

The Western Front

Western Washington University

Volume 110 Issue 15

Bellingham, Washington

I-695 impact concerns Morse

By Sarah Crowley
THE WESTERN FRONT

The success of Initiative 695 has sparked the concern of Western President Karen Morse.

In a message issued to the university Friday, Morse explained what she knew of the impact I-695 might have on

Western.

Some concerns she noted were future cuts to the Whatcom Transit Association bus routes and possible decreases to Western's 1999-2000 budget.

Morse said at this point the service to and from Civic Field will continue.

"We are also looking to see if there are other places for stu-

dents to park and then to take the bus from," Morse said.

Morse said last summer, when the initiative was first put on the ballot, she sent George Pierce, vice president for



Karen Morse

Business and Financial Affairs, to meet with WTA officials to begin talks about the impact I-695 would have on students.

"We are concerned about this," Morse said, "that's why I initiated talks early."

Morse said no reaction plans for budget cuts in the 1999-2000

See CONCERN, page 6

Money given for women's campus safety

By Laura Mecca
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western received a \$500,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice as the newest addition to a decade-long effort to provide a more comfortable, safer environment for women on Western's campus and the Bellingham community.

Western's grant is part of an \$8.1 million national grant program, which made its debut this year to help end violence against women on campuses throughout the nation. One hundred and twenty-five college campuses applied for the grant, and Western is one of only 21 campuses that were selected.

"This grant is coming at an ideal time for us," said Connie Copeland, assistant dean for Student Affairs/Academic Support Services. "It was hard, we learned a lot during the last year. We are ready to bring our resources to the next level."

Copeland, along with Pat Fabiano, director of Prevention and Wellness Services, and Eileen Coughlin, vice president for Student Affairs/dean of Student Support Services, wrote the application for the grant using faculty, staff and student input.

According to the grant proposal, the two goals of the Ending Violence Against Women (EVAW) program are "improving comprehensive services to victims and changing the social and physical environment."

The first goal of the program will reevaluate and revamp the services already available for the community.

This will include extensive

See VIOLENCE, page 6

VRI to start work on energy wise SUV

By Terrill Simecki
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western's Vehicle Research Institute is working on a project to build an extremely efficient hybrid-engine sport utility vehicle.

"If we can take the least efficient vehicle — and that would be the SUV — and double its fuel economy, then nationally, and indeed internationally, we can make quite a big difference in carbon dioxide production," said Michael Seal, VRI director.

The vehicle will be about the same size as a Jeep Grand Cherokee, but have twice the fuel economy and substantially lower exhaust emissions.

The 2000 edition Jeep Grand Cherokee passes the California emission standards and gets 15 city miles and 19 highway miles per gallon of gasoline.

Seal said he hopes the vehicle will meet the California Air Resources Board's ultra-low emission rating that two of the VRI's four hybrid-engine vehi-



Terrill Simecki/ The Western Front
Vehicle Research Institute Director Michael Seal works on the wind-tunnel form of a more fuel-efficient SUV. Costing nearly \$1 million, the SUV will be finished by June 2002.

cles have already received.

The planned vehicle will normally run on electricity in four-wheel-drive mode.

Its strategy for fuel economy is to run on electricity at lower speeds in cities and run on combustion at higher speeds on highways and freeways, when it will be in two-wheel drive, for

extra efficiency.

When the gas pedal is floored, both engines will work simultaneously.

The four-wheel drive vehicle will combine either a gasoline or ethanol (grain alcohol)-run internal-combustion engine with three electric motors.

Each rear wheel will be pow-

ered by a separate electric motor, and a third electric motor will power the transmission and the front two wheels when the vehicle is in four-wheel-drive mode.

The engine, which internally combusts, will run the front

See VRI, page 16

Hotline alerts of school closure

By April Uskoski
THE WESTERN FRONT

When snow is pounding down at 6:30 a.m., students may wonder if Western will be open.

Western's storm/emergency hotline, at 650-6500, will have the answers.

The hotline has been used for the past 10 years during inclement weather to inform faculty, staff and students about the impact it may have for Western.

"It is a recorded message that allows everyone to understand the situation surrounding the weather conditions," said Lynne Masland, Public Information Office director.

After 6:30 a.m., anyone can call to listen to information concerning Western's status during storm conditions.

See WEATHER, page 6



Chris Goodenow/ The Western Front
School closures because of inclement weather and Y2K problems will be recorded for students, staff and faculty to listen to.

Writing to troops helps at holidays

By April Uskoski
THE WESTERN FRONT

In an effort to extend comfort to troops overseas during the holiday season, Western's Veterans Outreach Center is sponsoring an "Operation Dear Abby" letter drive.

The event will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday in Red Square. The VOC will provide paper and envelopes.

The Operation Dear Abby letter drive first began in July 1985 when syndicated columnist Abigail Van Buren (aka Dear Abby) received a letter from a U.S. Marine stationed in Okinawa. He wrote that men

See ABBY, page 6

IN THIS ISSUE

Hockey sticks Eastern

Western hockey crushed Eastern Washington University twice this weekend with scores of 23-1 and 10-1. Gonzaga is next in line at Spokane this weekend.

See story, page 6.

Being self-centered



The ancient Eastern discipline of yoga remains popular among modern Western practitioners of holistic health.

See story, page 9.

FRONT ONLINE

<http://westernfront.wvu.edu>

COPS BOX

Campus Police

Nov. 12, 2:25 a.m.: A woman reported receiving phone calls of a sexual nature from an unknown male.

Nov. 14, 12:22 a.m.: The Bellingham Fire Department responded to a person suffering from alcohol overdose in the 600 block of High Street. The person was unresponsive and having difficulty breathing. Paramedics transported the person to St. Joseph Hospital.

Nov. 14, 1:49 a.m.: A man was cited and released for driving under the influence in the 200 block of Morey Drive.

Bellingham Police

Nov. 13, 11:57 p.m.: Police responded to an alarm in the 3200 block of Meridian Street. On arrival, officers checked the perimeter, doors and windows of the business. All appeared to be secure. Officers and a police dog checked inside of the business but found no evidence of unlawful entry.

Nov. 14, 12:10 a.m.: Officers responded to an anonymous loud party complaint in the 1600 block of 30th Street. The renters of the house told the police the party was breaking up. All guests at the party were of legal drinking age.

Nov. 14, 12:37 a.m.: Police responded to a report of a possible physical altercation between the male and female occupants of a parked vehicle in the 1200 block Cornwall Avenue. When contacted, the man and the woman were found in a passionate embrace. Both adamantly insisted they had not been fighting.

Nov. 14, 2:44 p.m.: An officer reported two neighbors arguing about whether one of them had the right to prune trees on the city right-of-way.

Compiled by Matt Jaffe

AP WIRE NEWS BRIEFS

STATE NEWS

Three injured in search for missing climbers

Three searchers have been seriously injured in the search for Chris Hartonas and Raymond Vakili — two climbers missing on Mount Rainier for more than a week.

Alisa Lynch of the Mount Rainier National Park Service says the three injured people — two men and a woman — were stabilized Sunday and are at Madigan Army Hospital.

They fell a distance of about 400 to 500 feet down a 45-degree slope covered in rocks and ice. Two of them suffered lacerations and possible broken bones. The third was taken in for evaluation.

Seventeen searchers descended Mount Rainier by foot on Sunday. The rest were flown down by Chinook helicopter. There were 23 searchers in all.

Van sought in hit-and-run that killed three

A young man and two children were killed in a hit-and-run on State Route 167 just north of Tacoma.

All three died at the scene.

A 29-year-old Tacoma woman, identified as Yvonne Heatherly, was airlifted to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle with

massive head injuries. A nursing supervisor says she is in serious condition.

Two of those killed were not wearing seatbelts.

The accident occurred just after midnight on Sunday, when two vehicles carrying the victims collided on River Road between Puyallup and Tacoma.

Minutes later, a third vehicle — a brown or rust-colored van — struck one of the cars, then left the scene.

The Washington State Patrol is looking for the full-sized van, which has windows on all sides.

The van has front-end damage and possibly damage on its left side. It may also have a black paint transfer.

Judge refused request to stop killing of coho salmon

A state circuit court judge has turned down a request to stop the killing of coho salmon from the Alsea River hatchery.

The ruling will mean that some 3,000 fish expected to return to the Fall Creek Hatchery will be killed.

Biologists say hatchery fish aren't suited for life in the wild and would threaten wild coho in the Alsea River Basin listed under the Endangered Species Act.

A ruling against the department would have jeopardized all state hatcheries.

NATIONAL NEWS

Rev. Jesse Jackson leads 2,000 people in protest march

The Rev. Jesse Jackson led some 2,000 people on a march through Decatur, Ill., to protest the expulsion of several black high school students by the school board.

Jackson invited onlookers to join in the march, his latest effort to draw attention to the expulsions, which he considers unfairly harsh.

The six students were expelled for two school years after allegedly taking part in a Sept. 17 brawl in the stands at a football game.

A seventh withdrew from school during expulsion hearings.

The school board later cut the expulsions to one school year. But Jackson wants the students returned more quickly.

Some 100 people gathered at a park several miles from the march to listen to members of the Ku Klux Klan, who had planned to stage a counter-demonstration. No trouble was reported.

Government figures show drop in Medicare spending

Medicare spending has decreased for the first time ever.

Government figures show spending on the program fell 1 percent in the fiscal year that

ended in September, totaling \$212 billion, down about \$1.5 billion.

The program pays health care bills for 39 million Americans.

Experts attribute the drop in spending to cuts mandated by Congress, more careful billing practices by health care providers and a crackdown on fraud.

At the same time, the experts caution that Medicare spending is unlikely to keep falling because the elderly population is growing.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Rescuers search for Turkey earthquake victims

Rescuers from 23 countries poured into Turkey Sunday, as crews search for earthquake victims.

In the devastated town of Duzce, Turkish rescuers pulled a woman, who'd been trapped for 41 hours, from under a collapsed five-story building.

In another area, rescuers asked motorists to shut off their engines, to listen for the cries of a buried child. But, it turned out no child was trapped there after all.

Elsewhere, homeless people lined up for blankets and food.

The Nov. 12 earthquake killed at least 374 people and injured 3,000. An August quake in a nearby region killed 17,000 people.

Compiled by Sharon Armbruster

Bellingham Weather

Tuesday



Rain. High 56, low 47.

Wednesday



Morning showers. Highs 50, low 41.

Thursday



Late afternoon rain. High 49, low 40.

Friday



Rain. High 50, low 45.

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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.

News-makers

PEOPLE MAKING AN IMPACT ON CAMPUS

By Sarah Crowley
THE WESTERN FRONT

Senior Victor Cox, 23, is a self-described activist.

"Activism is more than protesting," Cox said.

Cox recently returned from Washington, D.C. where he was a speaker at a conference about social security issues. Fifty students were selected nationwide to attend the conference.

Cox began his career in activism and student government in 1997 when he ran for and won the presidency of the Sigma, Highland, Alpha, Delta and Omega dorms. During that time, Cox said he wanted to "show students the avenue they need to take to make change occur."

To help students get involved, Cox said he organized dances and ski trips.

Cox became Associated Students vice president for Academic Affairs in 1998. During winter quarter that year, Cox helped organize a student walk-out to protest rising tuition.

This year, Cox is serving as A.S. president.

Running for the position was the hardest part, he said.

"You make friends with the (candidates)," he said. "So it's hard when they lose."

A.S. Vice President for Legislative and Community

Affairs David Toyer has only good things to say about Cox.

"Victor is amazingly energetic and enthusiastic all the time," he said.

Toyer also said that Cox is successful at creating a productive environment for teamwork.

"(Student government) wants to work with students to create a sense of community," Cox said.

Students come to school for more than an education, Cox said, so it's important for them to feel like a part of a community.

Cox said he is also working on other issues at Western.

He says that the board of trustees should not have the right to increase tuition, since the trustees are not elected by students.

"It pits students against faculty," Cox said.

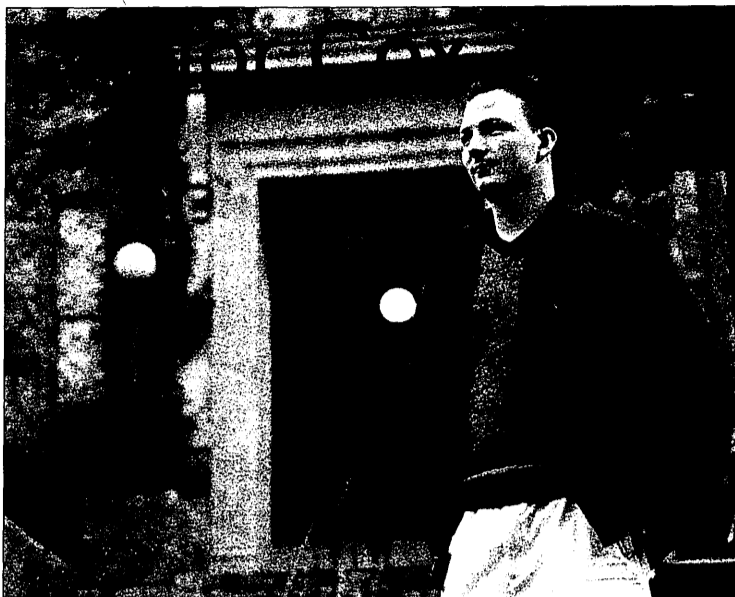
Tuition increases would provide money for faculty raises, he said, but students shouldn't have to pay for those raises.

Although Cox said he feels the faculty deserves more money, he said it should come from somewhere else.

Helping to make Western a better place for students is what Cox says drives him.

"Knowing that (students) can do something to make a difference on campus keeps me motivated," Cox said.

People must perpetuate leadership to keep it going, he added.



Chris Fuller/ The Western Front

Cox says his mission is to help make Western a better place.

Aside from his A.S. duties, Cox also hosts a radio program on KUGS 89.3-FM, Mondays at 6:30 p.m. The show is called "Eye of Western."

When he has extra time, Cox loves to fly fish.

"It's just me alone floating in a tube in the middle of a lake," he said. "It's just so relaxing."

Cox's many duties, however, consume most of his time. He said sometimes his schoolwork slips because of it.

"I deal with the stress by taking a deep breath," he said, "I just keep trying my hardest."

Cox is no stranger to hard work. After graduation he said he plans to attend law school. He is applying to Seattle University, the University of Washington, Georgetown University and Stanford University.

He said he hopes to begin his career as a civil rights lawyer.

"I want to help people who don't have the same socio-economic chance," Cox said.

Ten years from now, Cox said he hopes to be working in the U.S. Senate or House of Representatives as a congressman.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

Nov. 15-19

The Associated Students Recycle Center, Western Recycle Watch and the Environmental Center are sponsoring Recycle Week by hanging banners and offering recycling information 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday in Red Square.

Nov. 16

A three-session class designed to provide information and skills for making healthy food choices is 6 to 7:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Hospital. Cost is \$34. Call LifeQuest at the hospital, 738-6720, to register.

Nov. 17

Friends of The Music Library are sponsoring a Music Library book sale from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Library Presentation Room reception area. To make a donation, call the Music Library, 650-3716.

Compiled by Kristen Moored

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Health center visits mostly stress-related

By Emily Santolla
THE WESTERN FRONT

Stressed out?

Resources on campus can help. "Most illness that we see are stress-related," said Dr. Emily Gibson, director of the Student Health Center. Typical symptoms of stress are fatigue, loss of appetite, digestive problems, shortness of breath, muscle tension, headaches and chest pains.

Most students who visit the Student Health Center with stress-related symptoms don't realize stress is making them sick, Gibson said. Once other illnesses are ruled out, Gibson discusses ways stressed-out students can cope.

"The majority of students are trying to take on more than they really should be handling," Gibson said. "So we look at if there is anything that can change for the quarter."

”

'The most important thing we share with students is that they need to plan time for fun.'

Doris Kent
Prevention and Wellness
Services health educator

Most students choose to cut back on activities outside of class, such as work.

Gibson also discusses stress-management techniques with students. Techniques include recognizing symptoms of stress and learning relaxation techniques.

Gibson also refers students to the Lifestyle Advisor program and the Counseling Center, two other stress-management resources on campus.

Doris Kent, health educator of Prevention and Wellness Services, supervises the Lifestyle Advisor team called Stress in Balance, a group of students who teach other students how to deal with the challenges of being in college.

Kent has students identify what is important to them by creating a personal mission statement. Once the students are aware of what aspects of their lives are most important, Kent said, they are able to prioritize.

Kent said she also suggests

that students fill out a quarterly calendar, a giant piece of paper with boxes for every day of the quarter, available at PWS as well as at the Tutorial Center.

"The difference between (the quarterly calendar) and a planner is that you can see everything at once," Kent said. "The whole quarter is right in front of you."

Students fill in the calendar using their class syllabi, and at a glance they can see when they have a lot of work to plan for.

"The most important thing we share with students is that they need to plan time for fun," Kent said.

With the quarterly calendar, students can easily see when they are able to go out all weekend or when they can afford only an hour chatting with a friend, Kent said.

"It's not to give them an excuse not to do their work," Kent said. "But when they are finding that they are not retaining the information that they are studying, it is time to go do something."

The Stress in Balance team also teaches relaxation and visualization exercises. Anyone can call PWS and request any of the programs the Stress in Balance team offers, Kent said.

The Counseling Center is another resource for stressed-out students.

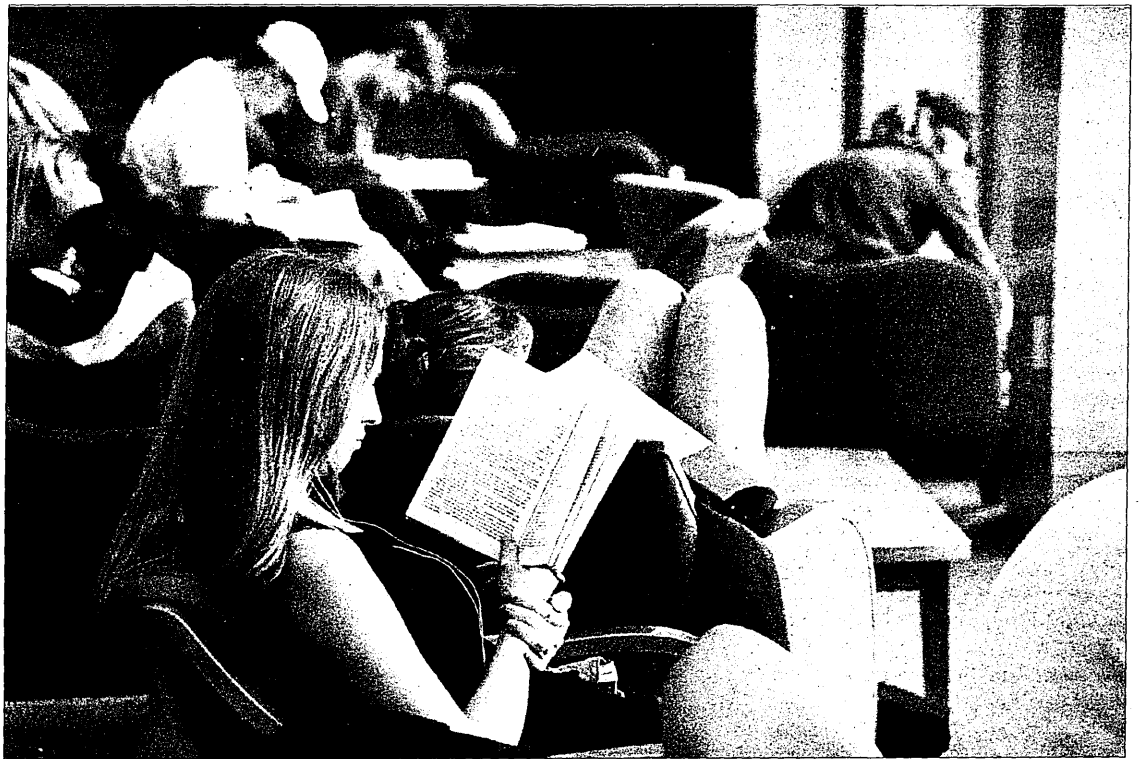
The Counseling Center has audio tapes available for students to check out, counselor John Jordy said. Some tapes are lecture-style, providing information on stress and the effects it has on the body. Others include relaxation exercises, and some are geared toward specific kinds of stress, such as test anxiety. The Counseling Center also has a library with books on stress and stress triggers, Jordy said.

Biofeedback machines are available for students to check out, Jordy said. Biofeedback machines are designed to help people gain control over their own bodies by making the users aware of their reactions to a situation. By measuring heart and breathing rates, biofeedback machines help students to recognize when they are being affected by stress.

The Counseling Center also offers stress management classes every quarter. The classes are an hour long and are free to all students, Jordy said.

Gibson, Kent and Jordy all said that learning to deal with stress is important.

"Stress is going to be a part of life forever," Gibson said. If ignored,



Matt Anderson/The Western Front

Julie Pitt studies among fellow bookworms in the Haggard Hall skybridge.

stress can eventually lead to hypertension, heart disease and ulcers, she added.

Learning to deal with stress can help students make the most of their years at Western, Kent said.

"This is a time in your life that is never going to come again," she said.

Ignoring stress leaves students angry and frustrated, which makes them forget why

they are in school in the first place, Kent said.

This can affect school, work and athletic performance as well. Memory, focus, and recall are all negatively effected by stress, Jordy said.

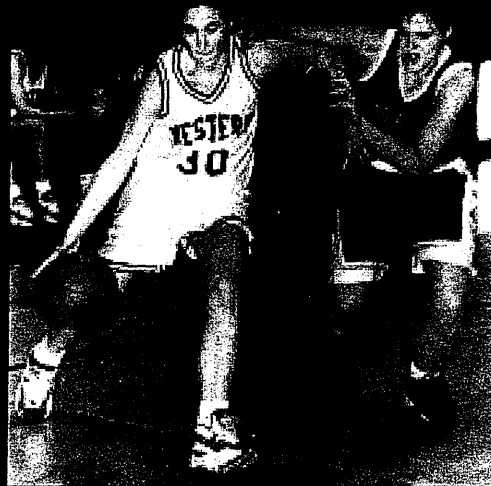
Relationships also suffer due to stress. Stressed-out students become moody and easily irritated, and even withdraw from friends and social situations, Jordy said.

"Stress is really detrimental to overall well-being," Jordy said.

If students are unable to use any of campus resources, Gibson has some suggestions for relieving stress at home.

Taking a warm bath, listening to quiet music, performing visualization exercises and drinking herbal teas are all easy and inexpensive ways for students to find relief while studying at home.

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Mental illnesses common during college

Campus doctors say external influences, such as stress, change brain chemicals

By Jill McEvoy
THE WESTERN FRONT

With changing brain chemicals and stress-filled lifestyles, college students can be prime targets for mental illness.

People between the ages of 18 and 22 are at risk of developing physiological problems that lead to mental illnesses, said Dr. Emily Gibson, director of Western's Student Health Center.

Many mental illnesses develop at these ages because brain chemicals are changing and external influences, such as stress, are prominent, Gibson said.

"(During this time) new psychotic or manic symptoms appear in people who have never had previous problems," she said.

Gibson estimated about 1,400, roughly 12 percent, of Western's students are being treated for a mental illness.

More than 400 students were evaluated at Western last year, while about 1,000 probably found treatment elsewhere, Gibson said.

The most common mental illnesses among Western students are major depression, dysthymia and manic depression, also known as bipolar disorder, she said.

Dr. Eric Denson, interim director of Western's Counseling Center, said depression is more common during college.

"(Students) have a lot of different tasks to negotiate, and if negotiations don't go smoothly, it can

leave people feeling depressed," Denson said.

Other common illnesses are attention-deficit/hyperactive disorder (ADHD) and eating disorders, which each account for 15 percent of all on-campus cases. Another 11 percent are attributed to anxiety disorder, Gibson said.

Obsessive/compulsive disorder

"(Students) have a lot of different tasks to negotiate, and if negotiations don't go smoothly, it can leave people feeling depressed."

Dr. Eric Denson
Counseling Center interim director

accounts for less than 10 percent, and schizophrenia accounts for about 1 percent, she added.

Although the number of cases reported on campus has remained constant, Denson and Gibson noted the recent emergence of self-inflicted injuries.

"We're seeing more patients causing pain to their bodies in order to relieve anxiety," Gibson said. "Many are high achievers, but they have a lot of self-hatred ... their issues are very deep."

Gibson said self-inflicted injuries, mainly cutting one's flesh, are some of the most hidden symptoms of mental illnesses

External symptoms of mental

illnesses vary for each disease.

Symptoms of depression include sadness or irritability lasting for at least two weeks, changes in sleeping habits, loss of interest in general and lack of self-worth, Gibson said.

Anxiety disorder is diagnosed when a patient experiences four or more panic attacks during a four-week period, with symptoms, such as sweating, chest pains and disorientation, according to National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) statistics.

Students concerned about mental health should visit the Counseling Center. If a friend is showing symptoms of a mental disease, encourage the friend to seek help, Denson said.

One local member of NAMI's Board of Directors, Evelyn Symes, encourages college-age people with mental illnesses to get help.

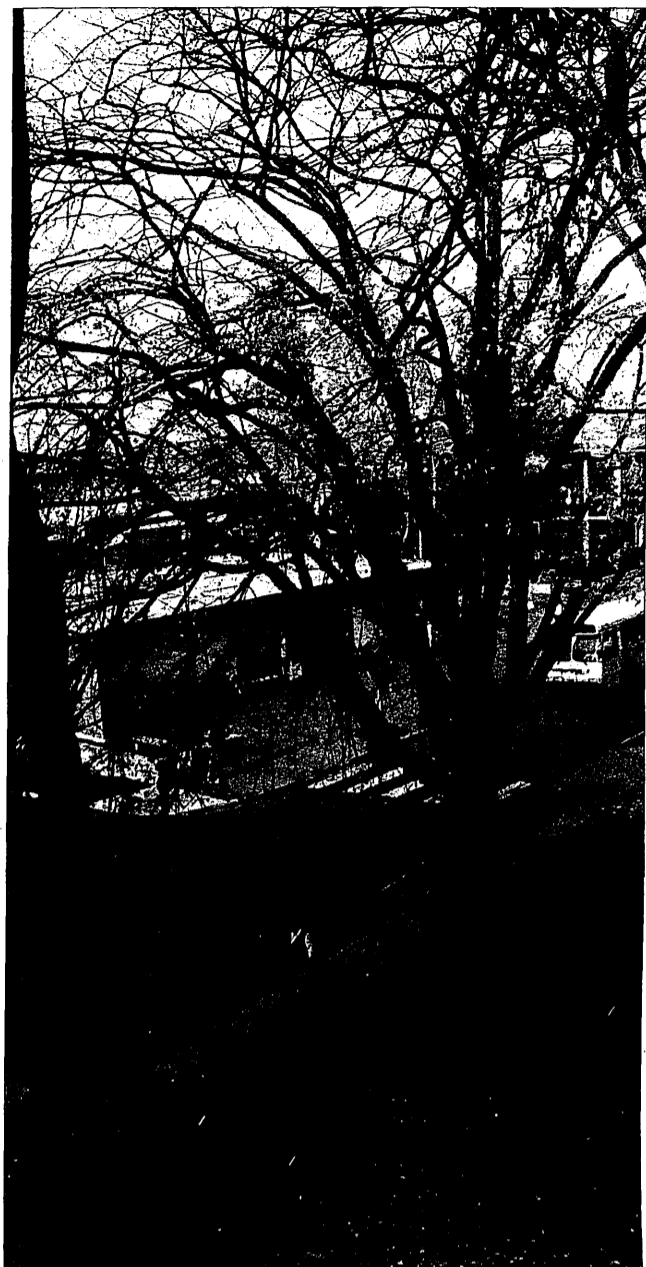
"Early, aggressive intervention gives you the best chance (to recover)," Symes said.

In January of 1995, her son, who was 21 at the time, suffered the onset of manic depression. Although he underwent treatment immediately, it wasn't until March of 1998 that his diagnosis was finally determined.

Now 26 and in his fifth year of treatment, her son is regaining his self-confidence, she said.

"He believes in himself again, and he can still laugh," Symes said. "Now he's trying to figure out what to do next."

Leafless in Bellingham



Matt Anderson/ The Western Front
A birds-eye view of afternoon traffic on High Street.

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Western weather found on phone

WEATHER, from page 1

For Western senior Josh Meese, the hotline comes in handy with his hectic work and school schedule.

"It will be really helpful, especially with a heavy snow season predicted this December," Meese said.

From Dec. 28 through Jan. 2000, the hotline will also play prerecorded information regarding year 2000 and Western's status.

The second function is a good way to let people know about the changes or developments

that may be caused by Y2K, Masland said.

"We are not suggesting that there will be any problems in the New Year, but this is a way for those not in Bellingham during winter break to have a line of communication," Masland said.

On stormy mornings, Western will broadcast its decision to remain open or to close on the following radio stations between 6:15 and 6:30 a.m.: KGMI 790-AM, KARI 550-AM, KPUG 1170-AM, KWPZ 106.5-FM, KUGS 89.3-FM, or KAFE 104.3-FM.

Grant part of nationwide \$8.1 million program

VIOLENCE, from page 1

support and services training of administration, campus police and student staff.

The grant will be used to clarify policies and procedures for a more efficient response to students needs.

A committee including student representatives and administrators will develop to assess the needs of the campus and decide what changes should be made.

The second goal is to change the social and physical environment by adding more lighting on

campus and an interior phone system.

New prevention programs will assure students, faculty and staff that violence against women will not be tolerated, Copeland said. A training class for incoming students will help reinforce this policy.

Western is working with the Bellingham Police and Whatcom Crisis Services.

"This will help people know where to turn and how to turn," Samantha James of the Whatcom Crisis Center said. "It is really something that will ben-

efit our entire community."

A portion of the grant will help improve CASAS, a 24-hour hotline, at 650-3700.

CASAS offers crime and sexual assault assistance and support services.

"Western is committed to working with the campus and Bellingham community to make it as safe as we can," Copeland said. "Violence can occur anywhere, we are working to improve support and response services to minimize the negative impact on the individual in the campus community."

I-695 may cut into state general fund, which funds education

CONCERN, from page 1

year are planned.

"We really don't know — that's an uncomfortable feeling," Morse said.

Associated Students President Victor Cox agreed with Morse.

"It's too early to tell what harm could come to the university," Cox said.

Cox also said WTA bus route cuts will adversely affect students.

"College students aren't rich," Cox said. "They rely on public transportation to get to school and work."

Cox said without bus rides students will have to walk to school, which can be unsafe.

But like Morse, Cox is most afraid of cuts to education.

Morse said Western will get a better indication of what will happen with the budget during

the January 2000 legislative session. Morse said she's most worried about the effect on Western's personnel and students.

"Let's not overreact, but let's also not just set it aside to see what happens," she said regarding I-695.

Morse said definite cuts will come as a result of I-695.

"If a hole is dug in some of those areas, is the legislature going to recommend those holes be back-filled by our surplus money?" Morse asked.

Morse said she is concerned with whether the government will use money from the state general fund, where funding for education comes from.

But students don't need to worry yet, Morse said.

"We will keep in touch with the students to let them know what's going on in the legislature," she said.

Western to send holiday letters to service people

ABBY, from page 1

and women in the military were lonely, especially during the holidays.

In return, Van Buren asked readers to write to the service people in hopes of brightening their holidays.

"Being a veteran, I remember well the feelings of pride and homesickness when I received letters during a long deployment in the desert," Beau Schwab of the VOC said.

Since then, Operation Dear Abby has become an annual tradition between Nov. 15 and Jan 15.

Many schools and clubs across the nation have also made this group project into a

tradition.

The VOC hopes this year will mark the beginning of a long tradition at Western.

"The holidays can be a very depressing time for anyone, especially those away from home," Tiffany Guwin of the VOC said. "This is why we should remember men and women who are serving our country far away from friends and family."

Operation Dear Abby has been assigned four addresses for use during the 1999 holiday season.

Specific units and countries are not targeted, only major U.S. military aerial mail terminals and fleet mail centers overseas.

"I remember when I was in the military and received a letter — it was really significant at that time to me; it meant a lot, especially during the holiday," said Dave Black, Western computer engineer.

Once the mail is received, mail centers will distribute it on a fair-share basis to all branches of the armed forces.

"When writing a letter, remember that there is not just men in the military; please don't be gender specific when writing a letter," Guwin said.

The Department of Defense has restricted letter writing to cards and first-class letters less than 11 ounces due to world terrorism. No packages will be accepted.

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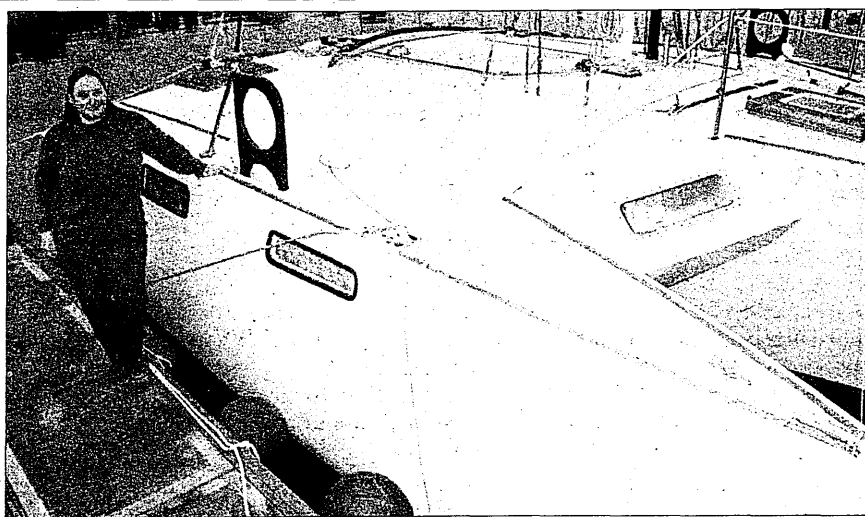
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Terrill Simecki/
The Western Front

Kathleen Seibert stands along side the trimaran Penumbra, her and husband Jeff's floating home, which is moored in Squalicum Harbor. A trimaran is a boat which floats on three separate hulls.



SLEEPING WITH THE FISHES

By Shannon Ager
THE WESTERN FRONT

Solid fog blanketed the sky — not a star in sight. Suddenly, the fog dropped. The moon backed off of the sun, radiating a glimmer just before totality. That was the penumbra.

In 1979, Kathleen Seibert and her husband, Jeff, went to Goldendale, Wa. to see a total eclipse. This is where they came up with the name for their home — a 34-foot long, 19.5-foot wide trimaran.

"Neither one of us wanted anything 'yachty,'" Kathleen said. "(The eclipse) was a really beautiful experience, and we just liked the sound of it."

The Seiberts spent three years of their lives diligently working night and day building their boat — their home. Since March 22, 1982, launch day, they have been living on their boat in Squalicum Harbor.

Not everyone has what it takes to be a "live-aboard."

"A guy that runs around the world hitchhiking would be more suitable than a guy with a big house," said Reed Gillig, harbor-master at Squalicum Harbor.

Although they aren't care-free hitchhikers and they have serious jobs, the Seiberts have what it takes to be live-aboards.

"We thought we'd live on board for the summer to see if we can stand each other in close quarters that long," she said. "We wanted to sail to Alaska the next year. We liked it — we never left."

Living in such close quarters with her husband forms a certain closeness.

"Some people say spending that much time together is too much time," she said. "There'll never be too much time for us."

Along with the closeness she shares with her husband, Kathleen enjoys the peaceful solitude of living on a boat.

After almost 18 years of living on a boat, Kathleen can predict a rough winter by paying close attention to the types of birds that have come back and the color of the seagulls.

"They say it's going to be a horrible winter — it's not," she said.

Lucky for her. The windstorms, which she said can often stay for 12 hours, can sound like a "proverbial freight train," Kathleen said.

"People always say, 'Oh, it must be so romantic living on a boat.' I say, 'You should be down there at 3 a.m. when the wind is blowing like snot and it's too loud to sleep.' That's real romantic," she said.

Whether live-aboards view the lifestyle as romantic or not, they all have something in common.

"Boaters in general are fiercely independent," Gillig said. "They're very friendly and they get along well, but if something restricted their ability to be a live-aboard, they can get set in their ways."

Kathleen said one disadvantage of living on their boat is they are only able to entertain one couple at a time.

The Penumbra was built to be totally self-sufficient while they cruise, she said.

"We can go for three weeks with the water we store on board," she said.

The boat has all the comforts of home.

The two burners and oven run on kerosene; the kitchen has ample cupboard space, and she keeps canned goods under foot in the bilge.

Through a one-and-a-half foot opening in one wall is the "closet."

"I just climb up and reach in to pick out what I'm wearing," Kathleen said.

The solar shower can only be used in warmer months when temperatures are 60 degrees or above, she said.

The Seiberts have no immediate plans to live in a house, but it is a possibility in the future.

"We keep saying, 'Do you want to build a house?' 'No, do you?'" Kathleen said.

Kathleen and her husband went into this adventure with the idea not to make a commitment if it didn't work out, she said.

"If it didn't work out, well, we knew how to live in a house," Kathleen said. "It's a simple life; it just works."

Not many live-aboards make it that long, Gillig said.

"It takes a certain adventurous spirit to do that — someone who's not tied to something worldly," Gillig said.



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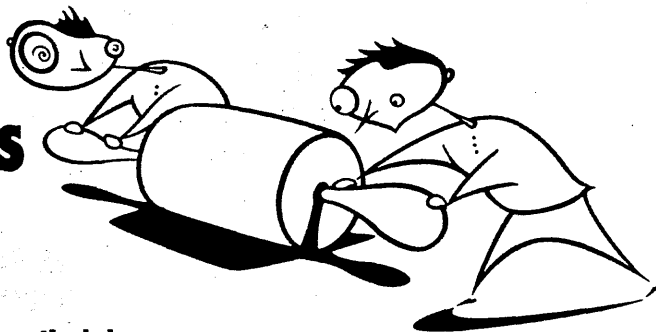
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Observing the heavens

By Alex P. Hennessy
THE WESTERN FRONT

As lights dim in the planetarium, the stars come out courtesy of a large black metal and wood projector that looks like a contraption from a Jules Verne novel or Disney's Tomorrowland.

The projector, with all its dials, knobs and arms, brings the domed ceiling of the planetarium to life. What moments ago was a dull and plain half-sphere, a bit like the inside of an egg shell, is now filled with the vastness of space and the light of the heavens.

"It's about having fun looking at the stars," Stargazers Club President Jeff Holland explained to the couple dozen students and friends who had gathered in the campus planetarium, atop Haggard Hall, for an informal show.

The Stargazers is an Associated Students club interested in astronomy, but all are welcome at its shows and meetings.

As the show begins with members of the Stargazers at the controls, it becomes apparent that this is not going to be a technical lesson in astronomy, but rather a light-hearted trip through the night sky.

Led by a book on astronomy

penned by the man responsible for Curious George, the Stargazers aim to make the joys of the stars accessible to everyone.

"It doesn't have to be technical," Holland said. "It's so much fun to be able to point that out to people."

For Holland, who started the Stargazers about a year ago, the club is more about sharing the magic of the stars with other people than about exploring astronomy.

"One of the things I enjoy most is doing this with other people," Holland said.

As Holland circles the room, he points out constellations on paper as others crane their necks upward to view them on the ceiling. A flashlight hanging around Holland's neck shines in a red light designed to not ruin night vision.

A small red dot also whizzes around the ceiling like a meteor as Kate Zylstra, vice president of the Stargazers and a planetarium guide for Western, picks out constellations and stars with her laser pointer. Zylstra tells stories of Greek gods and ancient fairy tales as she deciphers the specks of light on the ceiling.

Zylstra said she hopes to someday be a professional astronomer and said the club helps to remind

her of the fun aspects of astronomy when the technicalities get to her.

"It keeps it real, keeps me remembering what I'm looking at," Zylstra said.

The rest of the Stargazers is made up of about 30 people on a mailing list and whoever wants to attend the meetings.

The Stargazers meet about four times a quarter, usually in the planetarium. When the weather permits, Holland takes his telescope outside for a star party.

Holland said he realizes that although the planetarium makes it easy, nothing can take the place of actually looking through a telescope at night.

"I wish I could get out with a telescope more," Holland said. "To feel the photons come into your eye is incredible."

"I love watching people look at Saturn through a telescope for the first time, it's unreal."

Both Holland and Zylstra say that a telescope isn't necessary to enjoy stargazing.

Zylstra said all one really needs are "eyes and a decent book."

Holland agreed.

"Most people would be surprised what you can see with your eyes," he said.

Holland also added more than 100 different objects can be seen with simple binoculars.



Courtesy of Jeff Holland

Kate Zylstra and Andrea Frost look at the Southern Milky Way from Honeyman State Park on the Oregon Coast.

It's hard for Holland and Zylstra to explain exactly what it is that drew them to astronomy, but both have fond memories of stargazing from their childhood.

"I got a telescope when I was a kid," Holland said. "I think it was the best gift I ever got."

Zylstra's favorite constellation has been the same since her

youth.

"I liked Orion because it was one I recognized as a kid; when my family went traveling around Christmas time, I looked up and thought he would take care of me," she said.

"How could you not love Orion?" Holland asked.

What tasty looks like

By Kristin Bigsby
THE WESTERN FRONT

Ground beef sits packaged in a cooler at a grocery store, pressed between a Styrofoam dish and a shield of Saran Wrap. A shopping cart arrives at the cooler, under the direction of a carnivorous customer. He scans the display of meat before him, his mind already imagining the tasty possibilities of tonight's dinner.

The package on the far right is bursting with red, appearing fresh. The customer tosses the ground round of his choice into the cart, and moves on to the produce section. He picks out three shiny apples, sure to be crisp and erupting with taste.

This customer, like the average consumer, trusts that the store of his choice is providing a safe dinner opportunity for a set price. He also instinctually relates aesthetically pleasing food to a fresh, safe, healthy product.

"Customers buy with their eyes," said Lee Reynolds, Haggen produce manager.

Food service in the United States is high quality, and customers have little to worry about when shopping retail, said Paul Chudek, environmental health supervisor at the Whatcom County Department of Health and Human Services.

"If something doesn't look right, don't buy it," he said.

The department conducts routine inspections at grocery stores. Retail meat markets are checked every six months, Chudek said. The department makes sure that stores are selling quality food, bought from approved sources.

"The bottom line is that grocery stores



Matt Anderson/The Western Front

Huxley student Chris Baird hunts the best looking apple of the bunch.

are under license and permit by our department," he said. "We do find problems from time to time, but they generally do a decent job of being safe."

While most customers are trusting, skeptical consumers call in weekly complaints to the health department.

Chudek receives most complaints about ground beef.

"It appears really pink on the outside, and if you were to break it open you would see a dark purple," he said. "People used to call and say the grocery store was taking a little bit of new fresh ground beef

and somehow wrapping it around the older stuff to make it look good. Or, they claimed the meat department was dyeing the food product — that the dye was soaking in just a little ways. It's just not true."

Federal law does not allow additives, such as preservatives or dyes, to be packaged with meat products. Regulations are so tight that Chudek said he believes consumers need only follow a few safety tips.

Most grocery stores have code dates on items packaged in the store, which signify when the product was prepared. Items with the most current date are sure to be

fresh, Chudek said.

Temperature is also a safety indicator to keep in mind. Products stored in a cooler, such as meat, should be fairly cold to the touch, Chudek said.

Even the slightest absence of a chill could be a potential spawning ground for bacteria, he said.

Once meat is taken home, it's important to wash hands thoroughly before coming in contact with the raw product.

"It seems like the grocery stores handle the products safely, but you never know," said Chris Gubbels, Haggen shopper. "I look for what is fresh. I wouldn't take meat home that looked like it had been opened. I'm passively careful."

On the produce end, local grocery stores have a great reputation for providing fresh products.

Fruits and vegetables are presented to the consumer just as they were shipped to the store. At Haggen, the only mode of production in the produce department includes washing and trimming leaf items, Reynolds said.

Apples, cucumbers, turnips and rutabagas arrive at the store with a small coating of natural wax. The wax, carnuba, enhances the appearance of apples, said Jim Quigly, Washington state program manager for fruits and vegetables.

Carnuba also prolongs the moisture content of the produce.

"Nice shiny apples sell," Reynolds said.

Meat and produce sections at any grocery store should be trusted to sell safely handled products, Chudek said. In the case of food sales, looks matter — what looks fresh probably is.

"Don't worry, just keep your eyes open," he said.

Meditation with a twist

Eastern philosophy meets the Fonda workout

By Kristin Bigsby
THE WESTERN FRONT

It's Tuesday evening, and Rhys Web, a Yoga instructor at World Gym, sits cross-legged in a cool room with mirrored walls. Silence echoes around

“
‘You can think of yoga as preventative health care as well as a method of healing.’

Rhys Web
Yoga instructor

him. The room is dark. The door cracks open and beams of lights are ushered in by each person who enters the room. The hardwood floor creaks as students approach their teacher.

Each person rolls out a sticky mat and faces Web,



Matt Anderson/The Western Front

Abby Staten leads a group of students in a yoga exercise in the basement of the Fairhaven Public Library.

waiting for the clock to strike eight.

They've come to practice yoga — to learn the art of breathing, stretching and relaxation.

The ancient Hindu practice has been taught for more than 2,000 years.

In Sanskrit, yoga signifies the union of the higher self with the individual self. But, it's also about unifying the body and mind.

“If you look at this compound union, you see we're bringing together opposites,” Web said. “The world comes in opposites and polarities. We stretch both sides of our body, bringing together the left and right. We counter-stretch. We retain our breath.”

While many soul-searchers of the 1960s found refuge in the spiritual aspects of yoga, today it is practiced by a religiously diverse population who recognize its physical benefits.

Yoga can be useful for anyone interested in helping themselves, Web said.

In Bellingham, several local gyms and organizations teach Yoga including World Gym, Gold's Gym, the Bellingham Athletic Club, Fairhaven Library and Yoga Northwest in Fairhaven.

“There are miraculous stories in yoga healing,” Web said. “Your body is a holistic system. You can think of yoga as preventative health care as well as a method of healing.”

It changes lives, Web said. “This is a very powerful form of exercise that can help people that are somewhat disabled,” he said.

Jeri Marcus and her husband Richard can attest to that. They've come to Web's class at World Gym for four months.

Jeri, approaching 50, had back surgery in 1989 to correct disc problems. Before surgery, she felt extreme discomfort even while sitting. She said she couldn't bend down to tie her shoes.

The surgery helped her cope

“
‘You have to take into consideration that it's a long process to become flexible. It takes a long time for our muscles to stretch and elongate, as well as the ligaments. It takes practice and determination.’

Rhys Web
Yoga instructor

with the pain, but she wasn't gaining mobility as the doctors predicted. Jeri took pain killers to get through each day.

Richard, who first began practicing yoga in the mid-1980s, inspired her to experiment with the relaxation technique. She said she no longer needs medication to get through the day.

“It's because of yoga,” she said. “Things that I do now, I could not do, even after surgery. I think of where I'd be without yoga.”

Richard has problems with varicose veins. Before he

began practicing yoga, he said he couldn't cross his legs or take long drives with his wife without excruciating pain. Practicing yoga helped increase his circulation and considerably decrease his suffering, he said.

The Marcus have waited patiently for results.

For months, they've practiced various postures under Web's instruction, rarely missing class. The most helpful yoga positions have been those that tax the back, such as Cobra.

They begin laying on their stomachs, fingertips lined up with shoulders, elbows pressed to their sides. Extending their arms and tilting their heads back, they can feel the muscles in their backs stretch with relief. Their hips never leave the mat for the 30 seconds they hold themselves in Cobra, day after day.

“Especially in our Western culture we like to have quick results,” Web said. “You have to take into consideration that it's a long process to become flexible. It takes a long time for our muscles to stretch and elongate, as well as the ligaments. It takes practice and determination.”

“The wait is worth it,” Jeri said. “The results improve your mental and physical levels.”

But the benefits of yoga have no breaking point, Web said. People achieve different levels of success based on their practice and dedication to the exercise.

Web's class meets only twice each week, but each hour spent focusing on relaxation, stretching and breathing is of immeasurable value.

It's hard to find time to relax in a busy world, he said.

“Yoga affirms my life,” Web said. “It makes me feel like I'm a living being, like I have purpose.”

At the end of each class, Web's students lay on their backs in the relaxation pose. They often feel chilled from the temperature of the room. But there is comfort in the cold.

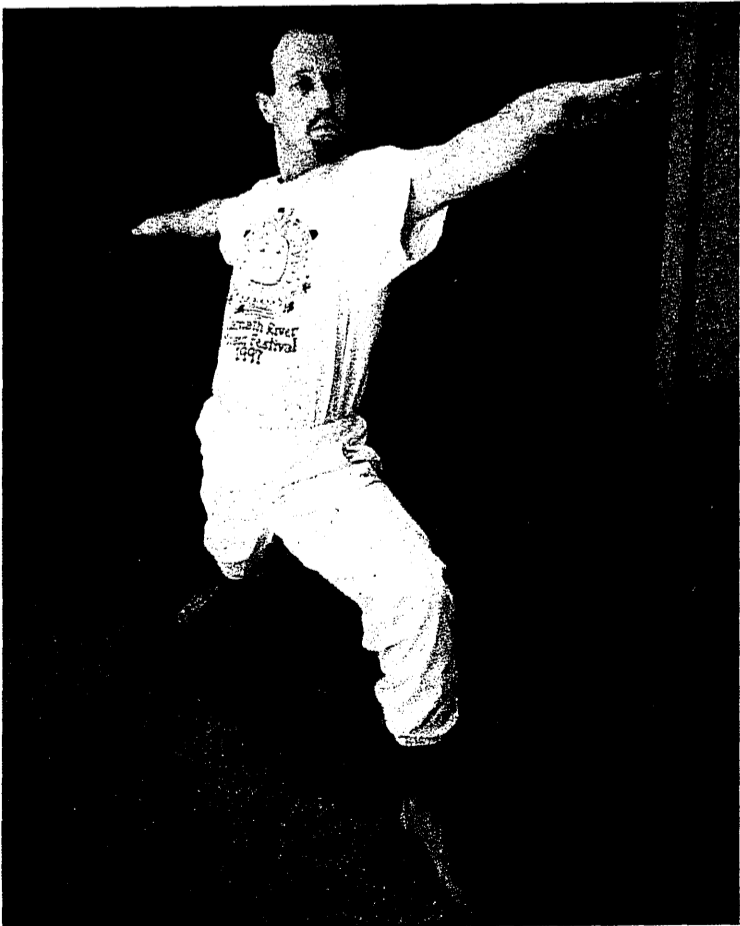
Web tells everyone to let go of any tension and completely relax.

He then offers the opportunity to chant the sacred symbol “Om” aloud three times. In Sanskrit, “Om” acknowledges the universal truth. Physically, the sound vibration acts to heal the body.

When the echo of Oms ceases, Web bows his head and, placing his hands together in prayer, offers one last word.

“Namasté,” he says.

It means simply this: The light within me acknowledges the light within you, and when that light comes together we are one.



Chris Goodenow/The Western Front

Rhys Web strikes a yoga position — dubbed the Warrior pose.

Vikings lose big at Davis, remain No. 2 in West region; first-round playoff next week

By Jeff Hoffman
THE WESTERN FRONT

Despite the Western football team's 55-24 drubbing by University of California-Davis, Saturday, the Vikings 8-2 record was good enough to keep them at second in the West region and qualify them for their first national playoff appearance as a member of the NCAA Division II.

The Vikings will travel to Tahlequah, Okla., to face the No. 3 team in the region, Northeastern State University at 11 a.m. PST, Saturday at Gable Field.

Because of the unplayable conditions at Civic Stadium, Western could not host the game.

UC-Davis retained the top spot in the region and will host Central Oklahoma University, the fourth seed, Saturday.

The playoff picture for the Vikings became uncertain after their loss at UC-Davis on Saturday. After winning eight straight games, one short of tying the school record, Western's defense couldn't corral the Aggies' star wide receiver John Shoemaker, who caught four touchdown passes during the game, a UC-Davis record.

The afternoon got off to a rocky start for Western when the Vikings fumbled away the opening kickoff and UC-Davis scored shortly after, giving the Aggies an early 7-0 lead.

Western bounced back, though. Quarterback Scott Mitchell drove the team down the field and the Vikings got on the board thanks to a Josh Bailey 31-yard field goal. After

stopping the Aggies' next drive, the Vikings took a 10-7 lead on a 1-yard run by running back Giorgio Usai.

It looked as though Western had the game in hand. The defense controlled Shoemaker, a Division II player of the year candidate, and the offense put points on the board with regularity.

But mistakes plagued the Vikings, who turned the ball over six times, leading to 42 Aggie points. After the opening fumble, UC-Davis scored on another fumble, three interceptions and a blocked punt.

Western quarterback Scott Mitchell completed 21 of 41 passes for 176 yards, but was intercepted twice in the game. The first interception came in the second quarter, starting a string of 42 unanswered points rattled off by the Aggies.

"All those mistakes we didn't make over the course of the season we saved for today," said Western coach Rob Smith. "You're not going to be in any game against any opponent doing that kind of stuff. What could go wrong did go wrong."

Shoemaker had three of his four touchdowns in the second quarter as UC-Davis began to run away from the Vikings, outscoring them 35-0 in the second and third quarters.

Back-up quarterback R.J. Del Mese threw two touchdown passes to wide receiver Ben Clampitt late in the game, but it was too late for the Vikings.

"It's too bad that the regular season had to end this way," said Smith. "We are certainly much better than we showed today."

Western men's, women's crew teams warm up at Seattle's Head of the Lake Regatta



Kristen Moored/The Western Front

Lydia Powell, Kari Morris and Kari Cook make a turn at the Head of the Lake Regatta.

By Kristen Moored
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western men's and women's crew teams left their first regatta of the year with high hopes for the upcoming season. Each placed near the bottom of their respected fields.

The Head of the Lake Regatta, which took place at the Mountlake Cut in Seattle Sunday morning, is the largest fall regatta on the West Coast. Local and national teams of all ages participated in the 6,000 meter course.

Local crews included Pacific Lutheran University, Gonzaga University, University of Washington and Washington State University. Out-of-state crews included Stanford, University of California-Davis, University of British Columbia, University of Victoria, University of California and Oregon State University. Even the women's U.S. National Team participated.

All crews start 20 seconds

apart, so the real race was against the clock.

Head of the Lake is the only regatta Western will compete in until its season starts in late March.

Both teams practice year-round, but Sunday was a chance to see how they compare with other schools.

The men's eight finished the course in 17:09.4.

"After today's race, it really got me excited for spring season," said varsity rower Greg Lish.

Western men finished just behind UBC.

Although Western had hoped for a better performance, the men said they feel they have the potential to do well this year, Lish said.

"The outlook for the team is

good, we just don't have the consistency and power we had last year yet," said Ben Hummer, third-year varsity rower. "I think last year we were powerful, but we weren't solid rowers. This year the boat is older, we will be able to focus on becoming a better crew."

The women's varsity boat finished in 19:23.64, just beating PLU whose time was 19:27.43.

"Beating PLU's time is great. They're our biggest rival team. Out of every crew rowing today, they were the ones I wanted to beat," senior rower Kathy Shireman said. "I think some people were hesitant about this year since we had some girls graduate, but I really think we have the potential to do even better than we did last year. We are a strong crew."

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Western hockey destroys Eastern in doubleheader

By Daniel Pearson
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Western hockey team swept two games against Eastern Washington University, winning Saturday with a score of 23-1 and Sunday 10-1.

In Saturday's game, Julien Lalonde and Curtis Zatylny had hat tricks before the second period ended. Zatylny finished the night with four goals.

The game was close for 53 seconds until Lalonde made it 1-0, beating Eastern's goalie Mike Levar to his left with a power shot.

Several minutes later, Western's Casey Hotchkiss fed the puck to Mike Bahn. Bahn fired a rocket from just inside the offside line, beating Levar to his right to make the score 2-0 at 11:45 of the first period.

Twenty-one seconds later, Hotchkiss placed the puck in perfect position next to the left bar of the goal and Ben Alberg tapped it in, making the score 3-0.

At the end of the first period, Western led 10-0.

"The one thing about being goalie is that at any moment you can get a shot," said Western goalie Dave Morrill. "You have to stay alert."

Western did not let up in the second period. Zatylny scooped a deflected shot into the goal at 13:04 to make it 11-0.

Zatylny made a spectacular

goal with 5:02 left in the second period.

The puck was wiggling between Levar's skates when Zatylny dove to his left, stuck his stick out and swiped it across the ice, tapping the puck through Levar's skates, making the score 17-0.

With 4:07 left in the second period, Eastern's Dan Gasparino pushed Hotchkiss after a whistle blow.

Hotchkiss fired back by pushing Gasparino in his face. Gasparino put Hotchkiss into a headlock and both men fell to the ice.

The referees broke them apart. Gasparino and Hotchkiss were ejected for fighting.

"Any time a team is losing like that, they are going to take some cheap shots," Lalonde said. "The main thing we tried to do was skate away and get the power play."

When the second period ended, Western had cruised to a 19-0 lead.

Dan Blair slinked a shot past Levar to open the final period, leaving the score 20-0. Western then went into conservation mode — scoring only three more times.

With 11.3 seconds to go, Dan Combs put Eastern on the scoreboard with a breakaway goal that beat Western's backup goalie.

The third period expired and the game ended 23-1.

"We believed in order to be ranked we had to run the score up," assistant coach Brent Selman said. "We need to show other teams that we can play."

"It was a complete team effort," Selman said. "I think

this team is going to go a long way there is good chemistry on this team."

Western went on to improve its record to 5-0 with another victory Sunday.

Despite the huge win Sunday,

the Vikings kept a level head.


"We need to go from the mindset that it is 0-0," Zatylny said.

Western takes to the ice in Spokane against Gonzaga University Friday and Saturday.



Chris Goodenow/The Western Front

Western's 17-year-old Jon Smolensky gets a face full of an Eastern Washington University defender in Saturday night's hockey contest at the Bellingham Sportsplex.



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Clampitt, Mitchell earn honors; 10 players named first-team



Chris Goodenow/The Western Front

Western senior Ben Clampitt scored 13 touchdowns this year, breaking a school record.

THE WESTERN FRONT

Western finished its regular season at 8-2, 4-0 in the West region, and won the Columbia Football Association title. The Vikings will make their first-ever NCAA Division II national playoff appearance Sunday, taking on Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Okla. Saturday.

Western claimed several first and second-team all-league players, as well as a player and coach of the year on Monday.

Wide receiver Ben Clampitt was named Columbia Football Association Offensive Player of the Year. Clampitt had 61 receptions for 1,114 yards and a school record of 13 touchdowns. He became the fifth Western player in six years to earn the CFA Player of the Year award. He is also a candidate for NCAA-II player of the year.

Ten other Vikings were selected first-team CFA all-stars.

In addition to Clampitt, tight end Ben Fairbanks, offensive lineman Nick McClain, quarterback Scott Mitchell and running back Giorgio Usai received offensive first-team honors.

Clampitt and Fairbanks were the only first-team repeaters from last season.

McClain was a second-team

selection last year.

The defensive players honored with the first-team selection were defensive tackle Mark Bone, linebacker Lance Gustafson, tackle Matt Alderman and cornerback Mike Perez. Perez, a second-team selection in 1997, also gained an honorable mention as a punt returner.

Head coach Rob Smith was unanimously selected as CFA Coach of the Year. It is Smith's fourth CFA honor, having also won the award in 1989, 1995 and 1996.

Second-team recognition went to placekicker Josh Bailey, defensive end Dan Ball, cornerback Sean Jones, linebacker David Josker, linebacker Ryan Riden, tight end Roy Shick and punt returner Erik Totten. Totten also received an honorable mention as a defensive back.

Other honorable mentions went to lineman Pat Humphrey, kick returner Martez Johnson and safety Marty Juergens. Juergens was a second-team selection last season.

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LETTERS:
a sample of reader insights

ALF criminal; Parking Services an oxymoron

No justification for ALF crimes

I'd like to respond to a letter by David Axelrod, "ALF spotlights important issue," published in the Nov. 5, 1999 issue. Axelrod makes the assertion that the Animal Liberation Front has turned our attention toward the issue of animal rights by going outside of the law. He says that the ALF bravely takes action because government is too slow to act.

It's too bad that the only way these animal rights activists can promote their agenda is to trash the Psychology Department. Will students be

stuck with the bill?

I'm not sure. I'd hate to have to pay more in fees just so rabbits can be "liberated."

I disagree with vigilanteism. The ALF assumes that since it is right, it can take illegal action to further its cause. In reality, it has pushed its ideas to the fringe, farther away from the consensus to change animal rights laws. Many groups throughout history have bypassed legal ways of bringing about change. An example: Timothy McVeigh. I bet he thought he was right in wanting to end big government. His method of change was blowing up a federal building. The ALF

hasn't killed anyone, but committing crimes to further a political cause isn't right. There are other ways of making change.

William Kelley-Kamp

Residents need walking shoes

What is the basis for the Charita Neal Rinker's logic? For one thing, lot 16CR is not that much further down than the commuter lots. Two hundred yards or so: is it going to kill you to walk that far on the random occasions that you need to use your car?

But that's not the main issue. As a third-year commuter, I will concede one thing. The parking situation isn't perfect — it does take a long time to walk to campus from the C/CR lots. But the fact is, commuters are the ones who have to walk to school every morning to get to class. As you don't want to take the extra couple minutes to go run your errands every once in a while, we don't want to have to get up earlier every morning to get to class on time. It is a simple matter of numbers — we go to and from the parking lot much more than you do on average (excepting those who work every day).

I also find the insinuation that off-campus Western stu-

dents deserve less than those living on-campus a little insulting. If I wanted to stoop to a juvenile argument, the question of "seniority" for the closer parking spaces could be taken literally. I'm sure the amount of upper classmen commuters by far outweighs the lower classmen. As an upper classmen, why should lower classmen get parking seniority over me? Like I warned, juvenile, but so was the first letter. If the shoe fits ...

Trevor Rivers
Western student

For more letters,
see page 15



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Frontline

Beautiful babies can't be bought on the Internet

Quiz time!

Of the following statements, which one is true: a) A fashion designer/horse breeder is auctioning off models' eggs on the Internet or b) A pack of inebriated monkeys recently stormed a local GAP store demanding cargo pants and skorts.

Sadly, if you picked "a," you're right on. It was Ron Harris who launched the Web site — donors' qualifications are simple: "Be beautiful, healthy and between 18 and 30 years old."

Beautiful, healthy and relatively young — it's so refreshing to see somebody out there not motivated by superficial goals.

According to a recent Seattle Times article, Harris, whose resume includes stints with Playboy as well as his own exercise video, charges 20 percent more than the high bid for each harvest of eggs as his fee. Starting bids range anywhere from \$15,000 to \$150,000.

Wow! With all that cash hanging in the balance, Ron's Angels must be a real steal! Right?

In the same article, Mary Foster, Swedish Medical Center's director of reproductive technology, said even if the eggs at the site are from the models pictured and free from genetic flaws such as family history of early cancer or diabetes, only about 40 percent will be successful pregnancies. She added that whether any of those 40 percent will be as breathtakingly gorgeous as a model is a genetic uncertainty.

Ron's site emphasizes our culture's endless fascination with shallow beauty. Whether it's the back of People Magazine or the advertising section of the Seattle Times, people are always peddling "the look."

Ah, the elusive look. In the annals of human endeavor, few things have vexed and frustrated people more than this strange phenomenon. "The look," as it's popularly referred to, can be a variety of things: angular cheekbones, firm thighs, curvaceous hips, succulent lips, etc. The point is, when all these attributes come together, the results are dynamite.

Newscasters traditionally have been purveyors of "the look," along with actors, pop stars, athletes and other media darlings.

Well, and this may come as a shocker, you can't just buy the look.

People who have "the look," have probably spent years fine-tuning their stunning, "va-va-voom" appearance. Either that or they just naturally look as if they stepped off the pages of Mademoiselle (a truly enviable gift).

People such as Harris are not only insatiably shallow, but also awe-inspiringly insipid. By creating a Web site that tantalizes unsuspecting consumers with visions of Tyra Banks-caliber offspring, he's missing the whole point of pregnancy in the first place — to take part in the indescribable joy and satisfaction of nurturing and raising your own child.

Or, as an old Chinese philosopher once said, "There is only one beautiful child in the world, and every mother has it."

Frontlines are the opinion of The Western Front editorial board: John Bankston, Erin Becker, Lisa Curdy, Corey Lewis, Angela Smith, Greg Tyson and Steven Uhles.

The Western Front

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And we quote:

"Totalitarianism was the greatest evil of the 20th century, and (Winston) Churchill its most able adversary."

Republican Presidential candidate George W. Bush, on his nomination of Winston Churchill for Time magazine's "Person of the Century." www.seattletimes.com



Beauty on the auction block

The pros and cons of a controversial new Web site

Web site shallow; looks not everything



Monica Bell

COMMENTARY

Priorities of others not our concern



Cory Chagami

COMMENTARY

Who said you can't put a price on human life? Certainly not Ron Harris, owner of the Web-based egg and sperm auction business of ronsangels.com.

For the right price, a couple can purchase the egg of what Harris considers to be a "beautiful" model.

"If you could increase the chance of reproducing beautiful children, and thus giving them an advantage in society, would you?" Harris writes.

His Web site provides pictures of models and an opportunity to bid from \$15,000 up to \$150,000 for their eggs.

His shallow belief in beauty as the source of all accomplishments in society is the basis for the high price tag he puts on these eggs.

Harris claims his work as a photographer, art director, producer of "artistic" specials for Playboy TV and experience as a horse breeder qualifies him to define human worth and beauty.

The assisted reproduction of a child is — wrongly — his basis for promoting the negative ideals of a society that already puts too much emphasis on physical beauty.

His Web site not only perpetuates the myth that beauty is everything, but also reduces the miracle of having a child to the equivalent of bidding for an antique at an auction.

For years men have been paid to deposit sperm at sperm banks and women have been compensated for their discomfort if they donate eggs. Now Harris claims that wealthy couples can practically guarantee their children an advantage in life through beauty.

A price tag of \$150,000 does not guarantee a beautiful child because nature still has to run its course.

Infertile couples often look for donors similar to themselves in appearance, personality and intelligence, but most do not choose donors strictly by appearance.

Harris claims people should not choose donors who are "dissimilar" from themselves, and he

In today's world, everything is for sale — including the ovarian eggs of three models.

Fashion photographer Ron Harris created a Web site that pictures three models whose eggs are available to the highest bidder.

Bids start at \$15,000 and are expected to reach about \$150,000.

A lot of people are disgusted by this, but how is it any different from couples or persons who go to fertility clinics?

Since these donors are models, and high price tags are attached, society immediately says this is wrong.

Some people are complaining this could end up creating a bunch of "superbabies," beauty shouldn't be for sale.

Says who?

Today's society is obsessed with genetic code cracking and cosmetic surgery — such as liposuction, tummy tucking and skin stretching.

If physical appearance is so important, which it seems to be in our society, why not give the child a head start?

Parents who feel this way can find the most attractive donor and hope the child ends up looking like her.

It's the parents choice to decide what's important when choosing a donor.

After all, there is no rule that states physical appearance isn't important.

If physical appearance is an important issue to people or couples in need, they should have no problem investing their money this way.

Prospective parents won't go into a clinic and just blindly request some eggs or sperm to go. Parents want what's best for their child, so they choose the profile with the most outstanding qualities.

The profiles are there so the parents can see what their child may end up being like — personality traits, eye and hair color, height, build; you know, what they *look like*.

These parents may judge for themselves — with

Please see **BELL**, next page

Please see **CHAGAMI**, next page

Letters policy

Letters must be no more than 250 words. The Front reserves the right to edit for style, length, libel and content. E-mail The Front at wfront@cc.wvu.edu, or drop letters off at College Hall 09. Please include a phone number for verification

The Western Front

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Free trade doesn't exist

In the Nov. 2 article concerning the WTO, Western international business professor James Dean comments that "free trade is generally a good thing."

Free trade does not exist, nor will it ever. All governments feel a responsibility to protect the economic interests of their country — and rightly so.

In the United States, tariffs and other protective measures played an integral role in the development of the economy. Currently, the U.S. economy is full of protective measures in the form of subsidies to farmers and securities paid to corporations by the Pentagon. The reason people support the idea of free trade is it helps the economic superpowers of the world invade "less-developed" countries and earn enormous profits. The foreign country does not

benefit in this process, known as capital flight. Thus, free trade is an idea used to persuade other countries to bow to our economic demands.

The WTO is simply a vehicle for this process. Three unelected WTO representatives (representatives of big business) have the power to strike down any member country's law that inhibits "free" trade. When confronted with this fact, Dean simply compares the WTO with two other organizations under the coercion of the United States.

Dean then comments that "it was not intended to be a democratic organization." Is that supposed to make me feel better? Anyone looking for a serious analysis of free trade and the WTO should read the work of Noam Chomsky, to whom I give credit for many of the ideas discussed here.

Tony Wishik
Western student

Harris' Web site raises questions about society's outlook on beauty

BELL, from page 14

even provides an outlandish example.

"There was even an Asian couple who chose an egg from a blonde Scandinavian woman," Harris wrote.

He said couples should spend their money on eggs for "better looking versions" of themselves.

It is illegal for a person to traffic in human organs, but Harris still has a lucrative business in providing sperm and eggs to infertile individuals.

People should be able to have children through donor programs, but the "best" or most "beautiful" children cannot morally be sold to the highest bidder.

Harris' "qualifications" for a potential donor begin with them being conventionally "beautiful." Secondary traits include health, intelligence and social skills (like what exactly?).

He also states that a woman must be between 18 and 30 years old and a man who wishes to auction his sperm must be between 18 and 40.

This photographer actually claims there is some scientific

background for the auctioning of the models' genes. He says it is a form of "natural selection at its very best."

Natural selection does not, however, traditionally favor the most beautiful individuals. It encourages the existence of the best-adapted life forms through natural means and not through a form of auctioned genetic engineering.

Ron Harris Inc. is quick to point out that the models get the entire amount bid for their eggs or sperm.

Later, he states that his company adds 20 percent to the highest bid for its services.

From this point, the assisted reproduction process, medical attention and legal fees are an additional cost.

The Web site does have a disclaimer about additional costs, for which estimates range from \$20,000 to \$50,000.

After all this money is paid to create a human life, a couple is still not guaranteed a baby. And if they are successful there is no guarantee the child will fit into Harris' definition of a beautiful, intelligent and "socially" accepted individual.

CHAGAMI, from page 14

their-own value system in mind — exactly what they want in their child.

People who want but are unable to have children have the option of going to a fertility clinic if they choose.

These people pay anywhere from \$4,000 to \$20,000 for assistance in having a child.

Add in donor fees, clinic fees and doctor fees and they have at least another \$3,000 attached to their already sizeable bill.

A woman who donates her eggs to a fertility clinic is assisting others in having a child.

The three models selling their eggs on the Internet are just doing the same thing.

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Nearly \$1 VRI car functions as SUV, is completely computer controlled; has two fuel choices

VRI, from page 1

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The back half of its roof will be removable so that the vehicle will have a storage area four feet wide and eight feet long.

"It has most of the function of a pickup as well as being a sport-utility," Seal said.

Seal said he expects the project to cost \$900,000.

Money is raised through grants from federal organizations such as the Department of Transportation, the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy.

Seal said the VRI has received

money from state sources before, but he doesn't expect to get more through them since I-695's passing.

The money will cover the costs of the finished vehicle, a test vehicle, student salaries and the payroll for the five permanent employees of the VRI excluding Seal; he is a teacher at Western.

Seal said he hopes the project, which began a month ago, will be completed by June 2002.

The actual construction of the car will not begin until June 2000 when design and fundraising for the project should be complete.

Toyota has already mass produced a hybrid sedan, the Prius, 30,000 of which have sold in Japan. Honda built a similar hybrid car, the Insight.

Both cars are scheduled to be released in the United States next summer.

30 GO IN 1 COMES OUT.



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20th Anniversary
Seattle International
StandUp Comedy
Competition
Sunday Nights**

Nov. 7-Nov. 14-Nov. 21

15 comics 1 & 2-Top Ten on week 3

presented by:

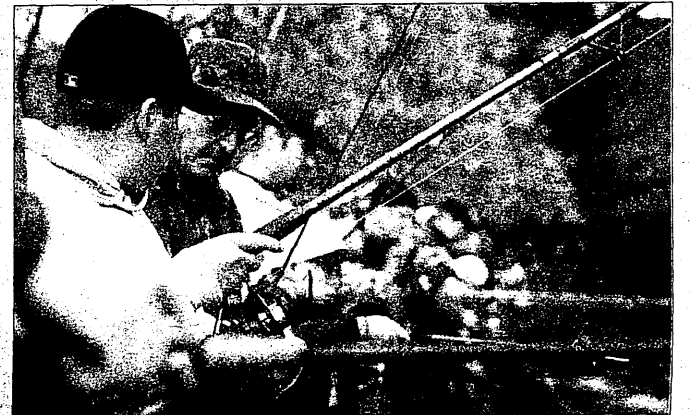


Doors Open at 6:00 pm Limited Reserve Seats

sponsored by:



Nothing like the rod and reel



Chris Goodenow/ The Western Front
Many people fish near the mouth of Whatcom Creek.

FABULOUS FRIDAYS

2 PM IN THE LOUNGE

After a long work week, get a jump on the weekend and RELAX IN OUR LOUNGE.

Fridays from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Enjoy...

99¢ WELL DRINKS WINES DOMESTIC PINTS 20% OFF PIZZAS

\$7.00 OFF NACHOS \$7.99 MICRO PINTS



Photo ID Required

1514 12th Street • I-5 Exit 250 • Fairhaven District • 676-1304

Your own room

One block from Viking Parking permit. No smoking Clean folk only. Quiet nights Start January, March, July, Sept. International House 317 Cedar at North Forest wunicols@vcn.bc.ca



Drop your books! Clear your brain!

Treat yourself to great food, espresso & "musical sociology" 4 nights a week!



It all happens at the Cookie Cafe—Your study-break headquarters!

1319 Cornwall (just north of Holly) Open 6 AM daily 671-8550

Break Time!

Friday November 19 8:00pm Doug Banner Storyteller

Open Mic on Wednesday

Accoustic Jam on Thursday