

THE WESTERN FRONT

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY MAY 5, 2006

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Photos provoke controversy Students react to anti-abortion project with anger

BY SHAWN QUERY
The Western Front

Like cautionary road block signs, the orange billboards at each entrance to Red Square Tuesday and Wednesday read in bold capital letters, "Warning genocide photos ahead."

Just around the corner, surrounded by metal fencing, stood the Genocide Awareness Project and its 24 posters depicting aborted fetuses, lynchings and Holocaust victims.

The project is a campaign the Center for Bioethical Reform created that travels to college campuses across the United States to show the display, said Darius Hardwick, the center's northwest education director. Western For Life, an Associated Students club, brought the project to campus.

At 10 a.m. Tuesday, only a few students showed interest in the 4-foot by 8-foot signs.

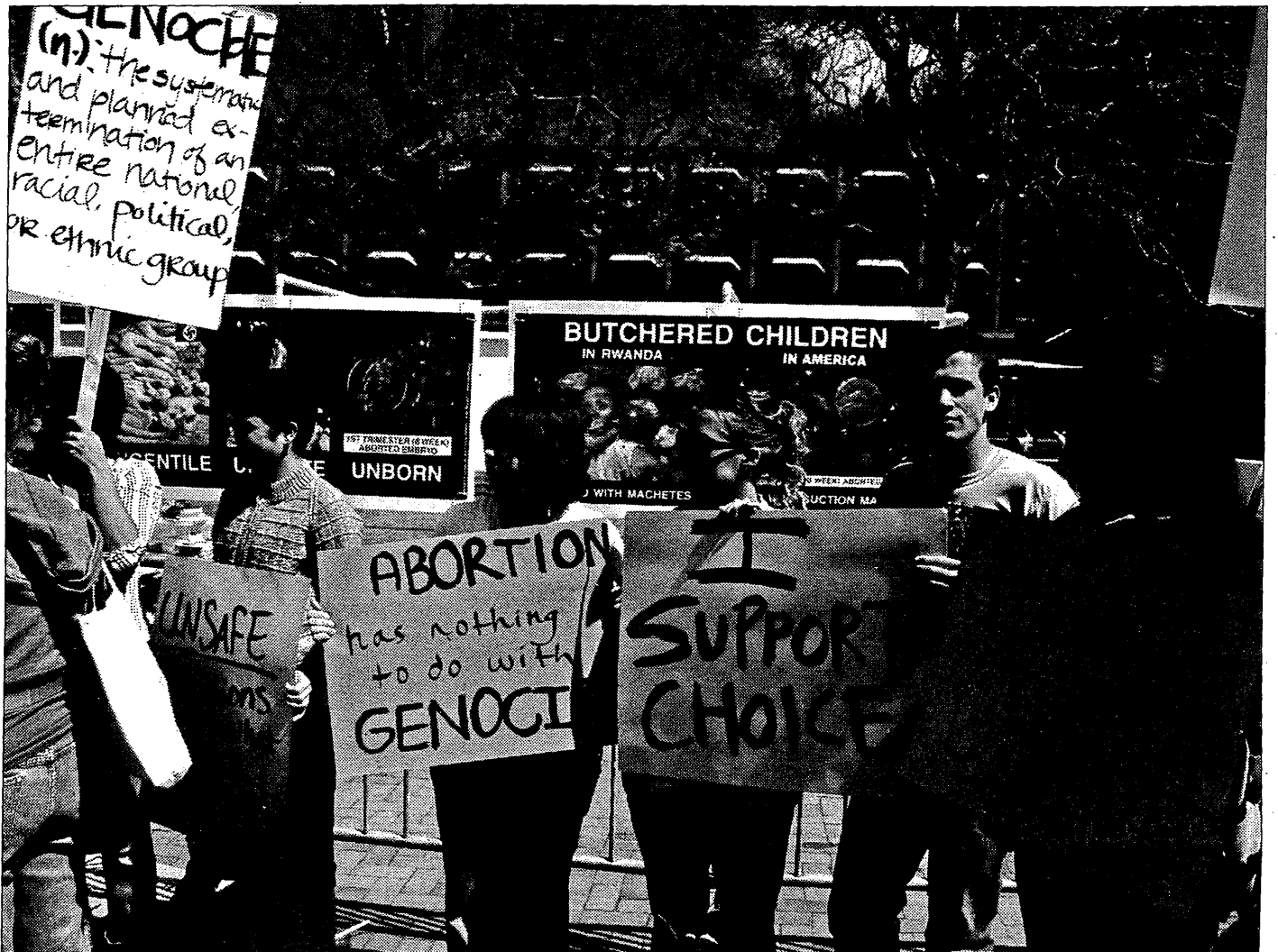
Western sophomores Chris Ehrlich, Ben Backstrom and Briana Glover stood in a circle discussing the display before many students had gathered around the photos.

"It's in Red Square where everyone walks through and nobody gets to choose to see it," Ehrlich said. "It's interesting, but you're bombarded."

Backstrom said he thought the display was educational.

"No matter what you think about abortion, it's good to see the effects of it," Backstrom said. "Even if it's disgusting to look at, it's still important to be aware of."

Glover said she understands how the center



MATT VOGT / THE WESTERN FRONT

Western students stand in front of the Genocide Awareness Project Tuesday in Red Square. The exhibit shows photos of fetuses and compares them to photos of lynchings and Holocaust victims.

see RED SQUARE, page 4



Graham Foster
Junior,
psychology

They are saying modern-day abortion is genocide and it's ludicrous. It's completely out of line.



Emily Jenkinson
Senior,
history

My basic feeling is all for freedom, but I view this as an assault on the public domain and the students at Western.



Ben Davidson
Junior,
political science

I consider myself pro-life, but I think these people are taking it too far. They are giving a bad name to conservatives.

AS election board reinstates candidate

BY JEFFREY LUXMORE
The Western Front

The Associated Students election board voted 4-2 Tuesday evening to reinstate Western sophomore Antasia Parker's eligibility to serve as the vice president for diversity position next year. Parker had been declared ineligible because she failed to file campaign receipts.

Parker filed her campaign's financial statement by the

April 27 deadline, but didn't include detailed receipts for all expenditures. The AS election code requires candidates to file statements and receipts to verify they don't spend more than their \$150 spending limit to maintain fairness in their campaigns.

Parker won 52.6 percent of the vote in the April 26 and 27 AS election to defeat sophomore Kristina Mader, who won 45.6 percent of the vote.

Western senior Brian Perrow, the AS elections

coordinator, ruled Parker ineligible, following with the election code. Parker appealed the decision, requiring the election board to interpret the code and determine Parker's eligibility.

At the hearing, Parker said she misunderstood the code, which led her to miss the deadline for the receipts. Perrow distributed financial statement forms to each candidate for

see ELIGIBILITY, page 3



SINGING PRAISES
Western alumnus returns to perform benefit concert in honor of voice professor.

ACCENT, PAGE 6

STUDENT ARRESTED
UP apprehend Western junior on suspicion of damaging photos in anti-abortion project.

NEWS, PAGE 5

BREAKING AWAY
Steady career, family life, should take backseat to seeing the world.

OPINIONS, PAGE 9

WEATHER
Saturday: **Cloudy**
Hi: 58 Low: 44
Sunday: **Showers**
Hi: 56 Low: 44



Cops Box

University Police

May 2, 7:42 p.m.: UP responded to a report of a hit-and-run in parking lot 7. No injuries were reported.

May 2, 11:11 a.m.: UP cited a student on suspicion of a bicycle violation in Central Area Exterior.

May 2, 11:10 a.m.: UP cited a student on suspicion of a bicycle violation in Central Area Exterior.

May 2, 11:09 a.m.: UP cited a student on suspicion of a bicycle violation in Central Area Exterior.

Bellingham Police

May 3, 2:35 a.m.: Officers responded to a report of a minor in possession on the 2900 block of Racine Street.

May 3, 1:15 a.m.: Officers responded to a report of someone using a counterfeit \$5 bill on the 300 block of Grand Avenue.

May 2, 5:30 p.m.: Officers responded to a report of a vehicle prowling on the 900 block of North Forest Street.

May 2, 2:25 p.m.: Officers responded to a report of a fraudulent prescription on the 2800 block of Meridian Street.

Compiled by Jacob Buckenmeyer

Students rally against cancer

AS club brings Relay for Life to campus Saturday

BY CASEY D. HALL
The Western Front

Western Students Against Cancer, an Associated Students club, raised \$96,000 for cancer research with the Relay for Life in May 2005.

Western will hold its third annual Relay for Life, a national fund-raiser for cancer research, beginning at noon Saturday and ending 8 a.m. Sunday on the track outside the Wade King Student Recreation Center.

"There is going to be something for everyone at every minute of Relay for Life," said Western freshman Rachel Rotter, a club member.

The Upfront Theater, a local theater that performs improv downtown, will perform improvised skits at the relay, Hawkins said.

The event also features a cross dressing contest the men will put on, a poker tournament, an obstacle course, karaoke and yoga, Rotter said.

The opening ceremony will include speakers, such as Lutheran campus pastor Christopher Berry and cancer survivor Ashley Markum, a former Western student.

During the opening ceremony, all attending cancer survivors will walk a private lap around the track, said Western senior Jaqui Hawkins, co-chair of Relay for Life.

"A huge part of the relay night is when all the survivors take a lap around the track and all the people there line the track to support them," said Western senior Lacey Buhman, Western Students Against Cancer chair.

After the survivors walk a lap alone, their family, friends and those who supported them throughout treatment join in the walk for a second lap, Buhman said. The third lap is for everyone who supports the event, she said.

Between 10 p.m. and midnight, all

participants will walk the track lined with glowing luminaries, Buhman said. Volunteers will sell paper bags to decorate and to place a lit candle inside, she said.

Each bag represents a participant's friend or family member who has died from cancer or who is fighting cancer, Buhman said.

"It is actually pretty awe-inspiring to see how many luminaries are out there," Hawkins said. "It's a tough part of the night when everyone wants to sleep and it's painful to walk, but there are people there at two in the morning who are fighting cancer and are taking chemotherapy and are horribly sick, so we stay up and walk."

Bellingham residents, Western students and professors comprise the 34 teams that raised money for Western's 2006 Relay for Life. As early as January, the teams held bake sales, garage sales, car washes and asked family and friends for money, Hawkins said.

At the relay, each team sets up a tent along the track so team members who are not walking can rest, Western senior Joe Rucker said.

Saturday is Western freshman Ella Greene's first Relay for Life, she said. She is co-captain of the Ridgeway Kappa relay team.

Kappa's theme is based on the television show "Survivor." Team members will decorate their tent with torches and team members will paint their faces, she said.

"I thought it would be fun and a good social event for a good cause," Greene said. "I don't have any personal family members or friends who have had cancer, but cancer is a huge problem for the world, and there isn't an answer or cure for it yet."

Students Against Cancer expects approximately 500 participants this year, Rucker said.

"The thing that really sets Relay apart from other events is that it is really a community event," she said. "We make cancer a public problem while supporting those who

'Everyone has been affected by cancer in some way, whether it's a friend of a friend, family or yourself.'

JESSICA POGACHAR
Western senior, chair of
Western's Relay for Life

3rd Annual Relay for Life

When
— Noon Saturday to
8 a.m. Sunday

Where
— Viking Track

Why
— A fund-raiser for
cancer research

What
— Upfront Theater improv
performances, cross
dressing contest, poker
tournament, bachelor
auction, obstacle course,
karaoke and yoga

survived and mourning those we've lost."

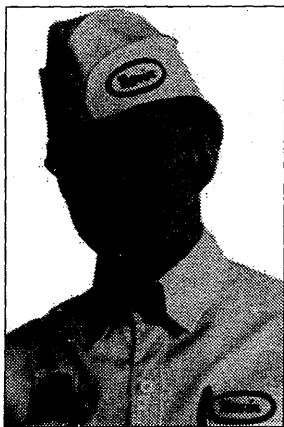
College students assume that cancer doesn't affect them because they don't have cancer themselves, but cancer affects people of all ages, Hawkins said.

"Everyone has been affected by cancer in some way, whether it's a friend of a friend, family or yourself," said Western senior Jessica Pogachar, chair of Western's Relay for Life.

Kim Barry, a Western alumna, started Western Students Against Cancer and Western's Relay for Life event in 2004 after researching cancer for the Western Prevention and Wellness Services Lifestyle Advisor Program, Pogachar said.

"Relay is so unlike what college students do," Hawkins said. "We often focus on ourselves, after all we are trying to develop careers. But we get together to focus on something beyond ourselves and our plans for the future."

The Western Front Online



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www.westernfrontonline.com

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Advertising inquiries should be directed to the business office in CF 230, or by phone to (360) 650-3161.

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

WWU Official Announcements – PLEASE POST

THE MATH PLACEMENT TEST will be in OM 120 at 9 a.m. Thursdays on April 27, May 4, 11, 18, 25, June 1 and 8, and at 3 p.m. Mondays on May 1, 8, 15, 22, and June 5. Registration is not required. Students must bring photo identification, their student number, Social Security number, and a No. 2 pencil. A \$15 fee is payable in the exact amount at test time. Allow 90 minutes. The test schedule and sample topics may be found at www.ac.wvu.edu/~assess/tc.htm.

2006-07 FACULTY/STAFF PARKING APPLICATIONS are now online. May 15 is the last day to apply. Late applications may result in seniority not being considered. Those without a computer or who need a commuter packet or car pool permit may complete an application at the parking office. For special requests or further assistance, call X/2945.

LOT RESERVATIONS. Lots 7G and 14G will be reserved at 5 p.m. today, April 25, for those attending the Distinguished Lecture Series; • Lots 11G and 14G will be reserved at 6:30 p.m. April 26-27 for those attending performances of *Hedda Gabler*; • Spaces in lot 12A will be reserved at 7 a.m. April 27 for the Spring Career Fair.

THE AS ETHNIC STUDENT CENTER WILL HOST AN EVENING of cultural music and dance as International Night 2006 kicks off the Opportunity Council's Maple Alley Inn dine out program, with all proceeds benefitting the Opportunity Council. Cost is \$5/students, \$10/general to the event at 7:30 p.m. tonight, April 25, in the PAC.

STUDY ABROAD. The School for Field Studies will have an information table in the VU Lobby from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 26.

BIOLOGY. Jennifer Purcell (Shannon Point Marine Center), "Arctic Explorations: Jellyfish Under the Ice." 4 p.m. April 26, BI 234. Refreshments, 3:50 p.m.

SPRING QUARTER GROUP OFFERINGS THROUGH THE COUNSELING CENTER INCLUDE • Ride the Emotional Wave, 3 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays through May 24 — registration is not required, join anytime; • One-session Test Anxiety Workshop, 3 p.m. May 10 — registration is not required. For more information call X/3164 or stop by OM 540.

FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN CONSOLIDATION WORKSHOPS are scheduled in the Library Presentation Room at 9 a.m., 3 p.m., and 6 p.m. on Friday, April 27. All students who have received loans are invited to attend. The one-hour workshops will include a brief presentation and time for one-on-one questions.

MILLER ANALOGIES TEST (MAT). The computer-based Miller Analogies Test is by appointment only. Make an appointment in person in OM 120 or call X/3080. A \$60 fee is payable at test time. Testing takes about 1½ hours. Preliminary scores will be available immediately; official results are mailed within 15 days.

WEST-E PRAXIS. Washington requires individuals seeking teacher certification and teachers seeking additional endorsements to pass the WEST-E (PRAXIS) in the chosen endorsement area. Visit www.ets.org/praxis/prwa.html for description and online registration information, or obtain a registration bulletin in MH 216. The remaining academic-year test date is April 29.

THE ASIA UNIVERSITY AMERICA PROGRAM WILL CELEBRATE JAPAN NIGHT from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, May 4, in the VU Multipurpose Room. Admission is free and all are invited to come celebrate Japanese culture and food.

WEST-B TEST. Everyone applying for admission to state-approved teacher education programs must meet the minimum passing score on the basic skills assessment by the application deadline. For a study guide and to register, visit www.west.nesinc.com. Remaining test dates through July are May 13 and July 15. Registration deadlines are several weeks in advance.

FOR SPRING CAMPUS RECRUITING OPPORTUNITIES, see www.careers.wvu.edu, stop by OM 280, or call X/3240.

Eligibility: Ruling decides Parker's confusion with deadlines is adequate to grant appeal

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

them to complete by the original April 27 deadline. Only part of the election code was on the financial forms and that part did not include the requirement of financial receipts, she said. Parker followed the partial code on the financial form instead of the complete code, which led to the confusion about the deadlines for the receipts, she said.

"I think the board made a fair decision based on the facts," Perrow said.

Director of student activities Kevin Majkut asked Perrow at the meeting why only a portion of the code was included on the form.

Since the AS board of directors had not approved the election code until the day before the election filing period began on March 9, Perrow was forced to quickly edit, print and put together packets for the candidates, he said. The board didn't approve the code sooner because of disagreements about revisions to the code, he said.

Perrow said all candidates signed a form stating they understood the election code and promised to follow it. He said he discussed the financial statement with all the

candidates at a mandatory meeting on April 7, before campaigning began the next day.

All the candidates said they understood the election code and the approximately eight other forms included in the election packet, Perrow said.

"All the candidates understand that the election code supersedes all other documents," he said.

Perrow said he thought that since the board updates the code each year depending on issues in past elections, the board should continue to follow the set code.

"I feel it's extremely important to uphold the code," Perrow said to the election board.

Parker said she understood the code and read it several times over the campaign season. She said she took responsibility for the mistake, but repeatedly cited the incomplete version of the code included in the financial statement form.

The election board held a 45-minute session behind closed doors to discuss the decision to reinstate Parker.

When the board returned, they voted with two members abstaining.

Western freshman Annie Jansen said because Parker signed a form that stating she understood the election code,

it was reasonable to uphold ineligibility. Western junior Joe Jamison said Parker had ample time throughout the election period to contact Perrow with any questions, such as deadline dates or essential forms to turn in.

The seven-member election board, consisting of students the AS board appoints, ruled in favor of Parker. The board agreed that the discrepancy between the code and the form was an adequate reason for why she failed to turn in the receipts by deadline.

Western junior Brendan Mahan, the chair of the election board, and Perrow decided together Friday that Parker was ineligible according to the election code. For this reason, Mahan abstained from voting to appear non biased in the Tuesday meeting, Perrow said.

If the board had ruled Parker ineligible, then Mader would have assumed the role, according to the election code.

The code states that if a candidate is disqualified, the second place finisher would take the position so long as that candidate had at least one-third of the vote.

Mader said she thought the election board's decision was for the best and will not appeal.

"We're both qualified candidates and tuition would have been lowered by either of us," Mader said.

Timeline of AS election events

April 26-27: Election voting days.

April 27: Candidate for vice president for campus and community affairs Kevin McClain, candidate for president Mark Iozzi, and candidate for vice president for diversity Marcella Tomlin are ruled ineligible for failing to submit campaign financial statements.

April 28: Western AS elections coordinator James Perrow rules candidate for vice president for diversity Antasia Parker ineligible for failing to submit the required receipts with the financial forms by deadline.

May 1: AS election board votes to nullify the election results for Iozzi, Tomlin and McClain.

May 2: AS election board reinstates Parker's eligibility after hearing an appeal from Parker concerning the interpretation of the election code.

May 10: Special election filing period closes.

May 11: Campaigning begins for special elections.

May 24/25: Special election voting days.

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Red Square: University Police patrol on bikes to maintain control and safety

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

connects genocide to abortion due to the rising number of abortions.

"I've always pictured genocide as a mass killing of people," Glover said. "I never thought of abortion as genocide, but I guess at the rate people get abortions, it could be called genocide."

Although the morning was quiet, a crowd of more than 100 students gathered around Hardwick by noon.

He presented to students the center's beliefs about abortion and explained the project's reasoning behind traveling around to college campuses.

Hardwick said he knew about Western's reputation as a liberal campus and wanted to come to the university for that reason.

"I had an idea that it was a liberal campus, and they probably wouldn't agree with what we're trying to say," he said. "But we don't go to campuses because we think they're going to agree with us."

Students responded by shouting arguments supporting abortion rights, and saying a woman has a right to choose what to do with her body, or that abortion cannot be genocide because the fetus

isn't alive.

Voices became louder as the crowd closed in, and what had been a quiet morning turned into a shouting match.

University Police arrested Western junior David Zhang for allegedly damaging six of the 24 signs and jumping the display's fence Tuesday afternoon.

After that incident, Western For Life volunteers and Hardwick called UP for increased control

Wednesday. UP Officers Chris Davis and Eric Ellis patrolled Red Square on bicycles Wednesday.

Western sophomore Megan Jackson said she didn't think the center should compare abortion to genocide.

"I don't understand why

pictures of fetuses need to be next to pictures of Holocaust victims," Jackson said. "I certainly don't think it's justified to vilify a woman who's making a very hard choice and compare her to Hitler."

While standing behind the metal barricade surrounding the display, Western junior Lauren Dayton and freshman Kimmy Drew, both members of Western For Life, said some students said offensive responses to the

volunteers about the display.

"A girl said 'F-you' under her breath to me," Drew said. "Some people say it's disgusting and I say, 'Yeah, abortion is disgusting.'"

Western sophomore Sara Woldemichael said she disagreed with the pictures of lynched African-Americans on the signs.

"I was disgusted that something as powerful as racism and slavery, something that affected my people, was compared to abortion," Woldemichael said.

Hardwick said the angry students didn't discourage the volunteers from continuing the display Wednesday because they still wanted to voice their opinion despite the protests.

"We booked two days, we'll be here two days," Hardwick said. "And we'll be back next year."

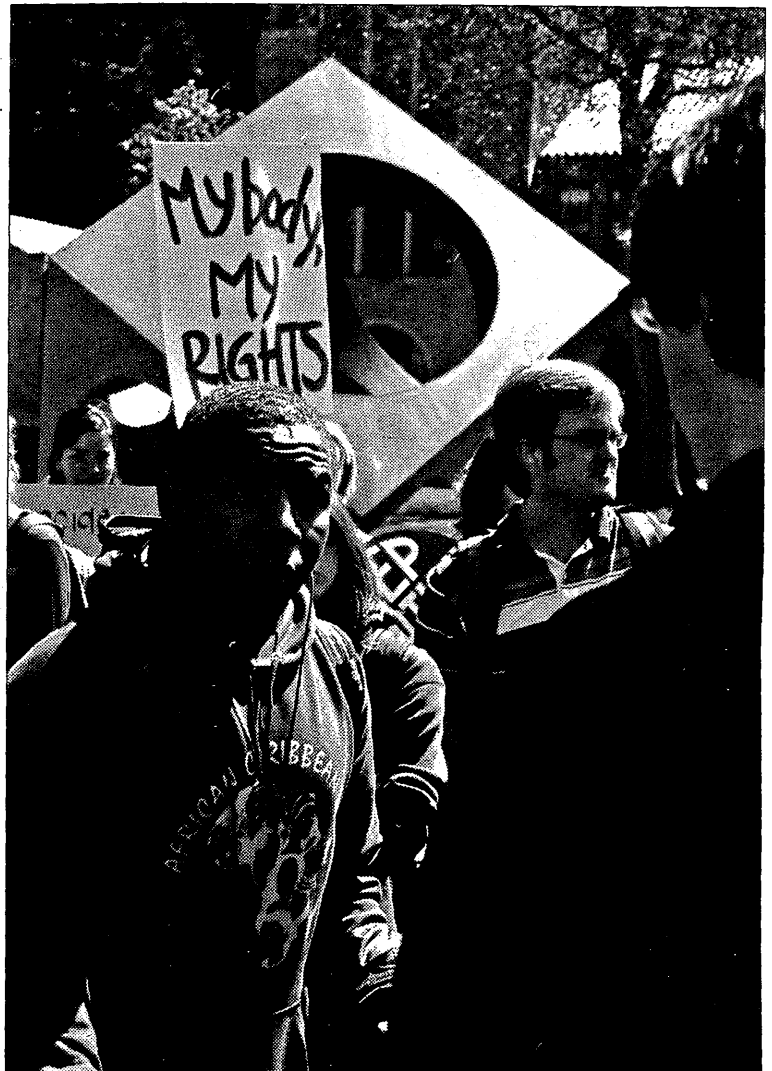
Western knew about the photos before the center brought them to campus, according to a statement the office of communications released Wednesday. The university has a commitment to free speech and peaceful assembly, regardless of potential negative reactions, according to the statement.

Hardwick said the group accomplished its goals at Western.

"I measure success in the fact that we started a debate," Hardwick said. "When we have the debate about abortion, it needs to be an informed debate, and I would say we were successful if we changed one mind or no one's mind or everyone's mind today because we started that debate."

'I had an idea that it was a liberal campus, and they probably wouldn't agree with what we said. But we don't go to campuses because we think they're going to agree with us.'

DARIUS HARDWICK
Northwest education director for the Center for Bioethical Reform



MATT VOGT / THE WESTERN FRONT
Western junior Bernard Ikegwuoha discusses comparing abortion with genocide to Bellingham resident and Western For Life member Andrew St. Hilare.

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Prosecutors charge student in display destruction



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDREW ST. HILARE

Darius Hardwick, (left) the northwest education director for the Center for Bioethical Reform, a national anti-abortion organization, watches Western junior David Zhang stand on an overturned sign with pictures of aborted fetuses in Red Square Tuesday.

By SHAWN QUERY
The Western Front

Western junior David Zhang was charged with first degree malicious mischief Wednesday.

University Police officer Chris Davis said Zhang damaged anti-abortion posters in Red Square Tuesday.

Zhang was in court Wednesday for his first court appearance. Zhang said the court set his arraignment for May 12, and he plans to plead not guilty.

Darius Hardwick, the northwest education director for the Center for Bioethical Reform, a national anti-abortion organization, said a shoeless man jumped the metal fencing surrounding the displays.

He then started tearing down the posters, destroying three of the 24 signs and damaging the frames of six others at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Hardwick said.

The Center for Bioethical Reform presented the Genocide Awareness Project in Red Square Tuesday and Wednesday. The project displayed 24 4-foot by 8-foot signs displaying images of aborted fetuses as well as of victims of genocide from the Holocaust and Rwanda.

"When I first saw the signs, I was very offended and hurt to see them comparing genocide to abortion," Zhang said. "I told them that it was unfair and

hurtful for them to emotionally manipulate people with pictures of suffering to promote their agenda."

Hardwick said Zhang did approximately \$2,700 worth of damage to the signs.

Zhang said if he is convicted the maximum penalty is 90 days in jail and restitution payments for the damaged signs.

Zhang said when he appears in court on May 12, he plans to plead not guilty and petition the court to dismiss the charges

because he said Western shouldn't have allowed the images on campus.

Hardwick said he has photographic and filmed evidence incriminating Zhang.

Zhang said he thought the display was inappropriate and tried to persuade volunteers to remove them.

When volunteers refused to remove the posters and started videotaping Zhang, he said he became angry and jumped the fence.

"I allowed my anger to take control of me," Zhang said. "I had anger at the injustice and anger for the people who suffered in the genocide."

Davis said he and his partner,

Ed Maulpica arrested Zhang on Sehome Hill a short time later, on suspicion of malicious mischief and booked him in the Whatcom County Jail, where Zhang spent approximately 24 hours.

Western sophomore Corina Jones, a member of the anti-abortion Associated Students club Western For Life, said she was volunteering at the display when the incident occurred.

"This just shows that the other side is violent, so it helps our argument," Jones said.

Zhang said no one tried to stop him from tearing down the signs.

"None of them tried to stop me because I think they knew in their hearts what they had on the signs was wrong and deceptive,"

'This just shows that the other side is violent, so it helps our argument.'

CORINA JONES
Western sophomore,
Western for Life member

Zhang said.

Hardwick said the project's policy is to let protestors rip the display down rather than endanger volunteers by trying to stop them.

Hardwick said the group doesn't plan to change anything about their display.

"Our pictures depict the truth that isn't shown anywhere else," Hardwick said. "If no one shows it, people will think of abortion as a choice."

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Show of appreciation

Alumnus sings praise for retiring Western professor

BY ALYSE CLACY
The Western Front

Often singing in the car with his family as a child, baritone opera singer Aaron St. Clair Nicholson's passion for music began at a young age.

Nicholson, a 1996 Western alumnus, will perform a benefit concert to honor Western voice professor Virginia Hunter, who is retiring in June after 20 years at Western, at 8 p.m. Sunday in the Performing Arts Center.

Ticket sales will go to the Virginia Hunter Vocal Performance Scholarship for junior and senior voice students.

"The scholarship enables Virginia to continue to give to students," said David Meyer, director of the Western Opera Studio.

Tickets for the concert are \$5 for students and \$20 for the general public. They are available for purchase at the Performing Arts Center box office.

The College of Fine Performing Arts created the scholarship in May 2005, Hunter said. Students start receiving the scholarship when the fund reaches \$20,000.

Opera singer Erin Wall, a 1996 Western alumna, gave a performance in May 2005 that, along with donations, generated \$11,000 toward the scholarship fund.

Ticket sales and donations from



PHOTO COURTESY OF AARON ST. CLAIR NICHOLSON

Aaron St. Clair Nicholson, a 1996 Western alumnus, who will debut with the Metropolitan Opera in New York City in November, will perform a benefit concert for the Virginia Hunter Vocal Performance scholarship at 8 p.m. Sunday in the Performing Arts Center.

Nicholson's performance will raise approximately \$11,000 for the fund, Meyer said.

"Virginia had a huge influence

on my career," Nicholson said. "Without her, I wouldn't be where I am now."

Nicholson will debut and sing with the Metropolitan Opera in New York City in November in Puccini's opera "La Boheme" and Mozart's opera "The Magic Flute," he said. He could not imagine this kind of success while training with Hunter, he said.

Nicholson began training with Hunter as a sophomore in high school without formal voice training, but he had been involved in his school choir and sang with the jazz band.

"She saw I had the passion for singing but she also gave me the calmness needed so that my emotions didn't overwhelm me," Nicholson said. "She just always gave me a nudge in the right direction."

Nicholson continued to train with Hunter until he graduated from Western, he said.

He earned a master's degree in music from Binghamton University in 1997 while performing with the Tri Cities Opera Company in Binghamton, N.Y.

"Virginia is a very solid teacher with a huge body of knowledge from her own experience as a singer," Nicholson said. "She has a history of taking beginners to professional levels."

Hunter has more than four decades of training, experience and knowledge to pass on to students, Nicholson said.

Hunter received her master's degree in vocal performance in 1980 from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

She received her doctorate in musical arts from the same university in 1983, she said.

She sang professionally for 20 years, performing in recitals in Washington, D.C., France and Germany.

A long with her

professional singing career, she taught voice lessons at Western, at the University of British Columbia, her alma mater and Trinity Western University, she said.

Nicholson's voice has a warm, rich tone that is powerful, she said.

Hunter knew Nicholson had

a future as a professional singer because of his confidence and energy on stage, she said.

She realized his professional ability when he performed the role of Marcello in the Italian composer Puccini's opera "La Boheme" as a sophomore at Western in 1994, she said.

"You can tell by seeing a performer in how they move and interact with the audience whether or not they are really enjoying themselves," Hunter said. "He seemed to feel at home on stage. That is where he belonged."

Nicholson said he has performed with famous opera companies all over the world.

He performed the role of Valentin in the French composer Gounod's "Faust" with the Vancouver Opera this April.

The benefit concert will feature songs from Western music professor Roger Briggs with lyrics derived from poems by English poet William Butler Yates. Briggs will accompany Nicholson as the pianist, he said.

Nicholson will sing music from pop songwriter Randy Newman with Western music professor Chuck Isreals playing bass, he said.

He will also be performing an orchestration of Ludwig Van Beethoven's "Die Fern Geliebte" written by 2005 Western alumnus



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA HUNTER

Western Professor Virginia Hunter, who has more than four decades of training and experience in music, will retire from Western in June.

'You can tell by seeing a performer in how they move and interact with the audience whether or not they are really enjoying themselves.'

VIRGINIA HUNTER
Western voice professor

Academic showcase

Faculty display work in biennial Western Gallery exhibition

By G.S. RAUGUST
The Western Front

Sebastian Mendes, an associate professor in Western's art department for six years, considers himself an artist influenced by modern technology. He makes three-dimensional art such as a piece titled "TV," which is a television set in an iron ball with a shackle and chain attached to it.

Mendes and faculty members from Western's art department put their creations on display at 4 p.m. Thursday to open the biennial Western Faculty Art Exhibition, gallery director Sarah Clark-Langager said.

The exhibit will run until June 10, she said.

"It's a way of making the department visible and it is evidence that we are actively working on our own various forms of creative research," Mendes said. "Just as scientists and others publish their works to distribute them, this is a way of distributing ours."

This is Mendes' third Faculty Art Exhibit, he said.

Clark-Langager said she is familiar with the faculty's artwork, but is always surprised by the submissions.

"Each faculty exhibition is unique because you never know what the faculty members are going to bring," she said. "It is left up to them what they want to present and they are always working on new areas so each year is going to be different."

She said she expects to see ceramics, sculptures, paintings, print-making and photography.

Clark-Langager said this year's exhibition will honor Tom Johnston, a professor in the department for 39 years who retired this year.

The department made Johnston an emeritus professor in 2006 for his dedication to teaching at Western, she said.

Johnston submitted artwork from his years at Western and abroad when he was on sabbatical.

He said he created some of the pieces on display in Paris, Southern France, London and New York City.

"An artwork is like a page out of your diary," Johnston said. "It documents a specific period in history and culture."

Johnston said artwork reflects the surroundings in which artists create it. He has honed his technique by creating art in different environments, including a one-room flat and a 30-room chateau.

"I feel the environment that one works in does have a direct influence on the work," Johnston said. "Sometimes it's a very subtle difference between work made in tranquil Bellingham and New York City, but it's there."

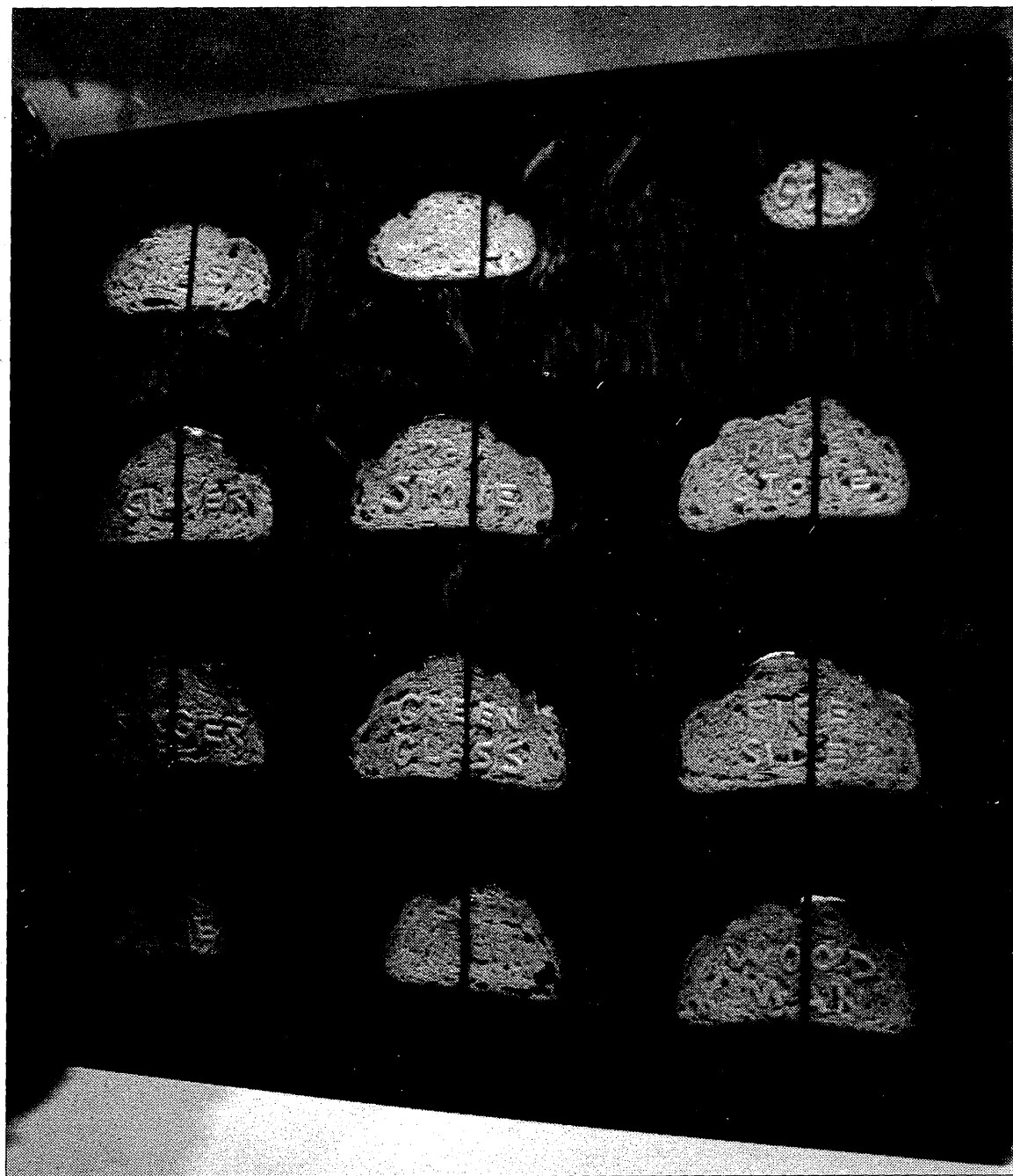
Johnston said the majority of the art he produces is two-dimensional, such as abstract paintings and drawings of the human body, lithographs and monotype prints.

"I try to conjure up feelings and emotions in people to make them think of the human condition," Johnston said. "It's a way to express my frustration about the inhumanity of human beings."

Johnston said he used abstract drawings of human bodies to symbolize the inhumanity of war and his frustrations during the Vietnam and Gulf Wars.

Art enthusiasts come from Seattle and Vancouver, British Columbia, to view the exhibit, Johnston said.

"The faculty show is a great time to see the current work of the faculty," Johnston said. "My



PETER THAN / THE WESTERN FRONT

"Food for Thought" © is Western associate art professor Sebastian Mendes' third time contributing work to the Western Faculty Art Exhibition. The exhibit will run May 4 through June 10 in the Western Gallery. Faculty creations range from ceramic, sculpture, painting, print-making to photography.

works have been shown all over the world, in Paris, in Prague, but not much locally."

Johnston said the exhibit gives art students a chance to see their instructors work displayed locally.

He said he doesn't usually show his work to his students because he doesn't want to influence their personal artistic style.

"I don't want students to be over-influenced by me," Johnston said. "I have seen it once or twice at Western, where students get overly influenced by their instructors and then it takes them a little longer — once the student moves out of the shadow of the professor — to find their own voice."

Mendes said he has shown his art in London and Sydney.

He makes three-dimensional objects and installments in a

wide-variety of forms, such as a bell hanging on a wooden beam held between two pillars titled "Ouroboros."

The sculpture was part of the 2000 outdoor exhibition Sculpture by the Sea in Sydney.

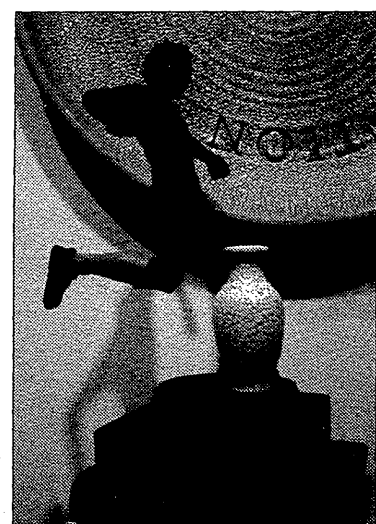
Mendes said the TV sculpture is part of a six-piece series that represents his position in relation to technology in the modern world.

"A fair number of the faculty, if not all, think of themselves as working artists and we have knowledge of international trends in art," Mendes said. "To see so many of the faculty's works on exhibit means you get a portion of that knowledge. For anybody in the community that has an interest in contemporary art it is an opportunity to see a wide range of how it manifests itself."



PETER THAN / THE WESTERN FRONT

"Nakami: Things Inside" © by Western art professor Seiko Purdue.



PETER THAN / THE WESTERN FRONT

"Freedom From Convention: You Need to Learn to Kick Before You Can Throw!" © by Western art professor Pat McCormick.

Students serve as M's batboys

BY NICOLE LANPHEAR
The Western Front

Western seniors Demetrius Grant and Kyle Proctor balance classes and commuting to Seattle for every Seattle Mariners home game, but the rewards are greater than the price of gas.

Grant and Proctor are clubhouse assistants, some would say batboys, for the Mariners.

Proctor started working as a bat boy this year, while Grant began working for the team in 2001 when he applied to work as a seating host at Safeco Field, and there happened to be an opening for a bat boy, he said.

"They asked me if I would be interested in being a bat boy," Grant said. "They told me about it, how you get to be in the clubhouse all the time and hang out with the players. I was like, 'Uh, yeah. I'll do it.'"

Grant and Proctor's duties as batboys include setting out helmets, bats, Gatorade and water in the dugout before the game. They also collect balls at batting practice and clean players' sweaty shoes after games.

"That is the most glamorous part of the job, cleaning out the shoes and knocking off the dirt," Grant said. "It is one of the perks of the job. I'm not going to lie — 25 pairs of shoes."

Proctor said they alternate turns taking out the rosin bag, which is the size of a baseball with

powder for pitchers to add grip to their fingers, to the pitcher's mound before every game.

Grant said this is their claim to fame because it is displayed on the big screen in Safeco Field so every fan at the game can see them.

The duo wear personalized jerseys with their first names on the back, and sometimes fans mistake them for players.

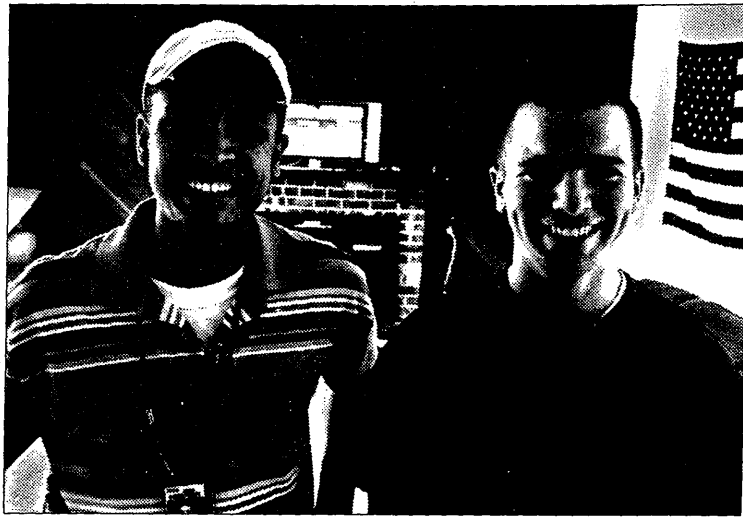
"My first year, a group of 7- or 8-year-olds came up to me and wanted my autograph," Grant said. "I told them I wasn't a player, but they said, 'You're still out on the field.' So I spent five minutes signing autographs."

Grant said retrieving and catching balls during batting practice with major league players and establishing contacts are the most valuable experiences.

Grant received a letter of recommendation from pitcher Jamie Moyer for scholarships or jobs and said he has asked the Mariners to help with charity events.

"As far as getting contacts and stuff, I've been able to ask (former catcher) Dan Wilson to help out with exchange-student charity, Hope for Youth International," Grant said. "You can't get that kind of stuff anywhere else."

Proctor, who played baseball in high school at Archbishop Murphy in Everett, said playing baseball with major-league players at batting practice is his favorite aspect of the job.



MATT VOGT / THE WESTERN FRONT

Western seniors Demetrius Grant (left) and Kyle Proctor prepare to drive to Seattle Thursday to unpack Seattle Mariner equipment from the team's latest road trip.

While Grant unloaded equipment from an away game last season, former center fielder Randy Winn approached him and invited him to watch the Seattle SuperSonics play from the Mariners' suite.

Winn treated Grant to a whiskey sour at a Seattle bar before the game, and spent the evening with center fielder Willie Bloomquist, pitcher Eddie Guardado and Winn.

Proctor's most memorable moment was when by pitcher Gil Meche threw a ball 50 yards and struck him in the back of the head during batting practice earlier this season. Proctor said Meche checked to see if he was OK.

Proctor and Grant have the best seats in the house, and receive tips from players.

The team gives monetary tips to the two batboys at the All-

Star break and at the end of the season. Each player gives \$200 to \$500.

At the end of the season, Grant said he sometimes earns between \$6,000 and \$7,000 in cash.

Grant said the bat boys receive bonuses if the team advances to the playoffs. When the Mariners went to the American League Championship Series in 2001, the bat boys received \$800.

"The better mood they're in, the better mood I'm going to be in because that's how much more money they're going to tip," Grant said. "We are true fans because the more they win, the more we get."

Driving for nationals

BY DOUG HALL
The Western Front

The Western women's golf team will compete for the NCAA Division II National Championship after placing second Tuesday in the West Regional Tournament in Muskogee, Okla.

The top two teams from each of the four regions advance to the Division II national tournament May 10 through May 13 in Allensdale, Mich., head coach Bo Stephan said.

"We're very satisfied about getting second place," Stephan said. "Anything in the top two for this tournament is good."

The women shot an 86-over-par 938 in the three round tournament, five strokes behind first place Western New Mexico University.

Western senior golfer and co-captain Katja Trygg placed third individually, but said sophomore golfer Allison Gillette's final round 74 sparked the team's finish.

"The key to us making it was Allison shooting a 74 in the final round," Trygg said. "She was really clutch and I think she deserves a lot of credit."

Stephan said the team feels like it has more to accomplish this year besides its regional finish.

"From the first meeting we had this fall, our goal has been to go to nationals and do the best that we can do," Stephan said."

'My first year, a group of 7- or 8-year-olds came up to me and wanted my autograph.'

KYLE PROCTOR
Seattle Mariner bat boy

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OPINIONS

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Traveling and experience superior to adulthood



BY LAUREN ALLAIN
Forbidden Fruit

I watched my sister graduate from college this past fall, and now I'm watching a slew of other friends count down the days until they receive a piece of paper that proves they spent a ton of money to sleep through classes, but somehow became a college graduate.

What I see in these friends is terror — terror in not knowing what will come next, where they'll live or where income will originate.

Technically, I don't have to worry about any of this for another year, but I can't help but wonder what my future might hold.

The plans I have both frighten and excite me because they're the opposite of what everyone fears.

Most graduates I see fear having nothing to do or no idea where to start a life. I have the opposite problem — I have too many plans. If I did everything I want to accomplish, I wouldn't settle into a career until my late 30s.

What my plan essentially amounts to is doing the exact opposite of the social norm: leaving college, moving into a studio apartment and working a less than reputable job. I

don't want to do any of the aforementioned.

I fear a real job. Not because I'm afraid of the responsibility or the long hours, but because I could end up enjoying it and staying there.

The reason this bothers me is that settling down is the last thing on my mind right now, by far. I'm too young to live a mundane life.

I'm 21 years old and haven't been off the continent. I've always wanted to study abroad, but once I looked at the cost I decided I liked Bellingham too much to part with it. But the truth is, I don't like Bellingham all that much. It suffices, but I'm leaving once I graduate. First, though, I have to figure

out where I'm going.

My evolving list of places to see includes Egypt, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Thailand, Kiribati, Australia, Cuba, Brazil, Costa Rica, Mongolia, Denmark and the Dominican Republic.

I don't want to just pass through these places, I want to live in each for an extended period of time, enough to immerse myself in their culture.

I know there is more to life than middle-class America, but so far that's all I've seen.

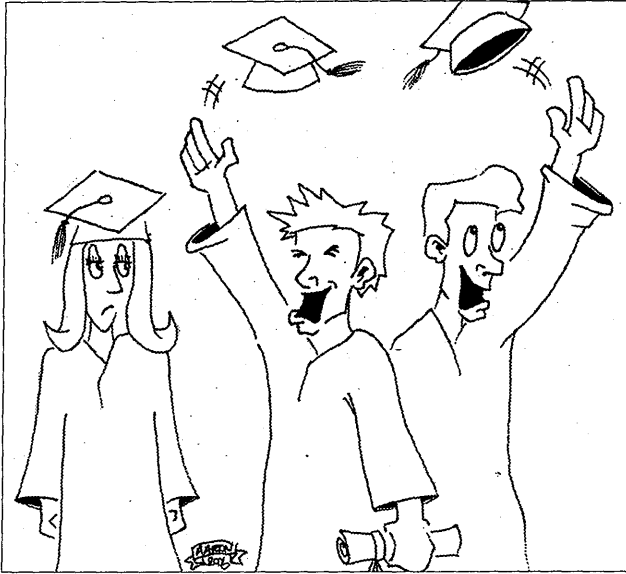
I'm willing to go anywhere someone suggests, with the exception of Pullman.

After college I plan on being gone for an indeterminate amount of time. I have no idea if I'll ever use my degree or if I'll come back to the United States. I've found that people who are world-traveled know much more than a college education could ever teach.

At the same time, being away for so long frightens me. Apparently I'm supposed to have children and get married at some point, but this seems like an implausible task if I'm roaming the world and without a permanent home. Not to mention the studies that show a woman's fertility drops significantly once they reach their mid-30s.

So I'm stuck between my hopes and reality. I have too many plans, not enough time and no room for it all to fit.

I've decided to be selfish and go for it. Once I leave college, I'm gone. If that doesn't work out, though, there's always stripping.



Contact columnist Lauren Allain at:
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FRONTLINE

PROTESTS

Aborted debate

Images of aborted fetuses, mass graves and lynchings confronted Western students walking through Red Square Tuesday and Wednesday. Western for Life, an Associated Students club, brought the images to campus as part of the Genocide Awareness Project, which linked the controversial topic of abortion to the Holocaust and to hate crimes against African-Americans.

While abortion is a topic Western students and Americans need to discuss, the group broached the subject the wrong way.

The group posted construction-orange signs at the entrance to Red Square that read, "Warning genocide photos ahead." But that didn't adequately prepare students for the graphic photos they were about to see.

The group links genocide and abortion because the victims of both had no choice in their systematic killing, but unsuspecting students don't make that connection.

Connecting genocide and abortion is offensive to anyone who lived through the Holocaust or has family members who did. Every time someone uses the word incorrectly, they weaken its meaning and belittle those who experienced it. Someone who has an abortion is not the same as the Arab Janjaweed militiaman who rapes and murders women and children in Darfur, Sudan.

The fences surrounding the images added to the already hostile environment. The barriers hurt any potential dialogue and drew a proverbial line in the sand between the pro-choice side and the anti-abortion side. Some of the protesters further fueled the fire when they linked arms to form a wall around the posters, blocking access to the display. With this kind of anger, everyone was forced to choose sides. Lost in the shouting was a reasoned, logical debate.

The group took advantage of its right to freedom of expression and provided an opportunity for students to discuss and debate a controversial issue. If students felt uncomfortable approaching the display and asking questions, they at least discussed it among themselves.

But the group failed to create an intelligent debate. Instead, any discussion quickly escalated into partisan mudslinging with both sides rallying around each other, reaffirming their own beliefs. Any middle ground on the issue was left out.

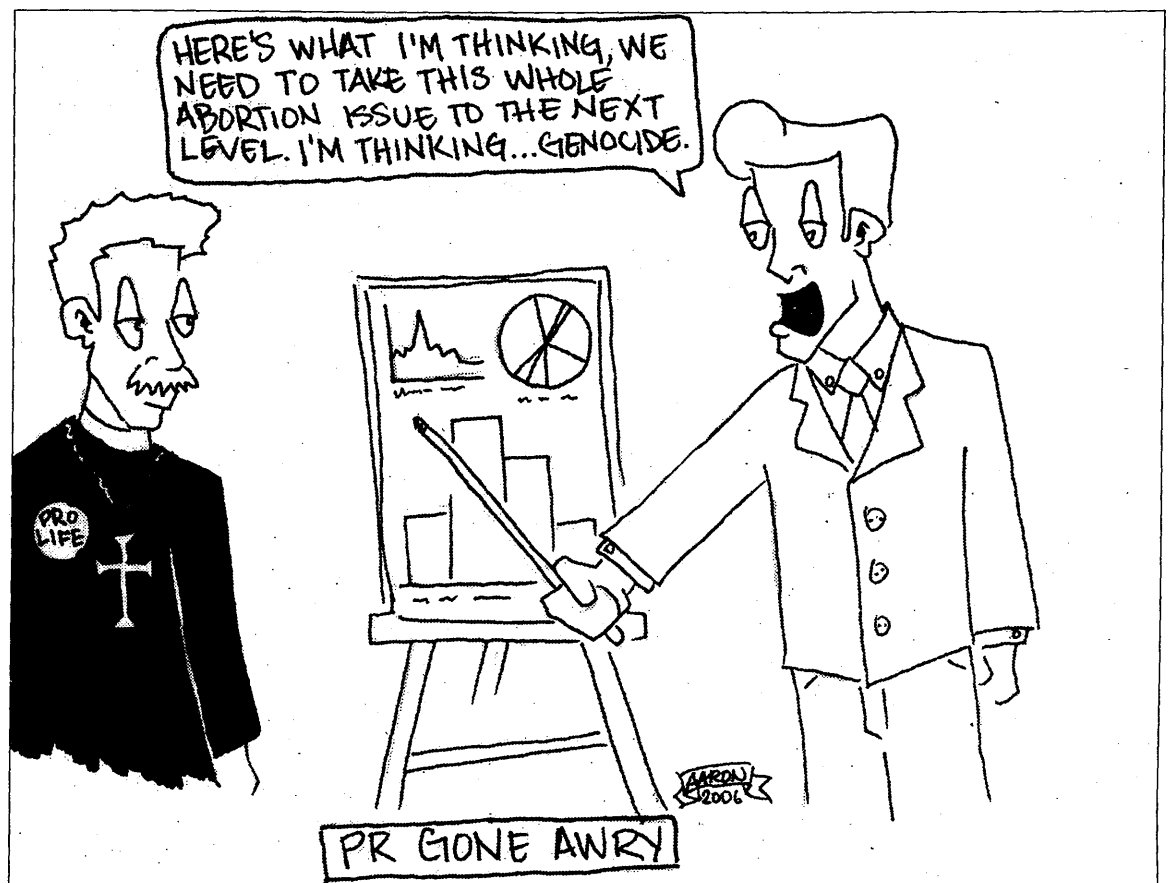
The group started with the goal of engaging students in a much-needed discussion of a major issue of our time. But its tactics alienated more students than it engaged and polarized the sides even further.

Editor's note: The views expressed on The Western Front opinion pages are the views of the authors or cartoonists and are not necessarily the views of The Western Front staff, managers or adviser.

And we quote:

"I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."

—François Voltaire, philosopher



Letters to the Editor

Student opinion not associated with VOX organization

I was interviewed for the article Shawn Query wrote about the abortion protests and I was disturbed to find that the heading on the third page of the paper, the extended portion of the article, credited my opinions to the Voices of Planned Parenthood (VOX) organization.

Although I am a member of the VOX organization, I do not represent the opinions of the organization itself or that of any other members of the organization.

In fact, as a VOX member, I am not supposed to interview for any type of press release, as I was consequently informed of by my superiors when the article came out Tuesday.

I made it clear when interviewing that I was not representing the organization, but

rather that I was simply a member and as an individual I was concerned over the protest.

I thought it was important to interview for the article so it would be balanced, including both the goals of the protest and opinions of abortion supporters.

I would appreciate it if you could credit me with my own opinions and not attribute them or imply they are related to an organization that I am involved with, as my opinions are independent of the organization.

I apologize for any confusion with regard to my opinions and their relation to the VOX organization and I will be clearer about my position in the future.

Julia Rink
Junior, economics

Group should not equate abortion with genocide

Western's Red Square was turned into a gruesome scene on Tuesday and Wednesday. The high-traffic center of campus was host to a demonstration subjecting students to offensive, horrific photographs and propaganda as they passed by.

The Genocide Awareness Project display was not about genocide at all. It was an anti-abortion group using scare tactics to horrify students. Pictures of aborted fetuses were posted next to Hitler and photos of true genocide.

Genocide is the mass slaughter of a race in an attempt to exterminate them completely. Abortion is the removal of an unborn fetus from the mother's body.

There is no conspiracy to destroy the world's unborn fetuses. Abortion is not an attempted extermination. Even when personal values dictate abortion is murder, there is no comparison with genocide.

The project further demonstrated an

extremist attitude with picture captions such as "reproductive choice" and a picture of an aborted fetus or Hitler with "religious choice." A simple message came through: choice is bad.

In a country built by choice, this is a dangerous message to portray.

Not only does it attack the very institution that upholds this great country, freedom of choice, but it purports that choice ultimately leads to mass exterminations.

Freedom of choice is what allows such atrocities to be avoided. As long as we have those freedoms, we can choose not to follow extremist groups which express their cause through brainwashing propaganda, blinding rationality and hiding facts to the contrary with their gruesome pictures and unsubstantiated arguments.

Jason Wells
Western junior, psychology

Letter to the Editor

Red Square anti-abortion demonstration disgusting

I am writing in regards to the pro-life propaganda photographs that are being displayed in Red Square. I think it is immeasurably wrong to attack people with blown up pictures of bloody babies and badly botched "illegal" abortions, especially when misrepresented with warning signs as genocide. Abortion is not, and never has been, genocide (we still have pregnant women and we still have babies) and to imply so is a deep insult against those targeted by true genocidal actions.

What is worse is that these fanatical zealots — setting up hate camp in a location that nearly every student must walk past an average of once a day — is that our university is allowing them to do so.

I was told by one "protester" that not only did he not know who I could complain to, but that this visual assault was being allowed under the guise of free speech. A picture is not a speech. And a four-sided billboard is an

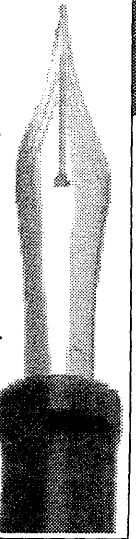
attack, not a protest.

I was so highly offended while simply trying to make it to my next class on time, that the air was literally knocked out of me and I was so upset that I could not pay attention in class. I know for certain that I am not the only one who feels this way — uncomfortable, sickened, attacked and violated.

It is our right to have a safe learning environment, and I beg of you to please remove this abomination.

If not completely, then to a remote area or, at the very least, curtain it off so passers-by are not forced to see something they'd rather not.

Aurora RuPert
Junior, theater arts



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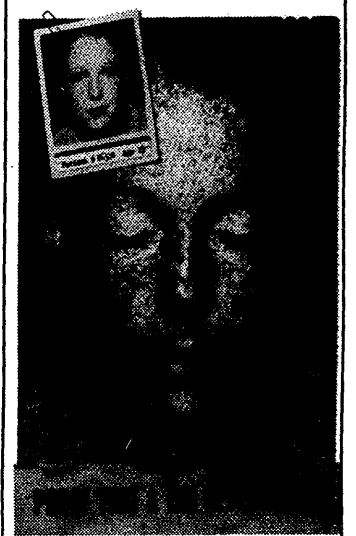
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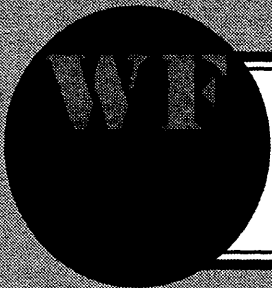
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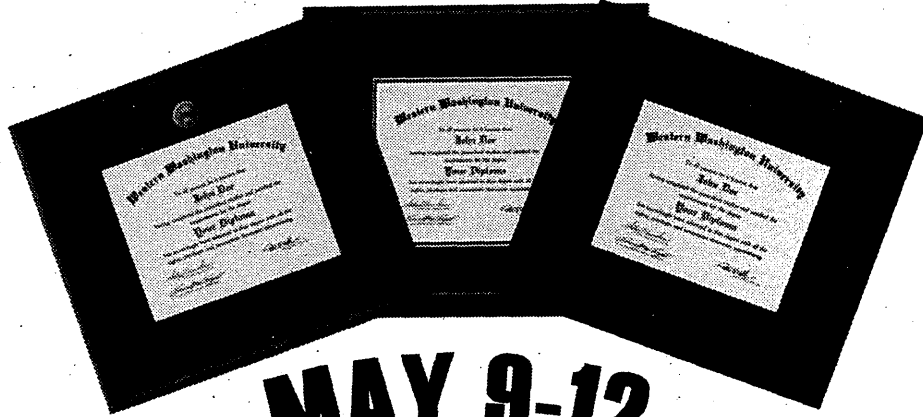
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