

FRIDAY

November 21, 1997



# AFTER the Flames

NEWS/4

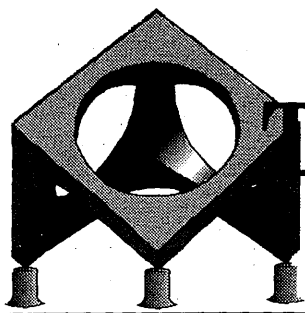


# Rock City

ROCKS

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ACCENT/9



# THE WESTERN FRONT

Western Washington University

Volume 102 Issue 16

Bellingham, Washington

## Dismount policy can still become ban



Front/Barney Benedictson

A Western student walks his bike in compliance with the Bicycle Responsibility Code.

By Corey Lewis  
The Western Front

The current "dismount zone" bike policy appears to be doing a satisfactory job, said Associated Students vice president for Student Life and co-chair with Pierce of the Bicycle Policy Implementation Task Force Meche Brownlow.

But, according to officials in charge of the bike policy, more needs to be done on the part of riders in order to avoid a ban on bicycles.

The policy, since its implementation last spring, has been under constant review. The Bicycle Task Force has also been keeping tally of how many people comply with the bike policy.

The current bike policy states that riders must dismount their bikes 15 minutes before and after each hour.

According to George Pierce, vice president of Business and Financial Affairs, one person monitors the central areas of campus about three hours a day to see how many people are complying

with the policy. He then reports to Pierce once a week.

Brownlow said the target number for rider compliance is 90 percent. Right now, compliance is at 70 to 75 percent, she said.

Despite not hitting the target number, Brownlow said she thinks the bike policy is working.

"It's going fine," Brownlow said. "I can understand the people who don't want bikes, but I don't think that's feasible at all."

Pierce agrees and said the current policy is working well enough for him.

"I'm satisfied," Pierce said. "In terms of people who are walking their bikes when they're supposed to, I think that it has worked fine."

He said there is no set time when a decision will be made about a permanent bike policy, but he said he sees no reason why the policy should immediately change.

Pierce warns, however, that if there was ever a serious accident, he would impose a total bike ban from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. An accident

See Bikes, page 4

## Senator Patty Murray talks, walks around campus

By Corey Lewis  
The Western Front

Washington Senator Patty Murray visited Western Thursday, speaking in front of a crowd of about 100 students on the subject of international trade and then participating in a question-and-answer session.

After being introduced by Western President Karen Morse, Murray was presented with a Western sweatshirt by Kristie English, president of Students in Free Enterprise, an Associated Students club.

Murray started her 20-minute speech by explaining that Washington is one of the states that heavily relies on trade in the country. She said that more than 25 percent of jobs in Washington are related to trade in one way or another.

She then spoke about the current controversy over fast-track trade authority.

Fast-track authority gives President Clinton the power to send American negotiators into trade talks and work out a deal. When the deal is finished, it is sent to Congress where it can be voted into law or rejected, but not

amended in any way.

Murray said the president's fast-track authority expired, and when he sought to have it renewed it passed the Senate by a vote of 69-31, but failed to pass the House of Representatives. Murray said she sees the lack of fast track authority as a potentially devastating thing.

"By not agreeing with fast track legislation, we are saying that our country will not be at the bargaining table during trade negotiations," Murray said.

"If we don't have fast track we, as a country, will have no trade authority," she said.

Murray said she is encouraged by the fact that there are some new provisions in the bill she thinks will help pass more treaties. She cited the Trade Adjustment Assistance that compensates people monetarily if they lose their jobs because of trade and the Congressional Oversight provision that allows Senators and Representatives to be elected to the trade negotiation teams.

Murray also said she is hopeful that the fast-track legislation will pass the House soon.

The issues surrounding

NAFTA were the next subject for Murray. She defended the agreement, and said that people need to realize that it is a 15-year agreement and it is only in its third year.

She also said the agreement has been very good for Washington and pointed out that Canadian businesses have invested over \$50 million in Whatcom County.

"Washington state has been a winner in this deal, even though NAFTA as of yet hasn't," Murray said.

She also talked about the recent disputed trade talks with China. She said China is a tricky country to deal with because they have the potential to "be tremendous partners or tremendous enemies."

She said although China has a long record of human rights violations, she believes the only way to get them to stop is through friendly negotiations.

"In order to solve these issues, we have to talk to them," Murray said.

She also said the live press conference between Bill Clinton and Chinese Premier Jiang Zemin was a "very, very historic moment." She said it was the first time that the Chinese leader had ever been

publicly asked about human rights issues.

Murray was then asked tough questions about China, NAFTA and other trade-related issues by students.

Matthew Cunningham, a senior political science major, asked Murray how the United States can justify having open talks with China, while still refusing to talk at all with Cuba.

Murray said she strongly believes open dialogue is the key to any type of negotiations and she believes that is the case with China as well as Cuba. She said she was one of few Senators who voted to lift trade restrictions on Cuba.

"To cut off a country, to not trade with them, to not have an open exchange, does not allow

See Murray, page 6



Front/Ryan Hooser

Patty Murray speaking at the YWCA last night

# COPIES BOX

## Campus Police

**November 17, 7:20 p.m.:** A woman reported to police that she was abducted from campus at the north side of Wilson Library, then threatened with bodily harm if she testified in an upcoming court case.

**November 18, 2:38 a.m.:** A suspect was arrested at Ridgeway Omega for malicious mischief and minor in possession of alcohol by consumption. The minor was referred to the Whatcom County Juvenile Court.

**November 18, 4:50 p.m.:** The director of Fairhaven Residence Halls reported that a male resident was missing and had not been seen for the last 36 hours.

## Bellingham Police

**November 18, 7:30 a.m.:** An officer responded to a call from residents in the 300 block of East Holly Street, claiming \$380 was stolen from a residence. The callers believed their roommate took the money when he moved out unexpectedly.

**November 18, 12:50 p.m.:** Two individuals entered a business in the 4200 block of Meridian Street and stole two cases of Marlboro cigarettes.

**November 18, 5 p.m.:** A woman reported to police that unknown suspects have been stealing firewood from behind her house in the 2400 block of Lynn Street. She requested an extra police patrol for the alley behind her house.

**November 19, 1:07 a.m.:** Two suspects were charged with possession of marijuana at the Sehome Hill Arboretum. They were then released.

**November 19, 7:13 a.m.:** A business owner reported that someone threw a cement block through a display window in the 100 block of West Magnolia Street and stole shoes.

**November 19, 4 p.m.:** A suspect was arrested for attempting to have a stolen medical prescription filled at a business in the 4200 block of Meridian Street. The prescription was for Methadone.

**November 19, 9:40 p.m.:** There was a report to police of a male in the area of 12th and Chestnut streets loudly proclaiming the word of God. After being contacted by police, the individual moved his evangelical efforts to some other den of sin and degradation.

**November 20, 3:26 a.m.:** A 41-year-old male was arrested for assault in the 1100 block of 23rd Street.

**November 20, 6:05 a.m.:** A vehicle prowl in the 1500 block of James Street was reported. An unknown amount of stereo equipment was stolen.

**November 20, 11:32 a.m.:** Police responded to the 1200 block of North State Street when employees repairing a drive-thru banking tube accidentally set off an alarm.

Compiled by Barney Benedictson

## Western Briefs

### Transportation Authority plans holiday food drive

The Whatcom Transportation Authority will conduct its food drive until Monday.

Donations will benefit the Whatcom County Foodbank. People who wish to donate canned fruit, vegetables or other non-perishable goods can either donate directly on the bus or at the Bellingham Transit Center. Even if you do not ride the bus, you may meet the bus at the posted times and enter to drop-off your goods.

For large donations, or if you have questions regarding the canned food drive, contact the WTA at 676-6843.

### Introductory Dance film to feature mixed abilities

As an introduction to the winter quarter dance class listed as DNCE 397C in the Western catalog, dance instructor Melissa Rolnick will show a film at 12:30 p.m. today in Carver Gym 60.

The film, entitled "Dancing From the Inside Out," illustrates dancers with mixed abilities, featuring wheelchair and stand-up dancers. Contact Rolnick at 650-7293 for more information.

### Geography professor to discuss water issues

Teresa Bulman, associate professor of geography at Portland State University, will present three separate lectures today regarding water issues in the final day of Western's Geography Awareness Week.

At 10 a.m. in Parks Hall 228 Bulman will present, "The Geography of Water Law: The Legacy of Climate, Kings and 49ers."

At noon in Environmental Studies 418, she will host an informal discussion about "Water Management in Africa and Geographic Literacy Throughout the United States: Forming Geographic Alliances at the K-12 Level."

From 1-3 p.m. in Environmental Studies 534, Bulman will present a discussion of the Thames River flood management, with some speculations on implications for the Pacific Northwest, entitled, "The Flood Defense of London: Eighth Wonder of the World or Stop Gap?"

These free lectures are open to the public. For more information contact Gigi Berardi at 650-3285.

### Party on campus provides students with free drinks

From noon to 2 p.m. Nov. 24, non-alcoholic drinks will be available to students at a Mocktail Party in the Viking Union Main Lounge.

This free event is sponsored by the Drug Information Center and Lifestyle Advising. For more information, call 650-6116.

### Health Center offers free HIV antibody testing

Western students can make appointments for free HIV-antibody testing at Student Health Center.

To ensure anonymity, a blood specimen will be labeled with an

identifying number only. Students can also be assigned to a peer HIV educator. The peer educators are student Lifestyle Advisors who specialize in HIV risk-prevention and have had extensive experience talking with students.

To make an appointment, call the center at 650-3400.

### Women to speak about Cambodian Holocaust

On Tuesday, Roen Sam and Sreytouch Ryser will share their personal experiences of triumph in the face of death in their presentation entitled, "Children of Cambodia's Killing Field."

The women are survivors of the Cambodian Holocaust. They will also be available to answer questions after the presentation. For more information, call 650-6804.

At 4 p.m. in Fraser Hall 4, Social Issues, an Associated Students organization, will sponsor the showing of the film "The Killing Fields." Admission is free.

### Workshop offered about 'date-rape drug'

Allison Bennett, from the Whatcom County Crisis Center, will be the guest speaker at a Tuesday workshop about the drug Rohypnol, otherwise known as the "date-rape drug."

The event, co-sponsored by the Drug Information Center and the Women's Center, will be at noon in Viking Addition 454.

Compiled by Laura Campbell

## 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

**SPRING QUARTER 1998 DEGREE APPLICANTS:** All students who expect to graduate at the close of spring quarter 1998 must have a degree application on file in the Registrar's Office, Old Main 230, by December 5.

**MATH PLACEMENT TEST:** Registration is not required. Students must bring picture identification and a No. 2 pencil. A \$10 fee is payable in the exact amount at time of testing. Allow 90 minutes. Testing will be at 9 a.m. in OM 120 on November 24 and December 1, 4, 8 and 11.

**LOT RESERVATIONS.** • Lots 17G and 31G will be reserved beginning at 5 p.m. Nov. 21, 22 and 25 for those attending Western basketball games. A shuttle also will run from lot 26C from 6 to 9 p.m. on those dates. Lot 19G will be reserved for faculty, staff and students who are not attending the events. • Lots 6G, 9V and 11G will be reserved starting at 5 p.m. Nov. 22 for those attending the 10th International Festival. • Lot 11G will be reserved beginning at 7 a.m. Nov. 23 for those attending a Faculty Club meeting. Permit holders may leave vehicles parked in reserved lots for work-related purposes.

**THE TEST FOR ENTRANCE INTO TEACHER EDUCATION (TETEP)** will be in FR 3 at 2 p.m. Dec. 2. Registration is required in OM 120. A fee of \$20 is payable in the exact amount at time of registration. The test takes about 2½ hours. TETEP is not administered on an individual basis.

**MILLER ANALOGIES TEST:** Registration is required in OM 120 or by calling X/3080. A \$35 fee is payable at the time of testing. The test will be administered at 2 p.m. Dec. 15 in FR 2.

### On-campus recruiting

Graduating seniors and alumni must be registered with Career Services to participate in on-campus interviews. Registration packets are available in OM 280. Placement files are optional for all but education candidates. There is no charge of 1997-98 graduates; alumni must pay a \$30 fee. Sign up for interviews in the Career Services Center, OM 280. See the Career Services library for additional information about many of the companies.

• **U.S. Capital Strategies**, Monday, Dec. 1. See employer file in Career Services library. Submit résumé and sign up for interview in OM 280.

• **Battle Ground Public Schools**, Wednesday, December 10. Interviews for two special education teaching positions. Requires completion of program by end of fall quarter. Submit résumé and sign up for appointment in OM 280.

• **The Boeing Company**, Wednesday, December 10. Intern preselect deadline. Submit cover letter addressed to the Boeing Business Intern Program. Opportunities are for summer internships for juniors and non-graduating seniors with business-related majors. Desired minimum GPA is 3.3. Submit cover letter and résumé by December 10. Interviews will take place winter quarter.

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# Strange Days

The Western Front takes a look at the weirder side of the news

## Rules for politically correct fashion

According to Derrill Osborn, Neiman Marcus' director of men's clothing, "Civilized gentlemen don't wear short-sleeved dress shirts."

Osborn addressed this fashion issue at a management meeting. Those who spoke up accused Osborn of a brand-new political incorrectness: "sleevisism."

## Watch out for canine racism

Members of the Pit Bull Terrier Club in West Palm Beach, Fla., received notices that some insurance companies would not renew their homeowner's policies because the Pit Bull Terrier breed of dog was responsible for a large and increasing number of liability claims. Linda Kender, a club officer, called such insurance stereotyping "dog racism."

## Code of conduct allows tongue rings

The Dutch Federation for Military Personnel Union, which won the right 20 years ago for

soldiers to wear their hair long, announced that it would back a female recruit's desire to wear a tongue ring.

The union said the code of conduct bans jewelry on the head, not in the head.

## Hairballs sell for \$50 each

Mike Canchola of Sterling, Colo., is the proud owner of the world's largest cow hairball. In the course of his work at a local beef plant, Canchola plucked out a hairball 43.3 inches in diameter.

During his shifts at the beef plant, Canchola plucks out the non-championship material hairballs, dries them and then has a colleague paint faces or scenery on them. Canchola then sells them for \$50 each.

## Star Trek is a drug

Psychologist Sandy Wolfson told The Times of London that her research on fans of "Star Trek" reveals that as many as 10 percent meet the clinical definition of addict, especially when the viewers go through physical withdrawal during their show's

absence.

Like classic drug addicts, the fans seem to require ever-increasing doses to overcome their tolerance levels.

## TV show literally pays off

A Bangkok, Thailand hotel worker was convicted of stealing safety deposit boxes from guests. He did this by rubbing his nose oil on the buttons so he could check later to see which buttons had been pushed by the guest to open the safe. He said he learned the trick from watching the television show "MacGyver."

## Dopey Druggies

A couple was charged with distributing, cultivating, manufacturing and possessing marijuana after they accidentally dialed 911 instead of 411.

Two officers showed up at the house and after being let in they noticed Lorelei P. Leach move a cigar box and bong into the kitchen. The officers said there was a small amount of marijuana in the box, and Leach pointed to a kitchen cupboard that contained more.

## Emulating the good ol' boys

A 27-year-old man driving a stolen truck was caught by sheriff's deputies in Salt Lake City, Utah, but similar to situations seen in the television show, "The Dukes of Hazard," he escaped from one deputy by vaulting over a backyard swimming pool while the squad car went straight in, lights flashing.

## Bungling Burglar

LONDON (11-05) - During an attempt to rob a post office of \$15,000 with a fake gun, Mark Cason, 29, forgot to wear his mask, couldn't open the safe door by himself and got two children to open the outside door for him because the money bag was too heavy. The kids wrote down Canon's plate number since he was stuck in slow traffic.

Canon escaped to the Bradbury Hall Country Club where he requested that the receptionist place the money in the vault and not tell the police he was there. After two days and a tab of \$4,500 on drinks, Cason was arrested by the police.

When they asked him what his occupation was, Cason responded: "I'm an armed robber." He received a five year jail sentence.

## The Egyptian wedding surprise

A young Egyptian man wooed his fiancée by asking for her hand in marriage, buying her jewelry and renting a love nest, only to discover on the wedding night — and after the ceremony — that he had married someone else.

What he found when he lifted the veil was an unattractive woman of 45, not the 18-year-old beauty that he had fallen in love with. The man fainted on the spot. Soon after the man regained his senses, he went to the police to file a complaint against his in-laws who had cheated him.

Compiled by Laura Campbell from Internet sources

## America's plagues inspire student's visual dialogue

By Jesse Kinsman  
The Western Front

The Fairhaven Auditorium was filled with art created by a student at Fairhaven, who gained inspiration for her collection from experiences in protest marches in Europe.

E'lan Dickerson presented her collection of art Wednesday night. The collection was entitled "A Visual Dialogue of the American Plague," and was presented with a short slide show and speech.

Dickerson was involved in a protest march in Brugge, Belgium while she was traveling through Europe. The march, which was started by students of a nursing school, was a statement about the safety and health of society. This experience sparked Dickerson to ask questions about the social health of America.

Her display of artwork was inspired through this process of questioning. The work was a collection of different photos taken by Dickerson, ads she had clipped out of magazines and other miscellaneous graphic images. These pieces were put together to form collages full of color and deep meanings, Dickerson said.

An interactive piece displayed was composed of blocks with the words harmony, variety, balance, repetition, dominance and economy written on them.

The person stacking shows how they perceive the world by the order in which they stack the blocks. If the blocks are arranged with economy on the bottom, then this is her representation of how the world is presently. When Dickerson arranges the world in how she thinks it

should be, harmony is on the bottom and everything else is stacked upon that.

"This exhibition is a commentary on the politics of humanity, technology and change," Dickerson said. "More than that this art represents the ability to respond and communicate beyond dogmatic oppressors."

Several people showed up to take a look at this form of expression.

"It seemed confusing, or maybe just coming from a confused mind. It does not surprise me that it is confusing because society is a confusing mess right now," Ned Eckhardt, a visitor at the exhibit, said.

Many people thought the way Dickerson expressed herself added power to her message.

"She addresses political problems in an abstract way, but she does expose America for what it is," said Jen Butterfly, an art and Fairhaven student. "The abstract form she uses makes it more powerful; you can piece it all together and figure out what is going on."

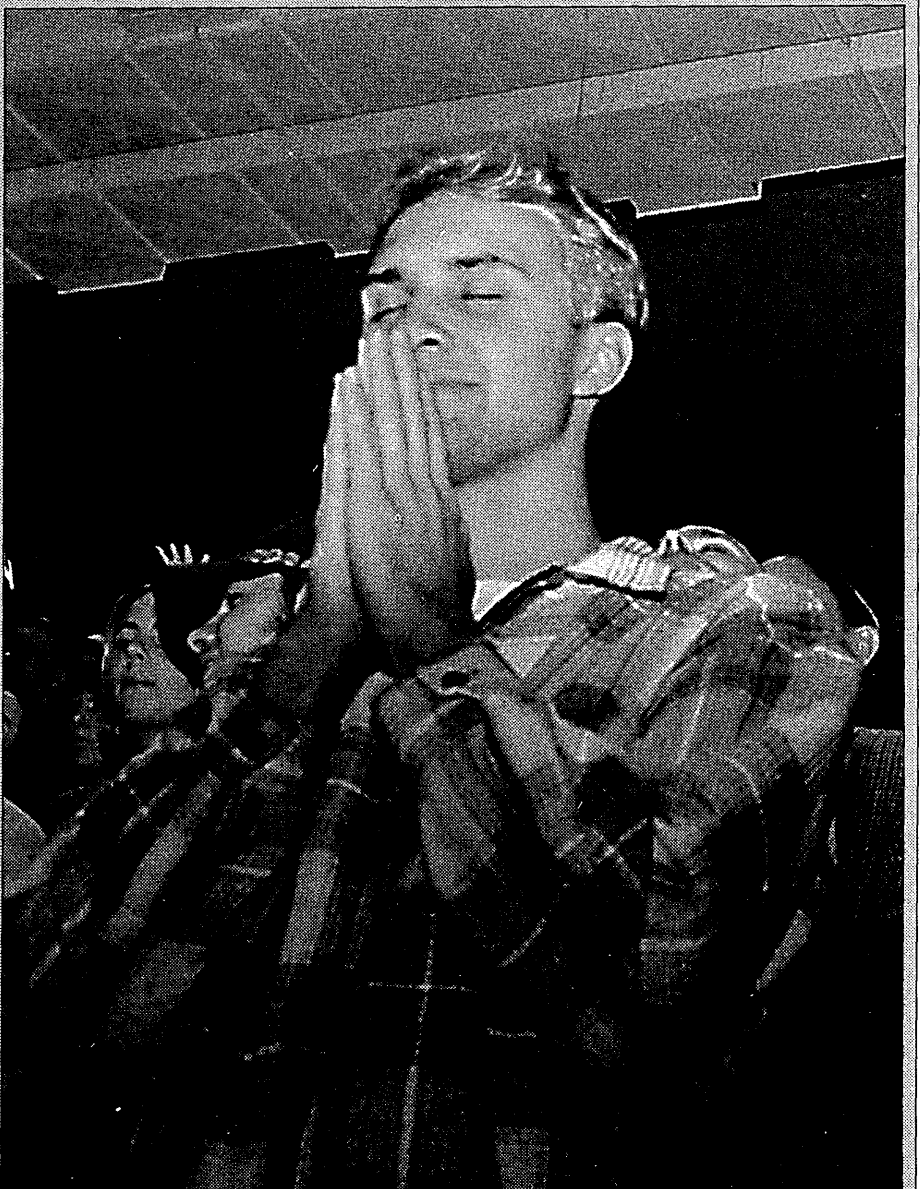
A few of the visitors were not sure what her work was trying to convey.

"I am curious as to what she is trying to say," Kristin Corning said. "I am sure it will all come together."

"I didn't want to just frame my pictures," Dickerson said. "The frames show what I was thinking about when taking those pictures."

"(The society we live in) is an imperfect society. There are things that need to change, and this is what I try to say in my work," Dickerson said. "Hopefully, it will draw questions and concerns from the people who look at it."

## Many Western students gather in prayer, worship



Front/ Arvid Hokanson  
Derek Archer, who spoke at the Gathering last night in Carver Gym.

# Mathes recovering from Monday fire

By David Plakos  
The Western Front

Students are recouperating from Monday's fire in Mathes Hall, and the administration said they are it's top priority.

"When this kind of emergency occurs, the university's primary emphasis is service to the students," said Eileen Coughlin, vice president for Student Affairs and

dean for Academic Support Services.

Coughlin is heading the emergency team responsible for handling the ordeal.

"I think our staff has just done a wonderful job," Coughlin said. "I have nothing but praise for them."

In order to assist students who lost personal items in the fire, the university is hiring an insurance specialist who will help those

with homeowners' or renters' insurance with their claims and work with those without insurance to reestablish themselves.

Students who do have insurance will be working with the specialist to correctly document their claims so they can be reimbursed.

"We will be working with this on a case-by-case basis," Coughlin said. "If there is a

deductible, we will cover the deductible."

Although the housing agreement with students states "students are expected to carry their own insurance on personal property," Western is going to provide the assistance.

Coughlin also said most other colleges don't follow this model.

"We believe this is the right thing to do," she said.

Currently 57 residents from Mathes are displaced, the majority of them at Fairhaven dorms. It is estimated they will remain until the first of the year, while damages to Mathes are repaired.

Robert Schmidt, manager of construction and architect for the Physical Plant department, said, "There was no structural damage. It's mostly smoke damage. The building is safe."

Gayle Shipley, director of Environmental Health and Safety, said the university is currently examining the air quality of the building.

"We've gotten air monitoring done," Shipley said. "It's mostly the level of nuisance smell."

Coughlin added, "There's not a health risk."

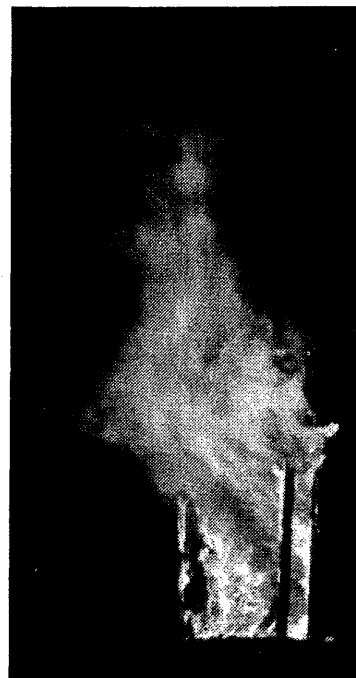
Western is currently providing items such as toiletries, meals, bedding, towels, alarm clocks, soap and laundry tokens to the displaced students. The university is also providing such services as re-routed phone access, dry cleaning, ozone treatment for clothes, packing material and cleaning items.

Fire officials have blamed the fire on a clip-on lamp in room 814 in Mathes, but Western isn't blaming anyone for the source of the fire.

"We're not holding the students liable," Coughlin said. "Our role is to help people out."

Fire officials also sang the praises of the Mathes Hall's staff.

Don Beattie, battalion chief at the Bellingham Fire Department, stressed how much easier the staff made the situation by already having residents accounted for when the fire department asked for a head count.



Courtesy Jon Martinez  
Flames licked out of Mathes room where the fire began.

Beattie was especially impressed when a head count was requested and given in a matter of minutes.

"If there's one thing that went really well, it was the evacuation and accountability," Beattie said. "(Students) were already in Nash Hall."

One problem with the fire was that the women in the room of the fire's origin couldn't get a fire extinguisher out of its casing.

Beattie said the style of cabinet may have been at fault.

"It's not your standard fire extinguisher cabinet," he said. "It looks as though it may have been a hose cabinet," he said.

A Mathes Fire Relief Fund has been established and is being administered by Western's fundraising department, The Western Foundation.

Donations may be brought to the Plaza Cashier and the University Residences Cashier (in Edens South), from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Cash or checks will be accepted.

Donations may be mailed to Mathes Fire Relief, University Residences Cashier, Mail Stop 9195, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA 98225-9195.



Front/Stuart Martin

Kristine Inaba, a freshman Mathes resident, packs her possessions for her move to Fairhaven, where she will live until after winter break. Inaba's bed is next to the wall where the fire began.

## Bikes, from page 1

resulting in an injury could leave the university open to the possibility of a lawsuit.

Carl Root, planner for parking and transportation, said a school in California was sued when a pedestrian was killed after a collision with a biker.

Another option the Bicycle Task Force is exploring is putting in such things as more bike racks as well as covered racks, guarded racks and bike paths.

Pierce said bike paths are part of the master plan, and administration is currently looking at obtaining funds for covered bike racks.

Brownlow, however, is doubtful about the possibility of bike paths.

"As the campus stands now, I don't see bike paths because of space," Brownlow said. "Student enrollment has been going up every year, and as student enrollment increases, space decreases."

The current policy is a compromise between students and the Central Health and Safety Committee, which had recommended last spring that a bikes be banned.

Rudi Wiess, a foreign lan-

guage professor and member of the bicycle committee, said the ban was recommended to protect pedestrians from accidents. He calls the current bike policy "short-lived" and a "stop-gap measure."

He said the need for people to ride their bikes during school hours is a matter of convenience.

"It's just a few bikers who don't want to get their seat out of the saddle," Wiess said.

Wiess does agree, however, that bike paths would solve the problem.

Brownlow said she is worried students and riders won't get involved and the policy could get changed.

"If we don't get student input, the decision on the bike policy could go either way," Brownlow said.

Root said bikes are something they want to encourage as an alternative to cars, but the policies need to be safe for pedestrians.

Brownlow, Pierce and Root all agree that the incentive programs, with campus bike police handing out coupons for free coffee to riders who complied with the dismount zones, worked very well.

"We will continue the incentive program at the beginning of winter quarter," Pierce said. "We also want to encourage Marriott, the Outdoor Center and other campus services to donate their services to help us with the program."

One concern expressed by Brownlow and Root, was the lack of monitoring of bicycle riders by police. Brownlow said she is worried that the figures on compliance were not valid because there has been no real effort to enforce the policy.

Root expressed the same concerns and added that after the first three weeks of the quarter, police enforcement has drastically declined.

Brownlow said the AS and the transportation office are going to mount an awareness campaign starting at the end of winter quarter to make sure that students know the current bike policy.

As well as the awareness campaign, Brownlow and Root are organizing the Student Advisory Bicycle Coalition in order to get student input. They would like interested people to call Root at 650-3553 or Brownlow at 650-2814.



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THE BELLINGHAM HERALD  
What you read to know



# Reproductive rights information draws few

By Jill Frewing  
The Western Front

With disappointed smiles and positive attitudes, the sponsors of Reproductive Rights Information Night clearly were trying to make the best out of the low turnout.

"It would seem the topics most important to students would bring the largest number of students," Julia Dunham, coordinator for the Legal Information Center said. "But that's not necessarily true."

About eight people attended Reproductive Rights Information Night, an informational fair about issues surrounding reproduction, including Roe vs. Wade, women's health, adoption, abortion, gay and lesbian parenting rights, family planning and birth control.

Andrea Bressler, coordinator for the Drug Information Center, said she wanted to present current information about the drugs RU-486 and Rohypnol — two that are still pending Food and Drug Administration approval.

"There was a serious controversy about these for a while," Bressler said.

She said the low turnout could have been because of the nature of the information night and that people feel reproductive rights are an uncomfortable, difficult subject to approach.

Christa Orth, co-coordinator of the Women's Center, said the groups had been planning the information night throughout the quarter.

"It's a big issue," she said. "Every person has some sort of interest in reproductive rights. It's too bad more people didn't show up."

The fair was sponsored by the Sexual

Awareness Center, DIC, National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League Club, the LIC, Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Alliance, the Women's Center and Planned Parenthood. Representatives from each group provided brochures, pamphlets and stickers on issues from pelvic exams to legislative updates on abortion issues.

Kerri Sanchez, coordinator for the SAC, said the center's slogan this year is sex-positive programming and they wanted to present topics not generally addressed, such as masturbation and pelvic exams.

"They are definitely a part of college life," Sanchez said.

When asked about the low turnout, Sanchez said she thought that it meant people didn't understand all of the resources available at the fair.

Maura Donoghue, a NARAL representative from Seattle, said she wanted to inform people about abortion and their rights.

"Our goal is to use the political process so that everyone has access to a safe and legal abortion," she said.

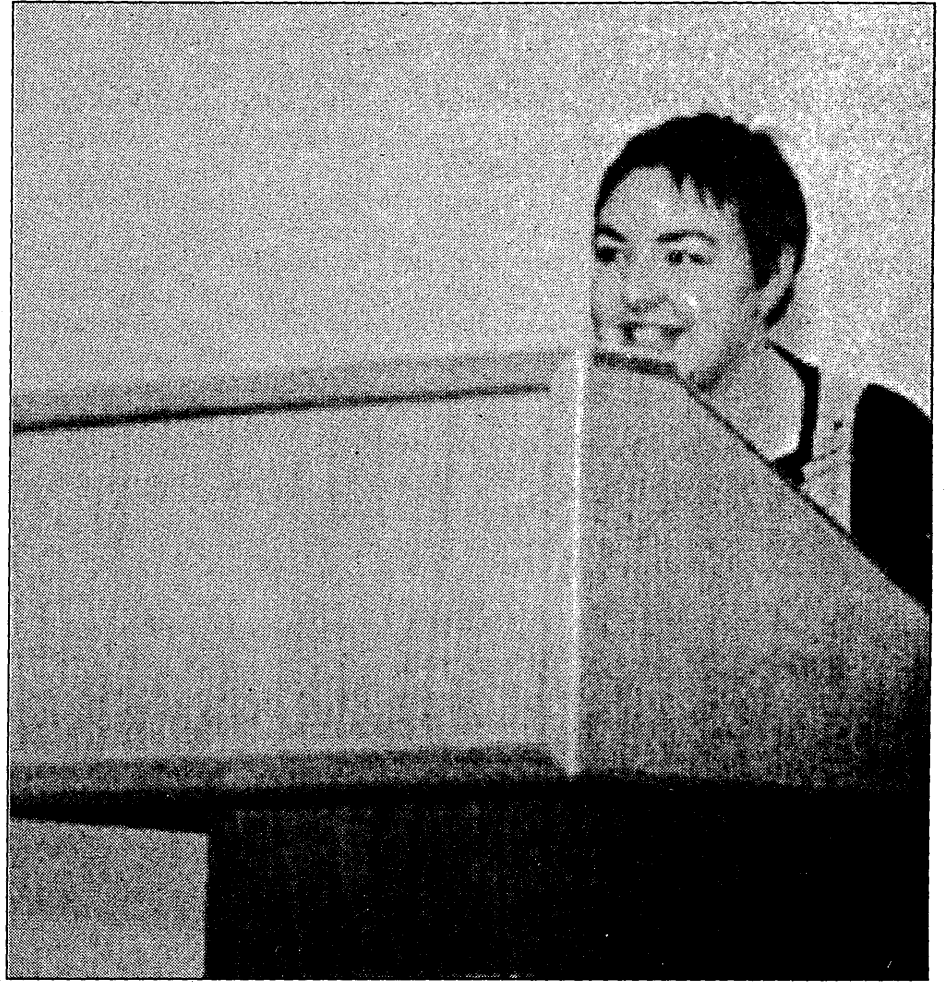
Donoghue said one of the two main issues facing the state legislature is a ban on late-term abortion.

"They are taking away the medical decision from doctors," she said.

The second issue Donoghue said is being threatened is the law allowing minors the right to have an abortion, buy contraception or be tested for sexually transmitted diseases in Washington without parental permission.

"They are trying to give parents control over the girls' lives," she said.

Student Erika Fjeld said she attended the information fair because every woman



Front/Arvid Hokanson

Christa Orth speaks to an empty audience last night.

should be able to make their own choices about reproductive rights.

"It's important that we get to choose when we decide we want to be parents," Fjeld said.

Laura Shelton, a naturopathic doctor in Bellingham, said she came to Reproductive

Rights Information Night to inform people about family planning and naturopathic medicine — but she ended up learning herself.

"I've learned a lot here in a half-hour," Shelton said. "I think people are still a little embarrassed about this issue, though."

## Expert talks about neighbors' environmental disputes

By Todd Wanke  
The Western Front

Tom Geiger, the outreach director for the Washington Environmental Council, spoke Wednesday night at Western to inform people about Washington land owners whose property was damaged because of irresponsible land use by their neighbors.

The slide show presentation, entitled "Neighbors' Property Rights," highlighted four individual cases documented by Geiger and the WEC.

Besides showing examples of environmental devastation done

to private property, Geiger explained what people can do to inform themselves about taking care of their land.

"This is a long-fought battle, and we have to protect what we've got," Geiger said. "We need to inform ourselves about issues taking place in our own community, so we can plan for action, instead of just letting things happen."

"Organizations, such as the Whatcom Watch, are ways for us as citizens to be aware of what is happening in our own back yard," he said.

One incident, which Geiger

highlighted, took place in Drayton Harbor, outside of Blaine.

Geiger showed slides of a shellfish spawning ground set up by Blaine resident Geoff Menzies in 1992.

Menzies and his business partner had 30 acres of tideland set up specifically for oysters, which they planned to harvest in 1995. The harvest never took place.

"In 1995 a sewer line broke, causing one million gallons of raw sewage to be dumped into Drayton Harbor. This incident cost Menzies his business, as well as the use of public beaches for Blaine residents due to contaminated beaches," Geiger said.

Geiger said between 1992 and 1995, 15 other incidents took place in Drayton Harbor that caused raw sewage to be pumped into the harbor.

"When you have a large number of septic systems and sewer lines which haven't been modified for years and then you get an excessive amount of rainfall, all of a sudden you have a problem," Geiger said. "You're faced with the choice of either backing up the sewage into residents' homes or dumping it into the harbor. It's not too hard to figure out what will happen."

Geiger said problematic land use in the Drayton Harbor area has led to a large amounts of ero-

sion run-off, as well as the destruction of wetlands.

"This contributes to rainfall not being absorbed and thus you have contaminated beaches."

"People need to be aware of the laws that are set up for their benefit," Geiger said. "The Clean Water Act, established in 1972,

*We need to call on our government, and hold them accountable for the issues that are affecting our quality of life.*

—Tom Geiger,  
outreach director for the  
Washington Environmental  
Council

protects water from pollution and directs state and local agencies to enforce water quality standards."

An incident in Mason County involved the flooding of many residents' homes along the Skokomish River.

"Clearcutting and the effect of failing logging roads has led to flooding in recent years of tremendous proportions," Geiger said. "Residents who had experienced little or no flooding in the past are now faced with three feet of standing water in their living rooms."

"Solutions to these problems don't come easy, since the damage is done, but modifications need to be made in the area of clearcutting and maintaining

these logging roads," Geiger said.

Geiger noted that some restoration has taken place within the Skokomish Native American reservation, because of a grant from The Grateful Dead.

Besides highlighting property owners' rights, Geiger spoke about issues that affect the public as a whole, such as salmon restoration and transportation solutions.

"If people are presented with a proper solution to transportation, they will respond. In areas such as Boston, a car is more of a liability," Geiger said.

Geiger said salmon restoration is the most important environmental issue today.

"Every area where there's water will be impacted by laws to regulate a recovery for salmon. This is another example of a crisis becoming an opportunity to finally deal with the issue of recovering salmon," Geiger said.

"Basically, our grandchildren will grade us on whether or not we fail with salmon. In the future, there'll either be salmon in our waters, or there won't," Geiger said.

After the presentation, Geiger stressed how important it is for people in the community to have their voices heard.

"We need to call on our government," Geiger said, "and hold them accountable to the issues that are affecting our quality of life."

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# Good times roll with Ray Charles' music

By Heather Romano  
The Western Front

Western professor Chuck Israels will "Let the Good Times Roll" tonight in a free jazz performance at 8 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center. Featuring the music of Ray Charles, Israels and his daughter Jessica directed the piece together.

People will likely recognize the music of Ray Charles. Especially the song "The Right Time," which was featured on the Cosby Show in an episode when the children performed a skit for their grandparents' wedding anniversary.

"It is the big-band sound of the '50s. Then on top of it is the singers, who put in their own version of (Charles') voice," said dancer Kathy Pottratz. "It's popish, swingin'."

"It is completely irresistible for anybody," said soloist and co-director Jessica Israels.

"It's a project Dad and I did together," she said.

Three dancers, 15 singers (including 9 soloists) and a big band of about 15 will take to the stage.

"What I think is really cool is getting all these departments together. So many people are in their own boxed-up world," Jessica Israels said.

"When you get them together, really great things happen," Jessica Israels said. "I think it is what the school needs more of — to integrate."

Other popular songs in the performance include, "Lonely Avenue," "I Got a Woman" and "Don't You Know."

"One song, 'Real Fine Chick,' is playful," Pottratz said. "It is

about a guy that sees this hot chick and thinks she should be his."

She said the plots are really simple; there is not really a deep meaning behind the songs. They are about everyday life.

"Ray Charles has given us so much. He has been recording for 50 years and he is still great," the younger Israels said.

Charles had a difficult childhood. When he was five, he watched his younger brother drown in a washtub. He became blind at the age of six. His father was not around and his mother died when he was 15.

"It is very upbeat (music), even if it is at a tragic song," Pottratz said.

"They are the type of tunes that get stuck in your head," she said.

"He gives us nothing but joy, no matter what he sings," Jessica Israels said. "This has been so much fun, we are having a great time."

Special guest and friend of the family Steve Brown will play the guitar. Brown is a professor at Ithica College in New York.

"It all sort of escalated," Jessica Israels said.

Chuck Israels received 12 arranged songs by Charles from another former band member, David Berger.

"(Berger) is not a famous guy, but he is in the jazz world," she said.

Music must be arranged for each specific band. Before Berger arranged music by Duke Ellington, only a few people in the world did that, she said.

Berger provided arrangements of 12 Ray Charles songs for the band, and both Israels fel it was appropriate to have them in a sin-

gle performance.

The Israels listened to other music from the era and then chose 20 songs for their performance. The performance is not as long as it sounds; each song is only about two to three minutes, the co-director said.

"It is a major ordeal for us," she said. "Dad arranged the new songs, taking about three days each."

She organized the singers' vocals, but she gives the most credit to her father. "That's a lot of work," she said.

The father-daughter team did a similar project together last year, "Evening of Jazz and Theater." Last year the Israels took a big-band sound and made it into a theatrical piece with core lighting.

"It was really a success, people really got into it," the co-director said. "That's why I think people will really like this."

Most solos are sung by Brandon Kuwada.

"He rose himself into (the music) 100 percent. No holding back it's what this music needs," she said. "That's what it is all about."

"It is very energetic and lively. Brandon is so talented, it is very easy to respond to his abilities," Pottratz said.

Jessica Israels, singing the words from Charles said, "It don't matter if you're young or old, come on babe, let the good times roll!"



Front/Barney Benedictson  
Chuck Israels prepares his jazz band for tonight's 8 p.m. performance of "Let the Good Times Roll," a compilation of Ray Charles songs..

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## Murray, from page 1

democracy to grow," Murray said.

Murray was also asked about "Section 110," a provision in an immigration bill which was passed two years ago. It would require anyone crossing the border into the United States to fill out paperwork and would create "a bureaucratic nightmare," Murray said.

Murray said she introduced legislation to repeal "Section 110" and when it was introduced, it was unopposed. She said when it went to committee, Senator Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., objected and said it would open up the borders for drug dealers. Murray said that had never been a problem before, but Feinstein rallied enough votes to create a fight about the issue.

"There's going to be a battle," Murray said.

In addition to her visit to campus, Murray visited the Bellingham YWCA. She was supposed to tour the construction site of Dorothy Place, a home for battered women and children, which is currently under construction. The tour was canceled because bad weather.

Murray spoke about legislation that has affected battered women and children and also talked about what the recent welfare reforms mean to single women and their children.

She was at home speaking to a crowd that included Bellingham Mayor Mark Asmundson, City Councilman and Opportunity Council Chair Bob Hall and members of different groups and services including the Opportunity Council, Catholic Community Services and the Department of Social and Health Services.

The speech started off with her speaking about the current state of Congress. She related her difficulties in trying to pass the Family Violence Bill. The bill would grant money to women who left abusive situations so they could get their lives into order or get into a shelter.

She said that she attached it to three different bills and in a voice vote, the bill passed 100-0. However, when it went into committee, the bill was quietly killed all three times. She said that she got so furious by the third time, she brought it up again and

demanding a roll call vote, which passed 99-1.

She drew laughter when she revealed that the lone dissenter was Senator Jesse Helms, R-N.C., a notorious conservative.

However, she said the bill once again got killed in committee. She said that is a good example of the mindset of the current Congress.

Murray also spoke about the implications of welfare reform for single mothers. She said one of the major holes in the reform is the lack of funding for child care.

"It's scary to me that we will send people to work, but not give them a place to get affordable child care," Murray said.

Asmundson agreed and said people will have to start waking up to the problems facing poor mothers.

"This is our problem, not your problem, or his problem, or her problem," Asmundson said.

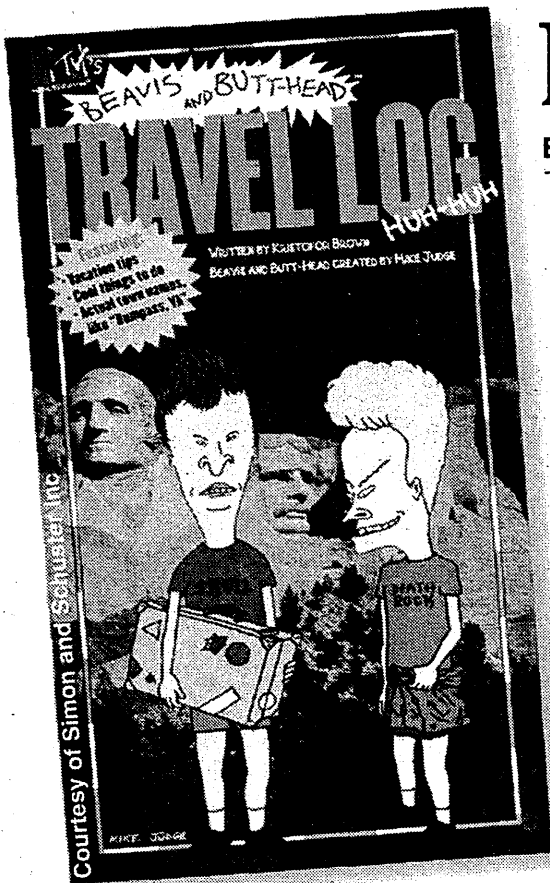
Murray also praised Dorothy Place and the community funds donated to the shelter.

"I've seen shelters and they all struggle," Murray said. "What's impressive is the array of community support."



# Beavis, Butthead in Intercourse

By Arvid Hokanson  
The Western Front



Beavis and Butthead, once accused of inspiring a toddler to light a house on fire and degrading our society, have once again sunk even lower — but in a lavish style — to give a travel guide to our great nation.

"The Beavis and Butthead Travel Log," written by Kristofor Brown, presents a fresh, but vulgar, view of our national monuments, important figures and hip cities.

I was skeptical of the book at first, but after leaving it on my coffee table for a week and hearing nothing but outrageous laughter from readers, I knew it fit right in with our other selections of National Geographic,

Harper's, Powder and the Economist.

The book features the usual helpful travel-book tips found in a Fodors or American Automobile Association guide. It's just that the book lists humorous town names from each state, such as Intercourse, "Pensylvania" and Fisty, Ky., in addition to giving slightly different descriptions of each state.

Apparently, Beavis and Butthead failed English 101, as almost every state name is misspelled, such as Iduho and Louisianuh.

Beavis and Butthead describe Washington as a place where a guy, Bill Gates, named computer stuff Microsoft, which means small and "not hard."

Our state motto, "By-and-by," translates to "See Ya Later."

"Arkansaw's" motto, "The People Rule," translates to "The Peep-Hole Rules."

The description of Oregon, however, is much better than Washington, as Butthead wrote, "Very little is known about Oregon." "Yeah, heh-heh. Heh-heh," Beavis agreed.

"But um, Wankers Corner is there," Butthead said.

Besides the city and state descriptions, a brief summary of Canadian residents states, "Canaduh" dudes talk funny, huh huh. It's like, they always end sentences with "heh, huh huh."

Beavis and Butthead also recommend visiting celebrities like Jack Kevorkian, Kramer and Chelsea Clinton.

They do provide important travel tips, which advise readers to avoid cabins, cemeteries, alleys, the ocean and apartments of older men, "cuz, like, if you watch movies, people are always getting killed in these places."

They recommend eating at restaurants that have a one-star rating — they tend to be the least busy.

The Beavis and Butthead travel log, heavy on the humor and lacking any seriousness would compliment any 'real' travel guide on a trip. Even better, it would fit nicely on, or near, any toilet.

## Review

### The Man Who Knew Too Little

By JJ Jensen  
The Western Front



#### MOVIE REVIEW

Unfortunately for all Bill Murray fans, "The Man Who Knew Too Little" is the next in a string of half-hearted, Murray comedies such as "Larger Than Life," "Kingpin" and "Groundhog's Day." It's difficult to watch Murray's star fading, but he just doesn't deliver the comedic genius he once did in the late '70s and early '80s, from his knee-slapping days on "Saturday Night Live" to the brilliance that is "Caddyshack" and "Stripes."

Murray's rapier wit and warped sense of humor carry him in most movies, but not in "The Man Who Knew Too Little." It's not all Murray's fault, though. The plot of this movie makes no sense and the supporting cast is

horrible — man, Murray really needs to make another movie with Chevy Chase or Dan Akroyd.

Murray plays the inept Wallace Ritchie, a video store employee from Des Moines, Iowa who is making a surprise visit to his banker brother, James (Peter Gallagher), in London. James is having an important dinner party with some international big wigs, so he does what anybody else would do: he sends Wallace to an evening at "The Theatre of Life," an interactive street theater.

Wallace's evening of intrigue is supposed to begin with a call at a phone booth, but Wallace accidentally receives a call for a real hit man. This could have been a real recipe for comedy with the right supporting cast or some cameos by other comedians, but the woman Wallace is sent to kill (Joanne Whalley) turns in a pathetic performance and the British actors in this film just aren't funny.

The whole joke of the movie is Wallace misunderstanding his situation. After a few scenes, it's hard to tolerate watching two people having a different conversation without realizing it.

Even as Wallace is chased by police, shot at and trips over dead bodies, he doesn't realize anything is wrong; he just thinks he's surrounded by some really good actors.

As Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels proved, being really dumb is funny, but in Murray's case, being only kind of dumb is only mediocre. For Murray to show his talent, he needs to do more.

While Wallace stumbles and bumbles through the mayhem and one kooky adventure after another, it's hard not to appreciate the innocence and simplicity Murray brings to the character. The sight of Bill Murray still makes me laugh, remembering the good ol' days of Murray trying to blow up a gopher or smoking "Bob-Marley-style" joints and making me want to give his movies a chance.

"The Man Who Knew Too Little" didn't deliver the belly laughs I hoped to receive, but for \$3 I can't complain much.

The highlight of the movie is watching Murray's Wallace perform a Russian dance which rivals Chevy Chase's Oktober Fest dance in "European Vacation" in terms of hilarity.

"The Man Who Knew Too Little" is showing at Sunset Cinemas. Take a younger sibling to the movie over the Thanksgiving or Christmas break if you have nothing better to do.

KEVIN SPACEY JOHN CUSACK

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# It's time for Hollywood to roll out the big guns

By Rachel Morrow  
Special to the Front

## BEST PICTURE



### "Boogie Nights" —

Three hours of sex, films with sex and violence that stems from the industry that puts out films about sex. Taking a look at the "darker" side of the lucrative opportunities in the pornography film business, "Boogie Nights" explores the innocence, youth and David Cassidy hairstyle of Mark Wahlberg's Dirk Diggler.

### "The Full Monty" —

The most surprising and deserving nomination for any category, this film about six laid-off steel workers from Sheffield, England who decide to put on their own strip show, will be the underdog favorite — a "Babe" for the '97 Oscars.



### The Ice Storm

### "The Ice Storm" —

Ang Lee's tale of angst and alternative ways of loving in pre-AIDS New England has garnered praise from the critics who really count. It also won Best Screenplay at the Cannes Film Festival. This film and "Boogie Nights" will turn the Oscars into a disco inferno.

## BEST ACTOR

### Kevin Spacey —

For his work in Eastwood's "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil," Spacey is one of the most versatile, mesmerizing and intense actors today. Any of his films will prove it. Like ARobert DeNiro before him, he has the ability to totally disappear inside his characters.



### Mark Wahlberg —

Word is that this guy can act — even before he did "Boogie Nights." Since its premiere last month, buzz on him and just about everyone associated with the film has been endless. The shocker would be if he wasn't nominated.



### Peter Fonda —

Henry's son, Jane's brother, Bridget's dad and former "Easy Rider," Pete won rave reviews and Oscar buzz for his portrayal as a beekeeper in "Ulee's Gold." Problem: Because the film came out so early this year, nobody remembers it. If the studio that produced the film can send out tapes to voters in time, he'll get the nomination.



It's the time of year when the word Oscar begins to get whispered on lips and bandied about on every hopeful that comes out of a studio. Before any Oscar specials begin to fill the airwaves, take a look at these picks. Even money says they'll be on many lists this year, including the Oscar nominations.

## BEST DIRECTOR



### Ang Lee —

He directed "The Ice Storm." He directed "Sense and Sensibility," (the Emma Thompson version) and didn't get nominated. A nomination this year will be Hollywood's apology for the mistake.

### Clint Eastwood —

Hollywood loves it when Clint shows his softer side and probably still feels bad about not nominating him for "The Bridges of Madison County" or the Charlie Parker biopic "Bird."



### Paul Thomas Anderson —

He directed "Boogie Nights" with only one previous film, the little-seen "Hard Eight," to his credit. Considered by many to be the thinking-person's Quentin Tarantino.

## BEST ACTRESS

### Sigourney Weaver —

Her work in "The Ice Storm" could go in either category, supporting or main actress. It also should be noted that she is reprising her role of Lt. Ellen Ripley in "Alien: Ressurrection," a part for which she has been nominated in the past.



### Jodie Foster —

In a disappointingly weak year for women's leading roles, Foster is a safe bet for her role in "Contact." Already the winner of two Oscars, she'll never win one again, but she's always a good standby when five names are needed to make the ballot list, and when neither Susan Sarandon, Meryl Streep or Diane Keaton make a movie all year.

### Joan Allen —

Hollywood has been torturing her for the past two years with supporting nominations for "Nixon" and "The Crucible." Back again in Ang Lee's "Ice Storm" and in John Woo's "Face/Off," Allen is slowly becoming a household name. Being in an acclaimed film doesn't hurt either.



## OTHER POSSIBLE NOMINATIONS

Other tight Oscar races include the battle of the Dalai Lamas. "Seven Years in Tibet" has an excellent chance because Hollywood loves an epic. However, Martin Scorsese will release "Kundun," his Tibetan-themed film, later this year. Anything by Scorsese is excellent, and as long as "Gimme Shelter" isn't booming from the Himalayas as Tibetans are being slaughtered, "Seven Years in Tibet" will be

left a distant memory for Oscar voters.

Other names being bandied about are the \$220 million epic, "Titanic," for best picture; Johnny Depp and Al Pacino for the gangster drama, "Donnie Brasco" as best actor possibilities and Burt Reynolds as best supporting actor for his portrayal of a porn film director in "Boogie Nights."



## Profile

# Brian Vassar

By Jesse Kinsman  
The Western Front

Brian Vassar, a senior in the Western art department, is not your average sculptor. His works are created through his experience in industrial fields.

"Being able to build things with different materials just makes it that much easier to say what you want to say in a sculpture," Vassar said.

His pieces have a beauty and a menacing quality to them. The themes are clear in some and fuzzy in others.

Vassar is now working on a project that uses beds to deal with the subject of sleep.

"Sleep is an issue in my life," Vassar said. "Because of homework, I do not get enough."

Vassar has been at Western for a year and a half and will be graduating in the spring with a bachelor's of Fine Arts.

Vassar said he believes his art is something that is a part of him. "Art is kind of like a super habit, something that is just embedded in you. You always have ideas of something new to make and it is satisfying," he said.

Vassar did not start working in three-dimensional media as soon as he started studying art. "Woodworking and ceramics got me interested in working with a three-dimensional format," he said.

After working in those formats, he decided he wanted to build with other materials, so he started studying three-dimensional design.

"I like working in all kinds of art, but in three-dimensional design you're not restricted to one form of media," he said.

Vassar said people who are looking into art should consider the vision of the starving artist. "People should make art because they have to, not because they want to make money or because they think it is easy," Vassar said.



Front/Stuart Martin

## Review

## Bellingham's Pop Rocks

By Tina Potter  
The Western Front

"I think pop music, particularly Bellingham pop music, has gotten a bad reputation for too long," said Brent Cole, drummer and manager for local popsters Five Gears In Reverse.

Five Gears In Reverse doesn't recoil from its pop music pedigree, instead wearing its pop savoir faire on its sleeve. This description accurately befits local pop outfits Section 43, Sharpie and Pinwheel, as all four are among the seventeen artists featured on a music compendium showcasing the best in local, unsigned artists — *Rock City*. On Nov. 15, *Rock City* was christened with a glossy, live performance by these bands at the Cosmos Cafe, 1717 N. State St.

Bellingham has been known for years as the garage and pop rock capital of the west. But some would contend that along with these seemingly auspicious labels has come an undertow of snide remarks and criticism of local pop music as contrived and ridiculously vapid. The original concept behind the *Rock City* release was to provide PR for local, fledgling bands who can't feasibly afford marketing their wares and ideally give bands exposure beyond Whatcom County.

Sire of the project, Cosmos' booking agent and former Western student Sean Spain, experienced the pangs of birthing a project that could have easily died before full gestation of the *Rock City* compilation. The project was beset with financial shortfalls, production woes and primadonna antics of some of the bands.

"(The *Rock City* Compact Disk) started over a year ago and was a very long process because generally, musicians are flaky and it took forever to get tapes from many of the bands that expressed interest," Spain said. "I'm really glad it's finally done and I think that it was done very well. But this is definitely not something I will do again. I regret that it took so long."

Spain has been on both sides of the music industry coin. As a musician, he commiserates with the bands that strive to get a show, even in one's own back yard. As a booking agent, Spain has gained insight into the business side of the art.

*Rock City* at least adequately illustrates the scope of music circulating in Whatcom County and typifies the "new wave" of emerging artists who are revitalizing a scene that has been stagnant in the last few years.

"Bellingham's music scene is getting its really cool vibe back, and the music is starting to be really good," Cole said. "It's getting fun to see local shows again and people are getting back into the music."

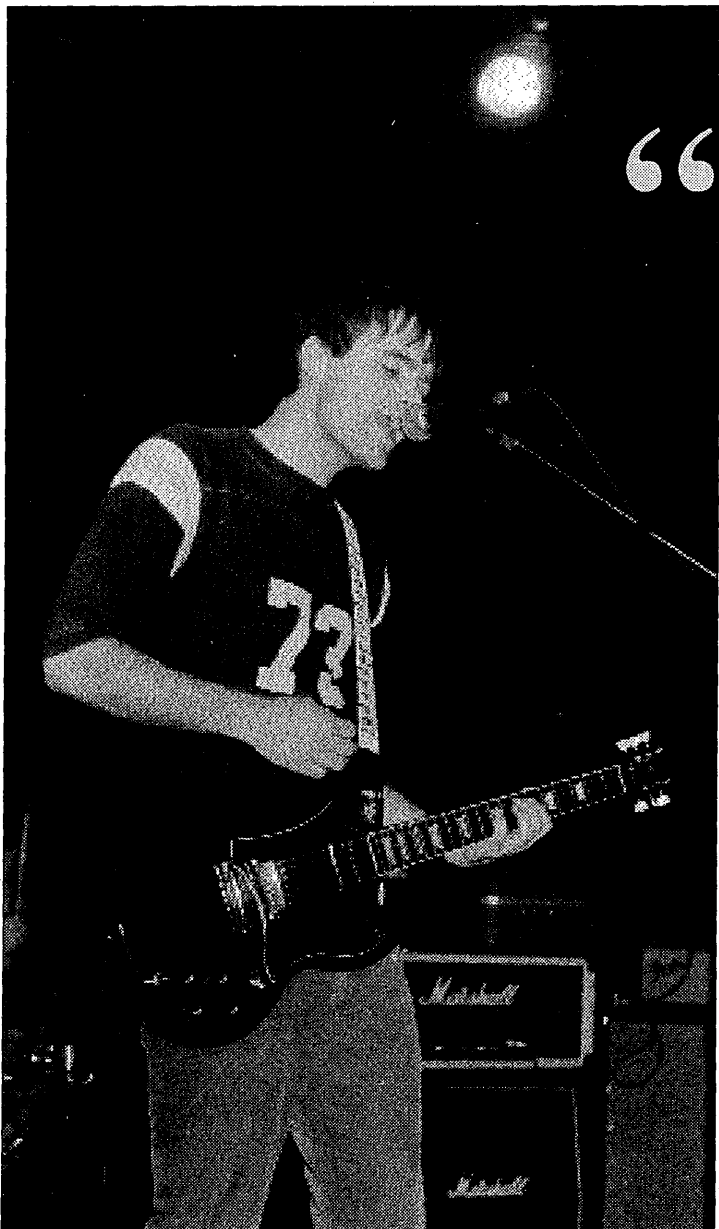
*Rock City* in part extols the virtues of some of Bellingham's more experimentally bent bands as music movers and shakers Roscoe P. Soultrain, Sourmash and Eureka Farm trip the pop fantastic.

The highlight of the festival was Five Gears in Reverse. Through heavy doses of snappy, fluid rhythms and interesting time changes, the band whipped the crowd into a pop nirvana that was purely sinful.

The lowlight was sufficiently provided by crowd favorites Section 43, who aren't a bad crew of musicians, deftly maneuvering jangly basslines and whipping, loungy percussion. But the frontman's latent Eddie Vedder mannerisms, trendy talk and straight-up posing was unbearable. Less rock-star posturing would help Section 43 broaden its unoriginal appeal.

The dwindling crowd shuffled restlessly for Sharpie and by the time Pinwheel assembled on stage only about two dozen people remained. But the band performed passionately, cutting through one pop ditty after another with aplomb. Pinwheel are remarkably refined musicians who make unapologetic pop music with abandon.

Through the *Rock City* compilation, these bands can uphold their vaunted pop godliness for others to revel in and to continue Bellingham's legacy as the undisputed, well, sort of, pop mecca.



Front/Barney Benedictson

Pinwheel's Ben Gibbard "la-la's" and "oo-ah's" his way through last Saturday's *Rock City* shindig.

# November not too early to prepare for 'Madness'



Mike Dashiell  
COMMENTARY

The leaves are floating down, but some sports fans only have one thing on their minds: **M a r c h Madness.**

The 1997-98 NCAA Division I men's basketball season is already underway.

Experts have picked the Arizona Wildcats to repeat as national champions, and it's hard to argue otherwise. With its eight top starters returning, other teams will be hard-pressed to knock off this PAC-10 team.

A handful of teams do have the talent to take down the 'Cats.

The Atlantic Coast Conference boasts several teams with firepower.

North Carolina will roll through their schedule with opponents, such as Middle Tennessee State and Appalachian State, that will be violated by the explosive Tar Heels.

The backcourt is secure, with Shammond Williams and point guard Ed Cota, who fell one assist shy of setting a single-season school record — as a freshman.

The only questions for North Carolina are at center and coach, where 60-year-old rookie coach Bill Guthridge will have to instruct freshman project Brendan Haywoode, who will probably struggle early.

Guthridge has the daunting task of filling Dean Smith's spot, but said, "I am following him, I'm not replacing him."

Look for North Carolina to be unstoppable as soon as Haywoode steps in line. The Tar Heels garnered Street & Smith magazine's pick as the squad to win the Final Four.

Duke and Clemson have also earned some looks this year.

Duke will likely give considerable time to four freshmen, two of whom (Elton Brand and Chris Burgess) put up good numbers in their senior high school years.

The Blue Devils return guards Steve Wojciechowski and Trajan Langdon and their frontcourt is adequate. Duke Coach Mike Krzyzewski has perhaps the deepest team in the country.

Clemson is loaded with seven juniors and 6-4 power forward Greg Buckner, but, like most of the ACC, will take its knocks against Duke and North Carolina, which they play each twice.

With the ACC so deep this year, one can expect contenders like Wake Forest (now Duncan-less), Virginia and Georgia Tech to have sub-par records.

Kansas, another pre-season

favorite, snagged two All-Americans in forwards Raef LaFrentz and Paul Pierce.

Roy Williams' Jayhawks will miss point guard Jacque Vaughn and center/forward Scot Pollard (now in the NBA), but should hang around the top six for most of the year.

As point guard Ryan Robertson puts it, "Offensively, we're pretty dangerous."

The Big East Six division will be ruled by Connecticut and St. John's.

Connecticut and sophomore guard Richard Hamilton will have no problem with a relatively light schedule — save a Dec. 23 meeting with Massachusetts.

St. John's will take off if it can harness the rocket that is Felipe Lopez. Lopez was highly recruited out of the New York City prep scene and averaged 16 points and seven boards last year, but hasn't fulfilled the hype surrounding him since early high school.

The Big East Seven contenders Syracuse and Georgetown are packed with blue chippers, but Orangemen coach Jim Boeheim and Hoya legend John Thompson will spend most of the season in the middle of the top 25.

up for being upset by Coppin State in last year's tournament.

Disappointments will include Indiana, Cincinnati, Arkansas, Vanderbilt, Wake Forest, Villanova, Georgia, Providence, Oklahoma and California.

Wake Forest can't replace Duncan; Villanova lost four starters.

Providence has lost God (guard God Shammgod was drafted into the NBA last year).

Indiana's Bob Knight returns to four sub-par starters that will be lost in a Big 10 conference with eleven teams.

Oklahoma will spend the season in mourning over losing do-it-all guard Nate Erdmann and will not recover.

Cincinnati will try to replace forward Danny Fortson with Ruben Patterson and it won't work.

California lost five players and two assistant coaches and has to play in the resurging PAC-10.

Georgia returns five starters but lost their coach.

Vanderbilt lost their leading scorer for the fourth consecutive year.

Arkansas is too small to compete with the big boys. Seven-foot freshman Jason Jennings is the only height in the lineup. Expect them to fold early.

As for the PAC-10, Arizona will rule. A pre-season all-American backcourt of Mike Bibby and Miles Simon should make sure of that.

UCLA, Stanford and an improving University of Washington team will battle for second place.

Washington has a bevy of young talent, and will need it to replace Mark Sanford and Jamie Booker, who accounted for 40 percent of the scoring and 37 percent of the rebounding for the Huskies last season.

As for March's Big Dance, keep an eye on the big teams (Kansas, Arizona, Duke, North Carolina and UCLA) and some smaller ones (Texas, South Carolina, Illinois State and Florida State).

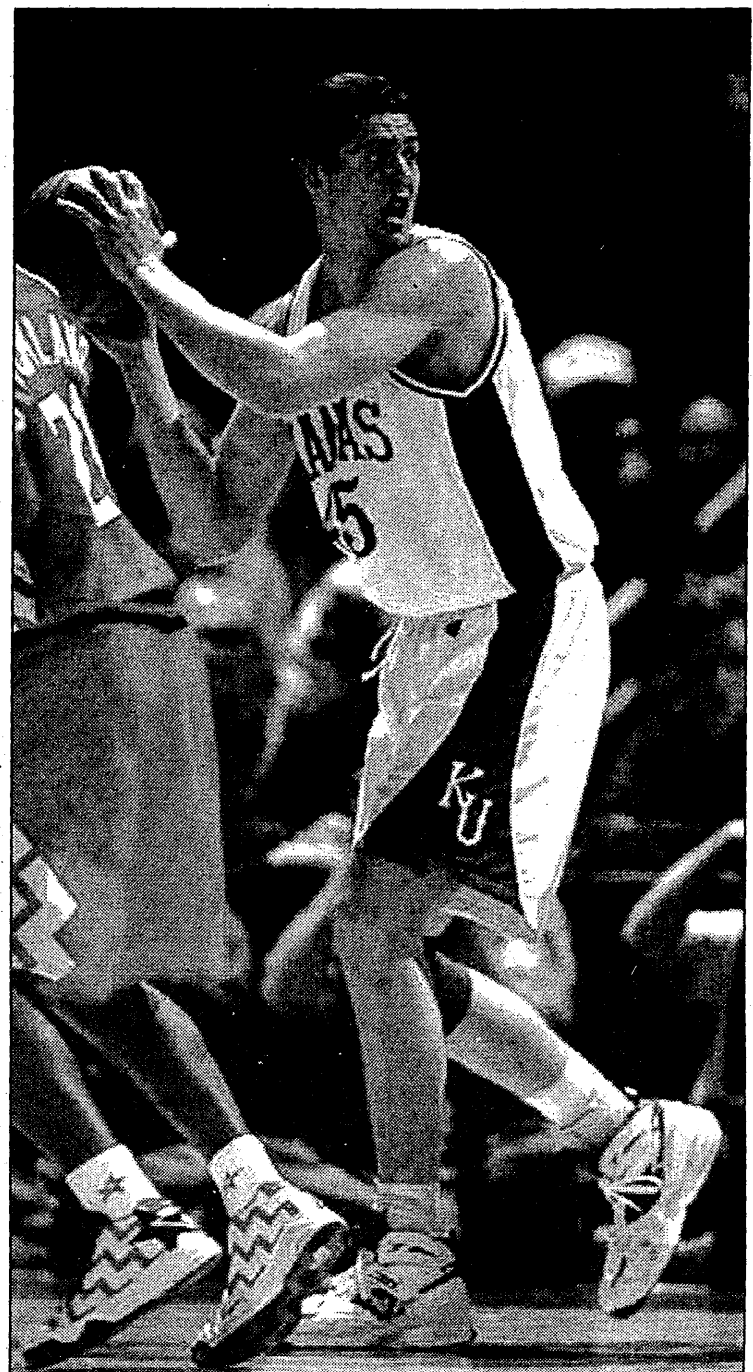
Of course, the Dance features great teams that get "stood up," usually by automatic-berth teams.

Upset-minded squads that have legitimate shots beating a Goliath include San Francisco, Jackson State, Austin Peay, Princeton, Boston, Ball State, Memphis and Old Dominion.

Only the big and strong schools will last this year, however, and I'm picking North Carolina, Arizona, Kansas and Duke to make it to the Final Four.

Although the Tar Heels, Blue Devils and Wildcats are dangerous, Kansas is my pick to claim the title they should have won last year.

Raef LaFrentz will not be denied again.



Courtesy of the Internet  
Forward Raef LaFrentz hopes to lead Kansas to the Big Dance.

*Washington has a bevy of young talent, and will need it to replace Mark Sanford and Jamie Booker, who accounted for 40 percent of the scoring... for the Huskies last season.*

After humiliating showings at the NCAA tournaments (1-6 in '95, 2-5 in '96), the Big 10 Conference put up some wins last year (7-6).

Of course, Minnesota was responsible for four wins alone, but who's counting?

Purdue and its fiery guard Chad Austin and five returning starters should win its 22nd Big 10 title.

Returning starters Robert Traylor and sharp-shooting Louis Bullock should make opponents quiver.

Then again, if you're Cleveland State, Towson State or Florida International (some of the Wolverine's foes), any decent Division I school should make you quiver.

Other not-so-big teams will make noise as well.

Texas could take down a powerhouse with a successful recruiting class and five players between 6-8 and 7-0.

South Carolina (24-8 last year — not exactly a dark horse) should build on last year's 12-game winning streak and defeat of Kentucky.

The Gamecocks will lead with all-SEC guards B.J. McKie and Melvin Watson and should make



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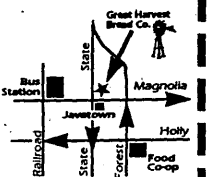
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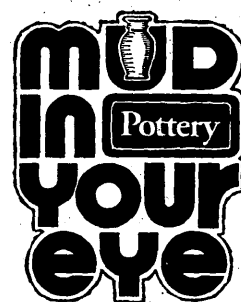
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# Mountain bikers challenge Galbriath

By Jesse Kinsman  
The Western Front

Heart-pounding downhills, breathtaking views and lung-bursting climbs are some of the sensations included in an average ride at Galbriath Mountain. This local mountain biking mecca offers something for riders who will put up with a little mud in their faces.

Galbriath Mountain is not your average over-run mountain bike park. Three things set it apart: it is accessible to people who live in town without cars, it provides a variety of terrain for any rider and it offers many trails you can explore for weeks.

Galbriath Mountain offers a variety of different trails the beginner or the expert will enjoy riding. Most of the trails are composed of clay and mud, which cater to the rider who loves the speed of eye-watering downhills. Other trails have a heavy covering of pine needles and other foliage. This surface is gentle enough for those riders who find themselves on the ground instead of on the bike.

The trails are beautiful this time of year. Most of them are covered in a gold and brown lining of shiny, damp maple leaves. As you ride on, trees encompass you like a canopy, creating the sensation of flying through a dark tunnel. The terrain includes gravel-covered logging roads and winding single tracks that are littered with protruding roots and slick rocks the size of small basketballs.

There are no marked trails, so be careful not to become disoriented. Galbriath is made up of numerous, interconnecting, short trails.

However, Steve Farrell, manager of

Fairhaven Bike and Ski, said, "You can't really get lost — it's not big enough. People have gotten lost before, mostly because it became dark while they were still out there."

"I definitely would not recommend it for the novice rider late in the evening," Farrell said.

The shorter trails form a network of trails all over the mountain. This can become confusing, but with time it becomes a convenience.

"You can make a ride as long as you want," Farrell said.

With these smaller trails it becomes easy to create a ride for the particular amount of time or energy you have.

"It's fun in that there is always a ride that you want for that day," Farrell said. The trails vary so much from one to the other.

"You can always walk out if the trail becomes too difficult. It is not so large that you have to finish the trail that you started," Farrell said.

The average ride at Galbriath is eight to 10 miles, or one to two hours long. Along the west side there are a lot of trails. This is a good area to start exploring, said Jason Hultman, trip leader for the Outdoor Center.

Toward the south side of the area, the trails start to fade away.

"There is great potential for that area, but there really is no need to start developing trails in that direction," Farrell said.

If you do not know the area, it would be a good idea to try to avoid riding in this direction.

Galbriath Mountain, sometimes called Lookout Mountain, is bordered on the north by Lakeway Drive, to the east by Lake Whatcom and to the south by Samish Drive.

The trails for Galbriath start at two points. One of the most common points is off Lakeway Drive on Birch Street. The other most common starting point is from Galbriath Lane off Samish Way.

Galbriath Mountain is a privately owned area that does not receive any regulation from the state or county. All the trails are either maintained by private individuals or privately organized work parties.

WIMPS riding club rides at Galbriath and organizes work parties to maintain its trails. The Outdoor Center conducts rides

at Galbriath quite frequently.

Galbriath is an area that needs to be treated with respect. The land is owned by logging companies, so access could be cut off very quickly.

Matt Menenberg, member of the WIMPS riding club, said the land owners around the area are not necessarily happy about the heavy use of the area.

"We're having a lot of problems with noise up there, a lot of the motorcycles are loud and it bothers the people who live close to the mountain," Menenberg said.

People who intend to use the trails are advised to be careful about parking on private property, making too much noise and leaving any kind of garbage behind.

"It is a sensitive area," said Christine Pacheco, trip leader for the Outdoor Center.

Be careful and use the area with caution, she urged.

"We are not sure how many more years we have up there," Menenberg said. "It depends on the logging companies. If we are responsible, it will be much easier to keep the area open."

Chuckanut Mountain is a very comparable area to ride, Menenberg said. Chuckanut is accessible all along Chuckanut Drive and some areas of Samish Drive.

The trails at Chuckanut are clearly marked and not all the trails are open to bicycles. There are a good deal of hikers at Chuckanut, so be careful when rounding corners at high speeds.

The Chuckanut area is managed by the Whatcom County Parks.

"Chuckanut has less mud than Galbriath in the winter, so sometimes Chuckanut is a better place to ride," Farrell said.

Farrell said the Chuckanut trails are not as difficult as Galbriath. It is a bigger area than Galbriath, but it has lower density of trails.

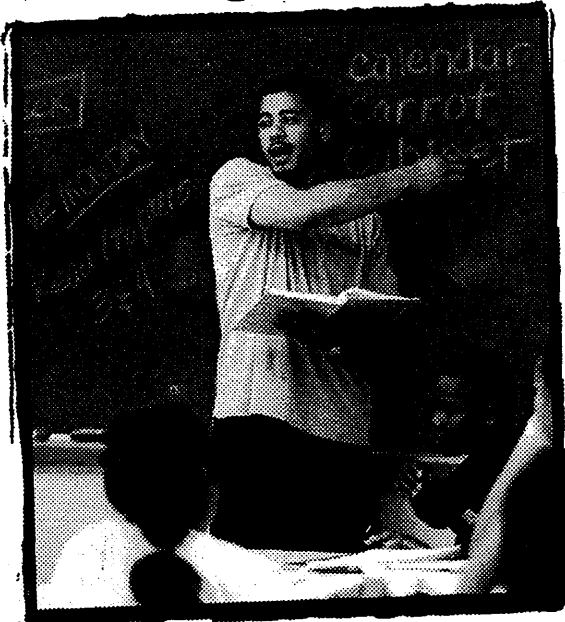
The Interurban Trail is another option for the rider who just wants the peace and tranquility of a nice ride without the challenging terrain.

The Interurban Trail extends from Meridian Street to Larrabee State Park. Lake Padden also offers a nice flat loop trail that is about a mile long.

*It's fun, in that there is always a ride you want for that day.*

— Steve Farrell,  
Fairhaven Bike and Ski

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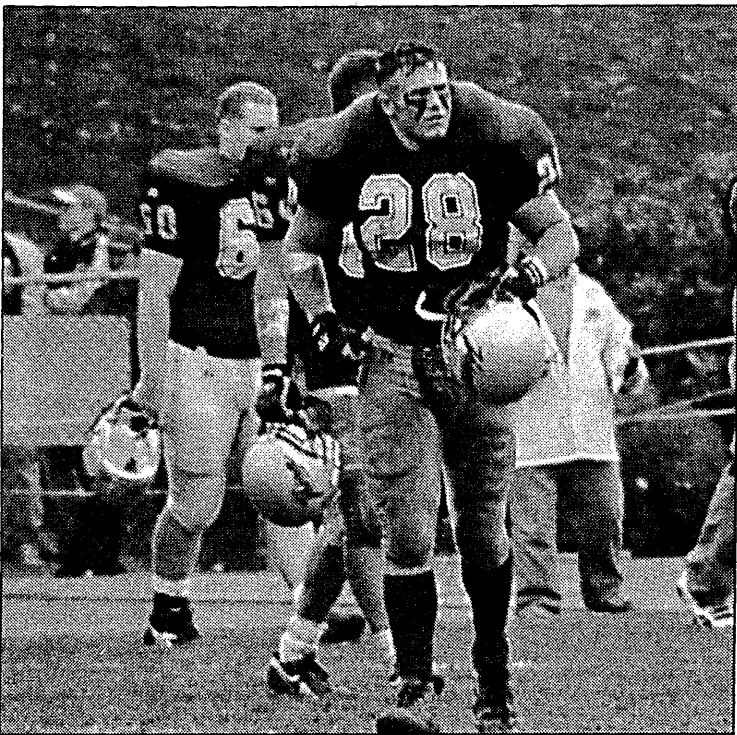
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**SAFECO LIFE**

On Campus Interviews  
Wednesday, Dec. 3

# Spencer makes his mama proud



Front/Aaron Dahl

Linebacker Mark Spencer named CFA Player of the Year.

By JJ Jensen  
The Western Front

Despite a frustrating season, finishing 5-5 only one year after playing for the NAIA championship, Western's football team can now look at some of the positive aspects of this season.

The Columbia Football Association handed out all-conference awards this week and Western players dominated the list. By the time CFA coaches had finished voting for the post-season honors, 13 Western players had been given first team, second team or honorable mention recognition.

The highest honor received by a Viking went to senior middle linebacker Mark Spencer, who was named CFA Defensive Player of the Year. He was also one of three Vikings selected first-team all-league.

Head coach Rob Smith was extremely proud of his players' honors.

"All the players receiving recognition were deserving — I'm very happy for Mark (Spencer)," Smith said. "He and Chad Rorabaugh were the heart and soul of our defense and this goes to show the respect that Mark got around the league."

Spencer racked up some impressive stats en route to his Defensive Player of the Year award. He led the team with 126 tackles, picked off four passes and forced four fumbles. In his four years at Western, Spencer had 400 tackles, which ranks second highest among Western's all-time leaders.

"Mark was very solid from start to finish this year. Time and time again he came up with the big plays," Smith said.

Winning Defensive Player of the Year made Spencer the third Viking in four years to be credit-

ed with the title.

"I'm honored. This is a great reward," Spencer said. "A lot has to do with the team though; the defense played good all year."

Also joining Spencer on the first team were defensive end Chad Rorabaugh and offensive tackle Todd Walcker.

This was the third consecutive year the trio has been named to the first team.

Rorabaugh was instrumental in helping Spencer this season, leading the CFA with 13 quarterback sacks and 26 tackles for losses. Rorabaugh also leaves behind three school and CFA records. Forty-five times he sacked quarterbacks, 71 of his tackles stopped opponents for losses and 412 yards were lost by opponents because of his tackles.

Center Matt Cross and tight end Erik Morin joined their teammates as unanimous first team selections.

Morin's 41 receptions and 548 yards this season contributed to his 11th-place ranking among school leaders with 82 receptions for 1,047 yards. He was also picked for the second team as a punter, compiling an average of 39.3 yards per punt.

Seven Vikings, including Morin, were named to the second team. They included quarterback Darren Erath, wide receiver Adam Foster, slotback John Frazier, kick returner Scott Noteboom, corner Mike Perez and running back Ryan Wiggins.

Erath threw for 2,004 yards and 15 touchdowns. He wound up second on Western's career passing leaders with 5,861 yards.

Wiggins carried the ball for 862 yards. Fellow running back Frazier chipped in an additional 261 yards on the ground.

Among school career rushing leaders, Wiggins finished fifth with 2,223 yards and Frazier finished sixth with 1,491.

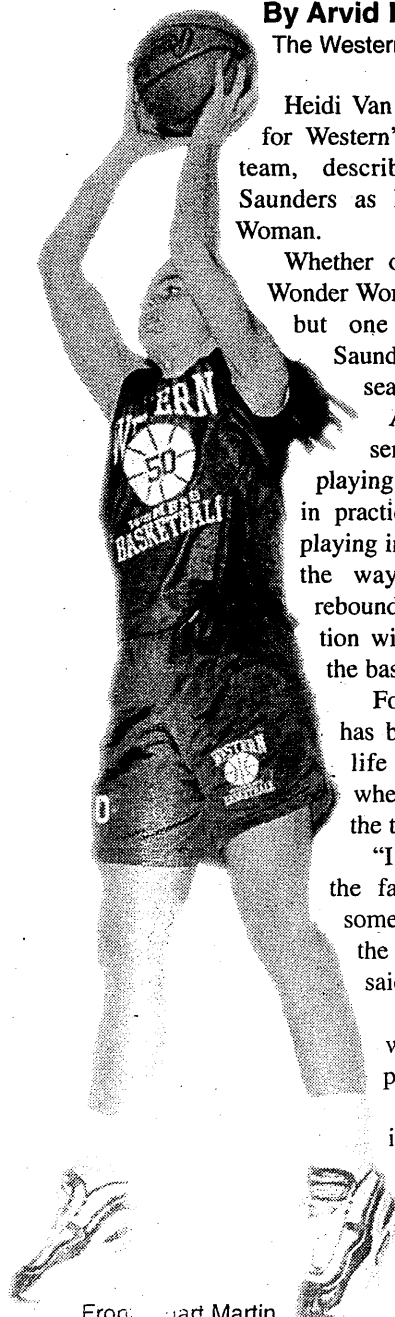
Foster hauled in 41 passes for a team-high 690 yards and also grabbed six touchdowns, while Noteboom returned kickoffs proficiently at an average of 24.9 yards per return.

Perez was the lone Viking on the defensive side of the ball among second teamers.

Despite not making a return appearance to the playoffs, this year's team proved that it was made up of athletic and competitive individuals and coaches around the league agree.

## Wonder Woman a Viking? April showers team with superpowers

By Arvid Hokanson  
The Western Front



Heidi Van Brocklin, point guard for Western's women's basketball team, describes teammate April Saunders as looking like Wonder Woman.

Whether or not she plays like Wonder Woman may be debatable, but one thing is for sure: Saunders is ready to play this season.

April Saunders, 21, is a senior accounting major playing power forward. Even in practice, her high level of playing intensity can be seen in the way she lunges for a rebound and battles for position with an opponent under the basket.

For Saunders, basketball has been a big part of her life from an early age, when she began playing in the third grade.

"I grew up with sports in the family. It was always something that was fun on the weekends," Saunders said.

Saunders credits teamwork with keeping her playing basketball.

"I think now a lot of it is teamwork and accomplishing something bigger than yourself," Saunders said. "(Basketball is)

something that you can't do by yourself — something you do with a team."

Saunders' playing style is that of a leader.

"I've never really thought about that before, (that) I play as a leader. I've kind of been more of a silent player," Saunders said. "I'm not in the shadows, but just not real vocal with the other players and I think that frustrates them, when they talk trash and I don't."

On the court Saunders likes to play aggressively under the basket — she is a lean, mean, fighting machine.

"I like to do offensive rebounds; it's my favorite thing," Saunders said. "The other team is trying to block you out and it's fun, 'cause you get it (the basketball) and can go back up for a shot."

During practice, Saunders seemed to be evaluating her game during each pause in the action.

Saunders couldn't initially think of an area of her game that needed improvement, but after further thought she said, "I'm working on my overall game — looking to be a threat both on offense and defense."

Saunders plays basketball all year.

She practices throughout the fall, plays through winter and into spring and practices and plays in summer.

"It's challenging to be in school, but it forces you to be organized and stay on top of things," Saunders said.

Saunders is optimistic about the Vikings' chances for success in the upcoming season.

"It looks good from how practices are going. With the talent, we have a lot of potential" she said. "We're hopeful. Our ultimate goal is to go to nationals and it's very attainable."

Front/Mark Martin

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# Time to re-examine confusing, ineffective national drug policy

*How much should government intervene? Legalized federal drug stores? Tax on smack?*



Arold Hokanson  
COMMENTARY

It is time to put personal and politically motivated differences aside and begin to review and revise our drug policies for the long-term and not for two, four- and six-year electoral cycles.

The war on drugs, one of the longest-running wars in American history, has come to a head over the legalization of substances such as marijuana, heroin and LSD.

The ideology of government intervention within our society has long divided citizens of this country.

The two extremes that fuel the debate are the conservative-leaning libertarian view, that a gov-

ernment governs best which governs least, and the progressive-liberal ideologies, that social justice will be served best through government-run social programs.

On this note, remember that drugs are in abundant supply and the legalization question is looming.

A portion of our population believes individuals can govern themselves better than a far-off, elitist government.

Then wouldn't it be logical to legalize drugs and let people decide whether or not to use controlled substances?

When of age, we can use alcohol and tobacco — both addictive substances.

Why not institute a blanket policy of legalizing all drugs or not legalizing any at all? Looking back at prohibition it is obvious

that this option would not be possible.

But does our government have a duty to protect us from harm?

In some cases, such as requiring the use of motorcycle helmets, some would answer 'no,'

taxes on marijuana and other controlled substances.

Schools, infrastructure and health care are all areas in need of increased funding, which could be generated from drug-tax revenue.

However, would we as citizens feel comfortable knowing that a new school was built by funds generated from taxes on controlled substances? Probably not.

A major factor affecting the war on drugs is the black market. The only way to obtain marijuana, crack, LSD and heroin is illegally from dealers.

Users of controlled substances, particularly addicts, have a history of resorting to theft and violence to feed a hungry addiction.

Consider a government-run drug store selling drugs at a price

less than current street values. Dealers could be forced out of business, while the Food and Drug Administration could ensure that an ounce of marijuana would not be laced with PCP.

Rather than dwelling on irrational philosophical ideals, it is time for the leaders of this nation to be relevant. Government officials need to go beyond acknowledging drugs in the United States are being abused.

Embracing issues by not only acknowledging them, but delving into solutions, shows a true, vested interest in serving the best interest of the people.

Drugs are a problem in this country. Current drug policies have failed to curb the flow of drugs into this country.

We need to rise up and call upon elected officials to clarify and enforce current drug laws.

*Would we as citizens feel comfortable knowing that a new school was built by funds generated from taxes on controlled substances?*

while on the subjects of abortion and drugs, some would answer 'yes, the government should intervene.'

In weighing the benefits against the costs of legalizing drugs, think of the revenue that could be generated by placing

Letters

## What about white people?

To the editor:

Why should Western spend extra time and money recruiting non-whites?

To be fair, what you do for one race you should do for another,

right? If Western is going to go out and look for minority students and faculty, they should just as fairly go out and look for white students and faculty.

If they recruit minorities who

were previously not interested in Western, they have just segregated white people. I'm no genius, but isn't that illegal?

Eric Crawford

## Don't pity the male soldier

To the editor:

Jana Alexander should rest easy that thousands of Veterans Day celebrations, past and present, have blatantly or subtly been dedicated exclusively to the

male veteran.

Where would the downtrodden, American male soldier be without Alexander to speak for him?

Jenifer McBride

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## Frontline

### Don't leave privacy to Internet peddlers

One of the results of our continued technological progress is the proliferation of databases that contain personal information about just about everyone in this country.

Practically anyone's financial and employment history can be accessed on the Internet via their social security number. A person's phone number and street address can be used to find a map to their house on the World Wide Web.

Gov. Gary Locke is to be commended for convening a conference Monday to discuss privacy concerns in the information age. Although the forum mainly recounted individual horror stories and issued only vague warnings about the problem, a thorough and public discussion about balancing free access to information with people's rights to privacy is long overdue.

Restricting access to government records about private citizens is often decried in the press as the first step in eroding the ability to assure government accountability through public disclosure laws — a view that should not be shrugged off lightly.

But requiring the government to restrict access to the variety of personal information it has about average Americans would hardly pose a serious threat to the press's self-touted watchdog role.

And the government is only one source of the problem.

The use of credit and bank cards is producing a trail of purchase records that can paint a pretty accurate portrait of a person's activities as they consume their way through American society.

As more companies enter the burgeoning industry of information selling, these records constitute a valuable product to sell in the information market — where demand is high.

Locke is calling for a consumer's bill of rights to limit the kind of information people have to provide to government agencies.

The Clinton administration, staying true to its business-friendly policies in other areas, is simply relying upon industry self-regulation to ensure the confidentiality of personal information.

Locke's focus on government ignores the largest source of and market for personal information — the private sector.

And the idea that we can rely on businesses to voluntarily limit their profits in order to protect people's privacy should receive a very skeptical reception.

To effectively protect people's privacy, a way must be found to give people control over what personal information about themselves can be sold in the marketplace.

This will entail more than limiting government data collection and hoping for some responsibility from the information peddlers.

— Gene Metrick, Editor

## The Western Front

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## Humane society oxymoronic



Sara Stephens

### COMMENTARY

get a cat. Obviously, the Humane Society was the best choice.

The benefit was saving an animal, but I also respected their reputation.

I did not realize it at the time, but when I picked up Oliver, the release papers they gave me were incomplete. There was no record of the vaccinations he had received, the flea baths he was given or other pertinent information that would have helped me later.

Five hours after I picked him up, he began sneezing and coughing. The next morning, he was hardly moving. He had a yellow stream coming from his nose and runny, goopy eyes. I found out later that he had a 104.6-degree temperature, which is very high for a cat. He was also thoroughly infested with fleas.

All of the tests that the Humane Society claims it runs before an animal is released had to be redone on Oliver, since there was no written record of them. The bloodwork done re-determined that he did not have the Feline AIDS Virus or Feline Leukemia.

He was put on antibiotics and

will be re-vaccinated because of the inadequate record keeping on the Humane Society's part. To take Oliver home from the Humane Society and get him treated at the vet's office cost me \$227.

Other students have had animals they brought home from the Humane Society get sick too.

Kim Fricke, a senior special education major, recently got a puppy from the Humane Society. Like Oliver, Payton was diagnosed with an upper respiratory infection.

"He was lethargic; his eyes were infected; he had a bad case of worms and a dry cough," Fricke said.

She was extremely upset with the way that Payton was released.

Payton received at the Humane Society was insufficient. He prescribed more de-worming medicine. Payton was also put on antibiotics," Fricke said.

Another problem Fricke had was the way the Humane Society released Payton. The routine background check of the prospective adopters that they claim to perform every time was not done on Fricke. Fricke said Payton was given to her within a few hours of their first meeting.

"They didn't have any of his history available for me. I don't know where he came from or what his background is like," Fricke said.

"I love my dog, so it's hard to say that the place where I got him is a bad place, but I can't believe what the Humane Society is doing. I lost total faith in them," Fricke said.

The Humane Society never returned my phone calls, therefore, I do not know how they would respond to these problems.

Last Friday, Oliver had to go back to the vet. He was given yet another round of antibiotics because he is having a hard time kicking the upper respiratory infection. Payton too will be returning because of the same problem.

The Humane Society should quarantine every sick animal and not let them be adopted until they are free of any infections. The society should also keep a better record of the vaccinations and medication every animal receives.

*I love my dog, so it's hard to say that the place where I got him is a bad place, but I can't believe what the Humane Society is doing. I lost total faith in them.*

— Kim Fricke, student

"It's almost inhumane that the Humane Society is letting the animals leave the shelter in this condition," Fricke said. "I was not warned that he was sick or would get sick."

She took Payton to the Bellingham Animal Hospital and was very impressed with the help she received.

"The vet at the animal hospital felt that the de-worming proce-

## Letters Policy

The Western Front accepts submissions up to 250 words on any topic. We reserve the right to edit for style, grammar, punctuation, spelling and libelous content. Letters must be typed and signed and include a phone number for verification purposes. Send submissions and correspondence to: The Western Front, College Hall 09, Bellingham, WA 98225. E-mail letters to wfront@cc.wvu.edu



# Fighting over fish only forges floppy failure



JJ Jensen

COMMENTARY

My story starts last winter. My uncles kept trying to convince me to work on their purse seine fishing boat during my summer break from Western in the San Juans. The deciding factor was that they told me I could make more than \$10,000. The end result was that I made less than \$5,000 because the salmon runs were so depleted.

The real story, however, begins in 1985 when the Pacific Salmon Treaty was signed by Canada and the United States. The treaty's purpose was to prevent over-fishing and provide benefits for all sides.

However, treaties have to be renegotiated and in 1993 negotiations broke down. In 1995, a deal was made stating Washington would lay off of Fraser River sockeye and Canada would lay off of sockeye and chinook headed for Alaska. This summer, both sides accused the other of violating the agreement. Both countries failed to reach a new agreement and everybody went after whatever they could.

These "Fish Wars" peaked this summer, when 300 Canadian fishing boats created a blockade around an Alaskan ferry out of frustration, based on their belief that Alaskan fishermen were plundering Canadian salmon.

Canada started a "Canada first" fishing strategy and aggressively went after fish that might make their way to Washington

by extending the openings of their "super seiners" (boats that can catch many times the amount of Washington purse seiners).

I am both a First Nations Canadian and an American Indian from a family of fishermen. The Fish War affects me from all sides. I really felt the tension this summer when I was fishing near Point Roberts, where Canadian Coast Guard vessels waited anxiously for American boats to drift across the international boundary. Passengers of Canadian ferries would yell at us and flip us off as we brought in what few fish we could.

White fishermen were also bitter toward us and would accuse us of taking too many fish, because by treaty we, as natives, were allowed to fish first.

One time, on the docks, one white fish-

erman went so far as to peel out over our nets as we patched them up.

The real problem is that everyone is too greedy. It's hard to decide who gets what because you can't tell salmon to respect international boundaries. Canada, the United States and Native Americans need to realize that cooperating will help all sides.

The first step in fixing this problem is getting both sides back to the negotiating table. Since you can't tell whose fish are being caught, the side that catches less needs to be compensated. Too many people are going after the same fish.

If no agreement is reached, soon there won't be any fish left to fight over. Cooperation will not only benefit both sides, but with regulations we may even see an abundance of salmon.

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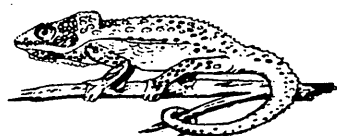


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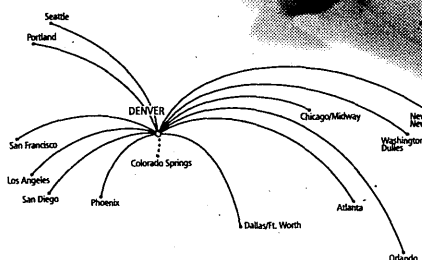
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