

THE WESTERN FRONT

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Snow not enough to close campus

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Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?

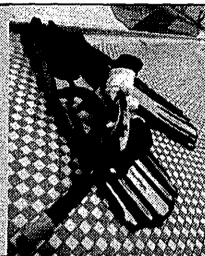
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Issue 6 | Vol. 144

Friday, February 1, 2008

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Campus blood drive brings in the pints

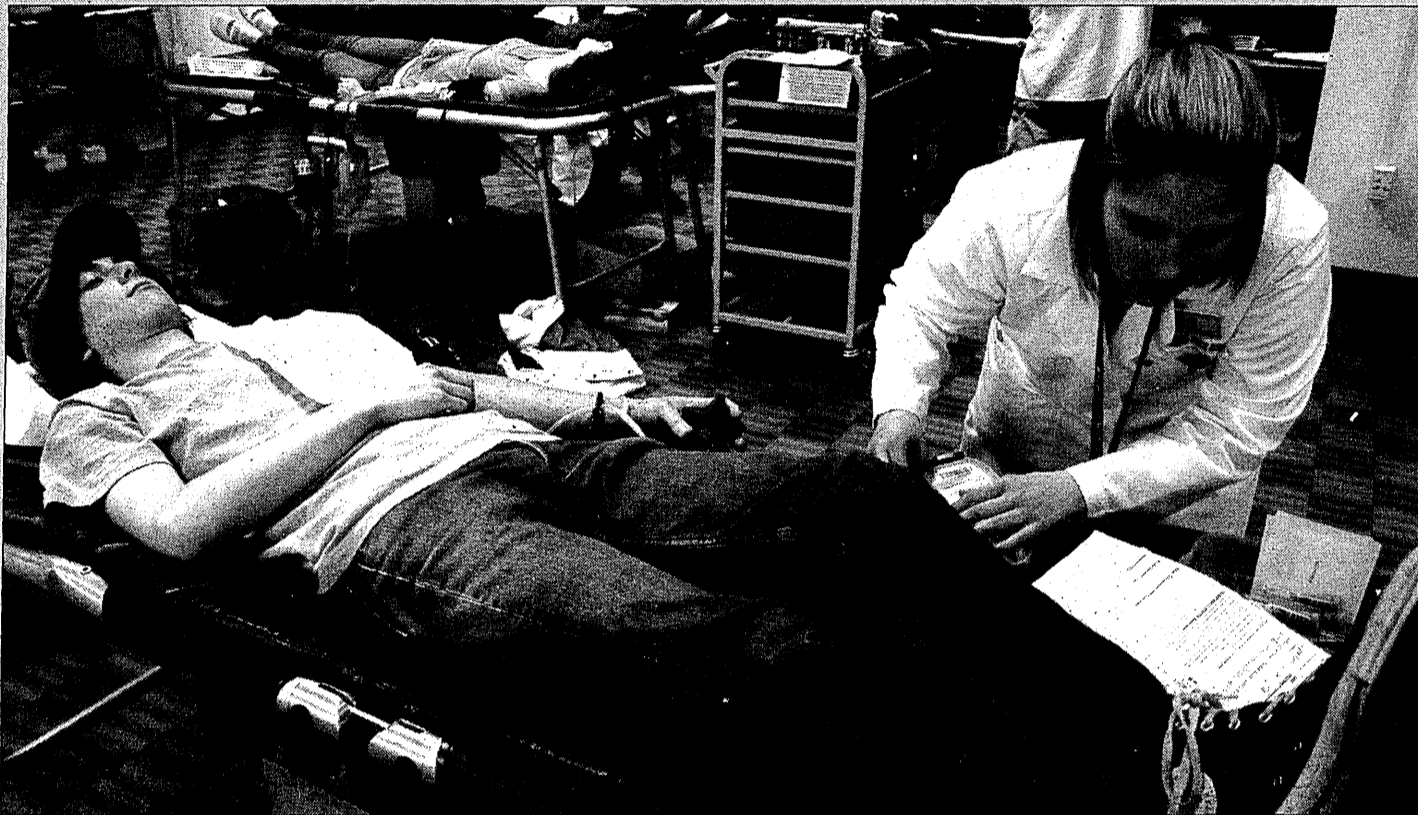


photo by Matt Boyer THE WESTERN FRONT

Sara Brown of the Puget Sound Blood Center prepares Western freshman Caleb Hutton to donate blood in Viking Union Room 565 on the first day of the blood drive Jan. 29. The blood drive, which ended Jan. 31, was expected to bring in 300 to 400 pints of blood.

For full story, turn to page 3

Local caucuses influence election

Kera Wanielista
THE WESTERN FRONT

Like the Olympics and leap year, choosing the new Commander-in-Chief of the United States only happens once every four years. Before the actual election can take place in November, Democrats and Republicans must first choose the candidates who will represent their parties by voter participation in caucuses.

A caucus is a meeting where leaders of political parties and community members elect representatives to go to conventions where they discuss issues and candidates they wish to support. These representatives eventually select a candidate for their party at the national level.

Washington state's caucuses for Democrats and Republicans are Feb. 9 at 1 p.m. Locations vary according to areas of residence.

On Jan. 30, ballots were sent to all registered voters in Whatcom County to choose a Republican or Democratic nominee. According to the Washington state voter's pamphlet, only 51 percent of those ballots will help nominate a Republican candidate, and none of the mail-in ballots will count toward nominating a Democratic candidate. The Democrats will be choosing their candidate based solely on results from upcoming caucuses.

"If you want to participate in influencing which candidate for president has support in the convention, [caucuses are] the way you do it in Washington," said Western political science professor Todd Donovan.

Western junior and political science major Eddie Verhulst turned 18 shortly before the 2004 presidential election.

"The first two things I did

Western selects new dean of libraries

New dean Chris Cox wants to continue discussion about keeping part of library open 24 hours

Kera Wanielista
THE WESTERN FRONT

Chris Cox misses gardening.

In Wisconsin, where he is the assistant director of libraries at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, the weather is too cold for good gardening he said.

Cox said he will be able to have a garden again when he moves to Bellingham this spring to take up the position of Western's new dean of libraries starting June 1.

"I will be very happy to go to a place where the seasons still exist," Cox said.

Cox will take the position vacated by Béla Foltin, who retired Dec. 31, 2007. Foltin had been at Western since 2001.

As dean of libraries, Cox will be responsible for the library budget, staff, fundraising and meeting faculty and student needs, including providing more computers and workspace.

Cox has worked in libraries around the country.

He helped set up computers with Internet access and taught Internet classes in a public

library in New York, headed an information literacy program in Massachusetts, and then moved to the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire as the Assistant Director of Libraries.

Western graduate student Elizabeth Johnson, who was on the hiring committee, helped narrow the applicants down to three.

"We had three really good

"We were looking for someone who's forward thinking, who'll keep the library moving on."

- Rick Osen, head of Library Administration Services

Western and University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire have many similarities, including size of the universities, size and collection of the library and what the libraries' values are, Cox said.

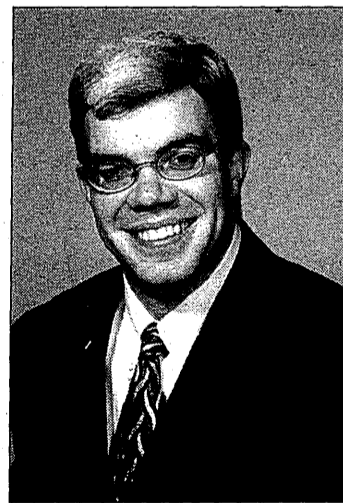
John Lawson, vice-provost and chair of the committee searching for the new Dean of Libraries, said 21 people applied for the position. Those 21 were narrowed down to eight, who were interviewed by phone, and then three were brought to the campus for a final interview.

Lawson said Western Provost Dennis Murphy made the final hiring decision.

candidates," Johnson said. "They had experience and charisma, and just a general knowledge of how things are done."

Lawson said all the candidates were extremely well qualified, but Cox possessed some qualities that put him above the other two finalists.

"Some of the attributes where Dr. Cox stood out were his desire and experience in making the library relevant in the Internet age," Lawson said in an e-mail interview. "[Other attributes include] his support of students, his experience in supporting research and his management



Chris Cox

ability."

Cox also received positive campus-wide feedback from other staff members he had met, Johnson said.

Rick Osen, head of Library Administration Services, said one of the requirements the hiring committee was searching for was someone who had ideas to improve the library.

see DEAN page 4 ▶

see VOTING page 3 ▶

To find out where to participate in local caucuses, go to www.wa-democrats.org or www.wsrp.org

Cops Box

University Police

Jan. 29

- » Police responded to a report of water dripping from a ceiling in the Fine Arts Building. A note was left for Facilities Maintenance to repair the leak.
- » Police responded to a report of keys being locked in a vehicle with the motor running at Birnam Wood.
- » Police responded to a report of a disabled vehicle on south campus and contacted traffic control for a tow truck.

Bellingham Police

Jan. 27

- » Police responded to a complaint of noise due to a loud party on the 1100 block of High St.
- » A 31-year-old male was arrested on suspicion of driving while intoxicated and an injury hit and run on the 1200 block of N. Forest St.

Jan. 29

- » Police responded to a report that more than a week's accumulation of mail was stolen from an unsecured mailbox at a residence in the 1300 block of Ellis St.

Jan. 30

- » Police responded to a strong smell of marijuana on the 2400 block of Ellis St., but were unable to determine where the odor was coming from.

compiled by Rebecca Rayner

Coordinator for student employment retiring

Lisa Carrougher
THE WESTERN FRONT

After 25 years of service at Western, Mary Murray, program coordinator for student employment, is retiring.

"I plan on playing more with my granddaughters, gardening and taking a trip to France," Murray said.

Staff members and students said Murray was known for all of her hard work and dedication on campus.

"Mary is going to be missed, and she will never be forgotten," Western senior Andrea Miele said.

For the past 25 years, Murray said she has helped organize and assist students with the Western job site, offered counseling for students having difficulties with finding jobs that fit their needs and assisted students with résumés.

"She has been my supervisor for over three years," Miele said. "She is always willing to help students. She is very compassionate and such a great lady."

Murray said she has enjoyed working with students to find jobs to meet their financial needs throughout the years.

"This has been the best job at Western," Murray said. "I have thoroughly enjoyed helping students find jobs. This has been a wonderful opportunity."

News Briefs

New nutrition workshop held on campus

A nutrition workshop will be held from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. every Monday through March 3 in conference room 219 of the Wade King Student Recreation Center.

Registered dietician Jill Kelly will be leading the workshop.

Kelly will teach students how to meet their health goals, and how to find the right nutrition plan. Attendees will also meet with personal training staff for a question and answer session.

Presentation on nuclear power at Fairhaven

Fairhaven College presents "Lessons from Hanford, the most contaminated area in the Western Hemisphere: Why nuclear power is not part of the solution to global warming."

Gerry Pollet, executive director of Heart of America Northwest, will be speaking in the World Issues Forum Feb. 6 about the government's plans to use Hanford, Wash., as a dumping ground for nuclear waste.

Pollet will speak 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Feb. 6 in the Fairhaven College Auditorium.

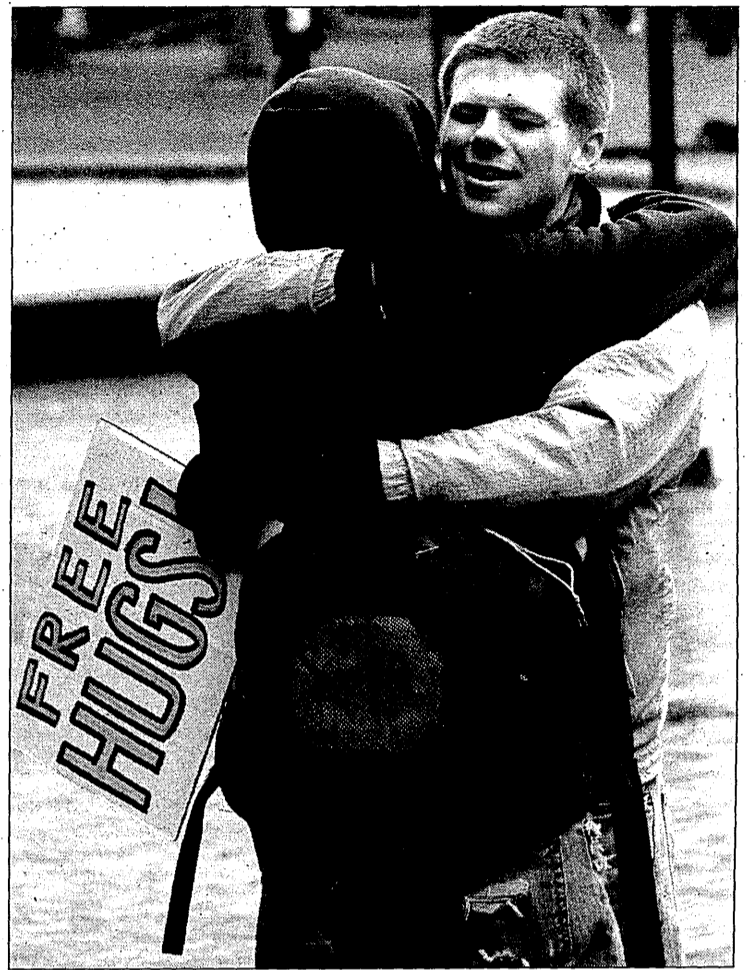


photo by Graig Hill THE WESTERN FRONT

Western sophomore Brooks Hassig, a member of the YES!+ Club, gives senior Yaro Garb a hug Jan. 31 in Red Square.

Resumé workshop set

A workshop that teaches students how to write a great resumé will be held at 11 a.m. Feb. 4 in Old Main room 280K.

Other sessions are offered throughout the quarter for students who cannot make this time.

Students can sign up for the workshop on the Career Services Center Web site.

Information for exchanges abroad offered

Every Tuesday and Thursday, students can come to College Hall room 104 for an International Programs and Exchanges information session.

The next session is at 1 p.m. Feb. 5 to learn about programs and exchanges abroad.

compiled by Audrey Dubois-Boutet

Corrections

The Jan. 29 article "Panel discusses renewable energy, methods to save Western money" incorrectly stated information about Western's green fees. The university's green energy purchase is funded through student fees, which students approved by a vote.

The Western Front regrets this and any other errors. Errors should be reported to the editor in chief at editor@westernfrontonline.net

THE WESTERN FRONT

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The Western Front is published twice weekly in the fall, winter, and spring quarters and once a week in the summer session. The Western Front is the official newspaper of Western Washington University, published by the Student Publications Council and is mainly supported by advertising. Opinions and stories in the newspaper have no connection with advertising. News content is determined by student editors. Staff reporters are enrolled in a course in the department of journalism, but any student enrolled at Western may offer stories to the editors. Members of the Western community are entitled to a single free copy of each issue of The Western Front.

WWU Official Announcements - PLEASE POST

Deadline for announcements in this space is noon Friday for the Tuesday edition and noon Wednesday for the Friday edition, except when otherwise noted. Announcements should be limited to 50 words and be typewritten or legibly printed. Announcements may be sent to FAST@wwu.edu—in the subject line include a one word topic and clearly note that the item is for Official Announcements. Items also may be sent to "Official Announcements," MS 9011, faxed to ext. 6817, or brought to Old Main Room 300. DO NOT SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS DIRECTLY TO THE WESTERN FRONT. Phoned announcements will not be accepted.

WEST-B TEST. Anyone applying for admission to state-approved teacher education programs must meet the minimum passing score on the basic skills assessment by the application deadline. Test dates for 2008 are March 8, May 10 and July 12. Registration deadlines are several weeks in advance. Visit www.west.nesinc.com for registration information and a study guide with sample test questions.

WEST-E PRAXIS. Washington state requires anyone seeking teacher certification and teachers seeking additional endorsements to pass a subject knowledge assessment in the chosen endorsement area. The state has chosen specific Praxis II series tests to meet this requirement, now referred to as the WEST-E Praxis. Visit www.ets.org/praxis/prxwa.html for information.

NEW WEST-E TESTS administered by National Evaluation Systems will be implemented in two phases beginning fall 2008. Candidates who are completing teacher certification or an additional endorsement program after Aug. 31, 2008, are responsible for viewing the Woodring College of Education's WEST-E Test Resource Site to determine which WEST-E tests will be applicable.

WEST-E (PRAXIS) TEST DATES for 2008 are March 15, April 26, June 14 and July 26. Register online at www.ets.org/praxis/prxwa.html. Although WWU is a WEST-E test site, refer to the Woodring College of Education's WEST-E Test Resource Site for current registration and testing information. On test day, report to the Fraser Hall lobby for room assignment.

MATH PLACEMENT TEST DATES for winter 2007 are given twice a week during the remainder of the quarter at 3 p.m. on Mondays (Feb. 4, 11, 25; March 3, 10, 17) and Thursdays at 9 a.m. (Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28; March 6, 13, 20). All tests take place in the Testing Center, Old Main Room 120, unless otherwise posted.

MILLER ANALOGIES TEST (MAT)—To arrange an appointment to take the MAT at the WWU Testing Center, contact the Testing Center in person at Old Main Room 120 or by phone at ext. 3080. The test takes approximately an hour and a half to complete. The testing fee is \$60, payable at the time of the test. Preliminary scores will be available immediately; official results will be mailed within 15 days.

WINTER CAREER FAIR—One of WWU's major recruitment events, the Winter Career Fair gives students an excellent opportunity to meet with hiring managers from a broad range of non-profit organizations, government agencies and private companies. The event is from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14, in the Viking Union Multipurpose Room. For more information, visit the Career Services Center in Old Main Room 280.

TAMING YOUR TEST ANXIETY—The next workshop is 3 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 28. These are drop-in workshops and no reservations are required. Location: Old Main Room 540.

SUMMER SESSION INFORMATION FAIR—Catch a sneak preview of Summer Session 2008 offerings. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 5, in the Viking Union Multipurpose Room. For more info, contact Kathy Bailey at 650-2841 or kathy.bailey@wwu.edu.

PARKING LOT RESERVATION—Lot 17G, behind the Communications Facility, is reserved beginning at 1:45 p.m. Feb. 2 for Viking permit holders. The women's and men's basketball teams have home games that evening.

BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT GRADUATE THESIS SEMINAR—"Exploring *Spartina anglica* seed spread in North Puget Sound, Washington," by Kathleen D. Johnson, a graduate student in the Biology Department at WWU. Noon Feb. 8 in Science, Mathematics and Technology Education Room 110.

Western ranks among top blood donors in region

Andrew Frazier
THE WESTERN FRONT

While Western students strove for As and Bs on their midterms this week, the Puget Sound Blood Center recruited A, B, and O students to participate in Western's quarterly blood drive, which took place in Old Main and Red Square Jan. 29, 30 and 31.

Although the cold weather was a slight deterrent, donors managed to take an hour out of their schedules to stop by Viking Union 565 and the Mini Mobile station in Red Square to give a pint and munch on a cookie. The average turnout was 110 donors for each day of the drive, said Viking Union site supervisor

Tom Richards.

Western ranks as one of the top donors in the Western Washington region, bringing in approximately 300 to 400 usable pints of blood, Richards said.

Richards said while that number seems large, it is only a small portion of the 700 to 900 pints per day that the Western Washington region demands for operations, car accidents, stabbings and shootings.

Each pint of whole blood, or blood before it is broken down into three components, can be used to aid up to three patients. Red blood cells carry oxygen throughout the body, platelets make up a small proportion of

blood cells that aid clotting and plasma containing proteins and antibodies that fight disease.

Puget Sound Blood Center phlebotomists, or blood transfusion specialists, extract the whole blood from donors, then ship the blood to Renton where it is separated into the base components, then distributed to various medical care providers all over the region. Richards said the blood supply goes fast.

A typical heart surgery requires approximately 80 pints of red cells alone, and there are cases where patients in accidents can require up to 80 pints of red blood cells and 40 to 50 pints of plasma, Richards said.

The quarterly blood drive is a big success due to the volunteer efforts of the Puget Sound Blood Center; campus groups like the Wellness Outreach Center, who take charge of advertising and educating students about the process; and Prevention and Wellness Services, who schedule Puget Sound Blood Center services to come to campus, said Kate Murphy, Wellness Outreach Center representative.

Volunteering for blood drives is all done by word of mouth and students are always willing to help out, said Elizabeth Page, volunteer coordinator for Puget Sound Blood Center.

"Most of the questions I have

been answering about the blood drive have dealt with whether it hurts or if a person qualifies," Murphy said.

Murphy said some of the more common factors that make a donor ineligible are recent tattoos or piercings, weight under 110 pounds, cold or flu, and hematocrit — a low count of red blood cells — which affects a larger percentage of women because they have less blood on average than men.

Men who have had homosexual relations, intravenous drug users, and people who have travelled or lived abroad are also ineligible to donate blood, Richards said.

College-age group unrepresented in past elections

► **VOTING** from 1

when I turned 18 was I signed up for the draft and I registered to vote," Verhulst said.

Students should take the time to register to vote, and participate in the upcoming primaries, Verhulst said.

"I think it's important for college kids to vote because the college age group is the most under-represented in elections," Verhulst said. "We're an equal portion of the population; our opinion needs to be heard."

Whatcom County auditor Shirley Forslof said out of 101,775 voters in Whatcom County, only 9,056 of them are between the ages of 18 and 25.

Associated Students President Ramiro Espinoza said

if more college-age people voted, politicians would be more likely to listen to issues students find important.

Student participation would send a message that college students are invested in their future, Espinoza said.

According to the Center for Information and Research on Civil Learning and Engagement, 21 percent of all eligible voters in the nation are between the ages of 18 and 29.

"There's so many things that effect students' day-to-day life that voting does address," Espinoza said. "Not only within candidates for representative government, but in how those representatives enact higher education laws and student aid allocations."

Donovan said both parties hold their caucuses at the same time and on the same date in hopes that people attend only one caucus to support the candidate who matters most to them.

Donovan said Washington state has tended to vote Democrat in the November elections since the 1980s. That means voters can have a larger impact at caucuses by choosing who they want the Democrat candidate to be.

"Your vote is worth a lot more in a caucus than it will be in any other election," Donovan said. "There just aren't that many people that participate."

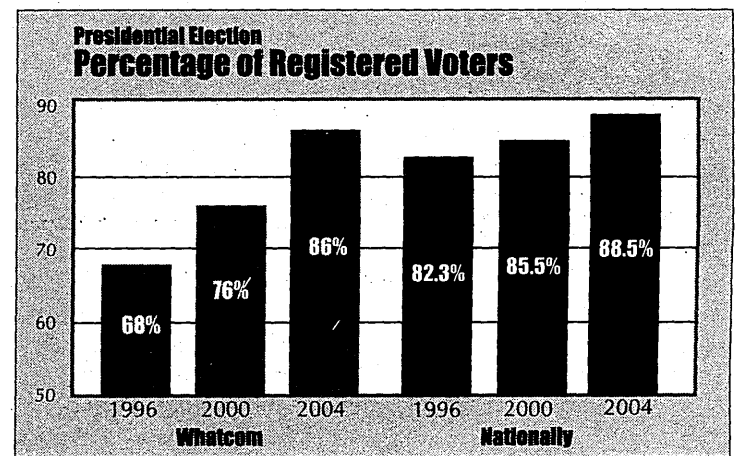
Verhulst said caucuses aren't the best way to conduct a vote because fewer people are likely to contribute, or know how to contribute. He said more people

would probably participate if the system was a direct democracy and if the Democratic Party counted the mail-in ballots.

"I think that it's sort of defeating the democratic process," Verhulst said. "We should be striving to get as many inputs as possible. Not as few."

The primaries are a good way for first time voters to get into the habit of voting, Verhulst said.

"Just look a little bit, and find someone who aligns with you on as many possible key issues," Verhulst said. "Vote on what's most important to you."



source: www.census.gov

infographic by Tony Ciocca THE WESTERN FRONT

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Western offers help to potential transfer students

Counseling groups for test anxiety, math confidence among workshops for new students

Lisa Carrouger
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western receives thousands of applications each year from transfer students.

Western's registrar Joe Hilaire said 898 transfer students were accepted to Western fall of 2007, compared to 951 transfer students that were accepted in fall of 2006.

This means admissions rate for transfer students is down 6 percent in the last year.

Western is receiving more applicants than can be accepted, Jeanne Gaffney, senior assistant director of admissions, said.

New Student Services, Family Outreach and the Western Counseling Center provide short-term services for any students struggling with transferring.

At the counseling center, services offered are individual counseling for personal concerns, counseling groups and workshops on various topics including test anxiety and math confidence, said Nancy Corbin, director of the Counseling Center.

Transfer students can have a more difficult and challenging transition than incoming freshman, Corbin said.

"They are more likely to be working while still managing academic demands," Corbin said. "If they have transitioned from community college, they are dealing with another significant adjustment."

Coming from a community college to a four-year university can be a difficult transition, said Western senior Stephen Kenna, who transferred from Shoreline Community College in spring 2007. Trying to make friends while also working

on homework is challenging, Kenna said.

Preparing students for transferring and talking to the students about their options are all ways to relieve transfer students' anxiety, said Nancy Mullane, Whatcom Community College director of transfer advising.

"Western admissions and each department work specifically with the students, and they do a good job making themselves available," Mullane said. "They are very generous with their time and with talking to the students, which relieves students' stress."

Western's New Student Services Center offers various services such as a three day orientation session during any quarter for students to visit with faculty, be on campus, become more familiar with the campus and then be able to register, Anna Carey, director of New Student

Services said.

New Student Programming staff members said they stay in touch with transfer students to see how they are doing with their transitioning process.

After three weeks, the student staff make phone calls and ask the transfer students how everything is going what services might need, as well as to touch base, Carey said. The staff also sends out weekly e-mails about upcoming deadlines and events on campus, she said.

Western wants to make sure every student, including transfer students receive the attention they need, Carey said.

"There is a different group of people of all ages that could be finishing at a community college," Carey said. "Or could have children which means you might have to start the process over."

New dean of libraries impressed by campus, to move from Wisconsin to Washington

► DEAN from 1

"We were looking for someone who's forward thinking; who'll keep the library moving on," Osen said.

Osen said Cox would be a good person to accomplish that goal.

Cox said he wanted to continue discussions about keeping part of the library open 24 hours to better accommodate students' schedules. He said he knew he wanted to work at Western after his visit to the campus in November.

"I felt a click with the staff and the

administration when I came to visit the campus," Cox said.

Cox said he was attracted to the fact that many students use the library.


He wants to make the library a place where students can go to gather with other people and get help studying if they need

it, he said.

"I want the library to be a place students feel comfortable going to," Cox said. "I don't want it to be a place students see as [a place that] houses books, and is boring and quiet. That's not what libraries are anymore, or should be."

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Western stays open despite icy conditions around county

Rebecca Rayner
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western sophomore Abby Zuck said she doesn't look forward to snowy weather, but hoped to use a snow day off from school to get some studying done. "If it's going to snow, I wish it could have done something for me," Zuck said.

Tim Wynn, the director of facilities management at Western, assesses how severe the conditions are and relays his report along the chain of command until Karen Morse gives the final word on school closures or delays.

Wynn said he rolled out of bed at 4 a.m. Jan. 29 to assess the snow situation on Western's campus.

The decision to keep Western open Jan. 29 was particularly difficult, because while Western's snow was nearly all slush and water, north Whatcom County was dealing with compacted snow and ice, Wynn said.

Western's classes ran as usual because the campus and surrounding areas were not snowy or icy, Wynn said.

Not many days qualify as a snow day at Western, Wynn said.

Since he arrived at Western in 2001, there has been approximately one snow day a year, he said.

The exception was winter 2007, when roads were covered with ice and campus was closed for two days, Wynn said.

The maintenance crews could not keep campus free of ice in that situation, but that was unusual, said Gary Hodge,

a maintenance specialist in facilities management at Western.

To begin his assessment of the snow and ice, Wynn said he arrived on campus at 4:30 a.m. and walked and drove around campus, checking how much snow had fallen and how icy the ground was.

Wynn said he checked the weather report, other Whatcom County school closures, the Whatcom Transportation Authority radio report and the police dispatch.

The police dispatch is a useful tool to assess the weather, because University Police monitor weather conditions during Western's off-hours, said Dave Doughty, the assistant director and assistant police chief with the department of public safety.

Other Western employees, such as Hodge, are also outside in the early hours of the morning when it snows.

Hodge said he drives around campus, and if campus is open, he begins to mobilize the eight-person maintenance crew to make the walkways safe for students.

The maintenance crew sands the campus and sprinkles calcium chloride, or ice melt, on the ground, Wynn said.

Calcium chloride is used instead of salt, because while it's more expensive, the calcium chloride doesn't pollute waterways when it's washed away, and will still help to prevent and melt ice on the ground, Wynn said.

Because it didn't start snowing heavily until the evening of Jan. 28, calcium chloride wasn't put down in time



photo by Graig Hill THE WESTERN FRONT

Students played in the snow on Turf Field at night on Jan. 28. Tim Wynn, director of facilities management at Western said the decision to keep Western open Jan. 29 was difficult because of higher accumulations of snow in northern Whatcom County.

"The decision is made solely on the basis of safety."

- Tim Wynn, director of facilities management

to keep the walkways completely clear of ice, Wynn said.

Ice melt and sand are used only where necessary, but safety is the the top priority, Hodge said.

The maintenance crews can also attach a snow blade to a 4-wheel drive truck and clear the main roads and parking lots around campus, Doughty said.

After speaking with Hodge to get his impression of the severity of the snow, Wynn said he calls George Pierce, vice president for business and financial affairs at Western at approximately 5:30 a.m. to recommend if campus should be open or closed.

Pierce then calls Karen Morse, the president of Western, and they discuss

the severity of the snow on campus, Wynn said.

Because of the universal bus pass available this year, the increased student use of the bus system allows more students to get to campus safely in stormy weather, said Paul Cocke, the director of the University Office of Communications.

"The decision is made solely on the basis of safety," Wynn said.

Taking an early morning walk in the snow isn't all that bad, Wynn said.

"I feel unhappy with the early hours and the cold, but I do like walking in the untouched snow down central campus," Wynn said. "It gives you a totally different context for the buildings and the sculptures."

They could solve nature's biggest mystery if they only had a clue.

STRANGE WILDERNESS

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MELTING THE ICE

In the depths of Carver Gym's pool, Western's underwater hockey club takes hockey below the surface

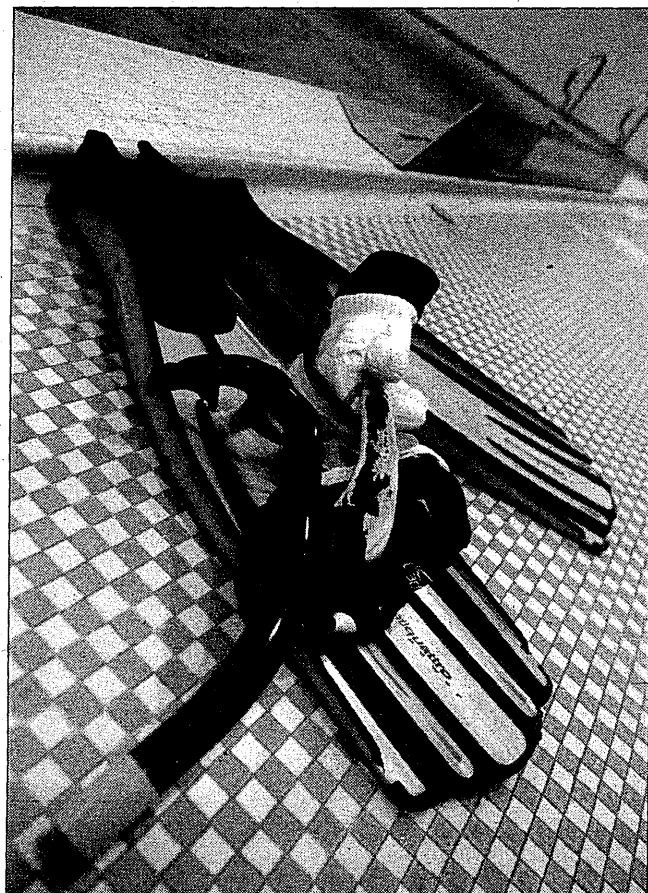


Top: Jim Howes of the black team protects the puck from his opponents. Players stay underwater for only 10 seconds to minimize the time they spend breathing on the surface.

"I have yet to meet one person who's said, 'Oh, I've seen that.' Everyone just looks at you with a blank expression."

- Eric Breuhaus, Western junior

Right: Players wear a dive mask, snorkel, protective headgear, a protective glove and a pair of fins when competing in underwater hockey. Their sticks are about one foot long, curved and colored black or white to distinguish from the two teams.



Kathryn Bachen
THE WESTERN FRONT

The back of a capped head breaks the surface, the face not leaving the water. A puff of vapor explodes out the end of a snorkel braced to the cap by a scuba mask. The body pauses, arms out, treading water, a curved, blunt wooden stick obstructing the right hand's movement.

The capped head plunges down toward the depths of the Carver Gym pool, the body arching, following in tow. Black

flippers sweep the surface, splashing beads of water toward the deck.

Other swimmers bob up one by one and then dive back down to the bottom. The only sounds are spurts from snorkels and the slapping of flippers. The up and down rhythm is continuous without a single mask breaking from its fixation on the bottom of the pool, where a silent battle is waged over a hot pink puck.

The silent, yet aggressive game of underwater hockey has been a part of Western's Carver

Rules of the Game

- The game of underwater hockey is played between two teams of six players. Each player wears a dive mask, snorkel, protective headgear, a protective glove and a pair of fins.
- The glove, which can be made out of a gardening glove covered with a sealant such as Shoegoo or Aquaseal, is worn on the hand that holds the stick to protect from the sharp tile of the bottom of the pool, the puck and other players' wooden sticks.
- The protective headgear is the same as those worn by water polo players, because getting hit in the ear while in the water can cause damage to the eardrum due to water compression inside the ear, Luce said.
- The brightly-colored puck is approximately three pounds. The stick each player uses to hit the puck is about one foot long and colored black or white to distinguish different teams. A nine-foot goal sits at either end of the pool.
- Each team starts on the wall at either end of the pool, while the puck is placed on the bottom in the middle of the pool. At the given signal, the teams swim toward the puck, which is located at the center of the pool.
- Underwater hockey is a non-contact sport. Players are only allowed to use their stick to touch the puck, and pass it by flicking the puck across the pool bottom.
- Team members work together by passing the puck down the pool floor toward their opponent's goal. Official games are composed of two 15-minute halves.
- Positions are similar to soccer — there is a center, two wings, two halfbacks and a swingback.
- Players stay under water for an average of 10 seconds before returning to the surface, said James Luce, coach of the team. Trying to hold one's breath as long as possible causes a player to spend more time catching their breath at the surface and reduces playing time on the bottom. Strategy is more important than lung capacity, Luce said.



photos by Kathryn Bachen THE WESTERN FRONT

James Luce of the white team, left, fights for the puck with Western junior Eric Breuhaus of the black team during a face-off. Teams start at either end of the pool, then race for the puck lying in the center. Because they have to go up for air, team strategy is vital to success in underwater hockey.

Gym pool for longer than most students know, that is, if they even know about it at all.

Pre-dating computers and Western's Associated Student Club records, the Western's underwater hockey club was started in the 1970s by the diving team.

Despite the long history of the club, few people know about the 54-year-old British sport also known as 'Octopush,' said Western junior and club member Eric Breuhaus.

"I have yet to meet one person who's said, 'Oh, I've seen that,'" Breuhaus said. "Everyone just looks at you with a blank expression."

Description of the sport many participants are looking for words. There are other sports like it, said James

Luce, coach of the club.

"You're basically flying around," Luce said.

The unique ability to move in the water is what's attractive about the sport, Luce said.

Luce joined the Western team in 1986, after some of his friends, who were still in school and on the team, tried to convince him to try it.

"I kept going, 'That sounds so stupid,'" Luce said. "I tried it and then I really had fun."

Breuhaus said he enjoys the freedom of movement the water offers.

"When you're on land you can only move forward or backward," Breuhaus said. "[In the water] you can move up and down as well."

While he likes the weightless movement in the water, David

Simon, 60, a 30-year veteran of the game, said making a workout routine enjoyable is what keeps him playing.

"It's the most fun you can have getting exercise," Simon said. "I don't like exercising. I don't like swimming laps. But playing underwater hockey, you're still getting exercise, but you don't think of it as exercise."

Because underwater hockey is played on the bottom of the pool, verbal communication is impossible, Luce said. Players instead use eye contact and experience of situations and plays to move themselves in to a good position, he said.

Western alumnus John Kulsa, 39, started playing for the club in 1986 while he was a student. At that point the team

had existed for eight years and practiced in Carver Gym pool, he said.

Western's team was the first underwater hockey club in the state of Washington, and the Seattle club that was later established was founded by graduates of Western, Simon said.

In the 1994 underwater hockey national tournament, Washington sent a team of mostly Western club players. The team won the tournament.

In underwater hockey, physical attributes are less important than the will to try a sport that is different from any other, Luce said.

"There's no single body type or size that's the very best because you're in the water," Luce said. "It's a good equalizer."

Most underwater hockey teams are co-ed, Luce said. When he first joined, the Western club was made up of mostly women. The club invites both men and women ages 16 to 60 to play with the team.

Western exchange student Marijn Martens, of the Netherlands, joined the team last quarter. He said the club makes it easy for newcomers to try the sport by providing all the necessary gear and a welcoming atmosphere.

The supportive environment kept Martens returning to Carver Gym pool each Wednesday to play.

At his fifth scrimmage Jan. 23, Marten's time underwater paid off — he scored his first goal, winning the game for his team.



Don Doop, left, explains to a newcomer how to use the paddle while other players don their gear. The underwater hockey club is open to ages 16 to 60 and people of all experience levels.

Western Underwater Hockey

Where: Carver Gym pool

When: Wednesday 7:45 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Who: Everyone ages 16 to 60 and of all experience levels. Western students and first-timers are free. Non-students pay a \$5 pool fee.

Contact: James Luce (360)733-6069

Web site:

<http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/WWUUnderwaterHockey>

Injured seniors continue leadership off court

Western senior forward Krystal Robinson ends her career at Western second all time in blocks despite losing her senior year to injury

Danny Cumming
THE WESTERN FRONT

At the beginning of the season, the Western women's basketball team planned to rely on the experience of a core group of players led by senior forwards Krystal Robinson and Liz McCarrell.

However, an unprecedented amount of injuries, including season-ending injuries to Robinson and McCarrell, have left the team without any seniors and forced younger players into starting roles.

Robinson tore her anterior crucial ligament (ACL) in her right knee in a preseason game against Pacific Lutheran University. McCarrell tore ligaments and dislocated a joint in her right foot during the second day of practice this season.

"It happened really early in the season, so it was more of a shock," McCarrell said. "I expected it to be my last year."

Western head coach Carmen Dolfo said it has been a

tough year for the team with so many injuries, especially with Robinson and McCarrell out.

"They were our leaders and major scorers and probably our top two defenders," Dolfo said.

In her freshman year, Robinson tore her left ACL.

"I've kind of had prolonged knee injuries basically my whole career," Robinson said.

After her injury freshman year, Robinson played in pain her sophomore year, then was forced to take a medical redshirt and sit out her third year after two games, Robinson said.

"Last year, I played pain-free," Robinson said. "But it took so long to come back from my injury last time. It was too much."

Because of her senior year injury, Robinson's basketball career is finished at Western, but McCarrell will be able to return next season as a redshirt, Dolfo said.

Robinson led the Great Northwest Athletic Conference

and ranked fourth nationally in blocks per game last season, averaging 2.9. Robinson finishes her career second in career blocks in school history with 182 blocks.

McCarrell was Western's top returning scorer from last season, averaging 10.9 points per game and leading the team in shot percentage with 49.1 percent.

"It sucks, especially the way the season is going and so many of us out," Robinson said. "I had a good career but didn't end it the way I wanted it to."

The loss of players this season has hurt the team, but it will be a good thing for next year, McCarrell said.

With the injuries to the team this year, freshmen have had to step up and are learning, Dolfo said.

"There's a lot of freshman playing with no one out there to look up to," McCarrell said. "A lack of senior leadership and example is frustrating, but

it will help with them having experience playing a lot."

Robinson and McCarrell continue to come to practice everyday, and they encourage and help out the team, Dolfo said.

"They had great attitudes, were hard workers and always led the team," Dolfo said. "These two had a very crucial impact."

Robinson said she plans on using her degree in general studies with a journalism emphasis to work in a public relations firm in Seattle and maybe coach high school basketball.

"I think she'd be a great coach," Dolfo said. "We applied for a mentorship program in the NCAA that would allow Krystal to be an assistant coach [at Western]. We haven't heard back yet, but it'd be great if it happened."

McCarrell hasn't used a redshirt season yet, so she will be able to play next year after redshirting, according to NCAA



Krystal Robinson

eligibility rules.

After McCarrell plays her senior season next year, she said she plans on graduating with a degree in human services following winter quarter.

"I'll probably go to grad school here at Western," McCarrell said. "I hope to get involved in the education system as a teacher or counselor."

After finishing 18-10 last season and earning a ninth consecutive trip to the West Regional of the NCAA Division II National Tournament, Western is 4-15 overall this season and 1-6 in conference play.

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Who's afraid of a classic play?

Students and faculty team up for "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?"

Keith Daigle
THE WESTERN FRONT

A night of fun and games quickly turns ugly for young couple Nick and Honey, while at the house of Nick's colleague George and his wife Martha. This sets the stage for "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?"

"These people are so sad in their marriage they basically destroy each other and self-destruct," said theater arts associate professor Deb Currier,

who plays Martha.

Currier is one of two faculty members who have a role in the play. Theater arts faculty member Jim Lortz plays Martha's husband, George.

The cast is made up of four people. James Tweedle and DeLisle Merrill, both juniors and theater majors, play the younger couple, Nick and Honey.

The entire play takes place in George and Martha's living room, and as the play goes on these people are not exactly who they seem, Tweedle said.

"Every single person in it has very ugly moments at times," he said.

In the play, Nick is a biology professor who works with George, another professor. Tweedle said his character, a former boxer, is impulsive and ambitious. Tweedle said one of his professors helped him with a workout program to help him fit the part.

There is a party at the house before Nick and Honey come,

and everyone is already drunk, which helps to fuel what happens the rest of the night, Merrill said.

"For the most part I'm in total la-la land — I'm in a drunken stupor," Merrill said.

Tweedle said this is an intense play for him.

"[After rehearsal], I'm emotionally drained and exhausted," Tweedle said. "All the masks are down — these are real people."

Currier said the theatre department members chose this play because they wanted something challenging if they were going to have faculty acting in it.

"This has been the hardest thing I've ever done," Currier said. "Everyone has to be on their game all the time."

Merrill said that the play has given her insight into the real world, and how acting will really be.

"We have not been babied at all," Merrill said.

The play is being directed by theater arts associate professor Gregory Pulver.

"His style is very exciting — he is a dancer and a choreographer as well as a director," Merrill said. "He sees the different acts as different textures and different rhythms."

The play has three acts, is three hours long and all the actors are on the stage the entire time.

Currier said the play is an added production, as the theatre department normally doesn't put on a production during winter quarter.

She said the department

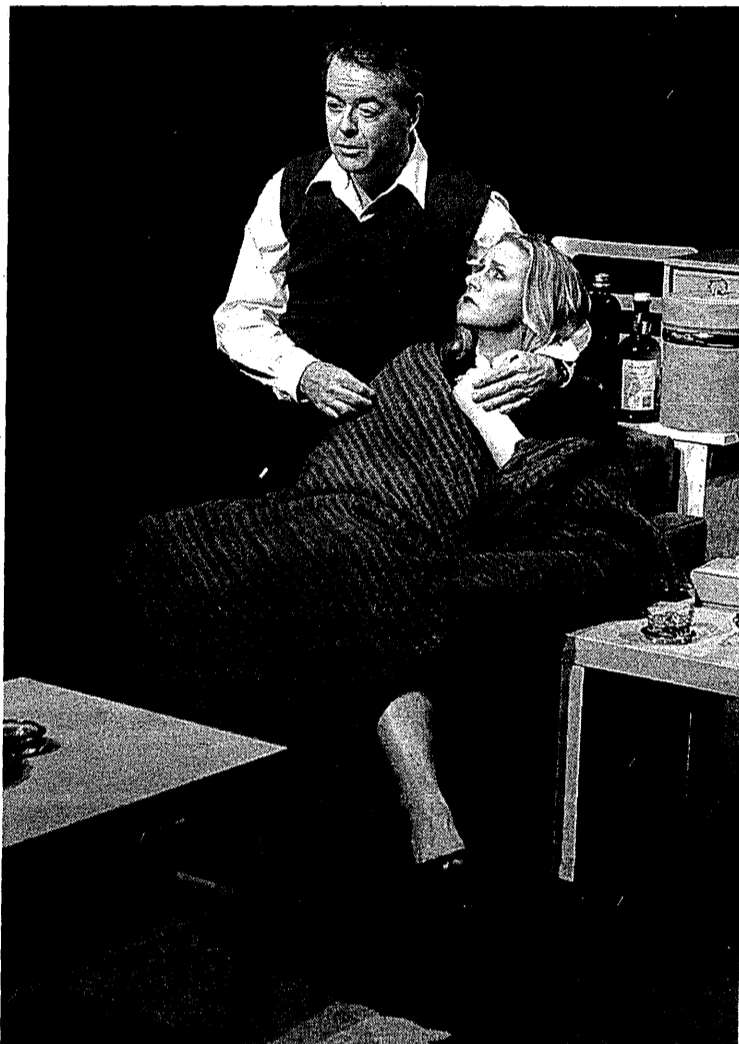


photo by Erik Simkins THE WESTERN FRONT

Professors Jim Lortz and Deb Currier get into character during the dress rehearsal of the theatre department's newest play, "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?"

used this opportunity to perform a smaller play with both students and faculty.

Tweedle said it was a good learning experience being able to work with Currier and Lortz, who have years of experience.

"It's helped us step up," Tweedle said. "When you work with better performers it makes you a better performer."

"Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf" is showing at 7:30 p.m. from Jan. 30 to Feb. 2 and Feb. 5 to Feb. 9 at the Performing Arts Center Underground Theater. A matinee is showing at 2 p.m. Feb. 3.



photo by Erik Simkins THE WESTERN FRONT

DeLisle Merrill and James Tweedle discuss a scene with professor Jim Lortz, as others on set prepare for their part in the act.

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What does a RECESSION mean for students?



photo illustration by Colin Simpson THE WESTERN FRONT

With a possible economic down-turn looming, some Western students wonder how they'll be affected — from jobs and housing to how much their dollar will be worth.

Audrey Dubois-Boutet
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western senior Ryan Howland, a management information systems major who plans on graduating fall 2008, said he's not sure if he'll stay and get a master's degree at Western.

It all depends on the market, he said.

"With the economy in a downturn, I may just stay in school longer," he said.

Students graduating in the upcoming year may have a difficult time finding a job if the country's economy goes into a recession, Western political science professor Cynthia Horne said.

Demand for goods goes down during a recession and people buy less from businesses, Horne said. This leads to a lower need for employment, which also decreases wages, she said.

Future graduates should be prepared for a tighter job market, with fewer new jobs created, Horne said. Salaries may also be lower because more people will be chasing fewer jobs, she said.

The jobs that will be hit the hardest are those associated with banking, finance, housing and sales, Horne said. She said jobs in those markets include sales clerks, bank tellers and realtors.

Lee McClain, a lecturer in the

finance department, defined a recession as two quarters of negative growth for the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Good growth is 3 percent to 4 percent, McClain said. Right now the growth of the GDP is at 0.8 percent, he said.

To prepare for the recession, McClain said students should look at their credit more closely.

"Six months before graduating, students should check their credit report," McClain said.

He said having credit and managing it well will give graduates an advantage in the job market because employers look at good credit as a sign of responsibility.

Graduates should also be open to a variety of jobs and should be flexible geographically, said Tina Loudon, Director of Academic Advising and Career Services.

However, Loudon said she is not really worried about the job market due to the significant increase in retirement that the country will see in the next few years.

She said the retirement of baby boomers will bring more job openings to the market.

"It may just be an OK market instead of a wonderful market," Loudon said.

Jobs in medicine and education, professions which are fundamental to the country, will probably not be affected by a recession, Horne said.

At a time when the economy may decline, Horne said many Western students have shown worry about possible rise in prices, including gas prices. But Horne said gas and other prices rise with inflation, not recession.

Signs that the country is in a recession will include more unsold housing on the market, more rental properties, less vacations and fewer opportunities for short-term employment, Horne said.

"Recession tends to affect people in the job market more than students going to class,"

- Lee McClain,
College of Business and Economics

Students should not worry about the recession in terms of finding housing, said Dodie Peterson, property manager for Painless Properties, which manages student-oriented apartments.

The ability to pay for rent will be the biggest change, she said. Peterson said rent will not be significantly changed with the recession, but a tenant may lose

the ability to pay for his or her rent due to a lack of job.

"Their ability to pay for housing will not be as much of a concern as some people think," Peterson said.

It will depend on the person's financial ability, not the price of rent, she said.

"Recession tends to affect people in the job market more than

students going class," McClain said.

Western senior Carrie Getz said she is not as worried as her friends are about the job market after graduation.

"I'm a chemistry major, so [the recession] doesn't really affect me," Getz said.

"I'm just concerned about finishing school right now."

VOCABULARY

Gross Domestic Product (GDP): The market value of final goods and services produced over time, including the income of foreign corporations and foreign residents working in the United States, but excluding the income of U.S. residents and corporations overseas.

Recession: A temporary downturn in economic activity, usually indicated by two consecutive quarters (a quarter being a three-month period) of a falling GDP.

Negative growth or downturn: The transition point between a rising, expanding economy to a falling, contracting one.

Depression: Period when excess supply overwhelms demand, resulting in falling prices, unemployment problems, and economic contraction.

Inflation: The rate at which the general level of prices for goods and services is rising.

From the Bloomberg.com Financial Dictionary

Keep campus clean

FRONTLINE Opinion of the editorial board

Walking through Western's campus, students, faculty, staff and visitors are surrounded by carefully manicured lawns and gardens, and a beautiful, nationally-recognized sculpture collection.

But all this beauty and art is quickly forgotten as soon as construction of the Academic Instructional Center comes into sight.

Bottles, random bits of paper and other disgusting bits of trash litter the area around and inside of the fence.

It is understandable, even expected, that the construction zone will look a bit chaotic. But around the trailers and the stacks of wood, trash abounds.

The construction area does not reflect Western's beautiful campus and something must be done to clean up the area and campus as a whole.

It is not entirely the construction

worker's fault that litter can be found around campus.

Many students can't manage to throw their garbage away, and those that do often throw it in recycling bins and put recyclable material in garbage cans.

The overwhelmed facilities management should not have to waste their time in the cold weather picking up after adult students who are capable of cleaning up after themselves.

Western students should show pride in their school and their campus by not making a mess and doing their part to clean up.

If there is some conflict with the construction company's ability to provide a garbage can and a recycling bin, Western should take it upon itself to provide them.

The editorial board is comprised of Editor in Chief Paul Moore, Managing Editor Maureen Tinney, and Opinion Editor Chelsea Crump.

Organization offers help when tragedy strikes



Benita G. Bowen

PRESIDENT,
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GUEST COLUMNIST

As a student or staff member, you may know the repercussions from tragic deaths due to drug or alcohol abuse, suicide or other impulsive behaviors.

As the daughter of parents who suffered from bipolar disorder and major depression, I also know the pain of coping with people I loved whose own pain and behaviors hurt and shamed me.

Statistics on mental illness don't convey the trauma and suffering of individuals.

Soon the community will read about the trial of Brian Williams.

This young man allegedly suffers from schizophrenia and allegedly killed his father, Mark Williams, according to the Jan.

12 issue of the Bellingham Herald.

Brian was cared for by his parents. It was reported Brian's aunt said in the article, "It was a choice between leaving him to suffer his affliction alone or creating a stable, loving environment for him."

Many families make this same choice.

Families who belong to the local chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) hope we will remember that mental illnesses are biologically-based brain disorders that can affect persons of any age, race, religion or income.

Mental illnesses are not the result of personal weakness, lack of character or poor upbringing. Mental illnesses are treatable.

Most people diagnosed with a serious mental illness can experience relief from their symptoms by actively participating in an individual treatment plan.

Without appropriate treatment, the consequences of mental illness for the

see **NAMI** page 12 ▶

Crimes shouldn't play at Western



Kristi Pihl
COLUMNIST

Western junior guard Andrew Ready shouldn't be back on Western's men's basketball team.

Ready returned to the team Jan. 22, after pleading guilty to fourth-degree assault Jan. 17.

Ready's girlfriend said he choked her to the point where she was unable to breathe for 20 to 30 seconds, according to a police report.

She had bruises under the bottom of her left eyelid and discolorations on her neck that would be expected with finger marks, according to the Dec. 7 Bellingham Police Department case summary.

Playing on a school sports team such as Western's men's basketball team is a privilege.

Athletes who compete on a college

team represent their entire college.

I don't want to be represented by someone who pleaded guilty to assaulting his girlfriend.

Student athletes convicted of a crime involving drugs are suspended and potentially banned from participating in school athletics, according to section 516.400.010 in the Revised Code of Washington.

I think violence is worse than illegal drug use.

Domestic violence is serious, and reinstating Ready to the basketball team ignores the severity of domestic violence.

According to section 516.23.200 of the Washington Administrative Code, "The objectives of the university conduct system are that students act in a manner consistent with the high standards of scholarship and behavior relevant to an institution of higher education."

Being convicted of a violent crime doesn't reflect "high standards of scholarship and behavior."

Such a conviction is the exact opposite.

At least Western isn't as bad as the University of Washington (UW).

"Victory and Ruins," a Seattle Times special report printed in the Jan. 27 to Jan. 30 issues, reveals an embarrassing and frightening pattern of the 2000 UW football team players' criminal convictions and escapes from criminal charges.

While playing for UW, football player Jerramy Stevens wasn't charged in connection with the rape of a UW freshman despite DNA evidence, according to a Jan. 27 Seattle Times article.

One month after prosecutors announced they wouldn't charge Stevens in connection with rape, a police officer wrote Stevens a speeding ticket for a hit-and-run, according to the Jan. 27 article.

These are two examples of cases where it appears Stevens got off easy because he played UW football.

UW football player Curtis Williams was convicted of third-degree assault against his wife, according to a Jan. 29 Seattle Times article.

see **READY** page 12 ▶

Pollster

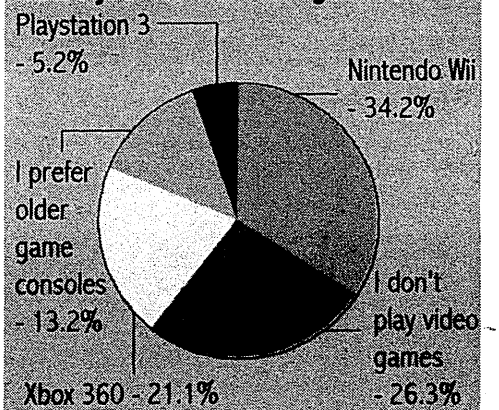
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- D. Chili
- E. I don't participate in activities

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Last issue's results

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Mental illness not a product of poor parenting

► NAMI from 11

individual and society are staggering — unnecessary disability, unemployment, substance abuse, homelessness, inappropriate incarceration, guilt, shame, suicide and wasted lives. The economic

cost of untreated mental illness is more than \$100 billion each year in the United States.

Recent research done by NAMI National shows 1 out of 5 families in America are affected by mental illnesses, and people with schizophrenia are more likely to be victims of violence (especially through homelessness) than perpetrators of violent acts.

Since 1997, according to internal records, NAMI of Whatcom has provided free classes to more than 550 family members. NAMI

discuss clinical treatments for mental illnesses and skills of support. I co-teach The Family to Family class, and it is a profound experience.

I see people begin the twelve classes feeling sad, exhausted, angry, guilty and ashamed — and at the end the class feeling empowered, empathetic, loving and compassionate. NAMI still feels angry that there are still so few resources to help our loved ones receive the comprehensive help they need.

Our society would be fiscally and culturally wise to develop a mental health delivery system that provides early interventions, which include client centered and family supportive services. Each of us would be wise to replace stigma with compassion and self care.

Benita G. Bowen
President, NAMI
of Whatcom County

No second chances for Ready

► READY from 11

Jeremiah Pharms, a UW football player, was convicted of robbery, according to a Jan. 28 Seattle Times article. And yet all three men continued to play on the 2000 UW football team.

Reading those accounts made me overjoyed I'm not a UW student.

But I'm not sure I want to be a Western student right now either. Being a college athlete shouldn't allow a person to have special privileges or extra chances.

In a Jan. 29 copy of The Western Front, Ready is quoted as being glad Western gave him a second chance by reinstating him on the team. I'm not.

He shouldn't get a second

chance after allegedly choking his girlfriend. He shouldn't get another chance to misrepresent our school.

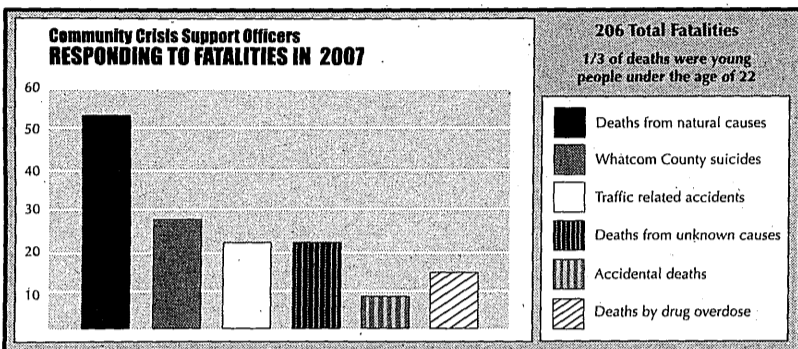
Ready should be allowed to continue his studies at Western, but letting him back on the basketball team is an error of judgment on the part of Western's Athletic Department.

Would you want a professor convicted of a violent crime teaching your class?

Would you want a student convicted of a violent crime as a member of the Associated Board of Students?

Would you want a police officer convicted of a violent crime keeping our campus safe?

Why would we want a student convicted of a violent crime representing us by playing on the basketball court?



What is your favorite source of entertainment on campus and why?

Opinions from
around campus

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Keri Weinbrecht
SOPHOMORE



Holly Hudon
SOPHOMORE



Brian Koo
SENIOR



Megan Bosaw
SOPHOMORE

compiled by
Christina Calhoun-Wright

"The concerts definitely — Jimmy Eat World and the Blue Scholars rocked!"

"The Campus Christian Fellowship. It's an awesome community that's really supportive."

"Hopscotch in the middle of Red Square in the spring."

"Open Mic night. It's fun and there are crazy people there sometimes."

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