

# THE WESTERN FRONT

Volume 187, Issue 3

Wednesday, April 17th, 2019

## High lead levels found in water within multiple Western buildings, surveys say

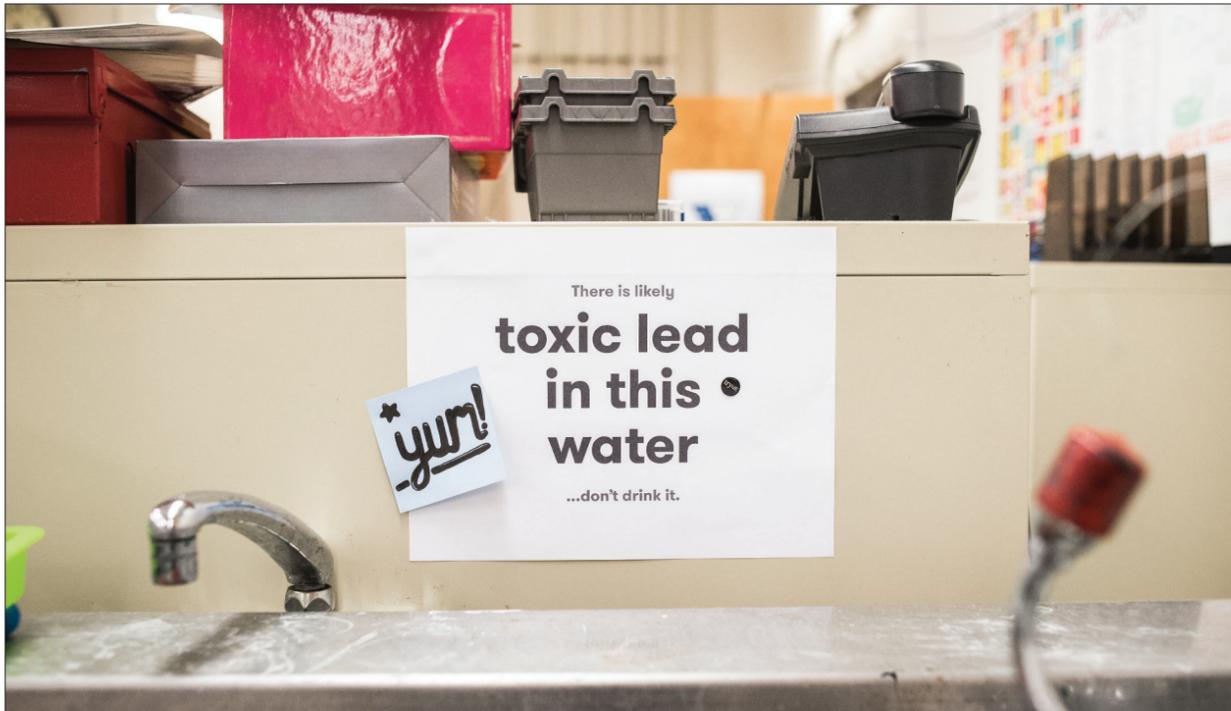
Results from 2008 and 2013 surveys show lead levels exceeding federal standard, with new study in the works

Nate Sanford for  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Data from surveys conducted over the past decade shows an unusually high amount of lead in water sampled from multiple buildings across Western's campus. According to Sue Sullivan, the director of Western's Environmental Health and Safety office, some of the contaminated faucets and fountains have been replaced, while others have been affixed with signs directing safe usage.

Many of the fixtures have lead levels that are not high enough to be over the federal limit, but are still unusually high. In some cases, information regarding the amount of lead contamination was not made directly available to students.

The EHS office is currently working on plans for another campus-wide survey that, ac-



A sign warning students about dangers in the water sits above a sink in the print lab of the Fine Arts building on April 16. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin

According to Sullivan, will take place sometime in the next year. They are working with an outside consultant to help them determine both how the

survey will be conducted, and how much information about the lead will be provided.

First-year Kaleigh Carroll initially learned

about the lead during winter quarter, after she took a break from her geology 101 lab to get some water. Carroll said she drinks a lot of water ev-

ery day, frequently using the drinking fountains on campus to fill up her Hydro Flask.

see LEAD, page 8

## CANDIDATES ANNOUNCED FOR UPCOMING AS ELECTION

JORDAN BURRELL  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Campaign season has hit Western's campus for the Associated Students Executive Board election. The candidates in the running for next year's positions were officially announced on Friday, April 12.

AS Executive Board elections will open Monday, April 29, and will last through Friday, May 3, according to AS Elections Coordinator Alec Willis.

Willis said this year's elections will be more competitive than those of previous years because multiple positions have two or more candidates in the running. He said he also anticipates this enthusiasm for student government to be reflected in voter turnout.

Students can cast their votes online and at various polling stations on ballots

see ELECTION, page 3

## IN FULL BLOOM

Read the story online at  
westernfrontonline.com



A girl walks through a field after picking a tulip at the Rroozengaarde during the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival Friday April 12. // Photo by Zachary Jimenez

## President Randhawa and Melynda Huskey release new updates regarding student demands

Crista Blowers  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western's Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services Melynda Huskey sent a public statement via email addressing the university's most recent efforts for advancing campus inclusivity.

According to the statement, Huskey and Western's President Sabah Randhawa, met with student groups, employees and leaders, who voiced the needs for many underrepresented communities at Western.

"We want to make sure these needs — some operational, others systemic — are addressed in an effective manner going forward and that we are fully transparent

about the work," the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion website stated.

The email sent on Tuesday, April 9 included a progress report outlining immediate and long term projects regarding student concerns.

According to Western's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion website, nine projects have been completed to address student needs from the 2017-2018 academic year to winter quarter of 2019.

"There is a great deal of work going on in academic departments, in administrative offices and colleges and in ESS as well, and this timeline does not begin to address all of that

see DIVERSITY, page 5

### Associated Students Executive Board Candidates

#### AS President

Lani DeFiesta  
Abdul - Malik Ford

#### AS VP for Diversity

Yesugen Battsengel  
Josiah Scott

#### AS VP for Sustainability

Jesse Bass  
Trevor Mullins  
Crow Chloupek

#### AS VP for Governmental

Astrid Dueñas  
Tatum Eames  
Grace Drechsel.

#### AS VP for Activities

Selome Zerai

#### Senate Pro-Tempore

Adah Barenburg

#### AS VP for Student Services

Emily Gerhardt

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## INSIDE:

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Whatcom County sexual assault audit released

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Korean Student Association holds fifth annual Heritage Dinner

## Sports pg. 11

Jordan Lee's golfing skills are un-par-alleled

## Opinion pg. 9

Are you celebrating 420 conscientiously?



Elijah Kirk, 22, left, and Spencer Wirtz, 20, right, warm up together for the Saber Duel on Friday, April 12. // Photo by Hailey Hoffman

### Check out these events this week!

**APRIL 17** Free Yoga | 4 p.m. VU 464  
Resume S.O.S | 6 p.m. SMATE LRC  
90's Night | 21+ 9 p.m. Wild Buffalo \$2 for Students

**APRIL 18** Spring Career Fair | 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Rec. Center M.A.C.  
Science and Social Justice Presentation | 6 p.m. Fraser Hall  
Reading and Writing Workshop | 6 p.m. Fraser Hall

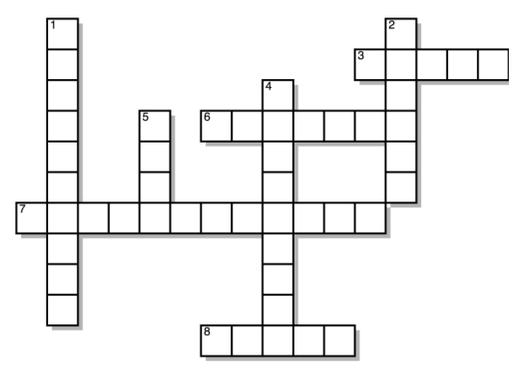
**APRIL 19** Ping Pong Club Hangout | 4 p.m. Fairhaven Lounge  
Softball WWU vs Western Oregon | 1 p.m. Harrington Field  
Soccer WWU vs Peninsula College | 7 p.m. Harrington Field

**APRIL 20** Petty or Not | 21+ 9 p.m. Wild Buffalo \$10  
Bellingham Farmers Market | 10 a.m. 110 Railroad Ave.  
Earth Day Work Party | 8 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Fairhaven Park

**APRIL 21** Sinful Sunday | 21+ 8 p.m. Wild Buffalo  
Free Sailing | 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lakewood Boat House

**APRIL 22** Free Yoga | 4 p.m. VU 464  
Capoeira Club Practice | 6 p.m. VU 565

**APRIL 23** Teaching English workshop | 5 p.m. Miller Hall 105  
Artificial Intelligence Association meeting | 6 p.m. Parks Hall 228  
Joy of Tacos! | 21+ 7:30 p.m. Boundary Bay



- ACROSS**
- 3 First name of all-pink candidate
  - 6 Bridge named for confederate general
  - 7 Western's previous president
  - 8 EDM Alum
- DOWN**
- 1 Bar frequented by serial killers
  - 2 Viking's first name
  - 4 Western has the state's largest \_\_\_\_\_ collection
  - 5 # of publications on campus

**Last week's answers:**  
**ACROSS:** 2. KUGS 3. Bond Hall 5. Randhawa 9. Princess Nokia 11. Lowrider 12. Wade King 14. Bricks 15. Voyeur  
**DOWN:** 1. Parking 4. Anthropology 6. Alma Clark 7. MCC 8. AS

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**Corrections**

- In the story titled "Pursuing a seat at the table" a quote was incorrectly attributed to Joselyn Chavez
- In the story titled "Faculty Senate discusses use of racial slurs" an email statement attributed to the Associated Students should be attributed to the At-Large Student Senators.
- In the story titled "With spring comes the return of the farmers market" a quote attributed to Emma FitzGerald should have been attributed to Barbara Plaskett.

## New apartments planned for 32nd Street

Architects describe plans for two new complexes, The Ridge and 500 Square

**Julia Vassallo**  
 THE WESTERN FRONT

Smith, the project's architect, said. "We will start the construc-

Two new apartment complexes called 500 Square and The Ridge are in the process of being installed on 32nd Street for student and family housing. 500 Square is a proposed student housing unit to be built at the intersection of 32nd Street and Ferry Avenue by Pomeroy Court Apartments. "We are still in the permitting stage so we cannot say much," Simon Johnson, landlord of 500 Square, said. "We are looking for a completion date around July 2020." The Ridge is currently under construction next door to 500 Square's site, and units are expected to be available September 2019. The Ridge units start at \$1,000. Their design features balconies and a parking lot and is located right across from a bus stop. 500 Square, a five minute drive to Western, will have 66 units with 24 three-bedroom units and 42 two-bedroom units. The project has a total of 120 units to be approved by the city. "I started designing this project around November and December of last year," Michael



Illustration by Audra Anderson

tion sometime this summer." Pomeroy Court hosted a public meeting, led by Smith, on March 26 at Lowell Elementary School to give the public a rundown of the project from a design standpoint. Only a few people showed up with questions, according to Smith. "There were concerns expressed about eliminating the additional parking and stormwater," Smith said. "I believe that we need to move away from building big parking garages, but the city code requires that we need to put in a specific amount of parking spots." Stormwater runoff from a project must be captured and treated before going into public stormwater drains, according to the Washington State Department of Ecology. "We are capturing all of the stormwater coming down Ferry Avenue and putting it into a pre-treatment system," Smith said. "We will be treating the stormwater off of our site, which is a huge benefit to the water quality of Bellingham Bay." Bellingham City Council member Michael Lilliquist suggested adding more unit storage space in the building design to accommodate every individual's needs. "I would like to see a project that appeals to a broader range of potential residents, rather than being aimed at just the college student market," Lilliquist said. "Without storage, a small apartment is a pain for those who need storage for recreational gear, seasonal items, holiday decorations, hobbies, mementos and family possessions." Wendy Scherrer, a community member, expressed concerns about the dangers of street and pedestrian traffic around the complex. "Of most concern is the pedestrian, bike and car interactions around 32nd Street and Ferry Avenue, because there is no safe crosswalk for pedestrians and bikers," Scherrer said. "I believe there needs to be a traffic study to determine solutions to the busy intersection there." Though community members have expressed concerns about design flaws, the aesthetics of the building design has unique aspects. "The city challenged me to create an iconic and striking entry at the intersection," Smith said. "I think I have succeeded."

Read more online at [westernfrontonline.com](http://westernfrontonline.com)

### ELECTION

continued from page 1

using ranked-choice format, which means voters can rank multiple candidates running for the same position in order of preference. If the voter's first-choice candidate does not win the majority vote, then their vote will go to their second choice, then their third and so on, Willis said at the candidates meeting. There have been a few positions added to the AS Executive Board as well as some eliminations. The VP for Academic Affairs position has been eliminated and turned into the Senate Pro-Tempore which facilitates the Student Senate and acts as a segway between the Senate and the Executive Board, said Willis. Additionally, the VP for Student Life position has been split into two separate positions: the new VP for Sustainability and the VP for Student Services. This is meant to provide a stronger focus on environmental, economically and culturally sustainable practices at Western. The VP for Student Services will make sure students are aware of and can utilize services the AS funds, such as the Outdoors Center and the Outback, said Willis. "The VP for Business and Operations position, which currently exists, has been eliminated due to the fact that this position already had conflicts with the Business Director," explained Willis. He also said the Student Senate has also absorbed many of the budgeting authorities that once belonged to this position. Regarding this year's elections candidates, Willis said, "So many of these people come from incredibly different backgrounds but they all have a very common passion for the

# CELEBRATE EARTH WEEK

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 Submit pictures to date-troy@aramark.com of the campus that best portray sustainability for a chance to win \$25 in aux points. The photos can be of nature, they can be abstract, or they can be of sustainability in action. All photos must be submitted to date-troy@aramark.com by Thursday, April 25th. All appropriate submitted photos will be displayed on the diningwww Facebook Page so the campus can vote on their favorite photo. The photographer with the most votes, "likes", will win!

**Monday: Sort The Waste!**  
 11am-1pm Viking Commons  
 Come to Viking Commons today during lunch to test your skills with sorting waste! Do you know what plastics are compostable? What's recyclable? Challenge yourself and possibly win a prize!

**Tuesday: Tony's Coffee Sampling**  
 11am-1pm 6th Floor VU  
 Enjoy some of the locally roasted Fair Trade and USDA Organic coffee available in all Dining Commons and many cafes on campus!

**Wednesday: Avenue Bread Sampling**  
 11am-1pm Outside of Miller Market  
 Try some locally baked bread and learn more about Avenue Bread's compostable packaging!

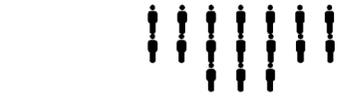
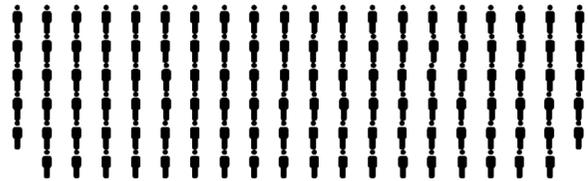
**Thursday: Farm 2 Fork (Featuring Local & Regional Foods)**  
 Lunch Ridgeway & Fairhaven Commons • Dinner Viking Commons  
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**Friday: Photo Contest Winner Announced**  
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# Sexual Assault Cases in Whatcom County 2017

118 reports of sexual assault to Whatcom County's law enforcement agencies. 17 reports of sexual assault led to an arrest



2 cases were resolved by guilty pleas

2 cases were dismissed without a trial



13 cases had an unspecified resolution



Information from Sexual Assault National Demonstration Audit // Compiled by Colton Rasanen

## Whatcom County audit of sexual assault services shows lack of resources, follow-up

Organizations, hospitals and community members look for ways to better support survivors

Content Warning: Sexual Assault

Lauren Gallup  
THE WESTERN FRONT

A team of agencies within Whatcom County released an audit last month on how sexual assault cases are handled across the county. The audit focused on how service providers can better support survivors of sexual assault.

The Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission on Sexual & Domestic Violence decided to apply for funding to complete the audit after expanding their mission to focus on acts of sexual violence that occur outside of intimate partner relationships, Susan Marks, director of the DV Commission, said.

Marks said the DV Commission wanted to know if there were systemic problems in how agencies respond to sexual assault.

"We knew the answer to that was probably yes, but we wanted to make this case to our city and county council," Marks said.

Funding for the audit was garnered through a three-year federal grant with the U.S. Department of Justice, Marks said. The City of Bellingham and Bellingham Police Department partnered as the fiscal agents for the grant, Marks said.

The remaining year and

a half covered by the grant will now cover implementation of recommendations from the audit, Elizabeth Montoya, project manager with the DV Commission, said.

The focus in the audit was change within agencies to better serve members of the community.

"If we can start with ourselves to untangle our own assumptions and biases around sexual violence, then that provides leadership to start changing our culture as a whole," Karen Burke, executive director of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services and member of the audit team, said.

According to the audit, DVSA, Lummi Victims of Crime and Western's Consultation and Sexual Assault Services provided advocacy services to 562 survivors between the three of them in 2017.

Through the audit, members of the team wanted to examine the biases our community may have about sexual assault.

"There is sort of some community bias to discredit sexual assault survivors. I personally think it's really painful for us to accept how often our community members are being violently assaulted sexually," Burke

said. "And so, I think that's one reason why we kind of just want to discredit it and think that doesn't really happen."

As illustrated in the audit, only 14% of rape reports within Whatcom County jurisdiction resulted in an arrest in 2017.

"It just is opening the eyes to where gaps are, and I feel like that has really given momentum to administration, and everybody around us, to show that this is important work," Stephanie Wahlgren, forensic nurse coordinator at PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center, said.

Funding in the grant exists to provide sexual assault and domestic violence service and advocacy, Marks said.

"It was really important to do [the audit] so that we can come together as a community and identify ways that we can tangibly help a survivor experience the community's support," Burke said. "And ways that we can improve and how it is that we respond to sexual assault."

The audit team identified recommendations for each agency involved in the audit on how they can improve their work on sexual assault cases.

At DVSA, follow-ups

with sexual assault survivors were not common after the initial hospital meeting, Burke said. Through the audit, survivors in focus groups expressed a desire to have follow-up outreach from DVSA. A full-time employee with DVSA is now dedicated to ensuring follow-up with survivors, Burke said.

The same gap with follow-ups exists at St. Joseph hospital.

"Right now, a survivor will come to the emergency department and get an evidence collection and STI prevention from us. And then that's it. There's no follow-up," Wahlgren said.

"We have been instituting some follow-up calls, but it's not a common practice yet. We're trying. But it's just me doing all the phone calls."

Another gap identified in the audit is how long it takes to process sexual assault cases, sometimes two years before a case goes to court, Burke said.

"[We] hope with this audit that we'll be able to make that happen in a shorter time frame, and that we keep victims much more informed in that process," Burke said.

The audit allows for more resources to help sexual as-

sault survivors with legal advocacy, Burke said. One of the which will be establishing someone to offer the survivor a timeline of legal processes, to help them make an informed decision, Burke said.

The main weakness at St. Joseph is delay in care, Wahlgren said. Currently, St. Joseph has 12 nurses who are trained to do forensic exams, all of whom work in the emergency department. When a survivor comes in for a forensic exam, a forensic nurse has to be pulled from the emergency department.

"There are times when there's just nobody available," Wahlgren said.

If there isn't a forensic nurse on duty, St. Joseph will pay for the transportation of the survivor to another facility, if they choose. Wahlgren said some survivors choose not to have the exam at that point.

"That's a problem," Wahlgren said. "When survivors choose not to have an exam, law enforcement and legal, and even the defense questions their credibility, and questions if the rape actually happened."

Wahlgren highlighted how this is a systemic problem in best serving survivors in sexual assault cases and treatment.

"This time delay can be very inconvenient for a person. They already just used all their courage to come walk through those doors and now we're asking them to come back, or go to another hospital," Wahlgren said.

Speaking on some of the gaps within the police department in handling sexual assault cases, Chief David Doll of Bellingham Police Department said the desire to gather evidence quickly in the investigation process may be harmful to a survivor.

"We are so interested in preserving evidence, because evidence is fleeting," Doll said. "However, things like the victim statement can be gathered a day or so later, which can be better for the survivor," Doll said.

"Officers should conduct only brief interviews with survivors immediately after an incident; in-depth interviews with survivors should take place after a few sleep cycles," the audit report states. Doll said this gives the survivor time to recall the event and give further detail, as referenced in the

Other recommendations for the Bellingham Police Department and the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office on how to communicate with survivors and obtain critical information from them include recording survivor's interviews so they do not have to recall the event more

than once. Within each of the agencies, gender and racial bias were identified as gaps to service.

"We're all raised in a culture that has all kinds of inherent oppressions that we have to be aware of," Burke said.

Recommendations were

tion is a focus of DVSA.

"Closing the gap with our racism and bias towards tribal survivors is something that is going to take an active and conscious willingness to learn," Burke said. "And presence, so that we can be good partners."

To ensure services provided from the Lummi Na-

ders and protection orders issued through a tribal judiciary committee are not enforceable off of identified tribal land, Doll said. Statewide, this issue is being looked at as lawmakers attempt to determine how these restrictions can be honored off of tribal land.

The audit will be present-

*"If we can start with ourselves to untangle our own assumptions and biases around sexual violence, then that provides leadership to start changing our culture as a whole."*

**Karen Burke**

Executive Director of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services and member of the audit team

made in the audit for agencies to participate in trainings to try to challenge biases, such as the Implicit Association Test. Funding also exists in the grant for law enforcement and prosecution training, Montoya said.

"Implicit bias and historical oppression lead to inequitable outcomes in the ways our community institutions serve and partner with marginalized communities, particularly Native communities," the audit report states.

The ways in which agencies in Bellingham serve members of the Lummi Na-

tion are supported, Burke said DVSA is working to be more of a partner and support to Lummi Victims of Crime.

"This year, we're really focusing on making sure that we are working really in concert with Lummi Victims of Crime," Burke said.

Survivors who are tribal members are always provided information of the services offered from LVOC when advocacy is done at the hospital, to ensure they have access to services they feel most comfortable with, Burke said.

Currently, no-contact or-

ed to Bellingham City Council by Marks in May, during DVSA's yearly presentation to the council.

"We're going to be working with all of the systems to help them develop some kind of plans timelines, and prioritization for how they want to go about implementing the recommendations," Montoya said.

Moving forward, Doll said his department is preparing a timeline to address recommendations that will be presented to Bellingham City Council.

At St. Joseph, Wahlgren's position as forensic nurse

coordinator will transition into a supervisory position, as part of a recommendation from the audit.

Staffing models in the forensic department could change as well. "Right now, it's just a title," Wahlgren said, adding that it could become a permanent position in the future.

"I want to have someone on duty all the time," Wahlgren said.

At DVSA, Burke said they are working to help survivors heal without reliance on the criminal justice system.

"The survivor can come through healing and closure with or without that criminal justice process. Cause we don't have control over that," she said.

DVSA does this by helping someone walk through the stages of healing from trauma, something that does not involve the criminal justice system, Burke said.

**If you or someone you know has been affected by sexual assault, domestic or dating violence, there are resources for you. All services by agencies listed below are free of charge.**

**CASAS 360-650-3700**  
**DVSA 24-hour helpline: 360-715-1563**  
**Lummi Victims of Crime 24-hour helpline: 360-312-2015**

### DIVERSITY

continued from page 1

work," Huskey said. According to the Fall 2018 Enrollment Statistics, only 26% of admitted students at Western are students of color.

Huskey broke down some key opportunities for change that were brought up in meetings and provided an updated timeline of their efforts. According to Western's updated Diversity, Equity and Inclusion website, the statement and timeline is a transparency effort from administrators to show the list of initiatives of student needs that have been completed, in progress and addressed.

Students came forward with equity needs to create a

better environment for their education as a benefit to all students.

"I am appreciative and grateful to the students and employees who have met with me, Sabah, and other university leaders, taking risks to share — again — their needs, their concerns, and their hopes," Huskey said.

According to the timeline, a list of projects in progress and the quarter of which projects were initiated are listed to the right.

The timeline will be updated accordingly as more projects and needs are completed or addressed. More updates and details can be found on Western's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion website.

Costume rendering by DeLisle Merrill

CLAUDIO MONTEVERDI'S

## The Coronation of Poppea

Italian opera  
English supertitles

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FRI 26, 7:30PM  
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# FILM SPARKS DIALOGUE IN THE AGE OF #METOO

Grace McCarthy  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Oscar-winning director Freida Lee Mock led a conversation following the screening of her film "ANITA: Speaking Truth to Power," to a sold-out crowd at Mount Baker Theatre on Friday, April 12. Mock's panel answered questions from community members discussing topics on systemic change in dealing with sexual misconduct, gender roles and Mock's work in the film industry.

The event was part of the third annual CASCADIA International Women's Film Festival which took place from Thursday, April 11 to Sunday, April 14.

Executive director of CASCADIA Cheryl Crooks said Mock was selected as



Freida Lee Mock leads a panel discussion held after the screening of her film "ANITA: Speaking Truth to Power" at Mount Baker Theatre on Friday, April 12. // Photo by Grace McCarthy

this year's honored guest because of her career achievements and work encouraging women in the film industry.

"Anita" follows the 1991 workplace sexual harassment allegations from Anita Hill, an African American then-professor at the University of Oklahoma, against Clarence Thomas, a nominee for the U.S. Supreme Court. Hill's testimony was criticized for the insensitive handling by the Senate Judiciary Committee, who confirmed Thomas in 1991.

The panel also included Audrey Sager, vice president of CASCADIA, and Ana Cecilia Lopez, an associate law professor at Fairhaven.

"This film was a really relevant, powerful film that spoke to a lot of people," Crooks said.

Mock is best known for her 1994 Oscar-winning film "Maya Lin: A Strong, Clear Vision" and her position as a governor of the Documentary Branch for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Mock and her husband, Terry Sanders, also co-founded The American Film Foundation, which serves as a non-profit committed to educational film production, according to its website.

"I have not gained anything except knowing that I came forward and did what I felt that I had an obligation to do and that was to tell the truth," Hill said during her 1991 testimony.

Hill is now a law professor at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts and serves as chair of the Hollywood Commission on Eliminating Sexual Harassment and Advancing Equality.

The film premiered at Sundance Film Festival in 2013, prior to the 2018 sexual assault allegations against Judge Brett Kavanaugh during his confirmation hearings to the U.S. Supreme Court. The #MeToo movement, where people shared their experiences of sexual misconduct on social media, also became viral in 2017 following Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein's sexual harassment allegations.

During the panel, Mock said the #MeToo movement was a rude awakening that

showed what was thought to be systematic change from Hill's testimony was only superficial.

Yeshia Van Leeuwen, a third-year student in the law, diversity and justice program at Fairhaven, said the film reminded him of the minimal progress made in regards to responding to allegations of sexual assault and harassment since the '90s.

"The biggest institution in our community is Western Washington University, and we've seen how little the administration has done to prevent sexual assault and sexual harassment at the university level," Van Leeuwen said.

Van Leeuwen said he'd like to see more community members support students, who are often overloaded with work and school, to bring change to Western.

"They can hold the institution accountable in ways that I can't with their money, with their voices that actually stay here and don't leave in four years," Van Leeuwen said.

Crooks said Hill opened the door for discussion on sexual misconduct to the public.

"She will go down as one of the most impactful women in American history," Crooks said.

The recent social movements against sexual misconduct have empowered women to continue the work Hill began, Mock said.

"What's positive, I think, is that because of social media and the fact that people are speaking out [about sexual misconduct]," Mock said, "People are feeling a sense of solidarity and a safety in numbers."

"G-Dog," a film also directed by Mock about a Jesuit priest who works to transform the lives of gang members in East Los Angeles, screened Sunday, April 14 at the Pickford Film Center at 1 p.m.

To learn more about CASCADIA International Women's Film Festival, click here. For more information about Mock's work, click here.



Illustration by Kayla Sousa

## WOMEN IN FILM SHOWCASED AT CASCADIA

Cambrie Williams  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western hosted several on campus events for the 3rd annual CASCADIA International Women's Film Festival on April 11 and 12, including a filmmakers panel and free screening.

The festival's film selection included 37 films from 15 different countries and ran April 11 to 14 at the Pickford Film Center in downtown Bellingham. According to their website, the festival's intention was to showcase films directed by women and to celebrate their works on a local and international level.

The events kicked off on Thursday with a discussion panel involving several directors. Panelists talked about their process in writing short films, where their inspiration comes from and the importance of women in the film industry.

"It's very challenging to make any kind of film," short film director Imelda O'Reilly said. "It takes time, money and imagination and sometimes you have one or two of those things but you don't have all three. You really learn from working out in the field."

Other panelists agreed aspiring filmmakers should simply start making films and see where it leads, including Donna Wheeler, another short film director and a member of the Alliance of Women Directors in Los Angeles.

"Be really open to the universe and what its wanting to tell you about what your message is going to be. You need to let your film breathe and have its agency. Let your passion,

your vision dictate the length of it and you'll be golden," Wheeler said.

The panelists also discussed where they get inspiration for their films.

"I get a lot of ideas from dreams, where I dream a part of a movie and it's so present that I have to write it down as soon as I wake up," Wheeler said.

Other filmmakers agree with using dreams to build ideas.

"I am very much a believer in dreams and subconscious

Jules Koostachin, an indigenous filmmaker in Canada, finds confidence in the stories she tells as a member of her community.

"We have a lot of non-native people coming into our communities, taking our stories, and telling them the wrong way and then leaving our communities kind of asking 'what are they doing with it?'" Koostachin said. "I followed protocol in terms of talking to elders and knowledge keepers in my community and made sure that the story was mine to

"There is a huge shift happening in the industry where women's stories are being heard or pushing boundaries."

Jules Koostachin  
Indigenous filmmaker in Canada

thought," Muriel Naim, a short film director, said. "The brain works better when you sleep because you're not censoring yourself."

For Naim's selection in this year's CASCADIA festival, she found inspiration in her grandfather's childhood story, but told from the perspective of his best friend.

"I grew up in Israel, and the memory of the Holocaust has been really infused into my brain since we were in school," Naim said. "I myself am extremely obsessed with the subject matter because it exposes such deep moral issues and really tests humanity. I thought it's intriguing because it really surrounds the core of where 'meanness' comes from."

Other directors agree filmmakers should take care to uphold the integrity of the story being told with respect to the culture it belongs to.

In a Skype Q&A session following the on-campus screening of her 2018 documentary "China Love," an event co-sponsored by Western's sociology department, Olivia Martin-McGuire offered advice to aspiring filmmakers who want to tell stories about other cultures.

"You need to know what the reason is that you're telling that story," Martin-McGuire said. "You need to get really clear about what the reason is and how it relates to you. I would try to find your own story with-



From left to right, directors and writers Virginia Bogert, Imelda O'Reilly, Jules Koostachin, Muriel Naim and Donna Wheeler discuss what went into writing and producing their films at a panel during the Cascadia International Women's Film Festival on April 11 and 12. // Photo by Hailey Hoffman

in it, get as close to your own story as you can and see where it takes you."

Overall, many agree the visibility of women in film is increasing.

"There is a huge shift happening in the industry where women's stories are being heard or pushing boundaries," Koostachin said. "We're at a really interesting place of transition of women who have been working their butts off for so long trying to get to a certain place in the industry, and now those gatekeepers are moving out of the way. Or rather are being pushed out of the way."

Others argued the number of women in film should continue to grow.

"There should be more and more women making films," Martin-McGuire said. "There is a white male voice that is basically formative for all our views, in the books we read, in Newsweek, everything. It's hugely important that there are more female filmmakers, more women in film, just different diverse voices in general."

Several Western students who attended the screening agree with the importance of diversity in film. According

to the Center for the Study of Women in Television and Film, "Women accounted for 8% of directors working on the top 250 films in 2018."

"So much of the media we consume is through a white male perspective," Zane Weber, a third-year sociology student said. "Any possible way for people of color or women or anybody who is subordinated in the film industry to get their voice out and become more expressive and reach more people I think is a fantastic opportunity."

According to Baozhen Luo, a CASCADIA board member and a sociology faculty member at Western, the way women tell stories through film differs from men, and there should be more feminine perspective in the industry.

"It's so important, so essential," Luo said. "Storytelling is so powerful, and nowadays it's films that connect people's hearts. That sensitivity and sensibility is very different, and it's very missing."

According to Western's dean of fine and performing arts, Kit Spicer, Western hopes to offer more on campus events for next year's festival.

# KSA brings Korean culture to campus

Korean Student Association hosts fifth annual Heritage Dinner with dancing, music and auction

Mona Ghorbani-Aghdam  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Imagine a room filled with people of all backgrounds and different walks of life, laughter bouncing off the walls, hugs being passed out like free candy on Halloween and the showcase of the bright and colorful traditional Korean clothing. That is exactly what many students experienced at the Korean Student Association heritage dinner.

"We want to make the presence known that there are Korean students on this campus and try to put our culture out there for others," Johnathon Yu, vice president of KSA and a fifth-year student, said.

Every year the KSA officers pick a theme for the event. This year's theme was gamsa, a Korean word that means

giving thanks to those who paved the way before.

"This year we chose thankful or 'gamsa', which is in Korean. I think especially because a lot of the minority population here is second generation, a lot of us have a big emphasis on our parents or family and those who have worked hard to get us either to America or just to where we are today giving us a roof over our head," KSA President Jennifer Yoo said.

On April 2 in the multi-activity court in the Wade King Student Recreation Center, the event kicked off with a colorful fashion show, with each KSA officer strutting their traditional hanboks. Then, guests stood to pay respect to Korea's national anthem, which was sung by Jessica Choi, a first-year student and officer of KSA.



Jen Kim, a former President of KSA, speaks on the empowerment of connecting to historical roots and people from the same culture and how it attributed to her success and happiness at Western. // Photo by Maxwell Leidig

The rest of the night was filled with traditional Korean dances such as the Bu-

chae Sango, a solo fan dance performed by Oolleemm, a Korean cultural dance per-

formance group based out in Seattle.

"There is a lot of things that go in to it, this year the officers are learning the traditional dances so that means we had to go down to Seattle and practice once every two weeks," Yoo said.

Oolleemm also performed the Nanta with the KSA officers, the performance of the drums that starts off quietly and intensified throughout the performance. The whole room was cheering the performers on.

Jen Kim, former president of KSA and a Western alumna graced the stage as the first guest speaker of the night.

"Growing up, making friends was very hard for me," Kim said.

Kim talked about the struggles of growing up in a



KSA officers and Oolleemm perform the Bongsan mask dance that originates from the Hwanghae province of what now is North Korea. // Photo by Maxwell Leidig

predominantly white society and accepting the cultural differences. She publicly thanked KSA for her growth to where she is today.

Dinner was catered by Tokyo House and included Korean staple foods such as mandu, dbukbokki, spicy pork, kimbap, japchae, fried

rice and so much more. "Dinner was so great, I loved the food," Savanna Yann, a fourth-year student said.

The event also included a silent auction, which included a snack basket of Korean candy, chips and drinks, a Western basket that included a 40-ounce Hydro Flask, and a Bellingham Patagonia sweater, and lots of Western accessories. Last but not least, a vibrant and bold painting by Yunjee Kang, secretary of KSA and second-year student. The proceeds raised will go towards the Korean American Coalition.

After dinner there were more musical and dance performances by KSA's officers and volunteers, including a special K-Pop dance performance by QPN and 3MIN, which are both student and volunteer-based groups.

"QPN has been around since the first dinner and 3MIN came around the second dinner. Just because K-Pop has been such a popular thing throughout Korean culture and we wanted to incorporate that into our dinners as well," Yu said.

The two groups circled the gym to show off their dance moves to the guests.

To finish off the night,

KSA officers took the stage to thank everyone who made the event possible. A few tears of joy were shed by KSA's president as her fellow officers took the time to show their appreciation to her for all her hard work by giving her flowers and a balloon.

"You worked really hard, you did surprisingly really well," Yu joked. "I was in my bed curled up, I just slept it off. You threw a dang good heritage dinner."

To finish off the night, the officers ran over to hug Yoo sparking an emotional moment that was interrupted by laughter as the balloon Yu was holding was let go and floated away to the ceiling of the gym.

"You don't have to be Korean or Asian to attend the club, that's one of the main questions we get and we're always trying our best to make anyone feel welcome," Yu said.

Students interested in learning more about KSA can attend the club meetings every Wednesday from 5 to 6 p.m. in room 305 in the Academic West building.

# Three new buildings to open on campus

Western will welcome a new dormitory, science building and academic support facility by fall 2021

ERIKAH GUILLEN  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western has announced that three new buildings including a residence hall, an interdisciplinary science building and a consolidated academic support services facility are scheduled to open on campus by fall of 2021.

According to an April 10 press release by Paul Cocke, director of university communications and marketing, the funding for two of these projects is around \$60 million coming from a combination of revenue bond proceeds, current cash in the University Residence system, and Washington state appropriations.

Construction will begin on the new residence hall after the Highland Hall building are demolished in September, according to the press release. The building, located on the Ridgeway Complex, will be replaced by the new residence hall. Western has already contracted a number of architects and construction companies for these projects according to the press release.

Although design plans for the building are still underway, the residence hall is expected to hold

400 beds.

"In meetings, focus group comments and participation in conversations with architects, engineers and university administrators, students and their leadership continue to participate and provide valuable perspectives about the project," Cocke said.

According to the press release, the interdisciplinary science building is expected to begin construction in January 2020. It will be located south of the biology building with a sky bridge that connects the two. The 50,000 square-foot building is intended to create more space for science, technology, engineering and math-related majors.

"The new building will provide greatly needed lab and classroom space, including flexible teaching labs and active learning spaces in biology, chemistry and several other STEM degree programs; this also will enhance Western's ability to expand pre-healthcare degrees to help address a statewide shortage in healthcare workers," Cocke said.

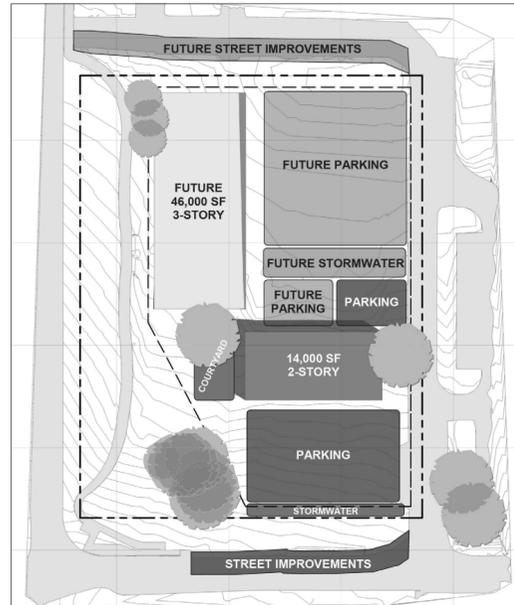
Construction for the new Consolidated Academic Support Services Facility is expected to begin

in the summer of this year and will be located just south of main campus.

Unlike the other buildings, construction is expected to end in the fall of 2020, according to the press release. This building is intended for non-academic staff. Funding for this building is still pending approval but the building is expected to be financed through a state-issued Certificate of Participation sale.

According to Cocke, Western plans to achieve a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Gold rating for all three of these projects. This means the building has to earn 60 to 79 points and these points are awarded over several categories: Location & Transportation, Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Energy & Atmosphere, Materials & Resources, Indoor Environmental Quality, Innovation and more, according to the U.S. Green Building Councils website.

An informational meeting will take place on Wednesday April 17 at the Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission meeting in the Library Lecture Room at the Bellingham Public Library at 6:30 p.m..



The plan for the Academic Support Services Facility. // Infographic courtesy of WWU

## LEAD

continued from page 1

When she returned to class, a teaching assistant noticed Carroll's recently-filled water bottle and quietly warned her and her classmates not to drink the water.

"It was pretty informal, just in the midst of class," Carroll said. Six years earlier, Western graduate Meredith Peterson heard a similar announcement from a T.A. in her environmental science class.

"It was kind of off-the-cuff," Peterson said. "[My T.A.] said 'don't drink the water because there's lead in it.'"

Even before she learned about the lead, Peterson had been trying to avoid the water in the Environmental Studies building. It was "kinda gross," she said. After her T.A.'s announcement, she stopped drinking it entirely.

The problems with lead in Western's water first became apparent in 2008. After receiving multiple complaints about an unusual smell and taste coming from a drinking fountain in Arntzen Hall, the EHS office decided to test the water for any contaminants. The results showed a level of lead that exceeded the federal standard of 15 parts per billion (ppb). This prompted a wider survey of drinking water across campus.

The results of the 2008 study and a later study conducted in 2013 were posted on the EHS website, along with links to resources on lead detection and health information, according to Sullivan. However, this information was later removed and is no longer publicly posted. Sullivan said the information was pulled from the website because several of the buildings on campus have been replaced, making some parts of it inaccurate.

Sullivan said it was also pulled because the EHS office is starting a new survey, and still needs to determine what information to provide and how to provide it.

"Certainly, people can call and ask for that data and I'm happy to provide it. But at this point it's going to be a bit before we put it on our website," Sullivan said.

According to Sullivan, the 2008 survey mainly targeted buildings that were built before the 1980s.

"Buildings that were built before the '80s have this higher chance of containing infrastructure and paint with lead components," she said. "These things could be solder, piping, the actual facet fixture and what not."

Western sources its water from the City of Bellingham, which, according to annual water quality reports, has had less than 10% of its samples exceed the federal limit since 1992. The City of Bellingham's 2018 water quality report says lead is not found in the city's treated water, but may come from customer's pipes and faucets.

Amy Cloud, director of communications and media outreach for the Bellingham Public Works Department, said she believes the problems with Western's water stem from issues with the campus facilities, not the city water supply.

In an email, Cloud said although she's not sure about the legalities, there is a moral imperative to replace any fixtures above the federal limit.

Prolonged consumption of water contaminated with lead can cause a number of health problems. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, exposure for adults can lead to cardiovascular issues, decreased kidney function, and reproduction problems. In children, it is even more dangerous. High amounts of exposure

can cause behavior and learning problems, lower IQ and hyperactivity, slowed growth, hearing problems and anemia, according to the EPA.

Data from the tests shows that dozens of fixtures in multiple buildings across campus tested above the federal limit for lead. Some of the newer buildings, like Fraser Hall and Buchanan Towers, did not have any fixtures that exceeded the limit. But in some of the older buildings, a significant number were above 15 ppb.

The data shows that in the Ross Engineering Technology building, 55% of the 20 fixtures tested were above the federal limit. According to notes from the survey, one sample may have been contaminated during the testing process. In the Art Annex, 44% were above the threshold.

In the five years following the 2008 survey, the EHS office launched a public works project to repair or replace some of the fixtures that had tested higher than 15 ppb. Data from the tests shows the EHS office responded to results on a case-by-case basis. According to notes from the survey, a lab sink in the Ross Engineering Technology building that had 120 ppb was affixed with a sign telling students to avoid drinking from it. A drinking fountain on the fifth floor of Arntzen Hall with 26 ppb was removed. A drinking fountain in Ridgeway Kappa with 13 ppb was left as is.

According to The Bellingham Herald, the EHS office re-tested the new fixtures in 2013 and found that 59.5% still had lead levels exceeding the federal standard. New warning signs were placed above these fixtures. The faucets and sinks that tested below the limit were affixed with signs that said the lead concentrations were below the maximum level.

"In retrospect and 20-20 hindsight, we should have signed water sources not to drink instead of the ones safe to drink. Over 10 years that is easier to manage," Sullivan said in an email. Since 2013, several smaller tests of individual fixtures have been conducted. "There have been people that have asked about certain locations, and if there are places that we missed which we've found, and if it's warranted, then we test it. But there hasn't been a comprehensive survey since 2013," Sullivan said. The federal action level of 15 ppb was established in the 1980s as part of the Environmental Protection Agency's Lead and Copper Rule. In an interview with NPR Shots, Jeff Cohen, a EPA team member who helped determine that number, said the action level is not based on medical research. According to Cohen, the number was never designed to identify a safe level of lead in drinking water, rather it was what the water utility companies told the EPA they would be able to manage at the time. "Nothing is considered a safe level," Sullivan said. "The cutoff has to be somewhere, right? Is zero obtainable? Probably not. I still have to look at what would be good for Western in terms of that cutoff level."

In winter of this year, a group of students in a graduate-level geology class conducted a test on the water in the Environmental Studies building. The EHS office was not connected to or aware of this test. In an email, Nicole McGowan, a research associate in the geology department, said the test was intended to introduce students to wet-sample analysis. "We used a paired-down version of EPA method 200.8 for analysis," McGowan said in an email. "It's important to note that we did not perform all of the

quality control portions of this method due to time constraints." None of the samples the class tested exceeded 15 ppb, but they were still high enough that Carroll's T.A. decided to warn their class not to drink the water.

The EHS office is currently working with a consultant to help them develop a larger water quality plan for the university. Sullivan said they will be prioritizing places where young children frequently visit, because they are a more vulnerable population to lead poisoning. According to Sullivan, the process is still in the early planning stages, and will begin sometime in the next year.

Sullivan said that just like with the 2008 project, the testing and replacement process might take several years. Water quality is not the only responsibility EHS office has, and according to Sullivan, they will need to prioritize their resources accordingly.

The consultant is also helping the EHS office determine what level of information will be provided to students. "The approach might be a bit different than communicating to the whole campus," Sullivan said. "Communication is key, so I want to be sure that I'm providing the right amount of information to folks so they can make some good choices."

Sullivan said the goal of this plan is to provide information in a way that will not confuse or alarm students.

"When you hear 'maximum contaminant level,' when you hear certain terms like that, if you're not familiar with that terminology and how you come up with it, it can be problematic," Sullivan said. "Because people will call and ask, and I want to be able to provide it in a way that's simple and will minimize confusion."

# 9 | OPINION

## 4/20 is a privilege, not a right

It's time again for the "holiday" of choice for stoners: 4/20. The name, started by a group of high schoolers in San Rafael, California, referred it at first to the time of day whereupon these stoners would ditch class and smoke weed. Soon, the terminology and culture of 4/20 spread everywhere, and it became the bonafide cannabis indicator, joining the ranks of Bob Marley tapestries and white dreadlocks as a symbol of the popular plant.

Every year on April 20, there are more than a dozen public festivals in North America devoted to the consumption and legalization of cannabis. Observers of the holiday take to the streets and parks to come together and get high. It's a celebration of the drug, as well as a chance to show those who still carry a stigma against smoking that people from all walks of life can smoke and be successful.

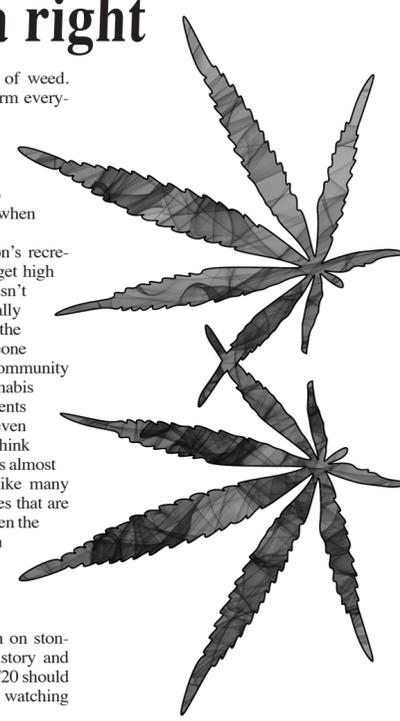
However, 4/20 is a holiday for the privileged—usually white, middle to upper-middle class millennials who smoked in parks when they were in high school and are happy to finally be able to do it when the sun is out. For all the hundreds of thousands of people who pour in droves to these events annually, there are thousands more—over a million people—who are arrested for possession of cannabis. Nearly half of them are either Black or Latinx.

These people are often arrested for petty drug charges—nearly 90 percent of those

arrested had less than an ounce of weed. These unfair double standards harm everyone. Until those who have been incarcerated for marijuana possession are freed in states where recreational cannabis is now legal, white 4/20 observers need to remember the privilege they hold when they choose to indulge.

At Western, despite Washington's recreational cannabis laws, you can't get high on campus. Of course, that doesn't stop the arb from being perpetually foggy. It's concerning that despite the laws in place, last quarter someone from the greater Bellingham community managed to cook food with cannabis in it and serve it to several students on campus. The hubris to do so, even if the person responsible didn't think their food would get people high, is almost satirical. Western's community, like many insular and privileged communities that are predominantly white, have forgotten the tumultuous history of cannabis in America.

The cannabis industry is developing quickly, and no one is suggesting a regression back to the War on Drugs-era crackdown on stoners. However, considering the history and power of your drug of choice on 4/20 should be part of the holiday as much as watching Superbad is.



### VIKING VOICES

## Is Western too into weed?



Darrin Gordon  
International Business

"I think Western isn't too into weed, I feel like the social stigma of the state is changing to where weed is acceptable and as a conscientious adult you should be able to choose what recreational drug you want to use."



Amelita Brown  
Psychology

"I have a couple of sisters who go to UW and they always call Western 'the weed school,' and I don't think you see it as much as you hear about it, but it's definitely a thing here. We also have a professor at Western who studied the psychology of cannabis, Joshua Kaplan, which I think is pretty fitting."



Walt Ellis  
Undecided

"I feel like there's situations where weed isn't appropriate and sometimes Western students don't realize that. I don't smoke personally, but I know a lot of people who smoke, and I recognize it helps a lot of people. I notice the smell occasionally, it is what it is, and I don't mind it. But when you're in a suite and the bathroom gets hotboxed, that's not ideal."



Theo O'Brien  
Creative Writing

"Personally, I don't think the weed is a big deal. It's not hurting anyone, except for that pot-pasta incident that Western has yet to comment on."

Compiled by Julia Vassallo

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

## Remembering Peepee

It is with heavy heart and welling eyes that we announce the passing of Peepee the cat, who was born on A Date at A Time.

Peepee was a vehement and consistent supporter of all his followers. He tweeted in support of many marginalized people, including the transgender and Muslim communities, offering his love on Twitter whenever he could. "I'm just going two tweet. I'm just going two keep Tweating And Tweating. I will do it. I'm going too' tweet Ovre and ovre again. I'm going too keep tweating. I will continue two Do it."

PeePee is survived by his "dade" and almost 94,000 followers.



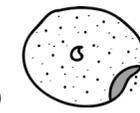
### GUEST COLUMN

## Fish is meat!

Thanks to twitter user @DannylsSerious for their convincing dissertation.

This week...

**BAGELS  
AREN'T  
BREAD**



**CHANGE MY MIND**

## On Frederick Douglass and race in the classroom

What does it mean to ban racist language in the classroom? And who is to decide?



Frederick Douglass was one of the greatest Americans who ever lived. An enslaved person who ran away, he became a courageous anti-slavery advocate. His spoken and written words touched the hearts and minds of thousands of Americans. We continue to read him to this day.

Often, discussions about Douglass end with the abolition of slavery during the Civil War, but he continued to be a prominent public intellectual and advocate of equality after that. So much so that in the 1860s, as many Americans worried about the growing number of Chinese immigrants, he spoke out in their defense. In his 1869 essay "Our Composite Nationality," he urged Americans to recognize that any person from any part of the world could become an American because, in Douglass's gendered language of the time, "man is man the world over."

Douglass went on to list the benefits of welcoming immigrants to America. The United States would be a stronger, richer, freer nation if it welcomed immigrants and allowed their strengths to augment American society and culture. Diversity is good for America,

Douglass wrote, because "men only know themselves by knowing others, and contact is essential to this knowledge." But then, in his defense of Chinese immigration, Douglass said something that many of us would find jarring. Each race, he believed, contributed something distinct to the American tapestry: "In one race we perceive the predominance of

**While professors should never target individual students for their identities, the material they teach will often offend today's sensibilities.**

imagination; in another, like the Chinese, we remark its almost total absence."

These words today would be condemned as racial stereotyping. Here was one of America's leading advocates of equality invoking a derogatory stereotype in his defense of Chinese immigrants! What can we learn from this episode?

First, it reminds us that all of us are flawed and shaped by the times in which we lived. We need some humility when we talk with each other, knowing language and ideas change.

Even those of us who see ourselves at the progressive edge of anti-racism may find, like Douglass, that we are found wanting.

Second, Douglass continues to be an inspiration for activists. One cannot understand 19th century American politics, culture and thought without understanding him. We must continue to teach him, even if in doing so professors will be forced to include his insulting language in the classroom. Douglass is an easy case. Historians are also responsible for teaching the history of slaveholders. Students must grapple seriously with pro-slavery ideas too.

In short, as faculty, administrators and students continue to debate the parameters of speech on campus we must be sure that we do not infringe on professors' academic freedom in the classroom. While professors should never target individual students for their identities, the material they teach will often offend today's sensibilities.

Douglass should also remind us that in our efforts for purity, we forget that we too are flawed. Even the most radical amongst us will give expression to what later generations consider the biases of our time—but, like Douglass, even in our failings we may still have said something worth considering.

- Johann Neem, professor of history

# From the Sidelines

"Should fans be censored?"



**Claire Ott**  
Reporter

As long as the comments being made aren't inherently hateful, I don't see an issue with bursting out in excitement for your favorite team doing well. Crowd-wide chants and cheers are to be expected at these events, and most of the ones I've heard have felt pretty harmless. However, I think something a lot of fans have a tendency to forget from the sidelines is that while they're screaming at the top of their lungs, the players most likely won't hear the comment— but other people trying to enjoy the game will. I think fans should be censored in the same respect that each person is 'censored' on a day-to-day basis; there is a level of respect that needs to be had for those around you. Being in a rowdy environment should not be an acceptable excuse for targeting or disrespecting your fellow human.



**Lily Nichols**  
Reporter

Hecklers are never fun to be around, since they might be putting down or taunting your favorite player. In my personal opinion, they should pay the consequences. In other words, they should be censored. I personally have never seen a heckler at a sporting event, but I can't imagine seeing them in action is fun. If censoring is my solution to hecklers being shut down, that could infringe on someone's First Amendment right to free speech. People argue they're allowed to say anything, no matter if it's hateful or positive. But when does free speech become hate speech? Sports stadiums or arenas are private institutions. With that being said, they're able to institute their own rules on what fans or hecklers can and can't do. So, technically, hecklers can be censored by those institutions without it being unconstitutional. That way, everyone can have an enjoyable time rooting on their favorite team.



**Allyson Roberts**  
Reporter

Sports are one of the most talked-about activities, whether that be high school, college or professional. With that kind of popularity, you are faced with the challenge of having to put up with hecklers, and that's part of the game. In my opinion, insults on the sideline should be banned. Players trash-talk each other on the court already, and that may never be something we can change. As for fans, they didn't work their butts off to be in a position the players they are insulting. Why allow fans to treat players any differently than the regular day-to-day people we meet? Imagine seeing someone you have never met on the side of the road and you tell them their jump shot is trash. How do you think they would react? You would probably get a punch in the nose, so why allow fans to heckle players the same way?



**Chris Johansen**  
Reporter

As fans, we buy our tickets, take our seats and get ready to root for the home team. Hardcore hecklers can be entertaining but are usually obnoxious or most likely heavily intoxicated. One instance where I have experienced this was at the Moda Center in Portland, Oregon, watching the Portland Trail Blazers play the Toronto Raptors. A Raptors fan a few rows down from me continued to yell at Damian Lillard and CJ McCollum the whole game about how they "dribble like 12-year-olds" and are "worse at basketball than his grandma." Things like this only hurt the hecklers. While this kind of thing can be annoying, I do not think it should be censored. One regulation would lead to another and start a domino effect of censorship. Fans go to games to have fun, not to be treated like children. However, if a heckler becomes vulgar, violent, racist or disruptive, those should be grounds for removal.

# Birdie, bogey or par, Lee keeps it cool

Western golfer Jordan Lee helps the Vikings make some noise in his first year



Jordan Lee, a first-year from Tacoma, helped lead the Vikings to their fourth tournament win of the season. // Photo courtesy of WWU Athletics

**Andrew McClain**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Even-keeled. Collected. Unflappable. These are just a few of the terms that people used to describe Portland born first-year golfer Jordan Lee use to best describe him.

"Before I step on the course, I try to get all my nervousness out of the way," Lee said.

To help him do that, Lee said he tries to go into every round with a game plan.

Lee's mother, Maryanne Lee, said he's always been that way and described him as being a kind, mellow person at heart.

"He was never that type of kid to get in trouble or be rowdy," Maryanne Lee said.

But that brand of quiet maturity is only half the picture with Lee. According to his mom, what makes Lee such a force on the golf course is the combination of his calm demeanor and the competitive nature that drives his work ethic.

"Oh, yes," Maryanne Lee said with a laugh when asked if Lee has a competitive streak. "He's very competitive."

She illustrated the point by telling a

story about when Lee would golf with his grandmother as a child, and how he would make her "putt it out" on the green instead of letting her use the 12-inch "gimmie" putting rule that many people use in friendly rounds of golf.

That's the kind of mentality that drives Lee to do his best every time he steps onto the golf course. Whether he's playing in a tournament for Western, or competing against his older brother Justin on their home course at the Tacoma Country & Golf Club, Lee stoically works to take home the win.

Steve George, head coach of the boy's golf team at Bellarmine Prep School, said those attributes served Lee well in high school.

"Jordan's quiet, calm and never upset on the course," George said. "He's the kind of guy that leads by example."

As a coach with 10 state championships under his belt, George has an eye for talent, and he was unequivocal in his praise for Lee.

"Jordan's always had the talent, but once he gained confidence [as a golfer], he really broke out," George said. "He didn't have to talk, he just showed you

how good he was."

Despite the universal praise for Lee's poise, Lee paints himself as a fairly typical first-year.

"I didn't really expect it, or have high expectations," Lee said of the success he's had so far this year, including one tournament win and five top-5 finishes in nine tournaments so far. "Honestly, I was really nervous [about playing collegiate golf]."

Maryanne Lee compared Lee's brand of nervousness to strong underwater currents.

"There might be turbulence under the surface, but he'll never show it to you," Maryanne Lee said. "The most emotion you'll see out of him on the golf course might be a little slap on his putter if he didn't putt as well as he wanted to."

According to Western men's golf coach Luke Bennett, those times when Lee struggles on the course come down to the mental aspect of the game.

"His demeanor is second-to-none," Bennett said. "His game is really strong all around. He drives well and has a ton of control. And I really like the simplicity of his putting stroke; it's very repeat-

able, which is important. I think when he struggles or shoots poorly, it's mental."

Lee agreed with that sentiment. "For me, golf is 80% mental, 20% motions and practice," Lee said. "I feel like in the rounds that I played well I did a good job controlling my emotions."

Cody Roth, a fourth-year on the Western golf team, said Lee's demeanor is impressive for someone so young.

"You don't expect that [from a first-year], but he doesn't really get worked up," Roth said. "He never gets too high or too low, he just goes out there and does his thing."

Roth praised Lee's practice habits as well.

"He's always looking for ways to get better," Roth said. "He's got talent and a strong work ethic. That's a deadly combination."

Bennett also mentioned Lee's work ethic as one of his strong points, and it's a part of his personality that Lee partially attributes to his time at Bellarmine Prep.

"Going to school at Bellarmine was harder than what I expected, but it helped me establish my work and practice habits," Lee said.

Lee gave credit to the upperclassmen that helped mentor him at Bellarmine, and singled out RJ Manke, who now plays golf for Pepperdine University, for being a strong role model for him to follow.

In terms of his education goals, Lee said he hasn't picked a major yet, but is leaning toward something like sports psychology. He said focusing on the mental aspect of the game would help him reach his eventual goal of becoming a golf coach, either as a private tutor or as a school coach like Bennett and George.

Of course, that's only if his goal of playing in the pros doesn't pan out.

"It would be a dream come true to play at Augusta National," Lee said. "And the only way I can get there is by playing in the Masters."

That goal didn't surprise Bennett when he heard it.

"Jordan has a deep passion for the game. We're lucky to have him because of what he brings to the team, on and off the course," Bennett said. "If he keeps his passion high, he's got a bright future in front of him."

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# Sports Roundup: Making Western history

**Colton Rasanen**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

## Track & Field

Most of the track & field team attended the Jay Hammer Invitational in Lacey, Washington, April 13. Karlington Anunagba won the 100-meter dash with a time of 10 minutes 33 seconds where he recorded the second fastest time in Western's history, behind only a time of 10 minutes 22 seconds. His time was also recorded as the third-fastest in the NCAA II this season. Lexi Perry recorded the top spot in the pole vault, clearing 3.64m/11-11.25, which places her in a sixth-place spot in Western's outdoor records. Natalie Vetto secured a first-place spot in the women's javelin throw with a throw of 41.39 meters. The Vikings also sent three throwers, Chanelle Eddy, Avery Lux and Ben Malquist, to the CWU Invitational in Ellensburg Washington on April 13. Eddy placed first in the discus, fifth in the shot put and tenth in the hammer throw. Lux placed ninth in the shot put and fifth in both the discus and hammer throw. Malquist placed second in the shot put and fourth in the discus. Malquist set a personal record for shot put with a throw of 15.56m/51-0.75, which puts him in ninth place in Western's outdoor record.

## Men's Golf

The Vikings participated in the Mustang Intercollegiate in Goodyear Arizona, on April 8-9. After the first two rounds, Western's Ethan Casto held the individual leader spot while the team



First-year Jordan Lee tied for 25th place at Goodyear Arizona. // Courtesy of WWU Athletics

was tied for third place. Casto recorded 16 birdies, which ties him for the most in the competition. After the final round, the Vikings managed a second-place team effort while Casto held on to the lead in the individual section, becoming the champion of this competition. The Vikings were only two strokes behind the winning team, Colorado School of Mines. First-year Jordan Lee tied for 25th place in the tournament and fourth-year Michael Butler moved into a tie in 42nd place. The Vikings were 22-under-par for the tournament, which makes this the second-best 54-hole outing in Western's history.

## Softball

The Vikings played against the Cen-

tral Washington University Wildcats on April 7 in Ellensburg, Washington. They played a doubleheader and lost both games with 2-6 in game one and 3-6 in game two. The Vikings went on to play Simon Fraser University on April 9 in another doubleheader, this time in Bellingham. The Vikings won their first game 2-1 but lost game the second 1-2, keeping Western in the second-place slot in the GNAC, behind only the Wildcats. These games marked history as fourth-year Emily Benson broke Western's all-time hit record with 199 career hits. She managed another hit in the sixth inning, placing her record at 200 as of April 9. Pitcher Makinlee Sellevold secured a win in the first game, improving her career wins to 59.

## Upcoming Viking Action

### Home

#### Softball

Double header v Western Oregon  
April 19 @ 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Double header v Concordia  
April 20 @ 12 p.m. and 2 p.m.

### Away

#### Track & Field

Bryan Clay Invitational // April 17-19

Beach Invitational // April 19-20

#### Men's and Women's Golf

GNAC Championship // April 22



Catcher Rachel Christensen retrieves a bunt and watches the third base runner as they attempt to steal home. // Photo by Emily Porter

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