

# HEWESTERN FRONT

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1998** 

Volume 106 Issue 7

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BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON

# Hate attack hits home

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

By Mia Penta

The Western Front

As clichéd as "every cloud has a silver lining" sounds, Matthew Shepard's tragic death inspired the silver lining of Western students coming together to show support for him last Friday.

Shepard, a 21-year-old University of Wyoming student, died as a result of severe beating by two young men. The attack may have been motivated by the fact that Shepard was openly gay. His death has sparked a nationwide discussion of hate crimes.

Students, faculty and community members met in Red Square to focus on Shepard and why he died. The whole idea of the rally was to allow people to freely speak their own thoughts about what happened and what to do about it, Doris Kent of Prevention and Wellness Services said.

"(The rally) was not just to address hate crimes but to honor Shepard and his life," Kent said.

Seven people stood on the fountain, silently holding signs reading, "Last weekend a college student ... Matthew Shepard ... was beaten to death ... because he

See Rally, page 4

# Hate attack Ruggers chug down the field



Front/Bobby Stone

Western's men's rugby team, the Warthogs, battled the University of Washington last Saturday. John Rogers charges down the field with the ball, flanked by teammates (from left to right) Chris Rex, Kevin Larson and Jeff Kissick. The Warthogs lost the game 28-27. See story, page 9.

# Makah hunt debated

By Shane Powell

The Western Front

Whales do not die easily.

The indigenous Makah tribe in Neah Bay says neither will its whaling tradition.

Today, a debate swims in enlarging circles around which should die first; the ripples of that debate have washed onto Western's campus.

Associated Students Social Issues hosted presentations Monday night by two distinguished representatives of the opposing viewpoints surrounding this controversy.

Mikah McCarty, a Makah tribal member, was the first to offer perspective to a packed Viking Union Main Lounge.

McCarty was originally trained to participate in the whale hunt, but has since given up his position in order to become a student at Northwest Indian College.

McCarty spoke for the majority of the Makah who believe it is not only their legal right to continue a 2,000-year-old whaling tra-

dition but also their ancestral responsibility to uphold and fulfill an ancient ritual and legacy.

"I'd like to address this from a historical time that I consider the foundation of who I am and where I come from," McCarty said.

"I have great difficulty reconciling these modern laws with spiritual and traditional values that have been passed on with years and years of wisdom."

McCarty attempted to provide a picture of where his tribe has evolved from and the philosophies that have been passed down to the people who now inhabit Neah Bay, while also recognizing their inevitable ties to a modern culture.

"We are all products of society," McCarty said. "At one time, this whole earth had a genetic tie to an earth-based society."  $\frac{1}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty}$ 

McCarty said he believes the traditions of his tribe have helped to uphold its connection to that important past, but the present society poses a threat of losing those roots.

"I don't have a lot of faith in the society that has prevailed around the planet," McCarty said.

The Makah blame many problems of the 1,600 people on their

See Whales, page 4



Front/Tyler Watson

Sarah Bickle (center) listens to a speaker at the memorial rally for Matthew Shepard.

# Retailer targeted for use of old-growth

By Angela Smith

The Western Front

More than 20 college students and other local activists shivered in the chill early-evening air last Wednesday to protest Home Depot.

The chain has been accused by the Rainforest Action Network and Greenpeace of selling old-growth lumber from British Columbia and products, such as handles on paintbrushes and paneling ,made from rainforest woods.

Protesters gathered on the corner of Meridian Street and Telegraph Road, holding signs and handing out fliers with statistics concerning old growth — 96 percent of the United States' old growth is gone, and only 22 percent of the world's old-growth forests are still intact — to cars sitting at the

stoplights.

Members from various groups on campus, including Western Endangered Species Alliance, Western Animal Rights Network and Environmental Justice Network, met Oct. 4 to form a new group, Activists Coming Together, to discuss plans for the protest.

ACT, one branch of nearly 100 groups nationwide, stood on the sidewalks in front of Home Depot stores to inform the public and store personnel of the destruction of old growth and rainforests.

"This was not meant to be an attack on this store," said Fairhaven student and cocoordinator of Western's Environmental Center Becky Statzel. "It's to let people know that Home Depot actually does sell old growth"

Responses to the protest from passersby

ranged from shouts of "Get a life" to honking horns and upraised thumbs.

Protester and Fairhaven student Pat Taylor discussed the encouraging responses from some people. "At first, people see a bunch of hippies, but once they talk to us one on one, they come around," Taylor said.

Inside Home Depot, store manager Jason Britain said he did not see the protest as any

When asked about the sale of old-growth and rainforest lumber and wood products, Britain said, "Not much is known at store level."

He said all inventory and information about that inventory comes from Home Depot's buying offices.

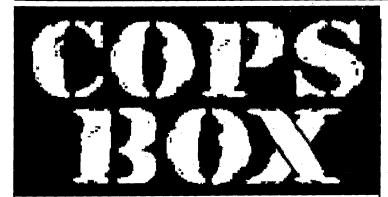
Protesters across the nation wished to inform the company of the alleged origins of its products.

The goal of the protest, Statzel said, was to "pressure management to make a stand on old growth and find healthier ways to harvest timber."

In a statement issued by Home Depot, Director of Environmental Programs Suzanne Apple said Home Depot shared environmental concerns and called the activists' criticisms "misplaced."

Home Depot has formed partnerships with various groups — Scientific Certification Systems, Portico, Premdore and Collins Pine — to develop alternative products and make them available to the retail market.

"Instead of demonstrations, the Rainforest Action Network might consider joining us and others in efforts to develop alternative products, educate consumers and pioneer green building practices that can be used in all types of construction," Apple said.



### **Campus Police:**

There have been no citations issued since Oct. 14.

### **Bellingham Police:**

Oct. 17, 2:30 a.m.: A man living in the 1600 block of Alabama Street reported a man with dark hair and glasses came onto his porch and was peeking into the windows and rattling the doorknob. The suspect left when he was seen. Police could find no one with that description in the area.

Oct. 17, 8:34 a.m.: A man reported that two of his vehicles had been egged during the night in the 500 block of Willow Road.

Oct. 17, 11:35 a.m.: A noise complaint was issued in the 1200 block of Whatcom Street, where a man was watching a football game with friends with his door open. Police told the man to shut his door and turn his television down. The man agreed.

Oct. 17, 3:00 p.m.: Police responded to a car fire in the intersection of 32nd Street and Bill McDonald Parkway. The fire department was able to put the fire out completely. No injuries occurred. The blacktop was slightly damaged due to the heat of the fire.

Oct. 17, 4:52 p.m.: A woman was arrested in the 1000 block of Lakeway Drive. She was issued a criminal trespass and released.

Oct. 17, 9:45 p.m.: Police arrested a woman for driving while intoxicated after she was involved in a single-car accident in the 100 block of Northshore Drive.

Oct. 17, 11 p.m.: Three men were arrested after police responded to a report of assault in the 1300 block of Yew Street. Officers contacted the victims and arrested three suspects at another location.

Oct. 17, 11:18 p.m.: Officers responded to a call about a fight in the 3000 block of Northwest Avenue. A man complained that his car was dented when two unknown people fell onto the hood of his car. The fight involved a large group of people, most of whom had left by the time police arrived. Officers broke up the remaining group. No one pressed charges.

Oct. 18 1:46 a.m.: A bartender in the 100 block of East Holly Street called police when a customer became belligerent and refused to leave when the bar was closing. Eventually the man left. Police told the bartender to call 911 if the man returned and they would issue a trespass warrant.

Oct. 18, 9:01 a.m.: Police responded to an anonymous report that a man with a motorcycle had been seen pulling wires from a vehicle in the 1800 block of 30th Street. Officers could find no obvious signs of damage to any of the cars in the area.

Compiled by Holly Hinterberger

### Correction

On page 4 of the Oct. 13 issue of The Western Front, the Mexican Zapatistas were erroneously identified as the oppressors; they are the oppressed.

Also, in the Oct. 16 issue of The Western Front, Kim Darcy, director of admissions of TESOL, was improperly identified as Marty Hitchcock.

The Front apologizes for these errors.

#### IDENTIFICATION STATEMENT

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### **Western Briefs**

### Initiative 200 supporters, opponents to debate

An all-campus walk-out will focus on issues involving Initiative 200 at 11:30 a.m. Oct. 21 in Red Square.

Later that evening, at 6:30 p.m. in Fraser Hall 4, a debate will take place between David Hunter, Western political science professor, and Mark Nelson, former head of the Whatcom County Republican Party, regarding I-200 and affirmative action. A question-and-answer period will follow.

### Canadian and American poetry to be showcased

Western will host an evening of poetry at 6 p.m. Oct. 22 in Science Lecture Hall 120.

The presentation will feature both Canadian and American poetry from writers such as Dionne Brand, Louise Halfe, Maggie Anderson and Knute Skinner. Refreshments will be served at 5:30 p.m.

For more information contact Gary Geddes at 650-3728.

### Afternoon concert graces Performing Arts Center

The music department will present violinist Walter Schwede and pianist Jeffrey Gilliam in a free concert at 3 p.m. Oct. 23 in the Performing Arts Center Concert Hall.

#### Green thumbs needed

October 24 is Make a Difference Day. Volunteers are needed to help plant more than 2,500 plants from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Dorothy Place. Volunteers should dress in work clothes and bring a small trowel or spade. Refreshments

will be available.

For more information contact the Whatcom Volunteer Center at 734-3055.

#### Co-op hosts live music

The Community Food Co-op invites guests to enjoy free live music at 6 p.m. Oct. 24 in the Swan Cafe. Synergy, with a style characterized as a collaboration of eclectic music energies and acoustic instruments, will play.

#### Improve eating habits

St. Joseph Hospital is offering a class, "Eating for a Healthy Life," from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Mondays, Oct. 19, 26 and Nov. 2, and 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Nov. 3, 10 and 17. The fee is \$30.

For more information contact Lifequest at 738-6720.

#### Get a shot, not the flu

The Student Health Center is offering flu shots from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 13 at the Student Health Assessment and Information Center. The shots are available to anyone older than 13. Tickets must be pre-purchased for \$10 at Plaza Cashier.

#### Pumpkin carving fun

Bellingham Parks and Recreation is sponsoring the Jazzy Jack-O-Lanterns: Pumpkin Carving Fun from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Oct. 24. The cost is \$3. Participants must bring their own pumpkins. All the necessary tools, paints, patterns, markers and candles are supplied.

#### Look goofy for charity

A Halloween Costume Ball from 9 p.m. to 12 a.m. Oct. 30 at Northwood Hall 324 Northwest Ave. will benefit the Dorothy House, a housing project to aid domestic abuse survivors. Dress up and dance to Gene Rietzke's All Star Jazz Revue, a swing/jazz band. The cost is \$10 per person/\$18 per couple.

### Participate in stimulating conversation at Stuart's

Anyone who enjoys good conversation is invited to the Democracy Salon, beginning at 8 p.m. Oct. 21 at Stuart's Coffee House. The salon will discuss the "Prison Industrial Complex." The event is free.

For more information contact Adam Ward at 714-9487.

### **Marriott conducts survey**

Marriott Dining Services, in partnership with University Residences and the Viking Union, will conduct a survey during the week of Oct. 19. The goal is to improve campus dining, and a report of the completed project will be presented to Eileen Coughlin, vice president for Student Affairs/dean for Academic Support Services, to use for future planning.

### Learn to enhance verbal interaction, self-esteem

Whatcom Community College is offering a self-esteem and assertive communication workshop from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Nov. 2 at Whatcom Community College's Kelly Hall Building. The workshop teaches how to renew feelings of self-worth and techniques to be assertive. Registration is required.

Compiled by Brooke Hagara

### **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, via fax to X/7287, or brought in person to Commissary 113A. DO NOT SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS DIRECTLY TO THE WESTERN FRONT. Phoned announcements will not be accepted. All announcements should be signed by originator.

#### PLEASE POST

**JUNIOR WRITING EXAM.** Effective June 1, 1998, the Junior Writing Exam was discontinued. Students, however, still need to take a writing proficiency course to fullfill the graduation requirements.

LOT RESERVATIONS: Lots 17G and 31G will be reserved beginning at 5 p.m. Oct. 21 for those attending a dinner for new faculty. Permit holders may leave vehicles parked in reserved lots for work-related purposes.

ADD CODES ARE REQUIRED for several biology courses by Oct. 23; late applications will be considered on a space available basis. Request forms are available outside the biology department office. Codes must be picked up Nov. 12-13 and used by the date on the add code slip or the add code may be given to someone on the class waiting list.

MATH PLACEMENT TEST. Registration is not required. Students must bring picture ID and a No. 2 pencil. A \$10 fee is payable in the exact amount at time of testing. The test is timed for 60 minutes; however, allow 90 minutes for full administration. Testing will be at 9 a.m. in Old Main 120 as follows: Mondays — Oct. 26, Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, and Dec. 7; Thursdays — Oct. 22, 29, Nov. 5, 12, 19, Dec. 3 and 10.

**NEW SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENTS.** Eligible are displaced homemakers, dislocated workers, students out of school at least five years, students with dependents, and students with disability. Application deadline is Nov. 16. For more information, see the Scholarship Center, OM 260, or call X/3471.

WRITING CENTER SERVICES AND RESOURCES are now available both in person and online. Students may drop by the center in WL 342, to the left of the third floor reading room; sign up on the schedule; make an appointment by phone by calling X/3219; or visit the Web site, http://www.ac.wwu.edu/writepro.

FALL QUARTER GROUP OFFERINGS AT THE COUNSELING CENTER include Setting New Boundaries: Assertiveness Training, noon-2 p.m. starting Oct. 21, pregroup interview required; Stress Management and Relaxation Training, 3-5 p.m. beginning Oct. 21, pregroup interview required. For more information or to register, for these or other offerings, stop by OM 540 or call X/3164.

THE BOOK-OF-THE-QUARTER PANEL will discuss *Homeground*, a collection of fiction and non-fiction on "home" at 4 p.m. Oct. 29 in WL 503. Copies are available at the Students' Co-op Bookstore. The event is sponsored by by Wilson Library and the Writing Center program.

#### On-campus recruiting

Amdahl Corp./DMR, Thursday, Oct. 22. See signup folder for fact sheet and job description. Submit résumé and sign up for interview in OM 280.

Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center, Tuesday, Oct. 27. See information in signup folder or at employer's Web page, http://www.spawar.payy.mil/grad/gp.

Hogan and Mecham, Tuesday, Oct. 27, submit résumé at signup in OM 280.

Cintas Corp., Wednesday, Oct. 28. See signup folder and company file in Career Services library, OM 280. Submit résumé at signup in OM 280.

# Newsmakers

PEOPLE MAKING AN IMPACT ON CAMPUS

By Derrick Scheid
The Western Front

As the only student on the search committee for Western's next provost, vice president for Academic Affairs, Victor Cox has a looming responsibility.

### **Victor Cox**

The search committee, formed last June to find a replacement for former provost Roland De Lorme, consists of 15 faculty members and Cox, AS vice president for Academic Affairs.

"It's a big job for me," the Western senior said.

The deans of each college at Western report directly to the provost, who is the chief officer of academics at Western. The provost also works directly with the president to recruit, promote and decide tenure for faculty. "If the president were ill, the provost would act as president," Cox said.

Cox's role on the search committee is to collect student input about what qualities are desired in a new provost and to educate students about the provost's

duties.

"I want the students to know they do have a voice, and I am here to make sure it is heard," Cox said

The search committee has created a web site, www.ac.wwu.edu/~provost/, for students to voice their opinions and desires and even nominate people, Cox said.

As A.S. vice president for Academic Affairs, Cox's role is to collect student views about academic issues and bring them directly to the provost.

"I'm the voice for (students),"
Cox said.

Cox also serves on the Academics Coordination Committee, which deals with issues such as registration problems, GUR problems, academic advising and grievances with professors. Cox is working with Interim Provost Dennis Murphy and the committee to explore changes in current GUR requirements and curriculum to replace the Junior Writing Exam requirement.

Cox said they will "look at the whole GUR structure and see where the faults are."

The ACC's goal in examining changes in the GUR structure is to make sure students are able to

complete requirements in two years and are able to get into the classes they need, Cox said.

"We're going to press to get (the GUR structure) reviewed and revised," Cox said.

Another big issue Cox will have a large part of this year will be the revision of the student technology fee.

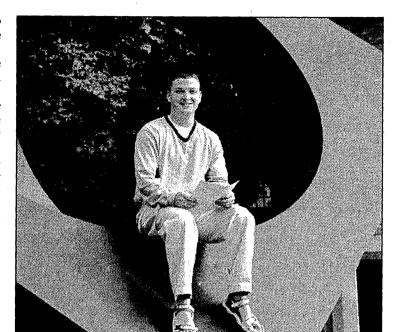
Students must decide to increase, drop or keep the student technology fee, which is up for reelection this year, Cox said. The decision will affect the next four years, so Cox wants to make students aware of their options.

Cox is pushing to keep the fee, which is used for technological improvements on campus, at \$10 per quarter.

"I feel that the money is being used wisely and that the fee should remain the same," Cox said.

The money donated to student technology by the Western Foundation and the university, totals approximately \$550,000. Cox said students already pay enough in fees and the technology fee should not be increased.

In addition to his normal duties, Cox is working with the ACC and the registrar to change



Front/Jenni Odekirk

Victor Cox, Associated Students vice president for Academic Affairs, is seeking to involve students in their own educations.

Western's phone registration (RSVP) to a toll-free number.

Getting students involved in their school and the decisions that affect them has always been important to Cox. This year he is in charge of recruiting and appointing students to different

campus committees.

"Student involvement is the key to improving the academic community here at Western," Cox said. "Being involved benefits students because it gives them an opportunity to voice their concerns and opinions on matters."



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# Attention Independent Learning Students!

For your convenience, a new drop box for lessons and videos is located to the right of the



elevator on the first floor of Old Main.

Lessons may also be dropped off in

person at our office in the Chestnut Professional Building. From campus take N. Garden or Indian St. north to Chestnut, turn right and proceed to 800 E. Chestnut.

Independent Learning 650-3650 ♦ ilearn@cc.wwu.edu



**Looking For Something To Do?** 

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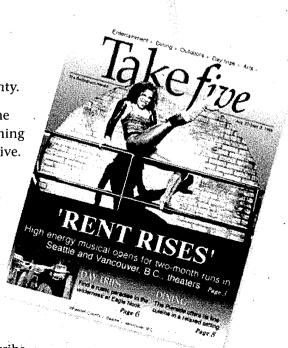
Every Thursday morning The Bellingham Herald brings you Take five. Take five is the most comprehensive source for fun and leisure activities in Whatcom County.

For all the latest information on the Arts, Entertainment, Day Trips, Dining and the Outdoors check out Take five.

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### Whales, from page 1

reservation on lack of connection with tribal tradition. They have said repeatedly that removing traditional seafood including whale meat, from their diet has created health problems.

The Makah have maintained a cultural connection with the ocean for many centuries, McCarty said. It is an inherent right recognized in the Stevens Treaty that the Makah are a

whaling people and have a right to maintain that, he added.

Michael Kundu, Pacific Northwest director of the Sea Shepard Conservation Society, related his own views based on what he says is a large population that cares about whales and about moving forward in a global community and society.

"We have decimated over 80 per-

### Makah whaling: A chronology of events

- •1855: Stevens Treaty was negotiated between the Makah tribe and the U.S. government, granting the tribe the right to continue hunting whales.
- •1926: Last time Makah hunted a whale.
- •1946: International Whaling Commission (IWC) is formed in recognition of declining whale populations.
- •1973: Gray whales put on the first Endangered Species List.
- •1982: IWC votes to introduce a ban on all commercial whaling; aboriginal peoples with strict subsistence needs and a whale hunting tradition are excluded.
- •1986: IWC five-year ban takes effect.
- •1991: IWC ban is renewed and upheld.
- •1994: Gray whale removed from the Endangered Species List when populations are estimated at about 22,000.
- •1997: IWC adopts an amendment to allow Eastern Pacific Gray Whales to be hunted by those peoples with recognized aboriginal and cultural needs; United States rules that the Makah meet this definition and grants them the right to hunt five grey whales per year between 1998 and 2002: The United States' ruling strongly criticized by members of Congress, animal-rights and environmental organizations, resulting in numerous lawsuits.
- •Oct. 1, 1998: Makah are officially given rights to begin hunting, and preparations for a hunt have begun.

cent of the world's whale population ... there are nations that want to destroy the remaining 20 percent," Kundu said.

Kundu explained that countries like Japan and Norway, which have traditional whaling histories, have a large monetary interest in the Makah's hunt because they may then cite it in their arguments to begin commercial whaling again.

"Business communities are using aboriginal peoples as pawns in this issue ... and support is coming from nations who wish to see whaling recommenced," Kundu said.

Kundu's arguments related a need to rise above races and communities with different laws in order to commune on a worldwide scale to preserve the earth.

"The one gift that the Makah tribe could give to the whale and the world would be to put down their weapons in the wisdom that the world has changed," Kundu said. "They could recapture their culture by being guardians of the whales."

Western student Ben Ernst said he would have much more respect for the tribe if they chose not to kill the whales, but that he does not feel it is anyone's right to force decisions about what is right and wrong on the Makah.

"... a decision not to exercise (their rights) would show their ability to rise above legalities and honor a higher ideal," Ernst said.

June McDermott of the Cree tribe held a sign that read "enough is enough; it's not about money; it's our culture."

"I think the Makah need to keep their culture alive through the strength of their children," McDermott said. "They need to be taught respect for things, and if it takes killing a whale for them to respect nature and their people, that is what needs to happen."

### Rally, from page 1

was gay ... we are all responsible ... what will you do to prevent hate crimes ... do something or we'll lose someone else."

Kent said the individuals who were holding the signs are members of the Performance Education Group, a group of Lifestyle Advisers.

Anyone who wanted to say a few words was encouraged to do so.

Michael Vendiola said he spoke at the rally because he wanted to show his support "as a human being" and not just as the Ethnic Student Center coordinator/activities adviser.

He said he issued a warning to everyone that hate crimes occur on this campus.

"Two things prevent hate crimes from growing and somebody else getting killed. There is only a matter of time," Vendiola said.

"Only you, the general population, can prevent another from being killed. It will take the community to come together and educate," he said.

Vice President of Student Affairs Eileen Coughlin said she was moved to speak as an administrator as well "as a human being."

"I'm proud of the students for having the rally," Coughlin said. "We need to lock arms against hate crimes, and the administration supports (the rally)."

She said in response to criticism of the lack of administration at the rally that many of her staff was out of town. Coughlin said President Karen Morse shares a commitment to diversity at Western and came late to show her support at the rally since she



Front/Tyler Watson The memorial rally was emotional for many in attendance.

had just returned from out of town.

Vader said the audience responded very positively to the rally; Vendiola agreed.

"It was an intimate circle of like-minded people. We need to turn outward and send a clear message to stop the hate," Vendiola said.

It took many groups coming together to make the rally happen, Kent said. Clubs such as Student Allies For Equality, Campus Campaign for Allied Networking and the Lesbian/Gay/ Bisexual/Transgender Alliance worked with Shirley Osterhaus from the Shalom Center, the Whatcom County Human Rights Task Force and students David Fletcher, Sarah Gotwals, Monica Bastian, Sean Barker and Miko Robertson. Vader and Kent assisted.

Coughlin said, "It was nicely handled. I'm proud of the students and all who participated."

On Campus Interviews
Tuesday
November 10, 1998

# InterWest Bank And Its Subsidiaries.

Recruiting for: Staff Accountant

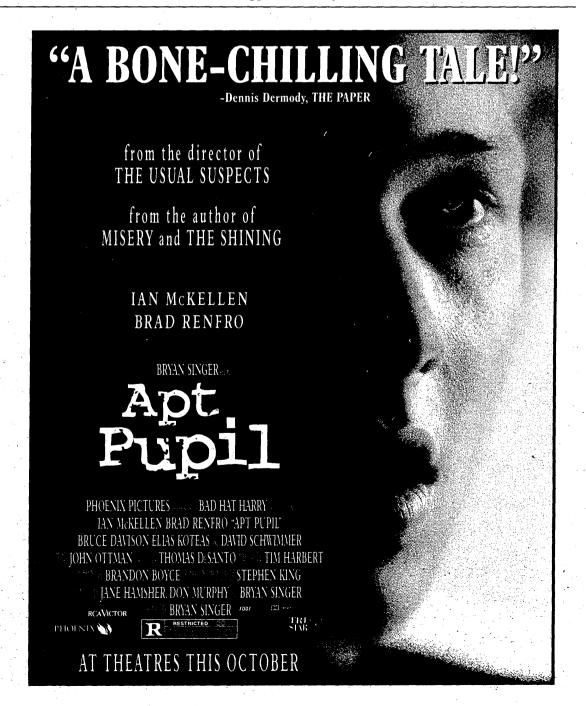
Internal Auditor
Management Trainee
Mortgage Loan Officer
Transaction Services Assistant III
Info Systems Programming Specialist II
Info Systems Network Admin/Team Leader
Info Systems Programmings Team Leader
Info Systems Technology Team Leam
Financial Analyst

Sign-ups required.

To review job descriptions and schedule an interview, please contact the campus Career Services Center.

InterWest Bank is an Equal Opportunity Employer and supports workforce diversity.

WESTERN FRONT CLASSIFIEDS SELL! 650-3160



# Green Cross eases patients' pain



By Tiffany White Special to The Front

Tucked away in a West Seattle neighborhood, a small household carries a large responsibility; the Green Cross Patient Co-op provides marijuana to patients suffering from illnesses such as cancer, AIDS, glaucoma, multiple sclerosis and spinal cord injuries.

From her wheelchair near the front door, JoAnna McKee, 55, cofounder of the Green Cross, opens her home to more than 400

The Green Cross provides services to patients in Washington state, Idaho, Oregon and Montana. About 70 percent of the patients in the Green Cross have AIDS, McKee said.

The dark wooden walls are cluttered with several Initiative 692 signs, bulletins and newspaper clippings. A food rack, a stack of shelves with boxes of crackers, pasta and soup, where patients leave unwanted food for other patients, is set up near the front

On the far wall hangs a white

Group distributes medicinal marijuana to suffering Washington-area residents

tapestry embroidered with a large, glistening marijuana leaf that is identical to the marijuana leaf that twinkles from

McKee's gold eye-patch. McKee, an Alaskan native, co-founded the Green Cross with Stitch Miller in the fall of

1993. McKee had a note from her doctor that prescribed the medical use of marijuana to ease the pain of a spinal cord injury.

A clip on the evening news, which described a Seattle marijuana club, inspired McKee to start the co-op.

McKee could not locate the club. She did, however, find other patients who were searching access to medicinal marijua-

"I just couldn't say no, so I started saying, 'If you get a note from your doctor, I'll try and help you and see if I can do something for you," McKee said.

McKee researched the organization of buyers clubs in California and Washington, D.C., but she decided a patient co-op would be a better option.

"We wanted to be a cooperative. We didn't want to be a buyers club. That didn't sound very good to me because we were, at the time, just sharing among patients," McKee said.

The Green Cross requires paperwork signed by patients and a prescription note from their

The Green Cross obtains marijuana in different ways, McKee said.

Patients share marijuana with other patients or it may be donated, McKee said.

"We have a sliding scale for patients. People understand if they don't give a donation the supply will eventually dry up. It's on a donation basis and it all depends on the patients situation," McKee said.

Patients who do not have the ability to provide a personal donation to the Green Cross can still receive medicinal marijuana.

The amount of marijuana doctors prescribe depends on several factors, such as how sick they are and how much they need, said Dr. Robert Killian, who has a general medicine practice in Seattle.

"I have seen patients stop throwing up, start eating again and putting weight back on using this tactic," he said.

Marijuana is a great natural appetite stimulant, Killian said.

Killian sponsored Initiative 685 last year as well as this year's Initiative 692, which would legalize marijuana specifically for medicinal purposes. I-685 will be on the Nov. 3 ballot.

"There are people who need this drug, but the police and government are failing to act to create a law to protect the patients," Killian said.

"When it is needed it should be

See Green Cross, page 6

### **Lessons That Will Last** A Lifetime

#### OFFICER TRAINING SCHOOL

Put that college degree to use by enrolling into the Air Force Officer Training School. Upon successful completion of the Officer Training School, you will become a commissioned Air Force officer with earned respect and benefits like - great starting pay, medical and

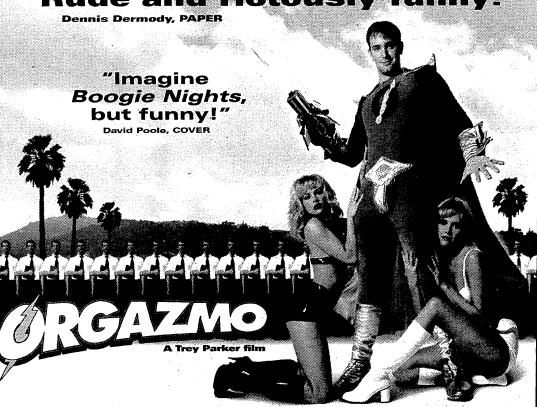
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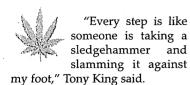
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# Marijuana helps Whatcom County man

### Whatcom County resident Tony King uses medicinal marijuana to alleviate pain caused by a paralyzing spinal-cord injury

By Tiffany White Special to the Front



King, 41, suffers from a spinal-cord injury that left him confined to a wheelchair. He has incomplete paralysis; he has some feeling in his legs, either numbness or hypersensitivity or intense pain that disables him from walking. He also has liver problems from the injury that occurred more than seven years ago.

To ease the intense pain and nausea associated with numerous

medicines, King has used medicinal marijuana for more than two years.

"Physically, I've gone from being in bed four to five days a week to being in bed one day a week," King said.

Before he was injured, King led an active life, spending four years in the Navy and three years

stationed in the Army at Fort Lewis. He also spent a couple of years at Boise State University before he moved to the Bellingham area, where he has lived for eight years.

In August 1991, King worked at a Bellingham sporting goods store. He was unloading freight with two other co-workers when the accident occurred. While the two co-workers, who were supposed to help King unload the truck, were arguing, the truck driver dropped a box of downhill skis to the ground.

"I had to do something about it, so I grabbed (the box) and guided it," he said.

It is King's nature to help peo-

ple; he was a paramedic in his early 20s in California. "If I did it all over again, I cannot say I would do anything differently," he said.

The impact of the box's weight ripped his spine apart. Since the accident, King has endured six operations that attempted to seal tears in his spinal cord that leaked fluid into his body.

"After a couple of operations, it was leaking outside of me and soaking my shirt," King said.

After his last operation in May 1993, he had a stroke. King was prescribed numerous drugs to control muscle spasms and painthat shook his body uncontrollably. Nausea from the pain med-

ications made it difficult to keep food in his stomach.

"I had trouble keeping food down literally to the point where I was eating hardly anything, and anything I did eat came right back up," King said.

King and his doctor discussed the nausea, and his doctor suggested that he try Marinol, the Federal

Drug Administration-approved substitute to medicinal marijuana, to ease his nausea.

However, the Veteran's Administration, King's medical insurance provider, would not pay for Marinol; it was too expensive. King had one alternative he could afford without the aid of medical insurance: marijuana.

King said he had not touched marijuana since his youth, when he smoked it only a few times recreationally.

"I was concerned about starting it again, and it took me over a year to decide to do it," he said. "When I decided to do it, it was only because I was close to virtually dying."

Investigating his options, King found the Green Cross Patient Co-op, a non-profit organization based in Seattle. GCPC provides medicinal marijuana to patients who are prescribed the drug by doctors for treatment.

King has been with GCPC for almost two-and-a-half years.

"Now I'm glad that I did it," King said. "It has changed everything."

Today, King said he has a healthier appetite, less pain and his muscle spasms have decreased. It has improved his attitude about life in general, and his family likes being around him more, he said.

"He is a lot happier to live with," Nancy King, his wife, said. "It makes him in a better mood because the pain is not controlling his life."

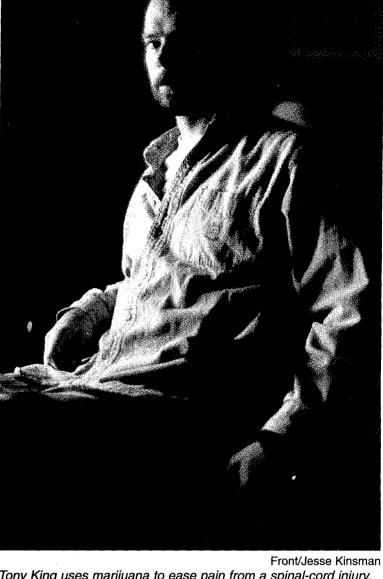
King uses one to one-and-ahalf ounces each month. He said smoking the marijuana is usually most effective for him, but he also makes an edible green butter out of the plant.

King's medicines are locked away from his four children, and only he and his wife have access. King said he smokes the medicinal marijuana away from his family, usually in the bathroom or after the children are in bed.

"As far as my children are considered, they are taught the same thing about my cannabis as my methadone — they are all dangerous," King said.

In November an initiative to legalize marijuana will once again be on the ballot. Initiative 692 would allow people with terminal or debilitating conditions, such as cancer, AIDS, multiple sclerosis, epilepsy and glaucoma, to use medicinal marijuana with authorization by a physician.

Last year, I-685, which would have allowed not only marijuana for medicinal purposes, but also LSD, heroin and other drugs, was



sidered, they are taught the same Tony King uses marijuana to ease pain from a spinal-cord injury.

defeated. The initiative also would have decriminalized all non-violent drugs.

"I hope (I-692) has a better chance," King said. "Last year's (initiative was) poorly written."

King said his friends mentioned to him that if the bill had been for medicinal marijuana only, they would have voted for it.

"I'm for the medicinal use of it," King said. "I hate to see all the elderly people who are using it feel like they are breaking the law."

Each month King visits the

GCPC to receive his medicine and sees different people who walk through the doors. They are the sick, the dying, the elderly — people who pay taxes or are raising families like himself.

"It has made them feel like less of a citizen than they are, and I think that is a shame," he said.

Legalization of medicinal marijuana may not be the most important issue on the ballot to everyone else, King said, "But it is something I have to live with every day."

Special to the Front/Ben Richards Medicinal marijuana recipient Diane Giessen and Green Cross patient coordinator Dale Rogers.

### Green Cross, from page 5

safely available," Killian said.

The Green Cross packs the marijuana into brown plastic medicine bottles with childproof lids. Each bottle holds about a quarter ounce, McKee said.

So far, McKee has had two encounters with the police. In both cases, the charges were dropped.

Alison Chinn, an attorney for Steinborn and Associates, the firm representing Green Cross in one case, said charges were dismissed because "the search warrant was overbroad."

"The thing is patients need medicine, and everyone knows that is the case, and they don't want sick people in jail," McKee said.

Patients at the co-op found Dronabinol (Marinol), the FDA-approved synthetic form of delta-9-tetrahydrocannibinol (THC), to be ineffective.

The pill is 100-percent pure manufactured THC, as opposed to cannabis, which is 5 to 10 percent THC, Dr. Francis Podrebarac, a Seattle psychiatrist and Green Cross patient, said.

Podrebarac has suffered HIV/AIDS complications in the intestinal area. Horrendous cramping tortured his body for several hours at a time, he said. Podrebarac tried medicinal marijuana when even morphine could not completely ease his pain or settle his body.

"(Medicinal marijuana) relieved the pain better than morphine by far," Podrebarac said.

You can't give pills, such as Marinol, to a person who has stomach problems, McKee said. Medicinal marijuana can be smoked, and the drug goes directly into the bloodstream, bypassing the gastrointestinal system,

Diane Giessen, a Seattle resident, smokes marijuana to reduce the pressure in her eyes caused by glaucoma. The marijuana reduced the pressure a significant amount; Giessen can now read the small numbers on coins.

Giessen smokes marijuana every day.

"It depends how stressed out I am — going through my anxiety attacks or pressure in my eyes — I'll smoke it and calm it down."

The Green Cross has patient meetings once per month to discuss co-op business and to share health updates. The meetings tend to be small; only about 10 patients attend.

Patient meetings, discussions and the distribution of medicine occur in the front room, which is rented with donations from the patient co-op.

Dale Rogers, patient coor-

#### **▼** Initiative 692

Initiative 692 will be on the Nov. 3 ballot. The Initiative would allow Washington state doctors to prescribe marijuana to people suffering from terminal or debilitating illnesses.

dinator, keeps contact with those patients who are too ill to regularly visit the Green Cross.

"A lot of patients are too sick, working or live too far away to attend the meetings," Rogers said. "Sometimes it takes all the energy they have to get the medicine."

If I-692 passes, the Green Cross will still be around. "There has to be a supply available for patients who need access to medicinal marijuana," McKee said.



Courtesy of James Fieser

By Dave Shepherd

The Western Front

James Fieser can see the air.

He reads it in the leaves, on the trees, in the ripples on Bellingham Bay, in smoke from the Texaco oil refinery near Anacortes.

He's watched "gravel devils" spin around at his feet, stirred by invisible fingers of wind. He's flown so close to an eagle, he's seen the air ruffling its individual tail feathers.

Fieser hang glides.

Fieser began his obsession with what he calls "the closest thing to natural flight" at age 25, 10 years ago, while studying at Western. He began instructing and tandem flying at age 29. Trim and athletic, Fieser fills out his stocky 5-foot 5inch tall, 150-pound frame well.

Short-cropped, curly brown hair tops his lightly tanned and slightly wind-burned face, which carries, it seems, the appearance of perpetual contentment. He calls himself an "air junkie."

When Fieser talks about gliding, it's like plugging in a Christmas tree. He lights up, sparkling with passion, his voice full of laughter and awe. "Hang gliding has never lost its luster for me," Fieser said. He said he enjoys giving tandem rides because the joy his passengers get from the ride is contagious. "It's almost like I'm doing my first solo all over again," he said.

Since Fieser began instructing, he's been targeting Western students. He doesn't advertise much. He usually just brings his rainbow-striped tandem glider to

Western's Red Square info fair in September and passes out fliers (no pun intended).

This year, until Dec. 19, he's offering tandem flights for only \$40. Fieser said tandem flights usually cost around \$100.

"I'm not doing it for the money," Fieser said. "I'm trying to introduce gliding to as many people as possible, to keep the sport alive in this region and to make new friends to glide with."

Fieser said the combination of sea and hills makes Bellingham a terrific place to glide. "Gliding in the winter can get pretty cold, but the strong, steady winds have given me some of my longest, best

"The sun is the author of all wind," Fieser said. "Its heat makes the air expand; the lack of it makes air contract." These changes in pressure result in air motion, which we feel as wind. Patchy sunlight yields patchy soaring winds, Fieser said.

Fieser does most of his tandem flights in Bellingham from Blanchard Mountain, a 1,200-foot ridge flanking Samish Bay just west of Alger. Fieser and a friend were the first pilots ever to launch off of Blanchard.

The winds build strength as they tumble across the open bay and roll up Blanchard's southwestern face, creating perfect launch and soaring conditions. Even in the calmest weather, the flight from ridge to landing zone takes about six minutes. Some students, however, have soared with him for more than an hour.

Fieser is the only instructor in this area. The next closest is Tom Johns, who owns and operates Cascade Soaring in Issaquah.

Instruction occurs in three stages. First comes flat-ground school, where the student learns to run with the glider for take off, keeping the nose down and the wings level, but not fight the glider's natural tendency to take off.

Once this is mastered, Fieser takes students to local training hills. These are open, gentle slopes where the students can get a little altitude, to grow comfortable with the sensation of flight without getting too high off the ground.

The third step involves some tandem flight from places like Blanchard Mountain, where Fieser controls take-off and landing, but the student runs the show.

Finally, the student will perform solo flights, with Fieser in tandem behind to watch and advise but not control the glider.

"I try to control the student's rate of progression, so that they get a real respect for the glider," Fieser said.

The process of earning a Hang II (solo) rating takes several weeks in this region, Fieser said, because of the fickle weather and intermittent sunlight.

While it's not always the first question, first-time gliders always end up asking about the dangers of gliding. Fieser is sympathetic to their concerns but emphasizes that the most dangerous aspect of gliding is the pilot, not the glider.

"Hang gliding has taken a bad rap because there are a lot of crazy folks out there," Fieser said. "It's not what you do but how you do it. If you don't take your equipment past its operating specifications, you won't have a problem."

In the late 1960s and early '70s, when people first started taking an interest in hang gliding, the equipment was made from bamboo poles, baling wire and plastic tarps. Issues of Popular Science in 1967 advertised "The Bamboo Butterfly" kit, which could be rigged up MacGyver style in someone's garage. To fly, early pilots clung to the crossbar by their armpits, kicking their feet to turn, bullying their way around the sky ... and into trees, buildings and the ground.

"A lot of people got hurt in those days," Fieser said.

What were once clumsy, oversized, dangerous kites have evolved into high-performance

The Hang Glider Manufacturer's Association, established in 1974, has developed standards for construction and testing of new

gliders. A glider's frame is constructed from aluminum aircraft tubing, the same material used to

construct airplane wings. A sleek Dacron sail is stretched across the frame and shaped by a series of flexible fiberglass poles, called battens, slipped into pockets within the wings. The battens stiffen the wings and increase their aerodynamic performance. Stainless steel cables attach to the sail from the top rigging, a threefoot aluminum post sticking up above the wings, providing structural support should the glider flip over. "Foot-launch aircraft are reaching the point of sailplane performance," Fieser said.

If you let go of a glider's bar in flight and hang, the glider is designed o soar straight and level, flying at about 17 mph and descending at approximately 200 feet per minute. The glider is steered by shifting body weight from side to side.

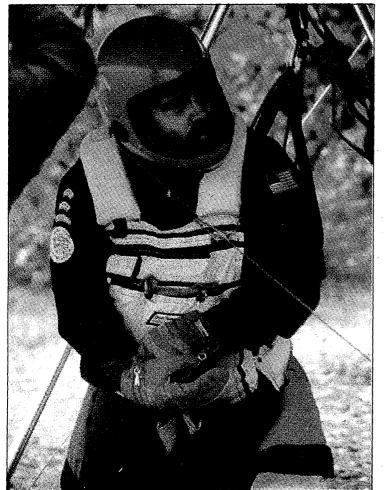
Hang gliding takes finesse, a cool head and quick thinking, Fieser said. It takes only tiny shifts of weight to achieve big changes in direction.

"This sport isn't for thrill seekers. It's a meditation. If you're doing it to impress somebody, you're doing it for the wrong reasons," Fieser said. "Actually," he conceded, "I'm trying to impress someone on every flight, so they'll see what an amazing expe rience it can be."

Fieser is a United States Hang Association-certified Gliding Advanced Tandem Instructor. He has produced two videos about gliding, which are available in the Outdoor Center in Viking Union 104. For more information about taking a tandem flight, contact Fieser at (360) 671-3037.

"I would love to give every person a huge, nuking soar," Fieser said.

He wants all of his passengers to get hooked on gliding, reasoning he backs up with a quote from Leonardo da Vinci. "Once you have flown, you will walk the earth with your eyes turned skyward, for there you have been, and there you long to return."



Courtesy of James Fieser

James Fieser prepares to soar high above the mountain tops, where he breathes in his drug of choice, the open air (above).

## ng football fumbles, losing to UC-Davis

By Timothy Wyse The Western Front

The Viking football team came up just short of their fourth victory last Saturday, losing to the nationally ranked UC-Davis Aggies, 28-24.

It was a tale of two completely different halves for the Vikings.

Aggie quarterback Kevin Daft threw for two scores in the opening quarter. The first of the two was to John Shoemaker for 20 yards, and the second was a 28yard pass to Frances Montes.

Western could not contain Daft, as he threw for 312 yards and four touchdowns in the first half alone.

Western, however, did get on the board. Opening the second quarter, the Vikings scored their first touchdown of the game on a 19-yard draw by Donovan Dashiell.

"Donovan made some great plays today. (Scott) Noteboom had some sort of flu bug today wasn't very effective.

really needed him," Head Coach Rob Smith said.

The Vikings ended the half with a very momentous drive covering 17 plays for 73 yards. But they had to settle for a 22-yard field goal by Josh Bailey to end the half, 28-10, UC-Davis.

The second half was a completely different story. Each team had four possessions in the third quarter, and each punted all four

Quarterback Sam Hanson and the Viking defense really stepped it up a notch after that.

Trying to mount a dramatic comeback, Hanson hooked up with his most frequent receiver, Ben Clampitt, for a 5-yard touchdown pass. With a successful, two-point conversion, the Vikings closed the gap to 28-18.

Later in the quarter, Hanson scored on a 5-yard run with 4:09 left in the game, making the score

It turned out to be too little, too

late for the Vikings, as the Aggies took control of the ball and the game.

This same Aggie team had recently beat up on Central by 35

"We aren't into moral victories around here. We play to win, and that didn't happen," Smith said.

The Aggie defensive line was able to get to Hanson almost at will. They sacked him six times for a loss of 46 yards.

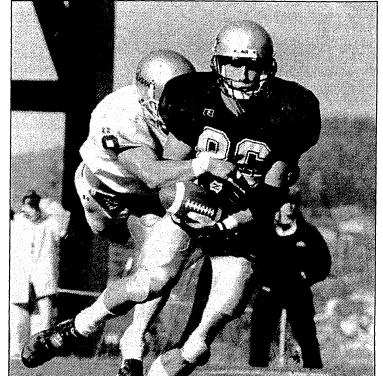
"They were bringing a lot of guys at (Hanson) today. Our offensive line is very young and inexperienced," Smith said.

Hanson stressed just how lopsided the two halves were.

"We just executed better allaround in the second half. It didn't seem like we were doing anything right in the first," he said.

"The second half is definitely something we are going to build on," Smith said.

The Vikings' next home game will be at 1 p.m. Nov. 7, against Central Washington University.



Front/Bobby Stone

Receiver Ben Clampitt completes a pass before being tackled.



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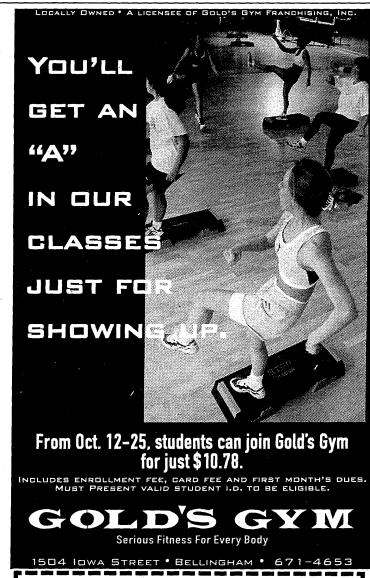
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# Men's rugby stumbles against Washington

By Derrick Scheid
The Western Front

It's that time again.

Warthogs are dressing like soccer players and kicking a funny-looking ball around, smashing heads, getting smashed and getting muddier and bloodier than usual. It's time for Western men's rugby, a sport that is a little like soccer, a little like football and a lot like war.

In its first match at home last Saturday, Western lost a close one to the University of Washington, 28-27.

UW scored a try and a point-after-kick in the closing minutes of the game to take the lead for good.

Western got close to the tryline twice before the game ended but was unable to score

"We looked really good, but we're a better team than they are and we should have won," fullback Matt Oakley said.

Western had many opportunities to take the game away from the Huskies but could not capitalize, missing key point-after-kicks and suffering penalties within UW's try zone twice.

"We really shot ourselves in the foot," Oakley said. "We had more trys than they did, but our kicker missed a couple extra points, although he made the hardest one of the day."

Coaching the team this year is Matt North, who played for Western last year and has East Coast rugby experience. Western club sports are not permitted to pay coaches, so men's rugby is fortunate to have North as a volunteer this year.

"He did well for his first game coaching us," said John Tennant, men's rugby president.

This first game will not count toward the season but was more of a warm up for both teams. Western will play UW again later in the season.

Western's first official games are at home against Oregon State University Oct. 31 and the University of Oregon on Nov. 1.

"That is going to be a grueling weekend," Tennant said.

Last year, Western finished the season 5-3 and qualified for regionals in the spring, but was booted from the tournament because of a complaint from an OSU coach who alleged the Warthogs fielded an intelligible player.

"OSU took our place in the tournament then got killed by Stanford in the first game," Tennant said.



Front/Bobby Stone

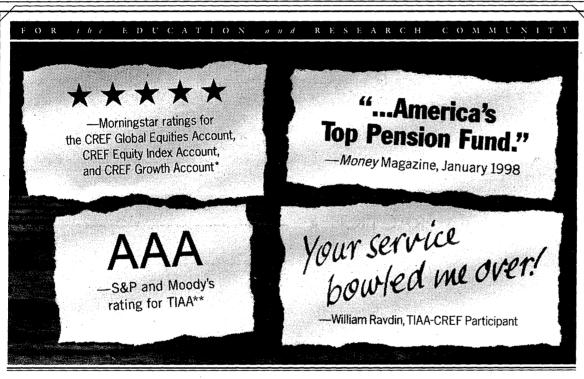
Western ruggers scrum down in Saturday's game against the Huskies.

Tennant, Western's hooker, is recovering from surgery and hopes to be playing in a month.

"The doctors said I could play in three months, but I hope to be back sooner than that," Tennant said. "I just love the competition."

"The young guys are sticking around and the backline is experienced," Oakley said.

Combine that with three 240-pound guys in the front line and a fast running-game, and Western may have what it takes to make it to regionals this year.



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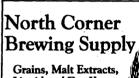
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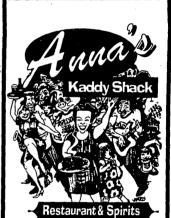
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ļ		Star Rating/	Star Rating/	Star Rating/	Star Rating/	Star Rating/	Star Rating/
١		Number of Domestic Equity	Number of International Equity	Number of Domestic Equity	Number of Domestic Equity	Number of Fixed-Income	Number of Domestic Equity
1	Period	Accounts Rated	Accounts Rated	Accounts Rated	Accounts Rated	Accounts Rated	Accounts Rated
- {	3-Year	4/2,120	4/459	5/2,120	5/2,120	4/719	4/2,120
- 1	5-Year	4/1,363	5/235	N/A	N/A	4/487	4/1,363
- 1	10-Year	4./674	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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# Frontline

### Drinking and driving kills friends everyday

Last Friday, Bellingham resident Vincent Lamphier, 24, was convicted of vehicular assault, vehicular homocide and hit-and-run in connection with the accident that killed Western student Becky Ann McDermott and injured Bob Montgomery last May.

When he was tested about four hours after the accident, Lamphier's blood alcohol level was 0.19, almost two times the current legal limit.

"When you drink, you have no business getting behind the wheel. You're putting your life in danger, and you're putting others' lives in danger," said Carrie Cavanaugh, one of McDermott's former housemates. Cavanaugh said the testimony of a coroner during the court proceedings really drove home the effects of alcohol on the central nervous system and on the perception of drivers while they're on the

Last spring, University Police officerscited Western professor Susan Kaplan in the middle of the day for driving drunk on campus and failing to pull over when followed by police.

With about 25 bars, pubs and breweries, about 10 liquor stores;about 12,000 students and about 50,000 other people in Bellingham, our community buys and consumes huge amounts of alcohol. The question is whether or not our community drinks responsibly. Everyone knows the rules, but do they follow them?

Most people in society have been innundated with drinking rules since they were drinking milk from a bottle. Cautionary phrases such as "Friends don't let friends drive drunk" and "Think before you drink" have been drummed into the consciousness of everyone who watches television, listens to radio or reads bumper stickers.

As a society, we're generally aware of the fact that drinking and driving don't mix. Yet most people who drink would say that at one point or another they have been driven a car while under the influence of alcohol.

More than 16,000 people were killed in alcohol-related accidents in the United States in 1997 — that's about one person every 32 minutes. More than one million people were injured in crashes involving alchohol, according to statistics compiled by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Throughout their lives, about three of every five Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related accident, according to the NHTSA. Many people in the Western community have dealt with the loss of friends and family.

The slogans about drinking and driving have become old. Many people are hardened to the frightening statistics of alcohol-related accidents because of constant exposure in the media.

McDermott died because Lamphier got behind the wheel of his car

The drunk-driving slogans may be stale, but the statistics are real and until responsible drinking becomes a trend, we will continue losing friends everyday.

Frontlines are the opinion of The Western Front, as determined by the members of the Front's editorial board: Katy Calbreath, Wendy Giroux, Jesse Kinsman, Jessica Luce, David Plakos, Katherine Schiffner and Samantha Tretheway

### The Western Front

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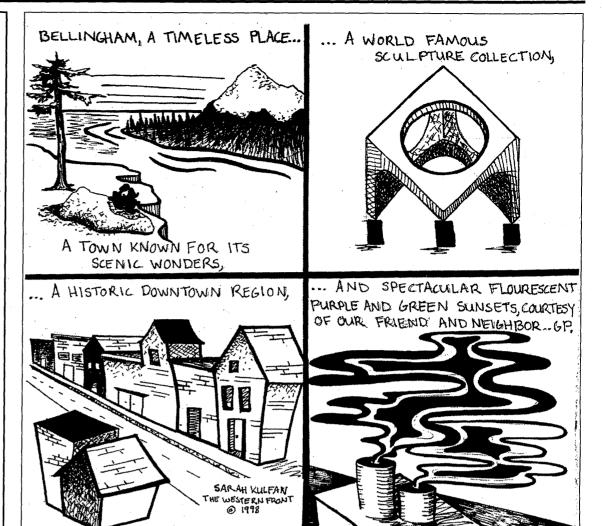
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Single copies of The Western Front are distributed free to members of the

Western community.



# Learning respect

### 'Corpus Christi' more than gay Christ

longer melting

disaster."

"Corpus Christi," Terrence McNally's controversial new play portraying a gay Christlike idol, opened last week at the Manhattan Theatre Club and has drawn large numbers of picketers, protesters, religious organizations and death threats from people divided over the play's subject.

Heidi Thomsen **COMMENTARY** According to the New York

Times, the play has been making headlines since last spring when its content was leaked to Roman Catholic groups, who have been objecting to the play ever since.

"Corpus Christi" added to the brutal retaliation concerning Matthew Shepard, a " gay University of Wyoming student who died last week after being beaten, pistol whipped, tied to a fence and left in freezing tem- together; if anything, peratures.

The sickening truth of the we are 10 degrees Wyoming beating and inequality for gays and lesbians victimized short of a simmering by hate crimes is evidence enough that we need to stop persecuting

attempt to ease friction between groups in society. "Corpus Christi" takes on the difficult task of educating people about the importance of respecting each other's differences.

All of the hype surrounding the taboo idea of a gay savior is worth it in the long run, if that is what it takes to realize our society is no longer melting together; if anything, we are 10 degrees short of a simmering disaster.

McNally's perspective of a gay biblical hero appeals to audience members by challenging their pre-existing ideas about theological truths, depicting how life is lived on "the other side." The play is not an opinion about the real sexual history and life of

the "greatest man who ever lived;" it simply offers a contrasting look at a period in time that shapes our thinking today.

McNally and director Joe Mantello do not appear to readily demean religious organizations by proposing that they may have stumbled across an alternative to the Bible's depictions of Christ; instead the two seem more concerned with the right of free speech - and the pursuit of a dazzling opening night.

According to the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, threats of violence to both cast and crew closed down production. Production picked up again when playwrights threatened to boycott the Manhattan Theatre Club for what they interpreted as a weak reaction by McNally and Mantello to corporal pres-

sure. The New York Times .. Our society is no reported that metal detectors and parcel detectors designed to find weaponry were installed, and production picked up again.

"Corpus Christi" shows, above all else, that we need to accept each other's differences before society itself is brought to ruin. Moving forward as a society beyond hate, beyond fear and beyond our own individual

Being afraid of people who are different is dam- boundaries of right or wrong demands we recognize ging, but hating those people is detrimental to our that all people, regardless of sexual preference, deserve to be treated with respect.

"Corpus Christi" is not about lashing out at homophobics, religious groups or even homosexuals themselves; the play is simply a show, a lens through which to-view the world.

While not everyone can identify with persecution, most people can remember a time when they were harassed for being different. Perhaps the focus of "Corpus Christi" is to remind people of those awful moments just enough to make them begin to understand what it is like to be persecuted every single day. With all of the sadness in the world, when someone finds happiness, how can we ethically take

### **Letters Policy**

The Western Front accepts letters up to 300 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.

Send all correspondence to: The Western Front, College Hall 09, Bellingham, WA 98225. E-mail letters to wfront@cc.wwu.edu

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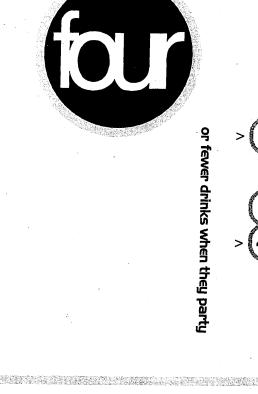
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