

THE ELLE WORD  
UNITED WE STAND, DIVIDED WE FALL  
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Recently, it seems, campus has been abuzz with lots of...activity.

And when I say “campus,” I’m referring to *everyone* on campus—from students to professors.

Two movements, in particular, come to mind: the possible recall election of student-body president, Gerry Blakney, and the possible strike of Western professors.

And between these two, I am absolutely *shocked* that so many students have been in more disarray over Blakney’s presidency (Since when did anyone become such a target by *not* wanting to increase a population’s financial burden? It’s usually just the opposite in today’s society.) than over the ensuing faculty strike.

What’s more important to Western students? Complaining about Blakney or discussing how a faculty strike will affect every Western student (especially seniors who plan to graduate in June), their spring classes and their tuition?

Well, it’s quite obvious just by listening to ill-informed students that it’s the former that is at the top of their list.

At a recent afternoon lab, I watched fellow classmates shrug their shoulders when our professors asked us if the Western students were at all concerned about the faculty strike. When the professors saw the overwhelming lethargic attitude, they asked if they even knew what was going on with it.

“The whole situation is just very upsetting,” I said at the meeting.

Everyone looked at me with confused faces.

In all of my time at Western, I have never seen so much ignorance in so many people about something that is so important, about something that directly affects the students immediately.

Instead of focusing so strongly on what Blakney’s politics are concerning student fees, why can’t we band together as students, as part of Western, as part of the community and make a statement about the strike? It doesn’t matter what you personally believe—whether you are for or against, or have mixed feelings—let’s encourage discussion and the distribution of the facts.

Because with everything that is going on, and with the way that everyone is acting, the only direction this campus is going is down.

We’ve got to remember that we *must* stand together—united—because we’ll fall divided.