



Check it out:

Western student thankful to be alive after getting lost overnight in the woods, pg.4

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THE WESTERN FRONT

Volume 189, Issue 10

Tuesday, November 26, 2019

Bellingham opens up for Thanksgiving



Diane Brainard cashing out a customer at the Old Town Cafe on Monday, Nov. 25. // Photo by Claire Ott



Thursday, Nov. 28
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
1316 West Holly St.
Bellingham, WA 98225

Friday, Nov. 29
12 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Assumption Church Gym
2116 Cornwall Ave.
Bellingham, WA 98225



Thursday, Nov. 28
12 p.m. – 7 p.m.
1301 E Maple St.
Bellingham, WA 98225

Thursday, Nov. 28
11 p.m. – 7 p.m.
One Bellwether Way
Bellingham, WA 98225



Thursday, Nov. 28
11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
1107 Railroad Ave.
Bellingham, WA 98225



Denotes a free Thanksgiving meal

Sources: Old Town Café website, Lighthouse Mission website, bellingham.org, Lighthouse Bar & Grill website, Boundary Bay Brewery & Bistro website

Compiled by Audra Anderson

County Council passes apprenticeship ordinance

Melody Kazel
THE WESTERN FRONT

Union laborers from all around Whatcom County poured into the council chambers in neon orange and yellow clothing to speak in favor of apprenticeships at the county council meeting on Nov. 19.

An overwhelming amount of the union laborers attending, such as Whatcom parent Lisa Marks, spoke about how the union apprenticeship program helped them support their children during a time of need.

“When the economy collapsed in 2008, so did my world ... Eventually I lost everything I owned, including my hope and self-worth. I became very close to homeless and was in complete despair,” Marks said.

Marks applied for a job at BP Cherry Point refinery, which was in need of scaffold erectors and painters, she said.

Hired workers like Marks could learn trade skills on the job while getting paid.

“That day completely changed my life and showed me a world I never thought possible for this single parent,” Marks said.

The union laborers came to attend the public hearing for ordinance AB2019-285, which will amend part of Whatcom County Code Title 3 that deals with revenue and finance. The ordinance passed 4-2 at the council meeting.

Council Members Barbara Brenner and Tyler Byrd voted against the ordinance because they wanted to put it on hold in order to look into its economic impacts more. The ordinance has been on the docket for about 6 months.

The ordinance will require public funds used for construction projects to also provide apprentices with job training hours to meet the requirements

see **COUNTY**, page 4



Algae blooming in Lake Padden on Friday, Nov. 22. // Photo by Grady Haskell

Toxic algae in local lakes

Noah Harper
THE WESTERN FRONT

A fun trip to one of Whatcom County’s numerous freshwater lakes could turn sour if you’re not observant of toxic algae warnings. Though not always toxic to people, if a pet ingests the algae it could lead to puking, weakness, difficulty breathing and even death, according to the Whatcom

County Health Department.

If a pet accidentally swims through a bloom of blue-green algae, action should be taken immediately to prevent accidental ingestion.

“The best thing to do is to rinse the dog off as soon as possible. If there’s a shower or a hose at the park or nearby, hose them down,” said Tom Kunesh, environmental health

supervisor for Whatcom County. “So then when they groom themselves, they’re not ingesting algae. Dogs, we recommend that they just stay out of the water and that they’re not allowed to drink the water. Ingestion is the route of exposure that we’re concerned about.”

If ingested, pet owners should take their pets to a

see **ALGAE**, page 3

Academic affairs faces deficit in Western budget

Jordan Van Beek
THE WESTERN FRONT

An email was sent out to Western faculty on Nov. 12, regarding the current budget situation, saying the financial health of the school is very good. However, the email brought up concerns about Western’s Academic Affairs budget, citing it needs more funding.

The email was signed off by the Faculty Senate President Jeff Young, United Faculty of Western Washington President Rich Brown, United Faculty of Washington State President Bill Lyne, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the UFWW Executive Committee.

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Thea Mröz performing on Friday, Nov. 22, during a showing of Pallas' Athena at Old Main Theater. // Photo by Claire Ott

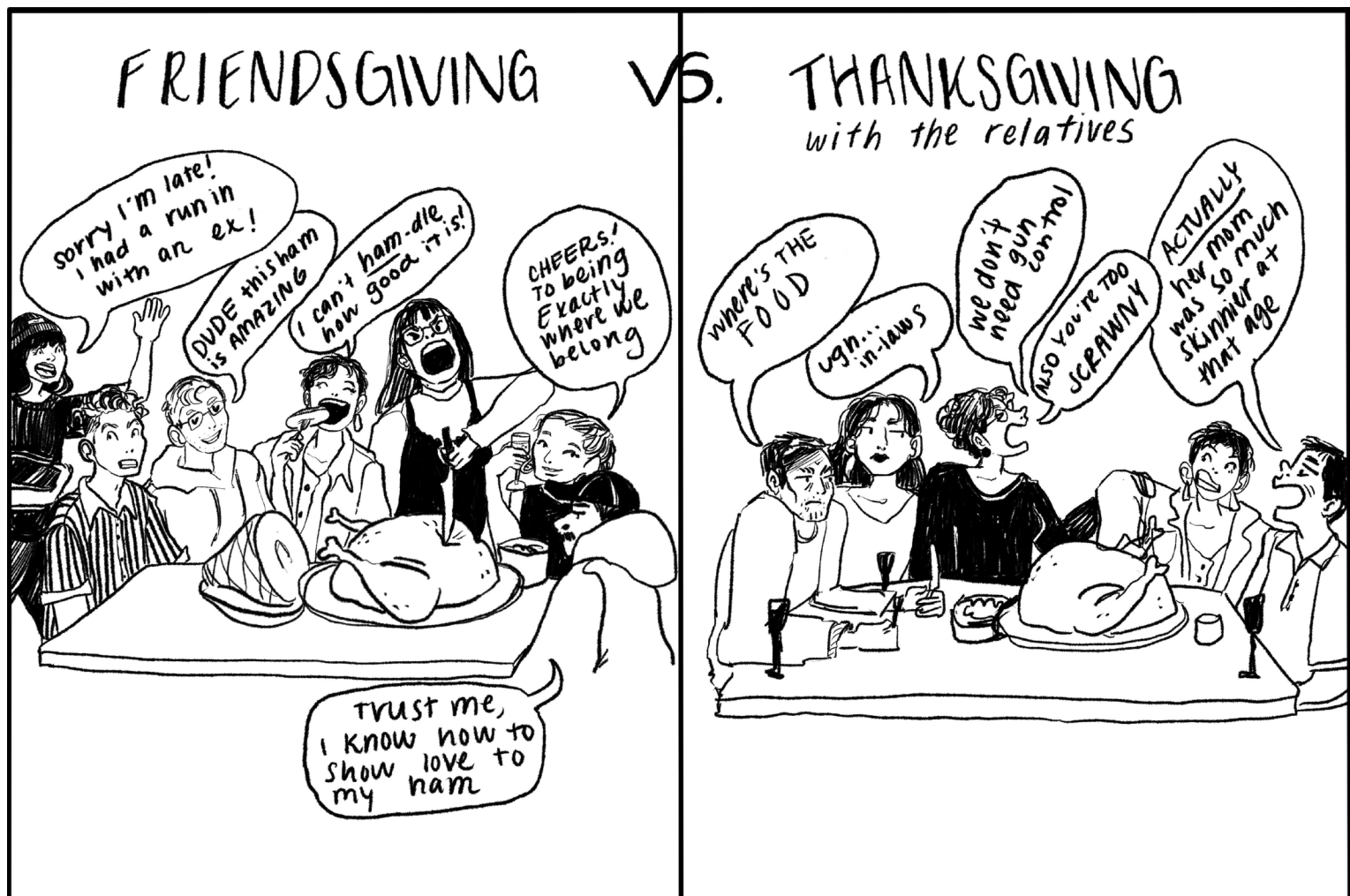


Illustration by Chloe Halbert

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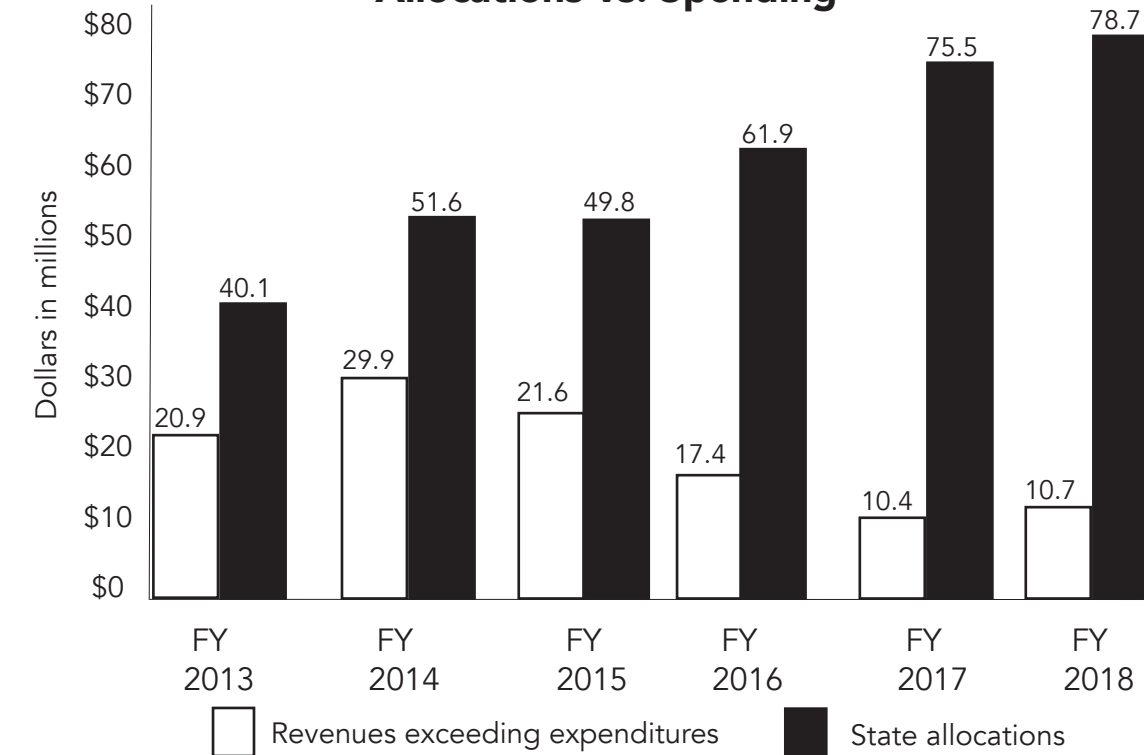
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Allocations vs. Spending



Compiled from Western's Audited Financial Statements

Created by Colton Rasanen

BUDGET

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"Associate Vice President Brian Burton presented an analysis of the academic affairs budget that showed an ongoing \$3.25 million deficit," the email states. "This informative, detailed, and accurate presentation showed us what most faculty already know: the academic mission of the university is underfunded and has been for as long as any of us can remember."

Paul Cocke, director of university communications and

marketing, said the financial health of the university is solid.

"Expenditures in Western's Division of Academic Affairs have exceeded allocated budgets annually since 2014-15," Cocke said.

"While academic affairs in the past has addressed this structural gap through use of fund balances and one-time revenues, this is an unsustainable situation, and it became apparent that the structural budget gap would need to be addressed jointly by the university and the division," Cocke said.

In the 2018 fiscal year, the revenue exceeded expenses by

\$10.7 million, being one of the lowest margins in the last eight years, according to the email. With this, there is still a deficit in the academic affairs budget.

The Division of Academic Affairs administers the seven academic colleges, academic support services and undergraduate and graduate programs, Cocke said. "[Administration is] wanting to cut some classes and cut some tenure line faculty positions in order to address that deficit [in academic affairs]," Lyne said.

The email laid out three recommendations for the future of Western's budget. The

recommendations were that Western should create a plan to immediately direct funding to the academic affairs budget, every academic unit on campus should make an aspirational plan for full staffing, and that Western should recommit to their mission as a public state university.

Significant amounts of money go unspent every year, Lyne said. "There are constraints, but the idea that the ongoing academic affairs deficit could not be covered with base funds from overall university resources is not supported by the facts," the email read.

Western President Sabah Randhawa warned faculty that "aspects of the 'Western Way' have been obstructed to the financial health of the university, according to the email. Randhawa offers solutions of more out-of-state students and more non-degree certificate programs.

"We feel it is also important to point out that Randhawa's solutions are all self-sustaining programs. Simply put, the president's proposal is to move Western further and further toward private education," the email read. "It is thus not so much 'the Western Way' that President Randhawa sees as our problem as it is our fundamental mission as a public university."

Provost Brent Carbajal has initiated work with the Council of Deans to identify additional revenue sources and to better align the shared responsibilities for the academic affairs budget going forward," Cocke said. "These coordinated and prudent measures are designed to address the budget gaps over the next three years."

The email said that they encourage the administration to immediately commit to the full, ample funding of Western's academic mission.

"We strongly encourage our faculty colleagues to engage and change the conversation," the email stated. "False scarcity cannot continue to be our guiding principle."

Last year, the university conducted an institutional resource modeling initiative, which included a representative committee of staff, faculty and students to develop a model to identify funding gaps that needed to be addressed to achieve the university's strategic plan, according to Cocke.

"The budget gap was included in the initiative, the results of last year's modeling project were broadly discussed last spring, and the gaps were addressed during the university budget process," Cocke said.

The primary funding for the university's academic mission comes from state support and student tuition, Lyne and Young said.

"Public support for higher education in Washington is very high, and state investment in higher education has been growing dramatically," the email read.

Lyne said the purpose of the email was to start a conversation about the funding situation.

"One of the points of sending this letter around was to try to align the shared responsibilities for the academic affairs budget going forward," Lyne said. "To try to get a conversation going where we're able to persuade the administration that more funding needs to go to the academic mission of the university."

ALGAE

continued from page 1

professional immediately as symptoms can begin to show within 15-20 minutes.

"If 15 minutes ago [your pet] was doing fine and now it's vomiting or having seizures, act fast," Dr. Dave Hargrove of Fountain Veterinary Hospital said. "If you actually induce vomiting with hydrogen peroxide, then you can help clear out a lot of what's there. If I know that the exposure has happened, [I help them] vomit up what I can to minimize how much they're going to absorb and then hook them up to fluids or something to dilute out what's there."

Thankfully, pets can recover from exposure to toxic algae, Hargrove said.

How can someone tell if an algae bloom is present? Normally, there are warning signs posted by the county that warn lake goers toxic algae may be present. The algae also gives off a blue-green color, from

where it gets its name.

Not all algae people spot is toxic. Some blooms are harmless, but the county likes to err on the side of safety and recommends staying away regardless.

"We do test, but we only have funding for lab work during a limited time," Kunesch said. "Each time you see a bloom come on, we do try to take a sample to characterize whether that is toxic or not. Problem is, we don't really have resources in your lab support to test on a weekly basis. We're still gonna leave that sign up as long as the blue is visible because between this week and next week, the toxin levels may change without testing the water."

Blue-green algae, also known as cyanobacteria, naturally occurs in freshwater. Some species of blue-green algae produce toxins that are harmful to people, Kunesch said. Because algae is a natural part of the lake, it's hard to get rid of it without damaging the other life.

"Any kinds of treatments that might destroy the algae would

also probably be toxic to fish or wildlife," Kunesch said. "There are some lakes in other parts of the state that essentially have blooms all summer long. It's unique to each lake. It's just a waiting game until the conditions in the lake change enough so it's longer hospitable to the bloom."

When the health department acts upon a bloom, it is largely reliant upon the general public reporting it.

"We respond to blue-green algae blooms on a complaint basis ... It may go unnoticed if no one reports it, but there's enough folks out there that understand that blue-green algae blooms can be toxic. And we usually do hear about blooms when that happened," Kunesch said. "The Lake Whatcom report, Silver Lake, Lake Padden, all of those came from either concerned citizens or people who already know that there's a possible problem."

The Bellingham City Parks staff are trained to spot and report sightings of algae and have warning signs on hand in case of



Lake Padden on Friday, Nov. 22. // Photo by Grady Haskell

a sudden bloom, Kunesch said. There are also watchful residents who know what to look for when coming to Lake Padden.

"So you just have to watch. When you see a blue sheen on the water, you don't want to let your dog be swimming in the water," said dog owner Elizabeth Cole, who was walking her dog around Lake Padden. "I wouldn't know if it's a common thing for a lot of

people to know. It's common to me because I've lived here for a long time, and I know about it."

The county does not provide live updates on blooms, but the website, www.nwtoxicalgae.org, provides users with a map of Washington lakes. Users can search for their own lake to find results gathered from data within the last four weeks or previous tests of lake water.

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Runner lost overnight in Chuckanut Mountains

Western student thankful to be alive after night in the woods, wearing only running shorts

Noah Harper
THE WESTERN FRONT

For Western student Bret Greene Monday, Nov. 11, started just like any other Monday would. Greene tied his shoes, grabbed his phone and began his run toward Raptor Ridge in the Chuckanut Mountains. This run would turn into a fight for survival against the cold.

With only his shorts, shoes and cellphone, Greene was already deep into the Chuckanut trails before he realized the rough condition of the trails and the lack of markers signifying where he was.

"I just kept going straight, for miles and miles and miles, and just kept running straight," Greene said. "I just wanted to explore and eventually I got pretty far out, and I did not really know where I was and there weren't really any signs or anything."

As Greene continued into the Chuckanut Mountains, it had been hours since he had seen a trail marker or check, preventing him from telling a dispatcher where he was, Greene said.

Soon it began to get dark and rain, putting Greene in a difficult situation. With the rain came the risk of hypothermia.

"It started to rain and get colder, so I just kept running around trying to stay warm," Greene said. "I was worried about getting hypothermia."

COUNTY

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necessary to become the next generation of skilled trades persons. The apprenticeships would help new workers get certifications in their fields, such as an electrician's certification, that meet state standards.

While union laborers were largely in support of the ordinance, owners of open shops came to the meeting to speak against it. Open shops do not require employees to join a union, as closed shops do. Open shop owners and the companies' administrative staff members said the ordinance would drive up their costs, and therefore make it harder for them to do business.

"Open shop contractors invest heavily in staff training for the same reasons union contractors invest in apprenticeship. They want to develop safe, knowledgeable and productive workers," Whatcom County resident Lance Calloway said. "Many open shop contractors opt to not utilize a state certified apprenticeship program, often citing the significant costs and reporting requirements associated with such apprenticeships."

Calloway is the northern district manager for the Associated General Contractors of Washington.

During the open hearing proceedings, the county



Bret Greene happy to be alive and home after being lost overnight in the Chuckanuts on Nov. 12. // Photo by Michael Rodriguez

I knew that what would've killed me would've been hypothermia."

Greene then decided to use his cellphone to call his dad, but he had left that morning without fully charging it.

"I was able to reach him on the phone and I was like, 'Hey Dad, I'm sorry, I don't really know where I am,' and then my phone died," Greene said. "[My Dad] ended up calling the sheriff and they sent out people from search and rescue to find me."

After a few more hours of

what felt like going in circles, the decision was made to hunker down for the night and find water, Greene said.

"I found a little stream and I drank out of that stream because I was pretty dehydrated at that point," Greene said. "And then I made a little shelter out of branches and twigs and leaves and mud and piled them all together and tried to get underneath. It was a rough night, but I was trying to stay positive and stay optimistic."

Greene is thankful for all his friends, family, cross country teammates and the search and rescue crews for their efforts in trying to make sure he got out alive, he said. "Looking back, it was just a bunch of stupid decisions, like going out by myself

The Tuesday morning light provided Greene the much needed assistance to find his way out of the woods.

"I just kept running, and the fact that it was light out helped a little bit," Greene said. "I eventually found a man-made wooden, little bridge. I was like, 'OK there's something man-made, this seems good,' and then I saw a little sign that said 'Whatcom County Parks and Trails.' Then I saw another sign that said, 'Pine and Cedar Lakes Trail, two miles that way.' And so that's when I knew I was safe."

Greene followed the trail, slowly recognizing where he was and eventually ran into a jogger who was able to drive him home and provide a cell phone for Greene to call his dad. Once Greene got home, he showered and went to the hospital with his aunt and sister who had driven up once they heard he was OK.

At the hospital, Greene was given antibacterial creams for scratches, cuts and bruises. He also had an elevated amount of enzymes in his liver, possibly from drinking the stream water. Greene is expected to recover fully.

Greene is thankful for all his friends, family, cross country teammates and the search and rescue crews for their efforts in trying to make sure he got out alive, he said. "Looking back, it was just a bunch of stupid decisions, like going out by myself

without a fully charged phone, not telling anyone and not even wearing a shirt. Just a bunch of not smart decisions," Greene said.

The AS Outdoor Center and the Whatcom Search and Rescue have a list of tips to avoid being put in this dangerous situation.

"You should always bring the essentials of hiking, which is more water than you expect you need for whatever given trip you're doing," Outdoor Center employee Colin Coughlin said. "You should always bring a compass, flashlight and matches are a good idea, especially if you know how to start a fire in the wilderness."

Another good tip is to always fully charge your cell phone before going and to make sure people know where you are going and when they should expect you to be back.

"Let your neighbor or your roommate or your best friend know that you were going, if you had a specific time when you were planning on being back. If you're not back by a certain time, they start to worry, they'll call the Sheriff's department or some type of law enforcement agency usually is what happens," said Jess Curry, Whatcom Search and Rescue council member.

If you do end up getting lost, both Coughlin and Curry strongly suggest staying in one spot, making it easier for rescue crews to find you.



Laborers in favor of ordinance AB2019-285 pose for a photo after it was passed on Tuesday, Nov. 19. // Photo by Melody Kazel

"There're acronyms people bring up. I have no idea what they mean, and there's no way to find that out if you don't ask them."

According to the county code, "during an open session or public hearing, audience members will be given three minutes to address the council." The amount of questioning did extend speaking times further than three minutes at the meeting.

The county code does not address the amount of

questions a council member can ask during a public hearing. All it states is that, "No member or small group of members shall be permitted to monopolize the discussion on a question."

Some people attending the meeting, who had been waiting to speak at the open session, felt questioning speakers about the ordinance monopolized the council's time. After discussion finished on the ordinance and it was passed, the council tried to call

a short break.

A few people who had been waiting for the open session spoke up, with many in the crowd reacting by saying "no" and asking the council to hear them speak.

The county council decided not to take a break and began the open session. Outside the council chambers, those who had come to the meeting to speak in favor of Ordinance AB2019-285 celebrated outside, some singing songs about the union.

City works toward 'safe parking'

With many sleeping in their cars, City of Bellingham hopes to create safe environment



Vehicles parked outside of Lake Washington United Methodist Church, where a "safe parking" program has been designated. Fifty individuals currently sleep in their vehicles overnight in the parking lot, where they have access to the church's facilities. // Photo courtesy of Lake Washington United Methodist Church.

Ella Banken
THE WESTERN FRONT

Seven hundred people were counted to be unhoused in Whatcom County, according to the January 2019 point-in-time count, an annual survey to quantify homelessness.

Out of these 700 individuals, 67 people said they slept in a vehicle overnight, according to the Whatcom County Coalition to End Homelessness 2019 Annual Report.

The City of Bellingham is working to arrange safe, overnight parking for those who sleep in their vehicles, according to Rick Sepler, planning and community development department director.

The lots would be available for use exclusively at night but would provide a safe, consistent environment for those who fear getting hassled, robbed or moved along by police when parking on the street, Sepler said.

The city has a 72-hour rule for parking. If it's in a non-fined area, vehicles must be moved, or they risk being impounded after a warning, according to the City of Bellingham website.

Prescreening would be required, possibly in the form of background checks, by Bellingham Police Department. After that, individuals would be given a permit to put on their windshield, Sepler said.

Currently, the City is trying to find an appropriate agency to

support the project, said Sepler. They are hoping that a religious organization or other similar group will adopt the project.

The city council has expressed interest in funding the project if another organization doesn't take it on, Sepler said. "We've asked the religious community to step forward. The City has not budgeted, nor allocated dollars to fund these projects," he said.

According to Sepler, the City would have a higher liability if they coordinated the project, so it would require paid staff to run it, rather than counting on volunteers.

For a city-run project, it would cost \$17,000 per month to staff the lot every night plus the cost of sanitary services, he said.

The City is offering to pay for services like portable toilets, if the project was adopted by another group, Sepler said.

"If council believes that it's in the community's interest, they can allocate dollars and we would move forward," he said.

Markis Dee, member of the Whatcom County Homeless Strategies Workgroup and HomesNOW! board member, said he is glad the city is working on projects like this, however, he believes they could be doing more.

"My biggest criticism of it is that I believe it should be a 24-hour lot," Dee said. "By criticism I mean that as gently as possible,

I really do think they're really trying to do something."

Dee wants the project to allow for a slightly more stable environment and provide more services, like a kitchen tent.

"So individuals can hold still for a little while, and not be so mobile," Dee said.

HomesNOW!, a Bellingham nonprofit organization, has persistently advocated for unhoused individuals since the organization's inception in 2017.

Their most recent project established a temporary tiny home village on a vacant lot in the Fairhaven neighborhood, according to a previous article by The Western Front.

"The City seems to need to take baby steps on these things, and that's okay," Dee said, smiling. "If they want to do that, we're here to help them, but we're in a bigger hurry."

This sort of project has been successful in many areas along the West Coast, including in major cities like Santa Barbara, California, San Diego and Seattle, according to Sepler.

The model that Bellingham is looking to emulate was started by Lake Washington United Methodist Church in Kirkland, Washington, Sepler said.

"Our hope is not to reinvent the wheel. We want to learn from everyone who's done it before," Sepler said.

The church started their program in 2011, offering six overnight parking spots for women

and families, according to Karina O'Malley, safe parking coordinator at Lake Washington United Methodist Church. Since then, the project has grown, now offering safe parking for 50 individuals, primarily single adult women.

"We started with a small program, but it's grown and grown just because it's such an amazing opportunity and we feel like we're making a really big impact on people's lives," O'Malley said.

The safe parking project at United Methodist now offers 24-hour stay for those living in their vehicles, O'Malley said. Volunteers unlock the church building early in the morning and in the evening so that guests can use the kitchen and indoor bathroom facilities.

"At this point we have 14 folks who regularly take a two-hour shift to open the building and make the kitchen available," O'Malley said.

She said they have never felt the need for 24-hour volunteer supervision.

United Methodist changed the project model to 24-hour parking because they wanted to build community, both between guests of the lot and the church community, they now host community dinners every Wednesday night, to which everyone is invited, O'Malley said.

"The biggest benefit to our program is community," O'Malley said. "Homelessness can be really isolating and very

frightening. Being in the church parking lot, knowing that they're allowed to be there and nobody's going to wake them up in the middle of the night, they can get a good night's sleep."

The project in Bellingham is in its early stages, Sepler said. The earliest the city could arrange this project would be the spring, in order to figure out all the logistics.

"It could be as small as five cars in one location, with a church doing it with a volunteer, it could be 50-60 cars like Lake Washington or anything in between. It's a case-by-case basis," Sepler said.

Planning projects like this take time. The City recently coordinated an overnight shelter that can sleep up to 40 women at Civic Stadium, Sepler said.

"For the City to facilitate and run with paid staff and volunteers ... that took us months to put together to figure out all the details," Sepler said.

The City has not begun to look for potential locations for the project, Sepler said.

The parking lot behind city hall could be an option, which previously held a tent encampment run by HomesNOW!

"If the council has an interest in advancing this as a city funded and supported issue, we certainly would look more fully at locations," Sepler said.

Permits for projects like this would have firm end dates, he said. People worry about establishing permanent camps.

"Would we do a public process for selecting parking lots? Probably not. And the reason is, no location would be good," Sepler said.

Overnight parking would be restricted to cars and other smaller vehicles. RVs would not be permitted, Sepler said.

"In the Seattle experience, they've had felonies, fires and fatalities in RV lots," he said. "Inappropriate things can go on in RVs."

Sepler encourages anyone who wishes to have a permit for a location to run a project like this is welcome to apply.

"They're fairly complex, nonetheless, they're important for us to do," he said.

from the book by
STUDS TERKEL
Adapted by **STEVEN SCHWARTZ** and **NINA FASO**
with additional contributions by
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ART THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE: A GRANDFATHER'S LEGACY

Elizabeth Hall
THE WESTERN FRONT

Sebastian Mendes has heard his grandfather's story for his entire life, ever since he was old enough to understand English.

His grandfather was a Portuguese diplomat in Southern France during World War II, and helped refugees passing through the area to avoid the German army, according to the Sousa Mendes Foundation.

Mendes' grandfather would give the refugees passports and visas to enter Portugal. He assigned 30,000 visas, 10,000 of which were for Jewish people.

"Saving 30,000 people is just incredible," Western Gallery Director Hathor Yngvason said.

Yngvason said Mendes wanted to honor his grandfather as an artist and work with the story he heard growing up. Mendes started a series of drawings to do so.

The drawings are a compilation of the names of refugees his grandfather saved, Yngvason said. Mendes also started durational performances, where artists perform over days and sometimes weeks, to honor the long hours his grandfather worked until he collapsed from physical exhaustion.

"It wasn't until my late 20s that I made my first visit to Portugal and that was kind of an epiphany in a way for me really, I think to actually go to the various places that had enriched my memory of what had happened," Mendes said, according to the Sousa Mendes Foundation.

To represent the repetitiveness of signing so many visas over a short period of time, Mendes created 30 drawings with 1,000 names each, over the course of four years. Each drawing took 10-20 hours to do.

"It gave me a lot of opportunities to actually think constantly about how I felt about my grandfather, which is really something so deeply personal to me," Mendes said, according to the Sousa Mendes Foundation.

Mendes said there were two different ways in which he would start his drawings. One way was to write in parallel rows, superimposing the text over and over and writing in blocks. The other way was to write the names in random directions, which led to a suggested underlying image, according to the Sousa Mendes Foundation.

One such example was the image of a bell that came through one of Mendes' drawings. He explained the significance of the bell in Europe by saying, "back then it was really a form of high technology."

According to the Sousa Mendes Foundation, Mendes said bells were joined with gunpowder. Bells quickly became a mold for cannons with casting technology. Bells were taken down out of towers to be melted down into cannons during war.

"The whole legacy of my grandfather has been so present for me," Mendes said, according to the Sousa Mendes Foundation.

He was 6-years-old when his grandfather died and never got to know him personally. He said working on the project is one way of feeling connected to him through his legacy.

"He didn't have any precedent to it, and yet he did something incredible," Mendes said, according to the Sousa Mendes Foundation. "He was willing to risk all and basically lost all, except the love of his family."

The gallery only has 27 of the 30 drawings displayed, because three of the drawings were sold after its initial exhibition in 2011.

The work by Mendes is loaned from his wife, Theresa Smith. They lived outside of downtown Bellingham, where his art studio sat behind their house.

"Eventually throughout my youth and as a teenager, I increasingly became aware of the incredible magnanimity of my grandfather's actions and what that meant," Mendes said, according to the Sousa Mendes Foundation.

Mendes said his grandfather chose to disobey the orders of higher authority and dictatorship in order to save lives through visas, which he called a "simple gesture," according to the Sousa Mendes Foundation.

Mendes said he worked for several days on the visas for around 20 hours.

"When I look at Sebastian's work, for example, I was impacted with this idea of so many names being surrounded, but when you look at it you just see a mass," museum educator Tami Landis said. "And you don't see an individual name, and how parallel that is to crisis of humans today. We see masses of people, and all you see is the mass, you don't see the individual."

Landis said the installation continues to challenge and educate her. She said it really makes her think about different people and histories that she hasn't explored before.

"This exhibition has brought me to topics and controversies and situations I would have never experienced or thought through," Landis said. "I definitely move slower in the space."

Mendes used to be a professor at Western. Yngvason said he knew the artist well and visited his studio often.

Mendes died a little over a year ago from a stroke. After he passed, Yngvason saw his drawings for the first time.

"I just thought, these are really, very strong artworks," he said. "I didn't want to do just a commemorative exhibition of him,"

Yngvason said. "I wanted to make an exhibition where his work was standing on its own."

Mendes would sit inside a room at a desk writing these names, where people could come and watch, Yngvason said.

"He writes them on top of each other, saying that these people had to hide their identity," Yngvason said. "He writes them on top so they disappear. You can not read them anymore but you see what they are."

The large drawing you see in the gallery was part of a New York exhibition, Yngvason said.

A separate piece of work from Mendes is also located at the Western gallery. This art is a collection of suitcases, representing the only personal belongings that refugees could carry with them, Yngvason said.

Inside the suitcases are pieces of bread with names on them, Yngvason said. What compelled him to put the bread inside was the idea that people in the concentration camps had communicated by writing messages to each other and putting them inside slices of bread before putting the bread back together and wrapping it up.

"Suitcases are an extremely potent symbol for the idea of the immigrant and the idea of the Holocaust itself I think," Mendes said, according to the Sousa Mendes Foundation. "Bread is deeply important to both Catholics and Jews," Mendes said, by way of religion but also their daily lives.

Yngvason said he wanted to show Mendes' art along with another, young artist from Bellingham due to the similarity in themes. The other exhibition is by Robert Snyderman, who teaches Jewish cultural studies at Western, Yngvason said.

Snyderman explores European and Holocaust history in the 18th century, Yngvason said. Snyderman is Jewish himself and experiments through his art with human rights and engaging himself with his family's history.

Snyderman would do durational performances by walking many miles over six months, unlike Mendes who would draw over a span of time.

The exhibitions are totally different but both deal with a "terrible, difficult history," Yngvason said. "There's maybe a little awakening," Yngvason said, on the theme of Holocaust studies and representation.

Landis said people are starting to reflect more on that time period and the gallery is doing so through art. She said there's something in society that is showing the significance of telling these stories.

Mendes and Snyderman are stylistically different, which makes their work complement each other well. Snyderman has what is called a total installation, focused around the collective of pieces, Landis said.

"Both these artists have a specific site," Landis said. "Robert is Berlin, and the site that is important to Sebastian is the deaths that his grandfather wrote out over and over again and this idea of enacting that ritual as an embodied experience."

Landis said everyone has a ritual in culture and society, but we're getting to experience the artist's way of expressing ritual in a profound and visual way.

This is the first time Snyderman has had his work be a part of an installation. He is a writer, poet and activist. Yngvason came up with the idea that he should put together an exhibition.

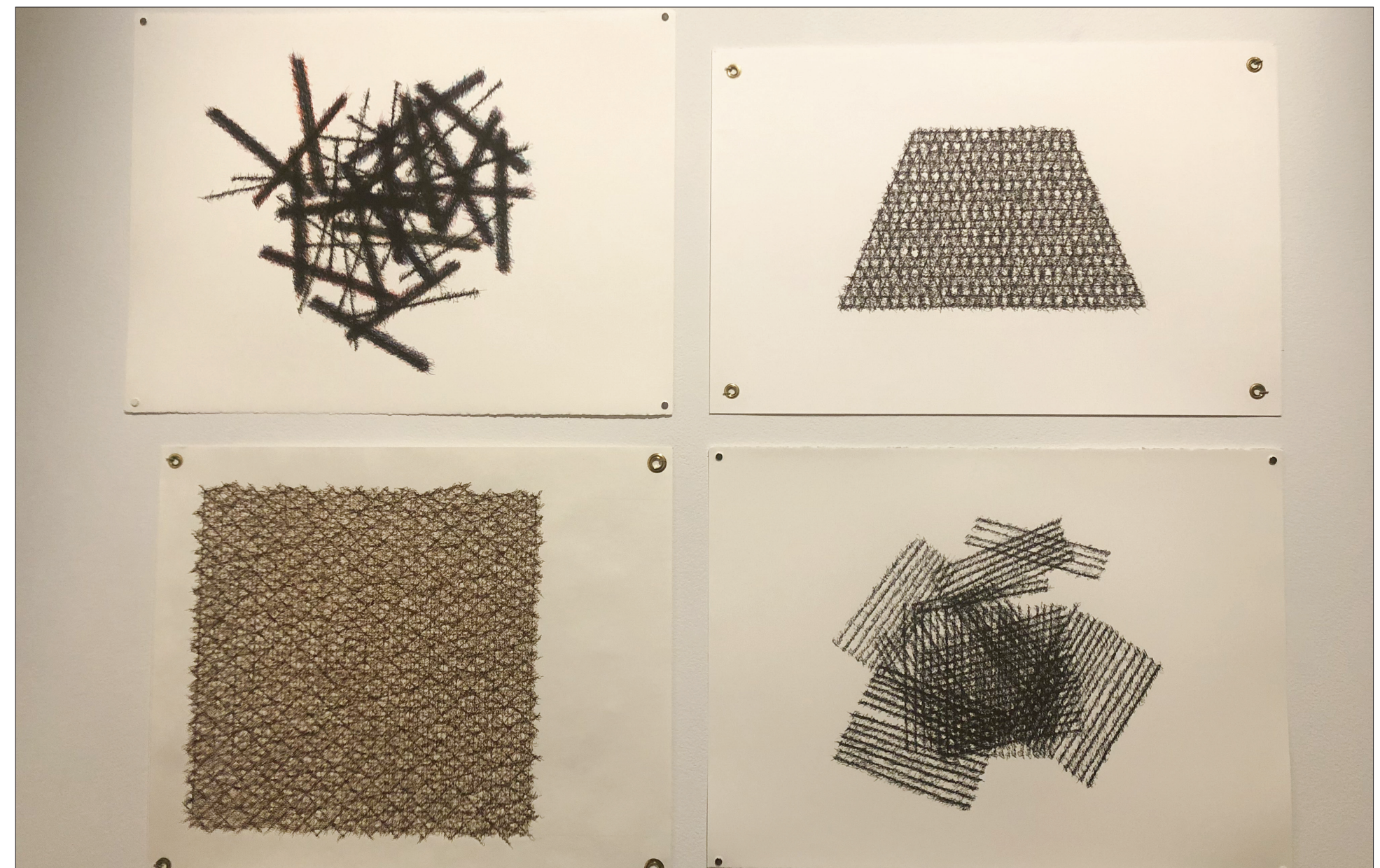
"I have a feeling it will be seen in other places in the future," Landis said.

Both installations are significant and vulnerable, and proclaim important narratives, Landis said.

"There is other work in the exhibition that Sebastian probably would not have put in his final exhibition, but we decided that it added a lot of information about the process behind the counting of the names, the detail of the names, and why it was significant in the work," Landis said.

The galleries had a dialogue through the Teaching and Learning Academy in the exhibition a week after the opening, called "what does it mean to support refugees," Landis said, since the installation opens up discussion about the refugee crisis.

Landis said the dialogues have been deep, and that "students are taking the messages at heart of these artists that took a stance on exposing the vulnerabilities of their personal histories and



Western's gallery presents art by Sebastian Mendes that represents names of the immigrants his grandfather saved on Nov. 12. // Photo by Elizabeth Hall

putting it out for the public to experience."

"I feel that university art galleries should really be a place where students from all over the university, not just art students, come together to talk about things," Yngvason said. "People come to university because they want to learn. They have open minds."

Yngvason said these installations also have to be artistically strong as well.

"It cannot be just talk, it had to be something that you experience as an artwork," he said.

"As the director of the gallery I select the exhibitions and sometimes I'm the curator also," Yngvason said. "In this case I was the curator, meaning I selected the work [and] figured out how to handle them. Basically, thinking about what is this exhibition and how does it come together, how do I bring the work together to get the artist's meaning across."

When choosing which art to feature, Yngvason said they generally look for maturity in artists. This does not mean young or old, but rather someone who has developed their art to a point where it really speaks to an audience.

The gallery was just able to hire Landis as a museum educator, which Yngvason said he hopes will strengthen the program which is founded on the educational institution. "It's all about education," Yngvason said.

Landis started her position as a museum educator in July. Her position was sought after to increase engagement with the programs and oversee the outdoor sculpture collection while educating on the history and narratives of each piece.

Yngvason concluded the museum needed more engagement, Landis said, which is how her position became needed.

She works with Yngvason to best engage a diverse audience with the current installations. They both want to make sure the space is applicable and understandable to more students.

One thing Landis did was add the reflection space to the gallery, where people can go to reflect upon the art and respond to the exhibition, rather than coming and going quickly.

"There's some pretty intense histories," Landis said. "It can be pretty sensitive material for people."

There is also a response wall, where Landis said you will commonly see people reference their family's history in response to what they've just viewed.

Landis has a curatorial background and interest in studying the differences in how people experience the artwork, in order to inform herself on what to do better or differently with her job.

"My intention is to really ground our programming and our



A display of handwritten entries on display at the Western Gallery on Monday, Nov. 25. // Photo by Claire Ott



Western Gallery's call-to-action table for student responses on Monday, Nov. 25. // Photo by Claire Ott

engagement around our Western community," Landis said on the importance of keeping the immediate community and audience interested.

Yngvason said a big part of Western's gallery is creating their own exhibitions instead of accepting travelling exhibitions from different museums.

"We should create our own exhibitions from beginning to end and think about in the process, how does this exhibition speak to our audience," Yngvason said.

After the exhibition, Mendes' work will go back to his art studio, Yngvason said. There are two exhibitions being organized in Europe that Mendes' art might partake in.

"There's something to say about the difference of a university museum," Landis said. "University galleries are much smaller."

Landis said only three people run the museum and everyone contributes to every part of the job. Access of museums is one thing that makes the Western's gallery attract more viewers, Landis said, since other museums usually charge.

Local artist Ed Bereal has his first museum retrospective at Whatcom Museum showcasing his artwork over his life

// Photo by Max Gleiberman



Bereal's exhibition, "WANTED: Ed Bereal for Disturbing the Peace," will run through Jan. 5, 2020 in the Whatcom Museum Lightcatcher building.



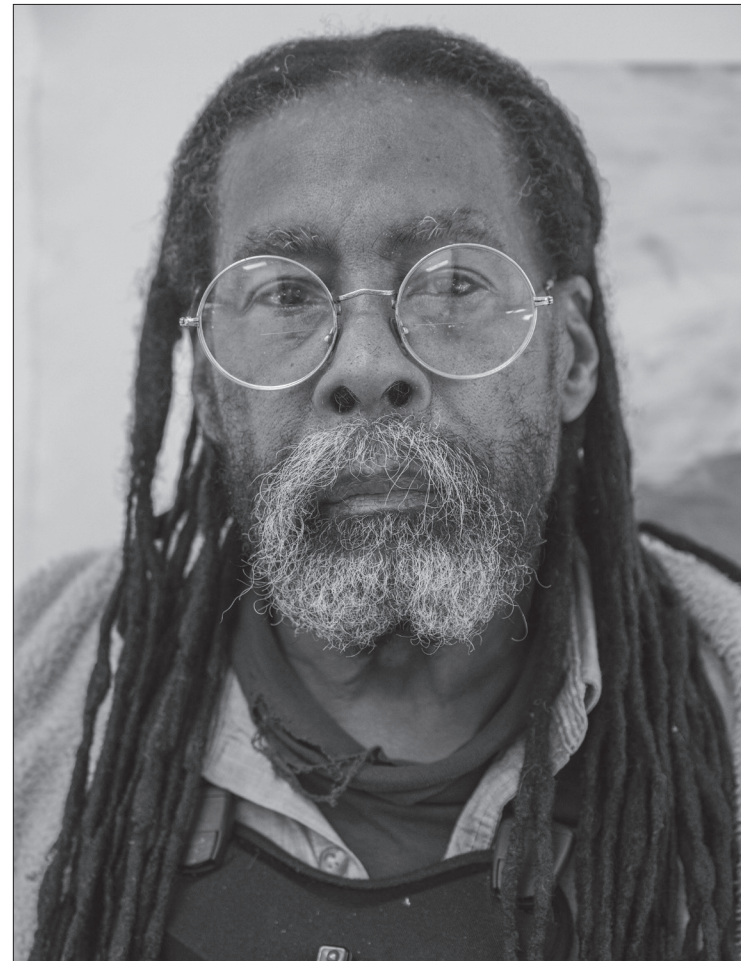
"Exxon: The Five Horsemen of the Apocalypse" is one of the many powerful and controversial art pieces displayed in Ed Bereal's exhibition on Nov. 7. // Photo by Max Gleiberman



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Artist Ed Bereal. // Photo by Zachary Jimenez



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A blast from the past...

What were Western students up to 50 and 100 years ago?

Tuesday, November 18, 1969 Western Front 11



Moratorium marchers give peace signs in front of the Federal building in downtown Bellingham last Saturday. —photo by gowrylow

Tuesday, November 25, 1969 Western Front 7



Vietnam veterans at 309 Gladstone St. have erected this sign on their front lawn to attract attention to their anti-war efforts. —photo by walker

World must achieve peace for survival

The three-day Vietnam Moratorium staged last week is past but not forgotten. Millions of young and old protested the war we are entangled in.

The protests have spread from nation-wide to world-wide, many other nations having expressed their dissent.

President Nixon says he is not going to be affected by such demonstrations. Though millions dissent, more millions support the war effort and therefore the majority rules.

Of course, the young men who must fight and die have no say in the matter, for they are a "minority" group and hence not to be considered.

In his speech concerning Vietnam recently, Nixon quickly gave a not-too-accurate run-down of the history of the Vietnam conflict.

Handouts circulating on campus pack a concise, accurate account of Vietnam beginning with WWII. Taking these facts into consideration makes our justification of being in Vietnam rather shaky.

Nixon ignores the futility of an Asian land war. He lauds the ridiculous South Vietnamese government. To even consider that such a government could possibly survive on its own for more than a year or two is even more ridiculous.

The 1956 elections of Vietnam were to be held determining what ideology the Vietnamese wished to follow. They were never held because the United States and the corrupt South Vietnam government believed that the communists would easily win the people's vote.

So the temporary DMZ was made permanent; years of effort by Ho Chi Minh to unify Vietnam were frustrated.

The Moratorium must continue for these reasons. The men we have in government must forget their honor—loss of honor never hurt as much as loss of life.

We don't believe the war can be ended tomorrow. A simple plan is not evident. We

could pull out in a short time if Nixon would more earnestly negotiate with Hanoi. He has said he is not going to be the first president of the United States to lose a war. If this is one of his stronger reasons to stay in then his reasoning is illogical.

This is one war that we should be ashamed of winning, if indeed we could. It is not like our past wars—the WWII vets who are pro-war do not comprehend the actual situation.

The world is at a turning point. Overpopulation threatens, accompanied by pollution. Nuclear potential makes war a tricky business. Mass, rapid communication and transit have shrunk the world until we as a people can really communicate as we never have been able to before.

The level of education in developing countries has risen greatly. A younger, more sophisticated generation looks at the world and realizes that the unjust wars that have gone on through history cannot be allowed to continue.

We must develop throughout the nation a new concept of the world—we must discard the them-and-us mentality and realize that co-existence is possible. The great communist threat of the Joe McCarthy era is a myth. We as a people have been brainwashed by government and the Pentagon for too long.

We are not saying to throw down our arms and seek peace today. Sometimes things take a while longer than a day to achieve. But peace is achievable. It must be. It is our only chance to survive into the 21st century.

The Vietnam Moratorium is being planned on the grass roots level for Dec. 12, 13 and Christmas Eve. For the sake of the world's future, we implore the vast silent majority to examine the facts and if you then find that this is the right way, support it. We do.

—Mike Gowrylow

Students reflect on Vietnam protest moratorium in November 1969

GENERAL SCHOOL NEWS

We are enjoying lots of "tests" this week. Cheer up, it will soon be over. Class officers are being nominated to serve next quarter.

Some psychology students feel doubtful whether we can taste a substance which is not present, but we all agree we have begun to taste the pumpkin pie and turkey we are going to have at home Thanksgiving.

Miss Agnes Hill, the first Y. W. C. A. secretary to go to India, spoke to the assembly Wednesday morning on the customs of the people of India and the future development of the country. Miss Hill was dressed in the native costume and together with the portrayal of the Hindoo fashions we felt the Oriental spirit.

Since the "dry spell" has set in there has been considerable interest shown by the members of the organic chemistry class in the preparation of alcohol. A 86 per cent solution of the "real stuff" was the result of their effort. After reading the percentage with the hydrometer, strange as it may seem, Mr. Philippi had to sample the drop that hung to the lower end of the hydrometer. Noticing the famished look on the faces around him he said that only those who could control their appetites would be allowed to sample it. Nobody was sure they could, so Mr. Philippi put the life-giving liquid in his cupboard for future reference.

Mr. Wilbur Schuett and Mr. John Meyers, of Sumas, spent Sunday visiting Noraine Schuett.

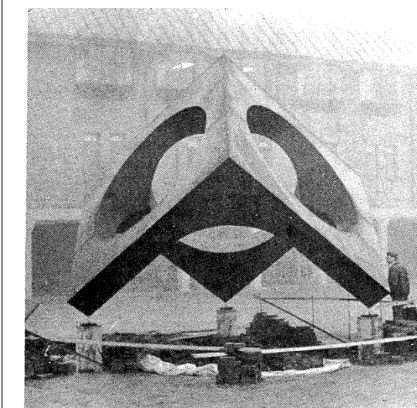
Last Thursday evening the Thespian Club held their meeting in the auditorium and presented the play "Popping the Question." The cast was very well selected and everyone present enjoyed the play very much.

Dr. Nash attended a meeting of the higher curriculum committee at Pullman on Friday. The students were interested in his account of the football game played on Saturday at Pullman between the University and the State College. It was a close game, but ended in a victory for the University.

Miss Elma Orr expects to leave Normal at the end of this quarter to fill a teaching position.

Mr. Heckmann gave the Education 12 class a lecture on "Industrial Arts" Monday.

Students look forward to Thanksgiving break in November 1919



Izamu Noguchi's Sky Viewing Sculpture looms ominously through the fog in Red Square. —photo by walker

Sky Viewing sculpture grand reveal in November 1969

Homecoming farce due to student apathy

A pig was Western's Homecoming queen! Quite a laugh on the outside, but inside sickening and disgusting.

Once again on the Western campus a minority has triumphed over an inactive and "who gives a damn" majority.

When will people wake up! This isn't the end. Others will do the same, but on issues of far greater importance.

Students elected a pig for Homecoming Queen in November 1969

When looking back on 2019 in 50 years, what do you think future students will say were Western's biggest issues?



Chase Vander Yacht
Anthropology

"Their lack of willingness to divest from fossil fuels. Western also has a big issue with inclusion of people that aren't white."



Emmalene Madson
Chinese & East Asian studies

"I would say interdepartmental communication. It creates so much more work for the students than it needs to be."



Samantha Cutsinger
Undeclared

"Honestly, the biggest thing is jumping through a bunch of hoops to do anything. I'm the captain of the archery club and we're not on campus because we're only like 5 people so we can't get funding."



Brooklyn Engstrum
Undeclared

"Probably vaping on campus."

Compiled by Bethany Maciejewski

—Paul Madison

Sports Roundup: Women's volleyball clinches GNAC

Tyreke Wilbanks
THE WESTERN FRONT

Women's Basketball
Western had two non-conference wins over the weekend. On Friday, Nov. 22, the Vikings beat Western Colorado University by three points, 69-66, at home in the WECU Court in Sam Carver Gymnasium. Maddison Coleman led the team to victory with 17 points.

Volleyball
The Vikings beat Central Washington University with a 3-0 match on Thursday, Nov. 21, in Nicholson Pavilion in Ellensburg, Washington. They went on to claim their third consecutive Great Northwest Athletic Conference championship with a four-set victory against Northwest Nazarene University on Saturday, Nov. 23, at Johnson Sports Center in Nampa, Idaho.

The No. 4 nationally-ranked Vikings defeated NNU with scores of 25-16, 25-7, 23-25, 25-15 to finish the regular season 26-2 overall and 18-2 in conference play to record a third straight GNAC title. Western also won titles in 2017 (19-1) and 2018 (20-0) for a combined record of 57-3 over the last three seasons in GNAC play.

"I am so proud of this young team winning the conference title with the huge expectations they shouldered this year," said



Junior guard Maddison Coleman (21) scores 17 points in 25 minutes of play as Western women's basketball team defeats Western Colorado 69-66 in a down to the wire game on Friday, Nov. 22. // Photo by Alex Moreno

head coach Diane Flick-Williams, in her 20th year leading the program. "Our seniors - Joslyn, Mae, Kayleigh - led this group and we are where we are because of them."

The Vikings were led by 16 kills each from senior middle Kayleigh Harper and sophomore outside hitter Gabby Gunterman. Harper finished with a

team-high 20.5 points, also contributing five blocks and a pair of service aces.

Redshirt freshman outside hitter Calley Heilborn scored her 17th double-double of the season with 13 kills and 19 digs. Senior libero Mae Thungc recorded a match high of 26 digs, falling one short of her single-match career high. GNAC lead-

ing setter redshirt freshman Malia Aleaga served up 47 assists along with 8 digs and 4 blocks.

Western will face University of Hawaii Hilo in the NCAA Division II West Regional Championship Tournament in San Bernardino, California. The tournament will take place Dec. 5-7.

Men's soccer eliminated from NCAA

Wilson Turk
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Western men's soccer season came to an end with a 5-0 loss against St. Mary's University on Saturday, Nov. 23, in San Antonio, Texas.

The loss knocks the Vikings out of the NCAA Division II Championship tournament in the second round after receiving a bye in the first round.

"Overall, we actually played pretty well. We had some chances in the first half that we didn't finish and that came back to get us in the second half especially," senior defender Jeremiah Lee, from Marysville, Washington said. "We played for each other and with lots of energy and they just finished their chances and we didn't."

In the 33rd minute, St. Mary's sophomore midfielder Deni Cresto, from Curitiba, Parana, Brazil, scored from just over 25 meters. The ball was shot into the upper right corner of the goal past the outstretched arms of Western's freshman goalkeeper Brandon Locke, from Federal Way, Washington.

St. Mary's forward Nenad Markovic, from Belgrade, Serbia, scored a hat-trick with goals in the 36th minute, the 53rd, the 83rd. The Vikings were not able to respond despite multiple close attempts that were saved by the St. Mary's junior goalkeeper Gerard Roebuck, from Lithgow, Australia.

"It was a tough game, credit to St. Mary's they shot and they scored their goals tonight," Western head coach Greg Brisbon said during the postgame press conference. "I thought we had chances early, but their keeper was fantastic and for me that was the difference tonight."

The Vikings finished the game with 10 shots, six of them on goal, while St. Mary's had 12 shots total with six on goal.

"St. Mary's was just clinical tonight, and they capitalized on mistakes better," senior forward Ryan Schaefer, from Burien, Washington, said during the postgame press conference. "That is just the way it goes. When you are on your day you can get punished and they were."

"I'm really proud of each and every person on the team and how much work they've put into this year," said Lee. "A special thanks to the seniors for all of their hard work they've put in for the team and the program. I'm proud of our team and the fantastic year we had. Tonight just wasn't our night"

The varsity team will resume CSL play on Jan. 11, 2020 against Weber State University. The JV team will have a bye week and play the University of Montana on Jan. 18, 2020.

Golden goal punches ticket to regional finals

Women's soccer defeats Cal State LA 1-0 with a double overtime goal, awarded host site for next round

Jordan Shepherd
THE WESTERN FRONT

The No. 3 Western women's soccer team defeated California State University Los Angeles 1-0 to move on to the NCAA Division II West Regional Championship for the fifth consecutive season on Sunday, Nov. 24, in Rohnert Park, California, after an exciting double overtime match-up.

Viking junior midfielder Grace Eversaul scored the game-winning golden goal just under three minutes into the double overtime to win the game. She was assisted by senior defender Peyton Chick who lofted the ball high into the box from the left flank, and senior forward Liv Larson, who then helped to nudge the ball toward the goal where Eversaul kicked it home for the win.

These assists marked Chick's 19th career assist and Larson's 26th career assist for the Vikings. Both of these players are among the top 10 in assists in the history of the program.

"It was a great ball by Peyton [Chick] and a little touch by Liv [Larson] that had a gigantic impact," head coach Travis Connell said. "I am proud of the team, but really more excited for the players

to experience this and to be rewarded for all their hard work. They came up big in big moments all game ... and they were rewarded with the game-winner."

The Vikings outplayed CSLA in the first half and outshot them 10-1, but the game remained scoreless. The Golden Eagles had only a few real scoring chances but were kept shutout by junior goalkeeper Natalie Dierickx. Eversaul's late goal cemented the Vikings' win in the next round of the tournament.

"The goal was a huge relief, we had been working so hard all game to put it in the back of the net," said Chick. "I think our team came out really strong and our defensive effort was never ending."

The victory helped the Vikings avenge a loss to the Golden Eagles earlier in the season and advance to the Sweet 16 and the West Regional Final on Dec. 5, versus Point Loma Nazarene University. Western will host the West and South Central Regional Final of the Division II Women's Soccer Championships at Robert S. Harrington Field.

"We have to give a lot of credit to Cal State LA ... they are hard to score against, as is evident by how long it took us in two games, but they did

a great job, had a great game plan and presented us with numerous challenges," Connell said.

The Vikings out-shot CSLA 22-4 and held a 14-2 advantage in shots on goal. It is the 15th shutout for the Vikings on the season and 10th shutout for Dierickx.

"The defense always had an answer, and the backline and Natalie [Dierickx] were

fantastic today," Connell said, on his defense. "Cal State LA threw a lot at us in the second half, and our players stepped up and were up to the task."

The Vikings played the first match of the first round on Friday, Nov. 22, against Stanislaus State, where they won 1-0. The Vikings got a late-game goal by senior defender Lindsey Fujiwara for the victory.

The Western women have an overall record to 20-2-0 after their 16th consecutive victory and recorded their fourth 20-win season in the 40-year history of the women's soccer program. The team will be playing in its 10th NCAA Division II Championships overall, including their eighth consecutive appearance, and are now 19-7-1 in the tournament.



Western women's soccer team // Photo courtesy of Western Athletics

Western esports club heats up

Varsity, JV Rocket League teams split decision in Collegiate Starleague play

Conor Wilson
THE WESTERN FRONT

Does regular soccer not have enough explosions for you?

What at first glance sounds more like friends laughing about TV shows and unusual game mechanics than a sporting event turns silent and serious in an instant.

As soon as the game begins the only conversation over the microphones are discussions of team strategy, rotations and short decisive remarks of "I go," and "I have no boost."

The serious tone is reflective of a promising season for both the varsity and junior varsity teams from Western's Rocket League club, who played in its sixth game of the Collegiate Starleague season on Saturday, Nov. 23.

Rocket League is a video game developed and published by Psyonix where players control a rocket-powered car to hit a ball into the opponent's goal. Games can be played from between one-on-one to four-on-four.

"We like to learn how each other plays like you do in

soccer or football," JV player Kevin McGrane said. "You want to be able to communicate enough so that, [your teammates] understand what you're trying to say, but you don't want to be talking because the game is so fast paced."

In the varsity matchup, Western improved its record to 6-0 and retained its first-place ranking after a forfeit victory over Utah Valley University.

Of the team's six matches this season - which consist of a best of five game series - they have never lost more than one game per match. This includes the team's 3-1 victories against both the University of Washington and Washington State University.

"Our team has really good synergy with each other," former team captain and varsity alternate Jacob Friesen said over instant message. "I'm looking forward to spring where there will most likely be more tournaments for us to compete in and hopefully, we can make some waves in the collegiate scene."

In the JV game, Western

lost to second place Colorado School of Mines three games to one, dropping their record to 2-4.

After losing the first game of the match 5-0, Western rallied back to win the second game of the series 5-1, including two goals and one assist from McGrane.

"We talked about how we were playing well in warmups and how we didn't do any of that in the first game, so we focused on not stressing out and over thinking," McGrane said in an instant message. "I feel like that was one of the best series we have played so far this season."

In the third game, Western played a close defensive match, keeping CSM within a goal, until the last 40 seconds where CSM scored twice to take the game 4-1. CSM closed out the match with a 3-0 victory in game four.

According to team member Kanyen Sherwood, one of the biggest problems for the team was overcommitting.

"It seemed that almost every goal that they scored came from two of us going for the same ball," Sherwood said over an instant mes-

sage. "It is a big issue, but I think with some practice over break it should become better."

Despite the loss, McGrane said the team is heading in the right direction.

"I think we played well, and the right ideas were there, we just lacked consistency," McGrane said. "There definitely are positives to take away in that we played really well in game two, and the third and fourth [games] were both close too."

Of Western's four losses, three of them have come from matches against the top four teams in the league.

"The schedule just happened to match us against the hardest teams at the beginning of the season," Sherwood said. "We haven't played a single match against the bottom half of our table, and I think we should be able to pick up traction and bring our season back."

The varsity team will resume CSL play on Jan. 11, 2020 against Weber State University. The JV team will have a bye week and play the University of Montana on Jan. 18, 2020.

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Vikings dominate UC Colorado Springs

Senior Anna Schwecke leads all players with 19 points, 13 rebounds against former school

Nolan Baker
THE WESTERN FRONT

Facing her former school, senior center Anna Schwecke led the Vikings to victory with a 19 point, 13 rebound double-double performance against University of Colorado Colorado Springs.

The Western women's basketball team defeated UCCS 62-41 on Saturday, Nov. 23.

The visiting UCCS team came into Sam Carver Gymnasium Saturday night with a 1-4 record but looked dangerous in the first quarter. Starting out making 50% of their shots and both 3-pointer attempts, the Mountain Lions trailed the Vikings by only four points after the first quarter buzzer.

After that, Western played with impressive cohesion. The Vikings secured the win with an advantage in rebounds, assists and points from players off the bench.

Schwecke, who transferred to Western after playing her red-shirt freshman year at UCCS, led all players with 19 points and 13 rebounds, recording her first double-double of the season, along with two steals and two assists.

After the game, Schwecke was humble, downplaying her accomplishments on the court.

"I didn't really do anything big," Schwecke said. "[My teammates] do the hard stuff: driving, getting the defense away from me, and then they just dump me the pass, so I just make the easy



Viking center Anna Schwecke (44) goes for a basket while guarded by a player from University of Colorado Colorado Springs on Saturday, Nov. 23. // Photo by Zachary Jimenez

buckets." The Viking's ability to pass against the UCCS defense proved to be a key for their win on Saturday. They tallied a total of 19 assists, while their defense only allowed 4 assists from the visiting Mountain Lions.

Western's defense also recorded four blocked shots, 10 steals and held UCCS to an average shooting percentage of 21.5% in the final three quarters of the game. As the game wound down and the UCCS offense slowed, Western's defense only grew

stronger, allowing just six points in the fourth quarter.

UCCS head coach Lynn Plett said the Viking defense suffocated their offensive plans throughout the game.

"We can't kind of take a deep breath," Plett said, "and we wound up taking some bad shots, turning the ball over too much."

UCCS started the game hot, making their first five shots, including a 3-pointer, to put themselves in an 11-10 lead on the Vikings early in the first quarter. They held that one-point lead

for only 44 seconds. After a soft jump shot from redshirt junior guard Dani Iwami, the Vikings went up 12-11 and did not return the lead to UCCS.

Western held the lead for over 39 of the entire 40 minute game, and finished the game with a 21-point lead, their largest of the night.

Head coach Carmen Dolfo said she wanted to focus on speed and defense with this year's team, and that Saturday's game was just a hint of what they can accomplish.

"I felt like this week we did a lot better defensively and that was our goal," Dolfo said. "We played a really good defense, and I think we did have some good fast breaks and I think we did a good job in the half court of moving the ball and breaking their defense down."

Missing from Saturday's action was junior forward Kelsey Rogers, who went down with a knee injury on Friday. Dolfo explained that the injury was a re-aggravation of one she suffered on Nov. 9 against Humboldt State University, but that the team expects her to play Tuesday, Dec. 3, against Simon Fraser University.

"It's not an ACL, so that's the good news," Dolfo said.

The Vikings started their season with four away games. They won their first two, but then lost two straight against a pair of top 10 nationally ranked Div. II teams: University of California San Diego and Azusa Pacific University by a combined 12-point difference.

Now, after two home wins against non-conference opponents, the Vikings are 4-2 and will begin play against Great Northwest Athletic Conference opponents when they visit Burnaby, Canada, to take on SFU on Tuesday, Dec. 3.

"We all have pretty high expectations because we know how good we can be," Schwecke said about the season ahead. "We're really excited to get started, finally."



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