

# The Western Front

## Petty thefts reported from Carver Gym

Locker use urged by gym employees

By Bobby Stone  
THE WESTERN FRONT

A pair of Nike warm-up pants valued at \$50, a backpack valued at \$157 and a women's jacket have recently been reported stolen from Carver gym.

Lou Parberry Fitness Center, located in the gym, can accommodate 100 students during peak hours of the day.

"During peak-time (cubby holes) are loaded with backpacks," said Lou Parberry supervisor Eric Tripp. "There's a lot of traffic."

Gym employees do not monitor personal items in the gym, Tripp said, but students still seem comfortable leaving personal items in the open.

"Some students don't think about it," he said. "They can be kind of naive. If they would just take the extra five minutes and get a locker."

Students who have physical education classes are issued free lockers in the locker rooms. Students not in PE courses have to pay a \$6 fee for the quarter. The lockers are metal baskets that are used as drawers and lock in place.

University Police Chief Jim Shaw said even though petty theft isn't a huge issue at Western, it is a crime of opportunity.

"Obviously you should have an expectation that your belongings won't be stolen," he said. "But obviously, don't leave backpacks unattended and don't leave purses alone."

Backpacks, wallets and clothing left in the open tempt a theft problem, Tripp said.

"A person who gets hot while they work out will want to take

See THEFT, page 4

## A.S. election race heats up

By Tiffany White  
THE WESTERN FRONT

The race between candidates for the Associated Students Board intensifies this week as 13 candidates strive to win student votes for the annual election, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday in Red Square.

"It's important to vote to get appropriate leaders in those positions to make good decisions and

people that will represent us best," Jon Hildahl, A.S. elections coordinator, said. "After all, that's what a democracy is based on — everybody placing their vote."

Forums and debates during the past week introduced candidates to the students. April 20, an informal forum brought candidates to the Fifth Floor Viking Union Eateries to answer student questions.

"It's all about trying to get the

candidates access to as many people as possible," Hildahl said.

Hildahl organized the forums and debates for this year's election. The final debate will be 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, in the VU Main Lounge. A member from each co-sponsor of the event, The Western Front, A.S. Board and KUGS 89.3-FM, will comprise the panel. Several rounds of questions

See ELECTION, page 4

A.S.

1999

Special election section

The Western Front takes a comprehensive look at Tuesday's A.S. elections.

See pages 7 to 10

## Western women 'take back the night'

By Sara Magnuson  
THE WESTERN FRONT

"Get out of your homes and into the street and take back the night," chanted hundreds of women clutching hand-made cardboard signs as they poured out of Viking Union Main Lounge, and the crowd streamed up High Street toward the Ridge during Take Back the Night, a rally and march Thursday night.

An international event that started in the early 1970s, Take Back the Night provides women a venue to protest violence against them, said Women's Center co-coordinator Monica McCallum.

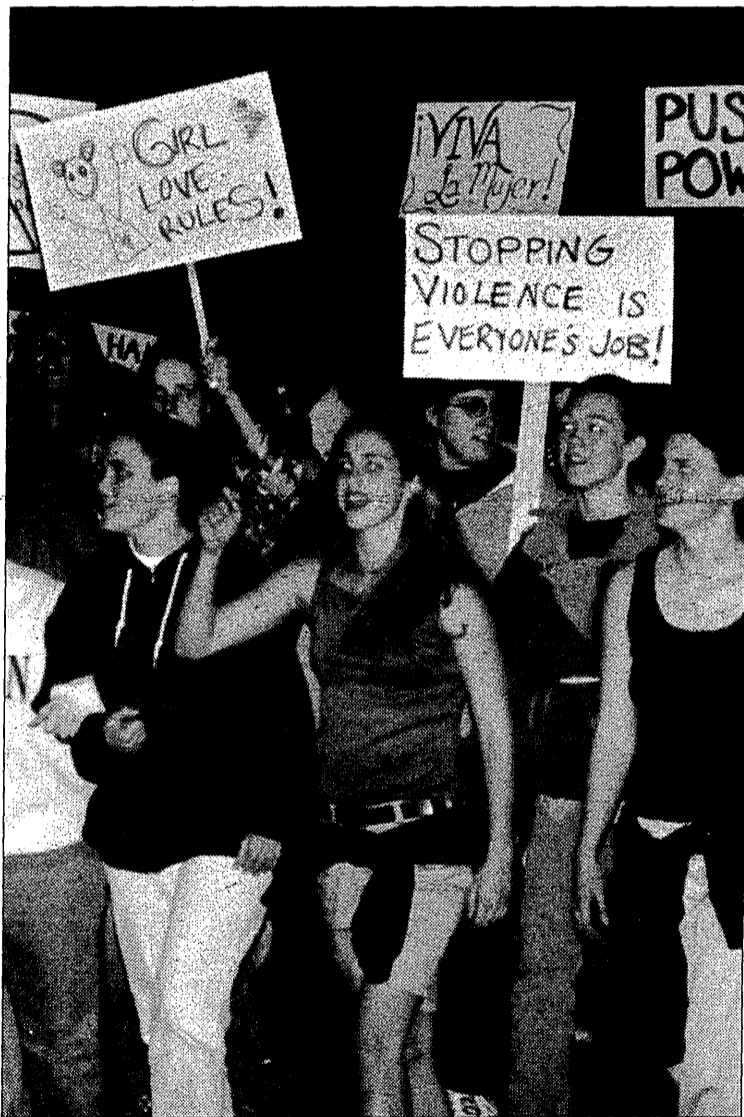
With voices ringing out to reclaim the nighttime streets, women stretched two city blocks, striding confidently down North Garden. They radiated energy magnetic enough to draw men to street corners and women to the march.

"This is the epitome of what needs to be done worldwide," said Whatcom Community College student Greg Plumis.

A group of women singing a cappella opened the rally with a beautiful harmony that verbalized frustration about the lack of action against perpetrators of domestic violence.

"Last night, I heard the screaming, loud voices behind the wall — another sleepless night

See RALLY, page 4



Nick Haney/The Western Front  
Approximately 800 women unite to take back the night.

## Educators take their demands to Olympia

By Corey Lewis  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Public school teachers from Bellingham and Whatcom County called in sick Wednesday and took to the steps of the state capitol in Olympia to lobby legislators for a 15-percent pay raise. Similar rallies have emerged in Olympia almost daily by teachers throughout the state.

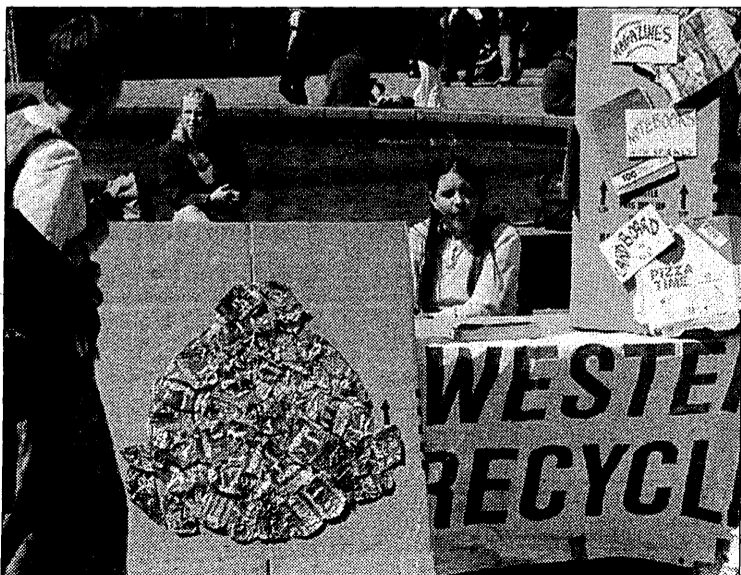
Bellingham Education Association President Shirley Potter estimated 5,000 people attended Wednesday's rally.

"We were there to tell the legislature that teachers need a 15-percent raise in order to catch up," Potter said.

Despite the protests outside the Senate building, the state Senate passed a preliminary budget Wednesday that would give veteran teachers a 7-percent pay raise and beginning during the next biennium.

See WALKOUT, page 4

## A.S. clubs show connection to Earth in displays



Chris Fuller/The Western Front  
A.S. Recycling Center won \$50 with this Earth Day display.

By Jaclyn Mercurio  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Out of 120 Associated Student clubs invited, only four participated in Thursday's It's Your Planet — Everybody Makes a Difference, sponsored by the Western Environmental Watch Club. The clubs were encouraged to create a display of recycled materials that symbolized their club.

Western students voted the A.S. Recycle Center display as their favorite presentation in the competition, which celebrated Earth Day. The display pictured Earth created with recycled cans and an informational display showing what products students can recycle on campus.

See EARTH, page 4

Brienne Kellogg, A.S. vice president for Activities, said the lack of participation from clubs is probably because spring is such a busy quarter.

"Clubs are very active with their regular meetings and the events they're putting on, so maybe they didn't have time to help out with the fair," Kellogg said.

Senior Bret Haakenstad said he didn't think the event was big enough for students to pay attention.

"I walked by twice and didn't notice it," he said.

The four organizations that participated were the A.S. Recycle Center, the Environmental Center, the

### IN THIS ISSUE

#### Women's golf ends season with win

Despite missing out on post-season play, Western wrapped up the year by winning the sixth annual Viking Invitational. Story page 11.

#### Twang-toned space rock landing at Western



Man or AstroMan? to bring its unique brand of space-age surf rock to the Viking Union Main Lounge.

Story page 5.

## COPS BOX

Campus  
Police

April 18, 12:46 a.m.: A person in the 100 block of Highland Drive was detained until a police investigation was resolved because he was obstructing a public servant during the investigation.

April 18 (no time reported): A 44-year-old female was arrested and booked into Whatcom County Jail for stalking and violating a no-contact order with a Western student. The woman entered the student's classroom.

Bellingham  
Police

April 17, 7:24 p.m.: A 62-year-old male was arrested for threats and harassment in the 3400 block of Northwest Avenue. He threatened bodily harm to the victim.

April 17, 9:46 p.m.: A juvenile was arrested for minor in possession of alcohol in the 500 block of West Holly Street and later released to his mother.

April 18, 12:13 a.m.: A 23-year-old male was arrested in the 700 block of Gladstone Street for second-degree assault with a firearm. The man pointed a handgun at two police officers and pulled the trigger. He claimed he was just "playing."

Compiled by Christie Shepard

## A P WIRE NEWS BRIEFS

## STATE NEWS

Discrimination lawsuit  
filed against Boeing

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission is suing Boeing in federal court in Seattle. EEOC accused the company of harassing and firing an employee because he is Vietnamese. The man, Phouc Nguyen, worked as a wing assembly mechanic in Everett for 10 years. Boeing said he was fired two years ago for poor performance.

The suit seeks back pay, compensation and a fine against Boeing. Nguyen said he was ridiculed because he spoke with an accent and was blamed for errors committed by others. He said he complained several times to Boeing's in-house EEOC, but did not receive help.

Last year, Boeing agreed to pay \$15 million dollars to settle a class-action racial discrimination lawsuit filed by African American workers.

State polls show support  
for teacher raises

A state poll of 405 voters con-

ducted last weekend by Elway Research found that 75 percent favor a teachers' raise. About a quarter agreed with a 15 percent raise, about a 25 percent favored 10 percent, about 25 percent favored 6 percent. The rest did not favor a raise.

The poll also found 62 percent of the people who responded would vote for an initiative giving teachers cost-of-living increases every year. The teachers' union filed an initiative that would do that. The Washington Education Association Board meets Saturday to decide whether to launch a petition drive to get the initiative on the ballot.

## NATIONAL NEWS

Authorities uncover  
failed plot to blow up  
Littleton school

Authorities in Littleton, Colo. said the two shooters who killed 12 classmates and a teacher before killing themselves intended to blow up the school as well. Officials discovered two large propane bombs hidden in the school's kitchen

yesterday. The sheriff said that could provide evidence of a wider conspiracy.

NATO considers  
using ground troops;  
Clinton approves

President Clinton is endorsing NATO's decision to consider the use of ground troops against Yugoslavia. He spoke after meeting with NATO's secretary-general at the White House. So far, NATO has been fighting Yugoslavia from the air.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

NATO bombs  
Milosevic's house;  
officials say they did  
not target him

NATO warplanes have destroyed the luxurious mansion that serves as the Yugoslav president's main residence.

Slobodan Milosevic and his family were not home at the time of yesterday's pre-dawn attack. Yugoslav officials call it a criminal act; an assassination

attempt against the president of a sovereign state. NATO officials said Milosevic wasn't the target.

Russians say Milosevic  
will allow monitoring if  
NATO bombing ends

A Russian envoy brings a possible concession by Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic. The envoy said Milosevic accepted the idea of an "international presence" controlled by the United Nations in Kosovo. But the NATO bombing would have to stop and the alliance would have to pull its troops from Yugoslavia's borders. It's not clear whether the international force would be armed, and what guidelines it would operate under.

NATO officials insist it has to have an armed presence in Kosovo to enforce any peace deal. The former Russian premier who has been visiting Belgrade spoke to reporters after a day-long meeting with Milosevic.

Compiled by Laura Zimmerman

## BELLINGHAM WEATHER: APRIL 23 - 25

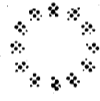
## Today



Sunny and  
warm.

Highs near 65.

## Saturday



Sunny and  
warmer.

Lows 40 to 50.  
Highs 65 to 75.

## Sunday



Increasing clouds  
with chance of  
rain.

Lows 40 to 50.  
Highs near 65.

Weather courtesy of wunderground.com

Visit the

WESTERN FRONT

Online

<http://westernfront.wvu.edu>

## 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

HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM INFORMATION SESSIONS will be held in MH 114 at noon April 28. Find out more about the bachelor of arts degree in human services offered through Woodring College of Education. For more information, call X/7759.

WWU SURPLUS GOODS will be auctioned at 9:30 a.m. April 24 at the Armory Building motor shed, lower level. Sale items may be inspected from 9 a.m. to noon today, April 23. Bidders must register then or one hour before the sale. Payment must be within an hour after the sale by cash, money order, cashier's or certified check, or personal or business check with proper identification.

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 120 at 9 a.m. April 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24, and June 17, and at 3 p.m. April 29, May 6, 13, 20, 27, June 3 and 10. Sample problems may be found at <http://www.washington.edu/oea/aptp.htm>

WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATIVE INTERN COORDINATORS will hold an informational meeting from noon to 1:30 p.m. April 29 in AH 419 for faculty and students wanting more information on the legislative internship program for winter quarter 2000. Applications, available in AH 415, are being accepted through May 7.

THE LEGAL INFORMATION CENTER WILL HOLD a free informative workshop, "Partiers Have Rights, Too," at 7 p.m. May 5 in SL 110. The workshop will offer information about partiers' rights and the rights of police. For more information, call X/6111.

TEACHING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (TESL) priority application deadline for fall 1999 is May 15. For more information, call Trish, X/4949.

TEST DATES FOR THE MILLER ANALOGIES TEST (MAT) are 3 p.m. May 11 in FR 3, and 3 p.m. June 16 in FR 4. Registration is required in OM 120 or by calling X/3080. A \$35 fee is payable at time of test.

THE TEST FOR TEACHER EDUCATION (TETEP) will be given at 3 p.m. May 18 in FR 2. Registration is required in OM 120. A \$25 fee is payable in the exact amount at time of registration.

FALL QUARTER DEGREE APPLICANTS: Students who plan to graduate at the end of fall quarter must have degree applications on file by June 4. Degree applications and instructions are available in the Registrar's Office, OM 230.

FALL REGISTRATION FOR BIOLOGY: Students with listed majors and completed prerequisites may register at their appointment times if the system works as expected. All students need to complete course request forms in case the system does not work as expected. Students who do not meet criteria listed here must always complete course request forms, available in BI 315, to register for biology classes. Request forms, available in BI 315, must be returned to the instructor's mailbox by 5 p.m. today, April 23.

## On-campus recruiting

For more information on the application process for any of the following opportunities or to sign up for an interview, stop by OM 280 or call X/3240.

Issaquah School District. Tuesday, April 27. Submit résumé and sign up in OM 280.

Clover Park School District. Tuesday, April 27. Submit résumé and sign up in OM 280.

Mukilteo School District. Wednesday, April 28. Submit résumé and sign up in OM 280.

Peace Corps. Wednesday and Thursday, April 29-30, for various overseas positions. Contact Jim Gunsolos, X/3017, for application and sign-up instructions.

Marysville School District. Thursday, April 29. Submit résumé and sign up in OM 280. To interview, placement file must be turned in.

The Western Front is published twice weekly in fall, winter and spring; once a week in summer session. Address: The Western Front, Western Washington University, CH 110, Bellingham, WA 98225-9100. The Western Front is the official newspaper of Western Washington University, published by the Student Publications Council, and is mainly supported by advertising. Opinions and stories in the newspaper have no connection with advertising. News content is determined by student editors. Staff reporters are enrolled in a course in the Department of Journalism, but any student enrolled at Western may offer stories to the editors.

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.



# Students and faculty garden on Earth Day

By Janis Yi

THE WESTERN FRONT

Student and faculty volunteers celebrated Earth Day gardening in the orchards in the Outdoor Experiential Learning Site.

"Earth Day was a service-learning project designed to bring student and faculty together on a different level," said Cori Schlender, coordinator of the event.

The volunteers dug out trunks from diseased trees that had been cut down last quarter. They also trimmed blackberry bushes. Fairhaven College coordinated and funded the project, Schlender said.

This quarter, plants, such as mulberries, daikon radishes

and clover, will be planted in the orchard soil to prevent erosion and the loss of minerals from the soil, Schlender said.

The site, commonly referred to as the Outback Garden, is located behind stacks eight and nine of the Fairhaven dorms.

"The idea came out of the desire to do something together to further the Fairhaven community," said Kathryn Anderson, communications and women's studies professor at Fairhaven College.

"This actually isn't Earth Day; today was designed by our government," Schlender said. "It's a nice day to celebrate mother earth, soil and being alive. The real Earth Day is on Spring Equinox, a couple of weeks ago."



Rachimah Magnuson/The Western Front  
Rachael Sursley and Marit Bentsen remove tree stumps in the Outdoor Experiential Learning Site.

# Administrators have mixed opinions about distance learning

By Laura Query

THE WESTERN FRONT

Western is considering moving itself closer to the title of "virtual" university. The extent to which distance education will be integrated, however, remains a debate.

The University Planning Council spent the past quarter discussing the concept of distance education and its role at Western.

"I think it's time for the governance of the university to debate, discuss and explore these issues to decide how far we will go," said John Miles, chairman of the University Planning Council and director

of the Center for Geographic and Environmental Social Science at Huxley College.

Distance education aims to provide schooling to those who are unable to use classes on campus. Western offers independent learning and interactive telecommunications-based courses, which Miles is familiar with.

Miles teaches an environmental history and ethics class via video to students who live on the Olympic Peninsula.

"I go over there once in the beginning of the course and once at the end; it adds a human element to it," Miles said. "I think whenever possible a human element should be

injected into distance education."

Opponents of distance education fear the "human element" of education will be lost with the convenience of receiving an education through a computer.

"It is the purpose of education to create inquiring people who have the will and intelligence to create their own destiny," said Victor Cox, Associated Students vice president for Academic Affairs. The social atmosphere of the university is key in accomplishing this, Cox said.

"There are students who simply can't do that," Miles said. "How are we going to serve those students?"

Miles said he disagrees with the idea that students would choose to educate themselves via computer rather than attend classes on campus.

"I can't believe that would ever happen," Miles said. "The standard student, 18 to 22 years old, wants the social atmosphere."

"I don't think 18-year-old students are ready to go online," Cox said.

The commonality between both sides of the issue is that Western's distance education plan needs structure and regulation.

"We need a plan," Miles said. "We aren't currently ready to tackle this systematically."

In order to make distance education successful, faculty needs adequate training; standards must be set for all distance education courses and these courses must not be mounted at the detriment of on-campus programs, Miles said.

"It needs to be funded," Miles said. "The campus community is not likely to stiffen money away from campus programs."

**David Spade Sophie Marceau**

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**Lost & Found**  
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www.wb-lostandfound.com

**STARTS APRIL 23 AT A THEATRE NEAR YOU.**

## CAMPUS CALENDAR

April 24:

**Casino Night**, hosted by the Residence Hall Association, will start at 5 p.m. in Carver Gym.

For details, call the Public Information Office at 650-3360.

April 25:

**Man or Astronaut?** with guests Zen Guerrilla and Rock-a-Teens will perform an all ages show, sponsored by Associated Students Special Events. The showtime is 7 p.m. in the Viking Union Main Lounge. Ticket prices are \$5 for students, \$6 general.

For details call A.S. Special Events at 650-3738.

April 28:

**Nobel Peace Prize nominee and author of Dead Man Walking: An Eye Witness Account of the Death Penalty in the United States**, Sister Helen Prejean, will speak at Western. The speech is sponsored by United Ministries for Higher Education. Prejean's speech is at 8 p.m. in Arntzen Hall 100. Admission is free.

For details, contact Vicki L. Day-Bazhaw at 676-9531.

May 2:

**The 11th annual Farmworker Solidarity March**, sponsored by the Peace Resource Center, helps to support the Migrant Farmworkers of the Northwest area. The march begins 11 a.m. at Maiben Park in Burlington. A fiesta will follow 2 p.m. at Skagit Valley Community College in Mount Vernon.

For details, contact the Peace Resource Center at 650-6125.

Compiled by Chris Christian

## THIS YEAR A LOT OF COLLEGE SENIORS WILL BE GRADUATING INTO DEBT.



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## Speakers at rally urge women to learn how to defend themselves

RALLY, from page 1

for me. Won't do no good to call the police — always come late if they come at all," the women sang, eliciting applause from the hundreds of women crowded into the lounge and spilling into the street, listening to the sound system and watching the monitors.

Encouraging women to protect themselves, students of Total Confidence Kung Fu, a self-defense school in Bellingham, presented Wing Tsun, the only type of martial arts developed by a woman. Uttering a string of loud, unintelligible phrases and using quick, continuous movements, two women fought off three male attackers wearing helmets in an unchoreographed demonstration.

Developed 300 years ago, this type of self-defense is "simple, soft, fluid and devastatingly effective," said the spokesman for Total Confidence Kung Fu, a school of self-defense that promotes "empowering people by teaching them to know themselves, their bodies and their strength."

"In the United States, a woman is assaulted — usually by her husband — every 15 seconds,"

said keynote speaker and social injustice activist Alice Y. Hom. "Attacks inspired by bigotry say in unequivocal terms to every member of the victim's group: 'This could happen to you.'"

Hom urged all groups representing the different targets of hate crimes to band together and show their communities they wouldn't tolerate violence.

"One person alone can't do much, but thousands of women in the street are at least making their voices heard," Western freshman Michelle Malmquist said.

Speaking for Western's Women's Center, co-coordinator Trisha Eubank listed resources that should be provided on campus, among them self-defense courses and people trained to talk with survivors of violence.

"We deserve to be safe," said Western junior Kim Anderson, a survivor of physical assault. "We deserve to not have to defend ourselves. I shouldn't have to take a self-defense course ... and still be afraid."

"When someone is assaulted, they shouldn't have to run around to find someone who will believe their story," Eubank said vehemently. "Victims of crimes should



Courtesy of Tim Klein

Julie Johnston (left) and Heather Hamlett participate in a candle light vigil in Red Square after the march.

not be treated with suspicion."

The crowd erupted in cheers, welcoming speaker Kathryn Dalen, a professor of women's studies at Whatcom Community College and a survivor of domestic violence. Sharing her testimony, Dalen verbalized a question common among women who have never been victims of their partners' abuse — "Why did I let him do it?" After emphasizing women aren't allowing the abuse — men are choosing to inflict pain, she admitted no one can know why women return to their abusers.

Rally speaker Eric Ward, a member of the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment, recalling the recent shootings in Colorado, noted he'd never heard of an incident where women went on a shooting spree and called out to men to take charge of a problem of violence that is their own.

"This society has pushed women into a corner, and it's time for men who call themselves allies to reclaim the space that rightfully belongs to everyone — including women," Ward declared.

## Teachers still fighting for 15 percent despite Legislature's response

WALKOUT, from page 1

Potter said the rally featured speeches by union presidents of the 14 districts represented. After the speeches, a group of teachers from Bellingham called on local legislators to speak to the teachers. Rep. Kelli Linville, D-Bellingham, Rep. Doug Ericksen, R-Bellingham, Sen. Harriet Spanel, D-Bellingham and Sen. Georgia Gardner, D-Blaine, all responded.

According to an article in the April 22 issue of the Bellingham Herald, Ericksen said teachers in Whatcom County aren't as adversely affected by inflation as

those in the Seattle area.

"Especially in the Mount Baker School District, they haven't lost 15 percent to inflation the last six years," Ericksen said. "I hear their pain, although I think their union leaders have given them unreasonably high expectations this year."

"Doug (Ericksen) doesn't get it," Potter said. "Low pay affects teachers everywhere."

Potter said parents have mostly supported toward teachers during the walkout, but a few were angry.

"We've had a few phone calls here at the office," Potter said. "One woman wouldn't even give

"I don't think we're going to get the 15 percent, but we're not going to let up."

Shirley Potter  
Bellingham Education  
Association president

us her name. But we've also had people call and ask where we were going to be so they could come out and support us."

Potter said Bellingham Superintendent Dale Kinsley was

not pleased with the walkout.

"He was not happy, but I have repeatedly asked him to do things like lobbying with us, but we never got him to bite," she said.

Kinsley could not be reached for comment.

Potter said the teachers are frustrated because despite the state's booming economy, teachers have not been recognized fairly by the State Legislature.

"We feel the state has shirked its constitutional duty," Potter said. "I don't think we're going to get the 15 percent, but we're not going to let up. We won't lie down."

## April 26 debate: Last chance to scope out the 13 A.S. candidates

ELECTION, from page 1

will be proposed to each candidate. Recurring themes, such as classroom space, hiring more diverse teachers, campus violence and chalking, are among the issues to be discussed, Hildahl said.

So far, the voter turnout to the events has been similar to other A.S. election years, Hildahl said.

The actual number of students who voted during the past two years increased. Jack Smith, adviser to the A.S. elections coordinator and VU activities director, said the issues bring voters to the polls.

In 1998, 23.4 percent, 2,435 students, voted in the general election, he said, in comparison to the 1997 election, in which 15.7

percent, 1,622 students, voted. The 1998 increase in votes is partially due to the interest in the Vendor's Row issue on the ballot, he said.

Hildahl said the current issues, the Washington Student Lobby initiative and the referendum to increase technology fees, on the ballot have the potential to attract student votes.

The initiative and the referendum are fiscal matters — however, the WSL initiative also determines how involved students want A.S. in state government issues, Smith said.

Yet, the importance of issues is not the only reason to vote.

"I think the A.S. is an extremely important organization on campus, although a lot of people don't know too much about it," Hildahl

said. "I mean, they are a multi-million dollar business and that money is going toward organizations and events associated with Western."

The A.S. made some changes to the election process this year.

The A.S. election code, rules for the candidates, was revised to make clarifications and resolve any loopholes or grievances within the document. Genevieve Panush, current vice president for Business and Operations, lead the project this year.

"It's kind of like the rules, so we create the most equal and fair playing field as possible," Panush explained.

The election code now states candidates can spend \$100 on their campaign. During the past years, the maximum amount was

"If you want to see good things done — go out and vote for good people."

Genevieve Panush  
A.S. vice president  
Business and Operations

\$80; the amount was increased due to rising costs, Panush said.

Major changes to documents are accomplished by the A.S. Board. The officer who is assigned to make the changes depends upon the weight of the student vote.

"If you want to see good things done — go out and vote for good people," Panush said.

## STRANGE DAYS

A LOOK AT THE WEIRDER SIDE OF THE NEWS

### Cow makes udderly horrifying discovery

When his trailer flipped over on an Atlanta freeway, rancher Duane Maxwell's two newly purchased heifers began hoofing it. Police quickly captured one of the cows. But with 40 officers in pursuit, the second cow made her way down the northbound lanes and scampered along an exit ramp. She took a right, ducked into an alley and crossed a street. She ended up at a Checkers hamburger restaurant, where officers lassoed the cow and took her into custody.

### Interspecies politics

Joshua Nkomo, the vice president of Zimbabwe, is rearing more than 100 goats at his official residence. Neighbors have complained, saying it's against city regulations. Meanwhile, police in Brasilia are investigating the death of a goat running for mayor of Pilar — where he had been leading in the polls. The animal's political supporters have suggested that Frederico was assassinated by a political rival. "He had a lot of foam in his mouth," his owner said.

Compiled by Julie Graham

### Thefts reported in Carver Gym

THEFT, from page 1

their sweatshirt off," Tripp said. "So they take it off and stuff it (by the storage bins) instead of tying it around their waist or taking it station to station with them."

Tripp, who's worked in the gym for five years, said reported thefts usually occur about twice per year; however, more personal items may have been stolen.

"It's the same here as it is in the rest of society," Tripp said. "If they leave a backpack in a park and walk away and lose it they say 'Oh well, I screwed up.'"

Tripp said he has thought about moving the cubby holes to a different location to prevent theft. He said he has also considered putting lockers outside the door that students would pay by the hour to use.

## A.S. clubs promote awareness of human impact on environment with Earth Day displays

EARTH, from page 1

Latter Day Saints Student Association and WEW.

Ellen Hutchinson, co-coordinator of WEW, said she hopes people walk away realizing that everyone makes a difference.

"Everything that everyone does has an impact," she said. "The first step to changing things

is awareness. Each person is responsible for their actions. The goal is awareness and taking responsibility," Hutchinson said.

Betsy Novak, who helped create the A.S. recycle display, said she hopes it spreads awareness about what is recyclable on campus and what individuals can do to make a difference.

"The biggest thing is to educate

the student population of what is recyclable," Novak said.

The A.S. Recycle Center won \$50 for its first-place display. WEW created letters with recycled two-liter bottles to spell out its acronym. The Latter Day Saints Student Association reused carpet padding to create bodies holding hands and the Environmental Center made a

sign of recycled products that shared information about recycling.

Gwen Heisterkamp, co-coordinator of WEW, said she wants people to realize Earth Day is for everyone and not just environmental groups.

"We wanted to get to people from all different walks of life included," she said.

Although only a few clubs participated, students said they were happy to see an effort made to educate people about recycling.

"It encourages people to recycle and be aware of their environment," senior Michelle Foster said. "I think they did a good job."



# Three-guitared monster

from outer space



Barney Benedictson/The Western Front  
Man or AstroMan? performing at the 3B Tavern last July.

By Scott LaMont  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Don't look to the sky in hopes of seeing an alien craft. The ship is probably filled with those gray, big-eyed oddities anyway — what's the fun in that?

To see aliens who have assimilated into human form and have started their own band, look toward the Viking Union.

Beaming down at 7 p.m. Sunday April 25 in the VU Main Lounge is the group Man or Astro-Man? The band consists of four members: Birdstuff, Blazar

the Probe Handler, Coco the Electric Monkey Wizard and Trace Reading.

Man or Astro-Man? claims to consist of aliens who crashed on Earth near Alabama sometime in 1992. Wanting to meld with humans, they assumed the form of college students and started a band in an attempt to blend.

This odd band continues its quest to return to the Grid Sector by putting out music albums and touring the country conducting research.

"This will be the best live show you've ever seen!" said

Chris Porcarelli, special events coordinator for Associated Students.

The recipe for Man or Astro-Man? is really quite whacked.

The music is a mix between '60s surf music and a funky, modern space-age style.

The band started by listening to Link Wray, The Ventures, Dick Dale and other older music to get the surf feel. It is now leaning toward more "modern" electronic-type music.

Their new album, EEVIAC: Operational Index and Reference Guide, Including Other Modern Computation Devices, was released in stores April 20.

According to Man or Astro-Man's press release, the album blends "an intriguing mixture of electronic experimentation and energetic live band dynamics."

Opening for Man or Astro-Man? will be Zen Guerrilla and the Rock\*a\*Teens.

"(We're) bringing together the best bands of this world and some of those from worlds beyond," Porcarelli said.

Tickets for the all-ages show are \$5 for students and \$6 general and are available at the Performing Arts Center box-office or Cellophane Square.

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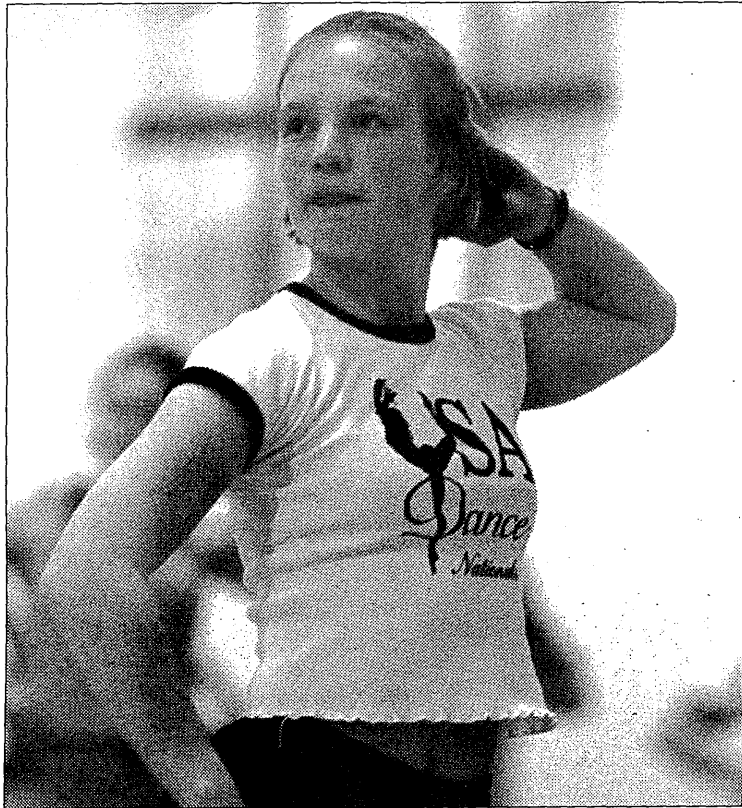
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# DANCE DIVAS



Bobby Stone/The Western Front

Co-captain Sherri Alberts works on a routine with the squad.

By Jen True

THE WESTERN FRONT

As "Jock Jams Mega Mix" played in the background, the captains of Western's first competitive dance team auditioned prospective dancers looking for enjoyment, confidence and talent.

The dance team started as an inspiration last spring and is now preparing for its second year.

Five women brainstormed the club during the '98 spring quarter, but were unable to continue with the commitment. Captains Jodi Alexander, Sabrina Johnson, Sherri Alberts, Heather Werckle and Vanessa Keverkamp said they adopted responsibility for the team after the founders quit.

Amidst the hype of this year's basketball games, Western's new dance club took front stage. It performed six times, including a women's playoff game, the captains said.

"For me and a lot of girls, (performing) is a big adrenaline rush," Alberts said.

Dancer Heather McCormick said the rush starts as she takes her position at the beginning of a performance and hears the crowd cheering.

"I feel like I am part of the school," she said.

Performing at Interlake High School's drill/dance invitational Feb. 27 was a highlight, Alexander said.

The women carpooled down, caked their faces with makeup and put on smiles for their showcase performance, which Alexander said was a personal best.

"It felt so good because everyone was so excited to see us," McCormick said, adding that the experience brought the women together as a team.

Next year, the team plans to

increase its number of performances to include football games, Alexander said. Wednesday's tryouts determined next year's team, however, fall tryouts will give more dancers a chance to join for basketball season.

The captains said they hope to become more involved with other college dance competitions in the state. Even national competitions are a future possibility, Alexander said.

The team practices two nights per week where ever it can find space. Winter quarter it practiced in the Viking Commons, McCormick said.

Brainstorming ideas with team members, competition videos and past routines, the captains said they choreograph jazz, hip hop and drill routines. They said they enjoy the chance to show off their hard work and talent.

McCormick said she screamed with joy when she learned about the club at the fall Info Fair. She has danced for 14 years, but her high school did not have a drill or dance team.

"It is something I've always wanted to do," she said.

"Most of the girls that came on the team had at least two years experience, but we had a couple of girls that had none and they did great," Alberts said. "It just depends on how much you want it."

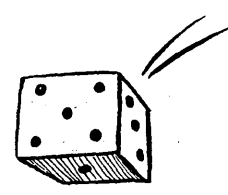
The team is hardworking and its improvement during the year was amazing, Alberts said.

The captains said many people were delighted to see their performances.

"We like to bring in older music — songs the audience can relate to and have fun with," Alberts said.

In order to fund their club, the women will have four car washes, a bake sale and will help at the Kappa Carnival.

# ROLL THE DICE



By Chris Goodenow

THE WESTERN FRONT

Whoever said gambling was for rich old fogies? It's time for poor college students to have some fun.

Casino Night, organized by the Residence Hall Association, starts at 8 p.m. Saturday and lasts until 12:30 a.m. It is the one night where underage students can hit the town — well, Carver Gym — and try their luck at roulette, craps, horse racing, poker and black jack.

"It's going to be amazing. The (RHA) council has put a lot of work into it and it's going to be a lot of fun," said Nova Gattman, co-chair of Casino Night '99. "There's about 1,500 people that will be coming to this, and it will make our stress and hard work worthwhile."

Gattman said participants will gamble for chips, but the chips do not represent real money. The less fortunate who lose all their chips do not necessarily lose all their money.

"People end up making millions and millions and millions of dollars, and some people make \$50," said Jefri Peters, co-Chair of Casino Night '99.

Participants are handed a cup full of chips equivalent to \$500 when they walk in.

If someone loses all their chips, Peters said a loan shark will make them do something wacky to earn more, such as sing the Barney song or ask another person strange questions. How much loan sharks give is up to their discretion. The loan sharks will carry signs that read, "The depression is coming," — a phrase that echoes the theme for Casino Night '99: Bourbon Street Blues, 1920s.

If they are tired of gambling, people can dance to live jazz and blues music from 10:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., or to local DJ Joe Yamada's tunes for the rest of the night. Yamada will take requests. A photographer will also be available.

Although chips can't be exchanged for cash, prizes are available from a silent auction, a regular auction at the end of the night or a raffle.

The grand prize is a guided river rafting trip. Other prizes include two tickets to a sold-out Dave Matthews concert, two tickets to an Alanis Morissette concert, a zip drive, a \$100 gift certificate to "That Textbook Place" and a 45-million-year-old squid fossil.

"Much of them are donated by local businesses, which is really nice of them," said Trevor Lee, prize committee member. "Pretty much what we did was

we cracked open a phone book and wrote down every business we could think of in the Bellingham area."

The prize committee contacted more than 500 businesses, Lee said.

Advertising Chair James McCurdy said RHA expects tickets to sell out at the door between 9 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Admission is limited to 1,200 patrons.

The idea of Casino Night originated at Western and is spreading to other schools. The University of Washington has borrowed craps and roulette tables from Western for its own Casino Night program.

Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. They can be bought in advance in any residence hall eatery during dinner, and at Casino Night's booth in Red Square from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. every day this week.



Chris Goodenow/The Western Front

A student dealer practices for a big night at the tables.

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# Elections



Chris Goodenow/ The Western Front

The Associated Students candidates met Tuesday with students to discuss issues.

## Making an impact with voting

By Chris Christian  
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Associated Students Board has a few suggestions and tips to consider while voting for a candidate and picking a leader.

Each candidate should possess leadership skills, a working knowledge of the A.S. organization and be able to communicate well with the students, according to A.S. guidelines.

"What issues are important important to you?" asked Sarah Steves, A.S. President.

Before the elections Tuesday and Wednesday, find out what each candidate has to offer the students of Western and the surrounding community.

As a representative of Western, candidates should support what the students want and are passionate about, Steves said.

A.S. officers aren't just responsible for planning event, Jon Hildahl said.

"They're our link to the school," elections coordinator, Hildahl said. "So, it is also important that they are able to communicate with the students."

"This is very different from high school," Steves said.

**“There is a huge budget, and we are not puppets of the administration.”**

**Sarah Steves**  
A.S. President

"There is a huge budget and we are not puppets of the administration."

Deciding which candidate to vote for can be made easy. The A.S. Review can be used as a reference, along with voter pamphlets and printed interviews and statements by the candidates.

The last debate is from 6 to 8p.m. Monday in the Viking Union Main Lounge.

The debate will air on KUGS 89.3-FM.

A newly revised Washington Student Lobby initiative and technology fee referendum will be on the ballot with the individual races. Voting day will give Western students the opportunity to make their voices heard.

"If I can get the people to understand the issues, we let them make a better vote," Hildahl said.

### What's inside

pg.8 Presidential candidates

pg.9 Vice presidential candidates

pg.10 Vice presidential candidates, some students' insights on the A.S. elections and position definitions.

## Initiative for \$2 student lobby fee

By Ernesto Cardenas  
The Western Front

Some will call it a "donation," others will call it a "fee." No matter what it's called, students may be automatically charged \$2 to support the Washington Student Lobby when they register for fall classes.

More than 750 students signed a petition reading: "Shall students be assessed a \$2 fee for the Washington Student Lobby, provided that a mechanism for a refund or waiver be included?"

Associated Students Legislative Liaison Jesse Salomon insists, however, it's not a fee.

"I don't know the strict definition of a fee. It's going to be automatically assessed," Salomon said. "But you can't get a fee refunded."

Salomon said it has yet to be decided how refunds will be assessed, though he has discussed various options with the administration. He said students may be able to receive a refund from the Plaza Cashier.

"We want to talk about whether it's too restrictive in terms of a refund or political backlash that we could suffer," Salomon said. "We want to figure out a way where we can up donations without angering certain students."

Salomon said an example of angering students would be if students became frustrated with long lines at the Plaza Cashier. The WSL doesn't count on this being a problem.

"It's not extremely likely," Salomon said. "If we thought everyone would get a refund we wouldn't have the initiative. The way we see it, it's in everybody's best interest to donate."

"The 10 percent of people who don't agree with student lobby, and who don't agree with the legislative agenda that the WSL lobbies for, will be the ones who'll pursue a refund," WSL Vice Chair Erin Smith said.

See FEE, page 10

## Increased technology fees proposed on ballot

By Julie Graham  
THE WESTERN FRONT

In light of a belief that the current Student Technology Fee does not provide adequate funds to meet Western students' technological needs, the Associated Students Board of Directors has posed a question to student voters:

"Shall Western Washington University students be assessed a \$5 increase for the Student Technology Fee Program?"

The current \$10-per-quarter raised approximately \$330,000 this year. The university and the

Western Foundation together guarantee \$200,000 per year.

A \$5-per-quarter — raising the STF to \$45 per year — would provide about another \$170,000.

The existing STF has allowed Western to maintain pace with changing technology, but an increase would allow the university to "break past the rate of inflation and depreciation," said Victor Cox, A.S. vice president for academic affairs and STF chair.

He said when the A.S. Board and members of the STF Committee talked with students, all said they supported a

**“This is one fee that everyone benefits from, whether they live on campus or off: they all use technology on campus.”**

**Victor Cox**  
A.S. presidential candidate

fee increase, and when given a choice between \$10 and \$5, they chose \$5.

This year, the STF Committee

received nearly \$1.5 million of proposals in technology, but had only \$530,000 to fund them, Cox said.

The STF has provided funds for upgrading computer labs in Miller Hall, Arntzen Hall and the Ross Engineering Technology building, and for various program-specific labs such as English, foreign language, sociology, physical education and math.

The fund paid for 192 dial-up access ports and enhanced the lighting and sound system in the

Fairhaven Auditorium.

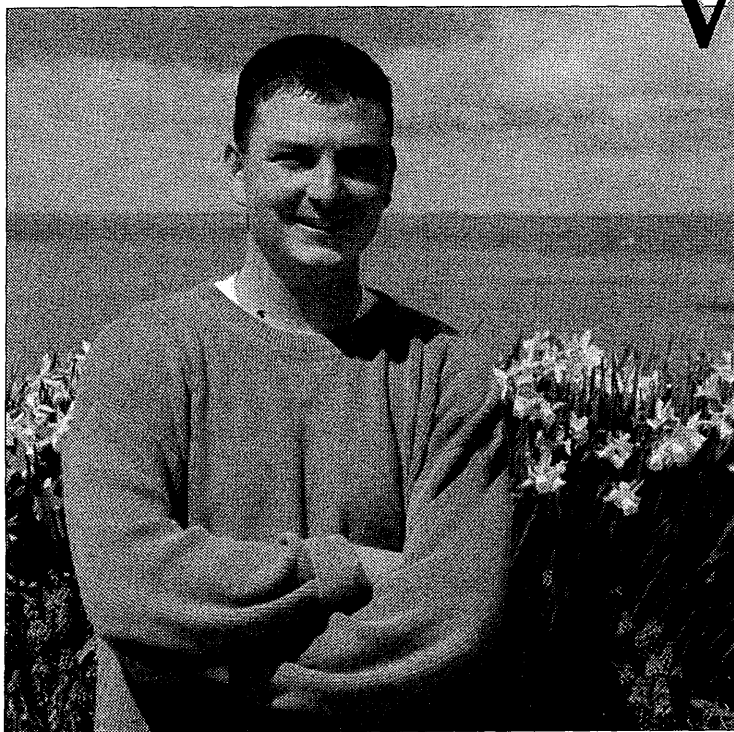
Proposals must come from campus organizations, and the funding decisions are made by Western President Karen Morse.

"This is the one fee that everyone benefits from, whether they live on campus or off; they all use technology on campus," Cox said.

Western was the first university in the state to institute a student technology fee — passed in 1995 — but now has the lowest fee, he said.

# Presidential candidates

## Victor Cox



By Julie Graham  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Victor Cox said he believes his leadership abilities, passion for the position and experience, along with the knowledge he gained of governance procedures this year, make him an effective choice for Associated Students president.

"My heart is 100 percent in this job," he said.

Cox said he sees the A.S. president facing issues next year including diversity, safety, overcrowding and enrollment, parking, lobbying for state support and working to create a student recreation center.

"I would like to have an open forum every month — the A.S.

Board, Morse and the provost — so we can be accountable and interact with students," he said.

Communication is key, and it shouldn't be the students' responsibility to come during his office hours if they have something to say, since his behavior is accountable to them and the board, Cox said.

"My goal as A.S. president is to always be visible and available to students," he said.

He said he'd like to start a club for freshmen and sophomores that would encourage their leadership skills and community involvement and get them involved early in campus activities.

"All the students at our university have so much leader-

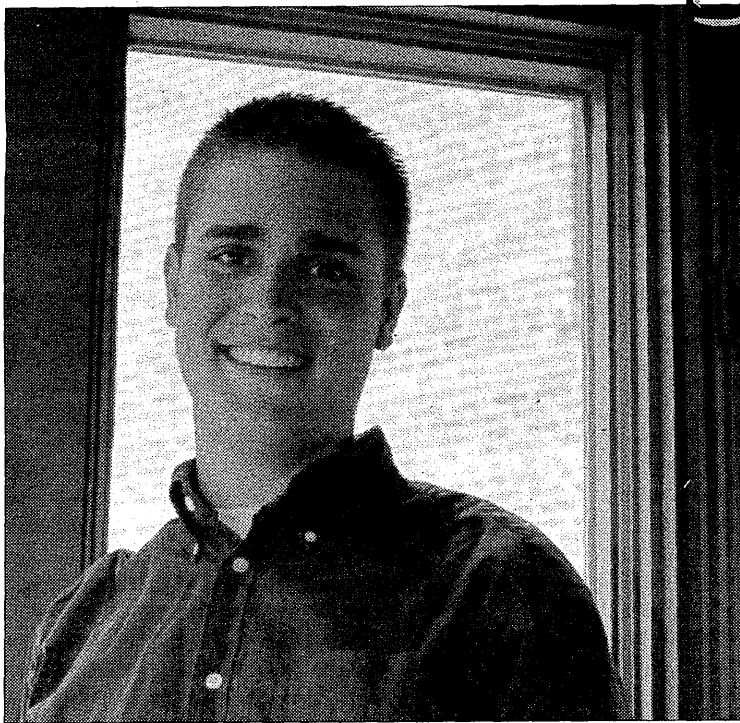
ship potential, and I want to facilitate that," Cox said, adding he fulfilled his goal of filling all student positions on university councils.

"We can make a difference on campus," he said. "I know that sounds trite, but it's true."

As A.S. vice president for academic affairs, he has chaired and served on 15 university and A.S. committees, including the Budget Committee and the Student Technology Fee Committee, Cox said.

Cox, a political science major, was president of the SHADO — Sigma, Highland, Alpha, Delta and Omega — hall council and served on the University Services Council before being elected to the A.S. Board of Directors in 1998.

## Stephen Shurtleff



By Corey Lewis  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Stephen Shurtleff's mission is clear: He wants to win the Associated Student's president office using one tool — approachability. From his campaign slogan, "Tell me what you want me to do for you," to his laid back, approachable demeanor, he said he wants students to know that he will work for them, not himself.

"I'm a real student," he said. "I'm not somebody who goes to school just to get involved in student politics. I'm not here to fulfill my political ambition."

Instead, Shurtleff said he wants to lead the A.S. to make sure students' voices are heard. He said being A.S. president will help him in his future occupation — teaching.

Shurtleff, a senior elementary education major, said a teacher once told him to truly fulfill the role a teacher must occupy, it is necessary to get experience in all facets of life.

"He told me there's all types of background a teacher needs," Shurtleff said. "Politics, community service, being a firefighter, just having all types of life experience."

He said he heard positive and negative feedback about issues from students.

None, however, has enflamed passions more than campus safety.

Shurtleff said Western needs to look at how the administration addresses campus safety and violent crimes.

"I want to change Western's style of doing things from reactive to responsive," he said.

"Instead of 300 people attend-

ing a meeting (about the recent rape on campus), every student should attend and be involved."

Shurtleff said he was saddened that the issue of rape needs to be politicized to get people's attention.

"Safety goes beyond politics," Shurtleff said.

"That is the most essential need for any campus."

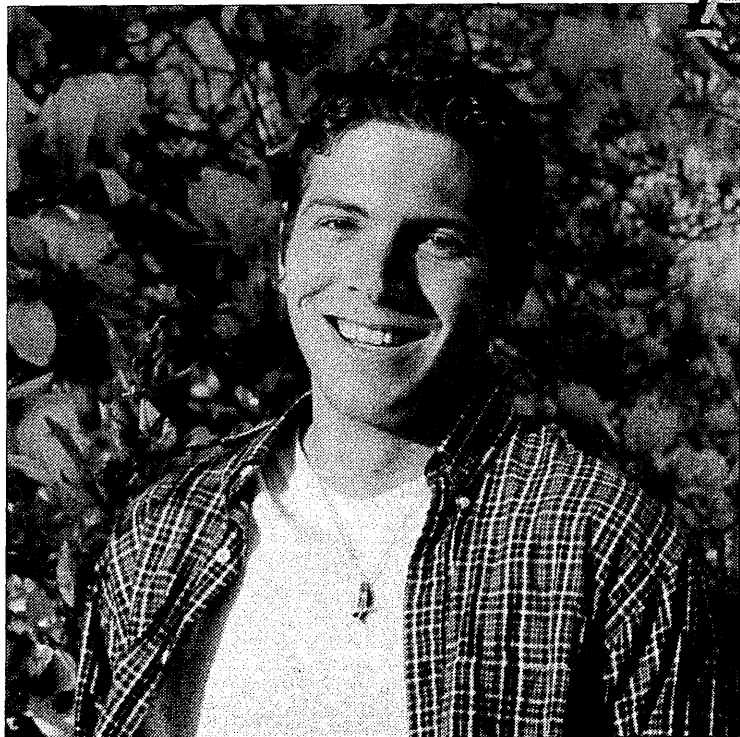
Shurtleff said many students are concerned about the chalking moratorium. He said he supports free speech, however, chalkers should use restraint.

"It's something that should be allowed, but that doesn't necessarily mean (chalking) should be exercised on campus," he said.

Shurtleff said he is well qualified for the job.

He said the job entails micro-management and leadership — two strengths he believes he possesses.

## Aaron Spencer



By Corey Lewis  
THE WESTERN FRONT

For Aaron Spencer, involvement in campus and volunteer organizations, and a love for Western, is motivation to win the office of Associated Students president. Spencer is involved with the community — on and off campus — during his three years at Western.

Along with being a second-year resident adviser in the Fairhaven dorms, Spencer was a Residence Hall Association representative on the A.S. Facilities and Services Council.

"Besides the different offices I've held, I've done a variety of volunteer work — cleaning up Sehome Hill, Casino Night, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Campus Buddies and Western Preview,"

Spencer said.

Spencer said he is a natural fit for the office he is seeking.

"The job is right for me," he said. "I really like Western and I'm very proud to be a student here."

"I'm not running on a strictly A.S. platform, but on a Western platform," he added.

Spencer said he sees the need for more dialogue between the administration and students.

"I don't see how the administration can truly understand the needs of students without open dialogue with the A.S. representatives," Spencer said.

He said one of his goals is to have open communication with President Karen Morse — something he would do with or without her cooperation.

"I'm going to be persistent,"

Spencer said. "It only takes one drop to start a waterfall. If one person can't do it, then 50 or 100 can."

Spencer said he will work to change Western's safety policies to be more proactive.

For example, he said self-defense classes always fill up, yet are only offered a few times a year.

"It's obvious that we need more of these if they fill up," he said.

He said safety is an issue that constantly needs to be addressed on campus and in the community.

"Even when the skies are blue and life is good, there will still be those issues in our society," Spencer said. "It needs to constantly be discussed and dealt with."



# Vice presidential candidates

## Vice president for Diversity

By Carrie Van Driel  
THE WESTERN FRONT

"My ultimate goal is raising awareness," said junior Morgan Hepfer, candidate for the Associated Students vice president for diversity.

Sophomore Phanta Chambers, another candidate for the position, said she shares this goal.

"I want to accomplish aware-

ness and interaction between clubs, students, faculty, everybody," Chambers said.

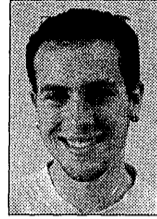
"It's not just about minorities and people with disabilities."

Chambers, an English secondary education major and women's studies minor, says she wants everyone to be educated about the programs offered on campus.

Chambers is involved in several activities including, the



Phanta Chambers



Morgan Hepfer

African-American Alliance, the Sister-to-Sister program, the

Multicultural Service Center Mentor/Mentee program and is an orientation student adviser and treasurer for Birnam Wood apartments.

Hepfer, a philosophy and political science double-major, is a member of the varsity crew.

He serves on the General University Requirements Committee, was nominated for the Government Commission

and writes for the Kitchen Debates.

The Puyallup native said he wants diversity to be highlighted on campus.

"I think that this position has the greatest potential for beneficial impacts on campus," he said.

"I care about diversity issues," Hepfer said, adding that in his mind, diversity issues equal moral issues.

## Vice president for Activities

By Lisa Bach  
THE WESTERN FRONT

The candidates for Associated Students vice president for activities share a goal of providing Western students with more activity information.

Tillie Gallagher and Amy Finkbonner are campaigning to fill the position, which includes organizing campus events, speakers and clubs.

Gallagher, a freshman, was awarded the Junior Achievement Award for the greater Puget Sound area while attending Federal Way High School.

At Western, Gallagher is a writer for the Kitchen Debates and is a Resident Housing

Association representative and historian for Buchanan Towers.

"We organize campus-sponsored events, and right now we are working on Casino Night," she said.

"No matter how busy I am, I can always find a way to help out.

"I put a lot of work into things and they come out really well," Gallagher said.

"People think that because I'm really happy that I am stress-free," she said. "That is such a compliment because it shows that I handle stress well.

"Through activities, I would like to make Western a fun place to go. I would like to



Amy Finkbonner



Tillie Gallagher

make the activities more publicized and accessible," she said. "Maybe I could inspire some of the more idealistic people to go out and make their own clubs."

Finkbonner is a senior who graduated from Bellingham High School with the Outstanding Community

Involvement Award from the Ethnic Minority Honors Program.

This past week she was chosen as a role model for Winds of Change magazine, a national publication that helps Native Americans select a college.

"This is basically my backyard, so I have a real heart for Western," Finkbonner said.

"I care about our campus and our students, and I want to represent them with style."

Finkbonner has held similar positions in the A.S. Senate, allocating money to different clubs and activities.

She is also active in leadership clubs and Campus Christian Fellowship.

"I don't have a formal title, but I do administrative stuff at the Inn," she said.

"I did an informal survey on campus, and I found that students love what has gone on, but they don't feel like they know about things," Finkbonner said.

"I would like to have a public place where people can find out about things on time."

"I can bring two important things to the position: creativity and approachability," she said.

"Activities are a big part of campus that I care about. I'd be excited to represent the student body and to tap into the vast creativity on this campus," she said.

## Vice president for Legislative and Community Affairs

By Holly Hinterburger  
THE WESTERN FRONT

The April 27 Associated Student elections brings two candidates for the position of vice president for legislative and community affairs. David Toyer and Joshua Cummings say they have experience and desire to serve Western.

Toyer is running for a second term as vice president for legislative and community affairs and said he loves his job and feels as if he has accomplished a lot this year.

"I really love what I do," he

said. "Hopefully that carries me to do a good job for the students."

The Washington state legislature proposed tuition increases as high as 40 percent.

Toyer helped start a student e-mail program that was effective in bringing the increase down to normal levels, he said.

Toyer also played a part in erecting an 8-foot "tuition popsicle" outside of the A.S. office, he said.

The popsicle was part of his work on keeping tuition low at Western.

Toyer also serves on a committee responsible for drafting



David Toyer



Joshua Cummings

an Institutional Master Plan for Western, the Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission, the parking appeals board and is the student representative on the library senate.

If re-elected Toyer said his

plans include a student bus pass, hate-crime legislation and a funds-matching policy for child-care facilities on campus.

"I try to make myself really available for students," he said.

Joshua Cummings said if he is elected he plans to concentrate on student involvement next year.

"I can take what students have to say, focus it, research it and write it up and find out what we can and cannot do," he said. "Focus it and propose it to the legislature."

Cummings has legislative experience working as a precinct committee officer in

Clark County.

He participated in student government his freshman year at Western as a Mathes representative.

He said he plans to increase relations between Whatcom County and Western by talking to community members.

He said he will continue to work on tuition issues with the legislature.

Student input, however, is the focus of Cummings' plans for next year.

"I feel I have a good pulse on the students here," he said.

"That is necessary to make the A.S. Board more accessible."

## Vice president for Academic Affairs

By Chris Christian  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Deciding how to decrease classroom size and the amount of technology fees are just a few of the pressing issues the Associated Students vice president of academic affairs will have to examine during the 1999-2000 school year.

The two candidates for this A.S. position, junior Rafael Castaneda and junior David McIvor, said they feel that they would fulfill the task of being a liaison between the students and faculty if elected.

Both said that the education level and process at Western needs to be improved.

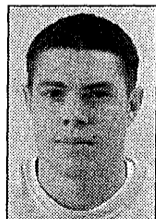
That includes class size, online evaluations of professors and more interactive General University Requirement classes.

Castaneda said he wants more voices to be heard at Western.

"I want to bring more of a knowledge of diversity to Western's campus," Castaneda said.

"By allowing a more eclectic voice to be heard."

Running for the position that



Rafael Castaneda



David McIvor

eluded him last year, McIvor said he believes he has learned what it takes to hold this position.

"I've gained the experience

necessary," said McIvor. "I know I can do it."

Each candidate agrees the classroom sizes at Western need to be improved, but both have different platforms they will focus on during their term.

Classroom size and diversity in the curriculum may be important issues for Castaneda, but he said he would like to see an increase in the student-to-faculty relationship.

Castaneda said this would occur with open forums for students to voice their grievances and opinions.

"This would let Western see there are problems and then try and find ways to solve them using a variety of student voices," Castaneda said.

McIvor said he has three issues he would like to make priorities next year.

The three issues are building school unity, giving the students more control of their education and "(getting) students involved in all aspects of the political involvement."

This would happen with local speeches, literature and other forums to let students know what's going on, McIvor said.

# Vice president for Student Life

**By Tiffany Campbell**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

"I just don't want people to get lost in the shuffle," said junior Jefri E. Peters, uncontested candidate for Associated Students vice president for Student Life.

Peters, a recreation major, currently serves as the vice president/National Communications coordinator for the Residence Hall Association, sits on the housing/dining com-

mittee for the residence halls, participates in faculty online evaluations and co-chairs Casino Night.

"Safety is a big issue right now," Peters said, in reference to the recent reported attack in Miller Hall.

Peters said she plans to implement a community watch program throughout campus.

"It's really important that students are aware. I want to make this a Western community prob-

lem," she said.

One of Peter's main goals as the vice president for Student Life is to be the liaison between students and the A.S., she said.



**Jefri Peters**

"I want people to be able to come to me, so that I can send them to the right people (in the A.S.). I don't

want people overwhelmed."

"As a freshmen, I got lost in the shuffle, and I wasn't aware of all the opportunities that Western has to offer," Peters said.

Peters, who has attended Western for three years, served on the RHA for two years.

She has traveled throughout the United States to student-life conferences to bring back programs that could be implemented at Western.

"Different issues rise and fall every year, and it's hard to anticipate what will come up," said Amy Summers, the current vice president for Student Life.

The new vice president will have to focus on being flexible, Summers said.

Peters will win the election unless a write-in candidate receives more than 50 percent of the vote, said Jon Hildahl, A.S. elections coordinator.

# Vice president for Business Operations

**By Ernesto Cardenas**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Believe it or not, Michelle Yousey loves facilities and service meetings. As Student Support secretary for the Associated Students Board of Directors, she has taken minutes at council meetings all year.

Those minutes add up to hours of experience, making her a shoo-in for the position of Associated Students vice president of Business and Operations; Yousey is running

unopposed.

She does not, however, feel this is a reason to slack on her duties, she said. She attends all A.S. council meetings she can, so students will know her face.

"I'm here for the students," Yousey said. "I want to encourage them to come to me with any comments or concerns they have."

Student involvement is where Yousey plans to make the biggest difference. In a variety of issues, Yousey said she will work to ensure student voices are heard.

Yousey will concentrate on three main issues: Viking Union renovation, the Student Co-op Bookstore and the upcoming Marriott contract re-negotiations.



**Michelle Yousey**

Yousey said she wants to maintain student input in the Viking Union renovation process. She also plans to act as a mediator between the vendors at Vendors'

Row and the Viking Union administration.

"The vendors are a big part of our campus," Yousey said. "I want to make sure their voices are heard during the renovation process."

Yousey said she wants to increase student spending at the bookstore, which she said has lost business in recent years. Yousey said students don't realize money they spend at the Co-op supports A.S. services for students.

Yousey may help organize a committee to decide if Western

will renew Marriott's contract or look for other food service providers.

"I want other people beyond the seven committee members to be heard," Yousey said.

"It's the freshmen and sophomores that are living on campus that will be affected most."

Yousey, a business major, is involved with the Publicity Center Task Force and the Inn University Ministries as a care-group leader.

She was a Viking cheerleader fall and winter quarters this year.

# A.S. officers statement of purpose

**President:**

The president is the chief administrative officer of the Associated Students organization and serves as the spokesperson for the Board of Directors. The President serves as the spokesperson of the A.S. and serves on the University Budget Committee.

**Academic Affairs:**

The vice president of Academic Affairs acts as a liaison between the A.S. organization and the Academic Affairs divisions of the university. Act as a liaison between the ASWWU Board of Directors and the Student Publications Council, and Chair the Student Technology Fee Committee.

**Activities:**

The vice president for Activities acts as a liaison between the A.S. Board of

Directors and the various programs and organizations of the A.S. Serves as Chair of the Activities Council. Serve as Chair of the Activities Council.

**Business & Operations:**

The vice president for Business & Operations is charged with overseeing the internal operations and policies of the A.S. organization and making recommendations regarding the utilization of facilities operated by the A.S. Serve on the A.S. Personnel, Budget, and Business Committee, and supervise the A.S. personnel director.

**Diversity:**

The vice president of Diversity is responsible for actualizing Western's commitment to diversity as a representative of A.S. organization. The diversity focus includes all populations on campus that are under-repre-

sented of a marginalized nature in society. The responsibility of a liaison between the A.S. Diversity Programming Offices.

**Legislative and Community Affairs:**

The vice president for Legislative and Community Affairs acts as a liaison between the A.S. organization and the University's External Affairs Division, the Community of the Bellingham, and the state of Washington. Actively participate in Bellingham community Affairs.

**Student Life:**

The vice president of Student Life acts as a liaison between the A.S. organization and the Residence Hall Association, University Residences and Housing and Dining.

*compiled from the A.S. web site*

# Quarterly WSL donation could become fee

From FEE, page 7

What's wrong with the old system: about 1,500 of more than 11,000 Western students donate each quarter to the WSL.

Western students donated \$12,800 to the WSL in the 1997-98 school year, WSL Vice Chair Erin Smith said.

Western, Eastern Washington University, Central Washington University, Washington State University and the University of Washington donated \$52,000 to the WSL in the 1997-98 school year, an amount that decreased by \$14,000 from the year before.

As a result, the WSL couldn't afford to keep its executive director and was understaffed.

"We can't expect future

liaisons to work 14 hours a day, six days a week, and only get paid for 20 hours a week," Salomon said.

Where the money goes: Donation money is distributed to each university WSL chapter to fund operation costs, student government and liaison salaries.

What the WSL does: The WSL has worked to increase financial aid and stop tuition increases.

The WSL also helped to stop a 10-percent tuition increase in Washington schools, Salomon said.

He said the state Legislature recently proposed universities have local control of 40 percent on tuition increases during two years for graduate students and

10 percent over two years for non-resident undergrads.

"Local control means the option for the regents to raise tuition," Salomon said. "Whatever percent that option is, is the maximum the school could raise it."

If students vote yes on the WSL initiative, Western will give \$60,000 to the WSL.

This money would go to fund the WSL, re-hire a full-time executive director in Olympia and pay for liaisons and campus organizers.

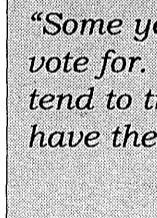
Smith said by automatically charging the \$2 fee to students, the WSL will have a guaranteed amount of money each year. This will help the WSL plan ahead more efficiently.

# Student Election Views



*"The most important issues on campus are responding to hate e-mail and stopping sexual assault"*

**Jocelyn Washington**  
sophomore, pre-law major



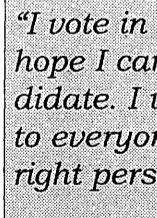
*"Some years I don't know who to vote for. I don't go to the panels, so I tend to trust the candidates who have the most experience."*

**Mark Chamberlain**  
senior, communications major



*"I don't know what A.S. does; they never do anything for me. So if I was to change something about student government I would want them to be more vocal."*

**Peter Zapareski**  
senior, economics major



*"I vote in the A.S. elections because I hope I can help choose a worthy candidate. I wouldn't want to leave it up to everyone else and just assume the right person got elected."*

**Stephanie Dalton**  
junior, communications major



*"I probably won't vote because I haven't paid any attention to the issues or the candidates. I don't know anybody who is taking serious interest in the elections."*

**Tyree Giles**  
freshman, undecided

Compiled by Remy Kissel



# Women golfers swing a victory in final match

By Lisa Curdy  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western's women's golf team finished its season with a default win against Green River Community College and Saint Martin's College at the sixth-annual Viking Invitational, which it hosted at the North Bellingham Golf Course.

Green River and St. Martin's didn't have the required four players because of a funeral and school conflicts, so they weren't able to post a score.

Playing 36 holes — 18 rainy holes Monday and 18 drier holes Tuesday — Western dominated the competition with four top finishers.

"It was kind of disappointing that we didn't have other teams to compete with," freshman Becky Barton said. "University of British Columbia cancelled at the last minute."

Barton led the team, finishing with a 20-over-par 164. "I was trying to play my best," Barton said. "I was kind of surprised; I played better when it was raining."

Barton was followed closely by senior Ginger Welfringer, who led Barton by one stroke Monday and finished with a 165.

This was the last tournament for three seniors, Welfringer

Anna Hiffman and Heather Romano.

Welfringer led the Vikings this year with an 84.9 stroke average, followed by Barton at 85.2 and sophomore Beth Richter at 86.9.

Richter and Hiffman placed third and fourth respectively, with scores of 172 and 182.

"We scored a bit higher, but we're fairly used to living in the rain," coach Noreen Chrysler said.

The invitational was planned to be practice for nationals, but Western didn't get as far as

Chrysler thought it would, based on last year's performance.

The switch from NAIA to NCAA Division II increased competition, Chrysler said.

"We didn't do as well as I'd hoped," she said. "There wasn't as many top 10."

Western placed among the top three teams in four of six tournaments this season, winning two.

Ranked 24 out of 41 for Division II play, Western looks to the future.

"We're going to have four new players next year and they should be scoring in the high 70s or low 80s," Barton said. "Beth Richter is the only key player returning; it should be a good year for us."

# Men advance to regionals

Free-swinging freshman Bo Stephan leads team

By Chris Blake  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western's men's golf team used typical Washington weather and a home course advantage to take second at the NCAA Division II District 8 qualifying tournament Tuesday at the Bellingham Golf and Country Club.

Western shot a final round 300 to finish the tournament at 901, four strokes behind first-place Cal State Stanislaus. The performance vaulted Western over Cal State San Bernardino to give the Vikings one of four berths in the West Regional May 3 to 5 in Phoenix.

"The number-one objective was achieved," Western coach Steve Card said. "That's what I'm happy about."

Western used Monday's rain to ease into third place after two rounds and take an early lead on many of the schools from California and Hawaii. Some of the competitors complained about the weather.

"The weather yesterday kind of sucked, but it was nice today," said Brandon Aoki, University of Hawaii-Hilo golfer.

The rain made the greens fast, the way Western likes them, senior Joel Skarbo said.

"These teams aren't used to the rain," junior Craig Welty said. "We play in it everyday."

"Western had a huge advantage because we're not used to playing on greens like these," said Arnaud LaBorde, Cal State San Bernardino golfer.

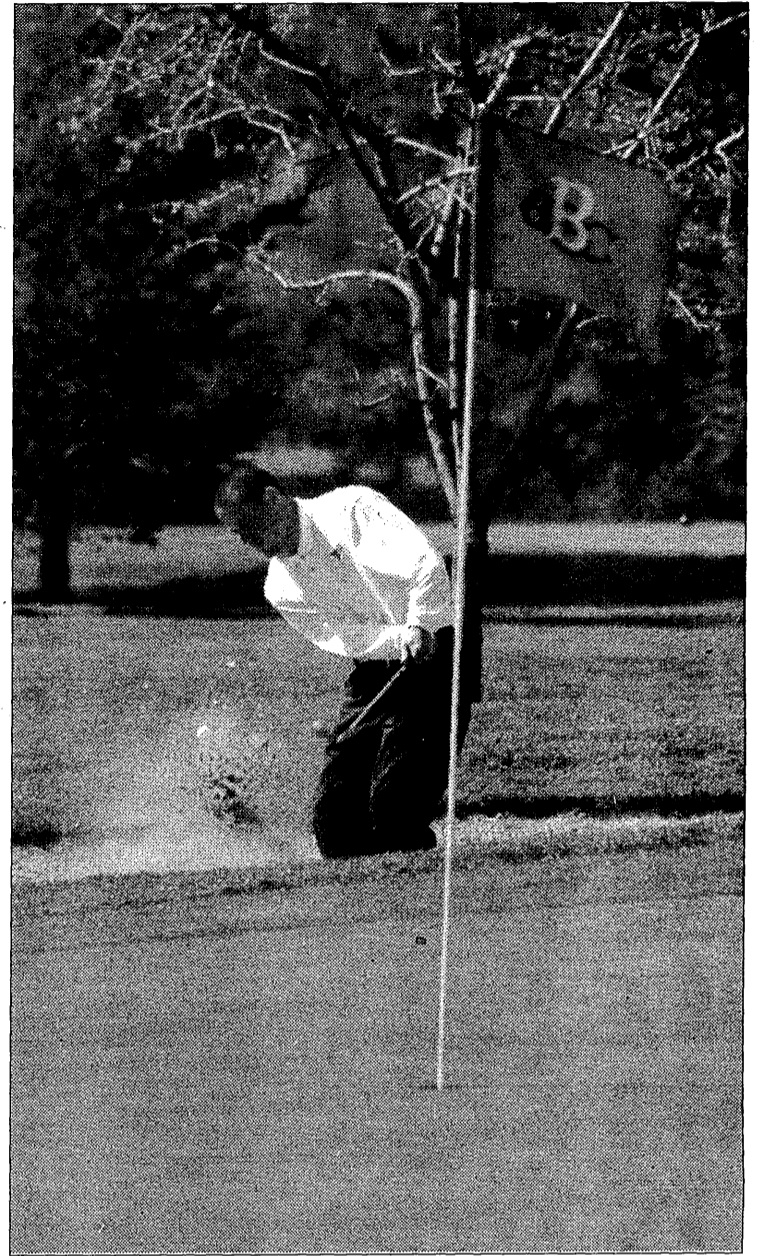
Card, however, doesn't buy that argument.

"Everyone might have thought it, but with the level of play these teams play at I don't think it made a difference," Card said.

What did make a difference for Western was the play of freshman Bo Stephan and red-shirt freshman Jamie Kim. Stephan tied for fourth with a 223, five strokes behind leader Kamron Rahimzadeh of Chico State University.

"Bo Stephan really stepped it up this week," Welty said. "He came on strong in the end of the season for us."

Kim shot a final round 74 to



Chris Goodenow/The Western Front  
Western junior Craig Welty escapes from a bunker on hole 15 Tuesday at the NCAA Division II qualifying tournament.

finish at 229.

"Jamie is starting to show what he can do," Skarbo said.

Increased production from the bottom of Western's lineup is key to Western's success, Card said.

"That's taking the pressure off Joel and Craig to perform at such a high level," he said. "It was the missing link we needed."

After Monday's rounds it looked as if Skarbo would be all Western needed. He was tied for the lead at 145. A two-stroke penalty and average play, however, led to a final round of 80, the lowest on the team. He still managed to finish at 225.

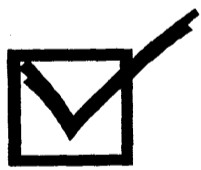
"It was just a rough day," Skarbo said. "I didn't play patiently at all."

Luckily for Western, the rest of the team was ready to pick up the slack.

Along with Stephan and Kim, Welty shot a final round 76 to finish at 228 and junior John Stehlik shot a 76 to finish at 232.

Western will prepare for the West Regional and a shot at the National Tournament. Welty said the strength of Western's district has prepared them for the regional competition.

"If we play the way we're capable of, we'll make it to nationals," Welty said.



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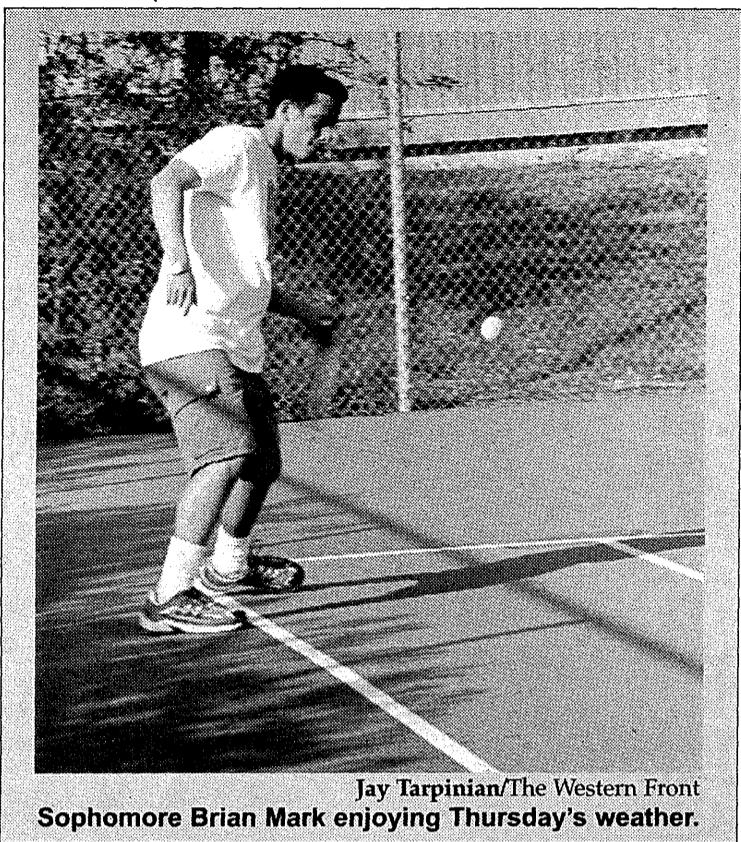
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Jay Tarpinian/The Western Front  
Sophomore Brian Mark enjoying Thursday's weather.

# Trails beginning to thaw

*Despite lingering snows, hikers hit the wilderness*

By Soren Velice  
THE WESTERN FRONT

The recent days of spring weather brought with them a reminder for Western's outdoor enthusiasts: Hiking season is here.

"Right now you pretty much have to stay low because of all the snow up high," said Brent Molsberry of Western's Outdoor Center. "Larrabee's got great hiking right now."

Eli Warren, a Mount Baker ranger district information assistant, agreed with Molsberry.

"In a normal year — whatever that is — high elevations are snow-free by early July," Warren said. "This year, it might be late July or early August."

Warren added that trails are ready to hike near the North Cascades National Park Visitor's Center, including the River Loop, Rock Shelter and Sterling-Monroe trails, Trail of the Cedars and Ladder Creek Falls.

In the forest-service land near Baker Lake, Warren said good hiking trails include Baker Lake, Baker River and Shadow of the Sentinals, although the

first two probably have some snow on their upper end. He said the Horseshoe Bend trail off the Mount Baker Highway is probably snow-free.

Jesse Griffen, maintenance coordinator for Samish Park — and trails coordinator for

**”**  
*'In a normal year ... high elevations are snow-free by early July. This year, it might be late July or early August.'*

**Eli Warren**  
Mount Baker  
Ranger District

Squires, Chuckanut Mountain and Samish parks — said some off-season regulars are hiking Samish Park, but most crowds appear after Memorial Day. He said parking for the park's beaches and trails can be a hassle, but higher trails are usually easy to find parking for.

Warren said when all the snow in higher elevations melts, a glut of insects, especially mosquitoes, will swarm the area.

Warren added that routine trail maintenance may be delayed due to all the snow.

At Samish Park, trail improvements are already underway.

"We're currently renovating our upper trail system," Griffen said. "We're hoping to connect to Pine and Cedar lakes."

He added that work is in progress to make some trails less steep and more equestrian- and bicycle-friendly.

Molsberry said hikers should remember the weather can get tricky this time of year and to be nice to their feet.

"Take care of your feet," he said. "Don't expect to go on a five-day backpacking trip on new boots. Your feet'll get blistered."

Western's Outdoor Center has two backpacking excursions coming up. The first is a day hike May 1 at Mount Blanchard for \$5. The second is a backpacking trip May 8 and 9 to Elwa Hot Springs for \$38.

A mountain-oriented first-aid course is scheduled 6 to 10 p.m. May 11 and 13, and all day May 15 and 16. The cost is \$100. For more information, contact the Outdoor Center.

## Fastpitch poised for playoffs

THE WESTERN FRONT

Western's fastpitch team had its 10-game winning streak snapped Tuesday as it lost a doubleheader, 3-0 and 4-2, at the University of Washington.

Pitcher Alison Haukaas took the loss in the first game, dropping her record to 13-6.

Hope Truitt had her scoreless inning streak halted at 24 when

she allowed a run in the second inning of game two.

Both Haukaas and Truitt had five-game winning streaks broken.

The Vikings' Andie Greenen was hitless in game one, bringing her 11-game hitting streak to an end.

The 29-11 Vikings return to Pacific West Conference play at 2 p.m. Saturday at home against Saint Martin's College.

# Skarbo keeps ball in short grass

By Chris Blake  
THE WESTERN FRONT

In a sport known as that of the thinking man, solitude can be found in 18 holes.

"I like the individual aspect of it," said Joel Skarbo, captain of Western's men's golf team. "I can go out and work on my own game."

Ever since he was introduced to golf his sophomore year of high school, Skarbo has seized every opportunity to improve his game.

"I had a little success right away and just loved it," Skarbo said. "I've been playing almost every day since."

Early on, he played in junior and amateur tournaments in the Seattle area. After high school graduation, Skarbo enrolled at the University of Washington and tried out for the golf team three times in his two years there. Each time he fell short.

"At the time I just wasn't good enough," he said.

He said he was good enough, however, to play golf at Green River Community College. He used his time there to hone his skills and catch the eyes of college coaches.

Western coach Steve Card's eyes were dazzled. He contacted Skarbo and asked him to play for Western, Skarbo said.

"That was really exciting to get a call from a college coach," Skarbo said.

Ignoring a similar offer from Washington State University, Skarbo became a Viking winter quarter 1998.

In his first season at Western, Skarbo finished among the top 15 players at nationals and was named an NAIA All-American.

"That was a real treat," he said. "I just barely made it."

Instead of relishing in his success, Western's switch to NCAA Division II competition forced Skarbo to improve his game once again.

"The competition is definitely deeper," he said. "It's been kind of a struggle."

Competitors might be wondering who it has been a struggle for. It certainly can't be Skarbo. He won two tournaments this season, finished third in another and posted six sub-70 rounds along the way. Card said he can count the number of bad rounds Skarbo had on one hand.

"It's his maturity on the course that separates him from the typical college player," Card said. "He can put the bad day behind him and completely turn things around."

While Skarbo may be better than the typical college player, one of his teammates has provided plenty of competition.

Junior Craig Welty has a slightly better stroke average than Skarbo and consistently challenges him for tournament titles. Skarbo and Welty have finished one and two in a tournament twice this season.

"It's a friendly rivalry," Welty said.

Skarbo agrees. "We like to joke about it — talk trash about it," he said.

The key is not letting their competition become a distraction, Skarbo said.



Chris Goodenow/The Western Front

**Western senior Joel Skarbo at the NCAA Division II District 8 qualifying tournament Tuesday. With his college golf career nearly finished, he said he may attempt a career in the Professional Golfer's Association.**

tion, Skarbo said.

"It's great to have him to compete with — as long as I look at the score after the tournament, not during it," he said.

Skarbo is getting ready for the West Regionals in May and possibly nationals as a grand finale to his collegiate career, he said.

He will graduate this summer, but said he plans to try his hand at the professional ranks next.

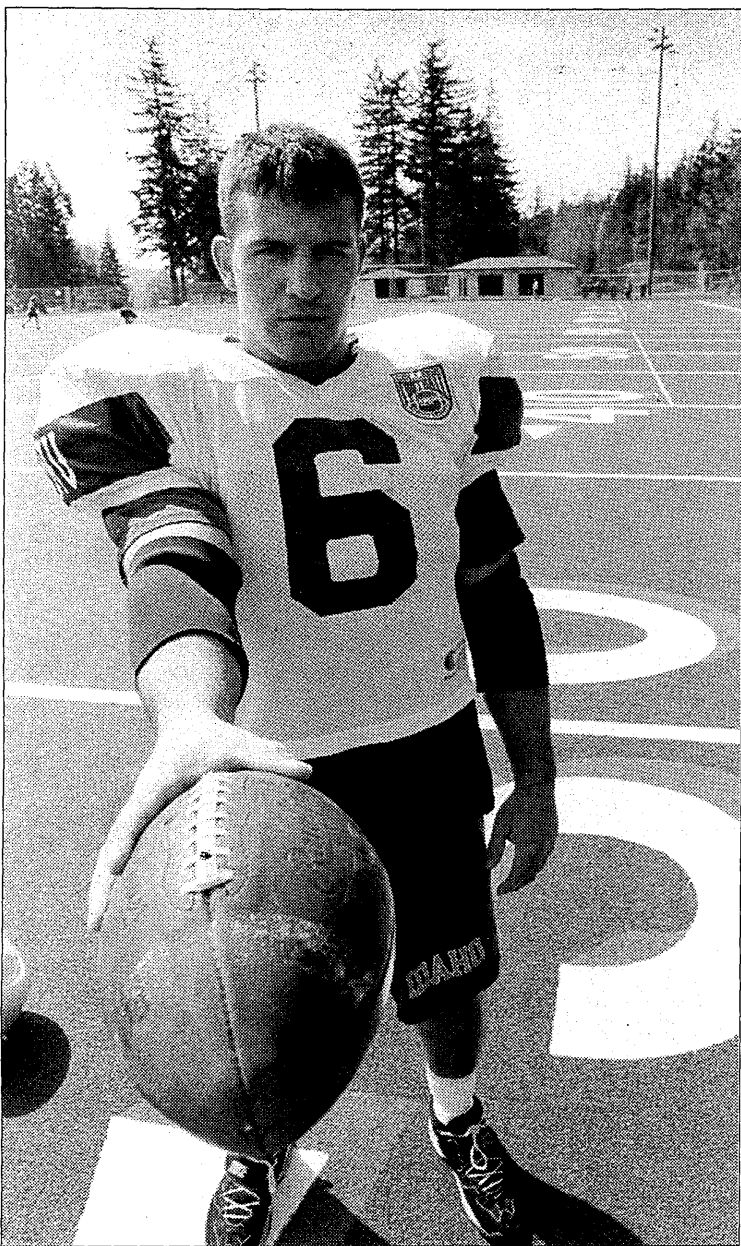
"Ultimately, I want to play for a living," he said. "That's what gets me going each year."

He said he plans to play in the mini tours and eventually qualify for the Nike Tour.

In the fall of 2000, he wants to attend the PGA Tour Qualifying School, he said. The entrance fee is approximately \$4,000, and that guarantees him nothing but a shot at the tour.

"Pro golf is for people who want to devote all their time to it," Skarbo said. "I've got a lot to learn about it."





Chris Goodenow/ The Western Front  
Tailback Giorgio Usai, star of Western's recruiting class.

# From out of nowhere

By Chris Blake  
THE WESTERN FRONT

The third time is a charm. It's especially charming when you hold the record for the second-highest single-season yardage total in the history of college football.

Such is the case for Western's latest football recruit, tailback Giorgio Usai.

Twice rejected by Western recruiters, Usai has finally signed to play for the Vikings.

All it took to catch Western's eye were four 300-yard rushing games, seven 200-yard games, 14 consecutive 100-yard games and a grand total of 2,473 yards last season at Yuba College in California.

Usai's total is second only to the 2,628 yards Oklahoma State and NFL great Barry Sanders netted in 1988.

After his senior year at Spokane's Central Valley High School, where he won the Class AAA rushing title, Usai wanted to attend Western.

"Western had no interest in me at that time," Usai said.

Usai said Western thought he was too small. He is 5-foot-8-inches tall and weighs 185 pounds.

"I still remember one coach flat out told me, 'You're too small to play here; you'll just

get hurt. That's why we're not recruiting you,'" Usai said.

"That one coach pissed me off," Usai said. "I said, 'I don't understand, I led the state in rushing and you guys aren't going to recruit me at all?'"

Western wasn't, but Usai had other options. He chose to walk on at the University of Idaho instead.

He redshirted at Idaho, but left after one semester when he realized his playing time would be limited.

"I just really wasn't pleased with the school in general," Usai said. "I figured, why pay for something you're not excited about?"

He endured another uneventful quarter at Spokane Community College before leaving for the fertile football training grounds of the California junior college system.

"All the guys that should be in the Pac-10 but don't have the grades are down there," Usai said.

His first season at Yuba was ruined by a torn hamstring. He played in only five games, but still managed to rush for 670 yards.

After the season, Usai was interested in transferring to Western and once again was in contact with Western's coaches. But Western stopped returning his calls — he was rejected a second time.

By his second year, Usai said he was ready for a breakout season. He and his teammates were intent to lead Yuba to its first winning season in 14 years.

As the season continued,

Yuba kept posting wins and Usai kept running through defenders, though he and his teammates were still shrouded in obscurity.

"People were just waiting for us to lose," Usai said. "They thought it was a fluke each game."

By the end of his record season, Usai finally received recruiting attention from schools throughout the country.

One of those schools was Western. They called and asked him if he was mad, Usai said. He told them he didn't appreciate the way he had been treated, but was still interested.

"Looking back, he's probably a player we should have recruited," said Rob Smith, Western's head coach.

"All I needed to forget about that was for them to say, 'Hey we want you now and whatever happened before was different,'" Usai said.

And things were different. Usai said he didn't want to move across the country or be another cog in the machine at some football powerhouse.

"I wasn't looking to just be on the team," Usai said. "I wanted to go where I had a real chance to be an impact guy and play. Here that opportunity to play is there."

"We expect him to come in and make a significant impact," Smith agreed.

The doubters, however, will always be a motivating factor for Usai.

"I always keep all that stuff in the back of my mind," Usai said.

"I just want to prove what I can do."

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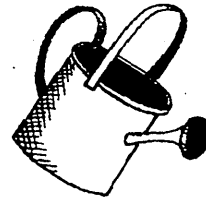
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## Frontline

### Clinton rhetoric: Do as I say, not as I do.

Existence on Earth was full of frustrations and anguish for many Americans Tuesday.

The violent and drawn-out high school shooting in Columbine Colo., threw some people for a loop and devastated others.

A somber President Clinton, already bearing the weight of his Kosovo project and following the orders of his advisers, struggled to console parents, teachers and students involved in the grisly shootings.

The president, "profoundly shocked and saddened," explained these incidents are hard to understand.

As usual, Clinton offered the public just enough explanation to chew on — but fell short of satisfying its hunger for answers.

"Perhaps we may never fully understand it," he said Wednesday. "St. Paul reminds us that we all see things in this life through a glass darkly — that we only partly understand what is happening."

If Clinton is so concerned about our level of understanding, why is he constantly deceptive and evasive?

While Pentagon spokesman Ken Bacon explains the slaughter of Kosovar refugees with terms such as "collateral damage" and "imperfect science" Clinton tries to satiate his citizens with terms such as "profound sadness," "shock" and "grief."

The president offers only descriptive terms while the public needs a plan of action. Clearly it is more than "sad" when public schools are plagued with maniacal murder sprees by unpopular white adolescent males.

"Perhaps now Americans will wake up to the dimensions of this challenge," Clinton droned on.

What about the "dimensions of the challenge" that African American students encounter? A handful of whites are gunned down by maniacs and the papers and Internet are flooded with coverage. How about the hundreds of African American students gunned down monthly in the United States? Are they worth coverage? Do they make the president profoundly sad?

Clinton finally offered some concrete, sound advice at the end of his speech. "We do know that we must do more to reach our children and teach them to express their anger and to resolve their conflicts with words and not weapons."

Oops. Surely he did not intentionally set himself up to look so hypocritical.

"Resolve conflicts with words and not weapons?" While a request for \$6 billion to finance the bombing of Kosovo soars through congress? While our planes bomb downtown Belgrade high rises?

Frontlines are the opinion of The Western Front editorial board: John Bankston, Erin Becker, Karl Horeis, Jenni Odekirk, Alyssa Pfau, Steven Uhles, Todd Wanke and Tyler Watson.



## Deadly habit continues

### While smoking is involved in one in five American deaths, cigarettes keep selling



Carrie Crystal Van Driel

COMMENTARY

read "smoker" or "second-hand smoker." The cause of death is listed as lung cancer, stroke, heart disease or sudden infant death syndrome.

Smoking causes wrinkles, smaller babies — if a mother smokes during pregnancy — and cataracts due to the smoke entering the eyes.

The government doesn't seem

cigarettes, yet none have been used, according to a study by New Scientist magazine.

These chemicals not only cause health risks, but they also cause chemical dependency. Cigarette tobacco is made of more than 4,700 compounds, 43 of which are known to cause cancer, according to Listen Magazine.

Even with all these health risks, smokers still seem to find excuses to continue smoking. "It's a good stress reliever," some say, or "I only do it when I'm drinking."

Yet other smokers say, "I picked up the habit when I was younger and can't seem to quit," or "I do it out of boredom."

Are these reasons justified? Maybe they are if someone wants to live out a slow and painful death while inflicting the same health risks upon those around them.

Smokers need to realize the effects of smoking and take them to heart, before the smoke goes to their lungs causing death.

Why do people choose to smoke?

It must be the yellowing of the teeth and fingers by tar that appeals to them, or the feeling of their lungs closing up more and more as the chemicals bind, turning their lungs blacker and blacker with every drag.

Smokers may have money to spare. Maybe throwing away \$4 on 20 death sticks seems like pocket change to them.

Or are smokers not educated on the health hazards smoking causes them and those around them?

Smoking causes one out of every five deaths in the United States and kills 3 million people worldwide each year, according to Listen magazine.

The death certificate does not

to be doing much to regulate these chemicals.

Since the 1960s, more than 50 patents have been discovered by the smoking industry to cut the levels of toxic chemicals in

“The death certificate does not read “smoker” or “second-hand smoker.” The cause of death is listed as lung cancer, stroke, heart disease or sudden infant death syndrome.”

## letters

A sample of readers' letters and e-mails

### Front coverage of the assault lacked feeling

Letter to the Editor:

The token acknowledgement in recent editions of the "alleged" rape, the follow-up forum and now the events of the Women's Center is wretchedly pathetic. Did anyone from the Front speak with students after the forum, for their responses?

Obviously something has happened grave enough to warrant public discussion (of sorts) and judging from students' reactions — as recorded in the Bellingham Herald — something is seriously wrong. I would prod The Front to defy apathy by taking a risk to talk about rape as the social plague that it is; to continue writing articles on local resources (like the Whatcom Crisis Center), and to not marginalize women as victims of sexual assault then leave them there.

Has anyone asked why men are silent on this issue? More often than not, rapists are not the weird, slimy perverts who lurk in shadows, yet that is the implied image given. Rape

is a specific, violent crime that sears a woman's soul. That goes beyond safety.

Kristen Dahle  
Western student  
and 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 or e-mail them to wfront@cc.wvu.edu. Please include a phone number for verification

## The Western Front

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### And we quote:

"There are more than 600 or even 700 missiles thrown now on to Yugoslavia... on Kosovo there are more than 50 missiles thrown in a day, and that's an area close to from Burlington to Bellingham."

Luka Bastic, Yugoslavian student. Bastic was an exchange student in the Northwest in 1995. He has since returned to his home in the Serbian capital Belgrade. Source: April 13 e-mail to host family now on Student Activist Network san-d@tao.ca.



# Planning — not blaming



**Katy Calbreath**

SPECIAL TO THE FRONT

The parents of the Paducah, Ky., shooting victims have launched a \$130 million lawsuit against two pornography Websites and the makers of the videogame "Doom," claiming they're responsible for the recent rash of school shootings.

The Supreme Court recently voted that the producers of the film "Natural Born Killers" could be sued in a murder that mimicked scenes from the film.

So everyone blamed corporate America and lobbed a few lawsuits into the air. Then what? Well, more kids die, apparently.

In a speech on Tuesday, a pale and subdued President Clinton asked the nation to help our children resolve their problems without resorting to deadly weapons.

"We do know that we must do more to reach out to our children and teach them to express their anger and to resolve their conflicts with words, not weapons," the president said.

Who is out there to help? Parents are at work, trying to improve the second-quarter earnings report for their companies. Teachers already feel over-worked and resent their roles as surrogate parents and psychiatrists.

The creative and artistic outlets once available have been attacked in their own right. Programs such as the National Endowment for the Arts have been practically dismantled.

Does America really know its children anymore? Bah mitzvahs, first communions, skating parties, jam-packed swimming pools, tree houses, recess, crushes, dances, first dates, camping trips, bicycle

rides. Heavy metallic objects shining black or silver that take two hands to hold. A faint odor of oil and power waft up to still-growing noses.

Hands not yet fully grown struggle to open the chamber and pull back the cocking mechanism. Fingers cramp as the trigger is pulled in rapid succession. Small fingers fumble to pick up the surprisingly heavy bullets. Load. Lock. Fire.

A bloodied teenager's arm swings at an unnatural angle as he tries to pitch himself out of a window in Littleton, Colo. One foot is red, one is white — as if the boy is wearing mis-matched sneakers.

SWAT team members pull him down to safety across shards of glass still stuck in the windowsill. That red sneaker leaves a trail of rust-red on the wall.

In his third speech in less than two days, Clinton spoke of the need for parents to tell their children that violence in any form is wrong.

Of course, the next story on Headline News was the renewed missile attacks on Belgrade. U.S. forces bombed the nerve center of the government in Serbia.

How will parents explain to their kids the difference between "good" violence, such as the bombs in Belgrade, and "bad" violence such as the shootings in Littleton?

When will we stop finding someone to blame and begin trying to solve the problem?

Maybe after the death toll tops 50 — hey, wait a minute, that's only about 20 more cadavers to go.

Somewhere in a bunker, President Milosevic is laughing himself out of his military-surplus chair.

If the United States can't keep its own kids from killing each other, how will it ever keep him from killing ethnic Albanians?

# Why does NATO draw out conflict?



**Janis Yi**

COMMENTARY

President Clinton's decision not to send U.S. ground troops into Kosovo and Yugoslavia has thousands of American-Albanians volunteering to return to their homeland and fight. For these volunteers, this is not a mission of mercy, but a mission to preserve their people and traditions.

The United States is fighting a half-hearted battle. Why are we only sending a portion of our military forces when we have the training and power to end the crisis, while thousands of Albanians with little to no military training are flying into Tirana, Albania to end the exodus. The volunteers will receive brief training on how to cross the mountainous border — sprinkled with land mines —

to join the Kosovo Liberation Army.

This battle is more meaningful for the volunteers. The faces of refugees we constantly see on the cover of every national newspaper tug at the hearts of many American-Albanians in a way unimaginable to millions of Americans.

Whether or not this will resolve the issue, it's a step in putting an

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*The United States needs to be more aggressive in ending this crisis, whether it takes ground troops or more military power.*

end to the crisis in Kosovo. Why drag this out? If, in fact, ethnic cleansing is taking place, why are we procrastinating as more peo-

ple are dying?

If the air strikes by the United States were hitting their targets then thousands of inadequately trained volunteers would not have to fight on the ground. The cruise missiles are launched from hundreds of miles away, while the volunteers look into the eyes of the soldiers who have killed their families and memories.

The KLA is positioned along the Yugoslav-Albanian border. The volunteers will join the 2,000 to 3,000 ethnic Albanians already there from the United States and Europe to fight Serb forces in Kosovo.

The United States needs to be more aggressive in ending this crisis, whether it takes ground troops or more military power.

If sending U.S. troops into Kosovo will end this crisis and save the lives of thousands of Albanians and volunteers, we must send them and finish the mission of saving lives.

# Prevention requires action — not finger pointing



**Christie Shepard**

COMMENTARY

Wednesday's Columbine High School shooting in Littleton, Colo., grabbed headlines all day long. Such a situation raises the question — Why?

What prompts kids to do this? Parents and administrators must be aware of students' problems, and be willing to get them help.

Children must be held responsible, but others must attempt to help when it is obvious these kids are troubled.

Wednesday morning was like any other day at Columbine High School; classes began, friends and students met for lunch period.

Then the unexpected happened — students armed with guns

opened fire — students who walked the same halls with everyone else day after day.

In Columbine High School the suspects may have belonged to a student group known as the "Trenchcoat Mafia."

Fellow students told news reporters they knew of the group and its fascination with war. One student even claimed the students had brought fake guns to school previously.

The question then arises, did anyone do anything to help these students who were known as outcasts?

In past school shootings, warning signs of looming trouble were apparent. In Springfield, Ore., Kip Kinkel shot his parents to death and killed two classmates at Thurston High School.

According to an article in the Feb. 17 issue of the Seattle Times, Kinkel was expelled from school the previous day for having a

stolen gun in his locker. He was also known for torturing animals and making bombs. When these signs first became prevalent, did anyone try to find out what the problem was?

When police searched the Kinkel house after discovering Kip's dead parents, they found bombs, ammunition and hunting magazines.

Had someone stepped in early in his childhood, the horrific events at Thurston may have been prevented.

What is a solution to stopping school shootings? No easy answer can be named, but preventative measures can be taken.

Guns must be kept away from children, and people must speak up and help students who show signs of being troubled.

When children display such signs of maliciousness and hate, getting help quickly may be the way to prevent tragedies such as the one at Columbine High School.

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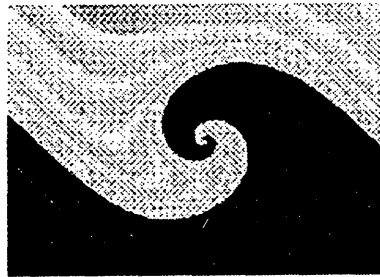
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