area, where Marks allegedly wrongly accused her of theft. The only merchandise Dam brought into the restroom was the face cream sample, Subedar said.

The complaint says Dam was

never given a chance to defend herself. Stunned and feeling powerless, Nyman watched as his wife was humiliated, according to the complaint.

The couple was prevented from accessing store goods and services granted to other customers, the complaint states. Subedar said Dam and her family have not returned to the Co-op since.

"It was just too traumatic [for them]," Subedar said. "They have not gone back to the store."

On their website, the Co-op offers an online form to report incidents that break their Anti-bias, Harassment, and Racial Profiling Policy. The page in-

cludes a definition of racial or biased-based profiling, that reads "stopping and questioning an individual or identifying that individual as a potential suspect of criminal activity, without justification, and solely due to their perceived or actual ethnic origin, disability, or other characteristic protected by Federal or State law."

The complaint says the discrimination was due to Dam's race and/or national origin. But the complaint itself does not include support for a discrimination claim.

"I think we need to base [the reason for discrimination] off the experience of the person

that actually was confronted with this goes by, from this person's account," Subedar said. "That's what profiling is—you are going out of your way to say certain people are stealing when you don't have a credible basis for it necessarily, you know by just looking at them."

Subedar said it seems like there was no other reason to accuse Dam of theft besides racial or ethnic profiling.

Dam and Nyman have requested a trial by jury, Subedar said. Senior U.S. District Judge Marsha J. Pechman is assigned to the case. A court date has not yet been set.



The Community Food Co-op in Cordata on April 2, 2019. The Co-op is currently in a pending civil rights lawsuit with two of its members. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin

Alaska ferry route closure could cost community

The \$100 million-budget-cut to the Alaska Marine Highway System may cost Whatcom County \$4.2 million in annual revenue from ferry traffic

Colin Murphy
THE WESTERN FRONT

Alaska's State Legislature has proposed budget cuts that may end ferry travel from Bellingham to Alaska, worrying some Whatcom County officials about the potential impacts on Bellingham.

The nearly \$100 million cut for the Alaska Marine Highway System budget would eliminate

ferry travel to Alaska from Bellingham as soon as September, according to the governor's proposed budget and current ferry schedules. In response, members of the Whatcom County Council approved a resolution in late March in support of maintaining the routes which, according to the resolution, is the only marine link between the lower 48 states and Alaska.

According to council member Satpal Sidhu, who proposed

the resolution to the Whatcom County Council, this decision shows the short-sidedness of the Legislature in Alaska. Federal involvement in maintaining the routes is necessary if Alaska wants to balance its deficit, Sidhu said.

"If an I-5 bridge fails and we put federal and state money into it as everybody goes crazy—how come this bridge is falling and nobody is paying attention to that?" Sidhu said. "It's just like another bridge on the highway."

According to Port of Bellingham spokesperson, Mike Hogan, approximately 20,000 passengers use the ferry to and from Alaska each year. According to a Whatcom County economic impact study from 2013, the revenue from ferry traffic generates an estimated \$4.2 million annually.

Hogan said in an email that he believes eliminating the Alaska Marine Highway System would negatively impact the economies of both Washington and Alaska.

"For 30 years, the Alaska Marine Highway's service to Bellingham has strengthened the economic relationship between

our two regions and provided a vital transportation link for residents, visitors and businesses," Hogan said.

"There are a lot of business people, small business people, who depend on the ferry," Sidhu said. "There are small contractors who are in these coastal communities, building contractors, services contractors whose business will be disrupted."

Sandy Ward, CEO of Bellingham Whatcom County Tourism, is concerned about the impact Fairhaven merchants would feel due to the loss of tourism connected to the ferry route.

"These are people who potentially could spend a night in a hotel, eating in restaurants or shopping in stores," Ward said.

The resolution states that the Alaska Marine Highway System supports a number of direct and indirect family wage jobs, in both Bellingham and the many coastal communities in Alaska who rely on the ferry connection.

The resolution expressed equal concern for the coastal communities in Alaska who would be affected by the closure.

One of the concerns on behalf of Alaska's communities is the

large number of residents who use the ferry to access the healthcare, medical services and expertise in Bellingham and Seattle, where air travel ranges from expensive to inaccessible.

According to a memorandum from Alaska's Gov. Mike Dunleavy, an effort to examine alternatives for the Alaska Marine Highway such as privatization of the ferry routes is currently underway.

Currently, the Whatcom County Council is drafting a letter to the Alaska's State Legislature to reconsider the elimination of routes this fall, according to Sidhu.

The Bellingham Herald reports that for trips between Alaska and Bellingham, the regular service will remain through the end of September. However, as of right now, no vessels are scheduled to run past October 2019.

According to the 2013 study, The Port of Bellingham built the Bellingham Cruise Terminal for \$10.3 million to handle ferry traffic in 1989. So far there are no plans for alternative uses of the terminal, according to Sidhu.

The singular 'they' isn't going away

One of the first things we're taught as children is the golden rule: treat someone how they'd like to be treated. It's a simple rule, and nearly as vague as it is plain. However, it seems this concept doesn't stick with us into adulthood the way our elementary school teachers hoped it would.

Those same elementary school teachers, now in their late 50s and 60s, are part of a generation struggling to understand a fairly new concept: the use of they/them pronouns.

Linguistically, using the singular they when you're talking about someone isn't new, and even further, it's becoming a commonly accepted pronoun to describe someone, even once you know their gender. Even Dictionary.com is on board with the usage of singular they.

So, it's time for people from all generations to get accustomed to using they. Not only is it at the forefront of linguistic development in English speakers, but it also serves another really important purpose: when you write off using someone's correct pronouns, when you make excuses for why you can't change your vernacular, you're chipping away at their humanity bit by bit.

Getting someone's pronouns wrong isn't like getting their name wrong—a study by Kevin McLemore in 2014

showed that misgendering someone can make them less confident in their identity and their appearance. The same study also found that non-binary people—that is, people who usually use the singular they—are misgendered at a higher rate than trans men or trans women.

Non-binary people have heard all the excuses from their loved ones: they were taught not to use singular they, it's too hard, it's too new. While it's true this switch is harder for older generations, that's not a free pass to misgender their non-binary peers, but rather an indication that they should be working harder.

Everyone, regardless of age or education, should be expected to at least do non-binary people the courtesy of trying their best.

How can people get more used to using they/them pronouns?



Christina NGO
Business/Marketing

"If you get corrected on it, don't take it personally. I feel like it's always okay to ask for pronouns if you're unsure, or like if you don't want to assume anything they/them is a very general used one. And if you're unsure, just always ask the person if you can."



Alberto Rodriguez Escobedo
Interim Coordinator for Equity and Identity Resource Centers

"I think a lot of times people only use they/them pronouns when they encounter someone who actually uses it, but they don't actually practice it outside of that space... like changing a lot of the gendered words that you use outside of the spaces to just attribute it to they/them/theirs."



Emmy Gregg
Undeclared

"By having a moment of hesitation before they say something and being more considerate. Definitely ask questions because you don't want to misgender someone."



Marie Sullivan
Communications

"When you do getting to know you activities in the beginning of class a lot of teachers have started to ask what's your preferred pronoun so I think that's one of the best ways to get to know that."

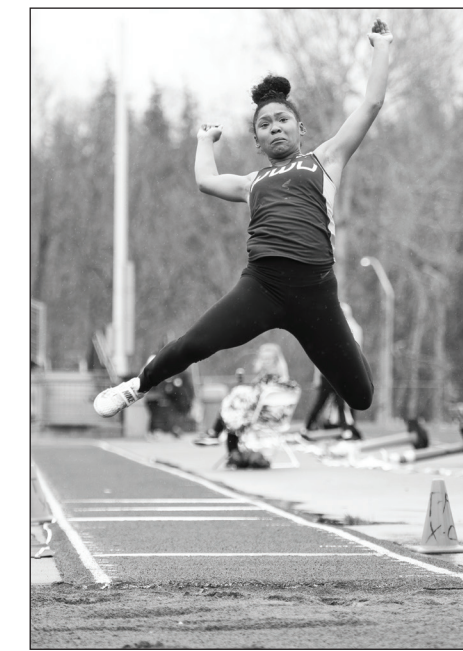
Compiled by Kayla Sousa

Through rain and wind, Western's annual track & field meet is still a go

Western's track & field found ways to win at their first home meet leading to a men's first-place finish and women's second



Long distance runner Sophia Galvez competes in the 1500 meter race at the WWU Team Invite at Civic Stadium. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin



Long jumper Lainnie Lyamba competes at WWU Team Invitational. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin

Aryonna Willoughby

Western's track and field team competed against the weather along with three other schools at their first home meet of the season on Friday, April 5 at Civic Stadium.

Heavy rain and strong winds plagued the majority of the meet, causing technical difficulties with the automatic timing system, leading to some events being temporarily delayed. However, that didn't stop both the Western men's and women's track teams from delivering solid performances at the 2nd Annual WWU Team Invitational.

The men's team took first place decisively with 248.5 points, beating the

University of British Columbia who had the next closest score with 189 points, as well as Saint Martin's University, and Seattle Pacific University. The women's team took second place with 184.5 points, closely falling behind UBC (211), but winning over Saint Martin's and Seattle Pacific who won 101.5 and 50 points, respectively.

"Some really good things [happened] and they competed well, and that's what this meet was about. It was more about the competition," Western's track and field head coach Pee Wee Halsell said of his team's efforts. "We'd love to get the times too, but it just wasn't the day to get all the great performances, but we did have some

great performances."

Halsell also noted the impressive performances of second-year long-jumper Seren Dances and first-year sprinter Karlington Anunagba.

Dances won the men's long-jump with a distance of 7.07 meters followed by first-year Ethan Sterkel, jumping a distance of 7.01 meters, a new personal record. Dances and Sterkel are ranked second and third, respectively, in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference.

Anunagba sprinted away with first place in the men's 100-meter dash with a time of 10.77 seconds, the sixth-fastest time in Western's history, according to the team's webpage. Anunagba is top-ranked in the GNAC and ranked in the top 50 in the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II.

Viking fourth-year Jacob Ringold secured a first-place win and second best mark in the GNAC in the triple-jump with a distance of 13.86 meters.

On the women's team, third-year Lexi Perry vaulted 3.55 meters in the pole vault, winning the event and becoming the ninth-best pole vaulter in Western's history, according to the team's webpage.

Second-year Talia Dreicer won the 3,000-meter steeplechase with a time of 10 minutes 58.11 seconds, recording an NCAA II provisional mark and earning the fifth-best mark in program history and in the GNAC.

Third-year Chanelle Eddy dominated on multiple fronts, winning the shot put with a throw of 12.52-meters, a new personal record, and clinching first place in the discus with a toss of 44.01-meters.

Western's javelin throwers also earned top marks at the meet, despite battling strong winds.

"I think we did pretty much as well as we could provided the weather, the wind especially. It was kind of a perpendicular wind for us, which isn't great for javelin throwing. That's probably the worst kind of wind you can have," first-year Paige Shimkus said.

Shimkus won the event with a throw of 43.48 meters and third-year Raquel Pel-lecer came in second with 42.57 meters.

"We were all a happy 20 to 10 feet under what we could probably hit on a better day, but you know, it's a sport and it's part of it," Shimkus said.

The athletes enjoyed competing at home for the first time this season, in lieu of the April showers.

"I think we did pretty much as well as we could provided the weather, the wind especially. It was kind of a perpendicular wind for us, which isn't great for javelin throwing. That's probably the worst kind of wind you can have."

Paige Shimkus Javelin

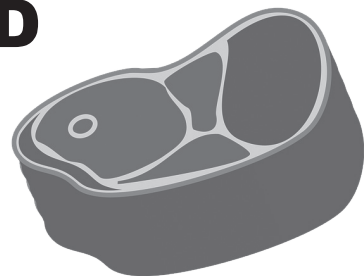
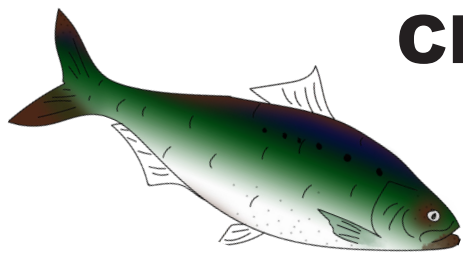
"It feels good to see more familiar faces because it's easy for people to come and support us," second-year Natalie Vetto said.

The team's next and final home meet of the season is set to take place on April 26-27.

Until then, the Vikings will once again take the track this Saturday, April 13, at the Jay Hammer Track and Field Meet hosted by Saint Martin's in Lacey.

The Western Front Editorial Board is composed of Julia Berkman, Laura Place and Stella Harvey

FISH STILL ISN'T MEAT CHANGE MY MIND



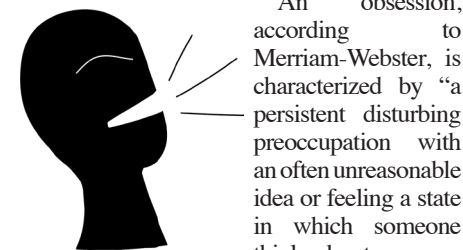
Well, none of you managed to do it last week. Try to change my mind by emailing your short response to westernfrontonline@gmail.com. If you change my mind, your response will be printed in next week's issue!

Illustrations by Julia Berkman

GUEST EDITORIAL

Obsession, Expectation and Disappointment

Western and its diversity problem, as told by a former student, now professor



or something constantly or frequently, especially in a way that is not normal."

Would it be unreasonable to think of Western's historical fascination with diversity—or rather the blatant absence of it throughout campus—as a sort of obsession?

Surely, as a foreign-born Latino who has made his professional career on three continents, and as a member of a multicultural, trilingual family, I am more than aware of the potential advantageous possibilities that a diverse environment has to offer. Thus, what have been the concrete measures undertaken by the institution to achieve its self-declared goal of attracting and keeping a more diverse student body, faculty and staff?

I first came to Western from Chile as an international student in 1997 and returned exactly 10 years later to serve as an instructor in the department of communication studies until 2010. I then moved to France, where I taught while I completed my doctoral work in political science, sociology and education.

And so, today I find myself back at Western once again, this time as a visiting assistant professor, in charge of courses on identity, difference and intercultural communication. To my rather ambivalent surprise I was confronted with the same all-too-familiar angst among colleagues, administrators, staff and of course students—as evidenced by the

demonstrations that have periodically taken place on campus.

Despite its best efforts over the last 20 years, Western seems to have continued to fail in diversifying its predominantly white, domestic and upper-middle class constituency. Surely, and even if at a rather painfully sluggish pace, the university has improved its record on this matter. Yet, it is precisely the gross disparity between the scarcity of results and the great expectations conveyed by the pervasive official discourse of the last three administrations. The waves of consultations, initiatives, training programs, and the successive awareness—and PR—campaigns, have highlighted a serious dissonance problem... so, who or what is to blame?

I regularly hear ... the frustration among minorities—whether faculty, staff or students—feeling ever identified and defined, but seldom heard or seen: invisible.

Immediately after my arrival to Western, at the beginning of the quarter, I decided to consult with colleagues and administrators to both introduce myself and speak with them about these very issues. I also requested a meeting with President Sabah Randhawa early in the Quarter, but as of today my solicitation has not been answered.

To my surprise, while I expected to find a more welcoming environment for an educator with my academic, racial and ethnic credentials—a sort of "brown unicorn",

judging by the almost desperate official discourse in favor of inclusion and diversity across campus—I found rather a mixture of confusion and indifference; something that later I came to identify as "invisibility."

In other words, even though the language used by many on campus—as well as on posters, banners, and the university's website—seems to indicate Western's resolute commitment to seek people like myself. I felt neglected, as if the institution just didn't know what to make of me or do with me. And now, I regularly hear colleagues and staff heading hiring committees complain, for instance, about the difficulties of bringing in minority candidates to fill competitive vacancies; or the frustration among minorities—whether faculty, staff or students—feeling ever identified and defined, but seldom heard or seen: invisible. Paradoxically, it seems, the very guidelines designed by the institution to improve its paltry record on inclusion, somehow make the task more difficult.

Even though just about everyone seems certain about the desperate need for a more heterogeneous campus, the increased normalization of these issues in the public conversation are, without a doubt, a welcome improvement towards the recognition of historically marginalized groups. They have also created a climate of rhetorical confusion: an increasingly dangerous intellectual and political stiffness. Western has yet to open itself to an honest and candid debate about the significance and consequences of its expressed commitment to diversify. To do this, we must be ready to face and confront the inescapable contradictions and discomfort that these very complex issues entail.

- Max Barahona, Visiting Assistant Professor

CLAUDIO MONTEVERDI'S

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Rough start for men's soccer at spring exhibition

Midfielder Teagan Eldrige taking the ball up field. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin

Christopher Smith
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Western men's soccer team began the 2019 spring season with a 0-1 loss Friday night at Robert S. Harrington Field against University of the Fraser Valley in an exhibition match.

Both defenses played tough throughout the game, primarily in the first half. Fraser Valley was able to score the game's only goal on a penalty kick just 3 minutes into the second half. The Vikings moved the ball up the field but came up short in finding the back of the net despite some close shots.

Head coach Greg Brisbon said he was glad to be back on the field for the exhibition game after the long off-season. He said he feels good about the team's outlook for this spring.

"It was good to see them play. It's been a while, so that's my favorite thing about it," Brisbon said. "We're trying to get better from the fall, get guys minutes that haven't played a lot to see where they're at and then just try to work on things that can get us to the next step next fall."

Third-year midfielder Drew Farnsworth said he was ready to take the field again with his teammates with some

goals in mind.

"It's really good. Good to get a feel of the guys who don't play too much and get a run in," Farnsworth said. "Just get as many guys on the field as possible and improve from there."

Fourth-year forward Ryan Schaefer said he was excited to be back in the competitive environment after several months off.

"It's great. It's a break when you end in November so you are waiting five months to actually do something competitive," Schaefer said. "It's a lot of anticipation and just feels good to get the legs out."

Schaefer also knew what it would take for the Vikings to accomplish all of their goals this season.

"It's going to take a lot of work. You're only allocated a certain amount of hours on the field so it's going to take us doing some things on our own and getting everyone behind the same message," Schaefer said.

The Vikings season continues with a road matchup against Trinity Western University on Wednesday, April 10. Viking fans can see the team again April 13 for their next home match against the University of Washington.

Perfect run by softball team through Tournament of Champions

Viking softball becomes first team from GNAC to record an undefeated record in the 18-year history of tournament

Colton Rasanen
THE WESTERN FRONT

On March 31, 2019, the Vikings made history as they became the first team in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference to go undefeated in the Tournament of Champions in 18 years. The tournament hosted 27 teams in Turlock, California the weekend of March 29-31.

Each team played five games over the entire weekend. Out of the 27 teams only three went undefeated in their entire run.

The tournament placement was determined on a run difference, which placed the Vikings in second place behind only Sonoma State University.

Emily Benson, first basemen, was excited to find out the team had done so well

in the tournament.

"It gave us some confidence knowing that we can really compete with anyone in our region," Benson said.

This was Benson's last time at this tournament with the Vikings, and she said that she wanted to just soak in every moment.

Benson's teammate Brooke Fesenbek, third basemen, was experiencing this tournament for the first time. Fesenbek was ecstatic that she got to begin her college softball career with success of this level.

Benson and Fesenbek agreed that their first game they played was the most challenging for their team. They played against California State University San Bernardino at 9 a.m.

"Getting that win was super important, but it was a challenge and we had to play a really clean 8 innings to win it," Benson said.

They beat San Bernardino 2-1 with a one final run scored in the eighth inning.

While the tournament was a challenging outing for the Vikings, it was also a memorable experience for the team.

Game four was the standout game in some of the players' memory. They played California State University Monterey Bay at 7 p.m. and managed a shutout of 7-0.

For Benson, it was the feeling of playing a night game under the lights that made it great. For Fesenbek, it was the plays the team was able to make.

"Our second basemen Kira Doan made a great catch in foul territory and turn

around to throw a girl out at the plate," Fesenbek said. She said after that the energy of the team in the dugout was jacked.

Fesenbek said that this tournament success has given the team a huge confidence boost going into the second half of conference play.

The Vikings placed 22 positions higher than Central Washington University in the tournament. This was exciting because Central is the only team in the GNAC placed higher than Western.

"It definitely gave us confidence in ourselves and showed us how successful we can be this season," pitcher Makinlee Sellevold said. "We still need to show up playing our game every opportunity we get, but I am so excited to see what this team can accomplish together."