

THE WESTERN FRONT

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WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

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BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON

INSIDE:

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- LEARNING ABOUT AVALANCHE SAFETY, PREPAREDNESS, PAGE 9

Performing Arts Center to reopen, in late April



Front/Chris Goodenow

Craig Evans works on the roof of the new Performing Arts Center's Main Stage.

By Jai Ferguson
The Western Front

The Performing Arts Center, undergoing its first major remodeling in 49 years, will officially reopen with the musical "Cabaret" April 21, Roger Shipley, facilities manager for the College of Fine and Performing Arts said.

Although the official opening won't be until April, the P.A.C. is nearly complete and will host the Bill T. Jones Dance Company from New York Feb. 27.

Workers are completing installation of the stagefloor's cover, replacing the equipment they removed in the fall, finishing work in the attic and wiring elec-

trical equipment.

The project cost more than the original budget of \$700,000, Project Manager David Willett said, but did go "pretty smoothly, considering the age of the building."

It was built in 1951 and hasn't undergone any major cosmetic work since.

The renovation included remodeling the inner lobbies, main auditorium and dressing rooms, completed in October.

The auditorium's 1,100 seats were removed and taken to Portland, where they were reupholstered.

The seats were sent back to Bellingham and reinstalled, piece

by piece.

The auditorium received an upgraded lighting system, resurfaced vinyl walls, new catwalks, a replastered ceiling, an infrared listening system that transmits audio signals to a headset and improved access to the main floor for those with wheelchairs.

The additions comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Willett said.

The inner lobby of the building got new carpet, paint, drapes on one wall for improved acoustics and refinished woodwork.

The new catwalks above the stage will make production and program set-up much safer, Shipley said.

Local tuition control one step closer

With the introduction of bills in the state House and Senate, universities are close to controlling their tuition rates

By Alyssa Pfau
The Western Front

Local tuition-setting authority at public Washington state universities, once a proposal, is now a bill in both the House and Senate.

Both bills empower the board of trustees at each school to raise tuition by as much as 5 percent for resident undergraduates and

20 percent for nonresident, professional and graduate students.

Local tuition-setting authority would allow each institution to "price their services to increase productivity and market responsiveness," said legislators in House Bill 1528 and Senate Bill 5592.

Eastern Washington University, whose enrollment is at the low end among public universities in the state, could lower tuition to attract more students, while Western could raise tuition because low enrollment levels are not an issue.

Western's Board of Trustees supports local tuition-setting authority; however, students lob-

bing against it say taking tuition setting authority out of the government's hands is dangerous.

"Legislators can't raise tuition by significant amounts because people in their district might not vote for them in the next election," said Jesse Salomon, Associated Students legislative affairs liaison.

Salomon said he fears local control of tuition will start a shift toward a free-market system of higher education.

"The reason we have a public education system is so poor people are not held back as much by the free-market forces, and so they have a relatively inexpensive way

See Tuition, page 3

Funding cut threatens student lobby voice

By Holly Hinterberger
The Western Front

The legislative voice of Washington state college students is threatened in Olympia, as the Washington Student Lobby has seen a dramatic decline in student donations. W.S.L. had to cut its executive director, Shane Bird.

Bird, a lobbyist, resigned Jan. 30 because W.S.L. could no longer afford to pay his \$25,000-per-year salary, said Associated Students Vice President for Legislative and Community Affairs David Toyer.

A meeting for W.S.L. members Jan. 30 announced officially that Bird's position was terminated, W.S.L. Chair Joe Clinton said.

As executive director, Bird provided training for student lobbyists and taught them how to do their jobs efficiently and effectively. As chief lobbyist, he delegated responsibilities.

He was the top person in the organization, Toyer said.

"(Bird) is our voice. He has a wealth of experience and knows how to plan and coordinate," Clinton said.

"The executive director is the only person in Olympia — he is the finger on the pulse," Toyer said.

"We certainly did not want to let him go," Clinton said.

Losing Bird will mean a lot more work for campus liaisons. Western's liaison Jesse Salomon will go from working 10-hour days to 15-hour days. He will have to read through bills' text, attend meetings and meet with legislative members — without the help of an executive director, Clinton said.

W.S.L. president Arlene Nand will assume some of Bird's duties as coordinator and lobbyist. W.S.L.

'The \$6 you spend (per year) could save you \$100 by the end of the year.'

David Toyer
Associated Students vice president for Legislative and Community Affairs

alumni have volunteered to help as consultants, but they will not be lobbyists, Clinton said.

Bird will continue to volunteer part-time for W.S.L. as an adviser, Toyer said.

The W.S.L. subsists solely

on donations during registration, for instance.

Western's student donations have been down slightly, but are not the source of the problem, Toyer said.

Washington State University changed its registration to an online service and put the W.S.L. donation option on a separate page. As a result, donations dropped significantly.

Western's W.S.L. office is planning for its financial future. It is exploring different options, such as including a \$1 W.S.L. fee on tuition bills instead of asking for donations during registration.

See Funding, page 4

Hurting through the air



Courtesy of Snohomish Skydiving Center
A skydiver approaches for his landing at the Snohomish Skydiving Center. See story, page 6.

COPS BOX

Campus Police

Jan. 28, 2:45 p.m.: Two portable speakers were reported stolen from the Theater Arts Department. The speakers were valued at \$796.

Jan. 29, 4:10 p.m.: An antique record player valued at \$295 was reported stolen from the Performing Arts Center. It was to be used in an upcoming play.

Jan. 31, 12:31 p.m.: Police discovered graffiti on the cinder block retaining wall at the north end of an alley between parking lots 3R and 7G. The word "love" was written on the retaining wall in red spray paint.

Bellingham Police

Jan. 26, 11:28 a.m.: A man reported his vehicle had been spray-painted while it was parked in front of his home in the 3800 block of Ridgemont Way.

Jan. 26, 7:06 p.m.: Police responded to a stolen-vehicle report in the 1200 block of North State Street. A man said his friend came to his apartment to get some belongings and when she left, he noticed his keys were missing. He immediately went outside and discovered his vehicle was missing. The woman had mentioned she might be headed for California.

Jan. 26, 10:03 p.m.: A woman was cited and released for theft after refusing to pay her cab fare in full.

Jan. 27, 2:39 a.m.: A woman reported her dog growling at someone downstairs in her residence in the 400 block of 14th Street. It was unknown if the front door was locked, and no obvious signs of theft or forced entry were observed. Police found an intoxicated woman up the street.

Jan. 27, 2:50 p.m.: Police responded to a report of an intoxicated person on the corner of Railroad Avenue and West Holly streets. The man accepted a ride to detox.

Jan. 27, 9:12 p.m.: A custodian in the 200 block of Central Avenue reported a transient in the restroom. The transient became belligerent when asked to leave. Police checked the area, but couldn't find the transient.

Jan. 28, 9:16 a.m.: Police discovered A juvenile took a check from his mother's checkbook and addressed it to himself in the amount of \$50. He forged his mother's name on the check. Police arrested the juvenile.

Compiled by Carrie Van Driel

Western Briefs

Western to sponsor body pride week

Western is teaming with the Whatcom County Eating Disorders Coalition, hosting Body Pride Week.

Western and the WCEDC is hosting Body Pride Week in correlation with National Eating Disorders Awareness and Prevention Week, Feb. 20 to 27.

Body Pride Week features many activities and presentations at Western and St. Luke's Health Education Center, 3333 Squalicum Parkway. All activities are free.

Amateur playwrights' productions be shown

"New Playwrights Theater" will feature the first stagings of new works by local playwrights at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 11 through 13 in Performing Arts Center Theater 199. All performances are free, but tickets are required.

For ticket information, contact the P.A.C. box office at 650-6146.

Blood drive in Viking Union Main Lounge

Puget Sound Blood Center will be at Western Feb. 9 through 11 in the Viking Union Main Lounge. Students may donate blood between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

For donation eligibility information, call 1-800-DONATE-1, ext. 2543.

Performing Arts Center presents dance troupe

The Performing Arts Center will present Bill T. Jones and the Arnie Zane Dance Company, Feb. 27, on its renovated main-stage.

The company is comprised of African American, Hispanic and white dancers who perform a repertoire of more than 40 works in 30 countries and 45 American cities. Highlighting this season's tour will be the "D-Man in the Water," which earned a 1988-89 Bessie Award in choreography.

For ticket information, contact the P.A.C. at 650-6146.

Chamber ensemble will perform at Western

Western's music department will present SoundMoves, a chamber ensemble from Western Oregon University, at 8 p.m., Friday in the Performing Arts Center Concert Hall.

The three-person ensemble will perform a concert of works written in the 1990s by Nancy Bloomer Deussen, Art Maddox, Joseph Rubenstein, David Snow, Randall Snyder and David Rimelis.

The concert is free.

Students to perform Tennessee Williams play

"The Glass Menagerie," a play by Tennessee Williams, will show at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday in the Performing Arts Center Theater. The play focuses on an evening in the life of the Wingfield family.

For ticket information, contact the P.A.C. box office at 650-6146.

Speaker to talk about Cambodian Holocaust

Western's Associated Students Productions will sponsor the program "Surviving the Killing Fields" Feb. 9 in the Performing Arts Center Concert Hall. This

event will feature Dith Pran, a survivor of the Cambodian Holocaust during the Khmer Rouge regime.

Pran will speak about issues relating to the current political and social conditions of Cambodia and his personal experiences surviving the regime.

For more information, contact Navin Moul at 650-6804.

Sign language club seeks new members

Western's Sign Language Club meets at 5 p.m. every Thursday in Old Main 110. Competence in sign language isn't necessary, just an interest. For more information, e-mail at rrodriguez@pacifi-crim.net.

Fairhaven hosting course about social movements

Fairhaven College is providing a special course offered February through March about social movements. The course will investigate numerous social movements from historical and contemporary points of view.

The lecture courses will begin at 10 a.m. Thursday in the Fairhaven Auditorium.

Several speakers and films are free.

Compiled by Melissa Laing

Western Briefs Policy

To include an event in Western Briefs, send a news release two weeks before the event to The Western Front, College Hall 09, Bellingham, WA 98225, via fax, 650-7775, or e-mail, wfront@cc.wvu.edu. Due to space and time limitations, we cannot guarantee the publication of all submissions and reserve the right to edit any news release.

Campus Curiosities

Western faculty and administrators to visit United Arab Emirates

Huxley College of Environmental Studies, environmental studies professor Jack Hardy and vice provost for Extended University Programs Ken Symes will depart Friday to speak in the United Arab Emirates about the importance of environmental education in conjunction with of the United Arab Emirates National Environmental Day.

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The Western Front is the official newspaper of Western Washington University, published by the Student Publications Council. The Front is mainly supported by advertising revenue, but the opinions of Front editors and reporters are not reflected in these advertisements.

News content is determined by student editors. Staff reporters are enrolled in the course entitled "newspaper staff." Western students may send submissions to the above address.

Advertising inquiries should be directed to the business office in College Hall 07, or by phone to (360)650-3161.

Members of the Western community are entitled to a single free copy of each issue of The Western Front.

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

ADD CODES ARE REQUIRED FOR SEVERAL SPRING QUARTER BIOLOGY CLASSES. Add code requests may be picked up outside BI 315 through Feb. 5. Completed forms must be returned to the mailboxes indicated on the forms by 5 p.m. Feb. 5. Late applications will be considered on a space available basis. Add codes must be used by the date stated on the slip or the code may be given to someone else on the waiting list.

GRADUATING? TEACH IN CHINA. Western's China Teaching Program trains and places college graduates in Chinese schools to teach English as a second language. A general information meeting will be held from noon to 2 p.m. today, Feb. 2, in VU 408.

MATH PLACEMENT TEST. Registration is not required. Students must bring picture identification and a No. 2 pencil. A \$10 fee must be paid in the exact amount at the time of testing. Allow 90 minutes. The test will be in OM 170 at 9 a.m. Feb. 8, 22, March 1, 8 and 15, and at 3 p.m. Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25, March 4, 11 and 18.

ACADEMIC ADVISING IS HIRING PEER ADVISERS for next year. Students must be full time, have a 2.5 minimum grade point average, and possess strong communication skills. Advisers are trained to assist students with General University Requirements, course scheduling and academic policies. Ed340 is required spring quarter. Applications, available in OM 380, must be submitted by 5 p.m. Feb. 5.

ASIA UNIVERSITY AMERICAN PROGRAM CLOSING CEREMONIES are scheduled for 7 p.m. Feb. 11 in SL 150, followed by an 8:30 p.m. reception in the VA Fifth Floor Lounge. Everyone is welcome. • There will be an AUAP moving sale from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 12 in the Highland Hall lounge. For more information on either event, call X/3922.

MILLER ANALOGIES TEST (MAT). Registration is required in OM 120 or by calling X/3080. A \$35 fee is payable at the time of the test. The test takes approximately 1½ hours. Tests will be in FR 3 at 3 p.m. Feb. 16 and March 9. The MAT is not administered on an individual basis.

WESTERN IS HOLDING A SEALED BID AUCTION. Items to be auctioned include wooden library catalog cabinets, two band saws, a press, sailboats, kayaks, a Wurlitzer piano, steel library shelving, furniture, a Miller arc welder and more. To obtain a bid form or arrange for viewing, contact Cheryl Karney, X/3566. Bids must be received by 1:30 p.m. Feb. 17.

THE TEST FOR ENTRANCE INTO TEACHER EDUCATION (TETEP) will be given at 3 p.m. March 3 in SL 150. Registration is required in OM 120, and a fee of \$25 must be paid in the exact amount at time of registration. The test takes approximately 2½ hours. TETEP is not administered on an individual basis. Deadline for fall admission into teacher education is April 30.

TUITION TAX CREDITS. Several new tax credits are available for the 1998 tax year. They are intended to help students and their parents meet the cost of post-secondary education. Two of the credits are the Hope Scholarship credit and the Lifetime Learning credit. For more information on these and other tax-saving options, call toll-free (877) 467-3821 or visit the Web site, <http://www.wvu.edu/~stuacct/hope.htm>.

INFORMATION ABOUT NATIONAL TESTING is available from the Testing Center, OM 120.

Newsmakers

PEOPLE MAKING AN IMPACT ON CAMPUS

By Holly Hinterberger
The Western Front

For 37-years-old, Jerry Boles has worked in a field that is constantly changing and re-inventing itself. Because of him, Western is keeping up with the never-ending advancement of technology.

In the eight years since he has been vice provost for Information and Telecommunication Services, Boles has played a key part in a massive technological change at Western.

In 1990, a planning committee created the position with the intent of advancing Western's technology focus, Boles said.

After spending 27 years working at Cal State Northridge, Boles said he and his wife decided to move to Bellingham.

"I have always loved the Northwest and was convinced Western was a high-quality institution," Boles said, adding that he immediately liked the campus.

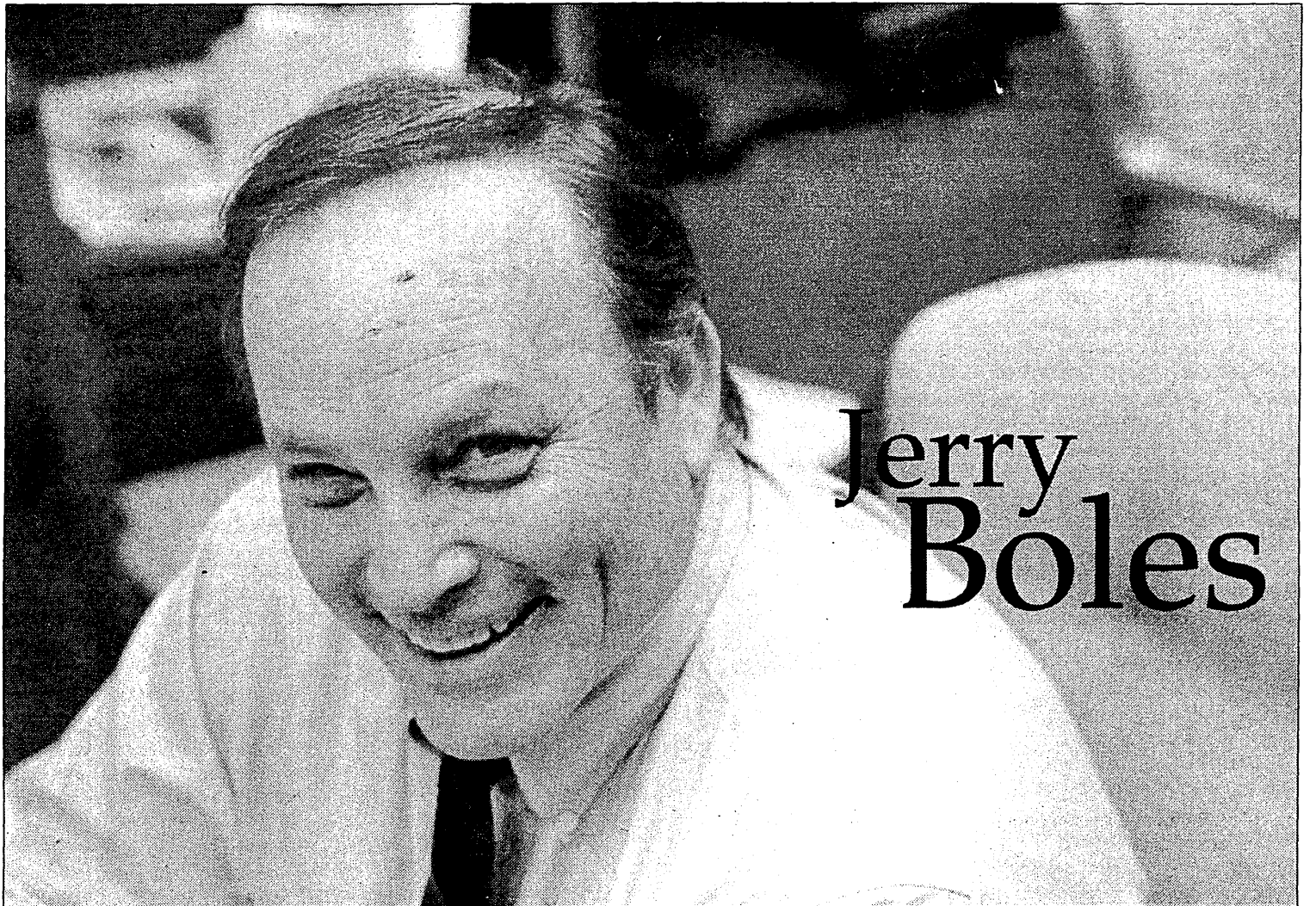
His initial projects at Western included: automation of the library, touch-tone registration, faculty workstation program, expansion of campus computer labs, a new student computer system and rewiring the campus buildings for Internet access.

In addition to participating in these projects, Boles is responsible for three major technology areas on campus: academic technology, administrative technology and telecommunications.

The Academic Coordinating Committee oversees student computer labs, technicians, media centers and lab assistants.

The Academic Technology and User Services Help Desk in Miller Hall is also a part of the ACC.

"Over the past few years Western has gotten faster com-



Jerry Boles

Front/Erin Fredrichs

Jerry Boles, vice provost for Information and Telecommunication Services, oversees technology at Western. He is responsible for coordinating and planning technological growth at Western. He also designed the RSVP registration system.

puters and more (computer) access," senior Hawkins DeFrance said. "It used to be a pain because you couldn't save your files in the lab. Now a lot of the computers have zip drives, so getting your homework done is a lot easier."

Administrative Computer Services operates Internet services and the Titan server. It includes administrative computing support, such as the RSVP system, the modem pool and student grades.

Telecommunications at Western includes the phone services throughout campus and data networking systems.

Boles' responsibilities encompass more than just overseeing areas of technology at Western.

"This is the third or fourth computer revolution I have seen since 1962," Boles said. "Every ten years the industry re-invents itself."

Boles calls the Internet the latest computer revolution. He said he thinks the Internet will create continental continuity. Everyone will be joined via computers, he said.

A lot of Boles' energy is focused toward the Internet and ways to use its technology. E-mail-based courses and an Internet registration system are priorities for Western, he said.

After completing those projects, Boles said he hopes to establish a degree audit system, which would give students an Internet source for graduation planning. Students would be able to see which classes they needed in order to complete their degree.

Boles is working with the Center for Innovative Instruction.

He is working with faculty to incorporate technology in the classroom by offering seminars

and a place for faculty to learn about technology.

The Student Technology Fee plays an integral role in the creation of Boles' programs.

The fee, matched by the administration and the Western Foundation, raises more than \$500,000 per year. The money may provide for significant advancement in technology at Western, Boles said.

It's also applied toward academic computing, he said.

Boles serves on the committee responsible for planning and coordinating the use of the Student Technology Fee.

The committee has recently approved projects, such as building a sound studio for the music department and buying Physical Education equipment and the student modem pool.

"(The Student Technology Fee) has been a really good thing for Western," Boles said.

"With the fee, students realize they are stake holders also," he added.

Every four years, a student committee evaluates the use and necessity of the fee. The fee is up for evaluation this spring, Boles said.

Technology involves financial support from students and administration. Boles said he is lucky because he has not had to fight for administrative help.

"One of the keys to the success of technology (at Western) is the commitment of the administration," Boles said. "When talking about change as massive as Western's, commitment has to come from the administration down."

"The end is improvement of the academic environment (at Western)," Boles said. "The end is not technology, but what it does for students."

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Local tuition, from page 1

of educating and bettering themselves," Salomon said.

President Karen Morse, who said she supports the board of trustees' decision, said differences already exists in the system and a new tuition system would not introduce anything new.

"Some students don't go to a four-year college right after they graduate from high school - they go to a community college," Morse said. "The state encourages that, and that is based on financial aid."

She added it is important not to let the differentiation get so out of

whack that students can't afford to come to Western. She stressed the importance of maintaining financial aid increases with any increase in tuition.

Students lobbying against local tuition-setting authority said students should contact their senators and representatives.

"It is easier to kill a bill in the early stages," said David Toyer, Associated Students vice president for legislative affairs.

Both local-control bills, HB 1528 and SB 5592, were filed late last week and are being reviewed by the higher education committees.

Faculty considering new master's degree

By Kayley Mendenhall
The Western Front

Excited whispers about a joint master's-degree program between Western's College of Business and Economics and Huxley College of Environmental Studies have been flying through the wind tunnel between Parks Hall and the Environmental Studies building. The new program would reportedly attempt to link the environmental and economic worlds.

The proposal is still in its earliest planning stage and may never become a reality. A committee of three C.B.E. professors and three Huxley professors will examine the feasibility of a Master's of Business Administration combined with a Master's of Environmental Science degree at Western.

"Discussions are serious at this stage," said Devon Cancilla, committee chairperson and professor of environmental studies. "There are a lot of hurdles, including types of classes that will be offered and whether we will be compromising either of the programs."

The committee plans to decide on a proposal during spring quarter. The C.B.E. and Huxley faculties will review the proposal. Before adoption, another committee will discuss implementation questions and eventually the proposal would have to be approved by both faculties and the graduate council and reviewed by Western's Faculty Senate.

Huxley Dean Brad Smith has set a time line for the committee, hoping to have the program started by fall quarter of 2000.

"It is slowly developing," Smith said. "The faculty are putting the program together, and researching other successful models out there."

One of the models is from the University of Michigan, which has the most prominent program of this type, CBE professor Dan Hagen said.

The program has received substantial private donations and has been successful in recruiting and placing students.

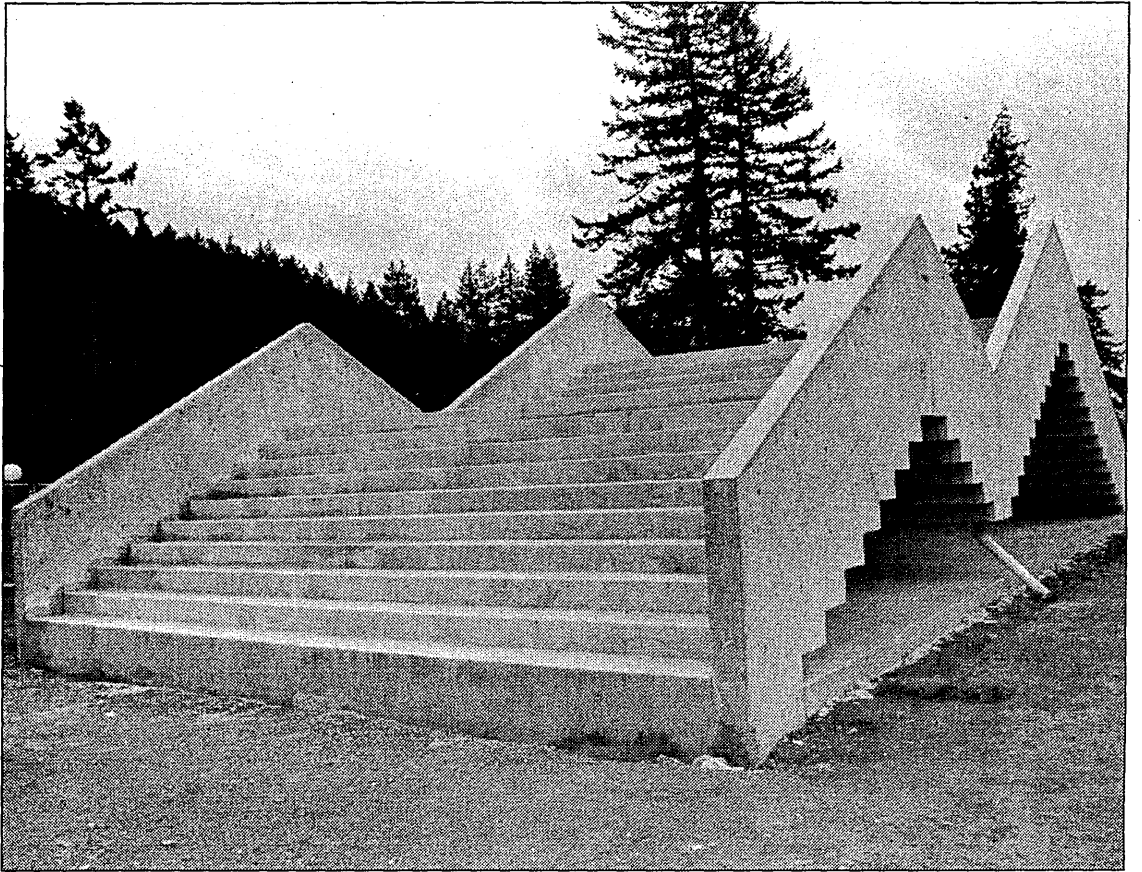
Wilder Construction, a local corporation, has already donated \$250,000 to the formation of a new master's program. This donation was matched by the state, making the total \$500,000 — specifically meant to endow a professorship in business and environmental science.

"If there is a demand for this combined degree, Western is well-equipped to deal with the program," Hagen said. "We have a credited M.B.A. program and we also, of course, have a strong environmental science program."

Business and Economics Dean Stephen Senge said the new program would not replace any existing programs. It would simply be another option for students to pursue.

If the new masters program is adopted, it will be the first of its kind in the Northwest.

New sculpture added



Front/Erin Fredrichs

Bruce Nauman's "Stadium Piece" is the 23rd addition to Western's Outdoor Sculpture Collection.

By Cole Cosgrove
The Western Front

Students may have noticed the large, triangular, concrete steps being built at the south end of campus near the University Police station. The collection of steps is the latest addition to Western's Outdoor Sculpture Collection.

"We are the luckiest people in the world. People are intensely jealous," Curator Sarah Clark-Langager said about Bruce Nauman's "Stadium Piece." The outdoor sculpture acquisition should be finished by the end of February or early March.

"Bruce Nauman is considered one of the great contemporary artists," Clark-Langager said.

Just as Picasso was one of the great artists of this century, Nauman is one of the most important artists as we move into the next century, Clark-Langager said.

Nauman's piece speaks on many different levels, she said.

Nauman wrote in a statement accompanying the work, "The

artist's intent is that the structure be used by spectators for activities occurring around it. The artist sees the work as a link and transition between the academic and recreational activities that occur within the university."

Nauman recognized that education at Western occurs inside and outside of buildings, Clark-Langager explained.

"At a university, we have goals, and the steps are symbolic of the process we go through to achieve these goals," she said.

The piece is meant to function not only as bleachers, from which spectators may focus on the sports fields, but as a stage, making the audience the focal point, Clark-Langager said.

"When you hear 'Stadium Piece,' immediately something comes to mind. But he inverts that and makes you rethink what a stadium is," she said.

Since only a certain number of players may be on the field, Nauman reversed the stadium, facing the bleachers outward.

Nauman also accounted for the natural setting of Western's

campus by tinting the concrete white, she said

"Standing on Western's campus, wherever you look you see mountains with snow," Clark-Langager said. "He wanted to make it echo the mountains in the distance."

When placing his piece, Nauman said he considered future development on campus, which includes adding a large building on the grass field south of the Environmental Studies building, one in place of the tennis courts near the turf field and demolishing the University Police station.

He made it big so the new buildings wouldn't overshadow the piece, Clark-Langager said.

The Virginia Wright Fund commissioned the sculpture as a gift to Western. Virginia Wright, consistently named one of the top 200 art collectors in the world, has already given Western five works, one of the most notable being Mark di Suvero's "For Handel," the piece in the courtyard of the Performing Arts Center.

Funding cut, from page 1

Western's W.S.L. office is working with the attorney general of Washington state to determine the legalities of the proposal, Clinton said.

"With (a required fee), we would see a lot of results," Clinton said.

Western's W.S.L. will be able to afford another liaison and a campus coordinator if the proposal is granted, he explained.

The state W.S.L. office is working toward a secure financial future, one that may include another executive director.

The purpose of the W.S.L. is to voice student concerns to the legislation. It lobbies for student interest by taking positions on bills and legislation, Toyer said.

W.S.L.'s agenda includes: increased financial aid, increased faculty, expansion of Western's child care program, tax exemp-

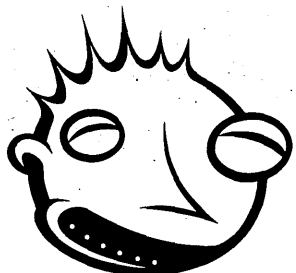
tions for textbook purchases, increased campus safety and opposition to local and differential tuition control.

The W.S.L. is the voice of nearly 80,000 students, Toyer said.

Despite its financial issues, W.S.L. does not have plans to fold. Western's office will continue to maintain its daily business, despite the loss of Bird.

Student contributions remain imperative to the survival of the students' voice in Olympia.

"We have a slogan," Toyer said. "The \$6 you spend (per year) could save you \$100 by the end of the year."



"Who are Viking Union Eateries

AND

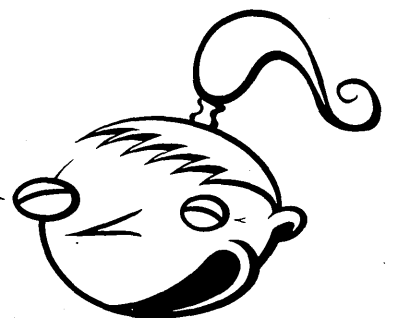
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How does the garden grow at Joe's?

By Christie Shepard
The Western Front

The sky is clouded over; the air is biting. Barn doors stand open and a low hum is audible from every direction. The large field appears to house only soil. A barn with the door ajar reveals organized clutter of farm equipment ...

A man slowly appears in the back doorway; his jeans and sweatshirt are lightly dusted with dirt, he quietly extends his hand and offers a soft welcome. His presence is serene and commands immediate respect.

Respect. This word can explain why Joe's Garden is the way it is. Respect is why owner Carl Weston has not changed the name of the garden. Respect is why Weston's first consideration, when it comes to the farm, is how healthy for the earth any decision will be.

Joe's Garden's original owner, Joe Bertero, 92, began Joe's Garden on Iowa Street, where his father, Louis, farmed 17.5 acres.

In 1959 Bertero moved the business to four-and-a-half acres at 3100 Taylor Avenue. He sold 80 percent of the produce to local

groceries and the remaining 20 percent at the farm. Bertero used a minimal amount of pesticides. He still lives next door to the farm and helps out in the garden.

Today, Weston strives to maintain the same level of quality in the garden.

"Pretty much all the work in the garden is the same way I did it for Joe 30, 40 years ago," Weston said, surveying the area around him. "We do all the weeding by hand; we don't use any herbicides."

Joe's Garden is easily seen from 32nd Street. Rich fields of dirt await the new crops which will be planted sometime in February.

No fancy, state-of-the-art equipment is used; only old fashioned, dig-your-hands-into-the-dirt, hard work.

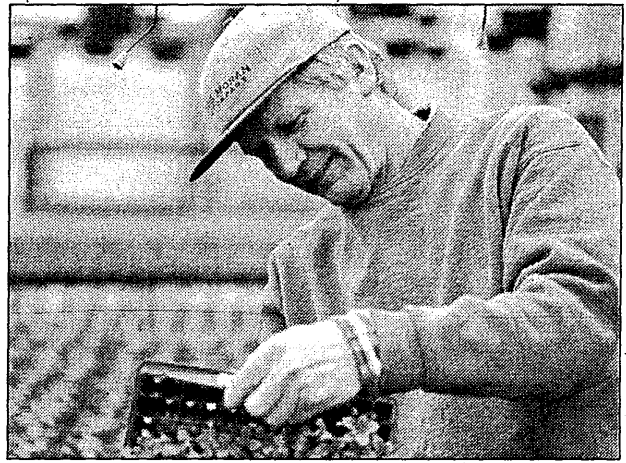
At 16, Weston started working for Bertero and kept with it for 10 years before going off to pursue other things.

Weston said he always wanted to buy Joe's Garden and would often ask Bertero when he would sell it. The day finally came in 1983 and Weston returned to his passion.

During the past 16 years, Weston has seen a shift in his sales; 80 percent now comes from produce sold at the farm. The remaining 20 percent now comes from selling to local groceries. Weston said most of the locally-owned stores carry Joe's produce.

Weston said because of the economics of the area, he had to sell more from the farm.

"The wholesale prices of a lot of these vegetables is the same as I was getting 10-or-12 years ago,"



Front/Tim Klein
Carl Weston, owner, prepares flowers for Mother's Day.

Weston said, waving his hand over the baby lettuce in front of him. "We had to go more into retail to make it at all profitable."

One way was to add flowers to Joe's Garden, which are only sold on the farm. Weston said he has been selling them for six to eight years. Customers like them fresh cut from the garden, rather than the dried-out ones from stores.

Weston's insight into what customers want and how to give them a quality product isn't something he learned at college.

"I never went to school or anything; this is all through experience and just trial and error," Weston said with a quiet laugh. "I mean, it probably took me 10 years just to learn how to water."

Weston has reformed different aspects of the garden. For the past seven or eight years, he has used a soil from tree bark. This soil has an almost natural fungicide in it.

Running his hands through the dark soil, Weston said the beneficial organisms develop quickly and block any problem-causing bacteria that may want to make themselves at home.

Weston sends soil samples to Mount Vernon for testing to ensure he isn't adding anything

unnecessary to the soil. He tests every 50 feet to guarantee all his products are grown with exactly what is needed and nothing is wasted.

In the spring and summer, when the garden is at its peak, vegetables and flowers fill the garden, adding a splash of color to the concrete and residential area.

"Pretty much all the neighbors and everybody that lives on the South Side like us and want us to stay," Weston said. "It's not too many places where you have seven acres of open space inside of a city."

Jennifer Dyck a produce department employee at Sehome Village's Haggen said it is apparent customers appreciate the locally-grown produce.

"In fact, they want it during the winter when Joe's isn't producing," Dyck said.

The future does not include much change for Joe's. Weston's son, Jason, plans to take over the business.

"We're doing well enough now as it is that we'd like to keep it the way it is," Weston said. "As far as I am concerned, it will forever be a farm."

73
Percent

most seventy three percent western students have

one • to • four

drinks when they party

No. 1, 2, 4

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1 drink = 12 oz. beer = 4.5 oz. wine = 1 oz. liquor

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FOOD CO-OP

Taking the plunge ...



Courtesy of Snohomish Parachute Center

Tandem instructor Igor Perminov leads a passenger to a safe landing.

By Kari McGinnis
The Western Front

The winds are calm and the sky is clear. A small plane warms up, waiting to take a handful of people high into the sky — destination: 8,000 feet.

Instructors tighten and secure harness straps before taking their students to the plane. Smiles of anticipation are smeared across the students' faces. Altimeter watches gauge the altitude as the plane ascends and the earth becomes increasingly distant. By the time the skydivers reach their jumping point, the ground looks like a patchwork quilt.

Most people choose to do a tandem jump for their first skydive, said Carina Fleury, tandem instructor at Snohomish Parachute Center at Harvey Air Field. In a tandem jump, the student and instructor are hooked together, so the instructor does everything while the student enjoys the ride.

A tandem jump from 8,000 feet provides a 30-second freefall and about a five-minute parachute ride.

"With a tandem, they get to experience the whole thing with the safety of someone who knows what they're doing," Fleury said.

Training for a tandem jump takes about 30 minutes. The student learns how to arch in "box position," Fleury said.

"You stick your hips forward so your center of gravity is your belly and not your back," she explained.

Fleury, whose dad was a skydiver, did her first tandem jump when she was 13.

"I didn't know what to think of it," she said. It was the coolest thing I had ever done."

Most of Fleury's time is spent packing chutes. When she started working at Snohomish Parachute Center about three years ago, the other employees told her she was going to do the first jump with one of her chutes. Since then she has accumulated 1,190 jumps.

Fleury achieved static line

jump master status by obtaining a United States Parachute Association D license. Licenses are issued based upon demonstration of skill, knowledge and experience and are ranked according to level of accomplishment.

"My favorite part is walking away at the end," Fleury said. Last summer she broke her leg landing her second tandem as an instructor. She's had three reserve rides, where the main chute failed and she had to release the reserve.

Fleury said her first reserve ride was the scariest. When her main chute opened she wasn't happy with the way it was performing so she "cut away." Only one side of the parachute released, leaving her connected and spinning, she explained.

The reserve static line is a safety device that releases the reserve chute without pulling the ripcord.

Fleury's reserve inflated while

she held the still-attached main chute out to the side and continued spinning.

"I must've been spinning just right because somehow I didn't get tangled," she said.

Fleury said she was frightened and reacted as fast as she could and doing everything she thought she should.

"When an emergency happens, you have to know right now what you're going to do, if not three seconds ago," she said.

"The most dangerous part of skydiving is getting out of the plane," Fleury said.

Fleury spends her time in the air, "freeflying." Instead of freefalling on her belly, she falls head-first.

"On your belly, you hit terminal at about 120 mph; when you go head first, it's at about 180 mph," she said.

When she's not trying new ways to free fly, Fleury jumps

with a group in formation.

"We can spend forty minutes planning it out on the ground and it still might not be anything like we planned," she said, adding it takes a lot of practice and confidence.

"I trust myself, so I know I can get away if there's a problem," she said.

Heidi Grubbs, manager of Snohomish Parachute Center, took a different approach to her first jump. About a year-and-a-half ago she came to the drop zone with a group of friends and spent the day training for a static-line jump.

The four-hour training covers all the basics of skydiving while focusing mostly on emergency procedures, Grubbs said.

Once the plane reaches 3,000 feet, students climb out and hang by their arms from the strut of the wing, Grubbs explained. A static line that's attached to the plane pulls open the parachute when the student drops.

A radio is attached to jumpers so someone on the ground can direct them to the landing zone.

"The big, docile parachutes are easy to maneuver," Grubbs said.

Grubbs said she was excited to make her first jump and has jumped 97 times since. Out of the group of 10 that came out with her that first day, Grubbs and one other continued with the sport.

"You can tell when people are scared," Fleury said. "They get

real pale and shaky. We always give them a couple of chances to do it."

First-time jumpers' reaction as they sail back to earth is "usually a giant 'woohooo,'" she added.

Fleury said she thinks less than 2 percent of first-time jumpers come back to earn certification, which requires about 25 jumps, a written test and competence in packing a chute. The time it takes

depends on the person, Fleury said.

"It can take anywhere from two months to two years," she said.

"The price of a jump goes down the more you jump; but then you jump more so you easily spend

\$200 per weekend," Grubbs said.

Grubbs said some people who skydive sacrifice other material aspects of life.

"You can tell with some people, like by the car they drive," she laughed.

"What car?" Fleury asked.

Federal Aviation Regulation prohibits people from jumping into or through clouds when the clouds are above 7,000 feet and the winds less than 15 mph, people from all around bail out of airplanes above Harvey Air Field in Snohomish.

For more information call 1-800-338-5867 and to make jumping reservations call (360) 568-5960.

"The most dangerous part of skydiving is getting out of the plane ..."

Carina Fleury
Snohomish Parachute Center
instructor



Courtesy of Snohomish Parachute Center

Snohomish Parachute Center offers tandem skydiving seven days per week during the summer and on weekends during winter.

Snowboarding: *a way of life*

By Mia Penta
The Western Front

A group of Western students has disappeared for winter quarter. An occasional glimpse of them in a class or two may be caught, but chances are they will more often be found riding fakie, jibbing or grabbing stalefish. Those students are opting to skip classes to hit the slopes of Mount Baker Ski Area for a day of snowboarding.

Mike Berry, a 21-year-old former Western student, said, depending on the weather, he usually dedicates four or five days per week to the sport.

"Snowboarding is just awesome," Berry said. "It gives me a respect for nature and for life in general."

Junior Matt Jorgensen balances a full-time job, school and at least two or three days per week at Mount Baker. He said he enjoys snowboarding to get away from everyday distractions and to hang out with friends.

"(It) is an escape to a relaxed, outdoor atmosphere," Jorgensen said. "It keeps me sane."

While senior Grant Ceolter has his hands full with a business management major, he agreed his escape is just an hour's drive away.

"I love the freedom of being out in nature, getting away from everyday's hectic schedule," Ceolter said. "We have access to the most snow in the country right in our backyard."

Many have discovered the advantages of maneuvering one board rather than two skis. Berry said snowboarding felt more natural to him, and he progressed more quickly during the last two years than the six or seven years he spent skiing.

Unlike his experience skiing, Ceolter said he still discovers excitement and new challenges while snowboarding — even after six years.

"On a snowboard, you can actually feel the snow on your feet," Ceolter said. "It's euphoria riding on powder."

A Mount Baker lift ticket costs \$18 to \$30, depending on the day of the week. Renting a snowboard costs \$15 per day, while purchasing one runs in the \$500 range. Throw in food, clothes and gas money, and it is one expensive sport. Jorgensen said snowboarding is worth every penny he spends, and compared it to any other beloved hobby.

"You can't put a price on something you really like to do," Jorgensen pointed out. "If you enjoy doing it, you will sacrifice to do it."

"You will find a way," added Berry, who saves money from a landscaping business he started with friends.

Jorgensen said the outdoor environment is something he doesn't experience by reading a book or listening to a lecture.

"You are living it, not just hearing about it," he said. "It really gives you a sense of yourself."

Berry said society instills the need to go to school, which is something he has put into perspective after taking time off.

Berry said he realized he doesn't have to attend a full day of classes in order to be successful in life.

Some adults and students may see the life of a snowboarder as "foolishness," but Jorgensen said he doesn't see the harm in taking advantage of the fact he is young and healthy.

"What does it hurt to take a quarter off?" Jorgensen asked.

"Things change when you get older — or they don't. I hope to be doing this a long time."

'It's euphoria riding on powder.'

Grant Ceolter
Western Senior



Courtesy of Trevor Phillips

A snowboarder shows off his "method" at Mount Baker.

Firing in a friendly game of paintball



Front/Chris Goodenow

Karl Campbell, owner of Semper Fi Paintball Supply is one of the 5000 paintball retailers in the United States.

By J.J. Jensen
The Western Front

Pow-pow-pow-pow-pow-pow. The echoes of CO2-powered, semi-automatic and pump-action paintball guns ring throughout the 20-acre, Semper Fi paintball field at 2149 E. Badger. Players dive for cover as plastic-covered gel caps whiz by their heads at

280 feet per second; then they return fire as fast as they can pull the trigger. The only thing absent is Robert Duvall sternly proclaiming, "I love the smell of napalm in the morning."

"Apocalypse Now," it isn't, but every Sunday, year-round, barring holidays and excessively bad weather, weekend warriors may try their luck at paintball.

Former Marine Karl Campbell's Semper Fi paintball field is the only field in Whatcom county that operates as a legal business.

Paintball has been around since 1981, when it was first played in New Jersey. Since then, it has begun merging into the mainstream, prompting ESPN specials and national tournaments rewarding winning teams with as much as \$10,000.

More than one million teenage males play paintball and the United States has more than 5,000 paintball retailers. Some high schools and colleges offer paintball clubs and compete against one another; some churches offer weekend paintball getaways.

Campbell, 38, opened his field Easter of 1996, and estimated the start-up cost to be \$2,000. The application process took five-and-a-half months.

Campbell's field wears the scars of wars past. Campbell dug trenches with a backhoe; large chunks of concrete and woodpiles provide cover and several six-foot tall forts made from alder limbs have been built to defend. Any place big enough to hide a body has the remnants of fluorescent green, pink or red paint splattered on it.

"If you want to have the highest adrenaline rush and excitement you've ever had, paintball's it," Campbell said. "There's nothing like getting in a good shoot-out with five or six people and

your adrenaline is pumping like mad. It makes it addictive."

Games played include capture the flag, center flag and elimination; each have half-hour time limits. The field opens at 9 a.m. and games continue until participants are ready to call it a day.

Individuals have their own reasons for playing the sport.

"You get to shoot people!" exclaimed 13-year-old Barrett Lizza of Lynden, with a devious gleam in his eyes as he anticipated the coming competition. "At first you're scared, but after you get used to it, it's really fun."

Doug Muha, one of the older players, carries a different attitude and respect for the game.

"It's fun to come out here and act crazy a little bit, but for those that have never been in the military, they find out how easy it is to get shot," Muha said. It provides you with a lot more respect for service people."

Players usually only receive minimal injuries when paintballs hit them.

"All you're going to get is a good welt or a small cut," Campbell said.

Risk of more serious injuries comes from field conditions.

"You're playing in the woods, so there's all kinds of potential, such as a sprain or break, when you're jumping over logs and stuff," Campbell said.

Campbell is building new

fields and has grander visions for his participants.

His plans include an airfield scenario, complete with abandoned airplane bodies, bunkers and towers; battle scenarios for an ammo dump and fuel depot; a heated clubhouse and gravelled parking lot.

"Hopefully, it will be completed in three to five years. It depends on how much help I get and how much materials are going to cost," he said. "It won't be the biggest paintball field on the West Coast, but I hope it will be one of the best."

Campbell allows prospective players to check out the games before they play. He provides them with a safety vest and goggles, so they can walk around and observe the action.

Campbell estimates the average startup cost for new players is \$300 to \$400. That would buy a semi-automatic gun, goggles, CO2, camouflage and paintballs.

The regular field fee at Semper Fi is \$15 per person, but if players buy paint at the field, they get a discount.

Some say paintball is a violent sport, but Campbell disagrees.

"Don't prejudice the sport, he said. A lot of people are brought up that you don't point guns at people, but the whole idea behind the sport is that you do point guns at people." "Check it out first before you start bad-mouthing the sport."

A walk on the snowy side

Outdoor Center leads students on Mount Baker adventure

By Kari McGinnis
The Western Front

A group of Western students, decked out in fleece and wool, met Jan. 30 at Western's Outdoor Center for their first snowshoeing experience. Each person grabbed a set of snowshoes and poles and piled into a van, anxious to reach Mount Baker.

At the mountain, they strapped on their snowshoes and headed up the trail. By the time the group reached the top of the first hill, some needed to remove a layer of clothing.

Matt Anderson, trip co-leader and Western journalism/environmental studies student, led the group to Austin Pass. Amy Duncan, co-leader and Western environmental education student, followed along while helping the new snowshoers learn how to dig in their toes to keep from sliding.

Anderson said the fluffy snow made it a great day for snowshoeing because it's "more challenging and fun to charge around." He said his favorite part of the sport is the sights.

When the group reached a fairly steep



Front/Kari McGinnis
During their snowshoe hike at Mount Baker, trip co-leader Matt Anderson and eight Western students take a moment to view a group of ice-climbers.

hill, Anderson and Duncan decided it would be a good place to assess the avalanche danger before climbing any higher.

Using snow shovels, they dug a pit to view the layers of snow. When a hard-crust layer of snow has a layer of soft snow on top of it, any pressure applied to the sur-

face may cause the top layer to slide off, Anderson explained.

Duncan said after cutting about one-and-a-half feet into the hillside, the top layer of snow slid off without any pressure applied. The trip leaders said that the rain from a few days prior had created a layer of ice beneath the fresh snow. The result, they

said, was an unstable, unanchored slope.

Having determined a fair level of avalanche danger, the group turned its energy to climbing the tree line, where the snow was anchored. Together, the group traversed up, down and across the mountain slopes.

Ant Chapin, excursion co-coordinator, said he thinks snowshoeing is popular because "it's a very efficient means of travel; the gear is simple and it's easy to learn."

The low-impact aerobic sport has become so popular among students that the Outdoor Center planned the trip to Mount Baker to accommodate those who were on the waiting list for a snowshoe trip to Church Mountain.

Jen Boyer, Western graduate student, said she signed up for the trip because she wanted to try something new and meet new people. Western freshman Veronika Glukhova said she wanted to experience her first snow sport.

"I am really excited because I've never done anything like this before," Glukhova said.

While climbing uphill required a high endurance level, Boyer and Glukhova said their favorite part was running and sliding downhill.

Duncan said she enjoys alpine climbing, but occasionally does day-long snowshoe trips.

"I like being out in the mountains, being up high and seeing the peaks. I like leading trips — to share the experience, to take people places they haven't seen before," she said.

Tourney attracts low turnout

Only two teams participated in the Schick 3-on-3 basketball tournament at Carver Gym Saturday morning.

"There is a low turnout this year comparing to last year's tournament," coordinator P.J. McGuire said.

The lack of publicity and stu-

dent involvement were the reasons for the low turnout.

McGuire said they don't plan to change the method of publicity for next year's tournament.

"The students missed out on this great basketball tournament," McGuire said.

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Avalanche awareness key to safe snow sports

By Holly Hinterberger
The Western Front

Up the steep hills leading to Mount Baker's summit, Western students trek in search of perfect snow conditions. The back country provides cheap, untouched rides for snowshoers, downhill skiers, snowboarders and telemark skiers.

It also presents the threat of avalanches.

The recent search for a missing snowboarder at Mount Baker confirms the avalanche danger in the area, which is due to the high level of snowfall. This season, an unusually high level of snow has fallen said Andrew Cull, equipment shop coordinator at the Outdoor Center.

The Westside Avalanche Network Web site lists five avalanche danger levels: low, moderate, considerable, high and extreme. At low danger levels, back country is generally safe, but caution is advised. Extreme danger levels should be avoided completely.

The most important precaution backcountry travelers can take is to be aware of avalanche conditions.

The Outdoor Center has an avalanche report every morning by 10 a.m.

Those who plan to travel the back country need to know how to assess conditions, Cull said.

The Outdoor Center offers avalanche safety clinics on Feb. 10 and 13 for \$45. The clinic teaches different ways to study weather, terrain and snow pack and how to tie those issues into snow safety.

The Outdoor Center also offers a free class at 7 p.m., Feb. 3, that will teach how to use avalanche transceivers, Cull said.

No one is ever completely free from avalanche danger when trekking in the backcountry.

"It is a part of nature and is unpredictable," Amy Krueger, excursions instructions coordinator at the Outdoor Center, said.

Cull said he recommends backcountry skiers and snowshoers bring enough warm clothing to survive overnight, if mishaps occur.

It's also wise to bring some kind of snack, he said, and never travel the back country alone.

If skiers think they might be crossing an avalanche slope, they should get rid of their poles, backpack and anything that might drag them down, Cull said.

Avoid harnesses and ropes when in avalanche danger, Cull said. They will keep a person from being swept away in the snow, but avalanches create a momentum of snow that will likely kill a skier held with a rope.

"Being in the back country is weighing risks and making well-educated decisions on where to go," Cull said.

If skiers are caught in an avalanche, they should make swimming motions — preferably the breaststroke — to remain on top of the snow, Cull said. When the snow stops, skiers should clear a space in front of their faces for air.

"Most (avalanche victims) who die, die of suffocation — not hypothermia," Cull said. "Quick thinking can save your life."

It is important for companions to note the last place they saw the victim. Since it is nearly impossible to dig someone out with bare hands, a small shovel is a useful tool to carry, Cull said.

The Outdoor Center has a library available with information about snow safety.

Women try to hold on to 2nd place ranking

By Jen Webber
The Western Front

After splitting its last two road games, the Western women's basketball team, ranked No. 2 in the West Region of NCAA Division II, is looking ahead to its final five league games, the outcomes of which will clarify its final conference standings.

Western will travel Saturday to play long-time rival Simon Fraser University, winner of its last 32 home games. The Vikings look to avenge an early January home loss, in which Simon Fraser pulled out the victory with a last-second shot in overtime.

The contest brings with it not only a tough opponent, but also a difficult playing atmosphere.

"The officials are tougher and the fans are relentless," sophomore Briana Abrahamsen said. "We need to fuel ourselves from the crowd and use it as a motivation."

The Vikings are fighting for a playoff position and hope to host the PacWest Conference Championships, Feb. 25 to 27.

Winning is something that eluded the Vikings last week against Western Oregon, when the team lost 64-61. The Vikings were unable to hold onto a nine-point lead, making only seven field goals in the second half.

"We lost it ourselves," first-year assistant coach Gina Sampson said. "We lacked the focus and intensity we needed."

The loss snapped the Vikings' four-game winning streak.

Abrahamsen led the Vikings with 23 points, tying her career high. Celeste Hill tallied 11 and became the 15th Western player to score 1,000 career points.

After the disappointing loss, the Vikings changed pace, came out on fire Saturday against Humboldt State, and went on to win 79-64.

Men seek to improve road record

By Shane Davis
The Western Front

With the playoffs approaching and the Western men's basketball team 1-5 on the road this season, the two league road games this week against Humboldt State and Western Oregon, are important for the Vikings' playoff chances.

The Western Oregon game will end a four-game road stretch that started last weekend with two losses, one to Hawaii Pacific University, 90-59, and one in overtime against Brigham Young University-Hawaii, 86-78.

"Playing on the road in this

league is a nightmare," head coach Brad Jackson said. "To have the two longest road trips in the year back-to-back is a real test for us."

Humboldt State has won eight of its last 12 games after starting the season 1-8. Western Oregon has won eight of its last 10 games after a 2-8 start.

Western, 9-9 overall and 5-7 in the west division of the PacWest Conference, is still in the playoff hunt.

"We have made some big strides since Mike Sims went down," forward Ryan Kettman said, adding that Brian Dennis and A.J. Giesa have stepped up their play and the team is coming together.

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Frontline

Don't play into Y2K mass hype

As 2000 draws near, the hype-fueled frenzy about the Year 2000 problem whips itself into a rabid fever.

The problem has spawned talk of planes falling from the sky, financial crises, toilet paper becoming the new world currency and even the total breakdown of our society, more.

Apparently, the coming computer crisis will bring about the apocalypse.

Make no mistake, Y2K is a problem. We are not 100-percent prepared, and bad things will happen — but, please — don't panic. Don't do anything rash and above all else, think logically.

Ah yes, logic, that mystical thing we all supposedly have but no one can seem to find at the moment.

The truth is minimal logic existed in the first place and what little was left was stolen by some media outlets.

Media coverage of Y2K has so far been a dichotomy.

Much of the media coverage of Y2K has sensationalized worst-case scenarios and are at least partially responsible for the prevailing irrational fear, yet other members of the media have covered the matter with adequate caution.

Caution is vitally important when dealing with such volatile issues. The difficulty for media lies in finding the middle ground between adequate coverage and sensationalism — a difficult line to walk, but one that must be trod if we are to have responsible and accurate news coverage.

In many respects, the crazed masses create a self-fulfilling prophecy. People who fear they will lose all their money in a digital meltdown are likely to cause a financial meltdown in which they will lose their money.

These fearful folk will go to the bank, withdraw money and place it under their mattresses. If enough people do this, the banks will lose money. Because the banks lose money, more people will drain their accounts. The cycle continues and eventually the crisis will be reflected in the stock markets as in 1884, when fear of extensive bank failures caused a financial panic in the stock market.

Even if Y2K does cause an error in your account, banks and savings associations are required by federal law to keep back-up records for such instances.

Also, all FDIC-insured deposits will continue to be protected up to \$100,000 against loss due to failure of an institution.

The FDIC suggests that customers start keeping bank statements and transaction records for all accounts a few months before Jan. 1, 2000.

Even in the off chance society does collapse or undergo a complete financial implosion, money will be worthless anyway.

So, instead of running from the banks and assuring a financial crisis, one might think it prudent to try to enter the next century unscathed.

Visit The Western Front Online at www.wcug.wvu.edu/~wfront for a complete list of informational Web sites and phone numbers.

Frontlines are the opinion of the editorial board members: Ken Brierly, Wendy Giroux, Corey Lewis, Samantha Tretheway and Tiffany White.

The Western Front

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letters

Ad uses tactics that don't relate

To the editor:

I was very distraught when I saw your insert in the Tuesday, Jan. 26 issue of The Western Front. This insert, put out by the Human Life Alliance of Minnesota Education Fund Inc., was a 12-page spread against abortion. To have a major university newspaper endorse such an untactful advertisement is very disturbing. The Front has generally produced both sides of issues that are close to the hearts of Western students, but without a substantial rebuttal to this advertisement, I am afraid we as students are lost on this issue.

The advertisement discredits Planned Parenthood, which is one of the major health care providers for women on this campus. It also states that rape victims would be more distraught over the abortion than the actual rape itself.

The advertisement uses scare tactics, including trying to incorporate sexual disease statistics that don't relate to abortion.

I sincerely hope you didn't choose to use this advertisement because you are in need of financial support. In assuming you didn't, it is only ethical to show the opposing side.

I can't imagine that you would ever print something of this degree about such a sensitive subject again.

Jolie Richards
Western student

Invigorate voices, don't censor them

To the editor:

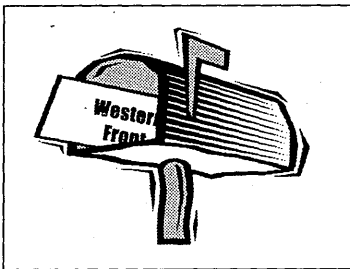
Did anyone else find the Jan. 29 issue of The Western Front ironic?

The leading article on the front page discussed the controversy

about chalking that most students claim it is their right, while some administrators claim is an unnecessary disruption.

The front page also featured an article stating that more than 500 paid advertising inserts from the previous issue were stolen by students who disagreed with the insert's contents. The inserts, paid for by the Human Life Alliance of Minnesota, contained the pro-life position.

I agree with those who say that chalking is protected by the First Amendment. But I'm surprised students and faculty aren't equally, if not more outraged by the disrespect for free speech displayed by the under-



ground, insert-looting "Thought Police."

I applaud The Front for allowing a dissenting voice to be heard on a largely Pro-Choice and secular campus. I also applaud The Front for printing the letters by those who favored the censorship of the inserts.

The freedoms of speech and the press are designed to invigorate a mature public discussion. The newspaper's role is to indiscriminately facilitate that discussion. That is why letters and advertisements, do not, and are not supposed to, reflect The Front's opinions.

It would not be hypocritical for the newspaper to allow a 12-page insert from Planned Parenthood next week. It is hypocritical, however, to respect the First Amendment rights of anonymous chalk-scribblers and not the rights of a legitimate, self-identified organization.

Mike Evans
Western student

Educate yourself if you have questions

To the editor:

Tuesday afternoon, I walked into Wilson Library to find two students removing the Human Life Alliance inserts from the pile of Western Fronts located there. I paused to ask why they were doing this. I was told that the inserts contain offensive and violent material.

A documentary on war or poverty would also be offensive — not because the author wishes to offend or be violent; poverty and war, themselves, are offensive and violent. So it is with abortion — abortion itself is violent.

What I witnessed Tuesday was two of your peers, who believe you should have the right to choose to kill your baby, taking away your right to choose whether you will read the testimonies of someone who once believed the same thing. Something is amiss when someone will obstruct a right granted by the Constitution in order to protect a right not given by the Constitution.

What is more, one of these students has been a Lifestyle Advisor since 1996. It is deplorable that a person who holds such a position of authority in students' lives would deliberately withhold information essential to make an informed decision.

If you have questions about abortion, you will have to educate yourself. Don't let someone else's attempt to leave you in the dark prevent you from finding out the truth. Abortion is a big deal. Be sure you have all the facts.

Rachel Liles
Bellingham resident

Letters to the editor must be no longer than 250 words. The Front reserves the right to edit for length, libel and content. Direct letters to The Western Front, College Hall 09, WWU. Direct e-mail to wfront@cc.wvu.edu. **Include your name and phone number for verification.

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For more information call (360) 676-6650. 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Monday - Friday.

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COME SEE US! we will be on your campus Thurs., Feb. 18th. Viking Union, VA-455 INTERVIEWS AND INFORMATION FROM 10 AM - 4 PM. NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

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Social Sciences: Anthropology 201 (5); Canadian-American Studies 200 (5); Linguistics 204 (4); Psychology 201 (5); Sociology 201 (5)

Comparative, Gender and Multicultural Studies: Anthropology 353 (4); East Asian 201 (5) and 202 (5); English 338 (4); History 280 (5); Women Studies 211 (4)

Mathematics: Math 102 (5), 107 (3), 124 (5), 125 (5), 156 (4), 157 (4), and 240 (3)

Natural Sciences B: Environmental Studies 101 (3)

See *WWU '98-99 Bulletin* for explanation of GURs.

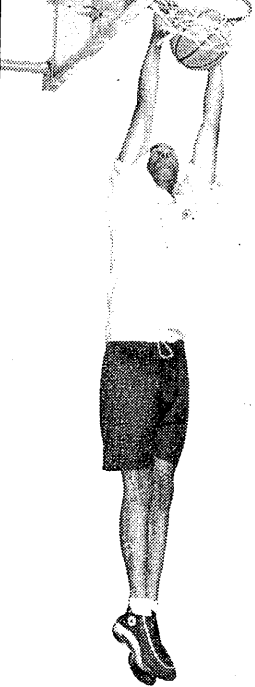
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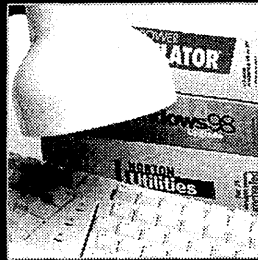
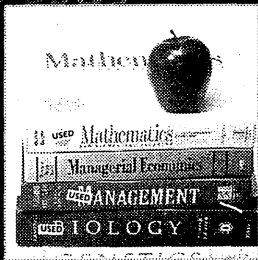
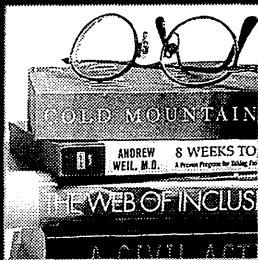
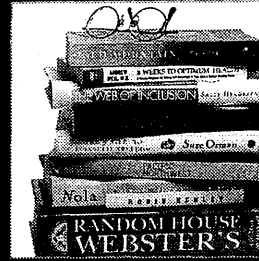
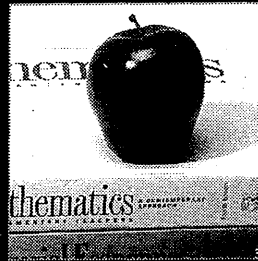
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