

Lowry wants better access to colleges, aid

By Guy Bergstrom
 staff reporter

In an exclusive interview, Gov. Mike Lowry proposed numerous higher education reforms, including sliding-scale tuition, increased financial aid and lifting the access "lids" currently in place.

"I think the key thing is to significantly improve the financial aid package," Lowry said after a speech last week at Seattle's Olympic Four Seasons Hotel.

"Only half of the eligible students receive financial aid now," Lowry said. "And that's at an eligibility (level) of around \$16,000 income, which is way too low. I would like to have the eligibility level for student aid much higher than that — I would like to see it at \$40,000 to \$50,000."

But the level will probably be lower, Lowry said. "That's sort of the compromise right now: a \$30,000 (level) and have 100-percent funding of that (level) so that all students under that income would be eli-

gible for the student aid grant."

State student aid grants currently range from \$800 to \$1,200.

"Something that I think is just plain unfair is that our wonderful daughter goes to Western Washington University and we pay \$1,800 tuition," Lowry said at the Founders Day Dinner last week in Seattle. "We ought to be paying a lot more tuition than that for Diane to be going to Western. At the same time, other qualified young people can't go because they can't afford it.

"That's wrong," Lowry said. "I actually think it's un-American. So what we need to do is to change our tuition so that those of us (who) should be paying more are paying more and that a good amount of the resources that come from that go to an adequate financial aid pool so that others students have a chance to go."

Lowry said such a sliding-scale system

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Four OTs later...

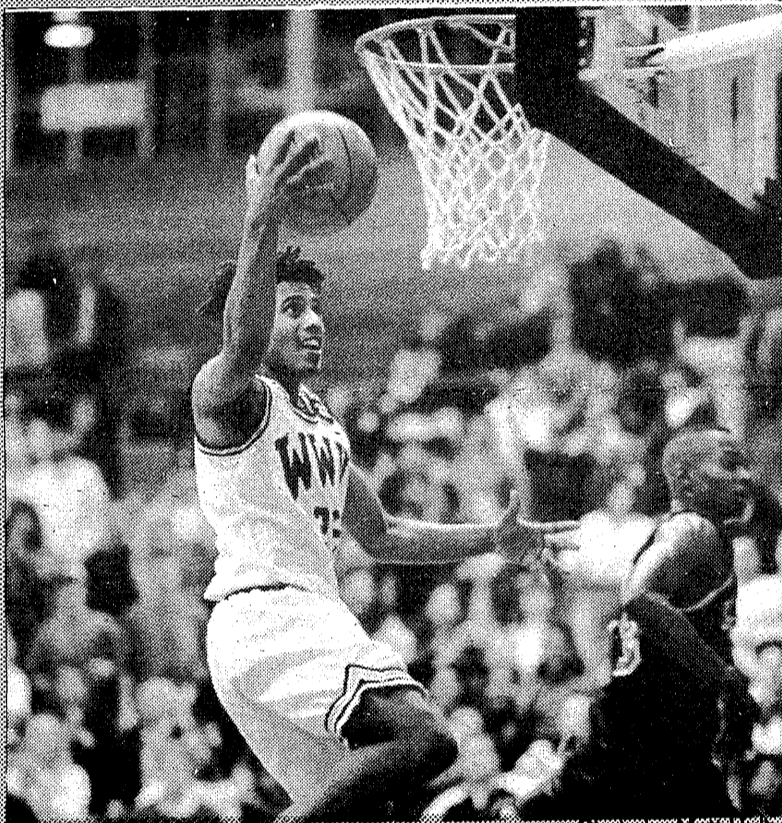


Photo by Matt Hülbert
 Guard Dwayne Kirkley finishes off a Western fast break in the Vikings' 95-91, quadruple-overtime win against Lewis-Clark State.

Washington initiative would make marijuana sales legal

Supporters say taxing marijuana sales could bring in \$250 million

By Chris Geer
 staff reporter

They call Initiative 595 "regulated tolerance."

Washington Citizens for Drug Policy Reform (WCDPR), a citizens' lobby group, has filed an initiative to legalize the growing and selling of marijuana in Washington. The initiative will establish a state cannabis control board, license and tax growers and sellers and make it harder for minors to obtain the drug.

WCDPR members insist the proposed legislation will be limited in scope.

"This legislation strictly regulates adult use of marijuana and also prohibits any advertising, promotion, public use or display. We do not seek full legal status for marijuana because then, like alcohol, attempts will be made to glamorize it," said WCDPR board member Jeffrey Haley.

Licensed marijuana vendors will be allowed to sell to adults over 21, out of the sight of minors, with all sales being subject to state sales tax.

Growers will be charged a production tax of \$15 per ounce. WCDPR Executive Director Hal Nelson said a conservative estimate of tax revenues generated by marijuana sales will be around \$250 million a year.

Matt Magrath, chemical dependency counselor at St. Joseph's Hospital, said he is wary of the tax estimates. He said although tobacco is highly taxed, the health-care costs associated with it virtually negate the tax revenue.

"It is not believable to me. It didn't happen with cigarettes — why would it happen with marijuana," Magrath said.

Nelson said the new initiative was written to have the broadest possible approach, and is intended to appeal to citizens who do not use marijuana as a recreational intoxicant. He said regulated tolerance will make marijuana less available to minors because it will be more strictly regulated. The attempt to reach a broad

See INITIATIVE, page 4

Chemical disaster could strike city any time, speaker says

By Josh Barnhill
 staff reporter

At 9 a.m. on a clear day last October, sirens blared at Georgia-Pacific's chlorine separation plant between downtown Bellingham and the bay. KGMI and other local radio stations fired up the Emergency Broadcast System and police cars, fire engines and ambulances raced to the waterfront after G-P reported a 20-gallon chlorine spill. Disaster relief teams rushed into place and later reported no injuries.

The events of Oct. 14 were

part of a drill, a pretend emergency, designed by planners to identify kinks in the response chain and fix them in case a disaster occurs.

Fred Millar, director of the Friends of the Earth Toxics Project based in Washington, D.C., warned a group of about 100 people Wednesday evening at the Bellingham Public Library that a chemical disaster — a real one — could strike this city at any time.

Emergency planners, he said, probably are not prepared to deal

See CHLORINE, page 3

College Promise Bill to make financial aid more available

By Angle Robison
 staff reporter

In the future, financial aid may be easier to acquire for families making less than \$52,160.

Rep. Ken Jacobsen and Rep. Gary Locke, chair of the House Appropriations Committee, have introduced the Washington College Promise Bill. The bill calls for significant expansion of financial aid programs to middle-income students. Students from families with incomes as high as \$52,160 could qualify for a state-need grant.

If the bill passes, it will be implemented July 1, 1995.

During the 1991-93 biennium, Washington appropriated more than \$73.3 million for student financial-aid programs. Former governor, Booth

Gardner proposed adding \$58 million more to that total. Jacobsen, chair of the Committee on Higher Education, said College Promise would add another \$30 million to Gardner's estimate for financial aid programs.

The extra money will be taken out of the general state fund. Jacobsen said, "You have to realize the state has a \$2-billion deficit. To generate revenue, tuition rates must increase and inevitably financial aid will increase."

Kathleen Sahlhoff, Western's interim director of Student Financial Resources, said if tuition increases, it is state law that a direct proportion of that increase must go to financial aid programs.

To figure out the amount of money needed to

See FINANCIAL AID, page 3

What's inside? ACCENT, pg. 7: Beth McIntosh to perform folk music at Western. SPORTS, pg. 12: Spring sports preview.

The latest from across the country

Arrest made in Trade Center bombing

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) - Top justice department officials are tight-lipped on the arrest of a suspect in the world trade center bombing in New York. Acting Attorney General Stuart Gerson won't say when, where or how the arrest occurred.

FBI Director William Sessions refuses to reveal even the man's nationality. They said they do not want to imperil the ongoing investigation.

One government source in New York identifies the man as being a Muslim fundamentalist with a New Jersey-based group. Another source said the FBI believes the bombing may have been in retaliation for the Persian Gulf War. The bombing took place on the second anniversary of the end of the Gulf war.

Gerson told reporters in

Washington that authorities are interested in more than just the individual who has been arrested and that he doesn't want to release any information that would interfere with further investigations.

FBI Director William Sessions said he predicted that the investigation would go on for several months. He also would not say how many others he expects to be arrested.

Baseball could lose trust exemption

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) - Senator Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio has introduced legislation that would end the anti-trust exemption baseball has enjoyed since 1922.

Metzenbaum, who is chair of the judiciary subcommittee, is joined in the bipartisan effort by Sen. Connie Mack, R-Fla.

Mack has been a vocal critic of Major League Baseball since the owners prevented the move of the Giants to Tampa.

Giants owner Bob Lurie has signed an agreement to sell the team to a Tampa group, but the owners blocked the deal and forced Lurie to sell for \$15 million less to a group that kept the team in San Francisco.

Mack is among those who

contend baseball has abused its anti-trust exemption.

High winds cause power outages on San Juans

MOUNT VERNON (AP) - Power has been restored to most of the San Juan Islands.

A spokesman for Orcas Power and Light said crews are working to restore service for

about 1,200 customers who remain in the dark.

About 8,500 utility customers lost their electricity at 3:45 a.m. March 5.

Officials indicate the outage was caused by a Bonneville Power Administration power feeder from the mainland.

High winds were apparently to blame for the outages.

Cops Box

CAMPUS POLICE

March 3

At 8:03 p.m., a woman returned to her car in lot 26-C and observed a box normally kept between the seats on the driver's seat with its contents pulled out. The glove box was open with its contents on the floor. She also found a box on the driver's seat open and the contents of her boyfriend's book bag emptied on the passenger seat. Nothing was missing. The vehicle was not locked.

At 11:45 p.m., a man reported his bike, worth \$500, was missing from the bike rack at Sigma residence hall. The bike had been locked to the rack with a kryptonite lock through the back wheel. The

back wheel and lock were left at the scene.

BELLINGHAM POLICE

March 1

At 10:52 a.m., officers reported contact with a man who is an immigrant from somewhere in the former Soviet Union, and speaks no English, at the intersection of Champion and Cornwall streets. They tried for 1 1/2 hours to locate an interpreter who could match the man's dialect, but were unable to find one. They said the man may have come to Bellingham from Rochester, N.Y.

At 9:58 p.m., officers responded to a complaint of loud noise from a house in the 100 block of S. Garden Street. The renter of the home was contacted, who apologized for playing the music so loud. He agreed to obey a verbal warning to keep the music quiet.

Western Briefs

Your blood is needed

The Puget Sound Blood Center is seeking 400 donors from Western's campus. The center is asking students, faculty and the Western community to donate blood to help save lives in the Puget Sound area. Blood can be donated from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. March 9-10 in the registration center. For more information telephone SHAIC at 650-2961.

Note taking service helps students in GURs

The University Note Taking Service is selling notes for certain GUR classes on a quarterly and weekly basis in Viking Union 218 from 12-4 p.m. Monday thru Friday. For more information telephone 650-6118.

Search committee to hold public forum

The Presidential Search Committee of Western will hold a public forum at 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. on March 9, in Lecture Hall 3 to ask for advice on issues and questions that should be asked of candidates, for university president, during the interview process.

Free concert at Fairhaven

Enjoy a free R&B and country music concert with local Northwest artist Jesse Gordon Shepherd at 8 p.m. March 11, in the Fairhaven College Auditorium.

Shepherd's one-hour concert hosts other local talents such as Ray Downey on baritone saxophone, Mark Kelley playing tenor/alto saxophone, Wendy Shepherd a vocalist, Mark Huber playing Tenor Saxophone, Lloyd Johnson playing guitar, Spencer Hoveskeland playing bass, and Chuck Kitterman playing percussion.

Annual WOW garage sale coming soon

The Women of Western, WOW, are renting tables for the annual WOW garage sale. The sale is planned for 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., March 13, at the First Christian Church, 495 East Bakerview Road.

Table rentals are \$15 per table for WOW members and \$20 for non-members. For more information telephone Caroline Eddy at 734-6358.

Leadership conference offered to students

Registration for A.W.A.K.E., A Wealth of Action, Knowledge and Experience, a campus wide leadership conference, is March 15-19. Registration forms are available at the Viking Union Information Desk and the Student Life and Residence Life Offices. The conference is from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. on April 3 here at Western.

The conference is to help students learn how to market their leadership experience and network with student leaders. The students can choose from a wide variety of workshops. For more information telephone 650-3846.

Public hearing scheduled for Sinclair Island environmental evaluation

There will be a Public Hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Viqueen Lodge on Sinclair Island at 2:30 p.m. March 10, in VU 408. Students, faculty and alumni are invited to attend to make suggestions or comments regarding the EIS. The public hearing is to gather input on evaluating the environmental use and access issues involved.

For more information telephone David M. Sale at Huxley College or Sue White at 676-9127.

Legislative Update

Students Regents Bill (HB 1005/SB 5269): The House version of this bill passed 82-12; the Senate version must be heard before March 17, or it will die.

Student Contract Bill (HB 1580): This bill proposes to guarantee graduation in four years for students who sign a contract committing to a particular academic program. The current legislation OK's the idea in principle, but does not specifically address the complexities of this issue.

College Promise (HB 1603): This bill will complement the Student

Contract Bill by guaranteeing resources and access to qualified students. One stipulation, which is the main point of contention for the bill, proposes that students with more than 240 credits pay for 100 percent of their education.

Higher Education Budget Protection (HB 1988/SB 5781): This bill would guarantee higher education budgets would not be cut, similar to current K-12 protection, and budgets would rise with inflation. The bill outlines a "minimum citizen funding participation" to continually increase funds. The bill states "It is the policy of the state of Washington

that financial need not be a barrier to participation in the higher education system."

Student Lobby Day 1993: Washington Student Lobby and other groups are currently planning a Student Lobby Day to take place in April. Each community college, public and private university and technical college in Washington will send eight or ten delegates to the event. Interested individuals should contact the number below.

For more information contact Coll-Peter Thrush, ASVP for External Affairs, at 650-2941. The information in this report was provided by Coll-Peter Thrush.

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 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.*

PLEASE POST

- **ATTENTION NDSL/FEDERAL PERKINS AND GLS/STAFFORD/FFEL LOAN BORROWERS:** If you are not returning spring quarter or if you are graduating winter quarter, you are *required to schedule an exit interview.* Stop by Student Fiscal Services, OM 265, or call X/2943 no later than March 8 to schedule your interview. *School records will be subject to withholding if you do not appear for the mandatory interview.*
- **SPRING QTR. DEGREE & INITIAL CERTIFICATE CANDIDATES.** All students expecting to graduate and/or receive a teaching certificate at close of spring, 1993, must have senior/certification evaluation on file in the Registrar's Office, OM 230, by March 12. *Degree applications must be returned by March 12.* To pick up an application, go to OM 230. *Deadline for summer graduates is June 4.*
- **PARKING PERMIT RENEWALS** for spring quarter will be from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday through March 12 at Parking Services on 21st Street.
- **FORUM ON PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH.** The Presidential Search Committee, in consultation with the University community, has developed and distributed a statement of qualifications that will be useful in determining whether they meet such qualifications and the institution's leadership needs for the coming years. Those wishing to comment may do so at a forum to be hosted by the Search Committee from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 9, in LH 3, or by writing to the committee at MS 9035.
- **THE SECOND ANNUAL LIBERAL ARTS CAREER FAIR** will be from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Tacoma Dome. Cost is \$10 advance registration for students or \$15 to register at the door and for alumni. Preregistration forms are available from the Career Services Center, OM 280. A list of all employers scheduled to participate also is available. A workshop, "How to Make Effective Use of the Liberal Arts Career Fair," will be held at 3 p.m. March 11 in OM 280. For more information, call X/3240.
- **A PUBLIC HEARING ON HOUSING AND DINING RATES** will be held at 3 p.m. March 9 in VA 454.
- **STUDY IN IRELAND.** Usit, the Irish Student Travel Service, in association with Trinity College Dublin, is offering a summer school in Irish Studies. The \$3,450 fee includes the Irish Studies program, round trip airfare from New York to Dublin, guest lecture series, field trips and cultural activities, family homestay with all meals included, a Dublin city travel pass, theatre tickets and all entrance fees and transfer credit. To be eligible, students must be attending an accredited college full time. Applications must be received with full payment by May 28. For more information, contact International Programs and Exchanges, OM 530B.
- **EAST ASIAN COLLOQUIUM.** Joseph Havlin will speak on "China's Economy and a Case Study of Chinese Investment in the United States" at 3 p.m. March 10 in HU 106.
- **WESTERN PREVIEW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.** Energetic student volunteers are needed for Western Preview '93 on Saturday, April 10. To volunteer, call X/3861 or stop by the Student to Student Office, OM 200.
- **A PRELIMINARY HEARING FOR THE S&A FEE SPLIT** will be held from 4-6 p.m. Wednesday, March 10, in VA 461.
- **LOT RESERVATIONS.** Lots 2C, 6G, 7G and 9V will be reserved beginning at 5 p.m. March 8, 10 and 12 and at noon March 13 for International Women's Week. Cooperation of the University Community is requested. Drivers who park a vehicle in a reserved lot prior to an attendant's arrival and then leave it 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.
- **SPRING QUARTER GROUP OFFERINGS** at the Counseling Center will include **Math Anxiety Reduction Group** starting Wednesday, April 21, from 2-4 p.m. and **Exploring Bulimia**, 2-4 p.m. Thursdays starting April 15.

Native-American studies minor to help community and students

By Russ Kasselman
staff reporter

Student and faculty support has garnered Western a new Native-American-Studies minor. It is scheduled to be put in the new 1993-1995 catalog.

The minor was put together fairly quickly, said Larry Estrada, director of the American Cultural studies program, said. The arrangement of classes and approval took only 1 1/2 years at a minimum cost to the university.

The minor was proposed because of Western's geographical placement and the feeling Western should make a commitment to Native-American students and Native-American communities surrounding the campus, said James Loucky, anthro-

pology professor.

"It wasn't a question of creating new courses to fit the minor. The courses were already there. It was just a question of putting together the required credit load for a minor," said John Purdy, English professor.

Purdy said the minor will be helpful to students who plan to teach Native-American subject matter, do research in the area of Native-American culture or who are just interested in Native-American populations within the United States.

"The minor would help students directly through the courses they take. But indirectly it would help Native-American communities through students who could help with education, communication to or provide services for Native-American communities," Loucky

See MINOR, page 5

LOWRY: Paying on sliding scale would help low-income students pay less tuition

Continued from page 1

will fund more financial aid.

"That's very important, because ... I absolutely believe we ought to be paying higher tuition (for our daughter). We know that there are a lot of students (for whom tuition) is a huge hardship, and I just think that's wrong."

Currently, in-state university students pay only a portion of the total cost of tuition — roughly 33 percent at research universities and 25 percent at regional universities such as Western — while the state picks up the rest of the cost.

A sliding scale wouldn't make anyone pay the full cost, Lowry said.

Lowry said he also hopes to lift the enrollment lids currently in place, calling for an additional investment of \$200 million to increase enrollment.

"The definition of short-sightedness is not allowing more access to our institutions for the education we need to move forward competitively" in the global economy, Lowry said at the

Founders Day Dinner.

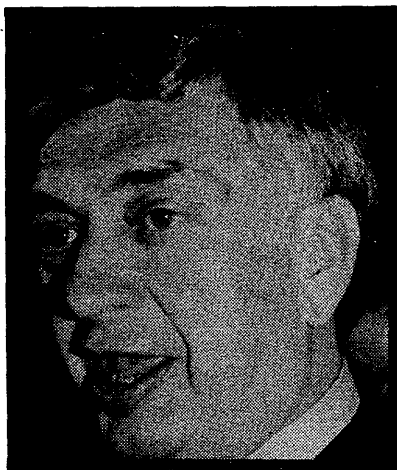
About 5,100 more students would be added, Lowry said — 3,800 more in community colleges and 1,300 more in the four-year universities.

"I would actually like to lift the lid higher than that, but the budget probably means that the 5,100 is the best we can do," Lowry said.

Additionally, Lowry wants to give universities more autonomy as a means of increasing performance and cutting costs.

"More or less say (to university administrators), 'OK, here's the amount of money you have. Now we'll remove a lot of the strings that are on here to give you flexibility and we expect you to be able to still meet this student load,'" Lowry said.

Greater student representation is also important, Lowry said. "I would like to see the addition of two more members to the board (of trustees), one being a student and one being just another person," Lowry said.



Gov. Mike Lowry

"I actually think this less at Western, where a lot of the trustees are very active and are, relatively speaking, not that many years out of college. So many times, just because of the time commitment of people that are trustees and on regents, there are frankly quite a few years since they've been in college," Lowry said.

"I just think that it makes sense to close that generation gap by having a student on the board," Lowry said.

FINANCIAL AID: Family assets to be overlooked if College Promise Bill passes

Continued from page 1

support College Promise, Jacobsen said the Higher Education Coordinating Board computed the new number of people eligible for financial aid under the higher-income cap. With that number, they then figured out the amount of money needed to be appropriated from the general fund.

Some goals of College Promise include overlooking a family's home equity, portions of savings accounts and business net-worth, when filing for financial aid; simplifying financial-aid applications for low-income students with limited assets and preserving a range of educational options for needy students.

Another goal of the plan includes providing more self-help middle-income student funding such as loans and student employment, which are paid back to the university. The plan is striving to provide self-help rather than grants which are not paid back.

A standard for classifying students by income levels would be adopted with College Promise. Middle-income students are those whose family's income is between 76 percent and 125 percent of the median family income. In 1992, the median income was more than \$37,500. Jacobsen said the "\$52,160 is based on 125 percent of the state's proposed median family income in 1993."

In 1992, students with family incomes over \$25,000 could not receive financial aid and in 1993, Jacobsen said the income cap is \$30,000. "If funding comes through, this will be a great program, but I'm

concerned with costs of the program and where the money is coming from," Sahlhoff said.

With approximately 10,000 students, Western "had almost 8,900 applications for financial aid in 1991-92," Sahlhoff said. "This number continues to significantly increase."

Approximately 6,500 students receive some form of financial aid at Western and almost 4,000 students have documented financial need. Two types of financial aid are offered to students, gift assistance and self-help.

Gift-assistance financial aid includes government grants, scholarships and university grants. These are not paid back to the government by the "needy" student who receives them.

The other types of financial aid are self-help programs, which are loans and student employment. The student actually pays the government back either monetarily or with labor force.

Sahlhoff said the total gift-assistance given out at Western in 1991-92 was \$7,131,000. Self-help programs accounted for \$14,678,000. The state only contributed 9 percent of these totals. The rest was paid by the federal government and other sources, such as university grants and scholarships.

"I am optimistic about the legislators passing the plan," Jacobsen said. He also said he encourages students and parents to share their reaction to the proposal by calling the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-562-6000.

CHLORINE: Hilly terrain would protect Western from leak

Continued from page 1

with the threat. "People are at great risk, but they don't know about it because all the big chemical companies are involved in a cover-up," he said. "I wouldn't be in your community if I didn't think you were at grave risk."

The Bellingham Herald reported Oct. 15 that despite "minor glitches" in the drill, Andy Merget of the EPA — who evaluated the drill — said, "Whatcom County is really in the forefront of conducting exercises."

Dan Fitzgerald, deputy director of the Whatcom County Department of Emergency Services, said his department has prepared "plume studies," maps that locate areas of danger from a gas release. They are specifically based on possible accidents at G-P.

"Every citizen should be aware of both natural and man-made hazards. The more you dwell on the facts the more you learn," he said.

Millar said he has seen the local plume studies and he believes they are inaccurate. He questioned why the area impacted by a chlorine leak is only 1 1/2 miles long on the map, when he said the traditional figure is three miles.

Every plume analysis is different, said Orman Darby, public relations manager for G-P's Bellingham pulp and paper production plant. Chlorine is heavier than air, which means clouds tend to travel downwind, low to the ground. "People who do plume management ... look at where the wind blows and they look at the [leaked] materials," he said.

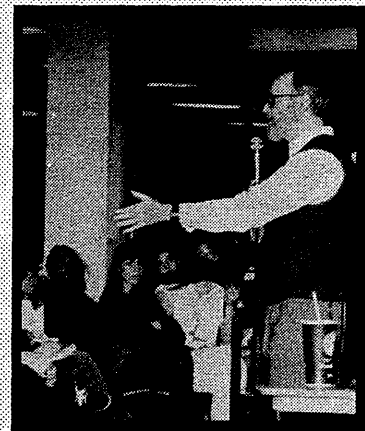
Bellingham's hilly terrain and prevailing winds probably would force a gas cloud north over downtown, Fitzgerald said. "It may not affect Western or the whole south side. They may still be able to picnic in their garden," he said.

Millar joked that the news he brings to cities and towns across the country makes him "Dr. Doom and Gloom." He said chemical and manufacturing companies, often with the support of local governments, conspire to withhold from the public data that describes toxic chemical dangers. "If you think our government has the ability to control that industry, then think again. We don't have to be that damn ignorant, there's no excuse for it," he said.

Industry produced 10 million tons of chemicals in 1950 compared with 100 million tons in 1990, according to statistics provided by Millar. He said more accidents resulted from the increased production.

He cited the 1984 Union Carbide plant explosion in Bhopal, India, which killed between 3,000 and 5,000 people. "If there's going to be a Bhopal in America, what is it going to be? You have to guess ... either chlorine or ammonia," Millar said.

A chlorine release would not be new to Bellingham. On Oct. 19, 1987, a cloud of chlorine drifted over downtown and floated north



Fred Millar

to the Sunset Square area during a 45-minute leak. No injuries resulted.

Darby said in an interview prior to Millar's discussion that the public should look to governmental and informational agencies for information to cope during an accident, not to G-P. "We don't give out public instructions. That's not our duty or our right," he said.

Darby and Millar agreed Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs), which the federal government mandated following the Bhopal accident, should coordinate relief and prevention efforts.

The LEPC that covers Bellingham and the county is doing its job well, Fitzgerald said. He said the organization, which reports to Sheriff Dale Brandland, emphasizes research and education.

Fitzgerald said he's never heard of a death related to a chlorine leak at G-P, but said that has not stopped the LEPC from preparing detailed contingency plans.

He also suggested a long-term solution. "The idea of emergency planning is just because it's never happened doesn't mean it will never happen. Maybe someday we'll all buy unbleached paper and we won't need chlorine," he said.

Fitzgerald said a siren on top of the water tower near Western would alert the university of a G-P accident. In that event, he said, people should "shelter-in-place," meaning go inside a building and turn on KGMI radio, AM 790, which is the area's designated Emergency Broadcasting System station, or another station for instructions.

Millar said emergency planners should concentrate on prevention rather than emphasizing evacuation and shelter. "If your government tells you to tape up your windows, to 'shelter-in-place', that's nonsense," he said. "The game is not about constructing sirens so we can all run for the hills."

He cited Sodra Cell, the largest pulp producer in Europe, as an example of a company that felt public pressure and now claims to make its paper white without chlorine.

Millar suggested concerned citizens call the EPA's Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know hotline at (800) 535-0202. Staffers can provide a free list of toxic chemicals in the county and copies of laws governing LEPC.

Abstinence-education bill tries to bring down teen pregnancies

By Andrew Pendli
staff reporter

In response to the high rate of pregnancy among teenage women, a local representative has created a bill to develop and promote sexual abstinence education for junior-high and high school students.

Rep. Pete Kremen, D-Bellingham, headed a bipartisan group of 30 representatives who sponsored House Bill 1724. The bill is awaiting consideration by the House Education Committee.

The bill directs the state superintendent of public instruction (SPI) to work with a committee of parents and teachers to "develop and make available to school districts instructional material that emphasizes and encourages teenage sexual abstinence."

Kremen said the material will be patterned after the DARE program by teaching teenagers how to deal with peer and social

pressure.

"With the high rate of STD's and AIDS, and the increasing number of pregnancies ... sexual abstinence should be the first choice and what we're encouraging," Kremen said.

Peggy Koskela, a volunteer at the Whatcom County Pregnancy Center, agreed with the intent of the bill. But she feels the committee will be wasting money because similar material is already available.

All the curricula in the state has to include material on abstinence or it isn't approved for medical accuracy, said Deenie Dudley, a clearinghouse manager for the Washington Department of Health.

"There's an underlying assumption (to the bill) that the schools aren't teaching abstinence," said Darcy Lees, SPI Equity Education program supervisor.

Pamela Tollefsen, HIV edu-

cation supervisor at SPI, didn't see a problem with the bill but questioned the need for more material on abstinence.

"There are already programs available," she said. Titles include 'Values and Choices,' 'Will Power-Won't Power' and 'Postponing Sexual Involvement.'

Koskela said many Washington schools spend very little time discussing abstinence.

Schools are complex and cover every aspect of the life at some point in time, said Perry Keithley, a legislative liaison at SPI. Everyone has ideas about how schools should cover sensitive material like sex education.

"We (SPI) try to avoid targeting specific areas or requirements that schools have to cover," he said.

Kremen proposed an abstinence resolution five years ago which failed due to a lack of support. He said he felt good about the current bill's chances because

of the amount of bipartisan support the bill has received.

Kremen added that the committee's material would not be mandatory. He thinks local school boards should have as much control over curriculum as possible.

A curriculum program that encourages abstinence is needed

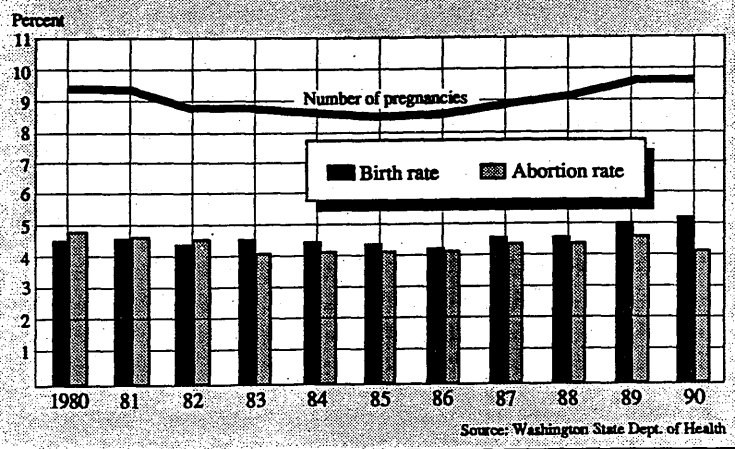
because whatever we've been doing isn't working, he said.

Koskela and Kremen said teenagers need more information and training to help them make the decisions that will affect the rest of their lives.

"People are starting to realize that we can't stick our heads in the sand forever," Kremen said.

Teenage pregnancies in Washington state

Line shows percent of 15 to 19-year-old females in Washington state who were pregnant. Bars show the birth and abortion rates for that age group.



Marijuana-legalization forum: Personal choice vs. harmful effects

By Kris Alexander
staff reporter

Marijuana smoking should be legalized because it is as safe or safer than alcohol. That was one of the statements disputed at Monday night's marijuana legalization debate in Arntzen Hall 100.

"In any discussion of marijuana legalization, we have to ask ourselves...is marijuana inherently more evil than other substances that are currently legal?" said Jeremy Dunn, representative of NORML, a national organization which promotes marijuana use. "I think the answer to that

has to be a resounding no."

Dunn, other pro-legalization panelists and many members of the audience argued that no one is known to have died from marijuana use — a drug that has been around for centuries.

"That doesn't mean it's not harmful just because it's not toxic," argued Matt Magrath, a certified chemical dependency counselor at St. Joseph's Hospital. "There is really no drug worse than alcohol. So, when we get into comparing this apples-to-oranges type of thing, all that really does is take the problem out of context," he said.

Magrath and Dr. Emily Gibson of the

Student Health Center explained that alcohol and cigarettes are proven dangerous substances, even though they're legal.

Magrath's ideas were frequently opposed by pro-legalization audience members who made up the majority of the audience. Forum director Tres Gallant, a Western student and employee of the Legal Information Center, struggled to keep the forum in order.

Magrath listed the long-term effects of marijuana smoking including impairment of short-term memory and reduced hand-eye coordination.

Whatcom County Public Defender Joseph Bartek argued that responsible mari-

juana use, just like responsible alcohol use, won't cause health problems.

Bartek said marijuana is accepted by a wide portion of the community. The regulation of its use should be the responsibility of the public, not the law enforcement.

"I feel pretty strongly that your body is your business," he said.

Prohibition efforts failed in the past and are failing now, Bartek said. He explained that this is partly because police are prejudiced against drug users and arrest them unfairly.

"We are not dealing with the problem. It's getting worse," he said. "We are building jails, not treatment facilities."

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INITIATIVE: If passed, marijuana ads wouldn't be allowed to sell product

Continued from page 1

segment of the population differentiates the initiative from a similar measure written last year by Western's chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML).

"We moved the age up from 18 to 21 and we struck out the clause which would have kept law enforcement out of drug awareness programs," Nelson said in a telephone interview.

Dwayne Stewart of the Belair Clinic in Bellingham said legalization of marijuana in any form is a bad idea.

"Marijuana is one of the most debilitating drugs in terms of students because of the motivational factor. We find very few (marijuana users) who can keep up with their academic performance," Stewart said.

Stewart said his center has less success in treating marijuana users than treating users of other substances. He said part of the blame for poor recovery results can be attributed to groups like WCDPR. Stewart said groups such as NORML disseminate false perceptions about marijuana

among students.

Nelson said the initiative's purpose is to get away from the failed zero-tolerance policies of the last 12 years. He said it makes more sense to take the millions spent on illicit drugs each year out of the hands of the dealers and put it back into the system.

"The attempt to wipe out marijuana by imposing mandatory prison sentences has been a flop," Nelson said.

He said that non-psychoactive hemp, like the variety recently legalized in England, could help western Washington's ailing economy immediately.

"The pulp mill that just closed down in Hoquiam could be converted to processing hemp (for paper) with minimal modification," he said.

Nelson said the chances of gaining the necessary 181,667 voter signatures is very high. Last year's efforts garnered more than 70,000 signatures but did not get started until mid-April.

Successful Western blood drive saves lives

By Mark Rensink
staff reporter

Last year, 1,350 pints of blood were drawn from donors at Western.

It was used to save 4,000 lives, according to statistics given out by the Puget Sound Blood Center.

Western's Counseling and Health Services will conduct its winter-quarter blood drive from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 9, and March 10, in the Old Main Registration Center.

The donated blood will be processed by the Puget Sound Blood Center in Seattle, which holds a two-day drive each quarter in addition to monthly drives out of its mobile unit.

"They've been very successful," said

Jo Anne Sandberg, Wellness Center staff member. She said the quarterly drives usually net around 400 pints of blood and the monthly drives get up to 50 pints. Blood donated at Western is returned to Whatcom County to be used as the need arises.

"Western's students have been very, very good about donating blood, and they're repeat donors," Sandberg said. "We've never been able to explain why that is ... if it's because of the smaller campus or what. Here, they just come from everywhere — the community and students."

Sandberg said Western is the county's largest giver of blood. "We target it to be close to ... 200 (donors) a day (during the quarterly drives). We really feel happy if we get that many. This is what we're striving for this drive."

The donation process usually takes about an hour. Sandberg said there is a waiting line sometimes, and mornings are notoriously slow.

Trained technicians from the Puget Sound Blood Center and community volunteers from the Medical Auxiliary and the Emblem Club will attend to donors.

Prospective donors must first complete a detailed, confidential questionnaire. A medical history assessment and mini physical examination of blood pressure, pulse, temperature and a test for anemia are the next steps before donors can give blood.

Addressing the fear of AIDS, Sandberg said the amount of blood donated dropped significantly when AIDS first started making headlines. "But now people realize that everything's sterile, and there's no

danger of getting AIDS from donating blood," she said.

Sandberg said she is hoping for a big drive this quarter, because they will not have a two-day drive spring quarter due to scheduling conflicts with the registration center.

"We have a hard time scheduling blood drives, very hard," she said.

Sandberg said the end of the quarter is not the best time to hold a blood drive, but it was necessary because of scheduling.

"It is a strange time. I really feel like our donations will be down this time," she said. "It's just before finals, and everybody wants to go out and have fun during spring break, and most everybody's had this cold."

MINOR: Native-American classes highlight contributions

Continued from page 3

said.

A Native-American Studies department is not planned in the near future. But Loucky said the idea was to get started with a minor and build from there. Loucky said he hopes the minor will attract more Native-American guest speakers and lecturers. He also hopes the university will begin accumulating more written material from Native-Americans and more library resources in an attempt to be a center for Native-American research.

"What I'd like to do is to have people learn about issues we all have in common, like land and resource rights and the contributions of America's first peoples in terms of what they did and still do give to world development," Loucky said. "The resources, foods, medicines and sense of governance has a lot of contemporary influence on what I like to call the new world."

Purdy will teach English 235, Introduction to Native-American Literature, and said he will include films, books and poems by Native-American authors and non-indigenous authors who present the Native-American experience.

"We live in an area with many Native-Americans in and around our community. The university rests on land that once belonged to the Native-Americans and in essence still does, spiritually," Estrada said. "With so many Native-Americans in and around the campus, it makes perfect sense to have a nucleus at the university that can reach out and provide services to the Native-Americans around us."

All the professors involved in the approval process said they feel confident the minor will be a good addition to Western's academic program.

"I know there is a lot of interest in the minor. Just from student response, I know it will be a good addition to the program," Purdy said.

Required courses will consist of between 22 and 24 credits chosen from American Studies 202, 301 and 499; Anthropology 361 or 462; English 235 and 330 and History 275 or Fairhaven 311. Three or four credits may be taken under advisement.

New courses not included in the 1991-1993 catalog are American Studies 202, the Native-American Experience and English 235, Introduction to Native-American Literature.

For more information about the new minor, contact Larry Estrada in the American cultural studies department or John Purdy in the English department.

Minority students overcome adversity in law and diversity

By Margret Graham
staff reporter

Almost two years after Fairhaven's Law and Diversity Program launched with 15 students, all 15 are preparing to graduate.

That simple statement belies the struggles—raising children, facing financial crises, living on the edge—many of the students have faced since the fall of 1991. But personal courage and determination have apparently combined with a solid and relevant curriculum to make the program a success.

Now, Fairhaven is seeking the next group of students interested in law, social justice and legal assistance for diverse populations, especially those with potential for becoming leaders and role models in ethnic and other communities under-represented in the legal profession.

The two-year Law and Diversity Program (LDP) stresses written and verbal communication skills, critical thinking and familiarizing students with language and concepts important in law school. Students praise the program for its practicality and flexibility, while faculty members praise it for its students.

"I commute from Seattle every day, and the reason I do it is

the students are so great," said Lori Bannai, the program's full-time professor. "The fact that many of them are able to make it to school is a huge accomplishment ... They're here over some really incredible barriers."

Bannai, a practicing attorney for nine years, shares primary responsibility for the program with Fairhaven professor Rand Jack, who started the program two years ago after Washington Supreme Court Justice Charles Smith discussed the under-representation of minorities in the judicial system during a visit to Fairhaven.

Jack told Smith about his idea to address the problem, and Smith, the first African-American on the Washington Supreme Court, pledged his support. Smith is now on the program's advisory committee.

Jack designed the major by choosing a variety of courses at Fairhaven and Western for those who, through lack of education, may not be ready to enter law school. In addition to these courses, he included a weekly integrative seminar to bring together information from the other classes. In addition, each student is connected with a lawyer as a professional mentor, and must complete a legal internship to graduate.

The program is largely sup-

ported by private financial contributions, totaling \$16,000 for the first two years. Among those who have donated privately are Interim President Roland DeLorme, and Martha Choe, chair of Western's board of trustees. In addition, the Western Foundation, which handles fundraising for the university, has assisted in asking for contributions from private law firms in the state.

LDP has used the money to help students pay for books, tuition and law school application fees above and beyond what is covered by state and federal financial aid. Despite looming budget cuts, the university has agreed to a full-time replacement for Bannai, who has a new baby and is unable to commute to teach in the program next year.

Fairhaven Admissions Coordinator Linda Hopper said Western has backed the program since its beginning.

"Both President Mortimer and Vice Provost DeLorme have been very, very supportive of this particular program in helping it to get off the ground and supporting it within and without the community," Hooper said.

Hopper travels to community colleges all over the state to find applicants for the program, asking

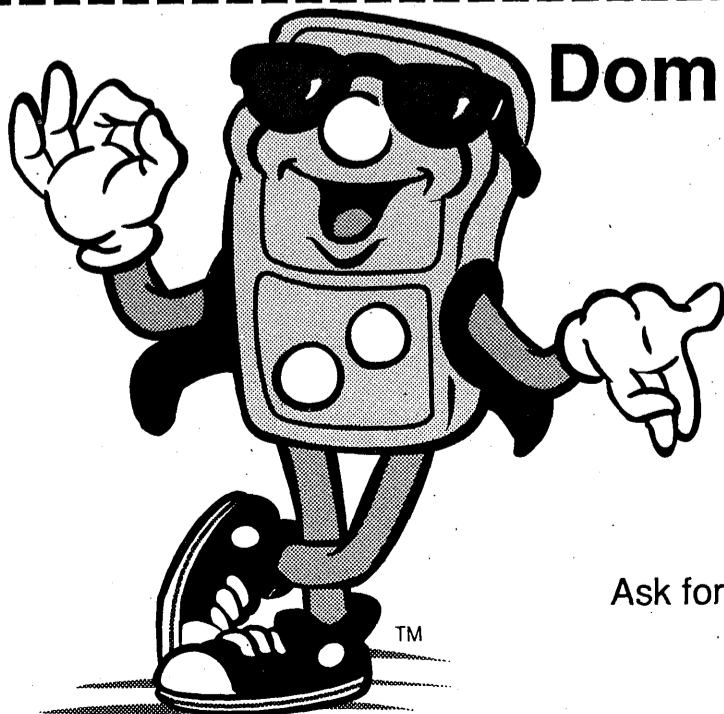
See LAW, page 6

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De Lorme takes office just in time for cuts

But Western's interim president has plan ready, and wants to have more interaction with students

By Jonathan Burton
staff reporter

Roland L. De Lorme became Western's interim president just in time to balance budget cuts with the need to maintain the university's strength.

But such binds are nothing new to De Lorme, who was most recently Western's provost and vice president.

The extent of the budget cuts — which may range between three and 12 percent — will be known by the end of the third

week of March, De Lorme said. "We are really operating in the dark."

"Higher education can't expect to be treated any differently than other major sectors of the state system," De Lorme said. "We are operating on a very small budget here. Cuts would damage the university in all respects. It's not a very happy picture."

Fortunately, a plan was established during former-president Mortimer's tenure to deal with the budget cuts. "It's better to plan ahead rather than wait around and be visited by disaster," De Lorme said.

The plan aims to reduce unnecessary or redundant administrative positions rather than take away from academics. In addition, the cuts will not be dispersed evenly throughout the university.

"I am not interested in across-the-board cuts," De

Lorme said. "As painful as it would be, we would have to make the cuts in a way that left us as able to carry out our mission. ... You can't cut every constituency at the same level and you can't cut every program in the academic sector at the same level. I think that would be a terrible mistake."

De Lorme is also working on cutting costs by improving Western's efficiency. Telephone registration is one example.

De Lorme said administrators will determine the necessity of any cuts by asking a few questions:

1. Does the law require we do it this way?
2. Is it something really essential to the university?
3. Does it give us an advantage over other institutions in terms of what we are able to do for our students?

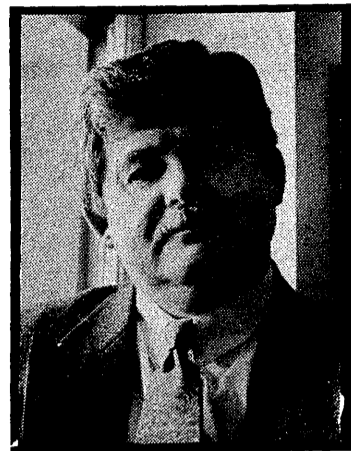
"If the answer is negative in those cases, by all means get rid of it," De Lorme said. "When you ask those questions, there are some specific things that can be done."

Although the budget is his primary concern right now, De Lorme has other plans while acting as president — plans that may involve student input.

"I miss students. I miss teaching," said De Lorme, who admits he has not been as close to students recently as he would like to be.

"You often appear inaccessible to students," De Lorme said. He said he would like to change that image.

In the near future, De Lorme wants to meet with randomly-selected students to discuss issues such as library services, classroom environments and faculty-student interaction.



Roland L. De Lorme

De Lorme said he will not be running for the permanent position mainly because he can't take the time away to pursue it. When a new president is selected, De Lorme will return to his position as provost.

"Hopefully they will complete the process by June," he said.

It's a give-and-take situation

Western's new grad-school dean from University of Hawaii

By Renee Treider
staff reporter

As President Mortimer leaves Western for the University of Hawaii, Moheb Amin Ghali will leave the University of Hawaii for Western.

Ghali will become Western's new vice provost for research and graduate-school dean beginning July 1.

Out of 191 applicants, Ghali was one of six finalists selected to visit Western last fall, said Carl Simpson, sociology professor and committee chair.

"From that point on, incidentally, it was the provost who primarily made the decision — obviously in cooperation with the president and with input from the faculty and the committee," Simpson said.

Ghali declined to comment until after he moves to Bellingham, but Simpson said he was offered the position for a number of reasons.

"The ... foremost factor ... in his case was his experience with faculty research," Simpson said. "He's directed the faculty research effort at Hawaii now for a number of years and he has wonderful knowledge of research funding and research patterns and how to support research in all the disciplines across the university. A second major factor was administrative experience in general.

"Third, he has a strong commitment to graduate education and academic quality," Simpson said. "And then finally, both in talking to Ghali and his references, we got a consistent picture of him as a very reasonable and cooperative and supportive person, who at the same time had a clear, solid set of academic standards that he would bring to the position."

Ghali's involvement in the Bureau of Faculty Research — an organization that supports faculty development, facilitates funding for research and assists in scholarly activities — will help students too, Simpson said.

"He'll emphasize ... the kind of research funding which gets students involved, undergraduates and graduates," Simpson said.

Simpson said he is enthusiastic about Ghali because he is a qualified person who meets the needs of administrators, faculty and students.

"We have a situation where the person coming in will fill the role that the provost wanted as a strong administrator and at the same time very much will do what the faculty wanted," Simpson said. "They (faculty) wanted to keep the graduate school strong, but also build support for the research — and professor Ghali is someone who will do exactly that."

LAW: Potential students found in transfer applications

Continued from page 5

counselors to direct interested students to the LDP. Ideal candidates have either completed all their general graduation requirements or earned their Associate of Arts transfer degree from a community college.

"We'll continue to look at applications of Western transfer students throughout the summer, but we'd like to have a core group by the end of April," Hopper said.

Ken Hutchinson, the first of the 15 LDP students to be admitted to law school, was almost finished with the paralegal program at Edmonds Community College when he heard about the LDP at Fairhaven. Hutchinson, 30, will start law school this fall at the University of Washington, and now works part time at Evergreen Legal Services, putting his paralegal certificate to use.

"It's been a good bridge between paralegal studies, which is a lot of filling out forms — the mechanical aspect," he said of the LDP. "In this program we tried to see the big picture."

Hutchinson said students take courses in history, political science and philosophy to round out their training. The group's diversity and close association is also helpful.

"We represent all age groups. . . many different races, people of different sexual orientation," he said. "We not only learn from our classes, but from each other."

Of the eight men and seven women in the program, five are African-Americans, three are Native Americans, three are Latinos and four are Caucasians. Eleven have applied to law school for this fall, while two have chosen graduate school and two have deferred plans for additional schooling for personal reasons.

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Beth McIntosh feeds her mind and soul

By Kris Alexander
staff reporter

Towering mountain peaks, ancient spirits and grizzly bears.

Folk singer Beth McIntosh blends the aesthetics of nature, the emotion of man and the power of mythology in her musical recipe. Her songs were created to feed the mind and soul, as well as entertain the body.

McIntosh performs her original acoustic music at 8 p.m. tonight in the Viking Union Coffe shop. Admission is \$3 at the door.

McIntosh said her songs revolve around "content-oriented, in-dept messages — not pop." Major themes include landscape and community, components of her Wyoming home.

Fans have described her music as innovative and poetic. A music critic from Wellesley College in Massachusetts said she possesses "a voice that must be heard to be understood."

"I've been compared to just about everybody under the sun,"

she said.

She will perform pieces from "Song Line," an album she is working on.

"(It deals with) aboriginal concepts about song ... community and landscape," she said. "The Great Ancestors became the spirits and walked the world." These spirits, who are central to Native American culture, make up the "Song Line."

McIntosh has released three albums, "Original," "Fire & Sage" and "Grizzlies Walking Upright."

The latter gained its title from a Modoc tribal legend. According to the story, the soul of man was created from the marriage of a grizzly bear and a volcano goddess.

In a previous interview with the *Jackson Hole (Wyo.) News*, McIntosh said, "After reading that legend, the bear became a symbol to me. I see a triangle with the Indian, white people and the land ethic on the outside and the grizzly bear in the middle. The bear represents a relationship between

the three."

She said "Grizzlies Walking Upright" is also a suggestion of the relationship between man and the bear.

She has performed with Emmylou Harris, Karla Bonoff, Leo Kottke, Rory Block, David Bromberg, Tom Rush and others. She also performed with Bart the Bear, a 1,600-pound grizzly who starred in Walt Disney's "The Bear."

McIntosh first became interested in music as a child. Both her parents played guitar. Together they listened to Woody Guthrie, Leadbelly and New Orleans jazz.

"I just really enjoyed that music," she said. "Especially the black jazz players. They had a lot of soul."

She recorded her first tape, "Original," in 1986 after developing her guitar style at the Berklee College of Music in Boston. In 1989, she received an Individual Artist Grant to work

See McIntosh, page 3



Photo courtesy of Aery Productions

Beth McIntosh performs tonight to close out Mama Sundays winter quarter schedule.

Movie review

'Howards End' deserving of Oscar nominations

By Chong H. Kim
accent co-editor

Nominated for nine Academy Awards, "Howards End" weaves together what seems like an endless supply of twists and turns that sometimes makes you wonder what is going to happen next.

"Howards End," directed by James Ivory, is a story about two English families, the Wilcoxes and the Schegels. It's set in 1910 England, when cars were first becoming the mode of transportation. The Wilcoxes are a wealthy family who plan on staying that way. The Schegels are comfortable — the kind of people you want to have as next-door neighbors. They are nice enough to help a young clerk named Leonard Bass (Joseph Bennett Russell) look for a job.

The story revolves around

Ruth Wilcox (Vanessa Redgrave), the wife of Henry Wilcox (Anthony Hopkins) and Margret Schegel (Emma Thompson). Ruth and Margret become good friends when the Wilcoxes buy a flat across the street from Margret. Ruth tells Margret about Howards End, her house in the country that has been in the family for generations. When she dies, Ruth leaves the house to Margret.

Her family receives this news in a letter after her death. The family refuses to believe Ruth wrote the letter and burns it in the fireplace at Howards End.

The story continues when Henry and Margret get engaged. From this point on, Margret's personality changes to resemble the Wilcoxes'.

Margret's sister Helen (Helena Bonham Carter) sees this change and confronts her. During

the confrontation, the audience knows Margret's change from Schegel to Wilcox is almost complete.

The movie is about more than the lives of two well-to-do families. "Howards End" makes a statement about wealth and happiness. Leonard and Jessica Bass are poor but happy. The Schegels are also happy except for Helen, who is an overly excitable young girl. The Wilcoxes bicker between themselves over how things should be and are unhappy because they are greedy.

In the last three movies Hopkins has been in, he has given as good a performance as any actor could have. In "Howards End," Hopkins' character is hard to understand, but he gives clues that unlock his motives and thoughts. He manages to hold interest throughout the entire

movie.

Thompson presents Margret as a person who is looking for something but does not let it show until she falls in love with Henry. Her expressions and body movement are what makes Thompson perfect for the part. She moves in a manner which shows her emotional vulnerability as well as her strength.

The cinematography is breathtaking. The scenery changes from London to the countryside, showing the viewer the diversity of England in a lush and beautiful manner.

"Howards End" will be hard to follow if you miss any of the sub-plots which are vital to understanding the movie. If you miss them, it will seem like a long, boring art film with no meaning. If you can keep up with it, "Howards End" becomes a movie

full of emotion, passion and a meaning most of today's mainstream movies have lost.

"Howards End" is as good as it gets and rates four stars out of four.

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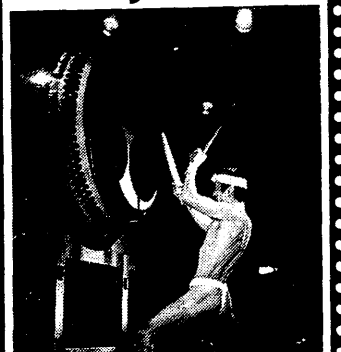
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Michael Douglas is 'Falling Down'

By Russ Kasselman
staff reporter

An unemployed defense worker with a propensity for violence is estranged from his wife and daughter and wants things to go back to the way they were.

Fed up with an American dream gone sour, D-FENS, named after the letters on his personalized license plate, takes matters into his own hands. After abandoning his car on a gridlocked freeway, D-FENS, played by Michael Douglas, walks through a number

of society's pitfalls to try to be with his daughter on her birthday.

Detective Prendergast, played by Robert Duvall, has his problems too. Pushed into a dead-end job by his neurotic and overly dependent wife, played by Tuesday Weld, he is about to retire early. But D-FENS gets in the way. Prendergast gets wind of D-FENS' actions, and along with his ex-partner, Sandra (Rachel Ticotin), begins tracking his path of violence. Working against a tide of ribbing from his co-workers about the dangerousness of

sitting behind a desk all day, Prendergast goes out to try to stop D-FENS. During Prendergast's race to stop D-FENS, he wonders if he might be losing his mind too.

Through a series of comedic, yet tragic experiences with society, D-FENS begins to lose his sanity and can't see why no one sees things his way. D-FENS' and Prendergast's lives become intertwined through their wives, children and futures as well as their everyday experiences in a big city.

D-FENS encounters the frustrations we all feel at the little

injustices of life. Through his frustration with a fast-food restaurant crew to his trespassing onto a private golf course, we begin to see his emerging pattern of madness. This is the anger of the average citizen taken to an extreme.

D-FENS is a tragic hero of the displaced middle class. The movie represents a new breed of Americans who have nowhere to go because their skills no longer match the changing needs of today's employers. The film evokes strong emotion, making us detest D-FENS for his violent acts but also making us empathize with his situation. Some of the scenes seem a bit too comedic to be real, but overall the movie presents a realistic view of life in an urban environment without the protection the American dream is supposed to afford us.

According to a Warner Bros. press release, the screenplay was written in 10 weeks by Ebbe Roe Smith after he saw a newspaper article about a frenzied truck driver who rammed cars in front of him on a freeway.

Michael Douglas viewed the project as "an opportunity to play a character who sort of believed in working hard and getting results

but his world changed and he couldn't make sense of it any more," according to the release.

The film was shot in Los Angeles because of the diversity of settings and cultures that can be reached on foot, production designer Barbara Ling said in the press release. She stressed that with some changes, the film could have been shot in any city in America.

Out of a possible four stars, "Falling Down" deserves three because it attempts to be a comedy while still drawing on our emotions. Comedic dramas are possible but "Falling Down" doesn't quite succeed in this area of entertainment.

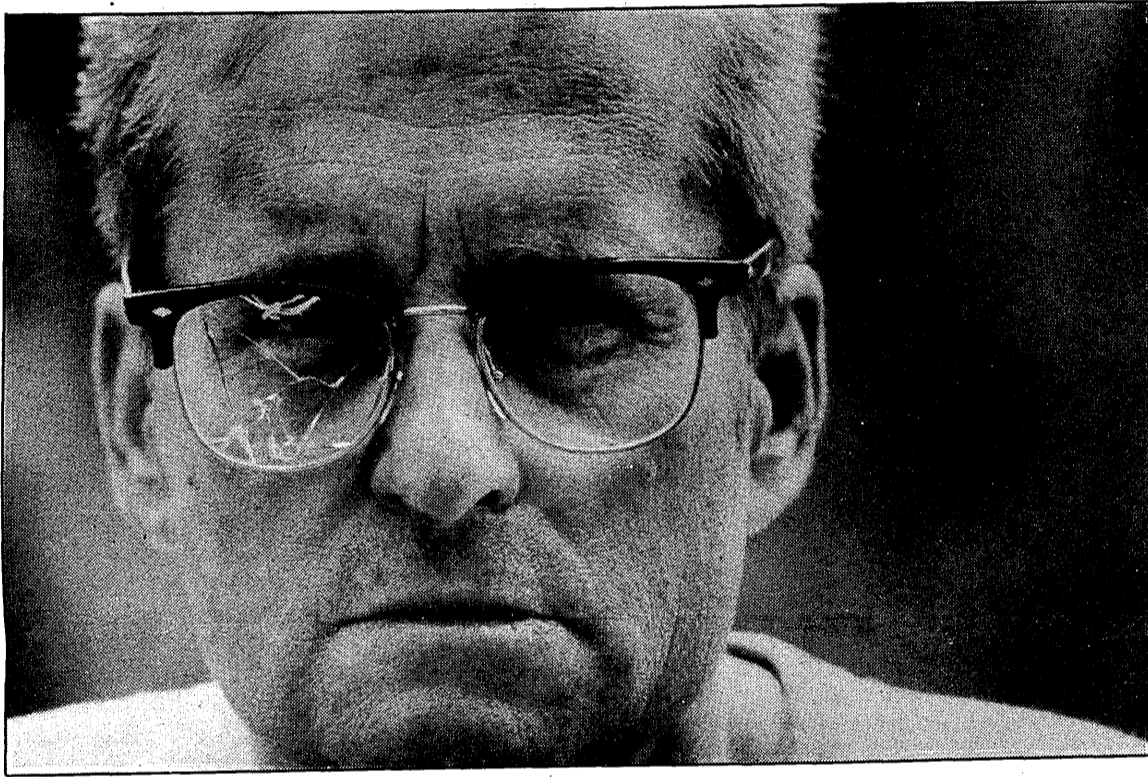


Photo courtesy of Warner Bros.

Michael Douglas is D-FENS, an ordinary man who gets frustrated with the search for the American dream and loses control.

restaurant review

Grub & Chug hits the Old Town Cafe

By Dan Licari
staff reporter

At 316 West Holly, you can eat your fill and feel good about it. This is the location of The Old Town Cafe, this week's grub and chug spot.

After hearing how good and cheap the meals were at this place, I decided to venture to the heart of old-town Bellingham to see if the stories were true. I was not misled.

The menu is made up of all your breakfast and lunch favorites, everything from omelettes and pancakes to burgers and chili. The Old Town Cafe also bakes their own muffins and pastries and, of course, it wouldn't be Bellingham without quality coffee and espressos.

The items to choose from all sound very healthy, including tofu burgers, whole-wheat pancakes and oat-bran muffins. But not being a doctor, I couldn't speculate on the exact nutritional content of these meals. In fact, I wouldn't know a healthy meal if it punched me in the stomach.

In order to try a little of every-

thing, I ordered the banana pancakes and a mound of homefries, while my date ordered a club sandwich with a cup of chili. The best thing about bringing a date is that after you have finished your own meal, you can always get some bonus scraps from their plate.

The banana pancakes were huge and filled with potassium, just to make sure I didn't cramp up in the middle of my meal. The homefries were tasty and cooked so you don't have to wring the grease out of them.

The club sandwich was good and the chili had all kinds of "stuff" in it. If you like a lot of "stuff," you'll like this chili.

The service was lightning-quick, as if the waitress was waiting right over my shoulder to answer my call. The fact that the whole cafe could fit into your glovebox could have been one reason, but with all of the pictures on the walls and a constant buzz in the air, there is plenty to keep your mind off the size of your booth.

On the wall near each booth

hung a sign reading, "Play a tune on the piano and the drink with your meal is free." This sounded very interesting until I saw the card next to it saying, "Looking for a piano — If you know of anyone willing to donate one to The Old Town, please let us know." I was just about ready to break out my version of chopsticks.

The best thing about The Old Town is its character. People come in to relax, have a cup of coffee, read the paper and of course, grub. Like my grandpappy would have said, "character is nice, but you can't eat it."

With all of this in mind, I would have to give The Old Town Cafe one-half Tums.

Dan's Rating System:

No Tums: A *must* grub
One Tum: Good food, easy to grub too much.

Two Tums: Food is OK, maybe a little hard on the funds.

Three Tums: Food was only grubbable, didn't load me up.

Four Tums: Save your money and go to Taco Bell.

Briefs

Friday:

The 3-B presents Blast, Fitz of Depression, and Portrait of Poverty starting at 9:30 p.m.

Speedy O' Tubbs presents Jumbalassy at 9:30 p.m.

The Up & Up presents Jerkwater, Bill and Lawndart starting at 10 p.m.

The Fairhaven Film Series presents "Jesus Christ Super Star" at 7:30 p.m. in Fairhaven 300.

Chuck Israels will direct the Western Jazz Ensembles at 8 p.m. in the PAC Concert Hall.

Folk singer Beth McIntosh will perform at 8 p.m. in the Viking Union Coffee Shop.

Saturday:

The 3-B presents G.T. Noah and Tough Mama starting at 9:30 p.m.

Speedy O' Tubbs presents Inflatable Soule and the Malchics starting at 9:30 p.m.

The Up & Up presents Voo Doo Gearshift, Saucer and Slugplow starting at 10 p.m.

Sunday:

The Elephant presents comedians Lisa Toddhunter and J. P. Lind starting at 9 p.m.

A.S. Films presents "Beauty and the Beast" at 6:30 p.m. in Arntzen Hall 100

What is your favorite local band?

Compiled by Ina Smith
accent co-editor

Since Bellingham is located in the heart of grunge-central, Western students have the opportunity to experience several different bands on any given weekend, each with their own individual style.

I wanted to know which local bands Western students like the best so I randomly asked some students the following question: "What is your favorite local band and why?" The following is a compilation of some of the responses I received.

"I'd say Fat. They rock. They have a sound that is unique to themselves. They have a power no other band has," said Eric Heathershaw, a senior majoring in psychology.

"I really like Black Happy for a couple of reasons. Their music has a lot to it. They're not just another grunge band," said Scott Sackville, a senior majoring in English.

"I would say Soumash. I really like their sound. They're fast and pretty hard," said Shannon Withroe, a sophomore majoring in sociology.

"Hammerbox. Since the head singer is a female, their sound is comparable to 10,000 Maniacs. They draw their whole crowd into them," said Jeff Johnson, a senior majoring in psychology.

"G.T. Noah. Because they're really mellow and laid back. They jam," said Owen Lunz, a sophomore majoring in science.

"Epiphany and also Inflatable Soule. They have really good harmony. They are way unlike Megadeth," said Stephanie Hanna, a sophomore who is undecided.

"Sage. They have a unique style. I like them because they get into it," said Brandon Cardinal, a senior majoring in environmental policy and education.

"Swank because I like their guitar sound. I also really like Sub Rosa. I've seen them at a couple of parties and they really cater to the crowd," said Nick Davis, a sophomore majoring in journalism.

"Black Currant Jam. I've known the dudes in it for a long time. They're pretty original and improvisational," said Chris Lighthall, a junior majoring in geology.

"I'd say Jerkwater. They're really good and they live right next door to me," said Shannon Hurley, a junior majoring in political science.

"I liked Jumbalassy with Andy O. Now I really like Monomen because they have a unique sound all their own," said Kurt Schmid, a senior majoring in recreation.

Western theater students take a chance

By Pam McCormick
staff reporter

Every winter quarter, nine theater students take a chance. The chance is about more than just getting a grade. It's about learning to direct.

To meet the class requirement for Theater 471, the students direct a full one-act play.

"A class like this is a building-level class for us, just like a 300-level accounting class is for someone who wants to be a C.P.A.," said Trish Davis, who took the class last year.

"Our whole educational presumption is that you've got to get a lot of hands-on work and you need studio work as well as classroom theory," said Dennis Catrell, theater professor.

Catrell said what students learn in the class depends largely on each individual. "People come into the class at different levels. ...For many of them, it is the first time they have to deal with actors in a play where they are responsible for its interpretation."

Suzie Cameron, student director of "The Death of Bessie Smith," said directing changed her perspective about acting.

"Next time I'm in a play, I'll be sure to

be prepared for the part, know my lines and be on time. I see that it really wastes people's time when you're late. ...It's nice to be in control of the whole production, to oversee all the characters and help them make choices."

Sean Walbeck, a graduate student, playwright and director of "Dentity Crisis," said the play "gives me the opportunity to deal with a script that deals with stuff I don't do as a playwright. It gives me the chance to enact a play I am interested in and work on performance things I otherwise might not learn about."

Walbeck said his directing experience gave him a different view of his craft. "It gives you a complete view of the script as opposed to an actor's view of the script. It really gives you a good chance to work on your storytelling skills."

Deanie Mead, a student director, said, "This class is a big learning experience for us, a big responsibility. You get experience analyzing a script and finding meaning in the script as well as in the technical aspects of lighting, set design and sound design."

The directors got their sets from leftovers in the scene shop and had to make due with whatever they could find or make.

Mead's one-act, "The Roots of Chaos," is about a family living in denial. A fire has burned underground in a mine near their



Photo by Adam Leask

Rob Slater, Rob Orr and Hilda Guttormsen rehearse for their upcoming performance of "Take Five."

home for 20 years. "It's a dark comedy. I chose it because it's hilarious. When I got into the analysis, I realized the issues it brought up were a bit daunting."

Kitty King, a graduate student director, chose a farce. She said part of the challenge was understanding the difference between different forms of comedy. "I wanted to

chose something short and simple. Comedy is the most difficult thing to do. I chose a simplistic play, but the genre is challenging," she said.

Three plays are performed each night and begin at 7:30. The plays are free and will run from Tuesday, March 9 through Saturday March 13 in the Old Main Theater.

McIntosh: returning to Western

Continued from page 7

on "Fire & Sage," which also earned her a Wyoming Performing Arts Fellowship in 1990. One year later, she received another Individual Artist Grant for production of "Grizzlies Walking Upright."

In addition to singing at universities and environmental gatherings around the nation, McIntosh also lectures on songwriting and the environment.

She performed at Western in the spring of 1991 and was well-received by students here.

"I am really looking forward to coming back to Bellingham," she said.

Western Jazz Ensemble performs tonight

By Chris Geer
staff reporter

Music lovers and jazz aficionados can thank their lucky stars for Friday night when Chuck Israels directs the Western Jazz Ensemble in the music of Duke Ellington, Rod Levitt, Sy Oliver, Gerry Mulligan and Ray Charles at the PAC Concert Hall, 8 p.m.

Highlights include guest soloist Travis Shook, a native of Olympia who recently won an international contest in jazz piano. Shook's first place finish earned him a recording contract with Sony records, where he just completed his first album.

Israels said Shook has a bright future in the music industry.

"He is very talented and well on his way

to an interesting career. Its catch a rising star time Friday night," Israels said.

Music will be provided by three Western jazz groups; the big ensemble, the little-big ensemble and the 5 o'clock ensemble.

'It's almost easier to list who I haven't played with.'

-Chuck Israels, director

"We are doing two Ray Charles arrangements with singers, and our own Western version of the Raylettes," Israels said.

Israels said members of Western's Theatre Department volunteered their vo-

cal talents on the Charles numbers "because it sounded like the songs were going to be a lot of fun."

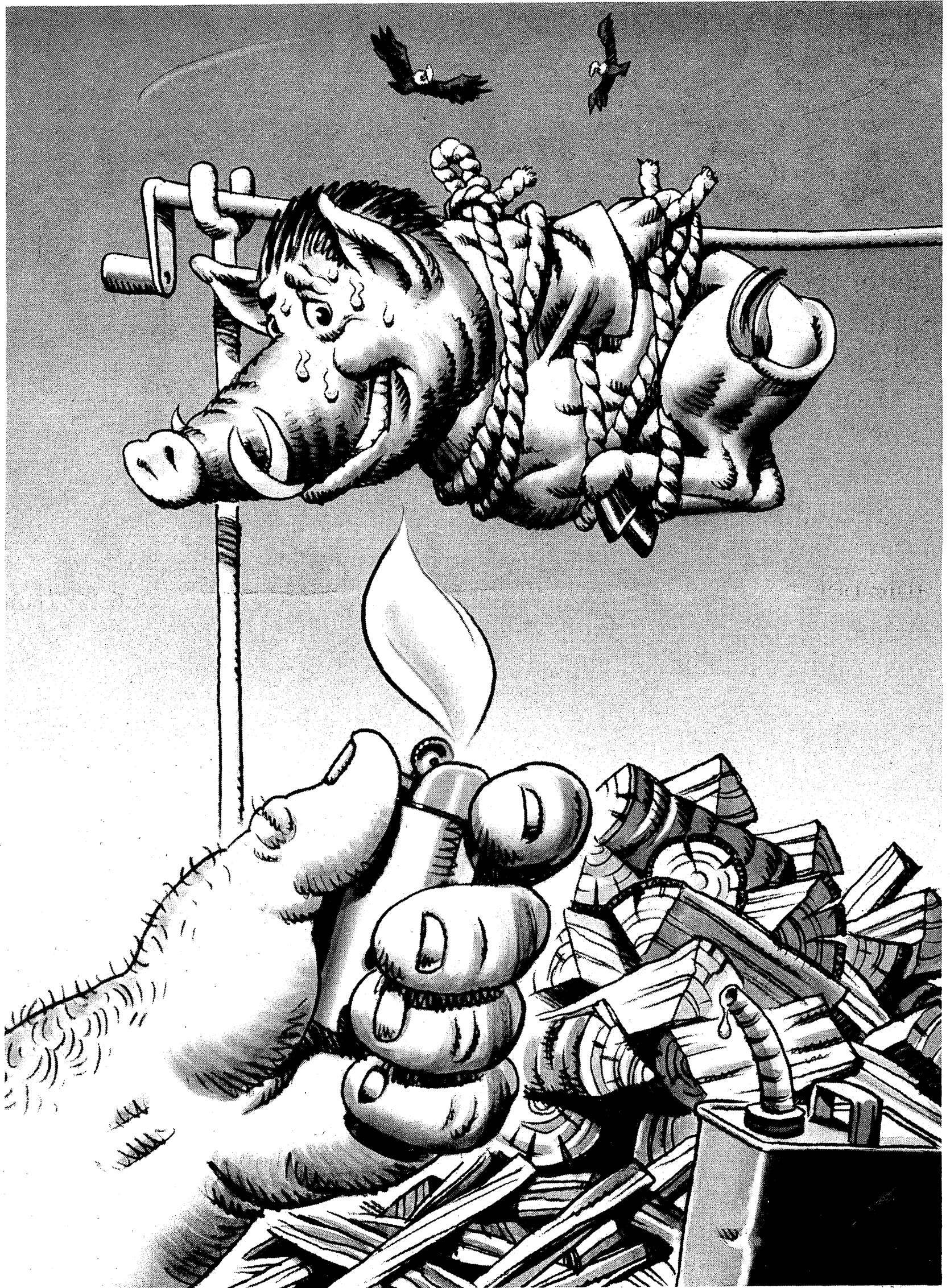
Israels is doing most of the musical arrangement, but Western music student Noriko VanAntwerp will arrange "One Night Samba" by the composer Jobim.

Israels is an internationally renowned bass player who led the National Jazz Ensemble for 10 years in New York City, and has played with jazz legends like Billie Holliday, John Coltrane and Stan Getz.

"It's almost easier to list who I haven't played with," Israels said laughing.

He urges anyone who enjoys quality jazz to attend Friday's concert.

"We have a huge campus and community following and I encourage you to hustle your buns over and see it," Israels said.



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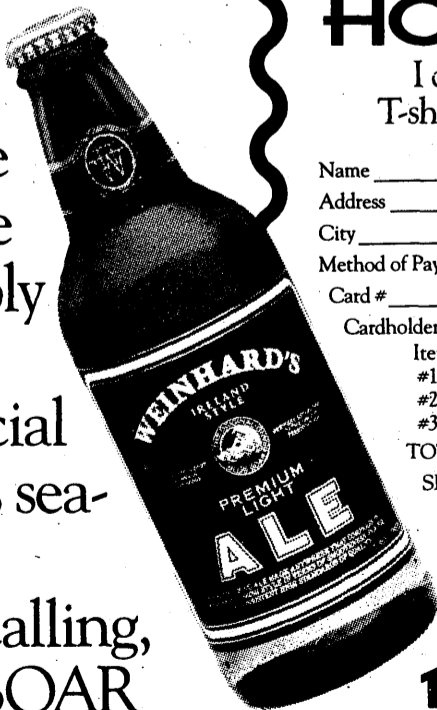
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Spring sports previews

Women's crew aspires for perfection

By Rebecca Hover
staff reporter

Eight oars pulling through the water simultaneously leaving behind eight strong wakes as proof of labor may not be everyone's idea of perfection, but the women's crew team at Western is striving for that and more.

This year's team is one of the largest and youngest ever, said Coach Paulette Bergh. Last year's entire open varsity boat either graduated or didn't return this season, she said.

The change in team composition has brought about a change in attitude. Gone is the "small-school mentality" which has kept Western from becoming a rowing powerhouse among West Coast schools. The goal this year is to win at the Pacific Coast Rowing Championships at the end of

May, agreed Bergh and co-captain Jill Rowley.

The light-weight boat has placed second the past two years at the Pacific Coast Championships after undefeated seasons. "It would be nice to win this year," Bergh said.

Workouts, which involve land and water training, are held twice a day, five days a week in an attempt to make the goal of an undefeated season a reality.

But it will take more than physical strength for the young team to win a championship.

"Rowing is a mental sport," Rowley said. "You have to have so much trust in every individual, including the coxswain, in order to win a race."

Because the permanent rowers in each boat are not yet established for the competitive season, it is difficult for such bond-

ing to take place, said Rowley and co-captain Renae Livingstone.

Once the rowers are settled in a boat, the team will focus heavily on the technical aspects of the sport such as controlling the timing of the oar work so the rowers move in harmony.

The ultimate goal for any boat is to row in absolute unison with each rower applying every ounce of strength to the oar. When a boat achieves this, the feeling is incredible, Rowley said.

"It's heaven. It's very peaceful. Once you feel that (peace) you'll never want to go back to anything less."

The team will have an opportunity to display its skills and hard work at several regattas this season, beginning with the San Diego Crew Classic, April 3-4. It will finish the season at the Pacific Coast Championships in May.

Track and field targets championship repeat

By Mark Scholten
staff reporter

The Western men's and women's track and field teams have reason to be excited about the upcoming season.

Both squads return a lot of talent from last year. The men won the District 1 championship and the women finished third.

"I think things are going to go real well — our expectations are high," said coach Kelvin "Pee Wee" Halsell. "When your expectations are high you tend to perform to that level."

NAIA All-American distance runner Jeff VanKleeck returns for his senior season for the men. The women have nearly all their top athletes back, including distance runner Kris Maraveller and sprinter-jumpers Flo Mark-Booth and Debbie Sandgren.

The track and field teams contain several people from the cross country program, which completed its most successful season in history last November. Both squads finished in the top six at nationals and Halsell thinks that will add momentum this

spring.

"The previous success will definitely help," he said. "It always does when you come off a big positive like that."

Halsell says both track and field teams face a similar dilemma: lack of depth in certain areas.

"We've got holes to fill. The jumps are going to be somewhat of a weak point for the men. The throws and jumps are weak for the women — we have no depth there. Hopefully we can make up for our holes in other areas," he said.

Halsell said the men have a good chance of repeating as district champions, and the women have a possibility of moving up a spot to second in the district, though catching national power Simon Fraser University for the championship may be a longshot.

Simon Fraser University will host the NAIA National Championships in May. Both Western squads should be able to send a many competitors.

The teams begin its season tomorrow at a meet at the University of Washington.

Baseball team aims high this spring

By Mark Scholten
staff reporter

The Western Baseball Club Team begins another season of play tomorrow and Sunday. First-year coach Mike Bruner's bunch will open the season against Centralia Community College in a double-header at Civic Stadium. Tentative starting time is noon.

The team has been practicing at the Lake Padden softball fields in preparation for a season of approximately 35 games.

"We're a lot better than last year," said sophomore pitcher

Darin Hamm. "We have a lot of pitchers and we have some guys with some power. We're two-deep at every position."

So who are these guys? Just because it's not a varsity sport doesn't mean they're bereft of talent. The squad consists entirely of Western students, a lot of whom are former community college players who "weren't quite good enough to play at four-year schools," Hamm said.

Community colleges make up most of the team's opponents. The C.C.'s are allowed a certain number of non-league games per sea-

son, and that's when they contact the Viking club team. Western will also participate in tournaments in Oregon during spring break and in Idaho in May.

The team does get some financial backing from the school, but players pay for their own uniforms and provide their own spikes and gloves.

Most of the money from the school goes toward getting umpires and paying for field time. The team plays its home games at Civic Stadium on weekends.

Women's fastpitch softball, formerly a club sport, became a varsity sport this year. And don't think the baseball guys didn't notice.

"We're fighting to be next," Hamm said. "We're a bunch of guys who are fired up and really want to win."

Sports Briefs

Track and field member to compete at nationals

Senior Kris Maraveller will compete in the three-mile run preliminaries at the NAIA Women's Indoor Track and Field National Championships today in Kansas City, Mo.

The championships finals are tomorrow.

Fastpitch softball team slated for first varsity match-up

The women's fastpitch softball team will play its first-ever district game tomorrow.

The game begins at 2:30 p.m. at Geri Field against Central Washington University, another league newcomer.

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Vikings top Warriors in quadruple overtime, advance to semi-finals

By Dan Licari
staff reporter

In a game that saw four overtimes, the Viking Men's Basketball Team won its opening-round playoff game against Lewis-Clark State, 95-91, Wednesday night in Carver Gym.

A sparse crowd was on hand to see 60 minutes of basketball that ended with neither team breaking 100 points. Missed shots and turnovers stretched the game clock as well as the players' energy.

Jay Shinnick, who led with 21 points, nine of which came in the four overtimes, was left breathless at the end of the game.

"I'm glad it's over, I don't think I could have lasted another one (overtime)."

It appeared it was going to be a long game from the start with Western shooting only 36 percent from the field in the first half.

The second half picked up with some great steals, several

blocks and a crowd-lifting dunk by guard Dwayne Kirkley. Kirkley finished the game with 18 points.

Down by four points, 66-62, with 1:25 to go, Shinnick hit two free throws to bring Western within two. On the defensive side, Kirkley made two consecutive steals, the first setting up the two free throws by Shinnick and the second leading to a breakaway layup and sending the game into overtime.

Lewis-Clark's best chance to win came at the end of the third overtime, when guard Jason Thomas, who came off the bench to score 17 points, missed a leaning 14-footer with the score tied at 83-83.

Western opened the fourth overtime with free throws from Shinnick and center Jason Schmidt. A layup from Schmidt and a tip-in from Kirkley pushed the Vikings' lead to five points, 89-84, with two minutes left. L-C State got no closer until the final score.

Kirkley, gasping for air at the end of the marathon game, said, "It was a tiring game, but we pulled it out."

This is Western's seventh straight district playoff appearance. The Vikings have reached the district finals four times winning the championship in 1988.

With Wednesday's win, Western moves into the district semi-finals. The Viking will play second-ranked University of Puget Sound on Saturday in Tacoma.

Shinnick named all-star

Guard-forward Jay Shinnick was an unanimous pick to the NAIA District I men's basketball all-star team yesterday.

Guard Jeff Dick received honorable mention.

Shinnick leads the Vikings in scoring at 14.1 points a game. He is also the team leader in total rebounds (178).

Dick is averaging 12.6 points, 3.3 assists and 2.5 steals.

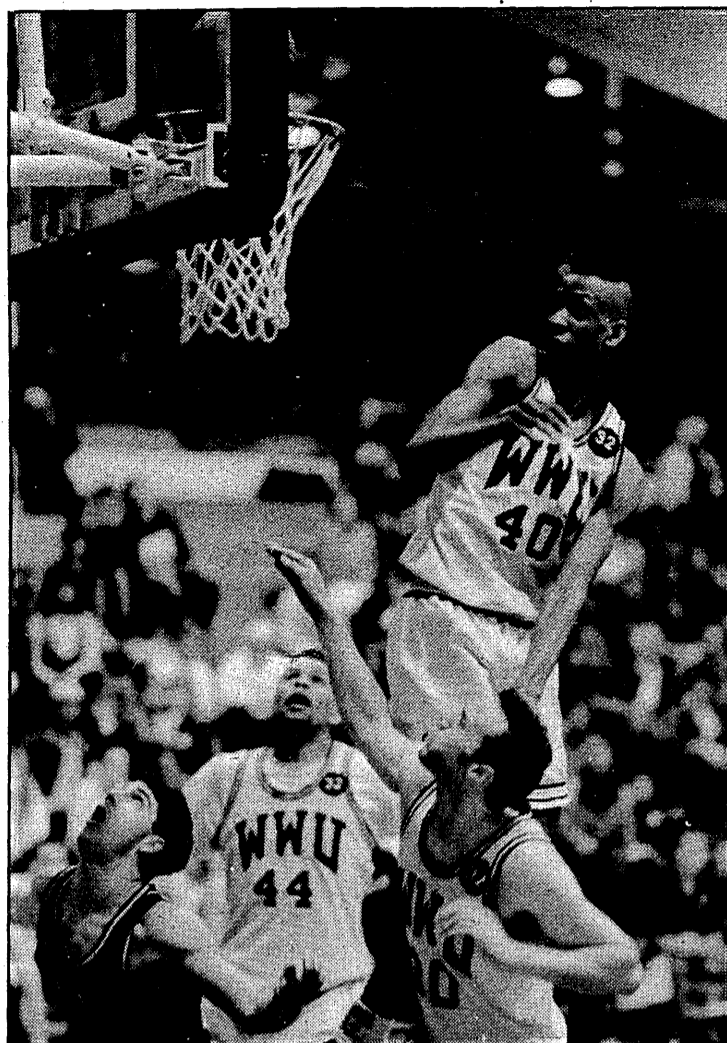


Photo by Matt Hulbert
Harold Doyal (#40) takes a shot against L-C State.

Rugby provides natural high for Western players

The Warhogs take on Washington State University tomorrow

By Karl Schweizer
staff reporter

Imagine a sport more brutal than football, more exhausting than basketball and faster than baseball. If you do that, you will have imagined rugby.

Rugby has been part of the Western scene since its first team formed in the mid-1960s. The current men's team has 35 members and competes in the Pacific Northwest Rugby Union. Fresh from last week's 41-3 thrashing of Evergreen State, the Warhogs play Washington State University at noon tomorrow at Mount Vernon's 15th Street field. Coach Steve "Sully" Sullivan expects a tough game.

"Those (W.S.U.) boys have got nothing better to do but run all

day," Sullivan said.

Sullivan, an insurance adjuster, volunteers his time to coach the team. He has played rugby since 1975, when he attended Western. He graduated in 1977 with a degree in business administration.

"Rugby was the answer to a frustrated athlete's prayer," he said.

Rugby is not as familiar to most Americans as football. Football originated from rugby, so the sports bear some similarities. The goal of both sports is to carry an oval ball across goal lines at each end of a playing field. In rugby, a goal is called a "try." The difference between a try and a touchdown is for a try to occur, the ball must actually touch the ground. Both sports require play-

ers to tackle the ball-carrier, but the similarities end there.

Rugby is a rough sport. Players tackle each other without helmets or pads. Strictly-enforced rules govern how to tackle without causing injury.

"You don't throw yourself in front of somebody," said Dylan Hicks, the team president.

'Rugby is the answer to a frustrated athlete's prayer.'

Coach Steve Sullivan

Rugby is exhausting. Amateur rugby teams consist of 15 players. The same players must play an entire 80-minute game, pausing only for halftime. Only

two injury-related substitutions are allowed. Sullivan estimates his players run an average of eight miles per game.

Rugby is swift and constant, with no "downs," such as in football.

Because the rules don't allow forward passing and no blocking, the ball-carrier must advance on the field by running forward and passing the ball laterally backward to fellow players when the opposing team threatens to tackle him. Since play does not stop when a player is tackled, he must quickly release the ball to avoid being trampled and penalized. Of course, trampling is against rugby rules, but it happens. Nevertheless, Hicks said far fewer injuries occur in rugby than in football.

According to tradition, rugby originated in 1823 at Rugby School in England when William Webb Ellis picked up the ball in a soccer game and ran with it. The rules developed over the next 50 years. Today rugby is played in Australia, Argentina, South Africa, Japan, Canada, the United States and Europe.

Western player Jeff "Flash" Wood said playing rugby was an alternative to high school football for him. He said he liked it more than basketball, wrestling and football.

"I played my first game and I was hooked," Wood said, "It's just an adrenaline rush."

The team is always looking for new players, Sullivan said.

Western's rugby team has a 3-3 record this year.



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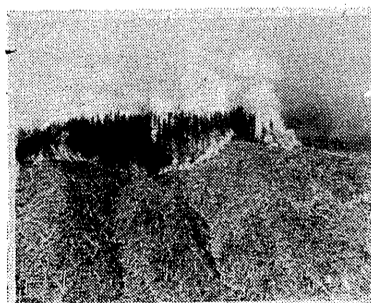
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Frontline

Double standard not conducive to change

I was standing in *The Western Front* newsroom discussing something with my news editor when a white female came up and asked if we were editors. After we gave her an affirmative response, she shook her head knowingly and muttered, "Both white males, huh."

Immediately, I felt a surge of rage, not guilt, but rage. I had nothing to do with the process of deciding my skin color. In fact, being a white male seems to be a very impolitically-correct shell to be in now-a-days. Why was I being judged merely on the color of my skin? If that question sounds familiar, it is. It is what blacks and other minorities have been asking for decades.

I understand I have been afforded some privileges because of the color of my skin, but I would be perfectly willing to share them as long as they are not ripped out of my hands. Are the oppressed to become the oppressors?

The climate is changing. A younger generation is coming into power. As a majority, this generation believes all humans are equal regardless of skin color.

This belief is being challenged by the double standards which pervade society in language and attitudes. Double standards which use guilt as a weapon. I won't let this guilt from the past stop me from voicing my feelings about the future.

It is time for all of us to start playing with the same rules. We are at a point in history where Americans want to work together. But tensions are rising every day and the chance for equality is slipping away. What is viewed as a separatist, militant attitude is turning many younger white males off. Rather than being a part of the process of equality, they feel like it is out of their hands. They feel the rage stemming from the unlevel playing field. When they combine that rage with the apparent hatred directed at them, they begin to pull back into the trenches and prepare for war.

Many may say, "Good, it's about time white males feel the other side of the whip." But, then you are judging individuals by a race and a gender which is the very thing we are against. Individuals need to feel like they can contribute to the process, but how can they with their hands tied to a categorized group.

How will this generation ever manage to destroy the remaining bastions of bigotry without working in harmony? I don't think it is possible. And yet, everywhere I turn, I see roots of division creeping up.

When Sister Souljah justified the killing of a few white people and stated that she has never met any good white people last year, it didn't cause many waves until Clinton put her down for saying it. Then, Rev. Jesse Jackson chastised Clinton.

Now, imagine if David Duke had said the same things about blacks. The media would have been full of blacks and whites alike denouncing the obvious bigotry.

I don't claim to understand the feelings that minorities have or the troubles they face and I certainly don't think a white male's rage at reverse discrimination compares to centuries of discrimination. But do we really want to repeat history? If the answer to that is yes, I suggest we continue in the direction we are headed.

The point is racism is wrong and is not allowable no matter what color you are. The solution comes not in separation but in unity. By unity, I don't mean little groups of unified ethnic groups who have a bunch of politically correct names. This country would never survive that way. We rely and gain so much from integration. The next time you classify someone in a lump group because of their skin color, ask yourself if you want to be classified that way. I certainly will ask myself that question. We are many different colors, but we are one human race.

I know not the solution to this problem but I believe communication such as this is a step in the right direction. As we share our feelings with one another, it is harder to hate and mistrust each other. Hiding behind policies of political correctness and ethnic superiority are dead-ends. Most agree white supremacists are racists. Supremacists of all colors are racists. Fortunately, they don't constitute the majority.

Just because I'm a white male who has fears and rage, don't classify me as a racist. Our generation is ready to learn. Let's talk.

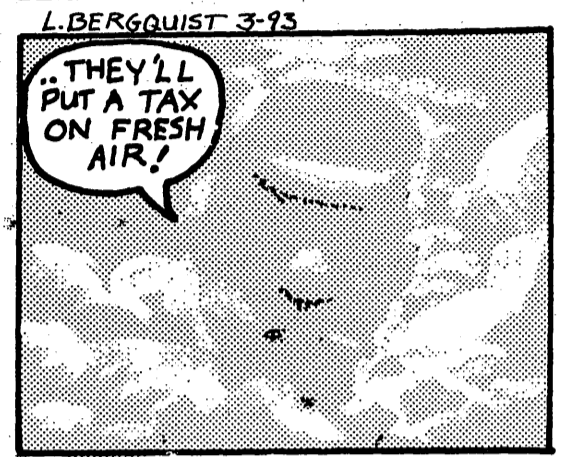
--Sam Kitchell, editor in chief

The Western Front

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L. BERGQUIST 3-93

Western must address multicultural challenges

By Erin Middlewood and Elsie Brock

special to the Front

More students of color are attending Western now than ever, but that doesn't mean the university's diversity goals are met. Continued attraction of students of color to Western, as well as improving these students' experiences and success while they are here, are crucial to diversity efforts.

The number of students of color attending Western has drastically increased since 1987. The university's fall enrollment reports indicate a 106.5 percent increase from fall 1987 to fall 1992. But even in 1992, Western's students of color comprised only 9.66 percent of the total student population.

And the number may be leveling off. Increasing the number of students of color still

even more may require efforts beyond the university's grounds. Western and the state's higher education system will need to reach back through the educational "pipeline" to reach students of color in the primary and secondary education system. These students need to be encouraged from kindergarten on to consider university attendance as a viable option, rather than an unattainable goal available only to the white middle class. Students of color in the primary and secondary education system need to have role models—that means more teachers, counselors, and school administrators of color. They need to see themselves reflected in the curriculum. Their encouragement to attend college needs to be backed up by financial aid availability.

Admitting students of color is not enough. Western needs to

address the special challenges that these students face in a predominantly white student population. Continued and strengthened advocacy of the Ethnic Student Center, the Multicultural Services Center and its peer mentor program is key to a positive experience and success.

In the classroom, instructors need to be mindful of students of color and their experience. The number of faculty of color needs to keep pace with the increase in the number of students of color.

Western has made gains in attracting students of color, but if the effort lags and if care isn't taken, they will leave and we'll be back to where we were before 1987. That would be a shame.

Erin Middlewood is Associated Students president and Elsie Brock is vice president for Internal Affairs

Minority population up, Western could do more

By Holly Yip
staff reporter

As I walk through Red Square, a sea of students of all ages, hair color and skin color pass by.

My eyes seem to avert to the minority students I see on campus because, as I look around campus, I agree with the issue that an increase in the minority population at Western is needed.

Over my past four years at Western there has been an increase from 6 percent (fall 1989) to 9.7 percent (fall 1992, Ethnic Minority Enrollment Report, Western Admissions). Although this is not a significant increase I say it is a start and Western is at least headed in the right direction.

The issue of a lack of minority representation on our campus has been identified. The next three steps are: 1) Find out the reasons

why there is a lack of minority students, 2) Keep up with the recruiting processes and implement new ones, 3) You as an individual can become involved.

Western has doubled the number of ethnic minority students since 1987. In fall of 1987 students of color constituted 5 percent of the total student body compared to 9.7 percent in the fall of 1992. But Western's total student population is 10,150 (fall '92 Western fall enrollment reports) and minority students make up less than 10 percent of it.

Why is there a lack of minorities at Western? I can only answer that question from my own personal experience as a minority at Western. I think one main reason for a lack of minorities is the fact many minorities don't want to put themselves in a surrounding where

they feel different and alienated from their background.

Coming to a university where everything is so new, I can understand how it is difficult. I've always grown up in an area where at least 90 percent of the population is Caucasian, but it can be a real adjustment for those not usually in that circumstance. Three minority friends who transferred here left within a year. The main reason was they felt too different because they all came from places where they were used to more ethnic students.

Secondly, Western needs to keep increasing the statistics by recruiting minority students and letting them know there are places

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