

THE WESTERN FRONT

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Bomb threat suspect in custody, arraignment set for May 10

No explosives were found following threat during 'Avengers: Endgame' that caused evacuation of Regal Cinemas on Sunday, April 28

Allyson Roberts and
Ian Haupt
THE WESTERN FRONT

The suspect who was arrested by Bellingham Police for making an alleged bomb threat at the Regal Cinemas Barkley Village 16 appeared in Whatcom County Superior Court on Monday, April 29. Whatcom County Prosecuting Attorney Eric Richey said the alleged bomb threat was pre-planned and terrorized the community.

Ryan Nolan MacFarlane, 27, was arrested and booked as a suspect around 5 p.m. on Sunday, April 28, for allegedly making the threat near the end of the "Avengers: Endgame" movie, which caused an evacuation of the theater, according to a press release by the Bellingham Police Department.

Bomb threats are considered a Class B felony, which is worth up to 10 years in prison. MacFarlane was ordered by Court Commissioner David Thorn to have no contact with the Regal Cinema and not possess any firearms or other weapons.

Thorn set MacFarlane's bail at \$25,000 due to the seriousness of the allegation.



Movie goers stand outside the Regal Cinemas in Barkley Village after evacuating the theater on Sunday, April 28. // Photo by Katie Kovac

MacFarlane's arraignment was set for May 10 at 9 a.m.

The press release states MacFarlane stood up near the end of the movie and shouted at the crowd. The packed theater was struck with panic when, during his rant, MacFarlane made mention of "this bomb will end it all," according to the press release. The

entire cinema was evacuated after the threat was made and no injuries were reported.

After the evacuation, BPD's explosive detection K-9 "Marley" entered the premises but did not find any explosives, the release states.

MacFarlane exited the theater towards the Woods Coffee complex after the threat was

made and an armed citizen followed him out, according to the press release. The citizen announced he was armed and ordered MacFarlane to kneel and wait until police arrived. The press release says MacFarlane complied and waited until BPD arrived to take him into custody.

According to the press

release, MacFarlane's backpack was isolated in the cinema parking until the Bellingham Police Hazardous Devices Unit arrived to inspect it. After further inspection, no explosives were found in the cinema or the backpack, the press release states.

Public Information Officer Lieutenant Claudia Murphy confirmed that the loud boom citizens heard around 5:30 p.m., was the Hazardous Devices Unit rendering the backpack safe.

"This was a very stressful and chaotic scene, and I could not be more proud of our officers and community on how they came together in dealing with such a potentially dangerous situation," Bellingham Police Chief David Doll said in a prepared statement. "With the help of a community member, our officers quickly and assuredly made an arrest while Regal Cinema employees assisted in evacuating the entire theater in an effort to keep the public safe from a potential explosive device. Our officers' professionalism, teamwork and training ensured a swift and safe end to this frightening event in our community."

AS Board hears proposals for Blue Resource Center, advisory committee for food and housing insecurity

Mallory Biggar and
Lauren Gallup
THE WESTERN FRONT

On April 26, the Associated Students Executive Board heard proposals to create a Blue Resource Center and an advisory committee for food and housing insecurity.

The board also addressed an anti-waste tax referendum, and funding the Queer Guild Summit on April 19.

Blue Group, a resource and support community for undocumented students at Western, is collaborating with the AS Student Advocacy and Identity Resource Center to create the Blue Resource Center, which would serve undocumented Western students. Camilla Mejia, AS vice president of diversity, sponsored this motion with Alberto Rodriguez-Escobedo, interim coordinator for Equity & Identity Resource Centers.

"The Blue Group has been working for about three, four plus years on developing a resource center," Rodriguez-Escobedo said.

The goal is for the Blue Resource Center to be in operation for 2019-20 academic year.

In the beginning, Rodriguez-Escobedo said that DACA recipients would be able to apply for the student positions, and eventually they said their hope is to also be able to put processes in place to hire undocumented students.

According to the proposal, the Blue Resource Center would have two paid student positions. The center would function like the Student Advocacy and Identity Resource Center, according to the proposal.

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LGBTQ+ art, representation and conversation at Queer Con

Emily Feek
THE WESTERN FRONT

Student artists stood by booths that lined hallways of art ranging from digital works to eye-catching erotic embroidery for Western's Queer Con. One of the student artists brought their 64-year-old Kenmore sewing machine to the convention.

Western's third annual Queer Con, held in the Communications Facility on Saturday, April 27, was student-organized and intended to unite the LGBTQ+ community on campus, Queer Con co-director and third-year Alexis Goss said. The event was also co-directed by fourth-year Corinne Blair.

Although Goss and Blair directed the event, all of the WWU Queer Con club members helped facilitate the event and reached out to queer artists, arranged panels and managed social media, Blair said.

"There are a lot of queer peo-

ple and a lot of queer artists on campus, and I wanted to bring them together and create maybe more of a closer-knit community," Goss said.

Queer Con also hosted other LGBTQ+ campus groups at the event, featuring booths for the Associated Students Queer Resource Center, Queer and Trans People of Color and Out in Science. Western Aces presented a panel on the history of asexuality.

Nani Corona Hae-Kyung, a first-year Western student and artist led a presentation on representation in media and discussed the portrayal of mental health, disability, race and sexuality. Hae-Kyung said as a someone who is queer, trans, disabled and a person of color, they had criticism and advice concerning their representation in

see QUEER CON,
page 5

AS elections end Friday, May 3.

Check out our online voters guide to read candidate statements and more!





Fireworks erupt from the roof of the Bellingham Herald building during April Brews Day on Saturday, April 27. // Photo by Jordan Shepherd

Check out these events this week!

- May 2 Off-Campus Dialogue: What is our role in creating a just and equitable workforce? 4 p.m. | Ragfinery
MAY 3 Featured Fridays (Art Walk & BAMFI fundraiser) 8 p.m. | Studio B
MAY 4 WWU Swing Kids Spring Event: Mad Hatter's Tea Party 10:30 a.m. | Presence Studio at 1412 Cornwall Ave.
MAY 5 African Caribbean Club Heritage Dinner 5:30 p.m. | Wilson Library 6th Floor
MAY 6 In Conversation: Chris Vargas, Garth Amundson and Pierre Gour 12 p.m. | Western Gallery | Fine Arts Building 124
MAY 7 LGBTQ + Sex Ed 6 p.m. | Academic West 305
MAY 8 Americorps and Peace Corps Panel 4 p.m. | Viking Union 552

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AS Election Candidate Word Search

Find the names of the 13 candidates running for the AS Executive Board!

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Corrections

Two new officers fill vacancies in University Police Force

Ben Vandermay and Monte Wallace were sworn in on April 17

Chris Johansen THE WESTERN FRONT

University Police swore in two new officers, Ben Vandermay and Monte Wallace, on April 17 in order to fill vacancies following the departure of two officers from the department.

The two new officers were hired to fill vacancies in the department when two officers left University Police for opportunities with the Whatcom Sheriff's Office and Bellingham Police, according to Paul Cocks, Western's director of communications and marketing.

having two new officers on the force.

"Having these two individuals join our department at this time is very excit-

ing," Williams said. "With the chances to cultivate and embrace Westerns values and goals, we look forward to great things from both of



A Western Washington University Police car sits outside the station on Tuesday, April 30. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin

these new officers."

Monte served in the U.S. military for 12 years. He spent six years in the Army and six years in the National Guard, completing two tours in Iraq, according to Western Today.

Previously, he worked at the State Department of Licensing as a test proctor, Snohomish Tribal Police officer and is a former King County deputy, according to Western Today.

Monte said his goal is to help strengthen Western's campus to create a safe environment for students, faculty, staff and visitors, according to Cocks.

Vandermay, born and raised in Whatcom County, graduated from Bellingham High School and attended Whatcom Community College with the intention of pursuing a degree in

administration of justice. Vandermay served as a corrections officer with the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office and will be attending the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission to earn his certification as a patrol officer.

Williams said being part of the University Police is an opportunity for these new officers to connect with a younger demographic and the issues they may be dealing with on campus.

"The best part about being an officer at Western is having an opportunity to engage with the students and be a resource for their success. Working with such dedicated officers each day is a reward itself," Williams said.

Anthropology department hangs up posters stating faculty commitment to decolonization in classes, curriculum

Following an anthropology forum organized by students of color, department says they'll commit to diversifying department programs

Hailee Wickersham THE WESTERN FRONT

Western's anthropology department put up a number of posters in throughout Arntzen Hall stating their commitment to decolonizing and diversifying the department's curriculum, classroom conduct and research to support students of marginalized communities.

The fliers, titled "Faculty Perspectives on Diversity in Anthropology," briefly outlined a "recent use of harmful, racist language in a class," referencing instructor Paul James' use of a racial slur in "Introduction to Cultural Anthropology" in October of 2017.

Anthropology faculty are working on engaging and

promoting diversity and inclusion in their classrooms, department chair Todd Koetje stated in an email.

"Right now, for example, the professors who teach intro to cultural anthropology are creating a modernized and more fully decolonized outline of that curriculum for implementation in the fall," Koetje said.

Koetje said other classes in the department have been taking steps to increase diversity in their classrooms.

"Many of the individual instructors are working in the same direction," Koetje said.

The posters outlined the perspectives and practices of instruction in the anthropology department as being "grounded in respect for all people of all

cultures" and their ideas. The statement includes that classes and research are also conducted in a way that strives to acknowledge and overcome "roles of historically oppressive paradigms" in the anthropology discipline.

The statement was published online as well under "Faculty Perspectives on Diversity in Anthropology," stating how the department recognizes its responsibility to foster and support students and members of the community who feel threatened, unheard or marginalized.

Below their statement, department faculty shared how they practice their teaching and research of anthropology while being mindful of their personal culture, gender, and



Department practices and the use of racial slurs in the classroom have been ongoing conversations in the anthropology department. // Photo by Emily Porter

race. The department ended their statement by encouraging actions such as forums, workshops, curriculum and a variety of other opportunities for expression.

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Two homophobic vandalism incidents discovered in Fairhaven Complex elevator

Campus advisory sent to students following the discovery of a second incident in the same elevator

**Erikah Guillen and
Esther Chong**
THE WESTERN FRONT

On April 11, homophobic vandalism was found on LGBTQ+ themed posters in the Fairhaven Complex stack 11 and 12 elevator, according to a University Residences notice to Fairhaven Complex residents.

A second vandalized poster was discovered in the same elevator, almost two weeks after the initial incident on Wednesday April 24, according to Director of University Communications and Marketing Paul Cocks. A Campus Advisory notification and Western Alert were not sent after the first incident.

The first poster was

vandalized with homophobic language and a slur, Cocks said. The posters were removed and reported to residents via email on April 11.

"Such ugly and offensive slurs should have no place on our campus and are contrary to Western's values," Cocks said.

A Western Front reporter reached out to Cocks about the first incident on April 22. A campus advisory notification was sent after the second incident.

Residence Hall staff posted a note with instructions on how to report vandalism and the note was also vandalized with a homophobic word, according to University Residences.

"It is everyone's responsibility to keep our

campus safer. If you see something inappropriate, say something. If you feel unsafe or have concerns about another resident, tell someone," the University Residences notice read.

Both alerts included residence hall contact information and on-campus resources such as Western's Counseling Center, the Equal Opportunity Office, the Queer Resource Center, the LGBTQ+ director, Consultation and Sexual Assault Support and University Police.

University Police are investigating the incidents, according to a campus advisory alert sent to students on April 25.

According to Western's Safety and Emergency

Information, Western Alerts are sent when there is an imminent threat to the health and safety

of campus, while Campus Advisories are sent when there is a situation of concern.



Fairhaven Stacks 11 and 12, the site of homophobic vandalism in April. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin

QUEER CON

continued from page 1

mainstream media.

Hae-Kyung explained that content creators should seek out multiple voices when trying to represent any group, and be willing to take constructive criticism. As for the viewers, they should be critical of the content they consume.

"The most important thing is always to listen," Hae-Kyung said.

Hae-Kyung also expressed a desire for more mainstream representation of them/them pronouns, and referenced the podcast "Welcome to Night Vale" which features a prominent non-binary character. Unlike "Welcome to Night Vale," a majority of media outlets do not provide

such direct representation, Hae-Kyung said.

For those whose identities are underrepresented in media, Hae-Kyung recommended people seek out ways to share their own stories.

"If you aren't seeing a story out there, try to find a way to get it out there," Hae-Kyung said.

Queer Con also hosted the Out in Science: Being LGBTQ+ in STEM panel, featuring science, technology, engineering and math students Walden Marcus, Mia Watters and Elias Peters, as well as assistant physics professor Dimitri Dounas-Frazier.

The panelists discussed their experiences related to identity within their departments on campus, and focused

on how their identity related to their work in those fields.

Watters said although their identity may not impact engineering work as a process, it gives them a better understanding of who they are working for and what their goals are.

"If you identify with that community, you can connect better with what the needs of that community are than if you're just told what those needs are," Watters said.

Marcus said many of the STEM departments on campus have been accepting of LGBTQ+ students, including students who request name or pronoun changes.

"It's been somewhat hit or miss," Marcus said of his experiences. "It was passive, and I had to initiate the conversation."

Marcus said the STEM departments at Western should try to be more actively accepting in the future. He said that intentional actions such as having students introduce themselves with pronouns on the first day of class can create a more accepting climate.

Peters said they would feel more comfortable introducing themselves with their pronouns if other people did as well. By normalizing the sharing of pronouns, they said it feels less like outing themselves when they share theirs.

The panel also discussed the ways in which STEM fields can be used to reinforce heteronormative ideals. Peters pointed out how in statistics, data is often binary and uses designations of male and female without defining those

standards.

Professor Dounas-Frazier said physics concepts can represent queerness just like it represents heteronormativity with the concept of opposites attracting.

"Physics has really powerful metaphors for queerness and gender-queerness," Dounas-Frazier said. "I see queerness embedded in the subatomic makeup of our universe."

In addition to provoking conversations about representation and queer identity in science, Queer Con created an environment that allowed for communal connection and supported student artists, Blair said. In the past, Queer Con has featured professional artists.

"We really like having a lot of student artists because it improves the Western community specifically," Blair said.

Queer Con was student-directed with minimal help from faculty and staff, although Goss said that their faculty advisor, GIM, was helpful throughout the process.

GIM, a chemistry and materials science instructor, said they were a resource to students, but that the club members did the bulk of the work.

"It's very much a student-powered effort," GIM said.

The event was funded by ticket sales and donations. The AS provided funding for costume contest prizes, and the club hosted a fundraiser with a local bar Miller's Backdoor Bellingham.

Goss said they are trying to increase student involvement with Queer Con and other queer clubs on campus, and are looking for students to help organize next year's convention. They said that getting involved with other queer clubs is an option for community engagement after Queer Con.



Walden Marcus, left, and Alaryc Carr pose for a photo at the Out in Science booth at Queer Con. // Photo by Emily Feek

National Society of Black Engineers prepares to host their first Medical Engineering Competition at Western

Members say they hope team-based competition raises awareness of NSBE

Tyreke Wilbanks
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western's National Society for Black Engineers chapter is preparing to host the Medical Engineering Competition on May 17.

According to Hannah Okotcha, public relations officer for Western's NSBE, and Selome Zerai, president for Western's NSBE, this will be the first competition that Western's NSBE has hosted. The team-based competition will take place in the Viking Union and will be open to Western students. Each team will work together to solve a problem and then present their work to a panel of judges.

Western's NSBE chapter was established at the end of winter quarter 2018. The club was founded by Zerai, Okotcha and vice president Ayisha Olanrewaju.

Zerai, Olanrewaju, and Okotcha drew inspiration for the club from all the chapters around Washington state, and felt that Western students could use the support in order to be successful in science, technology, engineering and

math majors.

"STEM on campus is hard, and it's a lot harder when you're a person of color. A lot of schools in Washington have one, I thought Western should have one," Zerai said.

According to Zerai and Okotcha, Western's NSBE is a place for students to have somewhere to talk about engineering and also see other students that look like them and that are interested in the same things.

"For our recurring members it's a nice place to see familiar faces and see people that look like you," Okotcha said.

According to Zerai and Okotcha, the chapter also helps support students in school with studying. Members of Western's NSBE want to help students be the best that they can be and be the best students they possibly can. They want to make sure students get support during their college experience especially if they are a first generation student or a student that doesn't know how to manage college well.

"[NSBE] helps that bridge between highschool and college, especially if you're

a first [generation] or not really familiar with the whole college process. We try to help you with registration, how to be a STEM student, how to study, and how to be a student overall," Zerai said.

According to Okotcha, Western's NSBE hopes to grow through the competition and invite more people from around the area, as well as spread awareness around campus of who they are and

what they do. Zerai, said the society also hopes that people participating in the competition have fun and will want to come back to future events.



Western's NSBE hopes to grow through the Medical Engineering Competition on May 17. // Photo Courtesy of NSBE

Western students feel 'the Bern' as campaigning picks up

Student meeting and livestream kickstarts Bernie Sanders campaign efforts on campus

Rachael Buselmeier
THE WESTERN FRONT

Twenty-one candidates have already placed their bids to be elected Democratic nominee for president in the 2020 election. With a group that large, campaigning for the primaries is already underway.

Members of the Students for Bernie club, many of whom are also members of the Young Democrat of WWU, have already locked in their choice for 2020. On Saturday, the group met up for the first time, advertised on Facebook as the Students for Bernie Organizing Kick-off.

The launch event was one of many held around the nation gathering future voters to watch a livestream of Sanders beginning his campaign.

The meeting started with students introducing themselves and expressing their personal thoughts on who the best fit for the Democratic nominee is in the upcoming primary elections. Neah Havens, Students for Bernie club leader, said she believes in many parts of Sander's platform.

"College for all impacts every student at Western. Bernie has also been the biggest advocate for women's health and women's rights,"



Students gather for a campaign kickstarter for presidential candidate Bernie Sanders. // Photo by Rachael Buselmeier

Havens said.

Student Peter Clifford took an all or nothing view of Sanders.

"I thought I ought to do my part to support Bernie, he's the last best hope for any kind of social democracy in America," Clifford said. "It's kind of the last shot at compromise before the wheels fall off the train and we fall into fascism."

During the livestream, students watched Sanders

give a speech about using social connections to convert undecided voters into Sanders supporters. Ohio State Sen. Nina Turner also gave a speech asking viewers to raise both of their hands in a sign of solidarity.

"With these hands we will make change," Turner said.

The livestream ended with an explanation of the new Bernie Sanders app that will allow supporters to register their friends and family into

a database managed by the Sanders' campaign.

Students competed after the live stream to register the greatest number of friends and family members in the app.

"I'm going to register my dad," club leader Colton Lanning said. "He didn't vote in the last election but I'm going to win him over."

Student Josef Jackson said he was excited to continue campaign effort and his

activism with the help of the app.

"I volunteered for the Democratic Party during the midterm elections by phone banking," Jackson said. "The DNC has a disconnect with what the voting base is actually interested in. They're more centrist than the voters. I think Bernie Sanders is the most qualified and most dignified of the candidates, he represents what voters really want."

The Students for Bernie club is determined to campaign further for Sanders and help other students register to vote.

Third-year student Grace Drechsel, who works with Western Votes, has made looking for creative ways to engage Western students a center piece of her Associated Students campaign.

"On campus, Western Votes is focused on making it as easy as possible to vote. Some people need a lot of convincing, but it's an easy argument," Drechsel said.

Students interested in campaigning with the club are encouraged to attend the next Young Democrat of WWU meeting. The club will be screening a documentary about Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez on May 3 at 6 p.m. in Bond Hall.

Former White House speechwriter and Obama administration aide speaks at Courageous Conversations

Western alumnus Jesse Moore discusses how students can pave their pathways to careers and craft their own narratives

Lily Nichols
THE WESTERN FRONT

Jesse Moore, former speechwriter and aide for former President Barack Obama, visited Western on April 24 to open up a discussion for students on how they can pave their own paths in their careers.

Moore, originally from Lynnwood, graduated from Western in 2005 with a major in political science and a minor in English. While at Western, Moore was the vice president of the Black Student Union, which was known as the African American Alliance at the time. At the April 24 event, called "Courageous Conversations", Moore talked about how he went from working in admissions at Western post-graduation to landing a job in the White House.

Moore recalled a memory of when he heard a speaker in Fraser Hall. The speaker talked about politics and the civil rights movement during George W. Bush's presidency. Moore said he asked a question about the disconnect between opposing viewpoints at the speaker event.

"It seems like we can't hear each other anymore," Moore recalled. "We're looking at people who disagree with us like we're another species. I'm not asking you to solve it, but

what is the first step to get us towards a solution on that?"

While the speaker didn't have an answer, Moore said the discussion got him motivated and inspired to get where he is today.

"That did get my brain

"We're looking at people who disagree with us like we're another species. I'm not asking you to solve it, but what is the first step to get us towards a solution on that?"

Jesse Moore

Western Alum and former Obama Administration Aide and Speechwriter

cooking," Moore said. "But I did start that work, kind of in earnest, at that moment."

After the introductions, Moore was asked a series of questions by colleague Korry Harvey from Western. Questions ranged from how students can craft their own narrative, help clients deal with conflicts in the workplace and if there is hope for the future.

What Can Students Do To Craft Their Own Narrative?

Moore said students have

to be authentic. He said everyone wants to seem like they have it altogether, but young adults need to be taught that people like curiosity.

"Do you want a 22-year-old know-it-all in your office?" Moore says. "Or do

such as the New York Police Department, Pop Culture Collaborative and the National Basketball Association, just to name a few.

Moore talked about how the NYPD hired his company to help them with their messaging. The NYPD wanted to build trust within the community, but specifically people of color.

"I started telling them there's a problem if the narrative you're telling is not matching up with what they're seeing in the streets," Moore said. "You're telling this grand story of transformation, they've got to see it, otherwise you're going to do more damage than good."

Now, Moore trains hundreds of cops every few months on public engagement, specifically how to build community and trust with the people that they work with, he said.

Is There Hope?

The question was asked in relation to the political climate that society sees today. Moore says that there is hope.

"Not to get too corny or meta, but it's coming alive in your generation," Moore says.

For Generation Z, terrorist attacks and violence have become more prominent.

"All of that has created a climate that is all you've ever known," Moore says. "I'm talking to all the youngsters in the crowd. It's all you've ever seen, it's the only America you are familiar with where if you're in a different party, you might as well be a different species. Where terrorist attacks are real and they can come to your front door. Where the schools that sit in are no longer safe - inherently safe."

Moore said he understands why people don't feel hopeful anymore, but he pointed out that he has seen young people lead marches, talk with maturity and dedicate their lives and careers to service at a high rate.

"If young people are not catching their chips and then walking away but are instead stepping into the system, are stepping towards the problem or running into the fire, then that gives me hope," Moore said.

Moore concluded the event by stating that he's counting on the younger generation to repair the country and move it in the direction that it needs to go.

Moore spoke at Bellingham Public High Schools the following week as a part of the Advancement Via Individual Determination program.

The AS Executive Board said menu prices are ultimately up to Aramark, and until Zero Waste Western and Aramark can come to agreement, the exact amount students will be paying is still undecided.

The AS Executive Board decided to rework the language used on the ballot and make the initiative public. The referendum passed with five executive board members in favor of the proposal and one abstention.

According to the AS election ballot, students would vote on whether or not they support the price change to incentivize utilizing reusable cups. Students who bring reusable cups would only be charged the cost of the beverage, while buyers without their own cup will be charged the cost of the beverage and disposable cup.

AS Executive Board elections began on Monday, April 29 and will close at 2 p.m. on Friday, May 3. Students will be able to cast their votes on the anti-waste referendum in this election. Levi Eckman, AS VP of academic affairs, said the goal is to try to get voter turnout from 17% to 25% or higher.

keeping it separate. Whether that's popping up pantries in more locations, or not doing that," they said.

This committee would report to the AS Executive Board through the AS VP for Sustainability, a new posi-

"We all have similar issues, and if they affect us together, so we have to work together."

Nichole Vargas
Queer Resource Center
Engagement Coordinator

tion for 2019-20 academic year, according to the charge and charter.

Another proposal to fund the Queer Guild Summit was presented by the Queer Resource Center engagement coordinator Nichole Vargas on April 19. According to the proposal, the summit will bring together queer and trans-focused clubs, to maintain accountability and adhere to Western's mission statement.

"We [the clubs] all have similar issues, and if they af-

fect us together, so we have to work together," Vargas said.

AS VP of Academic Affairs Levi Eckman said the club should receive an additional \$1,000 each year in addition to the requested \$5,000 in

funding. According to Nate Jo, AS VP of business and operations, the Queer Guild Summit pilot program would receive reserve funding from the Associated Students.

An upcoming referendum for an anti-waste tax on disposable cups was proposed on April 19 by Zero Waste Western. The goal is to change menu prices for coffee and other beverages to incentivize students to bring their own reusable cups, according to Zach Griffin, a Zero Waste Western intern.

Grad student researches tsunami deposits in the Salish Sea

Studies look at sediment traces to determine potential tsunami threats to nearby coastal communities

Christopher Smith
THE WESTERN FRONT

Tsunami deposits, areas of particles left behind by tsunamis when they reach shore, are commonly found all over coastal plains and byways, but local scientists and geologists have pondered their presence in Bellingham Bay for many years. Paige Morkner, a graduate student at Western, studies Bellingham Bay and the Puget Sound looking for signs of tsunami deposits created throughout history.

Tsunami deposits occur in marshes and low energy environments, Morkner said. Small particulates such as clay, sand and silt are deposited when a tsunami reaches shore and leaves these layers behind. The traces of these deposits can be found years after the tsunami.

Tsunamis have always reached the outer coasts of Washington and Oregon, and models have been released over the years that say these waves could be moving inland to places like Bellingham Bay.

Morkner's research examines the Cascadia subduction zone to see if it has created these same environmental effects leading to Bellingham Bay and the Puget Sound.

"We want to know if tsu-



Boats sit in the waters of Bellingham Bay on Tuesday, April 30. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin

namis are actually going to occur in the Puget Sound for hazard planning purposes because we have coastal communities that could be impacted," Morkner said. "The point of my research is to use newer models to predict where flooding might occur."

Morkner has been studying the land at Ship Harbor Interpretive Preserve in Anacortes as well as Eliza Island in Bellingham Bay. Morkner and her team use several

types of equipment including a gouge auger, which is a half-cut tube that brings sediments out of the ground for analysis. This allows Morkner to see what sediments have been left over time.

Doug Clark, a professor in Western's geology department, explained what Morkner is striving towards with her research and what she hopes to find.

"One of the key goals of Paige's MS study is to test

whether those model predictions actually hold water by coring small estuaries that are in the predicted inundation zones," Clark said.

Clark said he also has done some research of his own on tsunami deposits around Bellingham Bay.

"Models predict that the Bellingham waterfront and low-lying areas of the Nooksack River Delta would be inundated by water as deep as 18 feet from such a tsunami,

but there are no studies that confirm those predictions yet for Bellingham Bay," Clark said. "That's not to say that there isn't evidence of such an event in the past, just that no one has uncovered any."

Eric Brown, a graduate student in the geology department, is currently teaching the lab portion of Geology 101 at Western.

"What Paige is doing is very interesting to me," Brown said. "A lot of that work goes towards creating tsunami inundation maps in the region which involves taking sediment core samples in the field."

Morkner's research comes from a deep interest in hazards and partaking in research that is going to help people and communities, she said.

"When I was applying to grad school I made it really clear that I was interested in projects related to hazards," Morkner said.

Morkner is presenting her research at the Geological Society of America in Portland, Oregon later in May and hopes to learn even more from this, she said. Though her time at Western will not last forever, she said she hopes that another master's student would like to pick up where she leaves off.

AS BOARD

continued from page 1

Assistant Director for Student Representation and Governance Leti Romo addressed how the Blue Resource Center will function.

"Last year, the Student Advocacy and Identity Resource Center went through a restructure, and so what each center has now is a coordinator that focuses on advocacy, a coordinator that focuses on educational program and a coordinator that focuses on community engagement," Romo said.

The Blue Resource Center would have a coordinator that focuses on educational programming specifically for campus, according to Romo. This will create opportunities for people on campus to learn, and to engage to be better allies, Romo said.

The board will be voting on the Blue Resource Center proposal at the next AS Executive Board meeting scheduled for Monday, May 6.

Rodriguez-Escobedo also presented the charge and charter for the new AS Food and Housing Insecurity Ad-

visory Committee. Although this working group has already been in place, it hasn't been as structured as it could be, according to Rodriguez-Escobedo.

The idea is that all three of these offices will collaborate and form a larger committee that includes people in the conversation whose voices are currently being heard from, they said.

Rodriguez-Escobedo currently meets with Western Feeding in the Office of Sustainability and the people from the Birnam Wood food pantry project. This committee would be an extension of this working group.

"That's the creation for this, is to ensure that my position [and other pro staff positions] are held accountable to doing this work, [that] we have already been doing," they said.

In creating this committee, Rodriguez-Escobedo said they want to include more people, especially students, in the conversation.

"I also envision this committee as an advisory committee on how to navigate the [food pantries.] Whether that's merging everything into one centralized space, or



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THE EVOLUTION OF A BELOVED BELLINGHAM HOT DOG BUSINESS

Customers munch on El Capitan's 'dogs with a view of the bay' in their most recent location

Alex Meacham
THE WESTERN FRONT

Marc Ravaris, known to many as El Capitan, putters around his shop, polishing all the already-shining hot water baths and vents, showing affection for his restaurant. After three locations and 16 years of slinging hot dogs, it's clear Ravaris cares about what he does.

The Bellingham-based entrepreneur has been running El Capitan's Gourmet Sausages and Pretzels since he began with a rolling hot dog stand 16 years ago on Vendor's Row at Western.

Over the years, two other locations have been established as Ravaris has solidified his presence downtown.

He approaches customers with a friendly smile, a pep in his step and in some cases, greets them on a first-name basis.

Ravaris attended Western from 1979 to 1986, getting his first degree in environmental education, he said. In 1986 he started an audio company in Seattle, but left Seattle and returned to Bellingham in pursuit of less traffic, a Spanish degree and a certification to teach English as a second language.

These degrees in combination with a business run through his boat netted him the nickname "El Capitan." When he started the first iteration of the hot dog stand, Ravaris said "pirates were huge," inspiring the restaurant's theme.

The location at 1201 Cornwall Ave. is currently the only shop bearing the El Capitan's name. The shop is well lit, well located and according to Ravaris, happy to serve late-



Owner of El Capitan's Marc Ravaris has been running his hot dog business for 16 years. // Photo by Alex Meacham

will be selling bratwurst, hot dogs, sausages and now even fries.

Despite the boisterous attitude of the late-night crowd, they are Ravaris' main customer base, he said.

Around 10 p.m., Ravaris said the shop gets a little more exciting, so he cranks the music up for the younger

Ravaris said El Capitan's most popular "basic" dog is the Polish sausage, a traditional hot dog experience with a quarter pound of beef and pork for \$5.25.

Of their specialties, Ravaris says the winner is The X.O., a quarter-pound of pepper and smoked sausage with two strips of bacon, cream cheese, grilled onions and a drizzle of barbecue which runs for \$7.75.

They also offer jumbo pretzels, french fries, chili and potato chips, along with drink options like beer, cider, wine and kombucha. From 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. is happy hour, where for \$10 customers can get a sausage and a pint of beer.

The shop recently experienced the theft of a photo of El Capitan Manager Zac Cote, who started with Ravaris 10 years ago was taken from the restaurant. In the photo Cote was standing in front of the old Cornwall Avenue location holding a pair of sausages, smiling.

crowd. One might imagine that hot dogs day in and day out would get old, but this is not the case for Ravaris.

"I try to eat a hot dog for pure enjoyment every two or three weeks," Ravaris said.

"We were very surprised," Ravaris said. "It's not that we haven't had things stolen here before, I mean a bit of shrinkage is unfortunately common to any business. It was one of those things that was priceless only to us."

If there's one thing that Ravaris is excited

about in the new location, it's the location itself. The pirate-paraphernalia on display makes El Capitan's stand out, the outdoor seating and large, corner windows offers guests a view.



Illustration by Julia Berkman

"I try to eat a hot dog for pure enjoyment every two or three weeks."

Marc Ravaris
Owner of El Capitan's

night customers.

El Capitan's is now also expanding their hours to be open to a lunch crowd, according to Ravaris. Open Tuesday through Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to 2 a.m., Ravaris

More than just a hip-hop dance team

Student dance team members share memories and moments of resilience on the team

Emily Feek
THE WESTERN FRONT

When the stage lights turned on, the WWU Hip-Hop Dance Team entered the Performing Arts Center stage and assembled into three lines. As the music grew louder, the team members marched further out onstage, marking the opening performance of the 11th annual WWUHHDT showcase, "WWUth Your Wild."

WWUHHDT is a student hip-hop dance team on campus, run and organized completely by its members. The 2018-19 team had a lineup of 18 members, including three team captains, according to captain Erin Johnson.

Their spring showcase, held on Saturday, April 27, was the culmination of the year's work, and featured other hip-hop groups from across Washington state.

The showcase brought things full-circle for Rhianna Kubena, a first-year student on the team. Kubena said she performed in the showcase two years ago as a member on one of the visiting teams.

Kubena estimated that she's been dancing for about 14 years. She has dabbled in many genres, but said hip-hop is her favorite form of dance.

"I like hip-hop music, and I just really feel the beats

a lot more," Kubena said. "It's a lot of fun, instead of [like] sad, in contemporary."

Kubena said hip-hop dance is less organized and more upbeat than other styles like contemporary and that she feels she can be more authentically herself.

Joining the student hip-hop group was a driving force in Kubena's decision to attend Western, she said.

"I knew I was going to do it, that was one of the main reasons I came here," Kubena said. "My hip-hop teacher used to be a captain on the team. I kind of wanted to follow in her footsteps."

The team rehearsed twice a week throughout the year, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. Kubena said she had to deal with an injury this season in addition to the time commitment.

Kubena had a stress fracture in her lower back and a disc protrusion and wore a back brace for a while, she said. Kubena said she's now brace-free but the injury could still pose a problem for her dance performances.

"Technically I'm not supposed to be dancing," Kubena said. "I don't know my limits and I just love dancing so much, so I keep pushing no matter what."

As part of the team, Kubena performed during



The Western Washington University Hip-Hop Dance Team performs at their annual showcase. // Photo by Emily Feek

"This team became my family,"

Erin Johnson
WWUHHDT captain

halftime at basketball games. The showcase was their first performance onstage this year.

"Onstage is where I'm most comfortable, and I haven't done anything onstage in a while," Kubena said. "We've just been on basketball courts, so I'm really excited for our showcase."

In addition to performing at Western's basketball games, the WWUHHDT or-

ganized a number of fundraisers throughout the year. The student-run group does not receive funding from Western, according to the Western Involvement Network website and Johnson.

Johnson, a senior, said the captains wanted to limit out-of-pocket expenses for team members.

To accomplish this, the team hosted bake sales and dance workshops where the team taught hip-hop dances to attendees. They also sold team merchandise and Krispy Kreme donuts at the showcase, Kubena said.

While the annual showcase was Kubena's first time performing on stage with WWUHHDT, it marked Johnson's last performance with the team. At the end of spring quarter, Johnson said she will graduate with a major in dance and a minor in arts enterprise and cultural innovation.

Johnson said over the four years she's been on the team, she's developed close relationships with her teammates.

"This team became my family," Johnson said.

Johnson, who came to Western from Vermont, auditioned for the hip-hop team on a whim during her first year. Since then, she adopted

the role as a captain, helping manage the team, choreograph and delegate roles.

"It went by really fast. I'm in shock right now, it hasn't sunk in," Johnson said after the showcase.

Although Johnson's time with the team has come to an end, the dance team is looking forward to its next season. The team will have four captains next year, including returning captains Valerie Goliff and Jade Jordan.

Goliff, a third-year double majoring in dance and psychology, cited Johnson as an inspiration, and said her motivation has rubbed off on the team.

"Erin, I might cry if I talk about her," Goliff said. "She literally just goes for it. There's no other way I can put it. She always accomplishes what she sets out to accomplish."

Students interested in the WWUHHDT can find more information online. The hip-hop dance team will be at the Info Fair next fall. Tryouts are always held during the first week of classes, Johnson said.



The Western Washington University Hip-Hop Dance Team performs at their annual showcase. // Photo by Emily Feek

Students become the teachers with Employee Language Program

Lauren Gallup
THE WESTERN FRONT

Learning another language can be a great opportunity, but one that is hard to fit into a busy schedule. For Western employees, the opportunity to learn is right on campus.

Western's Employee Language Program allows Western employees to partake in language workshops at no cost to them, all taught by Western students. Through the program, participants can enroll in one of three workshop levels, from level 1: basic conversation to level 2: basic conversation to written and oral communication workshops, according to the Employee Language Program website. Workshops are taught by student facilitator pairs.

Paden Koltiska, a student facilitator for Spanish workshops in the program, teaches workshops in a classroom setting for the program. Koltiska said the program is a way to change relationships across the university by reversing the typical "student-teacher" role and having students instructing professors or other staff members with more professional experience than them.

"This program gives me the opportunity to step outside the classroom setting and be in a different role in a classroom," Koltiska said. "So instead of being a student, I am a teacher, which I think is really exciting."

Autumn Weis, another stu-



Flags from around the world are displayed on a wall in the Modern and Classical Languages department.

// Photo by Lauren Gallup

dent facilitator, acknowledged what the role reversal for a student is like. "I love it because every time you get a new group of people, or maybe you know one or two people in there, but then you also get to practice your skills as a teacher."

Student facilitators teach workshops in a classroom setting. "The classroom atmosphere is so flexible, and we get to have lots of fun and we are able to have great conversations with our students," Ouzts said.

This quarter is Nancy Alpuche's first teaching a workshop as a facilitator. "It's really nice to have [my teaching partner] there cause if I don't know something, then she's there to back me up, so we always have that support from each other, and I think that helps our students a lot so they get more out of it," she said.

Often newer facilitators and more experienced facilitators are paired together for a workshop, so that the more experienced facilitator can be a mentor to the newer student, Drickey said.

Matt Bettencourt is a facilitator for Spanish workshops. "I want to be a high school teacher, so this gives me experi-

ence of not having a full classroom of students but having just a couple students and being able to figure out how to teach and express to them certain concepts," Bettencourt said.

Participants at all levels can also enroll to get a one-on-one conversation partner, a flexible option that allows participants and facilitators to meet on a weekly basis based on their schedules.

Koltiska shared the successes he has seen for participants in the program. One of his conversation partners was a Western staff member that wanted to surprise his daughter who was learning Spanish in high school. "Our most recent lesson, I just saw a significant improvement just over the course of one week," Koltiska said. "That was really rewarding for me, cause it makes me very optimistic for what we can achieve by the end of this quarter."

Geoffrey Matthews, a computer science professor at Western, was a long-term participant in the program. Matthews now has a science, technology, engineering and math outreach program that he takes down to Skagit Valley to speak to students and their parents in Spanish about studying STEM at Western, Drickey said.

Matthews was unavailable for an interview as he is currently in Mexico using the Spanish he learned from the program, he said in an email.

"It actually has an impact on other people's lives," Drickey said.

Workshops and conversation pairings typically last for eight weeks during the academic quarter, Drickey said. The workshops are non-credit bearing, and there is no cost for participants to use the Employee Language Program.

Drickey is the curriculum coordinator for the Spanish workshops that are a part of the program. Drickey takes care of the logistical side of the workshops in the role of coordinator. She helps student facilitators decide what to teach, how to setup Canvas pages and create a syllabus.

The Employee Language Program also offers workshops in French. Participants fill out a survey to express language needs and the program works to accommodate those needs.

"In practice, the facilitators have a great deal of voice in the

curriculum," Drickey said. "I always defer to the facilitators in terms of what's actually happening in their workshops."

Shannon Ouzts has been a student facilitator for Spanish workshops for several quarters, she said.

"I've been able to teach many different levels throughout my time in the program," Ouzts said. "I love it because every time you get a new group of people, or maybe you know one or two people in there, but then you also get to practice your skills as a teacher."

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Faculty showcase artwork in Western Gallery

Western faculty draw from inspirations and techniques for new installations

Rachael Buselmeier
THE WESTERN FRONT

"I like the moment of discovery," assistant professor Seiko Atsuta Purdue said as one of her fabric sculptures filled the corner of the gallery behind her. The piece is made of blue fabric and white paper shaped in semi-circles and arranged to give a feeling of motion.

Every two years the Western Gallery holds an exhibit to showcase faculty art. Purdue created her installation with textiles made using a new technique of melting polyester and pouring paper pulp. Purdue said she learned the technique from an artist in Echizen, a city in Fukui Prefecture, Japan that is known for making paper. The new technique also inspired her recent piece "Ice," a glacier piece on the floor that alludes to global warming issues.

Purdue said she felt challenged when she was given the opportunity to showcase her work in the Western Gallery.

"I like to quietly walk around a space and feel what will work," Purdue said.

She made some sketches, but said she wasn't satisfied at first. Purdue joked about going out for a beer that night to find

inspiration.

"I came back the second day and my body was drawing. I became the pencil," she said. The blue and white pieces



Loewen displays his art at the faculty art show.

// Photo by Rachael Buselmeier

are arranged in a swirling pattern on the wall. Learning new techniques and forms was what initially excited Purdue about art.

"There are endless possibilities in shape and form," she said.

Purdue used a heat transfer process to add texture and shape to the flat swaths of fabric in the sculpture. Typically, she uses a board to spread a

mixture of liquid fiber over a screen to create the paper. In this piece, Purdue said she poured the solution directly onto the fabric.



Loewen displays his art at the faculty art show.

// Photo by Rachael Buselmeier

Purdue said she became interested in studio art while she was an undergraduate at Kyoto Seika University. However, it wasn't until she had graduated from two masters programs that she felt comfortable calling herself an artist.

"I'm still learning," Purdue said. "But now in a different way."

In a dark room further into

the gallery, instructor Douglas Loewen's piece "The Studio at 4 a.m." stood out in its own light. Loewen fashioned the light for his sculptures from a motorcycle hubcap he collected while working as a technician. Instead of the typical white pedestal, Loewen chose to display his pieces on a custom-built wood shelf.

"I wanted the piece to feel like a showroom," Loewen said.

The four sculptures Loewen created are made of found objects and bronze casting. On piece is topped with a hummingbird he found walking on campus and cast in bronze. He used a technique called "lost wax processing."

In his past gallery shows, Loewen has designed and created large installations. With this project, Loewen wanted to challenge himself to work on a smaller scale.

"I had a lot of latent skills that I wanted to bring to the forefront," he said.

Loewen said he first he wrapped the hummingbird's feet around a piece of wire and dipped it into hot wax. He then created a tube to fill the wax with multiant bronze.

"The bronze is heated to 1,000 degrees," Loewen said. "It melts the wax and anything

else contained in it."

Loewen teaches this process to students, emphasizing the motivation it takes to bring an idea into reality through a multi-week process.

Loewen said he also drew inspiration from classic pieces of art. His piece titled "The Studio at 4am" plays off Alberto Giacometti's surrealist work called "The Palace at 4 a.m." The sculpture he made of rock and bronze casting was inspired by "The Winged Victory of Samothrace" he saw while visiting the Louvre Museum.

"The lead sculpture that looks like fire and the cloud shaped lights reminded me of the Israelites in the Old Testament being lead by a pillar of clouds and a pillar of fire," Loewen said.

Loewen studied business for three years. The day before the major declaration deadline of his senior year, he switched to art.

"I was hungry visually, I was excited," Loewen said. "I thought that's where I wanna put my life."

The faculty art show will continue to show at the Western Gallery until May 9. The Western Gallery is open Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from noon to 4 p.m.

SASQUATCH IS SAFE IN THE WOODS OF WHATCOM COUNTY

Thanks to Bigfoot advocates, the only people allowed to shoot the primate are hopeful photographers

Grace McCarthy
THE WESTERN FRONT

Jeffrey Meldrum never paid much attention to Bigfoot folklore, that is, until the Idaho State University anatomy and anthropology professor studied more than 35 tracks of an unrecognizable creature in 1996. Meldrum has since analyzed hundreds of footprints that he hypothesizes come from the ape-like creature.

Meldrum can be assured Bigfoot will remain safe in Whatcom County, thanks to the county's continuing status as a Bigfoot Protection and Refuge Area.

Al Magnuson, a representative of the Mt. Baker Foothills Chamber of Commerce, proposed a Bigfoot hunting ban to Whatcom County Council on June 11, 1991. Magnuson said in a 1991 Bellingham Herald article that he presented the council with 260 signatures of residents concerned with the safety of both Bigfoot and participants of the Bigfoot costume contest at the first annual Bigfoot at Baker festival, which took place two weeks after his proposal.

"We all kind of laughed about it behind the scenes," Ramona Stumpf, a former council clerk of the Whatcom County Council, said.

"It was kind of nice to be able to come together around something that was light-hearted

and fun."

Whatcom County was declared a Sasquatch Protection and Refuge Area a year later on June 9, 1992 when the resolution passed. The resolution stated Bigfoot may exist and if it does, the creature is inadequately protected.

Council member Barbara Brenner was serving her first term on county council when she voted on the resolution that passed unanimously. Resolutions have no legal standing and usually show the council what topics are important to the public, Brenner said.

"I think [the council] did it as a gesture of support and goodwill toward people of the foothills and all the creativity they put into the event," Stumpf said.

Whatcom County wasn't the first county in the state to pass legislation protecting Sasquatch. Skamania County, which encompasses much of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in southwest Washington, passed an ordinance on April 1, 1969, citing Bigfoot hunting an illegal offense. The fine could result in up to \$10,000 or five years in jail, according to the ordinance.

Protecting this creature is important to Meldrum. He researches human locomotion, the study of how people walk on two legs, to examine hundreds of footprint evidence from what he hypothesizes is Bigfoot.

"I'm convinced by the evidence that there is, at the very least, a justified rationale for investigating this question," Meldrum said. "Even if at present we come up short of definitive, conclusive proof that such creatures exist."

There are a few working hypotheses on what Bigfoot could be, Meldrum said. Near the end of the ice age during the Pleistocene Epoch, many large animals known as megafauna roamed earth. One in particular was a 9-foot pri-

mate that lived in east Asia, Gigantopithecus blacki.

Meldrum said missing scientific evidence leaves questions about the primate, including its mobility on two legs, but the timing and location opens the possibility of it crossing the Bering Land Bridge to North America.

Bigfoot protections can raise awareness that such creatures might exist and should be treated with respect like any other form of wildlife, Meldrum said.

"The sentiment is great even if it's done with a little bit of levity," Meldrum said.

When Cullen Carter, a third-year recreation major, isn't busy with school, he's hunting down the legendary Bigfoot. Springtime means he never forgets his camera or apples, which he scatters along the trails in hopes of luring the ape-like creature.

"It would be cool to see it but I also don't want to die at the hands of Bigfoot," Carter said.

Carter said his first expedition was in eastern Washington in 2017, after many years of watching the Animal Planet show "Finding Bigfoot." Although he hasn't found any evidence of Bigfoot yet, Carter said he is planning more expeditions and agrees with Whatcom County's Bigfoot protection.

"If Bigfoot is real, then at least there is one place they are safe," Carter said.

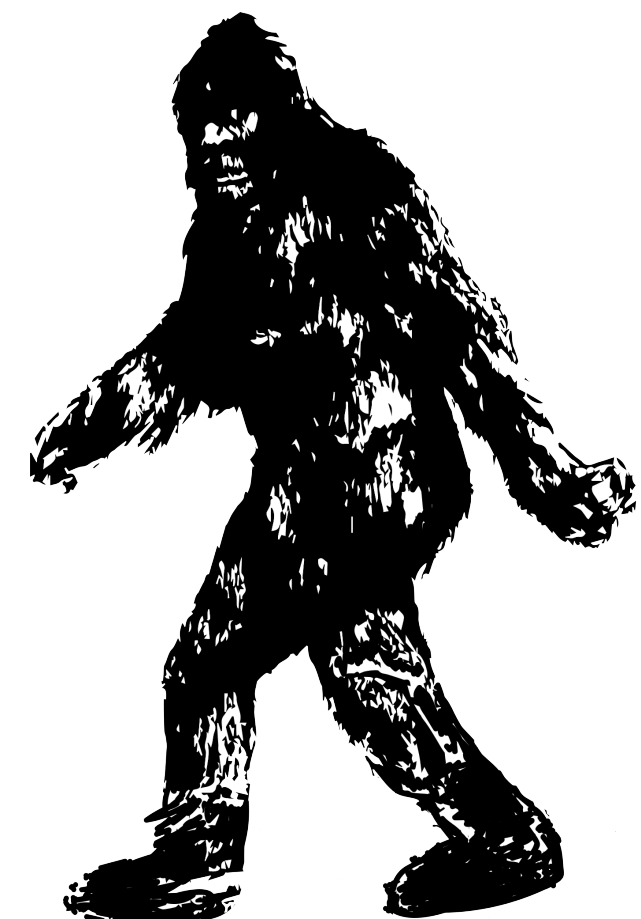


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April Brews Day fosters community over beer

Jordan Shepherd
THE WESTERN FRONT

The smell of beer and fresh barbecue took over downtown as thousands of people filled up the Depot Market Square on Saturday, April 27. Attendees enjoyed sunshine, games, music, local food, and most importantly, copious amounts of beer for Bellingham's annual April Brews Day.

The Max Higbee Center, which sponsors and puts on the annual fundraiser event in downtown Bellingham every year, also celebrated its 18th anniversary as part of the festivities.

The Max Higbee Center is a recreational center that provides services for teens and adults with developmental disabilities. Western professor Max Higbee was the original leader of the organization and helped them become an official nonprofit organization in 1984.

April Brews Day was created in 2001 when the Max Higbee Center needed funding to continue, according to Bellingham's website. April Brews Day has grown from a



Brian Myers drinking a beer at April Brews Day on April 27. // Photo by Jordan Shepherd

handful of breweries and just a few hundred people to one of the largest beer festivals in the Pacific Northwest.

April Brews Day helps to bring in almost 50% of the center's funds for the year to help with activities including cooking classes, Bellingham YMCA workouts, sports, music events and more, according to April Brews Day's website.

The venue for April Brews Day in 2017 almost doubled

in size to allow room for more attendees and activities. With some planning, the event this year featured shorter lines, more room for games and a much better sound system according to the event's website.

April Brews Day is the conclusion of Bellingham Beer Week, which highlights Bellingham's beer scene.

"We are thrilled to be a part of Bellingham Beer Week because our local breweries are such incredible supporters of April Brews Day. We really couldn't do this event without them," Kari Whiteside, executive director of the Max Higbee Center, said.

The event, which lasted from 5:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m., featured two types of tickets. VIP tickets let attendees in at 5:30 p.m. and included extra tickets for beer samples and a glass drinking cup. General admission ticket holders were let in at 6:30 p.m. and received tickets for beer samples and a metal drinking cup. Extra tickets could be purchased at the event.

The festival featured over 65 Pacific Northwest craft breweries and brought in more than 130 different types of beers, including ciders, hoppy IPAs, stouts and gluten-free options.

The festival included lo-

cal breweries such as Boundary Bay Brewery, Aslan Brewing Co., Bellingham Cider Company, Bright & Sunny Wild Ginger Beer, Chuckanut Brewery & Kitchen, Gruff Brewing Co., Herb's Cider, Honey Moon Mead & Cider, Illuminati Brewing Co., Kombucha Town, Lost Giants Cider Company, Menace Brewing, Stema Brewing Co., Stones Throw Brewery, Twin Sisters Brewing Company, and Wander Brewing.

"The great thing about this festival is that it's a local festival that brings in a lot of people and a lot of different kind of beer from all over the state, and gives the event a true Bellingham vibe," Aslan Brewing Co. employee Bobby Bruce said. "People come to relax and enjoy the beer and music and have a good night."

The event was sold out and hosted over 4,000 attendees playing games, drinking, eating food from local food trucks and listening to live music from the bands Out of the Ashes, Black Water and GrooveBot.

Local food trucks this year included The Mobile Mouth Hole, JT's Smokin' BBQ, Tacos El Tule, Kebab Casual, Kurly's Gourmet Deep Fry, Boundary Bay Brewery & Bistrot, Street Dogz, Chow Gourmet Hot Dogs, Sage Against The Machine 360, StrEAT Food, Crabby's Crab Cakes and Seafood Delights and Gusto Woodfired Pizza.

"I really love the food that the event has this year," event attendee Robert Mann said. "There is a variety of everything, the mac & cheese from JT's Smokin' BBQ is a must try."

Among the breweries at the event was Boundary Bay Brewery which has been a main sponsor of April Brews Day since the very first event 18 years ago. The title-sponsor for the event this year was WECU.

"Brews Day is the best beer event in the area every year,"

Jeff Jones, a fourth-generation Bellingham resident and festival attendee, said. "I love how fun it is and I love getting to try different beers. Urban [Family] Brewer [Co.] out of Seattle is one of my favorites."

"Seeing the people smiling and having a good time is such a good thing to see," Boundary Bay Brewery employee JD Hill said. "Watching the festival getting bigger and bigger is really cool, plus getting to give out good beer helps."



A tasting glass adorned with the Max Higbee Center logo is held during April Brews Day. // Photo by Jordan Shepherd

Awards were also woven into the activities. Coming in first place for the judges' awards was the Black Francis beer from The North Fork Brewery, Pizzeria and Beer Shrine. In first place for the people's choice award was the Holy F&cking GrAle Stout by Birdview Brewing Co.

The event concluded with fireworks over the Bellingham Herald building, giving the audience a vibrant show.

Beer week events are held every year in April, welcoming spring. With the 15 breweries in Whatcom County alone, the area is one of the premier spots in the Pacific Northwest to visit for craft beer.

Keeping AS employees from making public candidate endorsements disenfranchises Western's community

Working at the AS means being stuck at the intersection of professionalism and individuality

Associated Students Elections are a time of year at Western where it really matters that you keep up with what's happening. There are candidate debates on Facebook, campaigns being run on Instagram and discussions to be read on Twitter.

However, there's a group of people missing from these conversations, a group that might be the one of most relevant groups of all. According to section three of AS Election code, AS employees are not allowed to publicly endorse a candidate. That's a problem. While an office within the AS shouldn't endorse a candidate officially, the people working in the office should be allowed to publically share their perspective about candidates.

This year, almost half of the 13 people running for an AS board position have worked within the AS before. That means that a select group of people, their coworkers, have seen first-hand the work they've done and the qualifications they have, but can't speak about their experience without violating the election code.

AS employees are required by that code to stay silent when their coworkers decide to run for office, whether or not their coworkers have excelled or failed at the requirements of their position. This means that AS employees could not only be kept from elevating the platform of

someone who shares a lot of their values, but that they're also kept from sharing their perspective on why their coworker isn't a good fit for a position of power.

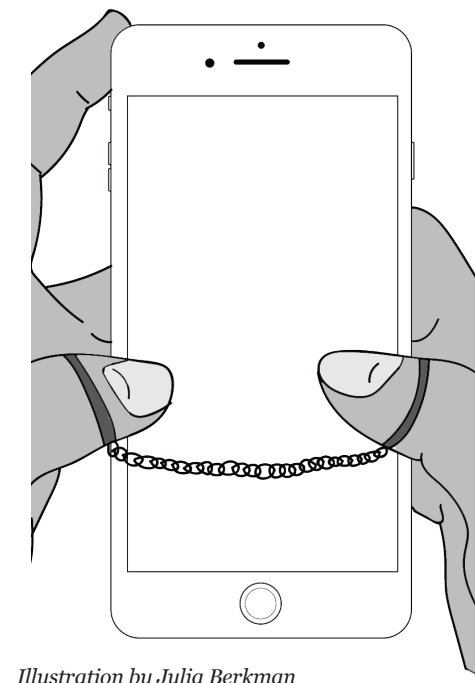


Illustration by Julia Berkman

Students employed by the AS also include everyone who is paid to work at the Ethnic Students Center; this means

many prominent members of Western's community of color are being silenced by this code. Also working at the AS is the staff of the Resource and Outreach Programs, which encompasses many identity resource centers like the Queer Resource Center and Disability Outreach center. The people working here also can't endorse candidates.

Working at the AS means being stuck at the intersection of professionalism and individuality. You're an employee at an organization with elected leaders, yes, but you're also a student who will be affected by the choices those leaders make. Do you forfeit your right to publically share your opinion in an election when you sign your HR papers and become an AS employee? According to the code, you do.

To deny those people the right to share their opinion disenfranchises the entirety of Western as a whole. After all, how can we make an informed decision to vote if we can't check the candidates' references? Currently, less than 20% of students vote in the AS election. With more outreach from students who are AS employees, those numbers could change.

This is a section in the code that affects everyone on campus when it's time to vote. It's time that's changed.

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

GUEST OPINION

'College finally gave me the direction I needed'

In response to The Western Front's article "Behind the systems: Western's admissions policies leave doors open for felons."



As a convicted felon and current student at Western with over five years of sobriety, I was disappointed to read this poorly-framed first article of a four-part series.

Is leaving the door open for felons good or bad? That's what I asked myself after reading the headline. It sounded encouraging at first - felons seeking education to turn their lives around and start a new chapter. But after reading the story it became clear that DeShaun Troy Dowdy was being used as the archetypal felon Western is admitting.

Dowdy is not representative of the average felon. Drug offenses make up 45.4% of felony convictions in the U.S., while sex offenses account for 9.9%, according to the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

To frame Dowdy as the poster child for the type of felon Western is opening its doors for is careless, harmful and promotes the stigma that felons are dangerous people.

I was convicted of theft of a firearm in 2010, a non-violent Class B felony, which was the result of a 12-year drug addiction. I paid for my crime with six months in jail, nine months at in-patient treatment facilities, three years of Department of Corrections supervision and two years of out-patient treatment. I still pay for it when I submit a job or rental application - and when I applied to Western in 2016. I committed the crime and I accept the responsibility and consequences of my decisions.

However, I am not the same person I was when I committed my crime nine



Illustration by Julia Berkman

years ago. I am now a senior journalism student, a sports reporter for the Lynden Tribune and, most importantly, I'm someone who has overcome a merciless cycle of crime and drugs so that I can live a normal life.

I have spoken with classes at Western to share my past drug and criminal history. People have approached me afterwards who said they were reluctant to share their past with others, for fear of being judged. It made me wonder how many others are walking through campus, people who are just trying to get their lives on track but are afraid of being judged for the person they used to be.

Missing is the voice of a single felon - one of the largest stakeholders in the story. Why do we not get a voice in a story that has our label in the headline?

College literally saved my life. I decided to take a huge leap and enroll when I was in my first year of sobriety and fresh out of an Oxford House - a halfway house for recovering addicts.

After years of relapsing, college finally gave me the direction I needed to get back on my feet - and a goal. I can't say with certainty if I would be clean and sober today - or even alive - if I hadn't been admitted into college.

Thank you, Western Washington University and Peninsula College for opening your doors to this felon.

- Eric Trent
Journalism Major

VIKING VOICES

Why do you think less than 20% of students vote in AS elections?



Bailey Kuntz
Communications Studies

"We don't see [voting] make an immediate impact and I don't really see anything being done by the AS a lot around campus, at least in my years at Western. I think if we were able to see more impacts or more information campus wide on what the AS is doing and how they are making an impact then more students would care and go vote."



Asa Deweese
Undecided

"I don't think students realize how the AS [Board] really effects their daily life in school, and a lack of awareness of what they do I think is what really effects the amount of students voting."



Raelyn Caplan
Undecided

"I keep seeing signs around campus and seeing people advertising themselves but I never see anything about where to go to vote and when. I think if people knew more about how to participate more than more students would vote, I think people tend to overlook their own power to engage and make a difference."



Duncan Barnes
Computer Science

"I personally don't have the time to go to the debates and find out more about the candidates and what they want to do because I am a busy student, so not doing the research or knowing an easy way to access the debates via online makes me not want to vote because I'm not really sure what I am voting for."

Compiled by Jordan Shepherd

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38th Ralph Vernacchia Track & Field Meet

Track & Field team launches into action at home meet on Saturday, April 27 at Civic Stadium in Bellingham



(Left) Second-year high jumper Heather Faretta. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin.
 (Above) First-year pole vaulter Christian Williams. // Photo by Hailey Hoffman.
 (Below right) Western women's 4x100m relay team competing. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin



First-year Wilson Turk leaps off the barrier during the men's 3,000-meter steeplechase event. // Photo by Hailey Hoffman



First-year hurdler Koby Okezie competes in the 110 meter hurdles. // Photo by Hailey Hoffman



Third-year Raquel Pellecer competes in the Javelin Throw on Saturday, April 27. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin

The bigger they are, the harder they fall

Competing against larger schools, Western holds their own when it comes to club sports

Allyson Roberts
THE WESTERN FRONT

Bigger doesn't always mean better when it comes to Western club sports playing bigger Division I schools in regular season competitions.

Western's student population is one of the smallest when it comes to the schools the sports clubs compete against. The largest school Western regularly competes against is the University of Washington whose population is just over 43,000 students. The smaller schools in the league include Central Washington University, Whitman College and Eastern Washington University.

Although the deficit may be visible in each school's roster, Western's club sports have held their own when it comes to competing.

Last weekend the men's crew team competed at the Western Intercollegiate Rowing Championships in Sacramento, California. The team competed against club teams from large Division I schools all over the West Coast and claimed second place in one of their races.

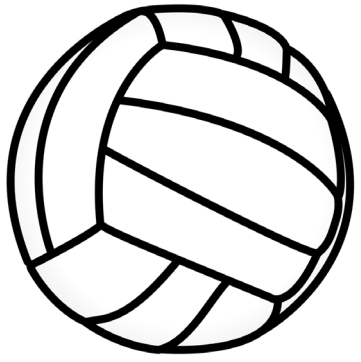
Men's crew team member and second-year David Kipnis said competing against bigger schools is not necessarily difficult because it gives them good competition.

"We have amazing coaches and very motivated athletes which is rarely found in schools who compete on a club level. [This] gives us the ability to compete with teams who are as fast if not faster than us," Kipnis said. Kipnis said larger schools

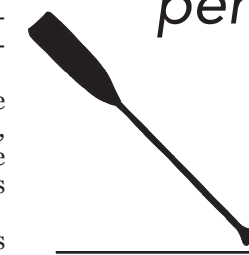
"This season has been the best for us both in terms of boat speeds and the team dynamic," he said. "This is the fastest all of our boats have been in their respective categories compared to years passed." Men's club volleyball player

men's team routinely practices with the women's club volleyball team who recently won fifth at the National Collegiate Volleyball tournament in Denver, Colorado.

Third-year Sydney "SJ" Evans, the goalie for the Western women's lacrosse team, was



"We can beat any school out there. It just takes time, practice, sweat, and perseverance to reach our goals."



Nate Le

Men's club volleyball player



difficult especially when we are playing teams like [University of Oregon] since they have a divisional lacrosse team, because the girls on their team originally went to the school to play but didn't want to commit," Evans said.

Evans agreed with both Kipnis and Le that they wouldn't stop competing against the larger schools even with the advantages they have.

"I'd prefer playing these teams and playing harder teams to make it more of a challenge than to play a small school," Evans said.

Evans is excited for her team's season next year as they just voted in a new leadership team as well as new captains. She also mentioned that she is excited for the team to build a new foundation to make a stronger team.

have the advantage of more funding from big donors, giving them the ability to have more recruits. He added that they also have access to better gear and nicer facilities, which makes it easier to perform on higher levels.

Although Western is one of the smaller schools, Kipnis said that this year they had one of the biggest turnouts for the team tryouts.

and second-year Nate Le said he doesn't think it's harder to play against larger schools. It's just a matter of practice and how much you want to improve and become better.

"We can beat any school out there. It just takes time, practice, sweat, and perseverance to reach our goals," he said.

Le said their team's season has gone well with eight wins in only two tournaments. The

originally going to play Division III lacrosse but decided to attend Western and joined their club team.

Evans mentioned that their season did not go as planned this year due to losing a chunk of team veterans to graduation. She also said the advantages of bigger schools come from having a divisional team as well as a club team.

"I think it's definitely dif-

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Sports roundup: End of season softball goes down to the wire

Christopher Smith
THE WESTERN FRONT

Softball

The Vikings traveled to Nampa, Idaho for a four-game series with the Nighthawks of Northwest Nazarene University to finish off the regular season on Friday April 26 and Saturday April 27. The series had a spot in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference tournament on the line for both teams as Western and Northwest Nazarene fought to be the fourth and final team in the tournament. The Vikings offense fell silent in game one of Friday's doubleheader as the Nighthawks took a commanding 7-0 victory. Western came roaring back with hot bats taking the second game 8-2, setting up a Saturday doubleheader that had huge playoff implications on the line. Western needed to win both games of Saturday's doubleheader to secure the final spot in the tournament. The Nighthawks were able to take game one on Saturday by a score of 8-7 with a strong late-game comeback, knocking the Vikings out of GNAC tournament contention. Western was able to win the final game 4-0 and ended the regular season on a positive note with a 2 RBI day from Makinlee Sellevold.



Members of the softball team prepare before the start of a game. // Photo by Zachary Jimenez

Upcoming Viking Action

Home

Women's Soccer
v University of Washington
May 2 @ 7:30 p.m.

Men's Soccer
v Highling College
May 4 @ 2 p.m.

Away

Track & Field
Ken Shannon Invitational // May 4

Women's Soccer
v Bellevue College // May 4

Women's Rowing
Windermere Cup // May 4

Women's Soccer

The Vikings travelled to Portland, Oregon for an exhibition match against Portland State University on Sunday, April 28. Western was able to claim a commanding 7-0 victory highlighted by heavy scoring before halftime. Fourth-year Emily Nelson scored the fourth goal of the first half, which was just one of the five goals the Vikings scored in the first 45 minutes of the match. Western added on two more goals in the second half and continued to play tough defense, ending in a shutout of Portland State. Western continues their spring exhibition play on Thursday, May 2 as they host the University of Washington at home on Robert S. Harrington Field.

Women's Rowing

Women's rowing competed in the Western Intercollegiate Rowing Association Championships and advanced to the Grand Finals on the first day of competition. The Varsity 4+ took home the bronze on the final day of competition, nearly passing UC San Diego for the silver. The Vikings crew consisted of third-year Adele Houston, fourth-year Hannah Bivans, third-year Carly Lant, third-year Paige Jacobsen and second-year Rachael Schick. The Varsity 8+ finished fourth, just missing the podium. The Vikings look to continue their success at the Windermere Cup in Seattle, hosted by the University of Washington on Saturday, May 4.

Track & Field

The men's and women's track & field teams competed in the Ralph Vernacchia Meet on Sunday, April 28 at Civic Stadium in Bellingham. First-year Karlington Anunagba continues to draw eyes as he ran the men's 200-meter with a time of 21.68 seconds, the third fastest time in Western track & field history. Third-year Amanda Short tied for eighth in Western history for javelin distance. This was the final home meet of the 2019 outdoor season. The next stop for the Vikings is the Great Northwest Athletic Conference Multi Championships in Ellensburg, Washington starting on Monday, April 29 followed by the Ken Shannon Invitational in Seattle on Saturday, May 4.

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