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OPINION



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Don't alter
registration
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WEATHER

FRIDAY	38° HIGH	27° LOW
SATURDAY	32° HIGH	24° LOW
SUNDAY	36° HIGH	36° LOW
MONDAY	45° HIGH	44° LOW

Source: National Weather Service



PE class registration changes

Underclassmen to register first for most 100-level PE department classes

Mary Truman
THE WESTERN FRONT

The physical education (PE) department has restricted the first phase of winter quarter registration for most of the 100-level courses, allowing only underclassmen to register.

The courses that do not usually fill up, such as skiing, handball, sailing and the classes required for the PE major are not restricted, said Rebecca Schindler, manager of the activity program in the PE department.

Approximately 50 to 80

one-credit PE classes are offered each quarter, Schindler said. Upperclassman would register first and the classes would then fill up, Schindler said.

"The freshmen and sophomores never get a chance," Schindler said.

The department will allow juniors and seniors to register for all other 100-level PE classes at the beginning of phase two of registration, she said.

Phase one registration started Nov. 21 and was open for half the day and then closed for the

Thanksgiving holiday. Registration opened back up Nov. 26. Phase two starts Dec. 10. At that time, Schindler said she will open the 100-level classes to everyone.

The relocation of the recreation department was the beginning of changes in the PE department, she said.

After looking at enrollment patterns in the program, Schindler said she realized the classes tended to be full of juniors and seniors who were not PE majors. She said she began looking at ways to attract underclassmen to the program.

Western junior Morgan Parkerson said she does not think there is anything wrong with juniors and seniors signing up for one-credit classes.

"Sometimes you need a fun class to break up a tough schedule," Parkerson said.

During fall quarter, Schindler experimented with the program by opening up more spots for freshmen.

It was a test, she said, to see if adding underclassmen to the

see PE page 4 ▶

Hookah lounge opens in Bellingham



photo by Mark Malijan THE WESTERN FRONT

Western senior Kelly Fleming exhales a breath of smoke Wednesday evening at the Cobra Lounge.

For the full story, see page 6.

Conference discusses Jena Six

Anna Renzetti
THE WESTERN FRONT

"We all live in Jena. Putting an end to racial inequality" was stamped across the T-shirts of students and supporters of the series of conferences "In Light of Jena Six: A Call for Accountability," which occurred from Nov. 26 through Nov. 28.

The event brought Western students, faculty and Bellingham community members together to bring home the racial issues involved with the Jena Six incident that occurred Jena, La., last year.

The three-day event included faculty and student-lead panels,

discussions and a lecture on the subject of hate symbols. Each day focused on spreading education and information about the issue of racism in Jena, but also racism on Western's campus.

"What Really Went Down: Facts and Significance of Jena Six," the name of the first day of the series, informed people about the incident where six black students resorted to beating a white student who they suspected had hung nooses on a tree at their high school.

Korry Harvey, Western communication lecturer and member of one of the panels, said

he wanted to take a deeper look at the larger issue of structural racism and how privilege plays a part in that form of racism. Structural racism is how an entire society and its institutions can be set up racist, Harvey said.

"It's hard to see privilege when you have it," Harvey said. "A true test of genuine authenticity lies in whether or not we continue to live a life of comfort and appreciate that privilege that we have and do nothing about it, or if we take it upon ourselves to live a life in such a way that we seek a world

see JENA SIX page 4 ▶

Western employees receive sexual harassment training

Isabelle Dills
THE WESTERN FRONT

On April 18, 2007, Gov. Chris Gregoire signed a bill requiring all state employees, including those from public universities, to receive sexual harassment training.

Sue Guenter-Schlesinger, executive director of Western's Equal Opportunity Office, said she had already developed a similar program in December 2005 and systematic training of Western's employees began in early 2006.

By January of next year, all Western employees will have received a training session, Guenter-Schlesinger said.

The 90-minute sessions cover topics such as the rights of potential victims and identifying different types of sexual harassment, said Vince Lemus, assistant director of the Equal Opportunity Office.

Some of the information provided in the training is about the most common cases of sexual harassment, which involve more subtle behaviors. In such cases, people may not even realize their behavior is offensive, Guenter-Schlesinger said.

When people share information about their sex lives or tell jokes of a sexual nature, their behavior, if persistent, can be construed as sexual harassment, she said.

If the person telling a sex joke is too touchy, such as by giving someone a hug or back rub, his or her behavior may be considered offensive, Guenter-Schlesinger said.

see TRAINING page 12 ▶

News Briefs

Professor to present Costa Rica research

Western's Colloquium Series will feature Troy Abel, a Huxley College of Environment professor who will speak about his environmental research and findings in Costa Rica last summer.

The presentation will take place at 3 p.m. today in Arntzen Hall Room 30.

Abel will show pictures and talk about his inaugural trip with the Rainforest Immersion and Conservation Action program.

United Faculty to give Distinguished Alumnus Award

The United Faculty of Western Washington (UFWW) will recognize its first recipient of the UFWW Distinguished Alumnus Award at 3 p.m. Dec. 5 in the Old Main Solarium.

The award winner, Professor Hans Dunshee, has a Master of Arts in political science and environmental policy and has been committed to higher education in Washington.

Dunshee has been in the Washington State Legislature for 12 years and is a member of the House Appropriations Committee and chair of the House Capital Budget Committee.

The UFWW was established in 2006 and

includes more than 700 faculty members. Bill Lyne, president of the UFWW, will present the award to Dunshee. The cost to attend is \$10.

For more information, contact Kyle Crowder, UFWW director of communications at kyle.crowder@wwu.edu.

Trinity professor to reveal new Dead Sea Scrolls findings

Dr. Peter Flint, religious studies professor and director of the Dead Sea Scrolls Institute at Trinity Western University in British Columbia, will speak about "The Dead Sea Scrolls and the New Testament" at 7 p.m. Dec. 4 in Fraser Hall Room 4.

Flint will reveal new readings from the Dead Sea Biblical Scrolls that are being included in the recent English translation of the Bible.

Western president to host diversity celebration

Western President Karen Morse will host a celebration of cultural diversity at 5 p.m. Dec. 6 in Red Square. A Hanukkah celebration will follow the event in Bond Hall Room 105. Food will be served, and entertainment will be provided.

Volunteers are needed for this event.

compiled by Daniel Balabanis

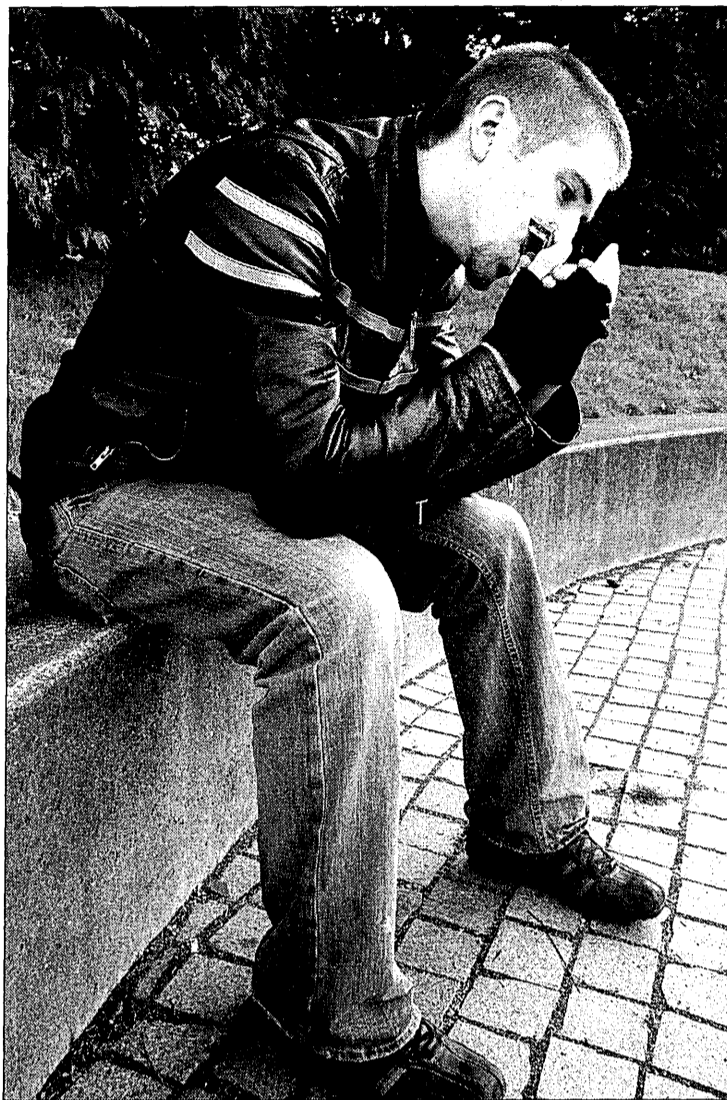



photo by Jon Bergman THE WESTERN FRONT

Western sophomore Matt Latham plays his harmonica to pass the time between classes in front of the Chemistry Building Thursday. He said he started playing two years ago and continues to avoid reading his text books.



ONLINE EXCLUSIVE

RESET Games
By Jeff Ehrhardt

THE WESTERN FRONT

Cops Box

University Police Nov. 21

- » A man allegedly brought his dog into a Haggard Hall computer lab and refused to leave.
- » UP responded to reports of illegal fireworks near south campus. When police arrived, nothing was seen or heard.

Nov. 24

- » After a traffic stop near south campus, UP arrested the driver in connection with a misdemeanor warrant.
- » After investigating a suspicious vehicle in parking lot 17, UP found a student using wireless Internet in his car.

Bellingham Police

Nov. 23

- » Police arrested a man who was allegedly intoxicated on a friend's boat. The man was cited on suspicion of driving under the influence.

Nov. 25

- » Police issued a citation in connection with theft in the third degree after a woman reportedly failed to pay for groceries she carried out of a store near the 2900 block of Woburn Street.

Nov. 26

- » Police arrested a man in connection with an outstanding warrant. When officers attempted to arrest him, he reportedly fought them off in an attempt to escape. He was later booked into the Whatcom County Jail.

compiled by Daniel Balabanis

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 2007–08 are Jan. 5, 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 description and online registration 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 2007–08 are Jan. 12, 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 fall 2007 are given twice a week during the remainder of the quarter at 3 p.m. on Mondays (Dec. 3, 10) and Thursdays at 9 a.m. (Dec. 6, 13). 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.

RELAXATION TRAINING—Mondays from 2 to 3 p.m. and Thursdays from 4 to 5 p.m. in Old Main Room 540. Through Dec. 6. Drop-in group. For a complete list of groups and workshops offered this quarter, visit the WWU Counseling Center Web site at www.wwu.edu/chw/counseling. To register or for more information, stop by Old Main Room 540 or call (360) 650-3164.

BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT SEMINARS—Monday, Dec. 3: Title TBA, by Dietmar Schwarz, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Wednesday, Dec. 5: "The Origins of Plant Species: Polyploidy, Hybridization and Adaptation in *Houstonia* and *Helianthus*," by Sheri Church, George Washington University. All are at 4 p.m., Biology Building Room 234. Refreshments at 3:50 p.m.

WINTER 2008 ADVISING AND REGISTRATION—Winter Advising and Registration is Western's advising, orientation and assistance program for students who begin winter quarter 2008. Transfer students may attend on Dec. 7 or Jan. 7. Freshmen must attend on Jan. 7. Reservations are required. For complete details, visit www.nssfo.wwu.edu/. Noon to 4 p.m. Free. For more information, call (360) 650-3846 or send an e-mail to nssfo@wwu.edu.

ON-CAMPUS RECRUITING—For complete and updated information, including new recruiting visits and deadlines, see www.careers.wwu.edu or stop by OM 280.



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Energy drinks discouraged as study aids

Tela Crane
THE WESTERN FRONT

Students looking to stay alert during the final weeks of the quarter should steer away from energy drinks and make more time for sleep, said Jackie Stein, a health educator with Western's Prevention and Wellness Services.

"Energy drinks and caffeine don't reverse the effects of lack of sleep, they just mask those effects," she said. "I know it sounds unrealistic, but students need to put down the energy drinks and make more time for sleep."

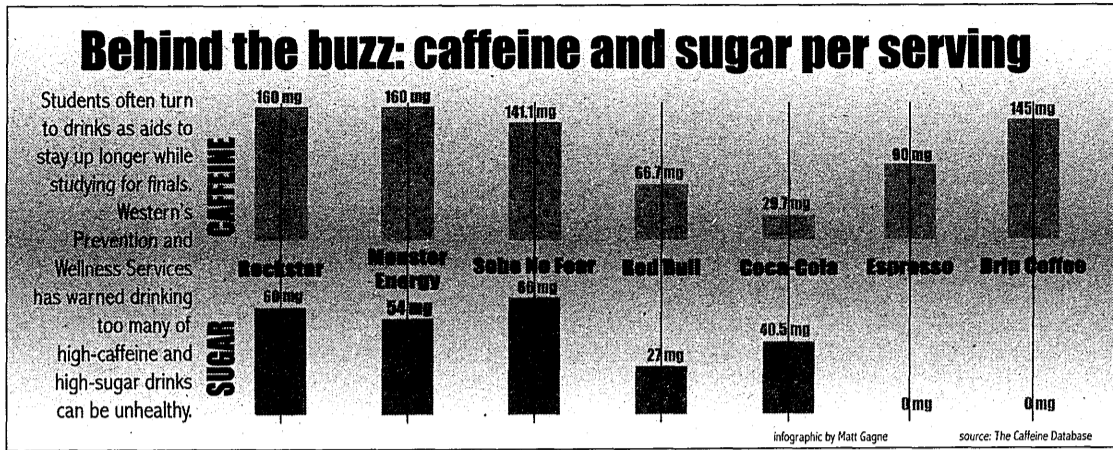
When students feel crunched for time during finals, they often turn to sugar-filled energy drinks to help keep them up late studying, Stein said.

Energy drink companies know students are likely to be up late during finals week, said Jake Sullivan, a Western senior and Monster Energy drink student representative.

"You'll see regional representatives of different energy drink companies driving their cars or trucks around handing out free product to students," he said. "They know that it is a big market for them."

Student representatives like Sullivan are usually given a product and told to distribute it to college students, he said.

"It's up to me where I want to give away the energy drinks,"



he said. "I usually give a couple cases to the library when they do their study nights before finals because I know people will be up late."

Students who are staying up late studying during finals week are good targets for energy drink companies, said Western sophomore Tyler Dustin.

"They're certainly working

"Energy drinks and caffeine don't reverse the effects of lack of sleep, they just mask those effects."

- Jackie Stein, Prevention and Wellness Services health educator

a huge demographic," he said. "There's tons of college students who are looking for ways to stay awake, and if they're offering free energy drinks or really marketing the drinks to students, they'll do well."

Dustin said he has seen that

regular use of energy drinks can cause health problems.

"I have a friend who recently had to have four cavities filled," he said. "The dentist said it could have been caused by the amount of energy drinks he drinks and how much sugar is in them."

Sugar is one of the major causes of the differences between how people feel when they drink energy drinks and with how they feel when they drink coffee or other forms of caffeine, Stein said.

Caffeine takes approximately half an hour to kick in. But because of the amount of sugar in most energy drinks, people get an instant rush from drinking them, she said.

"That rush is quick to hit you, but it's also short lasting," Stein said. "People get this powerful rush of energy and

then a really big crash."

People experience different lengths of energy rushes and crashes, she said.

Those types of crashes can cause students to enter a cycle where they are reliant on energy drinks to get them through the week, said Zack Solloum, a Western senior and Wellness Outreach Center lifestyle advisor.

"During dead week and finals week, people start drinking more energy drinks to help them stay up later," he said. "That just makes them more tired, and they have problems staying awake the next day."

Studies, such as a Brown University Health Education project, have shown that students are less productive when they are using caffeine and energy drinks to keep them awake while studying, Solloum said.

see ENERGY page 5 ►

What's happening

with the AS Board of Directors


At Wednesday's meeting, the Associated Students (AS) Board of Directors discussed:

- A marketing internship position that may be available at Western once final details for the internship have been set.

- The possibility of a Voter-Funded Media contest to be held at Western, similar to one held at the University of British Columbia last year. Voter Funded Media aims to create more educated voters and increase voter turnout by using public funds to pay media groups that advise voters. The goal of the contest is to get media groups to inform voters.

- The status of the Washington Student Lobby status and the legislative session in Olympia. The 2008 State Legislative Agenda has four major issues to possibly focus on in the legislative session, which include student and campus safety, green energy use on campus, increase in faculty salary without an increase in student costs, and childcare.


compiled by Sarah Gordon



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Department intends classes for skills, not working out

► PE from 1

program made a difference to the PE instructors.

Western freshman Noel Reel was in that test group fall quarter. Reel originally registered for 12 credits, she said.

Because of the spots saved for underclassmen she was able to sign up for Beginning Volleyball, a 100-level PE class.

“Underclassmen should be able to register for the classes that they need and want.”

- Kellee Rickenbauch, Western senior

The overwhelming response from teachers was positive, Schindler said. Freshman and sophomores sign up for different reasons than a junior or senior is signing up for, she said.

“A junior or senior is looking for one credit to fill in so that they can stay a full time student,” Schindler said.

The instructors of each 100-level class are required to teach all of the basics.

The 100-level classes are not for students who already know how to play and just want an easy credit, she said.

“It’s not a work-out hour,”

Schindler said. “It’s a learn-the-skill hour.”

Western senior Kellee Rickenbauch said she does not think someone who has only been at Western a year or two should have priority over someone who is only two quarters away from graduating.

“Upperclassmen should be able to register for the classes that they need and want,” Rickenbauch said.

Disruptive behavior in the activity classes has been a driving force for change to the program, Schindler said.

The activity program relies heavily on student teachers to run the classes. These student teachers are mostly PE majors or graduates.

Because student teachers are juniors and seniors, they sometimes have trouble gaining respect from students in the class they are teaching, Schindler said.

“We really want our graduate-level students and student teachers to instruct the 100-level classes.”

Juniors and seniors should not worry, because openings will still be available after phase one of registration is finished, Schindler said.

Schindler said if a class is closed a student should attend the first day of that class and if anyone registered does not show, the present student could take the spot.

Panel discusses steps to prevent racism

► JENA SIX from 1

where there isn’t privilege given to a particular group, and that the privilege is shared with all members of the human family.”

The issue of injustice in the media and legal system in Jena were prevalent topics at the events.

American Civil Liberties Union representative Brett Rubio spoke about the legal aspect of the case. Rubio said the first of the Jena Six to go on trial, Mychal Bell, 16, was unjustly tried as an adult because Louisiana state law allows as old as 17 to be tried as juveniles. An all-white jury also gave Bell his first sentence, Rubio said.

“There are flaws in the system, where especially African Americans are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system,” Rubio said.

A lecture by Fairhaven College professor Dan Rowe titled “Symbols of Hate” was another addition to the series. The lecture explained symbols, such as nooses, swastikas and even mascots and their historical context.

Rowe said he did not want to physically show any symbols at the lecture because they cause pain, fear and anxiety for many people.

The final night of the series was dedicated to discussing steps to prevent racism and feelings of



photo by Graig Hill THE WESTERN FRONT

Western sophomore Sarah Ishmael reads a poem called “controversial,” while Western junior Karim Ahmath (right) and others listen Wednesday in the Viking Union as part of the three day conference on Jena Six.

inequality on Western’s campus.

On the panel for the final night were David Engle, Squalicum High School principal, Western sophomores Ashley Watson and Sarah Ishmael, Western junior Karim Ahmath and Whatcom Human Rights Task Force Chair Barbara Rofkar.

Ishmael, legislative liaison for the Associated Students, said one step all students can take to prevent racism on campus is to acknowledge the subtle types of racism that occur, such as expecting someone to be hypersensitive to an issue or to have all the answers to questions about an individual’s heritage.

“Not all racism is hanging

nooses from a tree,” Ishmael said. “The racism that cuts and that hurts is the expectations that we set for each other.”

Watson said Western students have already taken the first step in preventing racism on campus by attending the Jena Six events and discussing the issue of racism that is almost never talked about on campus.

Students who could not attend can make a step by taking advantage of Western’s academics — they can take a culture studies course and learn about a background different from their own, Watson said.

“The first step is educating yourself,” Watson said. “The next step is to take action.”

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► ENERGY from 3

"People need to realize that having a bunch of energy drinks and staying up late studying does not equal good grades," Solloum said. "People are less productive when they're all jittery because of that caffeine and sugar."

Students generally think the quantity of caffeine in large energy drinks will help keep them awake longer or make them more alert, Stein said.

"When you're drinking something with such a large amount of caffeine there is a misperception that it will last longer or be more effective," she said. "It probably is marginally stronger and longer lasting, but really as soon as your body senses all that caffeine it tries to get it out of your system."

Research has shown caffeine as more effective at keeping people alert if it is consumed in small doses over longer periods of time, Stein said.

"Instead of drinking that huge energy drink, students should try to switch to a drink with lower caffeine, like tea, and sip it over a longer period of time," she said.

Sleep is still the best solution for stressed out students, and most people need eight hours of sleep to be completely rested and effective at what they are doing the next day, Solloum said.

"There's no alternative to a good night's sleep," he said. "If you get five hours of sleep, you can't make up for missing those three hours of sleep by drinking an energy drink."

Health center offers HPV vaccine

Amanda Winters
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western's Student Health Center is offering the Gardasil vaccine to protect against the Human Papillomavirus (HPV), a sexually transmitted infection that can cause cervical cancer and genital warts — but it has the potential to empty the purses of Western's women.

"It was intense," said Western junior Katharine Levenetz. "They're really expensive."

Teri Bodensteiner, a registered nurse at the Student Health Center, said women 18 and younger can get the shot through the health department for \$15 per dose, but once they turn 19, the price increases.

At \$130 per dose for women 19 and older, the series of three shots adds up to \$390. The vaccinations are given in a period of six months and protect against the two most common strains of HPV causing genital warts and the two most common strains causing cervical cancer.

Levenetz said she decided to get the shot because her mother had fought cervical cancer and she wanted to protect herself. Fortunately, she said, her mother's insurance company covered the vaccination, and she

was reimbursed.

"A lot of insurance companies are covering it," Bodensteiner said. "If [students] do have health insurance, they can submit those charges to the insurance company for reimbursement."

But some students such as Western senior Molly Johnston do not have insurance coverage.

The lack of insurance coverage made her hesitant to get the vaccine, she said.

"I put it on the back burner because I heard the cost," Johnston said. "I know I can't afford it."

Susan Jones, an advanced registered nurse practitioner at the Student Health Center, said she encourages women 13 to 26 to get the vaccine despite the cost. As much as 70 percent of the sexually active population under the age of 25 will come in contact with some form of HPV, she said.

"Women most commonly get the worst effects of HPV," she said.

Jones said men who have HPV typically do not develop cancer like women do.

Jones said the virus, which is spread through skin-to-skin contact, is most common in

sexually active people younger than 25. Ideally, the vaccine should be given before girls become sexually active, she said.

"They're targeting the group it would be most beneficial for," she said. "It can only prevent things you come across in the future. It can't do anything about things you've already come across."

Every year approximately 10,000 women in the United States get cervical cancer and 3,700 die from it, Bodensteiner said.

With the vaccine, chances of cervical cancer are reduced by 75 percent, Jones said.

"I personally think [the vaccine is] extremely important," Bodensteiner said. "I've had all my daughters get it."

Some financial help may be available for women wanting to get the vaccine, Bodensteiner said.

Merk, the company that manufactures Gardasil, offers financial help if someone is under a certain income level, has no health insurance and meets other specific criteria, she said. So far this year, one student has met the criteria and received the vaccine for free, she said.

Five tips to increase energy without energy drinks or coffee

- Get eight hours of sleep a night
- Exercise for 30 minutes a day
- Drink water to stay hydrated, which keeps your body energized
- Eat a healthy breakfast
- Periodically drink low-caffeine beverages, such as tea

compiled by Tela Crane

Source: Jackie Stein, Prevention and Wellness Services

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ART &

Get lost in the

Two 20-year-olds open hookah bar in Bellingham

Sharon Savage
THE WESTERN FRONT

For those looking for an alternative to the bar scene, or who are younger than 21, a new business opened Thursday night in downtown Bellingham called the Cobra Lounge.

The Cobra Lounge is a hookah bar on Cornwall Avenue, where patrons can smoke flavored tobacco out of a water pipe and listen to music.

The lounge is co-owned by Paul Green and Erin Cobb, who are both 20 and from Kirkland, Wash. Cobb is currently a student at Boston College and Green is a Bellingham resident.

They chose to open the lounge in Bellingham because the city has the right culture, Cobb said.

It is a private facility, and in order to smoke inside the lounge people must have a membership and a valid ID that proves they are 18 or older, Cobb said.

A lifetime membership costs \$1, he said.

The Cobra Lounge opened in Bellingham despite controversy regarding the Clean Indoor Air Act, Cobb said.

According to Washington state law, the act prohibits people from smoking in or within 25 feet of public places or places of employment.

The lounge is a private facility not a public facility, and therefore is exempt from the law, he said.

Western senior Rani Shakh said having a hookah bar in Bellingham is a good idea. He said many

Western students like smoking hookah, but cannot afford their own hookah, do not like the hassle of owning one or are not allowed to smoke indoors where they live.

"Finally, we don't have to deal with setting up the hookah every time, getting all sticky, and burning holes in the carpet," Shakh said.

The outside of the Cobra Lounge is purposely nondescript, however the inside has an almost magical atmosphere, Cobb said.

"Finally, we don't have to deal with setting up the hookah every time, getting all sticky and burning holes in the carpet."

- Western senior Rani Shakh

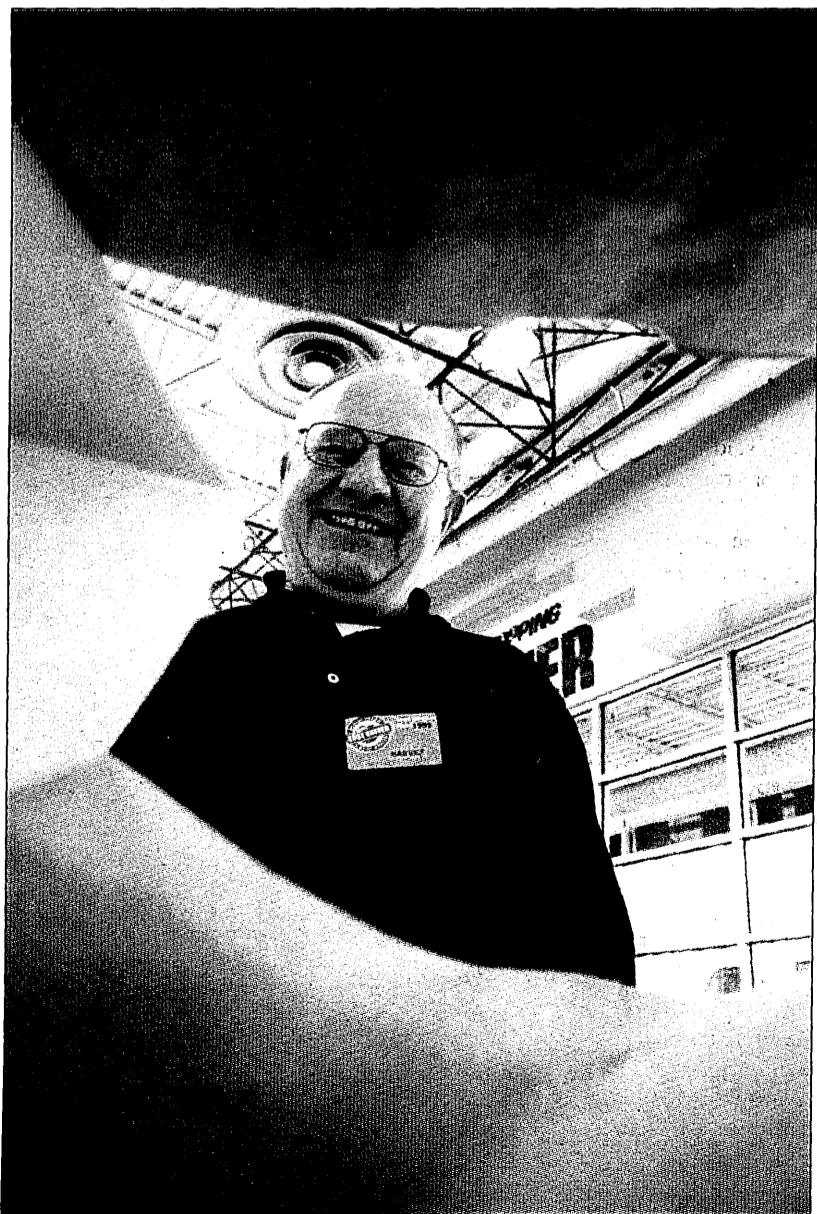
There are murals on the walls, and the feeling inside the lounge is warm and moody, Green said.

The room is classy and has an underground vibe, Green said. It is filled with nice couches and tables where people can smoke, he said.

All of the flavored tobacco, or shisha, at the Cobra Lounge is from Dubai, Cobb said.

There are four flavors of shisha offered at one time, and the flavors of the shisha rotate weekly, he said.

This week, the lounge is offering flavors of mint,



Cost Cutter

Bellingham

Washington's best bagger, Harvey Unruh, will head to Las Vegas to compete against baggers from around the country in February for the title of National Bagger of the Year.

photos by Jon Bergman THE WESTERN FRONT



haze

Bellingham

grape, melon and lemon, Cobb said.

It costs \$14 for the first bowl of shisha, which can hold 16-19 grams, and \$7 for every bowl after, he said.

Cobb said there are 22 hookahs in the bar and 19 can be on the floor at one time.

They are all Egyptian handmade and hand painted, he said. Every hookah has only one hose and is 28 inches tall, and Cobb said there is a maximum of four people who can smoke from one hookah.

The music that is played in the lounge is tough to categorize, Cobb said.

"It's usually mellow, acoustic, mood music, but we also play indie and some traditional," Cobb said. "People can also bring their own music, and we might play that too."

There is no food served in the lounge, but bottled water and VitaminWater are available for purchase, Cobb said.

The lounge is going to have wireless Internet available for use beginning in January, Cobb said.

Cobb and Green are looking into hosting theme nights at the lounge, like cigar night or a night specifically for the hookah club of Western, but those ideas are still being considered, Cobb said.

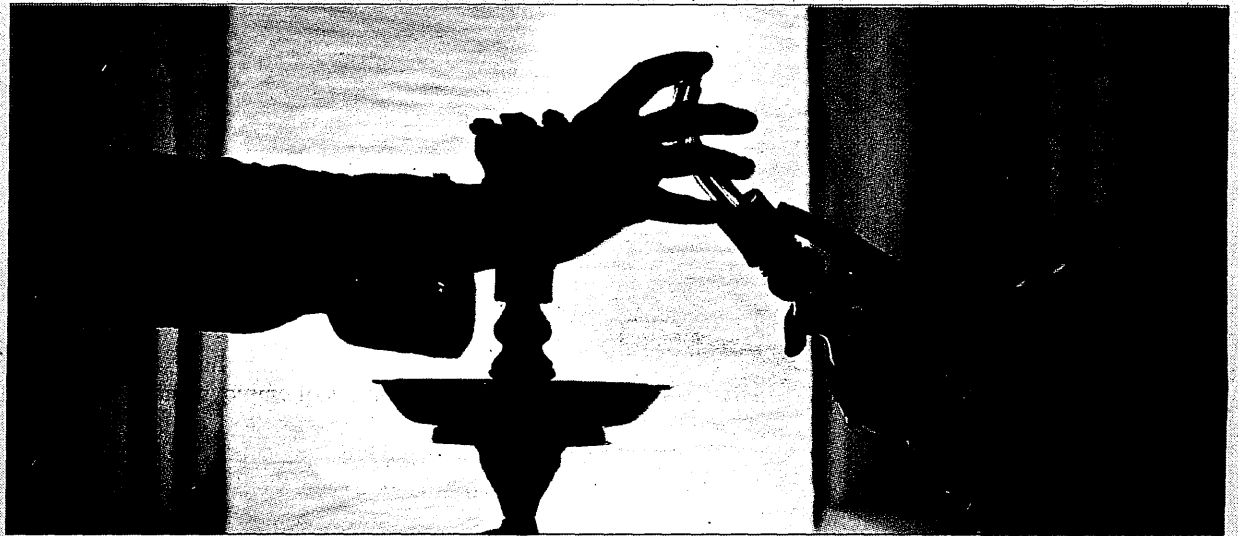
A lot of work was put into creating the right feel for the lounge, Green said.

"We did everything by hand, the lounge is not like any other," he said. "We did the best we could without being cliché."



photos by Mark Malijan THE WESTERN FRONT

Western seniors Kelly Fleming, left, and Christen Marking enjoy an evening of hookah at the Cobra lounge.



employee bags award

Bellingham man wins Washington Food Industry competition

Peter Pearsall
THE WESTERN FRONT

Students shopping at the Sunset Square Cost Cutter can have their groceries packed up by Washington's best bagger, Harvey Unruh.

Unruh placed first in the Best Bagger contest held by the Washington Food Industry Oct. 18, beating out eight other contestants from grocery stores across the state.

Pitted against baggers ranging from 17 to 25 years old, Unruh, 66, prevailed.

Speed is only part of the process, he said. While some of the younger contestants may have been quicker, Unruh said he planned his strategy before grabbing the groceries.

"As the items come down the conveyor belt, I visualize how they'll sit in bags," he said.

Contestants loaded both paper and plastic bags and were judged on their speed, bag building techniques and weight distribution, Unruh said.

Proper bag-building involves placing heavier items on the bottom and building up the sides with non-crushable items, he said.

Once these walls are established, the middle area is filled so the bag can stand on its own. Knowing how

items sit in a bag is crucial for baggers, Unruh said.

"You don't want customers mad at you for crushing the bread," he said.

When an order fills more than one bag, the weight should be distributed almost equally, Unruh said. Being a good judge of an item's weight comes with experience, he said.

So how did the state's best bagger prepare for the competition?

"Harvey's normally kind of shy and quiet, but he was definitely proud of winning."

- Mary Taylor, Western senior and Cost Cutter cashier

"I didn't really train or anything," Unruh said. "I actually didn't know about it until a week before."

Greg Reedman, a Western graduate and Cost Cutter manager, said he received an e-mail from the contest coordinator a week before the event, requesting a contestant. Fellow employees unanimously elected Unruh to compete, Reedman said.

"Everyone thought Harvey should have a shot at it," he said. "Nobody knew what to expect, so we just hoped

he would do well."

After winning the contest, Unruh brought his plaque into the store to show his coworkers, said Mary Taylor, Western senior and Cost Cutter cashier.

"Harvey's normally kind of shy and quiet, but he was definitely proud of winning," she said.

Unruh was born in North Dakota and moved to Kent, Wash. in 1968. After working as a sales representative at Interstate Bakeries for 30 years, he retired and moved to Bellingham in 1994, where for the past nine years he has been a bagger at Cost Cutter.

Chatting with customers and meeting new people are the best parts of the job, Unruh said. Besides bagging, he also assists customers to their cars and corrals stray shopping carts in the parking lot.

The recent contest victory has garnered plenty of attention from Unruh's fans, Reedman said.

"Harvey delivers groceries once a week to the retirement center across the street, and a lot of the elderly customers came in to congratulate him," he said.

In February, Unruh will travel to Las Vegas for the National Best Bagger contest, trying his hand against the top contestants from each state.

"We're all excited for Harvey to compete," Reedman said. "That guy really knows how to pack a bag."

Dancing Underground

NEW FACES, PASTICHE COME TOGETHER TO GET THE DANCE FLOOR MOVING

Megan Harmon
THE WESTERN FRONT

The third floor of the Viking Union will be transformed into an electrifying dance party at 8 p.m. tonight when New Faces and Pastiche visit the Underground Coffeehouse and perform indie dance rock that will leave seats empty and the dance floor full, said New Faces drummer Conor Sisk.

New Faces is a group made up of three high school students from Port Townsend, Wash. who are dedicated to their music, and are comparable to the Strokes and Interpol, said Underground Coffeehouse Coordinator Yuri Tolpin.

"They really impress me," Tolpin said. "The songs they write are extraordinary for their age because they are still in high school."

New Faces are known to play at The Boiler Room and the American Legion in their hometown, but have recently been expanding on their choice of venues, Sisk said.

"We really made a name for ourselves in our school at a show right after a homecoming game," Sisk said. "We funneled as many people as we could from the game into a little bar area in The American Legion, and we played an hour show that turned into a huge dance party."

New Faces latest show allowed them to get away from their hometown, and has given the band much more publicity, Sisk said.

"Our last show was a live radio performance for KEXP at the High Dive in Seattle, which is a 21 and over live music venue," he said.

High Dive's manager Darren Mohr said the venue has broadcast Black Eyes and Neckties, The Lonely H and Common Market on its station and is a supporter of local talent.

"The show at the High Dive was one of our best performances, but it was also the most nerve racking because we were playing through the radio live," said New Faces



photo courtesy of New Faces

New Faces, left to right: Nico Janssen (guitar/vocals), Conor Sisk (drums), Kyle Hove (bass).

bassist Kyle Hove.

Pastiche is a local band that will open the show, and sounds like darker British pop, said Pastiche's guitarist Leif Anders.

"We like having fun with the connection we get with the audience," Anders said. "I also like creating songs and handing them over to a group of people and seeing their reaction."

The performance at the Underground Coffeehouse will be one of Pastiche's first shows. The band will also be playing Dec. 1 at the Old Foundry for a fashion benefit with clothing from Frank James.

New Faces

w/Pastiche

Friday, Nov. 30

Show/8 p.m.

Free

The Underground Coffeehouse

"Let's wait, the time's not right today/ I'm struggling to find my way/ These clouds they drag me down you see/ It's raining but I want spring"

-lyrics from the song "She's like the Snow"
New Faces

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Volleyball team wins first round of nationals

Vikings win 20th-straight, two wins away from national title

Ben Small
 THE WESTERN FRONT

Western's volleyball team is now one win away from playing for the national championship after sweeping Dowling College in the first round of the NCAA Division II National Championship Quarterfinals Thursday in Topeka, Kan.

Western improved its record to 25-4 overall and extended its

winning streak to 20 matches. The Vikings advanced to the semifinals, where they will face tournament-host Washburn University at 4:30 p.m. today.

Western head coach Diane Flick said the Vikings played cohesively and focused throughout the match, despite it being the team's first appearance in the national tournament.

"I was very pleased with

how we played, considering we were under a national spotlight," Flick said. "We played hard from the start."

Western won the first game 30-17. In the second game, Dowling led 27-24 before the Vikings battled back to win 30-28. Western sealed the victory in the third game, winning 30-19. Dowling finished its season with a 39-8 overall record.

Western senior libero Courtney Schneider contributed a match-high 21 digs. This added to her school record of 2,615 career digs and made her the third player in NCAA Division II history to break the 2,600 mark.

To win the national title, Western must win the semifinal match against Washburn and then the final match against the winner of Concordia University and West Texas A&M University.

Washburn defeated the University of Tampa in the first round to advance to the semifinals. Washburn comes into the match with a 38-3 overall record and a 17-0 home record.

Western volleyball

Next match: vs. Washburn Univ. at 4:30 p.m. today in Topeka, Kan.

Western's record: 25-4

Washburn's record: 38-3

Men's basketball team prepares to take on former teammate at home

Ian Wright
 THE WESTERN FRONT

Western's men's basketball team will try to maintain its best season-opening win streak in three years as the Vikings take on Walla Walla University at 6 p.m. Saturday in Carver Gym.

Walla Walla senior forward Brett Weisner, a transfer student who left Western's team after last season, said he is excited to come back and play with his old teammates.

"I know how a lot of these guys play, so this is going to be fun," Weisner said. "It's going to be a tough game for us, but I want to just come out and have an all-around good game."

Weisner is Walla Walla's leading scorer this season, averaging 15.1 points and 4.3 rebounds per game. Last year, Weisner averaged 9.5 points and 2.8 rebounds per game for Western.

The Vikings, 4-1 overall and on a four-game winning streak, will face a Walla Walla team that is 3-5 overall.

Western junior guard Ira Graham said he is optimistic about extending the team's win streak because the players' confidence level is on the rise after defeating Bloomfield College by 41 points Nov. 24.

"Walla Walla is a strong team and they've got some dangerous players," Graham said. "But if we come in playing the way we have been lately, we should have our way."

Walla Walla senior center Ryan Wilson leads the team with an average of seven rebounds per game and averages 14.8 points per game. Walla Walla sophomore forward Gerard Dauphin averages 10.1 points and 5.4 rebounds per game.

Walla Walla head coach Dave Mastin said Western is a difficult team to match up with.

"Western is the most athletic team we will face this year," Mastin said. "They have hard-nosed, smooth, tough players. They clearly have lots of skill in all areas, and their outstanding defense will be a challenge."



Western junior guard Ira Graham leads the team with an average of 20.2 points and 3.8 assists per game this season.

photo by Justin Steyer
 THE WESTERN FRONT

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Gas prices should increase

Pollution tax would encourage U.S. drivers to find cars that guzzle gas and pollute less



Lisa Hust
 COLUMNIST

The other day, I watched my friend pump \$50 of gas into his Chevrolet Blazer. I thought to myself, as much as we pay for gas, we should feel fortunate to pay so little in the United States. Gas prices are too low here.

Though gas prices in Washington are some of the highest in the country, at approximately \$3.23 per gallon, we still pay a lot less than many other countries, according to the Energy Information Administration Web site.

If you think the prices here are bad, try driving a sports utility vehicle or Ford F-150 truck in Britain. This month, gas prices in the United Kingdom topped \$8 per gallon, according to an article on the United Press International Web site. The prices are not just high in Europe – Japan is now paying more than \$5 per gallon, according to a recent article in Japan Today.

Our gas prices remain so low in part because the United States has no pollution tax, which is based on the amount of emissions a car produces. This tax would penalize those people who drive Earth-killing, emission-spewing vehicles and encourage the production of cars

that pollute less. Some countries in Europe enforce a pollution tax, which in turn raises gas prices but also encourages people to find alternative forms of transportation.

In Europe, many people use public transportation, ride a bike or walk to work, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. By becoming less reliant on vehicles, they have become less reliant on foreign oil. This is something Americans should be envious of.

Americans may not be able to stop driving, but they can at least make good choices. We all know the dangers of global warming, and carbon dioxide is a major contributor to the problem. The United States is the leading producer of carbon emissions, according to the Earth Policy Institute Web site,

yet we continue to complain about gas prices. We should pay a pollution tax. We should have to face a tangible consequence for our actions.

Sure, high gas prices penalize drivers that need to drive to get to work or elsewhere, but high gas prices also encourage people who drive gas guzzling vehicles to purchase more fuel efficient cars. The Toyota Prius gets 48 miles per gallon in the city and 45 miles per gallon on the highway compared to the Ford F-150 that gets 12 miles per gallon in the city and 16 miles per gallon on the highway, according to the National Fuel Economy Web site. The Ford F-150 also costs approximately \$20,000 more than a Toyota Prius, according to prices on the Vehix Web site. Not only is it more cost efficient, but the

Toyota Prius is also better for the environment.

We should be fortunate we pay so little for our gasoline. Americans are not being penalized for contributing to the eventual death of our planet that is being propelled by our greed and need for speed.

As a poor college student, I hate watching my paycheck be eaten alive by the gasoline stations – but it is a sacrifice I must make for the luxury that I enjoy. As students, we have the opportunities to make smart choices about getting around Bellingham. Western provides students bus passes, and the Whatcom Transit Authority has increased routes and buses.

The decisions we make now about using public transportation or purchasing low-emission cars will positively impact our future.



Illustration by Caleb Long

Upperclassmen should register first

PE department should not let freshmen and sophomores register before juniors and seniors

FRONTLINE

Opinion of the editorial board

Students with more credits register for classes before those with less credits. This tradition has gone on (with the exception of freshmen Summer Start registration) for many years.

The reasoning is sound – seniors and juniors know what they need to take and do not have as much flexibility in their schedules. Freshmen and sophomores usually have general university requirements they still need to take care of. With full schedules of upper-division classes, juniors and seniors have fewer chances to take a variety of classes from different departments on campus and as they look toward graduating, every single credit counts. They want to take as many credits per quarter as they reasonably can.

The non-major required 100-level physical education classes are only offered to juniors and seniors not in the major during phase two of registration starting winter quarter.

The physical education department provides lower-level, lower-stress classes. The 100-level courses are varied, giving students a chance to try traditional sports such as swimming and volleyball, as well as courses like yoga, pickleball and Scottish country dancing.

Although the courses are varied, some of the physical education classes are only offered one or two times during the quarter. Some juniors and seniors wait until they have enough credits to register early enough to be able to take some of the less-offered classes.

Now, however, they may not be able to. The physical education department is essentially telling juniors and seniors that freshmen and sophomores have more right to take the classes they want. By letting freshmen and sophomores register first, the schedules of juniors and seniors cannot be finalized during their registration time.

An upperclassman may have a choice between two times for a class he or she needs to take, but cannot be sure which they should register for because they do

not know if one of the times for a physical education class they want to take will fill up. During phase two of registration, it is difficult to do an entire overhaul of a schedule to fit around the open physical education class.

It is reasonable, even expected, that physical education majors have more of a right to register for physical education classes. It is unreasonable that a freshman or a sophomore has more of a right to take the classes than a junior or a senior.

The physical education department is the only department that allows students with fewer credits to register before those with more. The reason no other department does this is because it is unreasonable. The physical education department needs to stop being unreasonable and unfair to upperclassmen and allow them to register during their scheduled registration time.

The editorial board is comprised of Editor-in-chief Matt Gagne, Managing Editor Brady Henderson, Opinion Editor Maureen Tinney, Student-at-large Robert Marshall.

VIKING VOICES

Opinions from around campus

compiled by Mary Truman

What would you do on a snow day?



Ryan Millard
 SENIOR

"I would wake all my friends up, grab a football and play football in the snow."



Alex De La Paz
 SENIOR

"I would go to the top of the arboretum and attempt to sled down on a stolen lunch tray."



Chelsea Sadler
 SENIOR

"I would sleep in and then throw snowballs at people from my balcony."



Megan Mullay
 SOPHOMORE

"I'd probably try to make myself study, but would end up playing in the snow at the arboretum."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Plan B should be prescribed by all

I could not agree more with Lisa Hust's Nov. 27 column. The fact that pharmacists can refuse medication simply on moral grounds is unacceptable. No one will argue that Plan B is a perfect solution, but unfortunately it is something that is necessary in many cases. The pharmacist's job is to dispense medication, not to impose moral judgment onto women who are undoubtedly already going through plenty of stress.

When you consider a job, you need to realize that there may be issues you do not agree with, and your choices should be to either let

people make their own decisions or to reject that job, knowing you could not fulfill its duties.

With something like Plan B, every minute can count. Its effectiveness declines the longer you are forced to wait to take it. Fast action is needed in these situations, and a pharmacist actually doing the job could mean the difference between effective prevention and an unwanted pregnancy. I sincerely hope this awful court decision is reversed soon.

Whitney M. Thompson,
Western senior

Scientific moral decisions should be protected

Although Lisa Hust made sure to point out twice how ridiculous it is that pharmacists use their moral judgment in her Nov. 27 column, "Pharmacists should be objective," she must be mindful of the great danger of a scientific community not checked by moral standard.

Perhaps if the scientists who worked on the Manhattan Project had considered the moral basis of their research, there would have been no atomic bomb to drop.

Her claim that "pharmacists should be required to fill all prescriptions, not just ones that fit with their morals" is a dangerous mindset that opens up to all sorts of possibilities.

What Hust should realize to quell her indignation over the morally righteous who seek to judge people is that the decision to

carry a drug is not an assessment of particular people (which would be necessary in order to morally judge someone), but of a situation. If the physicists had stopped working on the Manhattan Project under the premise that they didn't want to create a nuclear weapon for fear it might be used, it is not a matter of judging the commander-in-chief who might use it, but of not contributing to what could be a morally reprehensible situation.

It is not a matter of controlling other people's lives, but of being able to look yourself in the mirror and say, "I did what I thought was right."

We have a moral conscience. Let's use it.

Patrick Sherrard,
Western post-baccalaureate student

Pollster

Are you ready for finals?

- A. I am prepared, no worries
- B. I have my notes-but I need to do more studying
- C. I am going to wait until I get study guides
- D. I am just going to cram the night before
- E. I don't have any finals

Last issue's results

Are you hoping for snow?

8.3%	I don't want a snow day — there is too much to do
12.5%	I would love a day off to play in the snow
12.5%	I hate snow
16.7%	I only like snow the first day
50%	I can't wait for snow

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Most sexual harassment incidents are unreported

► TRAINING from 1

Everyone has a different level of comfort when it comes to being touched, and people need to be aware of how their actions may be perceived, she said.

Although most people may laugh at such jokes or seem to accept the behavior, others may feel offended, she said.

This does not mean people cannot compliment one another or touch someone on the shoulder, Guenter-Schlesinger said. The purpose of the training is not to limit people's freedom of expression, but to help people identify these behaviors and to prevent future cases of sexual harassment, she said.

To make the training more interactive, the class is divided into groups of five or six people and given different scenarios of sexual harassment to read and discuss, Lemus said.

A Western professor, who attended a training session in October and wished to remain anonymous, said she would have liked the training to be less than an hour and a half. It could be shorter if it simply outlined Western's sexual harassment policy, she said.

The class tends to get bogged down with information

and it would be more efficient to just hear the facts, she said.

The professor said most of the scenarios involved obvious and extreme cases of sexual harassment. One such example, she said, was about pin-up photos of women being hung on an employee bulletin board.

"This is a kind of situation that an hour and a half training could save so much heartache for everyone."

- Sue Guenter-Schlesinger,
Western's Equal Opportunity Office
executive director

The professor said she appreciated the discussion the scenarios brought forth, but she would have liked examples involving more subtle behaviors. Those are the cases where people are most often confused as to whether or not sexual harassment has occurred, she said.

The Western professor said she found the session a little inconvenient because she had to come to campus on her day off and employees are not paid for their time.

Some kind of financial compensation or incentive to

attend would be appreciated, she said.

Guenter-Schlesinger said she hopes people will look past some of the inconveniences and understand the benefits of the training.

"We're really sensitive to not wasting people's time, especially the faculty," Guenter-Schlesinger said. "But, this is a kind of situation that an hour and a half training could save so much heartache for everyone."

Guenter-Schlesinger said few serious cases of sexual harassment are reported to the Equal Opportunity Office. Those that are reported can usually be handled through mediation, she said.

The Equal Opportunity Office does not determine the disciplinary action in cases of sexual harassment, Guenter-Schlesinger said.

If a formal complaint is filed, the dean or another person with a high-level of leadership may receive a report of the incident, she said.

Sexual harassment is handled on a case-by-case basis, and discipline can range from a letter in the person's file to a person losing his or her job, she said.

Although the Equal Opportunity Office receives

few serious complaints of sexual harassment, Guenter-Schlesinger said many cases go unreported because victims are afraid to speak out or may feel they brought the harassment on themselves.

People sometimes feel uncomfortable about reporting sexual harassment because some offensive behaviors seem so normalized, said Devlin O'Donnell, coordinator of Crime and Sexual Assault Support Services.

When offensive behavior is accepted as "normal," people feel their complaints are invalid or they will lose respect if they file a report, O'Donnell said.

"The number of complaints is never ever indicative of whether or not the problem is big or small," Guenter-Schlesinger said. "With training, you hope that you're going to help any problem that might exist out there."

No permanent decision has been made as to whether employees will be required to take sexual harassment training more than once, Guenter-Schlesinger said.

Training could take place every three to five years, or updated information could be available on the Internet, she said.

What's happening

with the AS Senate

At the Nov. 27 meeting the Associated Students (AS) Senate discussed:

- » Making a list of all committees on campus, including descriptions and contact information available to all students. The AS Senate also discussed adding senator contact numbers and voter registration information to the list.
- » Counteracting racist writing in the Haggard Hall bathroom and other racist acts occurring on campus.
- » Talking to Whatcom Transit Authority in order to synchronize bus schedules with Amtrak and Greyhound schedules so students are not stranded at the bus station.

Have an issue for the AS Senate to consider?

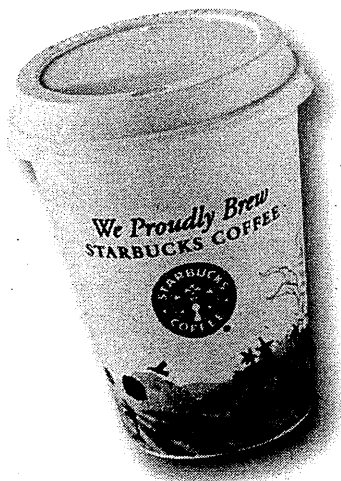
Visit the AS Senate Web site at studentsenate.as.wvu.edu/ or contact Chelsea Fletcher at AS.StudentSenateChair@wvu.edu.

compiled by Ben Jones

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