

The Western Front

January 15, 1993/Volume 85, Number 21

Western Washington University

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Environmentalists say ecosystems are complex

The first segment of this report examined Plum Creek Timber's wood-cutting practices, which environmentalists say are overly destructive. In addition, it explored the ideas which drive the company and reasons for the company's economic success.

This is part two of a three-part series ending in the Jan. 22 edition.

By Collin Wilcox
copy editor

Environmentalists say Plum Creek Timber's view of trees as money on the stump is truncated. They say Plum Creek Director David Eeland's argument that clearcutting is a necessary step in managing the company's forest lands has a fundamental flaw: Old-growth forests aren't just trees, but a complex, irreplaceable ecosystem.

Old-growth forests are intricate webs made up of microorganisms, smaller trees, shrubs and wildlife all dependent on each other for survival. For example, Douglas Firs depend on a fungus called mycorrhiza that lives in the forest floor to provide them with atmospheric nitrogen, a critical nutrient. The fungus actually works its way into the roots of the tree to perform that function.

Once that web of life is fully developed, old-growth forests serve several purposes. In addition

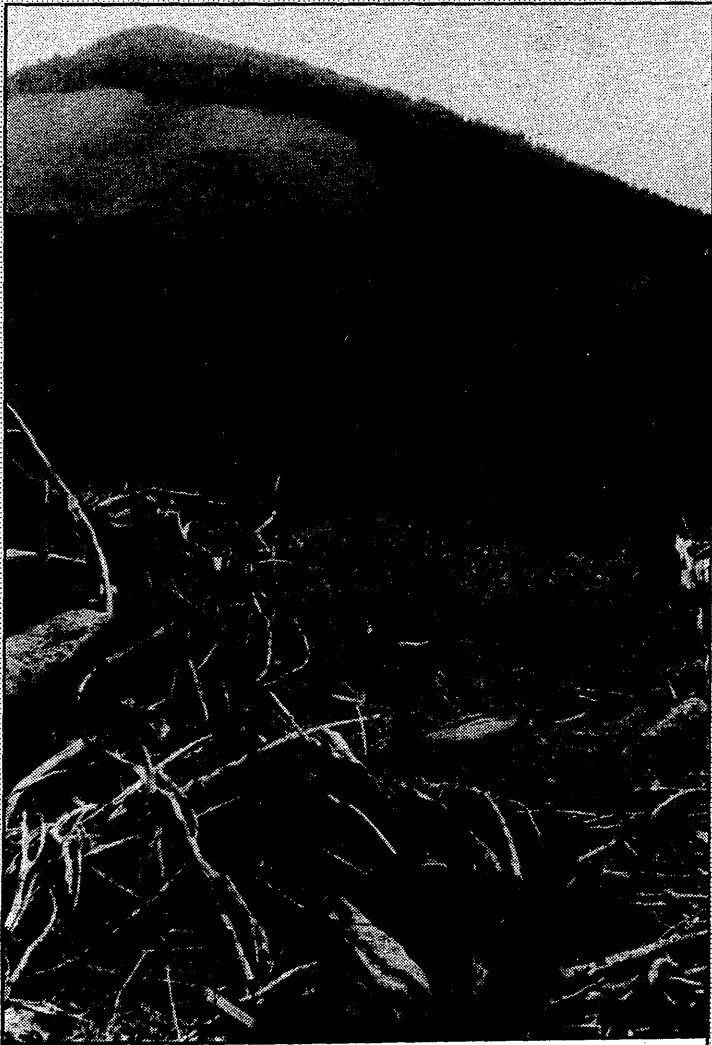


Photo courtesy of *The Planet*
A complex chain of plant and animal life depends on forest ecosystems including trees such as Douglas Firs to survive. The photo above was taken near the Mt. Baker Highway - not Plum Creek land.

tion to providing a home for wildlife, they purify rainwater and help prevent erosion of the thin soils on steep mountain sides—critical factors in the maintenance of salmon streams.

Managed forests are never allowed to grow old enough to perform those functions. Ac-

ording to its 1991 annual report, Plum Creek's managed trees are cut every 50 to 80 years. But a viable bed of mycorrhizal fungus needs at least 100 years

Plum Creek continued on page 3

Diversity discussed in Duster talks

Renee Trelder
staff reporter

Students voiced their opinion of ethnic diversity on Western's campus while attending a presentation hosted by Troy Duster, professor at the University of California, Berkeley, and director of the Institute for the Study of Social Change. He will also host discussions today regarding ethnic diversity in higher education.

Duster will talk from 9:30 to 11 a.m. in the Fairhaven Auditorium and at noon in the Viking

grounds deal with because of racism.

"It's not that we are trying to say, 'You need to pull us up because we are minorities.' That's not what we are saying," she said. "We are saying, 'realize what is going on. Realize what the past has done to us, realize what it's done to education - what it's done to our self esteem.'"

Christine Quemuel, an Asian Pacific Islander, said she feels it is important

for others to explore different cultures deeply before making any

"Don't assume you know a culture because you have read a book or because you have lot's of friends. Explore it more deeply."

- Christine Quemuel, Western student

Union Main Lounge. A Martin Luther King, Jr. vigil will take place at 4:30 p.m. in the Viking Union Main Lounge.

"I wish it was mandatory that people had to go," Carrie Blackwood, a Western student, said of the candlelight vigil.

Blackwood, who is Chicano, said she feels the issue of racism hasn't changed.

"There are still people who believe that Chicanos are less intelligent than whites," said Blackwood. "It is the whole stereotypes that haven't changed: that Chicanos are lazy, that we're all in gangs, or minorities being somehow a burden on white society. It's the same old stuff."

Blackwood said she wants people to take the time to understand the anger and frustration people with different ethnic back-

judgements.

"Don't assume you know a culture because you have read a book or because you have lot's of friends," Quemuel said. "Explore it more deeply."

Daniel Reyes, MEChA coordinator and Ethnic Student Center grant researcher, agrees with the students.

"We think we have created a strong voice and the frustration comes from the strong voice being ignored," Reyes said. "We are not slacking our effort to promote diversity."

Reyes said he feels the ethnic center is a place for students to gain back their heritage.

"The Ethics Student Center is to empower the disenfranchised," said Reyes. "We are a reconquest of our identity through coalition."

Kegger causes Inter-Hall Council president to lose job

Karl Schwelzer
staff reporter

The Inter-Hall Council (IHC) voted last night to fire their president, Ken Wood, after a kegger party involving minors took place in his apartment.

The decision to fire Wood was made despite a motion to suspend part of the IHC constitution allowing him to keep his job as president of the council.

"I think Ken is a great guy," said Derek Forbes, an IHC representative who voted against the

suspension. He went on to say, "We made these rules (the constitution) at the beginning of the year, and they were intended to be kept, not broken. My hall felt that the image of the council is more important than one man. If we suspend the constitution once, where does it stop?"

Wood lost the IHC presidency when Birnam Wood Resident Director Dick Yarrington kicked him and two of his roommates out of the university residences system following the Nov. 13 "kegger" party at Wood's

apartment. Because IHC's constitution requires its voting members to live in the university residence halls or apartments, Wood's expulsion rendered him ineligible to be president.

IHC Vice-President Steve Collins proposed suspending the constitution to allow Wood, who had been serving his second year as president, to return. But, the proposal failed to get the necessary 2/3 majority vote. The proposal died on a split vote of 15 in favor and 15 against, with two abstentions.

Collins, who will succeed Wood as president of IHC, said, "Ken's a great person—probably the best I've seen. It's a shame that this great leader got kicked out."

Wood, 20, admitted to the five student-housing contract violations Yarrington charged him with. The charges were: being a minor in possession of alcohol, selling alcohol, being a minor in possession of a large quantity of alcohol, loud noise and ignoring the guest policy.

He protested his expulsion in

a written statement: "I have never heard of someone getting kicked out for the offenses we had and especially for the first time," he wrote. "We were made out to be examples, and that's not right."

Pete Rosenberg, the assistant director of Residence Life, heard Wood's appeal of his expulsion, and let the expulsion stand, but he denied that Wood had received extraordinarily harsh treatment.

IHC president continued on page 4

What's Inside? Accent, pg. 5: Jambay jams at Speedy's Saturday night. Sports, pg. 8: Western wallops Sheldon Jackson, 93-70.

Across the country and around the world

Top Story

Iraq submits to U.N. resolutions

United Nations (AP) - Iraq is offering conciliatory talk on two key disputes with the United Nations, but is still defiant on the presence of missiles in the southern "no-fly" zone.

Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz says yesterday's allied attack on the missiles won't change Iraq's position that it doesn't recognize the no-fly zone. The zone was set up to protect Shiite Muslims from Saddam Hussein's army.

Diplomats at the United Nations said the security council is meeting this afternoon to review letters from Iraq. In the letters Baghdad says it will again allow U.N. weapons inspectors to use their own planes in Iraq and will ask permission before it sends any more salvage crews into Kuwait.

Clinton backs Bush's Iraq policy

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — President-elect Clinton said he has no intention of normalizing rela-

tions with Iraq under Saddam Hussein. At a Little Rock news conference Clinton was asked about an interview he gave "The New York Times." In that interview Clinton suggested Saddam could get along better with the United States if he abides by U.N. resolutions.

Clinton said he will judge Saddam by his conduct, but he insisted there's no difference between his policy and that of President Bush. Clinton said that based on Saddam's conduct to date he can't imagine any circumstances under which he would normalize relations with the Iraqi president.

Flavor additive may be cure for blood disease

BOSTON, Mass. (AP) - Doctors reporting in the "New England Journal of Medicine" said a commonly-used flavor enhancer may be the first safe and simple treatment for sickle cell anemia.

Dr. Douglas Faller of Boston University and Susan Perrine of Children's Hospital in Oakland, Calif. said injecting the substance Butyrate activates a gene that produces fetal Hemoglobin. The hemoglobin replaces defective adult hemoglobin in adults with sickle cell anemia and thalassemia (a type of anemia).

The researches said initial tests

show patients in every case gained levels of hemoglobin that would allow them to become completely cured.

The report said more testing is needed to prove the treatment actually reverses the symptoms. Sickle cell anemia is an inherited disease afflicting as many as 100,000 black Americans.



Bremerton family hits the \$15 million jack pot

SEATTLE, Wash. (AP) - A Bremerton family of seven claimed a \$15 million lotto prize in Seattle Thursday Jan. 14.

The Charles E. Rathbun family formed a limited partnership and wants the money paid to the partnership rather than an individual winner. Lottery spokesman Dick Paulson said this is apparently for estate planning purposes.

Rathbun purchased the winning ticket Saturday in Belfair. Paulson said the family members promised each other several years ago to share any lotto winnings in a partnership. The winning ticket is worth 20 annual payments of \$540,000

Nose biter acquitted of assault charges

VANCOUVER, B.C. (AP) - A man who bit off the tip of his opponent's nose during a scuffle aboard a commuter train has been acquitted of aggravated assault by a British Columbia Supreme Court jury.

Twenty-one-year-old Karman Justin McLeod of Vancouver was charged with aggravated assault after fighting with 27-year-old William Hardie in 1991. Hardie told the jury he intervened when he saw McLeod pushing another passenger around. During the ensuing tussle Hardie said McLeod bit into his nose and spit a piece of skin back

Campus & Bellingham Cops Box

CAMPUS POLICE

Jan. 12

At 12:34 a.m., a public safety assistant saw a male suspect enter a window of the Art Annex. When two officers confronted the suspect as he was leaving the building, it was determined the suspect was checking on an art project. Further action is pending.

At 9:15 p.m., a student reported his car was vandalized in Lot 11-G while he attended a basketball game in Carver Gym. The police have no suspects at this time.

Jan. 14

At 12:59 a.m., three people were arrested for their involvement in an attempted robbery on the 900 block of Lakeway Drive. Campus police contacted a vehicle for a traffic violation on the corner of 21st and Knox. Upon further investigation, the officer suspected the occupants were involved in an armed robbery five minutes earlier. The Bellingham Police

Department was called and arrests made. All were booked into Whatcom County Jail. Bail has been set at \$50,000 each.

BELLINGHAM POLICE

Jan. 13

At 10 a.m., a 14-year-old boy reported he was forced by a 23-year-old male to engage in sexual intercourse with an adult female, 38, on the 1300 block of Texas Street. The couple has been charged with second degree rape.

At 2:35 p.m., pepper gas was discharged in a restaurant located on the 1300 block of 12th Street. This is the second occurrence in two days. The owner said a group of teens had left previously but did not know exactly when the gas was sprayed.

At 2:42 p.m., a woman reported that a man held a gun to her head and pulled the trigger on the 900 block of 20th Street. The gun was not loaded. The case is under investigation.

Western Briefs

Banquet addresses global hunger

Associated Students will host a hunger banquet from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Jan. 20 in the Viking Union lounge. The banquet is put on with help from the Global Hunger Organization and Oxfam International, which is active with reducing hunger throughout the world. Speakers at the banquet will include a representative from the food bank and a food services dietician talking about starvation.

Poet honors Martin Luther King Jr. day

Toi Derricotte, an African-American poet and author, will be giving a reading from her poetry and non-fiction works in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. day and as part of the Hubless Wheel series. Derricotte will be speaking Monday, at 7 p.m. Jan. 18 in Lecture Hall 2 and Tuesday at 11 a.m. Jan. 21 at the Northwest Indian College.

Derricotte has written three books of poetry collections: "Empress of the Death House", "Natural Birth" and "Captivity". Derricotte is currently working on a non-fiction piece called "Black Notebooks", an autobiographical about her inner responses to living in a white society. For more information call Omar Castañeda at 650-6104.

Arboretum board seeks at large members

The Sehome Hill Arboretum Board of Governors currently has vacancies for two community at large members and one Western student. The board is responsible for operation and development within the 165 acre Arboretum around Sehome hill. The at large members serve a three year term and the student member serves for one year.

The board meets every other month on the second Thursday at 4 p.m. Interested individuals should send a letter of interest and background information to:

•Sehome Hill Arboretum Board
Parks and Recreation Department
3424 Meridian
Bellingham, Wa 98225

YWCA presents luncheon lecture on disabled

Lee Bussard, who has cerebral palsy, will present the second Bellingham YWCA luncheon lecture on Wednesday at 1 p.m. Jan. 27 at the Lakeway Inn.

Bussard's topic will be "More Alike than Different: A New Look at Disability." Tickets for the lectures are \$15 and are available at Village Books, the Greenhouse and the YWCA. Tickets for the lecture only and not for lunch can be purchased at the door for \$5. For more information call 734-4820.

WWU Official Announcements

Deadline for announcements in this space is noon Friday for the Tuesday edition and noon Wednesday for the Friday edition. Announcements should be limited to 50 words, typewritten or legibly printed, and sent through campus mail to "Official Announcements," MS-9117, fax 647-7287, or taken in person to Commissary 113A. DO NOT ADDRESS ANNOUNCEMENTS DIRECTLY TO THE WESTERN FRONT. Phoned announcements will not be accepted. All announcements should be signed by originator.

- **STUDY IN GREECE.** John McClendon and Tom Schlotterback will host an informational meeting and slide presentation on the 1993 Spring Greece program at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 20, in the Fairhaven auditorium.
- **SUMMARY WRITING WORKSHOPS** are being offered by the Writing Center to help students prepare for the JWE. These workshops will be held at various times daily through January 27. Preregister in the Writing Center, WL 342, X/3219.
- **LOT RESERVATIONS.** Lots 11G and 25G will be reserved beginning at 5 p.m. Jan. 16 for a special event at Canada House. Lots 12G and 19G will be reserved starting at 5 p.m. Jan. 20 for basketball games. Cooperation of the University community is requested. Drivers who park vehicles in a reserved lot prior to the attendant's arrival and who leave a vehicle parked during the lot reservation period without authorization from the attendant will be considered illegally parked. Except for lot 10G Monday through Thursday, any G, V or C lot other than those listed may be used.
- **INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS AND EXCHANGES** will present information on national and international study opportunities on Tuesday, January 19, at 7:30 p.m. in the main lounge of Fairhaven stack 9. All are welcome.
- **LIFESTYLE ADVISERS WANTED.** Students are encouraged to apply now for the 1993 Lifestyle Adviser class. Lifestyle advisers gain personal and professional skills by volunteering to present vital health information to their peers. Accepted applicants enroll in HED 250 (Health and the College Student) for credit during spring quarter. For more information, contact the Wellness Center, X/3074, MH 271, by Feb. 1.
- **JUNIOR WRITING EXAM** test dates for winter quarter are Jan. 15, 20, 21, 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29. All tests are scheduled for 3 p.m. Registration is required in OM 120. There is no fee and the test takes approximately two hours.
- **THE MATH PLACEMENT TEST** will be given at 9 a.m. on Feb. 16, 17, 24, and 25 and at 2 p.m. on Feb. 23. A fee of \$10 must be paid in the exact amount at time of registration in OM 120. The test takes about one and one-half hours.
- **TETEP (TEST FOR ENTRANCE INTO TEACHER EDUCATION)** will be given at 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 5, in LH 4. A \$20 registration fee must be paid in the exact amount at time of registration in OM 120. One large group administration of the test is scheduled for this quarter. Anyone who cannot take the test at this time and date may have it administered individually for a fee of \$30.
- **INTERNATIONAL LIVING GROUP ADVISERS.** The Institute of English Language Programs has live-in adviser positions to work with Asia University students from Tokyo from March through August, 1993, or from September, 1993, through February, 1994. Five-month salary is \$2,650. Applications, available in OM 530, are due Feb. 1. For more information, call Cyndy Wright, X/3297.
- **TCCC MEETING.** The Teacher Curricula and Certification Council will meet at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 19, in MH 210.

On-campus interviews

- **Microsoft Corp.,** Wednesday, Jan. 20. Submit CIF when you sign up in OM 280 to interview. Microsoft binder and company file available for review in career library.
- **Lady Foot Locker,** Thursday, Jan. 21. Submit CIF in OM 280 at signup.
- **J.C. Penney Co.,** Thursday and Friday, Jan. 21 and 22. Submit CIF in OM 280 at signup. Review company information in career library.
- **Grayline of Alaska-Westours,** Thursday, Jan. 21. Attend information session at 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 20 in the Library Presentation Room. Submit CIF in OM 280 at signup. Bring application to interview.

Black History month gets early start with MLK Day

Western and Bellingham plan celebrations to honor King's accomplishments

By Beth Matthews
staff reporter

February is Black History Month, but the celebration of how far African-Americans have come in their struggle for equality begins next week with Martin Luther King's birthday Jan. 15.

To help celebrate the milestones King laid, the Northern Puget Sound chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the City of Bellingham are hosting "Share The Dream," from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. on Jan. 18 in the lobby of the Bellingham City Hall.

Speakers include Renee Collins, president of the local NAACP chapter, and Louise Bjornson, city council president. In addition, representatives of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LUCAC) and the Lummi Nation will speak.

In a press release, Collins said, "The NAACP has long been in the forefront of the fight for freedom, equality and social justice in America. We welcome this opportunity to join hands with the city of

Bellingham to honor and celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. This is a time to reaffirm our shared commitment to King's dream of diversity, equality and social justice in this nation, and in the City of Bellingham as well."

Mayor Tim Douglas will issue a proclamation declaring an official Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in Bellingham. Douglas is recognizing the community's increasing diversity.

Music from the Freedom Movement, a performance by Whatcom County's Kulshan Chorus, and a tribute to King's "I Have a Dream" speech are also scheduled.

Everyone is welcomed to attend this free event. For further information contact the NAACP press secretary, Clyde W. Ford, at 398-9355 or the City of Bellingham Administrative Offices at 676-6949.

Western is planning its own celebration. At 4:30 p.m. Jan. 15, the Multicultural Club is sponsoring a candlelight ceremony in the V.U. Lounge. Admission is free and everyone is welcome to attend.

In addition, Professor Troy Duster of the University of California, Berkeley will speak about multi-culturalism in education at 9:30 a.m. today in the Fairhaven Auditorium, and at noon in the Viking Union Main Lounge.

Plum Creek continued from page 1:

Company cuts trees faster than they generate

to develop.

Environmentalists have another complaint: Plum Creek cuts forests faster than they regenerate. In both environmental and industry circles, the issue is called sustainable yield, the practice of taking a renewable resource no faster than it can replace itself.

According to documents Plum Creek filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Plum Creek cut an average of 626 million board feet of timber a year between 1987 and 1991. But Leland estimates the annual growth of Plum Creek's forests at about 250 to 300 million board feet. A 1990 company prospectus puts the growth estimate even lower at "approximately 210 million."

Despite the overcutting, the

company continues to take a huge number of trees from its land. The SEC documents show from 1987 to 1991, Plum Creek, took 3.13 billion board feet of lumber from its holdings in Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington. That's enough to encircle the earth almost 24 times.

And Plum Creek still has a lot of trees. According to SEC documents, the company currently holds about 1.3 million acres of land in the above-mentioned four states. An acre is about the size of a football field without its end zones. The land has 9.27 billion board feet of standing timber, or enough for another 70 trips around the globe.

A Checkerboard Past

If the previous numbers

seem big, consider their size during the Civil War.

According to Congressional records, in 1864, President Lincoln granted the Northern Pacific Railroad 40 million acres of land as incentive to push its rail line to the Pacific coast. It was divided into corridors of 1,000-acre squares, about three-quarters the size of New York's Central Park. The railroads were usually given every other square

in a checkerboard pattern on either side of the track.

The 1864 land grant was amended in 1870. George Draffan, a freelance timber-industry researcher, said the amendment required Northern Pacific to give the land to the settlers it brought west.

But the railroad didn't do that. In the laissez-faire economic climate of the day, it sold most of the land to timber barons — the big-

gest was George Weyerhaeuser — knowing the government wouldn't interfere, Draffan said. Today, Plum Creek is the Northwest's second largest timber owner behind Weyerhaeuser.

The company has another link with history. Its namesake is the site of the nation's first saw mill, a stream in Minnesota written about by Laura Ingalls Wilder in "On The Banks Of Plum Creek."

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Volunteers needed for local AIDS quilt

By Andrew Pendll
staff reporter

A local AIDS group is asking for volunteers from Whatcom County to participate in the creation of a local AIDS quilt modeled after the national Names Project Foundation quilt displayed in October 1992 in Washington, D.C.

Several volunteers from Evergreen AIDS Support Services suggested the idea for a Whatcom Memorial AIDS quilt because of the high cost and difficulty of shipping a quilt to be displayed nationally with the Names Project Foundation, Executive Director Sylvia Russell said.

The first showing of the quilt will probably occur the first week of December 1993, during World AIDS Week.

Services Coordinator Geoff Morgan, estimated it would take that long to put the quilt together and said the quilt could contain 15 panels by then.

Details concerning the size

of the quilt, where and when it will be displayed, have not been finalized and there are still openings on the Whatcom Memorial AIDS Quilt Committee for anyone interested in helping to plan the quilt, said Morgan.

"Our goal is to have the panel quilt smaller than the Names quilt," Morgan said. "One reason for that is it could be displayed across the community."

Morgan said the Whatcom quilt might someday be displayed with the Names quilt, but that decision will rest with the family and friends who make the individual panels.

The national Names Project Foundation quilt started in 1987. When it was displayed last year, it included 26,000 panels and covered 15 acres.

Like the Names quilt, panels will be added to the Whatcom quilt as they become available for display, Morgan said.

Volunteers can contact Geoff Morgan at 671-0703.

Long school phone delays almost over

Margret Graham
staff reporter

A 'round-the-clock effort last weekend by the Western Telecommunications staff and the American Telephone & Telegraph Co. brought relief to university residents and administrators who found themselves at the mercy of jammed phone lines while adjusting to a new phone system last week.

Workers installed new lines

Jan. 9 to alleviate lines that were sometimes busy for hours, making off-campus and some in-university calling impossible. The situation resulted from a combination of miscalculation, misdialing and heavier-than-normal calling traffic.

"The demand from students was much beyond our anticipation—we didn't know how much traffic there would be," said Telecommunications Director Sid DeVries, who spent last weekend

helping with the installation. The return from winter break also marks the heaviest calling period of the year, he added.

The only remaining hurdle is the installation of more long-distance trunks, which should arrive in about two weeks. Until then, he asked students to be patient.

"We just ask that they bear with us and spread out their long-distance calls and maybe not talk as long, so others have the opportunity," he said.

IHC president continued from page 1

In addition, Rosenberg said members of University Residences didn't have a personal grudge against Wood.

"Students have to realize that they're adults and that they have to accept the consequences of their actions," Rosenberg said.

In a telephone interview, Wood said he had been caught with alcohol on another occasion last year.

Wood said he wanted badly to keep his paid job as IHC president, despite the fact that he now lives off campus. "I have worked over 700 hours for this system," he wrote, "from writing newsletters to parents, to standing up for students' rights, and all I really want is to have a fair shake and continue my job."

Wood said he doesn't believe he received a fair shake in the appeals process because his appeal had been decided by one Residence Life staff member instead of an appeals board made up of three students, one member of the student affairs staff and a Residence Life staffer.

In response to that statement, Mike Bartosh, the associate director of Residence Life, said a conflict-of-

interest existed because all seven of the students on the appeals board had been elected by Inter-Hall Council, and four were IHC representatives.

In addition, he said none of the students on the board had completed the second of two training courses required of appeals board members, in part because IHC had not submitted their names to Residence Life in time.

Wood wrote that Keri Dean, the secretary of IHC, had submitted those names on October 28. Bartosh said IHC should have filled the student board positions last spring, and that the period between October 28 and November 13 was insufficient time to train all seven students.

In the absence of an appeals board, Bartosh would have heard Wood's appeal, but Wood asked that Rosenberg decide it instead.

Wood said he wants students to have more power in making decisions at Western. He said he plans to run for the office of Associated Students president this spring.

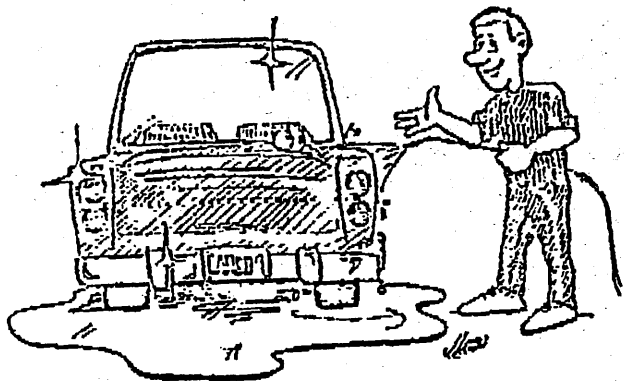
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Jambay will "stun the crowd" at Speedy's Saturday

By Kris Alexander
staff reporter

"Unique, rock jazz fusion." That's what Saturday night's audience at Speedy O'Tubbs can expect from the Seattle band JAMBAY, said Steve Murray, booking agent for Speedy's.

Band members Shelley Doty (guitar/vocals), Chris Haugen (guitar/vocals), Mike Sugar (base/vocals) and Matt Butler (drums/vocals) make up JAMBAY. The music resembles a cross between King Crimson and the Grateful Dead, Butler said. "We jam in a jazz style, but from a rock angle," he said.

JAMBAY's improvisational skills make the songs particularly exciting, said Butler. Many people think most of the music is orchestrated, but a lot of it's unique, he said. "We jump off a cliff. There's nothing planned. Everything is brand-spankin' new."

"Their songs have a complicated structure," Murray said. "They don't sound like anyone else. [JAMBAY is a] completely original, hard-rockin' dance band. They're going to stun the crowd with their talent and energy."

"We, as a band, believe the

music is everything," Butler said. "It's not just a rock beat. Music can be breaking glass. There are no wrong notes. A wrong note may take you in a new direction. You learn something from everything."

JAMBAY was supposed to open for the Grateful Dead last summer, but didn't, said Butler. He hopes for more exposure in the future.

Murray predicts the band will be booked by the end of the year. "It's grunge that's being signed now," he said. "But [JAMBAY's] talented and they will be an influence for other bands."

Butler said he and the other members of JAMBAY are happiest when they are performing. "Our goal is to play music all over the world." Being a musician requires dedication and commitment. If it was the rock star image he was after, he could get it, he said. But, that's not what he's aiming for.

A compact disc and tape titled

"JAMBAY," are available at Celophane Square. An all-live, bootleg tape will be released this month and a new album is scheduled for release this spring or early summer. In addition, profits from current recording projects will be used to fund a tour on the East Coast.

The band formed in San Di-

ego several years ago when Haugen joined Doty, Sugar and Butler, who were then members of a blues band.

Haugen and Butler originally lived in Eugene, Ore. Doty is from Berkeley and Sugar from New Orleans. The four played in San Diego for two-and-one-half years before moving to Seattle.



Speedy O' Tubbs welcomes Jambay tomorrow night

photo courtesy of Jambay

Black Currant Jam

Opening For JUMBAY is local Bellingham band Black Currant Jam. They have been together since the spring of 1991.

The band consist of three guitar players-Jeremy Hughes, Brian Hughes, and Brent Milczewski-and drummer Loren Schneider.

Rhythm guitar player Brent Milczewski does some writing for the band. He said he writes about what is in his mind and to express his opinions.

The band works out music and then fine tunes it during their twice a week rehearsals, Schneider said.

The band has yet to play in Seattle but hopes to soon Milczewski said.

The band has recorded a demo tape with Binary Recording Studio. The tapes will soon be on sale at concerts.

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Outdoor center offers winter adventures

By Danette Reeff
staff reporter

Beat the winter blahs! Western's Outdoor Center offers unique opportunities to meet new people, keep physically fit and develop new skills while adventuring at an affordable price.

Excursions are planned for each quarter and led by experienced staff. Some events on this winter's agenda are snow camping, ice climbing, sea kayaking and a back-country ski tour. A women's snow shoeing and winter-camping excursion will teach the basics of snow camping, winter travel and navigation Jan. 16.

For those inclined to stay out of the elements, instructional, entertaining movies and slide presentations are offered.

"We're trying to get more people who haven't had experience into it," said David Duffy, equipment coordinator. "It's an educational process. Part of outdoor education is getting people into an experience

that they haven't had yet."

While the majority of students participating are at a low skill level seeking to improve and learn, greater challenges are also offered for the more seasoned individual. All interested students are encouraged to participate, regardless of their current ability.

In addition to learning a recreational skill, leadership, teamwork and communication skills are developed. If a student is interested in becoming a group leader, those opportunities are available through a leadership program.

"We have pretty fantastic staff training," said Janet Hart, outdoor center director. "We offer an incredible leadership program," she said.

Prior to each excursion, meetings are attended to discuss the specifics of the trip, such as agenda, proper attire and equipment needs. Leaders use the time to judge the needs of each group and plan accordingly.

"If you've got the motivation and you want to learn a skill, we've got the trips," said Hart. "We have very caring leaders. They're very sensitive to people's needs."

A variety of quarter-long activities are provided as well. For skiers, the Magic Bus leaves for Mount Baker at 7 a.m. each Saturday. Cost is \$8. For those unready for the real thing, sessions on the basics of white-water rafting and sea-kayaking safety are offered every Thursday evening in the pool at Carver Gym.

In addition to its quarterly excursions, the center provides a bicycle shop. Bicycle maintenance clinics are held weekly during winter quarter. Experienced instructors teach the basics in evening sessions. If you don't have time for the clinic, the shop rents the tools needed to do your own maintenance and repair for \$1. The advice is free.

The center also rents equipment to students, alumni, faculty and staff. Bicycle accessories, skis, snowboards, sea kayaks, mountaineering accessories and river rafts

are just a few of the items available.

"The equipment is something I'd like to see utilized more by students," said Hart. "It kind of saddened my heart when I came in here before break and there were skis hanging. We offer an incredible deal."

The center's also has a resource lounge—a comfortable place to have coffee or tea while planning your next trip or reading up on your favorite activity. Guide books, magazines and topographic maps are available from a collection of outdoor literature. There is even a check-out policy for those who need it. It's also a great place to go if you need to find a climbing partner or a scuba-diving buddy. Bulletin boards keep up-to-date information on the latest ski reports, avalanche reports and event schedules.

Complete schedules and rental rates are available at the Outdoor Center, located in Viking Union 104. They are open for business Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., and Saturdays, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Weekend Calender

Friday:

Speedy O' Tubbs- Cherry Poppin' Daddies
Up & Up- Stagnant Water and Exotropic
3B- Monomen and Gravel
Beech House Pub- Rick Allen

Saturday:

Speedy O' Tubbs- Jambay

and Black Currant Jam

Up & Up- Rambis and Saucer
3B- Engine Kid, Crayon and Cub
Beech House Pub- Darcy Haughin

Sunday:

Elephant Castle- Comedians Dave
Fulton, Kenny Lee and TBA

Sehome Cinema 3 presents independant film festival

Crina Hoyer
staff reporter

Sehome Cinema 3, at 3300 Fielding St. will be hosting a series of independently released films beginning Friday, Jan. 15 and continuing through February.

Independently-released films are productions released by small, private studios. They are different in that they have more depth and less formula, said Patrick Fisher, advertising coordinator for the Act III Theater. "Independent films offer a diverse audience more

substance and honesty," said Fisher.

Due to their select audience, these types of films are generally shown exclusively in large cities. Fisher said it's "something special" for a city the size of Bellingham to have this opportunity. He feels Bellingham has a high concentration of educated individuals who deserve some viewing alternatives.

The following information about the movies was taken from a press release.

"Gas Food Lodging" is based on Richard Peck's novel "Don't Look and It Won't Hurt" and it opens Jan. 15. Directed by Allison Anders, this humorous film ex-

plores how a family of women deal with men, money and each other. Director Errol Morris has brought Stephen Hawking's best seller, "A Brief History of Time" to the screen. This film opens Jan. 22 and runs for one week. The film illustrates the author's philosophies and explores subjects such as black holes, the big-bang theory and real vs. 'imaginary' time.

"The Hairdresser's Husband" opens Jan. 29 and also runs for one week. This romantic film explores the subjects of sex and death through the tale of a man who dreams of being the husband of a beautician.

Jeremy Irons stars in the Brit-

ish drama "Waterland" which opens Jan. 29. Based on the novel by Graham Swift, this film is about a troubled high-school teacher attempting to make history relevant to his students while dealing with his own problems from the past.

Writer-director John Duigan created the film, "Flirting". This Romeo and Juliet comic-drama, set in two Australian boarding schools, opens Feb. 12. "Flirting" touches on the anxieties of young love and shows them to be ridiculous and appealing.

Sehome Cinemas plans to continue showing independent films in the future. Fisher said Bellingham deserves more movie choices.

Faces of the homeless

By Kelly O'Neill
special to the Front

An improvisational play, "Many Faces Of The Homeless", premieres at 7 p.m., Jan. 15 at the Harbor Center located at 1801 Roeder Ave.

Director Louann Nockels has assembled a cast familiar with life on the streets and shelters. The group hopes to shatter the myths surrounding homelessness.

"There is no average homeless person," said Betty Young, who, along with her son Justin, performs in the play. Society holds the misconception that the homeless are only men or "bag ladies." Women, children, and families also live on the streets and in shelters, Young said.

"We're trying to educate the public," said Sara Hemple. Hemple, 13, plays a character snubbed by others because of her living situation. Hemple knows the reality and anxiety of living in shelter. Her dialogue in the play comes directly from her own experiences.

Earl Lawson was recruited for the play as he was going to a free dinner at the Maple Alley

Inn. Lawson currently lives in a non-running trailer. He has previously performed in Fairhaven College productions of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas.

"This group is real versatile," Nockels said. The entire cast has been involved in developing the play. Approximately 90 percent of it is improvised Nockels said. Nockels, who has a background in theatre, psychology, and drama therapy, hopes the play will encourage the audience to get involved in finding solutions to homelessness.

"The homeless can be very creative," said William Howard. Howard has lived in Bellingham for 22 years and has been homeless off and on. "We can be part of the solution," he said.

The play is sponsored by The Rainbow Coalition through the Task-Force on Housing and Homelessness.

Following the show, there will be refreshments and a discussion of the issues of homelessness in Bellingham and Whatcom County. Donations will be accepted and will benefit the Rainbow Coalition.

Grub & Chug

By Dan Licari
staff reporter

Going out of your way for dinner can sometimes really pay off. This week I went out of my way to the Deming Tavern, about 20 minutes past the Sunset Square Mall, right off the Mount Baker Highway.

My friend told me this was the place to eat and he was right. The place looks like any old tavern in a small country town. The decor is logging tools on the walls, pool tables, and a jukebox full of Garth Brooks and various other rhinestone heros.

The menu had everything from big burgers to oysters to steak and chicken. It was Tuesday night, which happened to be taco

night. But having eaten a large number of tacos while watching Monday Night Football the night before, I wasn't sure my stomach could take anymore. My craving for a big, juicy steak lead me to order "the Nooksack," a ten-ounce steak served with salad and jojos.

For those who think there is no amount you can't eat, the "Paul Bunyan" is 72 ounces of beef. It's yours for free if you can get it down in half an hour, an almost impossible feat for the even the hungriest grub and chugger.

This is a great place to stop on the way back from the mountain. After a hard day at the slopes, a beer and a burger make for quite a meal.

Oh, did I say beer? This place has a great selection of draft beers,

and the prices make it possible to try a few without going home broke. But remember, it's a bit of drive home so use your head when suckin' down those brews.

I would have give the Deming Tavern 11/2 Tums. The portions were generous and tasty and the price wasn't bad.

If you are looking for a dance floor and a DJ that plays all the hottest new dance music, don't bring your silk shirt and baggy pants to this place. The big guy at the end of the bar with the flannel shirt and big red suspenders might look at you funny.

But if you are looking for a good meal, a cold beer, and happen to be in the neighborhood, stop in and pull up a stool.

Western welcomes Royal Winnipeg Ballet



The Royal Winnipeg Ballet will perform January 29 in the PAC
photo courtesy of the Western Public Information Office

By Erik Petterson
staff reporter

For those experiencing a wane of romance in their life this valentine season, Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet will perform a live orchestra at 8 p.m., Jan. 29 in Western's Performing Arts Center.

The ballet will feature Antony Tudor's "Lilac Garden", George Balanchine's "Allegro Brillante", and Agnes de Mille's "Rodeo." "Allegro Brillante" is set to Tchaikovsky's 3rd Piano Concerto. "Rodeo" is to dance what the musical "Oklahoma!" is to singing. (Are you ready to see cowboys pirouette or ballerinas in tooled boots?) Apropos for a date during the valentine season is the one act ballet "Lilac Garden," a romantic tale of love and its frustrations set in an Edwardian lilac garden. (Sure to please those who enjoyed the pace and period of "A Room With A View".)

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet was founded by dance pioneers Gweneith Lloyd and Betty Farrally in 1939, becoming Canada's first professional ballet company. In 1953, the RWB was granted a Royal Charter by Queen Elizabeth, the first bestowed during her

reign. Since its founding, the RWB has won nearly a dozen medals, six of them gold, and four of those six were awarded within the last decade. Canada's first great ballet continues its tradition of excellence.

Attending the ballet could be a good alternative date to the standard offerings of Bellingham. Should modern students accustomed to "grunge" music and entertainment bother themselves with such "stodgy" high art as ballet? I hope the answer is yes. Ballet, like all performances reflecting the culture and tradition of a society, is food for the soul. Are you tired of MTV mind twinkies for a mental diet? Does your brain crave vitamin B (ballet) complex? If so, take a break from the routine and watch internationally acclaimed professional athletes and fine artists perform three ballets live.

Students can enjoy these three widely varied performances for \$12. General admission is \$24 and \$22 for senior citizens. Tickets are available 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday through Friday at the Plaza Cashier. To charge tickets to VISA or MasterCard call (206) 671-6146. All seating is reserved. For more information, call the College of Fine and Performing Arts at (206) 650-3866.

'Chaplin' provides a different view of film legend

Kathy Lundgren
staff reporter

Movies have changed a lot through the years. They cost more, and the formats and subject matters have changed dramatically. One aspect that has not changed, and hopefully never will, is humor. That is what Charlie Chaplin dedicated his life to.

"Chaplin," directed by Richard Attenborough, is about the life of the silent-screen comic. Chaplin was born on April 16, 1889 to a poor family in England. He grew up around show business, and from age 5 knew that comedy and acting were his forte. He did slap-stick on stage until the American film-maker Mack Sennett saw his work and offered him a job in "flickers," or silent films. He made his first slap-stick movie in 1914, and throughout his career was best known for his character Little Tramp.

Attenborough takes you through Chaplin's life from age 5 to his death at 88 on Dec. 25, 1977.

Robert Downey Jr. portrays Chaplin and does an excellent job.

His facial expressions and movements are so like the real Chaplin you never once question who you're watching. Attenborough combines recreated footage with original Chaplin films to create a unity between Downey and Chaplin. Some portions of the recreated black-and-white film footage were difficult to distinguish from the original.

Dan Akroyd portrays the American film maker who gives Chaplin his start in pictures. Unlike Downey, who gives an outstanding performance, Akroyd just seems like an extra.

Another wasted talent is James Woods. Woods portrays the attorney who tries to get Chaplin to plead guilty to a paternity suit. Woods appears on screen for maybe five minutes—a waste for such a good actor.

Fortunately, a few actors helped the movie.

Kevin Kline portrays Douglas Fairbanks, one of Chaplin's best friends. The rapport between Downey and Kline was so good it made the passionate friendship between Fairbanks and Chaplin

much more believable.

Geraldine Chaplin portrays Chaplin's mother. In real life she's Chaplin's daughter. She did an excellent job, and made you feel compassion for her character and her family.

Chaplin brought more to the screen than most people realize. He was also a director and producer. In a career spanning two world wars, he brought his audiences much laughter. He was obsessed with picture making. In 1919 he created a movie studio with Douglas Fairbanks and Mary Pickford known as United Artists, which is still in existence today.

Chaplin's lifestyle was controversial. He married four times and had nine children. Some of his later films were also controversial. During World War II, he made "The Great Dictator," a farce on Hitler. J. Edgar Hoover was outraged. He wanted Chaplin out of the country. Hoover kept an eye on every move Chaplin made, and in 1953 Chaplin was denied reentry into the United States because he was considered a com-

munist.

Chaplin has been misunderstood for years, and this film reminds us why we liked him. The film shows Chaplin's passion for making films that made people laugh. Chaplin brought much to the lives of the American people. He not only formed a movie studio and created jobs, he brought hope and laughter to desperate times.

Chaplin is portrayed as a rising hero in this movie, and he should be. You will laugh at slapstick humor that is well over 50 years old, and feel compassion for a man who was wrongly accused. "Chaplin" will bring a smile to your face and make you chuckle all the way home.

BellsFair:

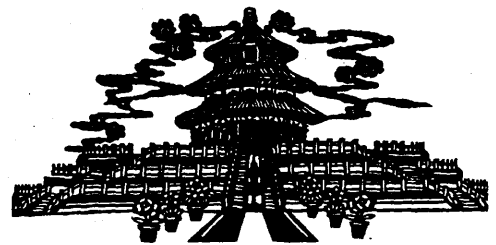
"Alive" R
"A Few Good Men" R
"Body of Evidence" R
"Chaplin" PG-13
"The Bodyguard" R
"Home Alone 2" PG
"A River Runs Through It" PG

Sehome Cinema 3:

"Gas Food Lodging" R
"Sent of A Woman" R
"Leap of Faith" PG-13

Sunset Square Cinema Six:

"Aladdin" G
"Hoffa" R
"Forever Young" PG
"The Muppet's Christmas Carol" G
"Howards End" PG
"The Lover" R
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Vikings fall to national champions

By Mark Scholten
staff reporter

The Grace College Lancers were as good as advertised Tuesday night.

The defending NAIA Division II National Champions defeated the Western men's basketball team, 88-69 at Carver Gym.

The game was close for the first 37 minutes, with Grace holding a 71-67 lead with three minutes to play. But the Vikings were unable to score again until six seconds remained, while the Lancers hit late free throws and a three-point shot down the stretch to account for the final margin.

"We knew what we were up against," said forward Brian Jones. "We still had a good chance to win."

The Lancers, of Winona Lake, Ind., returned four starters from last year's national-championship team and are ranked second in the latest national poll.

The Vikings got off to a quick start, taking a 12-4 lead after a slam dunk by Jones. Consecutive three-pointers by guard Trent Lehman pulled the Lancers to within 12-10, and the teams played evenly the rest of the half, ending in a 40-40 tie.

Grace scored the first seven points after the intermission en route to taking to an 11-point lead with 15:41 to play. Western fought back and stayed close the rest of the way, but the Lancers were unstoppable.

"We started the second half dead," said Jones. "That's been a big problem. We haven't been real consist-

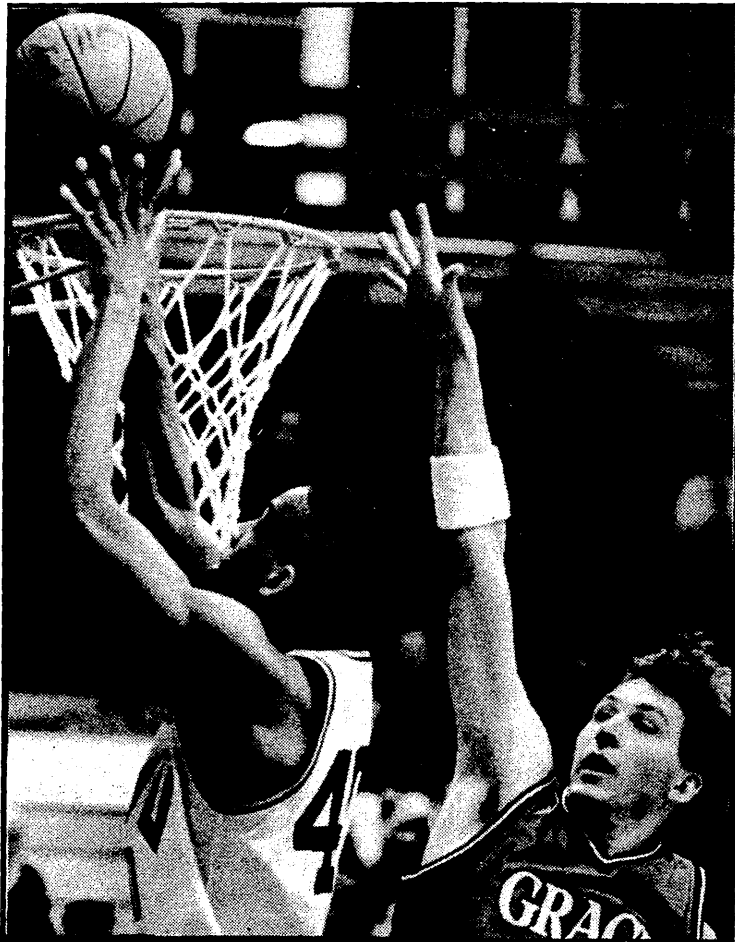


Photo by Jonathan Burton

Harold Doyal gets past All-American Brian Blum.

tent."

Grace was led by All-American guard Scott Blum's 20 points. Lehman and forward Brian Elliott had 19 apiece, with 6-foot-9-inch center David James adding 18 points and a game-high 20 rebounds.

The Vikings were led by the 16 points and 10 rebounds of sophomore center Harold Doyal, who had been named Western's Male Athlete of the Week a day earlier. Derrick Thomas and Dwayne Kirkley had 10 points apiece.

Western defeats Seals with formidable defense

By Chris Geer
staff reporter

The Western men's basketball team emerged from a poor rebounding and shooting first half to roll over visiting Sheldon Jackson, 93-70, in an NAIA District 1 game last night at Carver Gym.

The victory over the last place Seals pushed the Viking's record to 10-4, while Sheldon Jackson dropped to 4-14.

Viking's coach Brad Jackson could not have been happy with the first-half rebounding, when Sheldon Jackson pulled down 30 rebounds, 14 of which were in the offensive end.

"We did a much better job rebounding in the second half," Jackson said.

"We kept them from getting so many second shots."

Western blew open a six point halftime lead with a 17-5 run to start the second half. Junior guard Jeff Dick was instrumental in the run.

Spotting a breaking Jay Shinnick, who forced a Sheldon Jackson defender to goaltend his driving shot, Dick drilled a three pointer and capped his efforts by driving the lane to collect another

two.

The Viking's defense was formidable throughout, forcing 22 turnovers and holding the Seals to a paltry 32 percent shooting for the game.

Western collected an impressive 12 blocked shots along with 14 steals and deflated the Seals with their overall quickness.

Dwayne Kirkley had a strong game, leading the Vikings in scoring with 20 points and balancing his athleticism and razzle-dazzle with good decision making.

Junior Joel Duchesne scored twelve points and drew praise from Jackson for his great play in the open court. Jackson also credited Jason Schmidt for the presence he brings to the team, a presence that had been missing for almost a month since Schmidt went down with an injury.

"It feels better than Christmas," Schmidt said of his return. "But I think I need an oxygen mask now," he laughed.

Derrick Thomas led the Vikings with nine rebounds and Harold Doyal grabbed 7 boards and had three blocks.

The Vikings travel to Ellensburg to meet the Central Wildcats in a big NAIA District 1 matchup Saturday night.

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King's words still ring true today

Nicci Noteboom
staff reporter

Monday is Martin Luther King Day. What do you plan to do? Sleep off a hangover, do some studying, or maybe go out with friends? Really, how does one celebrate Martin Luther King Day?

A starting point would be to remember what King stood for: equality, peace, justice, dreams, and a host of other intangible words.

The next step might be to think about the state of the world today. Think about the "ethnic cleansing" and rape camps in Bosnia. Think about the not-so-distant memory of the Los Angeles riots. Think about the supporters of Measure 9 in Oregon.

Afterward, it might be useful to read some of King's words and apply them to our own lives:

"When evil men plot, good men must plan. When evil men shout ugly

words of hatred, good men must commit themselves to the glories of love."

Turning the other cheek, King suggests, is easier said than done, but in the long run it's worthwhile. On a personal level, what's accomplished when we greet anger and violence with more anger and violence? When a friend refers to someone as a nigger, spic, chink, fag, or dyke and we counter by calling her a small-minded bigot, what's been gained? Nothing, except communication has been broken down and a wall of tension has been built.

Racist comments shouldn't slide without acknowledgement, but we should use care with the tactics and words we choose to confront them. More insight might be gained by simply asking the friend why they chooses to use such language, or you could ask the friend not to use nigger, fag, etc., around you because you find them offensive and they make you

uncomfortable. King said, "We must combine the toughness of the serpent and the softness of the dove, a tough mind and a tender heart."

We cannot single-handedly change the atrocities of the world, nor can we change the archaic thinking of our peers. The situation in Bosnia most likely will culminate in violence, and our racist friends may rightfully, though sadly, hold on to their ideologies to the grave.

King's dream of a nation where people will be judged on their character, not on the color of their skin, may never be a reality. Still, we can create our own dreams.

We can choose to eliminate certain words from our vocabulary, we can stop associating with people who have closed minds and wide-open mouths, and we can report the injustices we see. In effect, we can celebrate Martin Luther King Day every day.

Death penalty plagued with many problems

Guy Bergstrom
staff reporter

The State of Washington exercised the wrong solution to the right problem Jan. 5 by hanging Westley Allan Dodd.

It is easy to afford ourselves a measure of grim satisfaction at the execution of Dodd, an unsympathetic figure who admitted to the sexual assault and murder of children. It is easy to feel, or want to feel, that a small blow against violent crime has been won.

Far too easy.

Killing Dodd was the right thing to do if we wished to extract revenge upon a hateful predator or ignore the root causes of violent crime in this society; it was the wrong thing to do if it was an attempt to deal with the environment that causes violent crime.

The last 12 years of the Reagan-Bush era has shown the failure of the politically popular criminal justice philosophy, "the harsher the punishment the better," with volumes of state and federal legislation written to mandate longer prison terms and the

expansion of crimes punishable by death, along with movements to shorten the appeal process for death row inmates.

Penchant for punishment

This *penchant for punishment* has not stemmed the rising tide of violent crime. It hasn't made a dent even with many states executing record numbers of its citizens and busting its budgets building prisons that fill up as soon as

Death penalty,
Continued on page 10

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Frontline

How about a little good news?

In 1992, the news was full of terrible stories of hatred and pain. We gasp in awe as we hear rumors of the mass raping of Bosnian women and destruction of their villages. But we slowly become immune to the horror as our eyes and ears are battered again and again by phrases such as "ethnic cleansing" and "ancient tribal rivalries."

We shake our heads in self-righteous disbelief as we watch shadows of a not-to-distant past re-emerge in the visage of the German youth. Neo-Nazis and skinheads scream their rage at immigrants who have taken refuge in Germany. But it is their heritage, isn't it?

In South Africa, blacks are killing blacks, whites are killing blacks and vice versa. In northern Iraq, Kurds are killing fellow Kurds. In Afghanistan, guerrilla factions are still at war. In Somalia, greedy warlords quarrel over power while the common people starve.

Oh, and what happened in our own backyard? White cops beat a black man and the city of angels burned for days.

That's a lot of bad news folks. I know you have seen it all before. That's the point! We watch all these human lives getting wasted day after day. Increasing racial tensions mingle with the catch words "multiculturalism" and "diversity."

No wonder disappointment and frustration soon spawn anger and more violence. And bingo, we've made more bad news. A rap singer aptly stated that the only way African-Americans and their causes get noticed is when they incite violence.

Face it people, we are all stuck in this country. We must find a way to make different cultures, races, religions and ethnicities coexist peacefully. We can see the effects of "ethnic cleansing."

The Serbians, Bosnians, Somalians, Kurds, etc. have set a bad example. Let's not follow it.

News is something unusual. News is something shocking. News is an event of great importance. Wouldn't it be unusual, shocking and important news if you turned on your television and saw blacks and whites investing in inner-city businesses side by side, Asians-Americans and Hispanics educating each other about their cultures, Native Americans and East Indians building housing developments together?

Martin Luther King Jr. didn't die in vain, did he? At least once a year, we should be able to express our dreams. If we all put our petty grievances aside and realize we have to make the best of an imperfect situation, we CAN get along.

It's up to all of us to make some good news. Let's do it. Put away those bitter thoughts and think clearly of ways you can improve this planet. Don't think of it as weakness. Think of it as survival. *The alternative is genocide.*

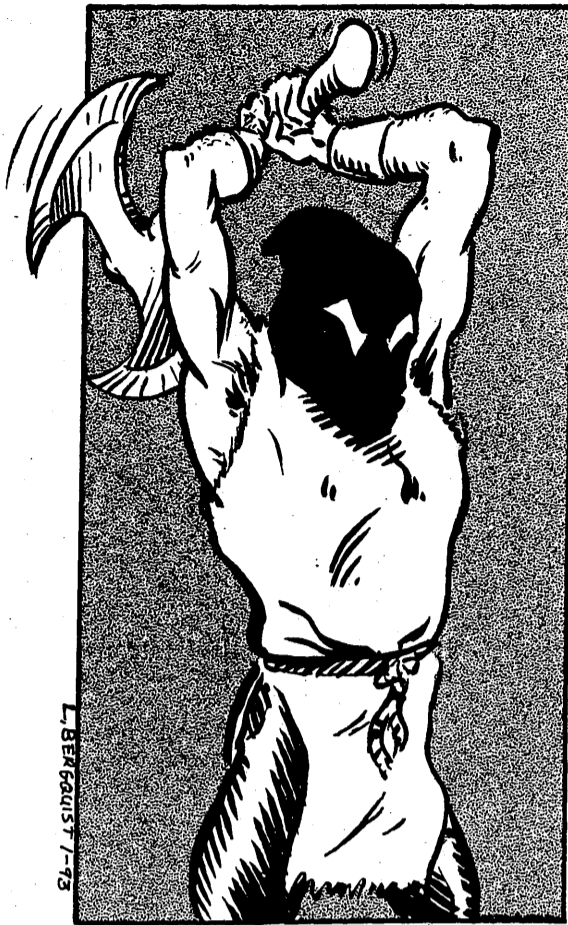
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More than incarceration is needed to protect society

Troy Shauls
staff reporter

It has been one-and-one-half weeks since Westley Allan Dodd joined his victims in death. And once again, the "morality" of capital punishment has become a topic of heated and apparently unwinnable debate. If we take a closer look at what the real effects of capital punishment are, it may become clearer why this instrument of the dark side of the criminal justice system is still a necessity.

The crimes which Dodd committed were unpardonable acts of violence. It is also a matter of record that Dodd stated he enjoyed these grievous acts and vowed that, if given the chance, he would rape and kill again.

Until medical science discovers a way to provide 100 percent assurance that sexual predators and serial murderers will never kill or rape again, we have no other option but to continue to enforce the death penalty. It may not be enough, in certain cases like Dodd's, to simply incarcerate a criminal for life. Prisons as they exist today do not guarantee an inmate will never escape.

The inmates most likely to escape are those most intelligent. The more intelligent prisoners tend to be serial killers or rapists, which is evident by the fact that they were able to evade capture.

It would be a tragedy for a criminal like Dodd to escape and bring horror to another child and family.

It is too easy to argue that we, as humans, create life and, therefore, do not have the right to take it away, or that two wrongs (an execution of a murderer) do not make a right. Society has an absolute right to protect itself from dangerous and deadly elements. Capital punishment is, on a purely pragmatic level, no more than eliminating a real threat.

Granted, I do not believe the threat of capital punishment is in any way a deterrent to those who commit acts such as this, but neither is life imprisonment. I firmly believe extraordinarily vicious serial murderers and rapists cannot be cured at this point.

The Seattle Post Intelligencer recently reported that it costs over \$30,000 a year to keep an inmate in prison. It is not to say that human life can or should be measured in dollars, but it's a realistic consideration, however objectionable we may find it.

Even more importantly, on a moral and emotional level, capital punishment has been seen to provide a much needed sense of closure to the families of victims. The parents of the three boys Dodd murdered expressed a sense of relief in knowing Dodd will never be able to bring this kind of destruction to another innocent life.

Capital punishment is indeed a subject which can bring out the blackest elements in all of us. Westley Allan Dodd is now gone, and from death there is no possibility of escape and no possibility of parole.

Death penalty, continued from page 9

they're finished.

What it has done is cost a tremendous amount of money. Politicians never point out that their support of the death penalty and longer prison sentences will cost the taxpayers dearly — about \$30,000 a year for one inmate and millions of dollars in court costs and legal fees for those on death row.

In the midst of the decade's long fight over the constitutionality of the death penalty, we have lost sight of the question of practicality. Capital sentences lead to long legal challenges costing millions of dollars with no magic reform possible to hasten the process and still safeguard the innocent. And by the government's own

admission, dozens of innocent citizens have been mistakenly executed. The death penalty is racially applied.

In evidence presented before the Supreme Court, a black man who kills a white person is 11 times more likely to receive the death penalty than a white killer whose victim is black. In a 5-4 decision, the majority agreed the death penalty was meted out in a racist manner, but that such "apparent disparities in sentencing are an inevitable part of our criminal justice system."

The U.S. holds the dubious distinction of being both the most violent nation in the world and one of the last of the Western democracies to

Death row costly, prejudicial

Andrew Pendli
staff reporter

Washington State executed Westley Allan Dodd Jan. 5, the first person executed in this state in 30 years.

In the final days before his execution, the courts were bombarded with last-ditch legal efforts to stay Dodd's execution. This legal barrage was by no means an isolated incident.

The average death row inmate in America spends eight years on death row. Since 1972, 42 percent of those who filed federal appeals won new trials or vacated sentences.

In 1976, a U.S. Supreme Court decision reinstated the death penalty after a four year hiatus. As of May 1992, 167 inmates had been executed. 2,547 inmates remained on death row.

Perhaps Americans tolerate such an ineffective system because they believe that capital punishment serves as a deterrent. In 1990, 23,438 people were slain in America.

In Canada, where no one has been executed in 30 years and the death penalty was eliminated in 1976, 589 people were killed in the same year.

Yet besides being grossly inefficient and costly, the process of placing an individual on death row is also prejudicial.

In a report made by the General Accounting Office to the Senate and House judiciary committees, "...in 82 percent of the (28) studies, race of victim was found to influence the likelihood of being charged with capital murder or receiving the death penalty."

In Utah, 25 percent of death row inmates are black, yet blacks account for only 0.5 percent of Utah's population.

The question concerning capital punishment is not about the morality of state sponsored executions. With the diversity of America, that debate will never reach a consensus.

The real issue is the continuing existence and use of a system that is racial, ineffective and more costly than its alternative, life imprisonment.

Money that could be used to fight the battle against crime at the source is wasted after-the-fact, in an attempt to find justice in a system that is more process than an attempt to discover the truth.

It is time to do away with capital punishment.

continue the practice of killing its citizens. These two facts may not be unrelated. We frown upon the old practice of punishing thieves in Turkey by chopping off their hands. How is breaking their necks any better? The state legitimizes the act of murder.

At least in some degree when the state uses the death penalty, encouraging our blood-lust and fostering an eye-for-an-eye mentality, it is legitimizing murder.

A quick fix makes us feel temporarily that something is being done while the underlying problems continue to fester.

Time to stop killing.



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