

THE WESTERN FRONT

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Orchestra revives Holocaust-era composition

Fundraising begins to send orchestra to Prague and Vienna in June 2020

Elizabeth Hall
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western's orchestra is fundraising \$100,000 for a tour around Prague and Vienna in June 2020, where they will play a piece written during the Holocaust.

The Western symphony will play at one of the most celebrated concert halls in the world, orchestra director Ryan Dudenbostel said.

Patrick Roulet, chair of the music department, said the orchestra has experienced major growth in the past five years since Dudenbostel took over as director.

"It is just miraculous what the musicians are able to do as a team. When you go to a concert and Dr. Dudenbostel is on the podium, you know that everything is going to be in place," Roulet said.

Dudenbostel has achieved a high artistic level with attention to detail in his orchestra, Roulet said. There's also heart and passion behind the music, which is the reason the 600-seat concert hall is often filled.

Dudenbostel said the



Ryan Dudenbostel directs Western's Symphony Orchestra during their performance on Friday, Nov. 15.

// Photo by Claire Ott

most exciting part of the tour is playing the world premiere of a piano arrangement written by composer Gideon Klein, who was murdered during the Holocaust in 1945, shortly after he turned 25-years-old.

Klein was imprisoned in Theresienstadt ghetto in modern day Terezin, Czech Republic, when he was around 22 to 23-years-old. The ghetto was a "show camp" for the Red Cross during the Holocaust, meaning it was

chosen to showcase how well the Jews were treated by the Nazis, Dudenbostel said. While it was still a concentration camp where tens of thousands died, the camp still had a thriving art scene, according to the Holocaust Encyclopedia.

Klein would have turned 100 this December, Dudenbostel said.

The orchestra will be visiting the areas where Klein stayed the day before the premiere.

see **SYMPHONY**, page 8

Amazon competition seeks solution to food insecurity

Jordan Van Beek
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western is the newest host and sponsor of the Amazon Catalyst Competition. Ten thousand dollars is the prize for the person who can help increase access to food on campus for students struggling with food insecurity by seeking problems and solutions.

The submission period began Oct. 31 and will end on Dec. 6 at 11:59 p.m. The judging period begins on Dec. 7 and will end on Feb. 17.

The competition will be judged based on level of innovation, feasibility, scalability, generalizability and level of understanding of the student experience. Level of innovation is weighted at 40%, while the remaining four factors are 15%, according to Brian Burton, associate vice president for academic affairs.

"We are looking for ideas that address the issue in innovative and scalable ways and that will work at Western," Burton said.

According to the competition website, proposals from any field are welcomed, including the humanities, engineering, sciences, fine arts and liberal arts.

The competition is open to all Western students, faculty and staff and the \$10,000 prize will be awarded to the solution that meets the judges criteria. The judges may decide to split up the winnings between up to three proposals.

"Amazon is providing the prize money and the online platform where proposals will be submitted," Christa Countryman, manager

see **CATALYST**, page 4

Bellingham plans for 100% renewable energy by 2045

Merrideth McDowell
THE WESTERN FRONT

The City of Bellingham has made huge commitments to reduce its carbon footprint, including being 100% reliable on renewable energy by 2045. While it is time to start working toward this goal, there are some roadblocks in the way.

Puget Sound Energy (PSE) is the largest electricity provider in Washington state. While most of the state's electricity use reaps about 70% of their energy from renewable hydropower, PSE relies on a total of 60% of its energy output

on the burning of fossil fuels – 40% from coal, 20% from natural gas – according to Western energy professor Charles Barnhart.

This needs to change if Bellingham is to begin making steps toward renewable energy. Renewable electricity means more renewable energy and a chance to reduce the region's reliance on natural gas.

A PSE representative could not be reached in time for comment on this story.

"It's easy to talk [switching from fossil

see **CLIMATE**, page 4



Cheryl Knapp plays with her bulldogs Duck, Libby and Solo after they finish practicing for competitions in Bow, Wash., on Friday, Nov. 15. // Photo by Alix Condit

Meet the dogs who can flush toilets, ride kick scooters and bring their owner tissues on pg. 6-7



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Preserving student journalism freedom



Flea, the bass player in Red Hot Chili Peppers, visits Bellingham High School on Monday, Nov. 18, to promote his new book, "Acid For the Children." // Photo by Claire Ott

The Western Front

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Corrections:

In the story headlined 'Veterans honored in spoken word ceremony' on pg 7, in the Nov. 13 issue it was stated that the band performed the "Pledge of Allegiance" when they actually performed the "Star Spangled Banner". It was also stated that the event was on Friday Nov. 9 when it was actually on Thursday Nov. 7. In the story headlined 'Food access through community' the Common Threads Farm was referred to as Common Treads.

Changes to 'no wake zone' cause concern

Members of Lake Samish community, Whatcom County Council discuss compromise ordinance

Melody Kazel
THE WESTERN FRONT

Residents of Lake Samish are concerned about safety on the lake, though their definitions of what safety looks like differ.

On June 4, the Whatcom County Council passed an ordinance amending the county code related to wake zones on Lake Samish. Since then, there has been debate in the Lake Samish community about the ordinance and how it was passed.

A no wake zone is an area in which a boat must drive at minimum speed. The ordinance increased distance of no wake zones. Boats driving at faster than 6 mph must stay 300 feet from shore. It restricted vessels being used to displace water for wake purposes to 300 feet from shore, meaning they cannot operate within that area except for takeoff or landing. The ordinance also designated a larger no wake zone by the bridge located just south of Lake Samish Park.

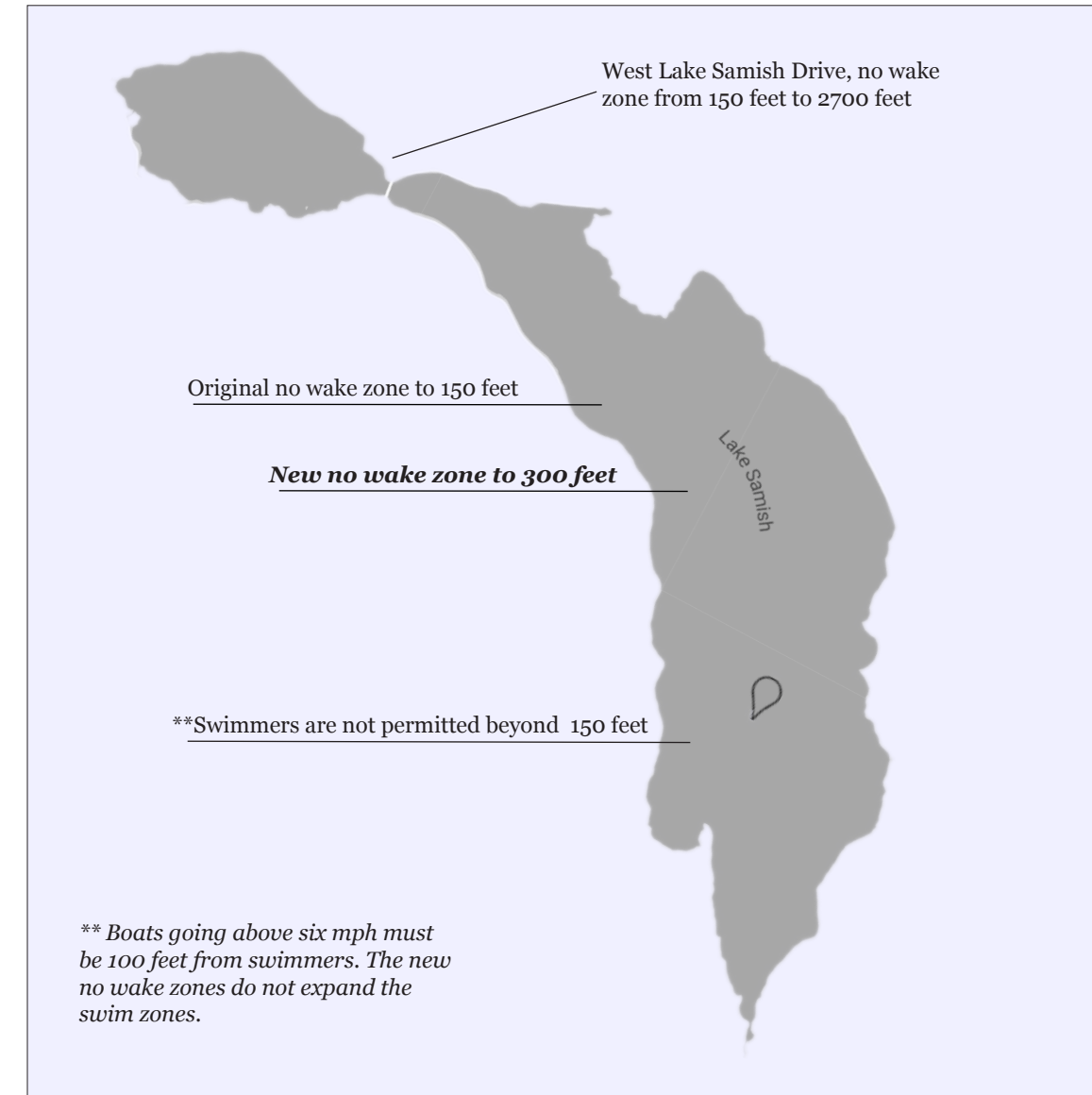
County Council member Tyler Byrd, who sponsored the ordinance, said the idea for updating the codes was brought by leaders within the Lake Samish Association. The issues community members brought forth — erosion, dock damage and the safety of swimmers — seemed like serious problems, according to Byrd.

While the residents in favor of this ordinance explained their experiences and brought forth their own data, Byrd said no official study has been done to confirm or deny claims of erosion problems on the lake. Prior to passing the ordinance, no official investigation was done into the extent of dock damage. One of the main reasons the ordinance was passed was because the council believed it was what the majority of Lake Samish residents wanted, Byrd said.

"It looked like the right thing to do from both the county's standpoint as well as the community members' standpoint," Byrd said.

Once the ordinance was passed, and the buoys were moved to indicate the new no wake zones, a conflict arose.

"The community came



Map by Mallory Biggar

out in force and said, 'Hey, listen, we had no idea about this. We don't agree with it,' Byrd said.

After seeing that many members of the community were opposed to the ordinance, Byrd walked around Lake Samish and asked people their thoughts about the ordinance. He asked anyone who was home, he said.

"Some of them took me out back and actually showed me their shorelines and what they thought about the issue," Byrd said. "The feedback was not unanimous, but the vast majority of people didn't like what had happened or how it occurred."

The county council had looked into the extent of dock damage, going out to the lake to see what it looks like. Byrd said after investigation they realized that dock damage was not as bad as they had initially thought.

Eric McHenry, a Lake Samish resident who is against the ordinance, said he felt due diligence wasn't done when the ordinance was passed.

"I think that the vote, originally, was rushed because they didn't see any opponents to the original ordinance, and that was because the Lake Samish Association, that is supposed to inform the residents of anything going on on the lake that would affect them, did not do their due diligence," McHenry said.

According to McHenry, the majority of the Lake Samish community was unaware the ordinance was being discussed. He said the members of the Lake Samish Association who brought the ordinance to the county council did not inform residents.

Those opposed to the ordinance are calling for a

compromise.

The compromise ordinance calls for two things, McHenry said. First, to keep wake surfing and wakeboarding out at 300 feet but allow all other activities on the lake to take place within 150 feet from dock or shore, as it was before the ordinance was passed. Second, move the no wake zone south of the bridge from 2,700 feet to approximately 800 feet from the bridge.

McHenry walked around the community with a petition for the compromise and got several hundred signatures, then brought it to the county council.

Two meetings were held since then to discuss a compromise ordinance with the Lake Samish community. While proponents of the compromise ordinance see it as a fair deal, others who supported the initial change disagree.

A main argument from both sides of this disagreement is safety. Lake Samish residents Debra Noonan, Gary Simon, James Willson and David Mauro all supported the original ordinance. They said they had concerns regarding the safety of swimmers, small boaters — such as kayakers — and dock users.

Noonan said a boat once came so close to her dock it nearly knocked her grandchildren into the water.

"We were on the dock and a boat went by fast and set up a big wake," Noonan said. "I had to grab my kids because the dock was rocking so hard that they would have been knocked off."

People who support a compromise, such as McHenry, also cite safety as a major concern. McHenry said he supports a compromise partly because the original ordinance pushes boaters closer together in the middle of the lake, creating a greater potential for accidents.

"Since the ordinance being passed, there was an accident where somebody had to make a sudden adjustment in their track and somebody was wakeboarding and broke their leg," McHenry said.

Both sides of this issue care about the safety of people on Lake Samish. Those who oppose the compromise believe it would make the lake less safe for swimmers, small boaters and dock users. Those who support the compromise believe the original ordinance made the lake unsafe for boaters.

While all may not agree that this compromise ordinance will bring the greatest amount of safety to lake users, the community is coming together to try to find a compromise. Byrd has decided to sponsor the compromise and said the county council is looking more thoroughly into this ordinance before they pass it because they want to make sure they get it right this time around. The debate is still ongoing and the county council is uncertain when the compromise ordinance would be brought forth to be voted on.



Illustration by Chloe Halbert

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Community unites to honor traffic accident victims

Bellingham participates in World Day of Remembrance for third year

Garrett Rahm
THE WESTERN FRONT

In Whatcom County in 2018, 13 people died in traffic accidents. Bellingham City Council Member Gene Knutson shared this statistic in his opening speech at the World Day of Remembrance (WDR) gathering at city hall on Thursday, Nov. 14.

WDR brings together many millions around the world to remember community members who died in car crashes, and to recognize the tremendously difficult jobs of our first responders, Knutson said.

World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims began in Europe in 1995, but now takes place on the third Sunday of November as a global event, according to the official website.

Thursday marks the third year Bellingham has taken part in WDR.

The event began with members of the community sharing personal stories of their experiences with loss. Lt. Claudia Murphy of the Bellingham Police Department, Deputy Lonnie Bauman and Patrol Lt. Rodger Funk of the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office, and Division Chief Scott Ryckman of the Bellingham Fire Department spoke of the travesties they have witnessed in the line of duty.

"Every loss is personal to us whether we knew the person or not," Murphy said.

Murphy spoke of a particular night, a car accident with six teenage boys, one of whom had died. She remembers how hard it was to identify which of the teenagers had died because they all looked similar. She admired the swift and careful teamwork of every first responder on the scene to help the victims' families.

Bauman talked about a tragic crash that left a young child paralyzed from the waist down.

"I have four boys of my own,



Deputy Lonnie Bauman tells a heartbreaking story of a little boy who lost the use of his legs in a car accident on Thursday, Nov. 14. // Photo by Garrett Rahm

and they all play sports year-round," Bauman said. "I've spent years watching them running up and down the football field, basketball court and around the bases. And because one person chose to drive after having too much to drink, that boy never got to do any of that."

Ryckman recalled a beautiful, sunny day that he had to spend responding to a car wrapped around a tree where he watched a kid take his last breath.

"Who was this person going to be? Who is this person in our community?" Ryckman asked. "This person doesn't have that opportunity now because of a moment of bad decision making."

Kendra Cristelli, director of Whatcom Support Officers, read next for Erica and Larry Weisman about their son Christopher, who died at the age of 20 in a vehicular accident just a block away from home.

"On January 29, 2013, my nightmare began when I was startled by the doorbell at 12:30 in the morning," Kendra read for Erica. "Christopher was our only son ... I felt like I no longer fit in this world. I was so quiet around the house with Chris gone."

Funk spoke after the Weissman family. "One day I went up to a crash and the person came up to me, he's all road rashed, and he goes, 'I need to thank you, you saved my life today,'" he said. Funk had convinced the motorcycleist to purchase a full-face helmet after he wrote the man a ticket a few weeks prior.

Following these chilling stories from the members of our community, every officer and deputy present turned on the lights of a great line of squad cars in front of the building and drove off to enforce a special emphasis on high risk driving in the community.

Everyone else at the event

electric water heaters and other things like hiring professionals to execute these jobs.

A lot of people in the Bellingham community have raised concern over this information, saying that the overall cost of switching to renewable electricity would be between \$36,000 and \$83,000. "Our exploration of measures to eliminate emissions caused lobbying groups to drum up all sorts of uproar with the public," Barnhart said.

He feels there are some factors that are misrepresented within these flyers, such as the cheaper cost of operation for electric heat pump water heaters, heat pump space heaters and the long-term savings that you can get from switching to electric.

Alyn Spector, Energy Efficiency Policy manager at CNGC, ensures that the company is doing their part in conservation. They are partnered with Sustainable Connections, and advocate that their customers use less of their product. Spector made it clear that CNGC is not opposed to the Climate Action Plan and Task Force, rather that they want to work with them to find the right economic solutions.

CNGC cares deeply about the community and the environment and firmly believe that energy

efficiency is important. Spector emphasized their focus on workable solutions and finding the best path for the Bellingham through working with the City.

Spector said the company felt there was a predetermined conclusion to only work with electricity, but they want to engage and be a part of this process, decision and discussion. Overall, the company takes pride in their efficiency.

Since the establishment of the Climate Protection Action Plan in 2007, Bellingham converted streetlights to LED, purchased hybrid and electric vehicles, implemented the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan and introduced solar panels to some facilities, according to Mayor Kelli Linville. She said their next step is replacing the incineration at the Post Point Wastewater Treatment Plant with anaerobic digestion to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Linville offered a statement regarding the switch to renewable energy:

"I believe what the state and federal government can do is give incentives to individuals to use alternative energies. The biggest regulations are likely to come from the state and federal level, and since we have economic and housing needs

walked a six-block loop carrying candles with paper hearts attached to them.

Doug Dahl, Target Zero Manager for the Washington Traffic Safety Commission, and Bellingham resident Brian Estes were instrumental in putting the event together.

"Brian had been involved with this down in Seattle and he suggested that we do it here," Dahl said. "He kind of spearheaded it the first year, and now it is this meaningful thing to the community."

Target Zero is a project of the Washington Traffic Safety Commission working toward ending all traffic deaths and serious injuries, according to the official website.

Human error is responsible for 94% of traffic accidents, Dahl said. "It doesn't have to be this way."

"Implementation is certainly a favorable outcome, and we're exploring ways internally to incentivize implementation for the winning project or projects," Burton said.

"Amazon is interested in encouraging and supporting people who dream big and whose innovative ideas can have positive impacts," Burton added. "Amazon knows Western as a university with students, staff and faculty who care about society and who want to work to address society's problems, as well as a university that can work on events such as this and conduct them successfully."

"If you have to move 10% of your consumers to something you have to move 100% of your consumers to ten years later, it seems like if anything we are helping them," Barnhart said.

It is not that these companies do not care for the environment or climate change, but also about the economic standpoint they hold as Bellingham approaches these major changes, Barnhart continued.

"My impression is that Bellingham voters want all these things, they want a clean community, they want a vibrant community, they want a healthy and growing community," he said.

On the matter of continued burning of fossil fuels, Barnhart's hope is that this is only a vocal minority.

CATALYST

continued from page 1

of corporate partnerships, said. "This is an opportunity to propose unique solutions to an issue that many people must confront daily, both on campus and beyond our campus."

Food security is defined as the availability of food and one's access to it. According to a 2018 study, an estimated 20% to 30% of students at four-year colleges experience food insecurity.

"Amazon Catalyst has only been hosted by two universities, the University of Washington and Washington State University," Burton said. "Amazon is working to scale the Catalyst program, and Western is the first, and currently the only, university chosen to participate in this new format."

Participating in the competition gives students, faculty and staff at Western an exciting opportunity to use their skills, knowledge and experience to find solutions to real-world problems, according to the competition website.

"We're excited to team up with Catalyst, and to provide this unique opportunity to our campus community," the website says.

The website also said they are looking for proposals that address a visible problem in the world and must present an original, practical solution to bring awareness to that problem.

Once the winners are announced, all ideas will be published so that the general public may benefit from them.

Burton said finding a way to implement the projects is something they're looking into.

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Western looks to hire new Woodring dean

Eva Bryner
THE WESTERN FRONT

The search is on for a new dean of Woodring college of education.

Screening for a new applicant will begin on Dec. 9, and the position will likely start summer 2020, according to Paqui Méndez, dean of the college of humanities and Search Committee chair.

The current dean of Woodring, Horacio Walker, will be retiring after August to smooth the transition between deans, Méndez said.

"Normally in searches, we like to have overlap between the current person and then the person coming in so they can share some information," Jennifer Sloan, assistant to internal audit and assistant attorney general for Western, said.

Walker has been dean of Woodring since fall 2017 and served as a dean at Universidad Diego Portales in Chile before coming to Western, according to Western Today.

A search committee consisting of 12 people is in charge of fielding new candidates and recently made the search public, encouraging all of Western to spread the word via an announcement in Western Today.

This committee consists of staff, faculty and student voices. Students are nominated by existing staff and faculty members of the committee, Sloan said.

"Given that the dean provides leadership for the college as a whole, it was important that the committee had representation with all key groups, meaning

students, staff and faculty since the dean will be working closely with and on behalf of all of them," Méndez said via email.

Reaching out to the campus community is a key part of the Provost Diversity Hiring Initiative this year, Méndez said.

"One key component of this initiative is to do most of the outreach efforts so that we are able to attract as large, diverse and qualified pool of applicants as possible. Faculty and staff, and even students, who are connected with professional organizations or know people who might be qualified to apply to the position, can provide invaluable help," Méndez said via email.

The committee itself is also a part of this outreach and is encouraged to talk to people at conferences or to colleges

at other universities, Sloan said.

"We want to have the largest pool of applicants that we can choose from to find a dean that's going to serve the Woodring college of education," Sloan said.

Emma Nielsen, a second-year student and physical education major, said she hopes to see more interaction between the dean and students in the future.

"As of now, there is not much interaction between the dean and students, at least in the SEC [Secondary Education Course] courses I have been placed in," Nielsen said. "I would, in the future, like to have a dean that connects with all specializations within secondary education."

The dean is responsible for collaborating with staff, faculty and students to make sure the vision and

mission of the university are implemented, Méndez said.

"The dean serves as an advocate for Western and for Woodring College of Education, including the development and support of partnership opportunities in the local, national and international community. We are looking for someone with the experience, skill and capacities to fulfill all these roles," Méndez said via email.

Woodring began as the core of what is now Western, founded in 1893 as the New Whatcom Normal School. The building that once housed the teaching college is now Old Main, according to Woodring's history.

In 1942, Woodring was rehoused into its current location and its programs continue to be widely accredited.

What deans do, why you need to know

Ana Soltero
THE WESTERN FRONT

As college students, the order of administrative hierarchy at school is not often considered. The main focus is graduating on time and the closest glimpse we get to the hierarchy is through professors. The next person who comes to mind is the president of the university. But there are several layers of people in between.

While Woodring gears up for dean applicant screening on Dec. 9, the question many students may have is: What does a dean do?

"When I was a student, I did not know what a dean was," Brad Johnson, dean of the college of science and engineering, said.

A university is broken up into parts: the academic affairs, which the provost and the vice president run, and the colleges.

"A college is a unit that is organized around certain disciplines. There are seven colleges [at Western] and all of them report through this academic affairs structure," Johnson said.

Every college has a dean.

The dean functions as the administrative head of the college. So, they are the junction between the overall university and the college they administer.

"My college has seven departments and two programs that all report to me in this office and I report to the provost. So, it is kind of a management organization structure," Johnson said.

Deans are in charge of budgets, supervising and hiring faculty and staff, and solving personnel issues.

"Deans have kind of the overall responsibility for the budget of their college, for the well-being of the faculty and staff and the curriculum," Jack Herring, dean of Fairhaven College, said.

Herring said he supervises all the faculty and most of the staff in Fairhaven. He said he has about 30 people that report directly to him and he is responsible for evaluating those people.

Another duty that a dean holds is the tracking, maintaining and managing issues around the budget of the college, Herring said.

"I am the person who works with the provost and the budget office to determine what Fairhaven's budget is going to be and to make sure we are living within that budget," Herring said.

Some colleges also have a research component that a dean oversees.

"My dean responsibilities include the administration of the Huxley College's academic, research, and outreach programs," Steve Hollenhorst, dean of Huxley College, said in an email.

The college of science and engineering also has a research component, Johnson said. Deans function as advocates for their college and liaison between the college and industries outside of school.

"Our connections with the industrial powers in the region are important because we get pushes and pulls on those programs — there is student demand ... lots of industrial partners want our students. So, building that conduit between those two things is a part of making our college work effectively," Johnson said.

Herring said a good portion of dean work is also engaging with alumni.

"In part, we all do that because we want to build strong networks so that we have people that we can send students to if they are looking for an internship in a certain field, for mentors, or potential recommendations of career paths," Herring said.

While the role of a dean might seem a bit daunting, the individuals that serve this role still find some fun in their position.

The most fun is when he talks with students and learns about their career goals in addition to the environmental issues that they find important, Hollenhorst said in an email.

"I also love talking with Huxley alumni and learning about the great things they're doing in the world," Hollenhorst said.

Herring said he gets the most excitement out of getting to talk to prospective students and their parents.

"Fairhaven has its own admissions process and a few times a year I get to meet with prospective students and their



Steve Hollenhorst, dean of Huxley College. // Photo courtesy of Steve Hollenhorst

parents and get to explain to them what Fairhaven is all about. And I just love that," Herring said.

Johnson said he finds joy in getting to know the different types of people and what they do in the college of science and engineering.

"People do amazing things in this college and getting to just learn about that is really fun," Johnson said.

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Cheryl Knapp with her bulldog Ducky on Friday, Nov. 15. // Photo by Alix Condit

BELLINGHAM'S OWN BULLDOG WHISPERER

Alix Condit
THE WESTERN FRONT

Cheryl Knapp's bulldogs know how to do a lot, from playing the piano to riding a skateboard, and they can even open the fridge.

Over the years, 61-year-old Cheryl has trained and welcomed numerous bulldogs into her family. Many have been featured in contests, dog shows, TV shows and movies.

Cheryl first started training animals at a very young age. She grew up around horses and was gifted her first dog at 5 years old — a reward for being the flower girl in her aunt and uncle's wedding.

The first animal she taught tricks was a horse, who she taught to bow, and she was able to ride him standing. Cheryl said she enjoyed finding unique tricks she saw on TV or learned from other people.

Around 30 years ago Cheryl got her first bulldog, Rosie. At the time, Cheryl's four sons were very young. The bulldog quickly started to copy everything the young boys did. With a little nudge from Cheryl, Rosie would skateboard with them and even learned to ride a rocking horse.

Micah Knapp, her son, remembers growing up with the dogs and inviting friends over to

ride skateboards with the dogs. "It was basically like having another member of the family," he said.

A video of Rosie riding the rocking horse ended up on America's Funniest Home Videos and from that day forward, Cheryl's bulldogs became wildly successful.

"I've never met anyone like her," said Bonnie Bird, a dog trainer and Cheryl's friend. "I just really admire her. She gets dogs to do things like they do in Hollywood."

Now, Cheryl's four bulldogs can ride kick scooters, flush toilets and even bring Cheryl tissues when she sneezes. She said the dogs often learn from seeing another dog performing a trick.

Chubbs, one of her dogs, was trained to open the fridge and grab a little jug of milk off a shelf. Chubbs would perform this trick every so often and the other puppies took notice.

One afternoon, Cheryl heard the fridge and when she ran to the kitchen, she saw her younger dog, Gabe, had opened the fridge on his own. She hadn't taught the younger puppy how to open the fridge, but believes he learned this trick just to get her attention so she would feed him dinner.

Cheryl's dogs are quite intelligent, and they easily com-

municate what they want with her, she said. One evening, in particular, she was woken up in the night by the jingle of the dogs' bell. The dogs usually use the bell to signal when they need to go outside, but when Cheryl found Gabe, he lead her away from the doorbell and over to his bed. She realized from her pup's disgruntled face that he was tattling on Chubbs for taking his bed.

"It's fun to see their little wheels turn," Cheryl said.

Since America's Funniest Home Videos, Cheryl's bulldogs have been on America's Funniest People, America's Got Talent, the Late Show with David Letterman, Good Morning America and many more. Gabe even starred in a movie called The Dogfather.

"It was a pretty amazing experience," Cheryl said of her time as Gabe's trainer on the Dogfather. "It's a lot of hard work, a lot of long days and pretty intense."

Cheryl doesn't seek out contests and shows as much as they come to her. Her dogs are popular so she said people often come to her and tell her about contests and many shows that have sought her out.

Her dogs have been so successful in contests that she was able to take the prize money and

buy herself a new car. Cheryl said she puts a large part of the prize money back into the dogs. Even the car was an investment so she could more easily transport her dogs.

Although the bulldogs have won various contests for their unique skills, most of their training focuses on obedience and show skills. Cheryl shows her dogs quite often — her next show is right around Thanksgiving.

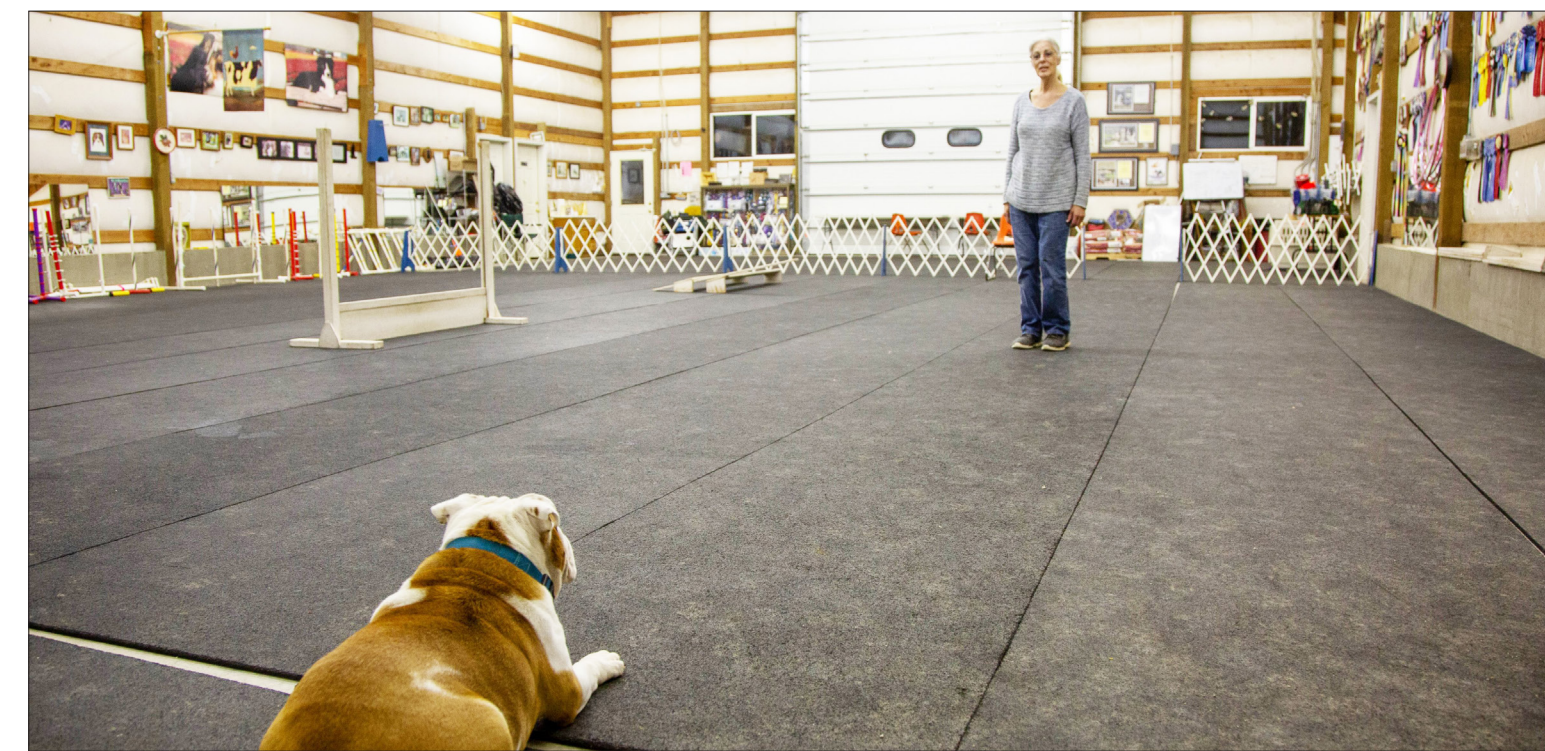
Bulldogs are likely not the first dog people imagine when they think of show dogs.

"People think that they're independent, that they're not smart, that they're hard to train and that has not been the case at all," Cheryl said. "A lot of times they are super smart, and they outsmart their owner."

Cheryl said the key to training such smart dogs is to know how to motivate them. She wants their training to be fun and positive. She said she won't train her dogs if they are sick, tired or even just that day.

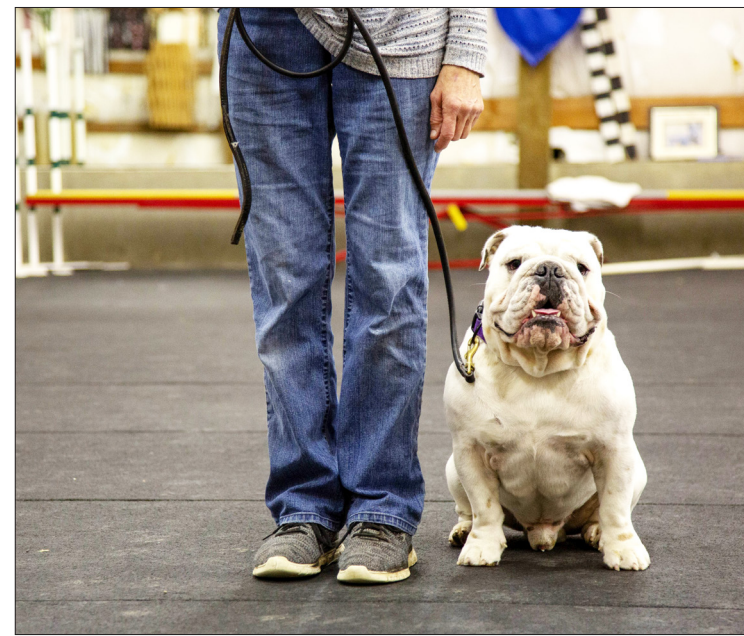
"I think it's her burning passion, she's sort of like an animal whisperer," Micah said.

Dog training is a passion project for Cheryl. She spends a large portion of her free time working with her dogs in some way or another. When she's not training her dogs, she works as a



Top: Ducky the bulldog sits and waits for her owner Cheryl to call her on Friday, Nov. 15. // Photo by Alix Condit

Right: Solo the bulldog waits to be given a command on Friday, Nov. 15. // Photo by Alix Condit



dental assistant.

She is also a dog breeder who breeds her show dogs and then sells the puppies. She has a long waitlist to buy her puppies, so she can be selective.

Cheryl has an eye for which puppies will be good show dogs and which ones are going to be better at tricks. She takes all this, along with the buyer's desires, into consideration when pairing puppies up with the right home.

In some litters, she will keep

one puppy that she sees the most potential in. She looks for teachability and confidence.

"You can kinda tell the smart puppies if they cock their head at you and they listen to you," Cheryl said.

Many of Cheryl's puppies, even the ones she sells, have become very successful in the same way Cheryl's dogs are successful.

"I think it's her burning passion, she's sort of like an animal whisperer," Micah said.

'IN-BETWEEN: BELONGING AND BECOMING'

Eva Bryner
THE WESTERN FRONT

Amid a sea of raincoats and coffee cups, authors Alex Wagner and José Olivarez sat facing each other, discussing identity, immigration and roses.

"[Olivarez] and I were concerned no one would come out and then we saw the extensive snack table and were like, 'we're good,'" Wagner said.

Wagner and Olivarez came to campus as part of Western Reads, a campus-wide program that supports first-year students at Western through selected texts each year, according to Molly Ware, director of Western Reads.

The two authors read sections from their work and discussed questions from students and event attendees.

Wagner is the author of this year's text, "Futureface," in which she seeks to answer questions about belonging as a Burmese-American woman.

Wagner said her book felt like a journey into her family's history, revealing complex realities of race and racism, which helped her navigate the current political climate.

"I think the trick is to find a balance between being true to heritage and knowing those stories and connecting to that, but also not pretending that you're any person other than who you



Pearl Morris poses a question to Alex Wagner, author of "Futureface" (left), and José Olivarez, author of "Citizen Illegal" at the Western Reads event on Monday, Nov. 18. // Photo by Alex Moreno

are," Wagner said.

Olivarez's collection of poems "Citizen Illegal" was considered for this year's choice, as it parallels this year's theme of "In-between: Belonging, Becoming," and is timely in terms of the political climate, Ware said.

"I wanted to write a book as someone who was born in the United States about some of the after effects of migration, and what it's like to live in a place that doesn't necessarily claim you all the way," Olivarez said.

"Citizen Illegal" and "Futureface" bring up similar topics of race and belonging, prompting an invitation to both authors to

come to Western.

"We wanted to bring both authors to campus so that they could engage in a dialogue with one another around the shared themes of their work," Ware said.

This is the first year that Western Reads has chosen a theme to connect with first-year students alongside selected texts, Ware said.

Western student Gabriella Chavez sat in the front row, listening intently and snapping feverishly at Olivarez's poems.

"I decided I really wanted to come and meet these people who were also having these same questions that I'd always had,"

Chavez said.

She described growing up with a dad from Peru and a mother from Texas, and a feeling of being in between two spaces.

"People ask me, where are you from, where is home," Chavez said. "Home is Thanksgiving dinner next week."

This fall 27.4% of Western's student body was comprised of people of color, according to the office of institutional effectiveness, a record high for the university.

"We want to keep pushing beyond whiteness a bit in our work this year," Ware said.

Both Wagner and Olivarez at-

tended predominantly white universities and spoke about their experience in finding communities on campus.

"It was very alienating at times. So it was nice to sometimes not have to have my guard up and be like, 'is this person going to say something racist?'" Olivarez said. "The question is, how do we make the whole university have that feeling? How do we build those conversations so we don't have to have our guard up all the time?"

"Citizen Illegal" and "Futureface" were made available for free as is the tradition of Western Reads, as well as "Undocumented: Our Untold Stories," a collection of essays, poems and photos put together by Western's Blue Group for undocumented students.

"The idea behind having a book historically and giving it out is that you create this conversation," Ware said.

As the evening came to a close and the rain fell a little harder outside, Olivarez let his words of advice hang in the air.

"It's not enough to be a rose in the concrete. We've got to change the whole dirt [and] soil. As long as the concrete is there, we're still in danger," Olivarez said. "We have agency and we have power, and so we should act likewise. We should act as empowered people."

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SYMPHONY

continued from page 1

"In addition to this being a great opportunity for our students to perform internationally and see these places, it's also a chance for us here at Western to contribute meaningfully to the discourse on Holocaust music," Dudenbostel said.

Holocaust music as a field has started gaining attention in the last 10 to 15 years.

There is still work that needs to be done in promoting these Holocaust-era works because many pieces were destroyed or lost, Dudenbostel said.

"It's really important work," Dudenbostel said. "So it's an honor to be doing it."

Dudenbostel said the symphony orchestra has 70 students, most of whom are music majors, but those who are not grew up playing music. Only around 46 students will be going on the tour in June.

They have raised \$35,000 out of the \$100,000 goal so far. Dudenbostel said the entire budget will cost closer to \$175,000, with transporting instruments, airfare, concert hall rental and charter busses. Each student is responsible for paying \$2,000 toward the trip.

The orchestra applied for grants to make up the difference, Dudenbostel said. Throughout the year they will be fundraising through ticketed concerts and will be accepting donations. In May 2018, they jump started the project for Western's gift day, where online donations are matched to a certain percentage, and became the fourth-highest grossing project for the entire university.

They raised around \$20,000 that day, Dudenbostel said.

Dudenbostel was in charge of choosing the touring location. He said Vienna and Prague are musical capitals and great places for students to visit to learn about composers.

The tour will last a total of six days, Dudenbostel said. Additional activities will take students through Beethoven's apartment, the Vienna woods where he used to walk, museums and castles.

Dudenbostel said when coming up with the idea for music for the program and tour, he thought it would be good to play a piece from a Terezin composer, and did a lot of research to find the composition. He said the camp's condition caused there to be very little orchestral music.



Kyle Matson plays the cello during Western's Symphony Orchestra performance on Friday, Nov. 15. // Photo by Claire Ott

"I found this piano sonata that he had written and was just captivated by it," Dudenbostel said. "It sounds like an orchestra piece, like it should be played by many people."

After finding the piece, Dudenbostel contacted the Gideon Klein Foundation in Prague and asked if they would give their blessing. The foundation responded, stating the piece would be right up their alley and they support the orchestra playing it.

The response only came in October, and Dudenbostel claims it changes the entire purpose of the trip into something much bigger and more fundable.

"It's less self-serving than just sending our students on a concert tour," Dudenbostel said. "We're actually doing something."

Dudenbostel worked with Sandra Alfors, head of the Ray Wolpov Institute for Holocaust studies, to put together a grant proposal following the news.

This tour will be the largest that the orchestra has gone on during the director's six years at Western. They have travelled mostly around the region, from Vancouver, B.C., to Portland, Oregon.

The orchestra usually performs around five times a year, including any community or out-of-town events, Dudenbostel said. They also do an educational performance once a year for school kids to visit.

This coming winter, the symphony orchestra is performing the Miles Davis album "Sketches of Spain," which contains jazz adaptations of Spanish classical and folk music. In the spring, there

will be a family and kids concert

of Peter the Wolf, where all the musicians will dress up and play out the characters while playing their instruments.

The upcoming tour is a step in the development of the orchestra, Roulet said. Currently, they are working on a Gustav Mahler symphony — a challenging piece.

"It's a great masterpiece of orchestral music, and is rarely performed by a college orchestra," Roulet said.

Roulet said they are thrilled for the tour because it is getting to the heart of the music and is a huge opportunity for their musicians to perform where great composers once stood.

"There's nothing like it," Roulet said, which is why they are supporting the tour. "If you take risks and if you dream, dream big and let's make it happen," Roulet said. "That's what Ryan and the orchestra are doing. They're dreaming really big and we really want to see this happen."

Miranda Loupas, first-year violinist, is most excited for the piece written by Klein. "We're doing basically the world premiere for this piece and giving it a whole new life," Loupas said.

Loupas always loved playing music with a story. She started in her school's strings program in fourth grade and began taking

violin lessons in fifth grade. She loves music that has a deeper meaning and feels that playing this Holocaust-era piece in its geographical origin is powerful.

The orchestra is also going to "walk in Beethoven's footsteps," for his 250-year birthday festival, Loupas said.

Not many people get the opportunity to travel abroad with an entire symphony and play and experience the music in the areas that it was written, Loupas said.

"It gives you a lot more appreciation for the music that you're playing," Loupas said.

Loupas said the experience of travelling abroad is very expensive, and the school is trying to make it as cheap as possible for orchestra members. She said a lot of students will still struggle but deserve to go.

Martijn Wall, is in his third year playing oboe with the symphony, and comes from a long background of playing different instruments through middle and high school.

"I basically spent my whole summer practicing, just to make sure I could audition well and get the principal spot," Wall said.

Wall said the importance of fundraising for this trip is to give everyone an equal opportunity to go. He said some musicians might not have the funds to support their own way.

"Getting donations and a lot of fundraising would be really helpful to keep us all as a group so we can all experience that together," Loupas said.

The Observer staff has attempted to resolve this issue directly and amicably with the CWU Public Affairs, Athletics and Student Success departments. We are now faced with the reality that there is no option but to defend ourselves using the same voice that has served the student body for over a century. We also hope that in doing so, we will maintain the transparency with our readers that is vital for our credibility.

The Observer, while a fully student-run publication, works under the same ethical standards and strives for the same credibility as any professional outlet. We constantly attempt to conduct ourselves as professional journalists and, in doing so, hold the

and balances role when it comes to authority figures or powerful groups. Instituting policies that vet questions prohibits a layer of authenticity. By sending in questions ahead of time, sources can be briefed and plan for what to say strategically, generating canned responses rather than candid responses.

Student journalists are taught from day one that it is important to be face to face with a source, as it offers a more candid and genuine answer that is not tampered with by outside parties. They are also taught to not be afraid to ask more questions for context as their interviews go along, in order to write a more holistic and accurate story.

Staying true to journalistic instincts and standards, the student staff of Central's student newspaper The Observer, are currently fighting against this policy. Their struggle has gained the attention of professional and student journalists, and inspired an outcry to free student media.

The Western Front stands in support of The Observer's efforts to create a space for student journalists to report in an ethical, professional and fair way. Though The Western Front has not experienced something of this magnitude, any risk to student journalistic freedom across the country is a risk to us.

The Western Front Editorial Board is composed of Emily Erskine, Audra Anderson and Ian Haupt

The Observer stands for a free and unregulated press

Central Washington University responds to freedom of press restrictions

What's Happening?

In early April, The Observer planned to cover the Rock Against Rape event and Sexual Assault Awareness month, hosted by the Wellness Center. Then staff reporter

Austin Lane reached out to the Wellness Center via email to set up interviews with Violence Prevention and Response Coordinator Kristen Perry and a student involved with the event, but was told to send interview questions in advance. Perry said that once questions were approved, Lane

could go forward with the interviews. Lane asked why pre-approved interview questions would be required and mentioned that they had never been a requirement in the past. Associate Dean for Health and Wellness Shawnté Elbert replied that it was a "new standard of practice for the Di-

vision of Student Success in partnership with Public Affairs."

This situation is what motivated The Observer to meet with administration in late April to try to resolve the issue of having questions approved before interviews.

-The Observer Editorial Staff

Response

The Observer holds transparency between the publication and its readers as a top priority. We believe it's our duty and a crucial factor in our pursuit of journalistic integrity. For these reasons, we are compelled to inform our readers about the past year working with administrators and departments on campus.

Student media censorship and regulation is more common than many may think, coming in many different forms. In our case, administrators have been increasingly requiring student journalists to send in interview questions before giving any university worker, including faculty and student employees, permission to be interviewed.

The Observer staff has attempted to resolve this issue directly and amicably with the CWU Public Affairs, Athletics and Student Success departments. We are now faced with the reality that there is no option but to defend ourselves using the same voice that has served the student body for over a century. We also hope that in doing so, we will maintain the transparency with our readers that is vital for our credibility.

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expectation that we will be treated with a similar level of professionalism and respect.

Journalism and public affairs are fields that have the potential for both great synergy and conflict. The two professions have very different interests, and while we at The Observer acknowledge the interests of the university, we believe that moral and ethical boundaries have been crossed. Our mission is, and always has been, to serve the interests of CWU's community with accurate, thoughtful reporting. We believe in the importance of an informed public and hope that the public believes in our ability to inform.

"The Observer stands for a free and unregulated press," Journalists have spent years and gallons of ink justifying our existence over and over again, and we will keep doing so out of necessity long into the future.

The Observer Editorial Staff

The Observer understands the general public may not understand our resistance towards allowing journalists to send interview questions prior to an interview. One of the reasons is because it prevents us from getting genuine answers from our sources. If, for example, interview questions were sent in regarding a sensitive subject, answers from administrators may be formed in advance with a focus on public image over truth.

Arguably one of the most vital reasons for not sending interview questions in advance is because it invites outside interference into story content. If

The Observer allowed sending interview questions and the questions were sent back with "edits" or "suggested questions," it could directly affect the outcome of the interview and thus the accuracy of the story. We believe this causes a strong ethical dilemma, setting a precedent for the future which allows interviewees to get out of uncomfortable yet necessary questions. Everybody has the right to deny answering any question asked during an interview, but that doesn't mean that those questions shouldn't be asked.

If a journalist is doing their job right, interviews are dynamic with follow-up questions that build upon themselves. There is no way to predict which direction an interview will take, because it's a conversation between the reporter and the person being interviewed. During many of the most successful interviews, an answer that the interviewee gives can reframe the story, illuminating things that the reporter may never have expected. This fluidity makes pieces of journalism better, giving reporters the freedom to find truth rather than being given a tailored version of it.

The Observer models itself after a professional newsroom and holds itself to the same ethical standards and practices as any real-world publication. Professional journalists rarely send their questions before an interview. There are exceptions, such as in cases where the interviewee wouldn't reasonably have a statistic or fact ready off the top of their head, but those are exceptions, not the industry standard. In most cases, it's considered unethical.

-The Observer Editorial Staff

To continue reading The Observer's article, please visit: cwuobserver.com

The Western Front stands with The Observer

'Any risk to student journalistic freedom is a risk to us'

In response to recent events transpiring at Central Washington University, the editorial team at Western would like to propose a comment:

In the last year, the campus communications staff at Central announced a ban on fair-game interview questioning when pertaining to stories involving university staff, faculty and student employees. This meant that student journalists would need to send in interview questions before engaging with a source of this nature.

The policy introduces a number of ethical dilemmas. It is the duty of journalists to serve as watchdogs for their community, fulfilling a checks

and balances role when it comes to authority figures or powerful groups. Instituting policies that vet questions prohibits a layer of authenticity. By sending in questions ahead of time, sources can be briefed and plan for what to say strategically, generating canned responses rather than candid responses.

Student journalists are taught from day one that it is important to be face to face with a source, as it offers a more candid and genuine answer that is not tampered with by outside parties. They are also taught to not be afraid to ask more questions for context as their interviews go along, in order to write a more holistic and accurate story.

Staying true to journalistic instincts and standards, the student staff of Central's student newspaper The Observer, are currently fighting against this policy. Their struggle has gained the attention of professional and student journalists, and inspired an outcry to free student media.

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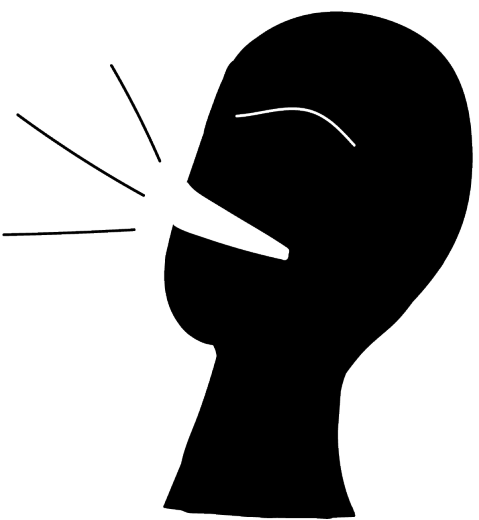


Illustration by Julia Berkman

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Camron Miller sparks winning streak, season

In his first season for Western, transfer Camron Miller solidifies defense, championship run

Conor Wilson
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western soccer center back Camron Miller's late game heroics against Azusa Pacific University might have been the starting point for his team's championship run this season.

Down 1-0 with less than a minute to play against the now No. 1 nationally ranked APU Cougars the 6-foot-3-inch center back connected with a long ball at the penalty box and lofted a header past the APU goalkeeper for his first goal as a Viking.

Although Western lost that game in overtime, it preceded the beginning of an 11 game undefeated streak for the Vikings, and a slew of successful performances for the first-year junior who, just last fall, was playing soccer for Whatcom Community College.

"I grew a lot as a player at Whatcom. A lot of people look down on CC [Community College] programs and nobody wants to go to a CC right out of high school," Miller said. "There's something to learn at a CC, it humbles you, and everybody's on the same playing field - everybody wants to get to the next level."

After his performance against APU, Miller won his first of two Great Northwest Athletic Conference defensive player of the week awards. Of the five Vikings who have won the award this season, Miller is one of only two players to win it twice.

In his first regular season of Vikings soccer, Miller started all 18 games and is tied for second place for goals on the team with four goals under his belt. He has



Camron Miller // Photo courtesy of Western Athletics

also been an integral part of the team's defense, which allowed a league-low of five goals in GNAC play - six less than the next-best team.

"Working together as center backs has been a fun experience," senior defender Jeremiah Lee said in an email. "We've only played together for one year, but we have really good chemistry. [Miller] has been a great addition to the team. He is solid on defense and finds space to get his head on the ball in set pieces. Cam is a great player but an even better person!"

All of Miller's success comes in a season where the team won its first GNAC regular season title since 2008 and will make its second ever

appearance in the NCAA Division II Championship. A tournament where Miller said the team is hoping to make its first Final Four appearance.

"I want to say I expected this [success], but at the end of the day I feel like you can't. Nothing's guaranteed and you've got to work for your spot," Miller said. "I decided to work when it came to fall season and just hope that I got a starting spot."

After finishing high school at Glacier Peak, Miller said he only had two serious options to continue playing, Whatcom Community College and NAIA school, Northwest University.

"[Western] wasn't an op-

portunity for me. I was the short-est center back in my league when I played club soccer," Miller said. "I didn't grow until probably my senior year, probably high school soccer,

Brisbon, who has been watching Miller play since high school said Miller's time at Whatcom was significant in helping him develop.

"I thought Whatcom was a great choice for him so he could get games right away," Brisbon said. "One of the main reasons I recruited him out of Whatcom was his improvement from out of high school to where he was as a sophomore."

Brisbon said despite the differences in play between Whatcom and Western, Miller has done well meeting the challenge.

"The speed of play is faster, and he's adjusted to that," Brisbon said. "The physical side, he's gotten a lot stronger in our off season, and just technical skills playing out of the back and reading situation all have improved. There's a lot of things, but his willingness to compete is a huge factor for his development."

Even though his days at Whatcom are over, Miller said he still finds ways to compete with his old teammates.

"One of them plays at [Northwest Nazarene University] which we played this year so that one's definitely like in game," Miller said. "Also play time, if you score a goal or that type of stuff, we have fun competing in that way."

Miller said he is motivated to repeat his success in the NCAA tournament and into his senior season.

"I always want to be the best center back on the team wherever I go. I want to be the best player I can be. I'm just a competitive person, even if it's in practice against my teammates," Miller said. "I think it's just the nature of who I am: I like to compete, and I find joy in that."

"Nothing's guaranteed and you've got to work for your spot."

Camron Miller
Center back

I was a really small center back, so I don't think many colleges looked at that."

In his two years at Whatcom, Miller served as the team captain, lead the team to a 33-5-7 overall record, and contributed to a pair of runner-up finishes in the Northwest Athletic Conference Championship.

"We built a family [at Whatcom]," Miller said. "I think a lot of that was because there weren't a lot of egos on the team. Everybody was like 'we're all at CC, we all want to get better, so let's push ourselves.'"

Miller said his team was unified by collective desire to prove others wrong.

"A lot of us had the same story," Miller said. "People didn't think we were good enough to play Division II or even at a four-year program."

After his stint at Whatcom, Miller said he transferred to Western in winter 2019 and began working out with the team in preparation for its spring season.

Western head coach Greg

Vikings sweep GNAC trophies: on to NCAA Tournament

No. 7 women's soccer defeats Seattle Pacific University 2-1 to win conference championship

Elizabeth Mahan
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Western women's soccer team beat Seattle Pacific University 2-1 to win the Great Northwest Athletic Conference Championship on Saturday, Nov. 16, at Interbay Stadium in Seattle.

The SPU Falcons hosted the 2019 GNAC Women's Soccer Championship, where Central Washington University (No. 4), Seattle Pacific University (No. 2), Western Oregon University (No. 3), and Western (No. 1) faced off for the title.

"We already have so much potential as a team, and defensive and attacking-wise, we are a force to be reckoned with," junior goalkeeper Natalie Dierickx said. The match marks the fifth meeting between the Vikings and Falcons at the conference final.

This victory gives Western a winning record in the matchup that now stands at 3-2 in the Vikings' favor.

The first point on the board came from SPU, a shot to the lower right corner by sophomore midfielder Chloe Gellhaus.

"We did concede the goal against the run of play, but we bounced right back," head coach Travis Connell said.

That bounce-back was a goal off the head of senior midfielder Jordyn Bartelson after the crossbar deflected senior defender Peyton Chick's shot on goal.

At the half, the tally on the board stood at a 1-1 tie.

"We are finding the little details and continuing to have that champion attitude and champion mindset," Dierickx said.

Dierickx has only allowed eight goals out of the 134 shots this season, five of which were during GNAC games.

The final half began with a kickoff from SPU and immediate pressure from the Vikings.

"I give the credit to the players," Connell said. "They execute. They are the ones that handle the moment right."

After a 55-minute scoring drought, Karli White, a senior forward and midfielder, scored the final goal with nine minutes remaining. The rebound goal from White and assist by freshman defender Makenzie Burks ultimately won the game.

White was named the tournament's Most Valued Player, having a total of 12 shots, with five of those on goal and two finding the net.

She was also named GNAC Player of the Year, with six goals, eight assists, 71 shots (0.085), 32 shots on goal (0.451) and four game-winning goals.

"As a team, we approach every game focused on the next opponent," White said. "No matter who we are playing, we try and remember how we like to play, remind each other just to relax and let the ball do the work."

Over 400 fans attended the rather chilly game, with a portion of Western fans chanting "in the



Senior defender Emily Nelson holds up the 2019 GNAC Champions trophy after Western women's soccer team beat Seattle Pacific 2-1 in Seattle, Washington on Saturday, Nov. 16. // Photo by Matthew Brashears

net Western!" for every corner and free kick.

The Vikings out-shot the Falcons 15-9, had five of the seven corner kicks and 11 fouls to SPU's seven.

Out of the 30 members on Western's team, 21 played and had some touch on the ball, all contributing to the 2-1 win.

"It doesn't have to be pretty, it doesn't have to be perfect, but

it's one opportunity," White said. "You follow it up, put a little toe on the ball, and it changes the game."

As the announcer made the count down for the final 10 seconds of the match, Western possessed the ball safely to secure their win.

"You could really see some of our experience come through, where they didn't get rattled and

stuck with it," Connell said. "We have a great roster, a deep team and dangerous players all over the field."

Vikings are 18-2-0 on the season and 12-0 in the GNAC. They will make the trip to Rohnert Park, California, for regionals on Friday Nov. 22, and face California State University Stanislaus in the first round.

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Senior night sweep against Alaska Fairbanks

Vikings bounce back in convincing fashion after Thursday's loss

Nolan Baker
THE WESTERN FRONT

In the last home game for seniors Kayleigh Harper, Joslyn Bopray and Mae Thungc, the No. 6 nationally-ranked Western women's volleyball team swept the visiting University of Alaska Fairbanks 25-16, 25-20, 25-10 on Saturday, Nov. 16 in Sam Carver Gymnasium.

The Vikings are sitting at first place in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference polls, and were looking to bounce back Saturday night after losing just their second game of the season to the other Alaska school, University of Alaska Anchorage. Both of the Vikings' losses this year came at the hands of Alaska Anchorage, who are now only one game behind Western in the conference standings with just two games remaining in the season.

"The loss had some great learning lessons for us and some opportunities that we haven't seen," Western head coach Diane Flick-Williams said. "We can't linger on those [losses] too long, we just took every opportunity to learn at least one thing from it that we can carry over into the next match."

After recording 17 service errors on Thursday, Nov. 14, Western had their 39-

game home winning streak snapped. In Saturday's game they only had two service errors.

"Sometimes they're going to miss, it's more about how you're going to respond to it," Flick-Williams said. "They did a really good job tonight of being dialed in on what they needed to do and kept themselves focused and poised."

Western looked determined not to suffer two consecutive losses, especially on senior night, where they celebrated the successful careers that Harper, Bopray and Thungc accumulated.

By the time Western jumped out to a 13-1 first set lead, Kayleigh Harper had already recorded four blocks. In the previous game she broke the GNAC record for blocks in a career with 561 and was honored for her record in the pregame senior night ceremony. In Saturday's game she finished with 10 blocks and is closing in on her season high set last season.

Alaska Fairbanks head coach Brian Scott highlighted Western's defensive dominance.

"They're a tough blocking team, so for us to get some kills off of those line blocks was nice for us," Scott said. "Kayleigh [Harper] is a beast and we know we can't swing



Tupu Lologo (8), Western Washington University volleyball athlete, bumps a spike from opposing Alaska Fairbanks University on Saturday, Nov. 14. Western won the game 3-0.
// Photo by Alex Moreno

her way."

Thungc and Bopray also had standout performances in their last home game for the Vikings. Thungc led both teams with 13 digs, and Bopray added five kills and two blocks.

After the match, Bopray said she'll miss the energy of playing at Carver.

"Our band is the biggest fan we have," Bopray said.

"The energy we had tonight, you can just feel it."

With two games remaining in the regular season, the Vikings have not yet clinched first place in the GNAC. They finish their conference season on the road against Central Washington University on Nov. 21 and Northwest Nazarene University on Nov. 23. If the Vikings can win those last two games, they will go into

the NCAA Division II Championship with yet another GNAC title under their belt.

When asked about her departing seniors, Flick-Williams was still focused on the remainder of this season.

"I probably haven't thought about it enough yet, I'm still in denial that they're going," Flick-Williams said. "You'll probably have to ask me that in January."

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