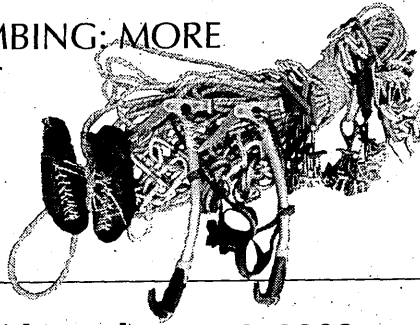




DR. EMILY GIBSON  
DISCUSSES RARE  
CASE OF MUMPS

PAGE 2

ROCK CLIMBING: MORE  
THAN JUST  
EXERCISE



PAGE 8

STUDENTS  
CREATE EDGY  
LITERARY MAGAZINE



PAGE 6

Friday, February 6, 2009

# THE WESTERN FRONT

AN INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER SERVING WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SINCE 1970 | WESTERNFRONTONLINE.NET

## Same-sex couples seek more rights

Ashley Mitchell  
THE WESTERN FRONT

On Jan. 28, three months after voters in California passed Proposition 8—a bill prohibiting same-sex marriage—the Washington State Legislature introduced its own bill to the opposite effect.

If passed, Senate Bill 5688 will give same-sex couples the same rights married opposite-sex couples enjoy, but would stop short of defining a union between same-sex couples as "marriage."

As a result of Proposition 8 passing in California's November election Western opinions and ideas surrounding same-sex marriage have expanded, said Western senior Amber Aldrich, coordinator for the

Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Alliance (LGBTQA) student organization.

Western students started the Queers and Allies for Activism club when the Proposition 8 protest in Bellingham in November sparked discussion about same-sex marriage and the rights that come with it, she said.

In response to all the opinions and views on campus about the issue, the LGBTQA is holding an event called the "State of Queer Union" on March 4th. This event will give people a chance to speak about Proposition 8, the current bill introduced in the state senate and everything regarding same-sex marriage, Aldrich said.

Large service centers and groups such as the American Civil Liberties

Union, Northwest Women's Law Center and Equal Rights Washington will join the campus at this event, Aldrich said.

Bellingham residents, like most coastal cities, tend to have progressive and liberal views, but opinions vary, Aldrich said. On topics such as same-sex rights and benefits there is general acceptance, but opinions can differ so much that even the question of the institution of marriage is up in the air for some people, she said.

Western sophomore Brittany White, who identifies herself as a lesbian, said she has found Western to be a fairly liberal place. She said she does not feel

see RIGHTS page 4

## VP candidate 'Buster' Brown visits Western

Hannah Bostwick  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Keeping a lecture hall of nearly 50 board members laughing is no easy task, but Nathaniel "Buster" Brown, the final candidate being considered for the position of Western's Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs, did just that at an open forum Thursday.

The atmosphere in the lecture hall was relaxed, and despite the seriousness of the questions asked, Brown kept the mood light with witty comments as he discussed his qualifications and answered a range of questions from audience members.

If selected, Brown will have several responsibilities, which include ensuring the financial integrity of Western, assuring a safe educational environment and promoting positive interaction between Western and the community.

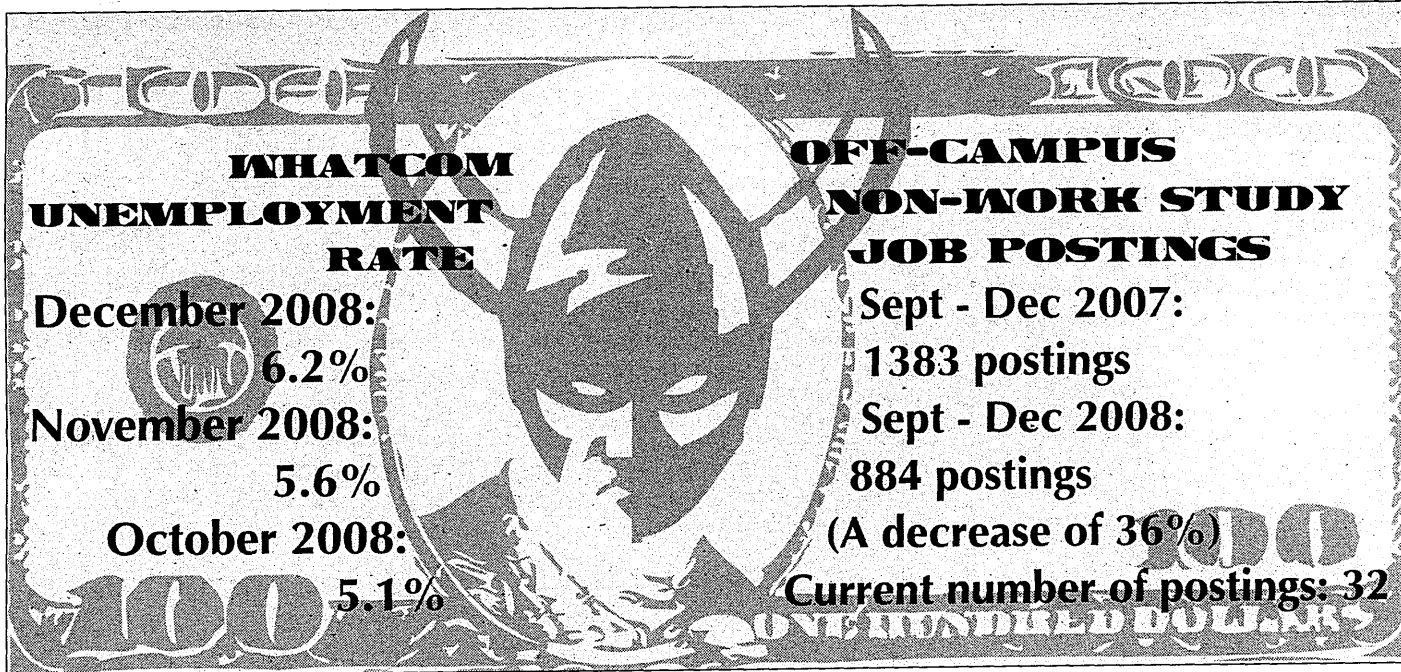
"I am most excited for the challenges, the projects and the ability to work with young people in advancing their educations," Brown said. "It's different, and something I'm not used to."

Brown's resume is extensive, with positions ranging from cost accountant to vice president at a variety of privately-owned businesses. Working at Western, a public university, would present new challenges for Brown as he crosses over from the private to the public sector.

John Lawson, vice provost for information technology, said the search committee has brought in a varied slate of

see VP page 5

## WESTERN STUDENTS FEEL RECESSION'S PINCH



## Student job opportunities dwindle as unemployment rates rise

Brett Flora  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western sophomore Erin Lawhead is losing her job. After spring quarter, her services as a library assistant at the Western library will no longer be needed; and because she does not qualify for work study, she will have to supplement her income through other jobs off campus.

With more students in Bellingham being laid off, Caryn Regimbal, manager of the Student Employment Center, said the job postings on the Center's Web site are a good a reflection of the nation's slumping economy.

Luckily for Lawhead, she has two off-campus jobs at the CreaTiviTea pottery painting studio and tea bar and at the Abbey Garden Tea Room in Fairhaven to

supplement the six hours she works in the library. Jobs she will need when her library employment ends.

The Student Employment Center is a free campus service that provides students with job opportunities both on and off campus.

During fall quarter 2007, businesses and private employers posted 1,383 jobs on the Student Employment Center Web site. During fall quarter 2008, businesses and private employers posted only 884 jobs, a drop of 36 percent.

Western sophomore Ellen Teel has experienced the economic pinch first hand. Teel works for Sodexo in the Viking Commons dining hall where she currently works two shifts that total six hours per week. Prior to the first round of budget cuts, Teel worked three shifts, totaling

nine hours per week.

Teel said she thinks Sodexo is trying to save money by cutting out unnecessary shifts, like her shift in the dish room.

Teel, unlike Lawhead, does not have an off-campus job to supplement her six hours at the dining hall. She said she has not been successful in finding a job through the Student Employment Center Web site or going downtown in person to submit her resume to potential employers.

According to the current job posts on the Student Employment Center Web site, the two primary types of off-campus work offered for Western students are one-time jobs, such as helping move furniture or filming a YouTube video, or specialized

see EMPLOYMENT page 3

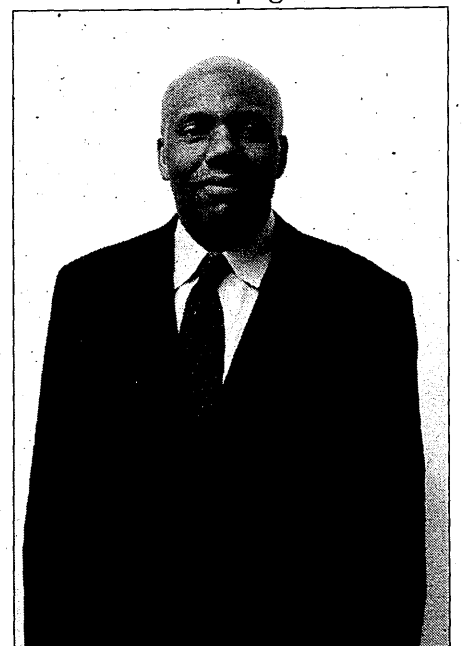


photo by Alex Roberts THE WESTERN FRONT

Nathaniel "Buster" Brown is the final candidate to visit Western for the Vice President of Business and Financial Affairs position.

## Cops Box

### University Police

Feb. 3

- Police responded to a report of a female fainting in the Wade King Student Recreation Center. They found her alert.

Feb. 2

- Police responded to an emergency phone call from the Nash Residence Hall elevator. No one was stuck in the elevator and the area was secure.

### Bellingham Police

Feb. 4

- Bellingham police responded to a domestic dispute on the 3000 block of Ferry Avenue. A man was booked into jail on suspicion of assault.
- Police investigated an attempted burglary on the 1300 block of Orleans Street.

cops box compiled by Deena Lee



photo by Carolyn Copstead THE WESTERN FRONT

Jacob Landry (front), a Teach for America alumnus, discusses issues of race, poverty and education in America at a discussion panel Wednesday night in the Communication Facility. Approximately 50 students attended the discussion. The panel consisted of six people, including two Western professors, two Teach for America alumni and two students.

## Emily Gibson, Student Health Center medical director, reassures campus about mumps case

Katherine Garvey  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Days after treating a Western student for mumps, Student Medical Director Emily Gibson is working to educate the campus community about the viral illness and how it can be prevented.

Gibson recently discussed the illness and the importance of vaccinations with Western Front editor Katherine Garvey.

**Western Front (WF):** How often do you see mumps on campus?

**Emily Gibson (EG):** I've been here 20 years, and we've never had mumps. This is the first.

**WF:** How easily is it transmitted?

**EG:** It's droplets, so it's either coughing

and sneezing [in] that 3 foot radius where you're near someone and the droplets would land on you or contaminated surfaces, so if somebody with infected hands touches a surface and someone else comes and touches the surface.

**WF:** How concerned should people be?

**EG:** I don't think this is a high-risk case. The symptoms were not very severe and that's probably because the student had been immunized, so he had some partial immunity. Do I expect an outbreak? I don't. I think it's going to be one case. We're about at the two, two and a half week mark from when the student initially exposed other people on campus and we haven't seen any other cases that are even remotely suspicious. That's a really good sign.

**WF:** Have the people who were in contact with the student been treated?

**EG:** They've all received specific e-mails and we've checked their immunity status and everybody has had their two shots. There's another group of people, it's about 220 or so on campus, who are faculty, staff and students who have waived their [measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccination] requirement. We have just over 200 of those on campus and those folks have also been contacted because they're the most vulnerable to getting sick.

**WF:** Does the MMR vaccination protect against mumps entirely?

**EG:** The student had had the two MMRs and actually had good immunity measured

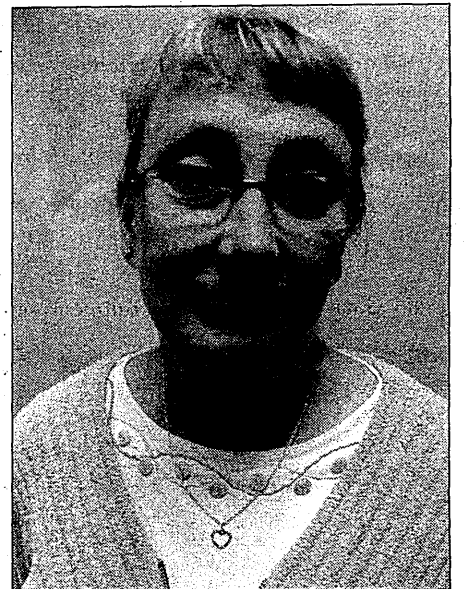


photo by Nicholas Johnson THE WESTERN FRONT

in blood antibody level. But still, there's just not enough sometimes if there's pretty overwhelming exposure to the virus. [There are] certain circumstances like an airplane where you are just overwhelmingly exposed and your immunity isn't enough. What happens is that the infection is not as severe, which is what happened in this case. So the vaccination definitely helps, but it doesn't decrease that ability for the patient to expose themselves.

**WF:** Are most people vaccinated?

**EG:** We're pretty tough about making sure people understand how important it is to be immunized even though immunizations aren't perfect, as this case shows; but very few people opt out. Three to four times a year we'll see somebody who has swelling in their parotid gland—the salivary gland—and there are viruses that can do that that are not mumps and not as concerning as mumps. But anytime we see it we test for mumps.

## Corrections

In the Feb. 3 issue of The Western Front, a phrase mistakenly used the word "infamy" to describe Western program Director Pinky Nelson's induction into the United States Astronaut Hall of Fame. Pinky Nelson is a remarkable man whose accomplishments as an astronaut deserve a special place in history, not infamy.

In the same issue, a caption incorrectly credited a photo taken by Carolyn Copstead.

The Western Front apologizes for this and any other errors. Errors should be reported to the managing editor at managing@westernfrontonline.net.

## WEATHER REPORT

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Low: 32° F  
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(40% chance of rain)

**MON**  
High: 40° F  
Low: 30° F  
Mostly Cloudy  
(Chance of showers)

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### EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT (360) 650-3162

Editor in chief.....Zack Hale, editor@westernfrontonline.net  
Managing editor.....Rebecca Rayner, managing@westernfrontonline.net  
News editor.....Jeff Twining, news@westernfrontonline.net  
News editor.....Katherine Garvey, news@westernfrontonline.net  
Arts editor.....Andrew Frazier, artsandlife@westernfrontonline.net  
Life editor.....Audrey Dubois-Boutet, artsandlife@westernfrontonline.net  
Sports editor.....Stephanie Castillo, sports@westernfrontonline.net  
Opinion editor.....Kera Wanielista, opinion@westernfrontonline.net  
Photo editor.....Hailey Tucker, photo@westernfrontonline.net  
Online editor.....Paul Suarez, online@westernfrontonline.net  
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Copy editor.....Coral Garnick, copy@westernfrontonline.net  
Illustrator.....Brandon Kays, kays.brandon@gmail.com  
Faculty Adviser.....Carolyn Nielsen, carolyn.nielsen@wwu.edu

### ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT (360) 650-3161

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# EMPLOYMENT: Despite downturn, limited opportunities still exist

from 1.

work, in areas such as technology or child care.

Unfortunately, the Student Employment Center has no control over the frequency or types of jobs employers post, Regimbal said. The center simply facilitates communication between the students and employers.

While the job market may seem to be full of doom and gloom, Regimbal said job opportunities still exist for Western students.

Another way students can find work through the Student Employment Center is a day labor and child care sign-up list on the Student Employment Center Web site.

Students create a profile listing their special skills and work experience then employers look through the list, Regimbal said.

To cut down on the interviewing process, employers filter through the skills and work experience listed on students' profile pages to narrow down the number of prospective employees, she said. Schedule flexibility is a necessity for these types of jobs, Regimbal said.

Students can also utilize other local job Web sites such as WorkSource, Echo or the Bellingham Herald, Regimbal said.

She said she encourages students to be persistent, but not over-the-top, if they have a particular employer they want to work for.

Western's career fair on Feb. 12 is another good place to start job searching, said Shar Sarte-Prince, recruitment ser-

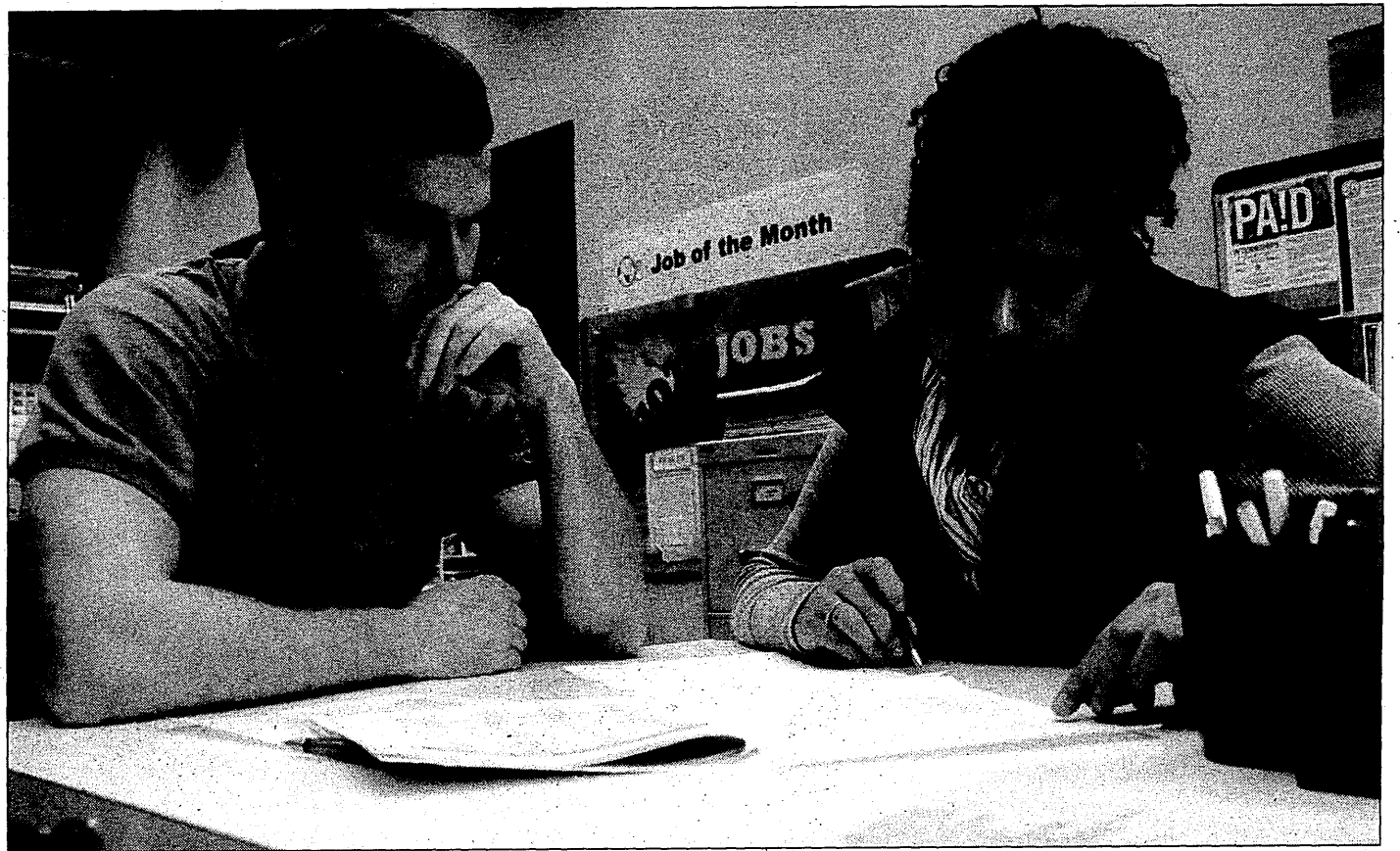


photo by Hailey Tucker THE WESTERN FRONT

Western senior Sydney Williams (right) helps sophomore Rowan Ringer (left) create a resume at the Career Services Center on Thursday. The Career Services Center works with the Student Employment Center to help students find jobs and internships.

vices coordinator for the Career Services Center.

"Despite the economy, we have as many employers coming—80—as we usually have," Sarte-Prince said.

Employers at the career fair are offering a decent number of entry-level positions, and some employers are offering immediate job positions in addition to

career opportunities and summer internships, Sarte-Prince said.

Another benefit to the career fair is that many employers offer on-campus interviews the following day, Sarte-Prince said.

Similar to the Student Employment Center Web site, Sarte-Prince said the Career Services Web site has a page for

employers to post weekly jobs and internships.

The difference between the two Web sites is that the Student Employment Center does not post internships.

Western's winter-quarter career fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Feb. 12 in MAC Gym in the Wade King Student Recreation Center.



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# RIGHTS: Current senate bill expands on previous same-sex legislation

from 1

awkward holding her girlfriend's hand in public and considers the campus to be better than many conservative places she has come across.

Western senior Michelle Agne said being at Western makes it easy to forget what other people throughout the country feel. The views found on campus are generally open-minded and accepting, something you don't see in other cities, she said.

Western senior and facilitator of Queer Women Educating and Supporting Together (QWEST) Kooper Wynkoop said he has always felt safe with students on Western's campus. There are many LGBT clubs and as a result, it provides a community so that gay and lesbian students do not feel alone, he said.

Western freshman Robin Mueller said while she feels the campus is accepting and liberal, there is always room for improvement.

Being a part of the LGBTQ community is more than just going to the club meetings and identifying as a member of the queer community, she said. It's about how the students treat other students and act in everyday life.

Lesbian and gay issues and questions are not easy to answer with all the common misconceptions, Mueller said. With gay and lesbian students being a minority, they need allies to help strengthen their causes and bridge the gap between straight and gay people, she said.

"I think it is important to let people know that the queer community doesn't have one basic higher opinion on [same-

sex marriage]," Aldrich said. "There are a lot of varying opinions and thoughts that can be dissected, just like any other issue [in this country]."

Sen. Ed Murray, D-Seattle, who sponsored the first domestic-partnership bill in April 2007 and participated in the Proposition 8 protest that occurred in Seattle, said Senate Bill 5688 is the final step to opening up all rights and benefits to same-sex couples.

Another bill was passed in 2008 expanding on the first bill's list of rights

While the first two bills have passed, this last measure would give same-sex couples 300 new rights that were not addressed in the previous two bills, Murray said.

Murray said he hopes this third measure passes because it would make even more rights and benefits legally available to same-sex couples.

"[Senate Bill 5688] will finish off the process," Murray said. "In terms of legalizing same-sex marriage, I don't think we're there yet, but we're getting there."

Western junior Adam Hurley said even if same-sex marriage is legalized, he still does not plan on getting married.

Hurley said he feels the institution of marriage is religiously and judicially based. Because his life style doesn't currently appeal to either, he does not have any interest in the idea of marriage, he said

"Marriage, both the word and the act itself, is a huge deal to many people," Hurley said. "Being lesbian or gay doesn't change those dreams for some, and so I'll support [legalizing same-sex marriage] for them. But for me, I could care less about marriage, all I need is commitment."

White said she feels this bill would be beneficial in the matter of administering rights to same sex couples. At this point, people have to take what they can get and should not be too picky, she said.

"It is about baby steps," White said. "As long as we go at it with persistence and keep at it, I wouldn't consider this a backwards step at all."

Agne said while having those rights is important, it is still separate but equal treatment. Since these rights have been passed, it might be harder to legalize marriage, she said.

"If we already have these rights, some people might ask why we need the title of marriage," Agne said. "The terminology [of marriage] is what people assume we want and the issue with legalizing [same-sex] marriage is so much more than just a title."

Wynkoop said he does not feel Washington is anywhere near legalizing same-sex marriage.

"I think it's very easy for people to say that these rights are great or that they don't believe in marriage," Wynkoop said. "But the reality is there are a lot of couples who need these rights and can't afford [to pay for legal service to get the benefits] and need them to be legalized."

Wynkoop said his two moms fought years ago for all the same rights and benefits that were granted in these bills. They spent time and money on lawyers and counsel, but many couples cannot afford that. He said it is great to accept these rights, but it is important to keep the ultimate goal, legalizing marriage, in mind.

Western senior and self-identified Christian David Cross said he feels he is the only person in his group of friends who

is conservative. If the Washington State Legislature gives same-sex couples all the rights of a opposite-sex couple, it would make marriage meaningless, he said.

"Marriage is a term for a man and woman," Cross said. "I'm not against gay and lesbian students on campus, but I feel the next logical step, if this bill passes, would be legalizing gay marriage, and that would just take the meaning away from marriage itself."

On Thursday, both the Washington State House of Representatives and Sen(ate held hearings to discuss the bills.

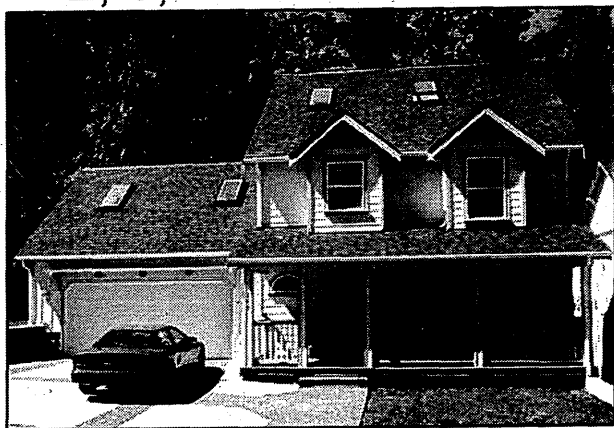


Photo courtesy of Kathryn Bachen  
Western junior Molly Dermond (right) and sophomore Amanda Bergman (left) participate in the Proposition 8 protest in November. "It's important to keep hate out of the Constitution," Dermond said.

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# VP: Candidate's resume boasts significant private-sector experience

from 1

candidates and is excited to have someone with Brown's experience come in.

Brown received a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Puget Sound (UPS), where he played football against Western. After graduating, he worked for three years as a cost accountant at Nalley's Fine Foods while obtaining his master's degree at UPS.

Brown said he wanted to do something different and diverse, so he left his job at Nalley's and became a public accountant, where he worked with a variety of clients for nine years.

Brown held several different positions with various Northwest companies, including Northwestern Drug Co., Egg-head Discount Software and Thurman Industries, Inc.

From 1998 to 2000, Brown worked as the vice president and chief financial officer at Football Northwest LLC, which operates the Seattle Seahawks and First Goal Inc., which financed, built and operates Qwest Field and Exhibition Center.

His most recent position was at Vulcan Inc., Paul Allen's multi-billion dollar private asset management company, as vice president and chief financial officer.

Although new to working at a university, Brown is not completely new to Western.

Brown is currently a member of Western's College of Business and Economics Board of Visitors, which meets quarterly

to discuss curriculum taught in Western's business and economics classes.

During the forum, Brown joked that the position of vice president for business and financial affairs is "a full meal deal compared to the Board of Visitors position," and his time on Western's campus is just as much a "look-see" for him as it is for the selection committee.

"I've always enjoyed the experience of coming out here," he said.

Brown also said that while working for KPMG, an international professional services firm, he recruited Western graduates because they were always well-trained and ready to work.

Due to his experience in the private sector, many of the questions asked at the open forum dealt with how he would apply his knowledge to a government institution.

Brown said one of the key differences he would face is with whom he would consult and liaison to get things done, adding that he would probably have to change how he discusses issues and business matters.

Brown said the last three positions he held were at family-run businesses, all with a laid-back style of communicating. In these past positions, he said he would run from office to office, asking questions and gathering information.

"I'm not sure if that process would work here," he said.

Brown said his biggest challenge in making the transition would be interpreting government accounting standard boards and deciphering unfamiliar terminology.

Brown was also asked to describe how his experience working with partnerships between private and public sectors could benefit Western's future waterfront campus.

While working on projects for Vulcan Inc., Brown said he gained experience dealing with the public sector, specifically in dealing with the state legislature. He said he learned it is important to make sure all parties involved benefit from the partnership by recognizing what is important to each party involved and why.

Although Brown admitted not knowing all the details of Western's future waterfront campus, he suggested creating a plan that works well with the community as a whole and benefits the investors involved.

Brown said the public and private sectors are not comparable, but the difference between the two would be a welcome change.

"It's refreshing," he said. "Rather than walking up and down halls and into offices, it's nice to be around buildings and see students going to class and taking notes."

After discussing the differences and challenges between the public and private sector, audience members began to ask Brown about his personal strategies in business and management.

Paul Mueller, Western's risk manager, asked Brown how he would describe his management style. Brown responded by saying he is not a micromanager, and that he builds trust with his staff by empowering them to do what they need to do.

"My management style is to question,

to consult and to advise," he said. "Then, let's go get it done."

In response to a question about his personal view on sustainability at Western, Brown said that the environmental strategies and priorities of Western should be built into the framework of its operations, and not applied as a secondary measure.

"Whatever we do, we should be as eco-friendly as we can be," he said.

Brown said his role at Western would be to apply what expertise and knowledge he has to the situations he faces, and learn along the way.

He said he believes the work experience he has gained in budget setting will help him apply tried and proven approaches to Western's budget.


Toward the end of the forum, Lisa Spicer, assistant to the vice provost of information technology, asked if Western's recent decision to cut the football team had impacted Brown's decision to come to Western.

Brown said he understands why the cuts were made, but he also thinks a balanced education includes sports and extracurricular activities. Brown said he ultimately does not think any less of Western because of its recent cuts, just differently.

In regards to the recent and potential budget cuts Western is facing, Brown said he has been on both sides of budget cuts after being let go from a previous job and having to let employees go while working at Vulcan Inc.

Brown said he always tries to preserve jobs, but when that is not a possibility, he handles the employees carefully and with respect.

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# Student volunteers answer Obama's call to service

Elizabeth Olmsted  
THE WESTERN FRONT

On the day of President Barack Obama's inauguration, the Obama Vikings, an Associated Students (AS) club previously dedicated to electing him, sat around eating pizza discussing what they could do to answer the new president's call to service.

Through e-mails, YouTube videos and other online postings, President Obama encouraged American citizens to actively contribute their efforts to their communities, causing an increase in volunteerism, said Dan Hammill, director of the volunteer program at the Whatcom Volunteer Center.

Instead of letting their mission to promote the president and his policies fall away, the Obama Vikings have instead switched their focus and became a service organization.

At its Inauguration Day party, the Obama Vikings gained five new members, and the club has been actively planning service projects to heed the president's call to service since then, said Colleen Toomey, vice president of the club.

"He's asking our generation to step up and it would be wrong on our part to ignore that," Toomey said.

Obama Vikings President Courtney Steffy said it is time to follow through with his grassroots ideas.

"We've become distant from our neighbor and we need to get back to being friendly with our neighbor," she said.

Western sophomore Amelia Cave joined the Obama Vikings on Inauguration Day. She said she joined because she was looking for a way to serve, and the Obama Vikings seemed like a good place to get involved.

Obama's call to service is timely because it comes on the heels of an administration that was not dealing with the issues our nation was facing, Cave said.

"He's calling us to fix our country from the inside out," she said.

The Obama Vikings will join the AS community service sector, already home to Circle K, an AS club that focuses on service projects for groups and causes such as children, the homeless and the environment.

It may be too early to report increases in volunteers since the president's call to service, but some organizations are begin-

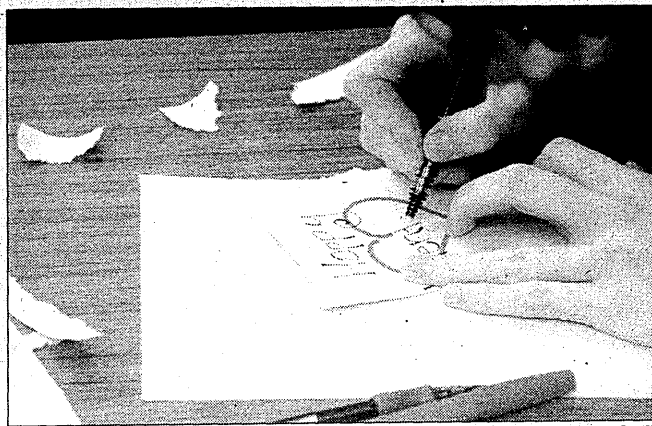


photo by Katie Greene THE WESTERN FRONT

**Circle K made Valentine's Day cards for community members Tuesday. Circle K, an existing service club, will be joined by Obama Vikings, which will be centered on community service.**

ning to see changes. When Western senior Anna Hashman set up the table for the Be Our Guest homeless outreach event at the Campus Activities Showcase in January, she did not expect to have conversations about change with students eager to participate.

Hashman, president of the AS club Student-Homeless Outreach Team, said in the past she has had to educate people about the program's activities before she can encourage them to volunteer. Now, they already know what the event is about when they approach her.

"This time, we had people coming up and asking, 'Is this where I sign up?'" she said.

The Be Our Guest program brings those who are homeless to on-campus dining halls, where students sign up to donate their guest meals to them. This year, Hashman said more students signed up to volunteer their meals than they had guests.

"There are a lot more students who are aware and wanting to take action," she said.

Similar trends have been seen at the Whatcom Volunteer Center.

Hammill said Western students are a large part of the Bellingham community's volunteer base. On Make a Difference Day Oct. 25, a day dedicated to a variety of service projects, Western students made up 25 percent of the volunteers assisting the center.

At the Project Homeless Connect event on Jan. 29, 300 volunteers and 50 professionals provided services such as dental and eye care to those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Approximately 600 people offered to volunteer, but the center only needed half that number.

The Whatcom Volunteer Center has occasionally had one or two extra people show up to a service program, but they have never had to turn that many people away from a project, Hammill said.

"We hear that people are ready to serve," he said. "People don't want to watch the parade, they want to be in it."

Western senior Emily Stebbins, who volunteers at Community to Community Development and the Womenscare Shelter through Western's Students in Service program, recommends people go to campus events to begin volunteering.

Stebbins said by going to panels and forums and by joining clubs, students can meet people from organizations that might want volunteers.

"It is just getting involved enough to know what's going on at your campus," she said.

The Obama Vikings plan to organize volunteer projects once a month, such as volunteering at the women's shelter and Whatcom Humane Society and participating in environmental projects.

Western sophomore Daman Wandke, president of the AS club Students for Disability Awareness, encourages students to identify their time commitment and be consistent.

"Be clear on how big of a time commitment you would like to make, even if it is just half an hour a week," he said. "Every little bit helps."

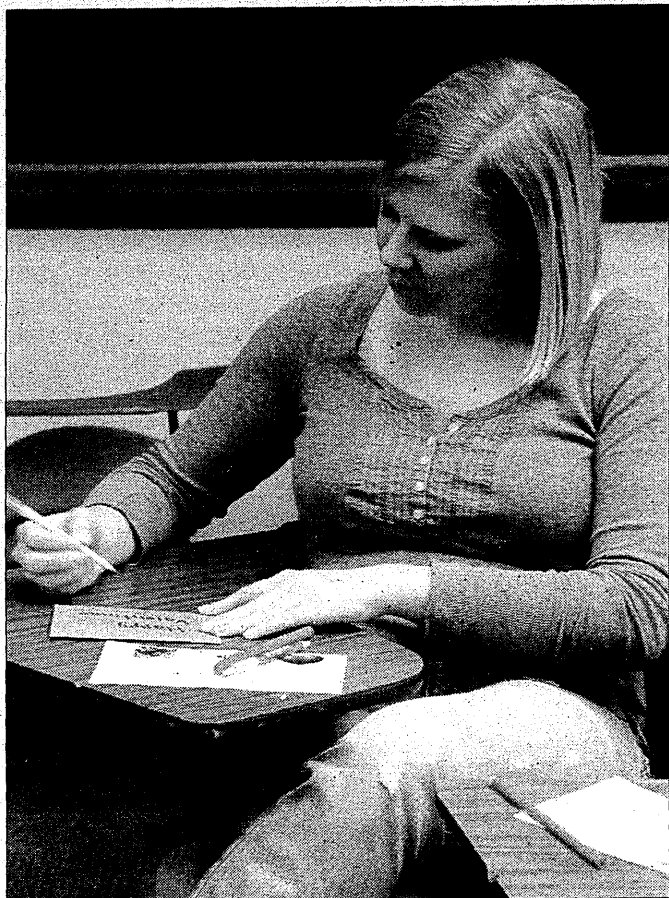


photo by Katie Greene THE WESTERN FRONT

Western junior Christina Kuusinen makes a Valentine's Day card for the elderly and homeless at a Circle K meeting Tuesday night.

# Art

Unsatisfied with c

Carmen Daneshman  
THE WESTERN FRONT

What started out last summer as an idea for this quarter's Diarrhea Digest. For Western junior Kevin Griffing, Diarrhea Digest is the "so boundless and warm" zine they created and hope

A zine is a self-published, underground publication produced. This quarter was the digest "City on a Hill." For the next issue's theme "From encouraging people to submit all kinds of art, the theme's interpretations, while being inspiration important role in bringing all the pieces together

"It's like the whole diarrhea of the mind as start from an idea, start spitting out the images after a while, it's all in front of you with a conn

When checking out the literary magazine found some inspiration in the lacking content of

"When I got to Western, I was looking into the Bellingham Review," Griffing said. "When they talked about 'literature of palpable quality ridiculous. That's kind of where the sarcasm sta

After three months of brainstorming, Stroo own short stories along with Griffing's poetry the material using Microsoft Publisher. The two Western's Haggard Hall Copy Center and came copies of their 23-page zine. A variety of publications are offered on campus so anyone could come in

Western English professor Ning Yu, who has compared the look of Diarrhea Digest with exit

"The layout is very wild, and I like it because by a student," Yu said. "This one is very apparent magazines can be somewhat more aestheti

Associate poetry editor of Jeopardy literary journal Ari Weinberg also noticed Diarrhea Digest. Diarrhea Digest, Jeopardy is a full-color, larger zine funded by Western's Student Publications as more professional by some students.

When it came to Diarrhea Digest's style, V way to help interest people.

"There is absolutely a certain market of people [zine] because it looks underground and unprofessional intrigued by it," Weinberg said. "I have to admit

Unlike most literary magazines, Stroo and their names after their pieces of work that show

"We didn't put our names because it's not [When you do] it's like you plug in a little a



Diarrhea Digest is filled with art, poetry and short stories made by one of the creators of the zine, Western

# from the underground

Current literary magazine options, two students give Western something different to digest

...di  
...NT

...between two friends became  
...rior Hans Stroo and sopho-  
...self-proclaimed "accelerated,  
...pe to publish every quarter.  
...plication that is usually inex-  
...t's first issue, with the theme  
...ntier," Stroo and Griffing are  
...poetry and short fiction. The  
...for the content, play a more  
...er to connect to a larger idea.  
...nd mouth," Stroo said. "You  
...and thoughts and jokes and  
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...scene at Western, Griffing  
...f other publications.

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photo by Hailey Tucker THE WESTERN FRONT

**Above: Zine creators Western junior Hans Stroo (left) and sophomore Kevin Griffing (right) pose with their first publication in a campus restroom. The two want to push people outside their comfort zones with Diarrhea Digest. Right: Griffing sits with Diarrhea Digest in a campus restroom.**



photo by Hailey Tucker THE WESTERN FRONT

humor. The result is what Stroo calls a visual representation of their sense of humor.

Despite the shock value of its content, Yu sees Diarrhea Digest to be just as valid as any other literary magazine publication on campus.

"I like the fact that [they are] doing something—it's very hard to start a project from the beginning and to stay with it to the end; the whole process is always complicated," Yu said. "I like students to stay engaged. We are in college and if students stay engaged that's a sign of our education at Western being a very good one."

Weinberg, who has worked on Jeopardy since September 2008, also looks at Diarrhea Digest's distinctiveness as a quality that will help the zine.

"For zines to get noticed, it's important that they have that kind of innovative controversy to them," Weinberg said. "Zines are about self empowerment but can also be another venue for political activism if you want it to be."

Western senior Cody Spann, arts editor at Jeopardy literary magazine, also recognized the diversity that Diarrhea Digest brought along with it.

"I think it's really important to have a lot of variety in the magazines that they have on campus," Spann said. "It was cool to see a zine because we don't see many around."

Diarrhea Digest strides away from the traditional path of a zine by not making the publication available to the public, but instead it can be acquired through contact with Griffing and Stroo.

"We think mass distribution is dead," Stroo said. "The way to do it is to give it to people, that way you get to meet somebody. Every person you give a magazine to is like a relationship."

Online publications replacing print media may put the efforts of printing a zine at risk.

"The thing about having it online is that it is no longer a piece of art. There is no shape to it, you can't go through it the same way," Griffing said. "It's our take on what a magazine should be, so we are making it more like a book than a magazine, more like a concept album where the songs are connected by artwork."

Danielsen, who is around different print publications every day, also recognizes this change in print media.

"I agree that the print industry is slowing down, but many people want something in their hand to read. It makes it more valuable to them and so they are more likely to read it," Danielsen said.

Stroo did have a few ideas about how to improve the zine.

"[Diarrhea Digest] needs executive experience, like-minded people that have no regard except making art," Stroo said. "I mean the only sponsor we would have would be someone who sells cigarettes, raffle tickets and child prostitutes. No respectable company should want to sponsor us, but we welcome them."

Although a Web site is planned for the near future, Stroo said he and Griffing will continue the zine until huge statues of them are erected in downtown Bellingham. Until then, Diarrhea Digest will maintain its uniqueness in each issue they print, he said.

To obtain a copy of Diarrhea Digest, people must contact Griffing or Stroo through Facebook or e-mail them at the.poop.zone@gmail.com.

want to advertise ourselves, that's not what it's about."

Flipping through Diarrhea Digest, readers will find references to Hillary Rodham Clinton, fake religious ads, a handful of references to genitalia and fake hate mail to the editor from readers who were "shocked and disgusted after reading the last issue." This begs the question: Why is there a deliberate effort to appear so crude?

"I think we are both definitely in the mindset that there is a veil of politeness on society that people are obsessed with," said Stroo, who calls himself the 'Crudeness Monitor.' "We all want to pretend we are clean, but we are all animals. It isn't our goal to be crude, but society is crude," Griffing added.

To Weinberg and Cheryl Danielsen, supervisor of the copy center, crudeness has its place and can help motivate someone to pick up a zine and read it.

"Being polite is an extension of making people feel comfortable and good," Weinberg said. "However, zines can be really important in changing the way you think and so in that context, being uncomfortable is a good thing."

Danielsen, who has worked for 21 years at the copy center, also commented on the influence of crudeness in the zine.

"If a publication appears crude it makes you decide whether to read it or not," Danielsen said. "Something, crude or not, has to be able to catch your attention."

When asked about how censorship plays into the process of making a publication, Danielsen said it is not the copy center's job to judge the content. Students making their own publication at Western's copy center can print almost anything as long as it is not illegal or sexually explicit, she said.

For Stroo and Griffing, inspiration can come from anywhere, including South Park's attitude that "nothing is sacred," following politics to experiences abroad, and just spending enough time around each other's sense of



illustration by Kevin Griffing

...rt fiction. The art above was  
...n sophomore Kevin Griffing.

# Climbers conquer nature, empower selves

## In the gym or on the cliffs, rock climbing provides more than just exercise

**Kipp Robertson**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

To different people, rock climbing can be a religious experience, a social networking opportunity or simply a way to have fun, but no matter how it is interpreted, rock climbing pushes the human body to its limits.

Dr. Joseph Taylor III, associate professor and Canada research chair at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia, said when he looks at rock climbing and the people involved, he not only sees humans conquering a mountain, but also humans conquering their inner selves.

On Jan. 30, Taylor gave a lecture at Western on rock climbing based on his new book, "Pilgrims of the Vertical: Rock Climbing and Modern Environmental Culture."

He said the culture of rock climbing has been suffering over the past few decades and needs to be reinvented.

Men and women formed climbing groups, such as the American Alpine Club, as early as 1902 to encourage each other and ensure safety—group attributes that are still found today, he said.

Over time, rock climbing has diverged into two different styles: one incorporating more traditional aspects where climbers forge their own routes up, and the other relying on preset routes and using less equipment, making it more of a sport than an experience with nature, Taylor said.

"Climbing originally had an attitude of 'I came, I saw, I conquered,' Taylor said. "Nowadays people are just doing it as a fun activity."

Enthusiasts of traditional climbing hated to see their culture destroyed by the later, less technical approach to climbing, which developed in the 1980s, Taylor said. As climbing transformed from a lifestyle to a sport, climbing gyms gained

popularity as a form of entertainment and exercise, he said.

Climbing gyms were originally built for elite climbers to practice on, but companies were forced to expand their business model to the masses because the gyms were so costly to run, Taylor said.

Elitists of the climbing culture did not want to lose their culture and identity to the public, but eventually recognized gyms assisted the climbing culture economically, he said.

"There is a resurgence of rock climbing enthusiasts," he said. "But there are only a few people who start in gyms that move to traditional climbing."

Western senior Calvin Laatsch, a

**"Climbing originally had an attitude of 'I came, I saw, I conquered.' Nowadays people are just doing it as a fun activity."**

— Dr. Joseph E. Taylor III, professor and author

resource and events coordinator at Western's Outdoor Center, said there is still debate about the value of climbing gyms. Laatsch said it may not be climbing in the traditional sense of scaling a mountain and taking risks, but on the other hand, it is a good way to get into climbing.

"I have watched people who began in a gym become completely addicted to climbing," Laatsch said. "Those same people are now climbing all over Washington."

Beginners are attracted to climbing gyms because they eliminate the potential risks of climbing outdoors, Laatsch said. Once someone has become comfortable

with the equipment and basic techniques they will be more comfortable with climbing outside, he said.



Photo courtesy of Max Wilbert

Western senior Calvin Laatsch scales a cliff face at Larabee State Park, one of the many local spots available for rock climbers to test their skills.

Mount Erie and Mazama Wash. are great local spots for new climbers to learn the ropes, Laatsch said.

Even though gyms tend to emphasize the individual experience, rock climbing still revolves around groups, whether they are climbing just for fun and exercise or as a way to experience a side of nature that is not commonly seen, Laatsch said. He said it is important to choose climbing partners who are encouraging and feels that climbing companions are a big credit to his progression as a rock climber.

"It's important to have chemistry with the people you climb with," Laatsch said. "You need to be able to feed off of each other's enthusiasm."

Rock climbers have always depended on each other to overcome physical challenges that no one could handle alone, Taylor said. He said climbing emerged as a gender-inclusive lifestyle from its onset,

and women.

"Women were encouraged just as much as anybody else," Taylor said. "You can still see this gender-neutral camaraderie today in rock climbing."

Western junior Megan Ferris, promotions and outreach coordinator at the Outdoor Center, said she enjoys climbing because she became involved with social climbing groups. She said by pushing each other in a positive way, she has seen people advance their skill.

"It may be intimidating at first," Ferris said. "But soon you'll be egging each other on and yelling 'go for it!'"

To ease the expense for new climbers, Laatsch recommends the Outdoor Center, which rents necessary equipment such as ropes and carabineers.

Students may also borrow climbing guides and videos from their library, he said.

### Turning Points Faculty Speaker Series

Wednesday, Feb. 11 - 5:15 - 6:15 PM

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"Motherhood & Time: What Homeschoolers' Experiences Can Tell Us"

Communications Facility #110

<http://www.wvu.edu/turningpoints>

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## 'Everything but marriage' is anything but fair

### Frontline

Opinions of the Editorial Board

This week, Washington state lawmakers proposed the "everything but marriage" bill, which would grant same-sex couples all the same rights, protections and benefits that heterosexual couples have always enjoyed.

The bill, if passed, will provide needed legal support for same-sex couples. Every parent or spouse wants, and deserves, to know their family will be taken care of if something should happen to them. This bill would ensure that.

If the bill (Senate Bill 5688 and its partner House Bill 1727) passes, it will be a great step for civil rights and equality—but it's not quite good enough.

The problem with the "everything but marriage" bill is evident in its name. If same-sex couples have all the same benefits and of married couples, it should simply be called "marriage." "Everything but marriage" is an insult to same-sex and heterosexual couples alike.

"Everything but marriage" reinforces the "separate but equal" mindset. This is the same thinking that allowed for "coloreds only" drinking fountains, restrooms and seats on the bus. As ruled by the Supreme Court in 1954, "separate but equal" is inherently unequal.

As a society, we have made huge strides to distance ourselves from a racial "separate but equal" stance.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 finally abolished "separate but equal" in politics.

Forty-four years later we have finally elected our first African-American president.

Let's hope it doesn't take as long for same-sex couples to achieve the same rights and opportunities as heterosexual couples.

The problem with same-sex marriage, opponents say, is that it violates the sanctity of traditional marriage between a man and a woman.

Some traditions, no matter how old, need to change and adapt with the times. Today, it makes sense and is right to have same-sex marriage.

In 2006, Gov. Chris Gregoire supported a gay rights law. In 2007, Washington passed two additional domestic partners rights' acts. The Associated Press has reported that since July of that year 4,940 couples have registered as domestic partners.

Many traditional marriage proponents associate marriage with religion. This association is flawed because marriage is an act practiced by people of all religions along with people who aren't religious.

Even if marriage was still solely associated with religion, in this country that should make no difference where laws are concerned.

This is *America*. Don't we pride ourselves on the separation of church and state? Religion should never play a part in lawmaking of any sort.

Laws are designed to protect citizens' rights and freedoms. That means legislatures and politicians should be working to support same-sex couples rights to

marry—not "everything but marriage."

For some same-sex couples the desire to get married goes beyond civil rights. Many just want to be able to celebrate their love for each other in the same way that heterosexual couples can. They want to be able to introduce the person they love as their spouse, rather than their life-partner or significant other. They don't want to be treated as second-class citizens.

Law makers supporting this bill, namely Sen. Ed Murray and Rep. Jaimie Pederson, both of Seattle, have stated they are not satisfied with this bill either. But they're interested in passing "everything but marriage" because they didn't think "marriage" would pass.

They say this is a good interim bill until they can get a same-sex marriage bill passed, which they hope can happen as early as next year. Through this bill, they hope to show people that same-sex marriage is as valuable and cherished as heterosexual marriage.

Students should show support for their friends, neighbors, family and themselves by supporting this bill—and push their representatives to pass a same-sex marriage bill.

Because a win for any group's civil rights is a win for everyone, and nobody should have to settle for anything less than completely equal.

*The Editorial Board is comprised of the Editor-in-Chief Zack Hale, Managing Editor Rebecca Rayner, Opinion Editor Kera Wanielista and community member-at-large Eddie Verhulst.*

### Viking Voices

Opinions from around campus

## What annoys you the most on campus?

Compiled by: Amanda Halle



**Meghan Flannigan**  
Junior

"Walking behind somebody who is smoking on my way to class in the morning."



**Missy Minor**  
Junior

"People stopping to talk in the middle of the hallways on campus."



**Derek McFaul**  
Freshman

"The 'no skateboarding on campus' policy."



**Alex Haley**  
Junior

"Bikers and skateboarders riding through campus."

## Jon vs. Everybody: Manners a must on campus



**Jon Brandenburg**  
Columnist

Despite what my editor says, I am a gentleman.

If you were to ask any of my ex-girlfriends—well, the ones that can actually speak English—they'd tell you that Momma Brandenburg may have raised an idiot, but she didn't raise a rude idiot.

Unfortunately, I don't think there are many mothers of Western students who could make that same claim.

Allow me to channel the spirit of Andy Rooney, who, though actually very much alive, has looked like a shambling corpse since 1987 (also, his eyebrows are like giant caterpillars and that's gross). Despite me being the sexy age of 24 and Rooney being older than God, I too find umbrage in the fact that people in general, and even at our beautiful Western, have decided to give up on the common decency of being mannerly to their fellow men and women.

To me, it's very difficult to comprehend how someone could not have manners.

Maybe this is because my mother used to throw bottles of smooth, oak barrel-aged, 80 proof, good old-fashioned Kentucky bourbon at my head in an alcohol and amphetamine-fueled fury whenever I forgot to say "Please."

Or maybe not. Or maybe I complete-

ly made up that scenario. Choose your own adventure!

And for the record, my mother is a saint...seriously, she really would have had every justification to drink.

Also, for the record, I'm still a gentleman.

Having manners and general respect for the people around you in a public setting has always been something I admire.

It's as simple as holding the door for someone, saying please or simply telling your mugging victim, "Hey, thanks for not forcing me to make super heroes out of your kids."

Unfortunately, the more time I spend on Western's campus the more I realize that many students must not have been introduced to "Miss Manners" at an early age ("Miss Manners" was the name of the hypothetical bourbon bottle my mother would hypothetically throw at me).

Aside from the usual old man grievances that I have, there are a few things I've noticed that really peeve my pet: cell phones and smoking.

I like cell phones, they are incredibly useful devices that are vital in our current times, but that does not mean I want to hear an inane, one-sided conversation while I'm on the bus.

Yes, I know Chase is totally hot, and you'd love to marry him and make babies or whatever, but save your highly cerebral observations about his anatomy for when you are not in an enclosed environment, broadcasting your deviancy to all those poor souls in earshot.

In other words, don't use the phone on the bus, dummy.

Now, I'm not one of those people who thinks that a whiff of second-hand smoke is going to give me cancer (knock on wood), but that doesn't mean I want to have smoke wafting into my nostrils as I walk behind you on my way to class.

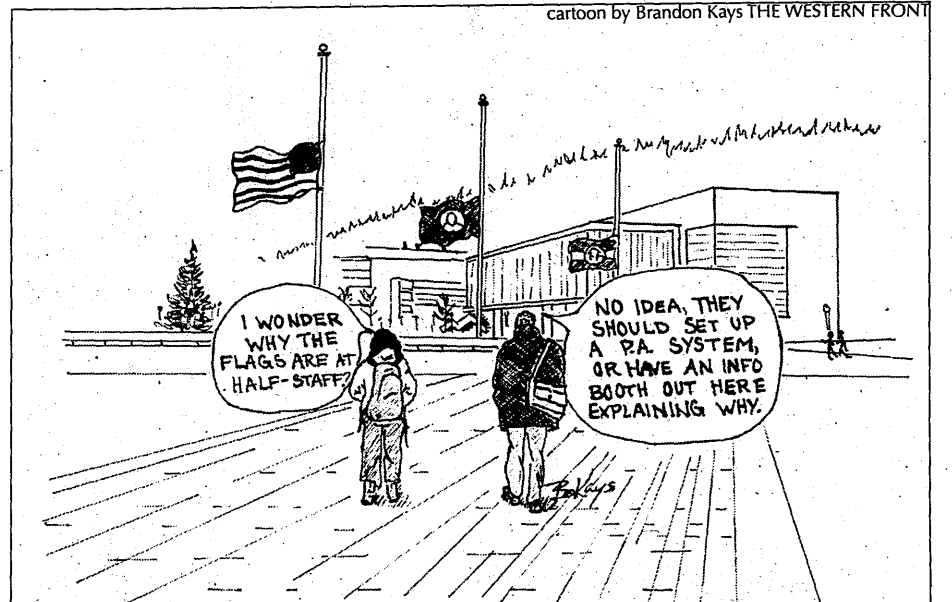
I'm a lazy man: walking to class is really the one decent thing I do for my body, and I don't want that counteracted by your need to look cool and mature and to stimulate your "T-Zones" with the smooth, slow-burning taste of Camel Cigarettes.

It really doesn't take much to be considerate to others. It goes back to the simple notion of treating others the way you'd like to be treated.

It's an old idea, but in practice it's still pretty foolproof.

That is, unless you are a masochist or just a jerk.

cartoon by Brandon Kays THE WESTERN FRONT



## Men's basketball clobbers Seawolves

**Western: 69**  
**Alaska Anchorage: 54**  
Andrew Sprague  
THE WESTERN FRONT

In the lowest point total allowed by the Vikings in eight years, the Western men's basketball team was victorious over the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) Seawolves Thursday night in Anchorage.

Western jumped out to an early lead over UAA, scoring 21 points in the first nine minutes. The Seawolves picked up the pace after that, slowly narrowing the Vikings' lead for the remainder of the first half. Western left the court at halftime with a 28-27 lead over UAA.

The Vikings widened their lead in the second half over the Seawolves, and Western remained ahead by ten points for the final eight minutes of the game.

"We played a great team," Western senior guard Ira Graham said. "We had our downs, but we were still able

to come up."

Four Viking players scored in double figures. Graham led the team in scoring with 16 points. Western junior forward Michael Duty followed close behind with 14.

Western junior guard Morris Anderson led in both rebounds and assists. Freshman guard Cameron Severson also had a solid game, coming off the bench to score 11 points.

With this win, the Vikings' record improved to 14-3 overall and 6-1 in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference.

Head coach Brad Jackson said the win feels good but anything can happen before the season is over.

"Any road game is difficult," Jackson said. "We have struggled against Alaska these last few years."

Anderson said being in first place means the opposing teams will bring their best games when they play the Vikings.

"We know we have a target on our back every game,"

### Men's Basketball GNAC Standings



Standings as of Feb. 5, conference record in parentheses

Western Washington	14-3	(6-1)
Central Washington	12-4	(6-2)
Seattle Pacific	13-6	(6-2)
Saint Martin's	16-6	(4-4)
Alaska Anchorage	10-11	(4-4)
MSU Billings	9-10	(4-4)
Western Oregon	8-11	(2-6)
Alaska Fairbanks	5-12	(2-6)
Northwest Nazarene	10-9	(2-7)

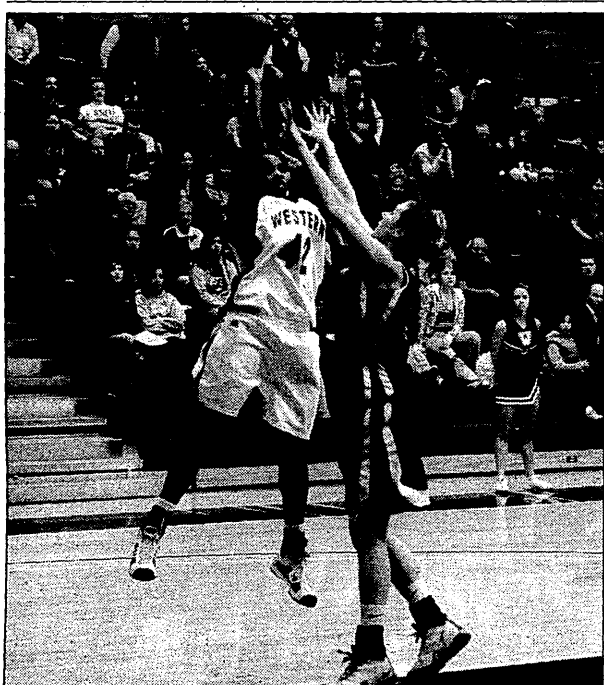


photo by Alex Roberts THE WESTERN FRONT

Western junior forward Gabby Wade goes up for a shot over a Northwest Nazarene defender in Thursday's game.

## Women edge Northwest Nazarene

Vikings win fourth straight, take over third place in GNAC standings

**Western: 64**  
**Northwest Nazarene: 61**  
Angelo Spagnolo  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Grabbing their fourth win in a row, the Western women's basketball team defeated the Northwest Nazarene University Crusaders in a conference match-up Thursday night in Carver Gym.

With the victory, the Vikings move ahead of the Crusaders to take over third place in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC).

Western junior guard Willow Cabe, senior center Claire Pallansche, and last week's GNAC player of the week, sophomore guard Amanda Dunbar, scored in double figures.

The Vikings started the game off with a 10-0 run and, despite shooting just over 18 percent from behind the 3-point line and 35 percent overall, the team never trailed Northwest Nazarene.

The Crusaders cut the lead to one point with only a minute and a half left in the game. A 3-point play by senior forward Jessica Summers put the Vikings back up by four.

The game was sealed when the Crusaders' junior guard Jenee Olds, who led all scorers with 20 points, missed a potentially game-tying 3-pointer.

Pallansche said the team was pumped up to avenge a disappointing 9-point loss to the Crusaders earlier in the season.

"We had some big payback for this team for sure," Pallansche said.

Western head coach Carmen Dolfo said the win was important for conference standings.

"[The game] was a must have," Dolfo said. "This week was huge for us, and then as we head on the road to Alaska."

The Vikings battle the Saint Martin's University Saints at 7 p.m. on Feb. 7 in Carver Gym before departing on a three-game road trip to Alaska and Oregon.

**Missed the game?**  
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# Cycling team rolls to nationals

Amanda Halle  
THE WESTERN FRONT

While some students ride their bikes to save money on gas, others ride simply to get around campus or help the environment. However, the members of Western's cycling team ride their bikes with one goal—to win.

Formed just six years ago, Western's co-ed, intercollegiate club cycling team already has a history filled with success. The team has placed first in the Northwest Collegiate Cycling Conference (NWCCC) for the past three years, placed second overall in the Division II 2008 national competition and has a close shot at placing first this year.

"We have a reputation for being really good," said Western junior Chris Kliem, who has been on the cycling team since his freshman year.

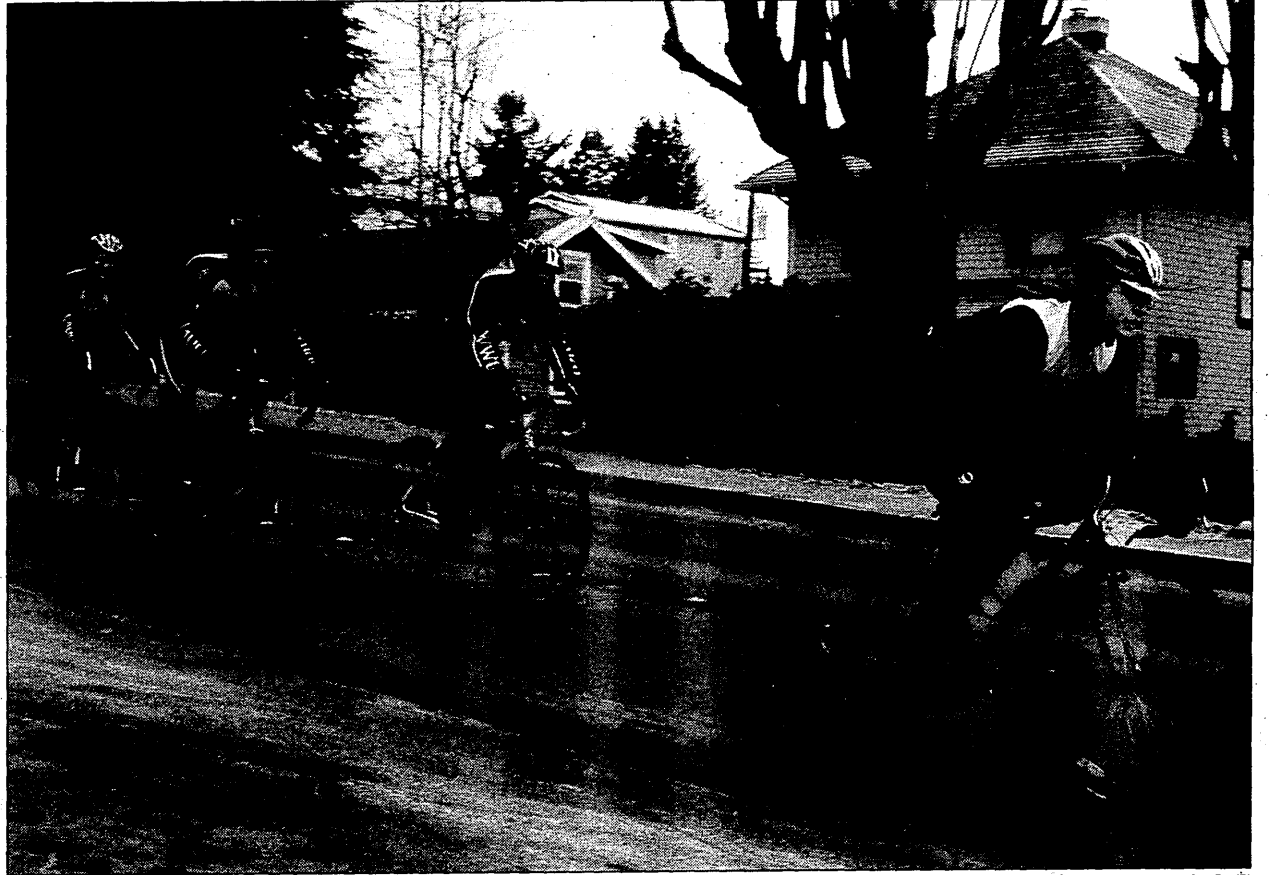
Thirty students ranging from freshman to graduate students manage and race on the team. Within the team, there are four different disciplines—track, mountain, cyclo-cross and road—that compete during different months of the year. The season begins at the end of summer with track bike races. The mountain bike discipline competes in October, cyclo-cross races are in December and road competitions begin in March. Team members can choose to race in one or all four disciplines.

The team is currently training for the road race season, which begins during spring break. Daisy Phillips, Western graduate student and cycling team president, said the team is currently tied for third place in the nation based on the scores from their completion in the track, mountain and cyclo-cross competitions earlier this year.

Twenty-five of the 30 cycling team members compete in road racing. She said if the team competes well in the road competition, they have a good chance of placing first in nationals for their overall season.

The team is always excited to have new members join no matter what their past experience in biking is, she said. Phillips admits she did not know anything about cycling until she joined the team two years ago and said many of the other team members did not either.

Kliem said he did not start regularly riding his bike until he lived in Buchanan Towers his freshman year and got tired of making the long walk to class every day. He said he saw the team ride by him one day and thought it



(From left of right): Western graduate student Ariel Wetzel, senior Eric Schiller, junior Tim Hubner and graduate student Daisy Phillips coast down Indian Street on a Saturday practice on Jan. 24.

photo by Carolyn Copstead THE WESTERN FRONT

looked like fun, so he decided to join the cycling team in February of 2007.

"Everyone was extremely nice," he said. "The team's veterans helped me learn how to ride and train."

Unlike Phillips and Kliem, Western freshman Steve Fisher came to the cycling team with some past experience. Fisher said he has been competing in cyclo-cross and road racing since he was 14 years old. He has traveled to Europe three times for competitions, most recently to Italy for the 2008 Cyclo-cross World Championship last January. Fisher said the cycling team's winning reputation influenced his choice to enroll in Western.

"I knew people who were on the Western [cycling] team," Fisher said. "So I knew [Western] was the best school to come to for cycling."

Female involvement in the cycling team could be improved, Kliem said. Men and women race in their own divisions during competition and the scores combine to give them an overall total.

Within the men's and women's divisions, there are two subdivisions, A and B, depending on the racer's time record. Just seven women are on the team this year, so having fewer female team members lessens the chances of placing high in the women's division, and therefore overall, Kliem said.

However, the women who are already on the cycling team are not lacking, Phillips said. The women's A division placed first in the NWCCC last year, and for the last three years women have been some of the team's top point

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# SidelineChat

**Name:** Steve Alford Jr.  
**Nickname:** T  
**Position:** Guard/forward  
**Height:** 6'5"  
**Age:** 23  
**Year:** Senior  
**Major:** General Studies  
**Hometown:** Bakersfield, Calif.

## What was it like being named Great Northwest Athletic Conference Player of the Week (for Jan. 18-24)?

It was good. I didn't get it last year, so you know.

## Did you do anything to celebrate?

No, they just told me then we went to practice. I guess celebrating was just practicing with my colleagues.

## Q & A with a Western athlete

Compiled by Megan Brown

### Do you have any pre-game or good luck traditions?

I listen to slow music before the game instead of music that gets you amped. Like love songs and things like that—I listen to a lot of mellow stuff.

### What's your most embarrassing basketball moment?

Last game I got dunked on against Northwest Nazarene and it was at home. I was the first one to get dunked on at home, so that was pretty embarrassing.

### What's your earliest moment playing basketball?

There's a picture of me, and I had Transformer pajamas with the toes in them. I had a Fisher Price court, then my brother came in and dunked on it, broke it and I cried.

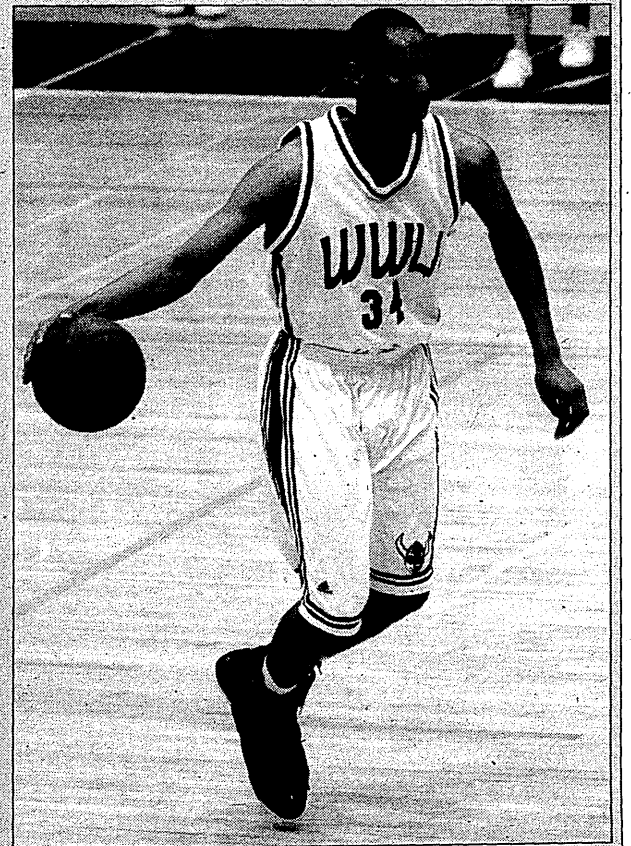


photo by Alex Roberts THE WESTERN FRONT

## CYCLING: Team remains successful without coach or full university funding

from 11

earnings in competition, she said.

The cycling team is a manageable sport for students who also need to devote a lot of time to their academics, said Kliem. Competitions are held on weekends and most of the training is done on the team member's own schedule, he said.

The team rides, which take place every Saturday morning, are the only organized practices in which the team members participate. Kliem said he thinks the hardest part of being on the team is not balancing school and

sport, but motivating himself to get out and train.

"We don't have a coach and it is hard to motivate yourself to go out and cycle in the rain for two hours," he said. "But as much time you put in, you get out."

Although the team receives some financial support from the university, Phillips said more than half of their budget and resources come from community sponsorships.

The sponsorships help cover the cost of the team's travel, food and entry into competitions, which can cost an average of \$70 per person, she said. Some of the team's largest supporters are Hagen, Group Health, the Fanatik

Bike Co. and the Sanitary Service Company (SSC). The service company has been the team's largest and most devoted sponsor since the team first formed, Phillips said.

"We always wave at the SSC garbage trucks when we are riding," she said.

Team members do have to pay for their own bike equipment, which can be expensive, said Western junior Ben Rathkamp, who has been on the team for two years. He estimates the cost of a racing bike and riding shoes in good condition to be approximately \$1,000. Although sometimes people join the team with whatever bike they could find at the time, Phillips said.

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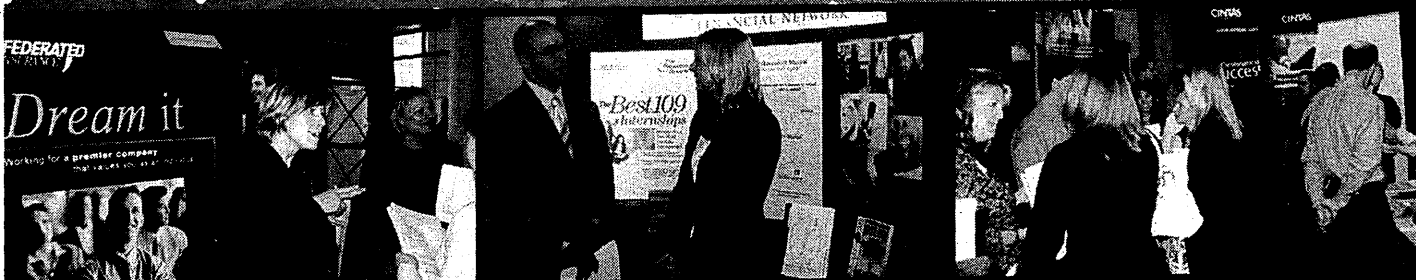
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