

The Western Front

New budget = Tuition increase

By Jessica Sparks
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Washington State Legislature's budget for state colleges and universities means higher tuition for Western students next fall, faculty pay raises and lower admission numbers.

How and where Western's budgeted money will be used has yet to be determined, but Western's Board of Trustees hopes to have an allocation plan by August, said Jack Cooley,

executive director of University Planning and Analysis.

The Board of Trustees authorized the maximum increase of 6.7 percent for tuition next year, Cooley said.

In-state, undergraduate tuition is \$2,833 per year, but it will increase \$185 to \$3,018 in the fall, Cooley said.

"These are unofficial numbers until Gov. Gary Locke signs the appropriation bill (which disperses funds), but we don't anticipate any changes in those numbers," Cooley said.

The budget does not fund all faculty pay raises, which leaves Western with some problems to address.

The Legislature mandated a 3.7 percent raise for faculty and staff members for the first year, but the state will only cover 83 percent of the cost, Cooley said. Western will be required to cover the remaining 17 percent in order to meet the legislature's demand.

"This leaves Western in a difficult situation," Cooley said.

Western must come up with

the additional money for faculty pay raises while dealing with the projected increase of utility rates, Cooley said.

According to the Energy Conservation Task Force release, Western's utility rates are projected to take more than \$1 million from Western's operating budget in 2001-2003 school years than 1999-2001.

Cooley said the budget does not provide for the rate increases.

The budget also set aside \$31 million to increase full-time

student enrollment.

Before the new budget, Western was committed to reducing the number of new students to be in-line with faculty and Western's accommodations, because Western over enrolled last year, Director of Admissions Karen Copetas said.

Last year 2,480 freshmen and 981 transfer students were accepted. This fall, the target number for new freshmen is 2,250 and 950 for transfer students.

County seeks lake's mercury source

By Mary Flynn
THE WESTERN FRONT

In an effort to protect Bellingham's drinking water and Lake Whatcom, officials from the City of Bellingham, Whatcom County, and Water District No. 10 are looking for a way to pinpoint the source of mercury in the lake.

"We are looking for a consultant to be looking for potential sources," said Erika Stroebel, resources planner for the Whatcom County Water Resources Division.

Stroebel said the county requested proposals from consultants on how to find the source.

"The request for proposals described the type of work so that the applicants can describe how they will do the research," she said.

Eight contractors have applied, Stroebel said.

"I imagine that we would start the project in two to three months at the earliest; maybe the late summer," said Chris



Sudden Valley resident David Burmham sport fishes three to four times a week in Lake Whatcom near Basin Three, which tested to have the highest levels of mercury. Burmham regularly catches small-mouth bass from the lake.

Chris Goodenow/ The Western Front

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Students receive new e-mail

By Christina Schrum
THE WESTERN FRONT

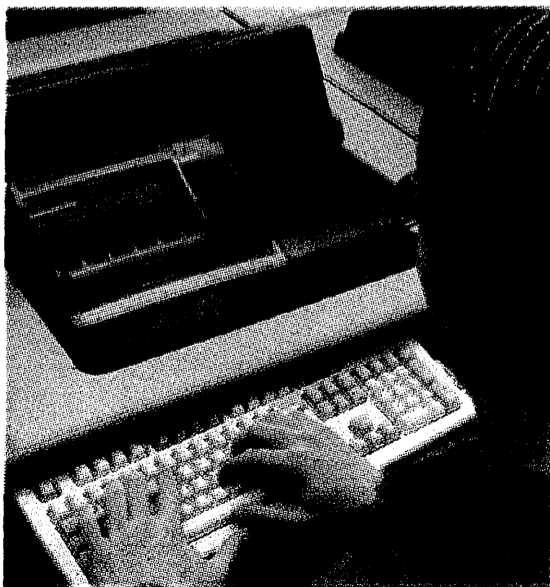
Soon Western students will be able to access their e-mail accounts, get campus news and enjoy other student resources from MyWestern.com.

"MyWestern.com converts information that students need so they don't have to go all over the place for it," said Jerry Boles, vice provost for information and telecommunication services.

The MyWestern.com Web site will serve as a gateway site for checking e-mail, getting and receiving information on student courses and campus events and also links to student accounts, Boles said.

Director of Academic Technology and User Services

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Chris Goodenow/ The Western Front
Western junior Matt Jennings e-mails uses Titan, Western's current e-mail service, which will be replaced by MyWestern.com

2001 utilities up \$1 million

By Bryn Johnson
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western's Energy Task Force has been coming up with new ideas to lower utility costs.

The cost of utilities at Western will exceed the budgeted level by about \$600,000 for the 2000-2001 fiscal year, which ends June 30, said Jack Cooley, executive director for University Planning and Analysis.

The Washington state Legislature has not provided budget increases to match increasing utilities prices, which means Western is not receiving additional state funding for the expected \$1.5 million dollar increase in utility costs over the next two years, Cooley said.

In response to rising costs, Western President Karen Morse appointed an all-campus task force to devise ways of reducing energy use on campus.

Ideas from the 22-member Energy Conservation Task Force have been combined in gram called

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IN THIS ISSUE

Underage Driving?

Greg Woehler explores the benefits of a new law that will influence underage driving.

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Getting dirty at the Outback Farm

Camp counselors at a day camp help children to enjoy the environment while having fun.



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Drought concerns city council

By Joshua Porter
THE WESTERN FRONT

Faced with concerns about a possible water shortage, the Bellingham City Council drafted a plan Monday for protecting the area's water resources.

The Water Shortage Contingency Plan, a supplement to the existing Bellingham Water System Plan, was passed in response to growing concerns about a statewide drought.

Since March 14, when Gov. Gary Locke made his statewide drought declaration, Bellingham has maintained the advisory stage, lowest in the plan's four stages of alert.

"The advisory mode is typically the mode we're in during the summer," said Tony Seman, Bellingham Public Works superintendent of utilities.

At this stage, community awareness about the possible shortage and preparation for practical means of conservation

is the plan's focus. He said if demand for water rises considerably during the summer months, voluntary measures for curbing consumption, such as an even/odd day lawn watering schedule, would be necessary.

"If we have a dry fall, that's usually when we see the lake level drop."

Tony Seman
Bellingham Public Works
superintendent of Utilities

While Lake Whatcom's water level is at target height, the autumn months could make conditions more serious. Lack of rain during the summer and water overuse could precipitate a water shortage, Seman said.

"If we have a dry fall, that's

usually when we see the lake level drop," he said.

Whatcom County Council member Dan McShane said the county government hasn't spent much of its time dealing with a potential water shortage.

McShane, a member of the Natural Resources Committee, said water conservation in the face of a drought wasn't an issue because of encouraging current conditions such as lake volume.

"Its impact on energy is a much larger issue, something we've dealt with," McShane said. "We've cut energy consumption by 30 percent."

The water shortage plan states that out of 36 inches of rainfall that Bellingham receives annually, only five inches accumulate between mid-June and mid-September.

The city provides approximately 73,000 people with water from Lake Whatcom and the Middle Fork of the

Nooksack River.

Lower than normal snowfall in the Cascades and an early snow melt this spring might hamper water replenishment from streams and rivers that feed into the lake. Drawing too much water out of the Nooksack River might also negatively affect the area's fishery resources, something the plan hopes to avoid.

If conditions worsen considerably, the plan outlines a mandatory regulatory stage and an emergency stage.

Mandatory regulations, triggered by a 100 percent increase in demand, would include the shutdown of any "ornamental fountains" that use drinking water, reduction in watering of public parks and baseball fields, and a watering ban on lawns and gardens that have existed for more than 30 days.

At the emergency stage, the plan requires water to be drawn out of the Middle Fork of

the Nooksack River at the city's diversion dam. Wading pools at public parks would be drained and closed, and lawn watering would be completely prohibited.

Developing efficient usage habits for home and small office use is good preparation for a possible shortage, Seman said. Large consumers of water already are aware of the summer's possible strain on resources.

"Generally, the commercial and industrial sectors — metered users — are conscious about their consumption," he said.

Seman said he remains optimistic that the drought will not hurt Whatcom County was expected earlier this year.

Compared to the 1992 drought, the area is in considerably better condition, although that is not necessarily in the case in eastern Washington, Seman said.

County searches for contractors to find source of mercury in Lake Whatcom

From MERCURY, Page 1

Chesson, environmental health supervisor for Whatcom Health and Human Services.

The current budget for the project is \$100,000; however, Chesson said the organizations have not entered into contract negotiations with a consultant yet, the actual cost is uncertain.

Though the project's primary goal is to identify the potential sources of mercury in Lake Whatcom sediments and fish tissues, the contractor would also be responsible for other duties and would be asked to make recommendations for source control once they have identified it.

Signs around Lake Whatcom warn women of child-bearing age and young children not to eat the contaminated fish they

catch there.

"Drinking water is a prime concern with this," Bill McCourt, Operations superintendent for Whatcom County Public Works, said.

"People will think, 'If these fish live in the water we drink, what does that mean about our drinking water?'" McCourt said.

McCourt also said as a water provider, Whatcom County is concerned about deteriorating water quality.

"There have been no measurable quantities (of mercury) in finished drinking water," McCourt said. "There have been measurable quantities in the raw water and the bioaccumulation in the fish."

Presently, none of the agencies know where the mercury is coming from, McCourt said.

"Currently we have not begun any source identification," Chesson said.

"People will think, 'If these fish live in the water we drink, what does that mean about our water?'"

Bill McCourt

Operations Superintendent for
Whatcom County Public Works

Officials do have their theories, Chesson said.

Several potential mercury sources are possible around the lake, he said.

"Landfills such as the Y-road landfills, naturally occurring sediments that could have come

from the volcanic activity of Mount Baker or coal mining activities of the late 1800s or early 1900s could have disrupted some sediments and sent them into the lake," Chesson said.

McCourt said the recently shut-down Georgia-Pacific West, Inc.'s Chloro-Alkalide Plant was a major source of mercury emissions in Whatcom County.

County council member and geologist Dan McShane said he favors the theory of airborne mercury as well. He said he believes the low levels of mercury actually detectable in the lake water indicate an airborne pollutant. He said these mercury levels are common in lakes around the United States.

McShane also said he

believes it would be worthwhile to inspect creeks that feed into the lake to see if they might be where the mercury comes from.

"Blue Canyon Creek discharges into the south end of the lake and there used to be coal mines there," McShane said, adding that he would be surprised if a point source for the mercury was found because of the low levels.

Steve Hood, an environmental engineer for the Department of Ecology, said the mercury could come from a number of sources. He said airborne mercury could come from G-P or people breaking fluorescent lighting tubes.

The mercury also could have come from global sources, as people put a lot of Mercury into the air, Hood said.

The Western Front Online

It's better than eating
mercury-filled
smallmouth bass

westernfrontonline.com

The Western Front is published twice weekly in fall, winter and spring; once a week in summer session. Address: The Western Front, Western Washington University, CH 110, Bellingham, WA 98225-9100. The Western Front is the official newspaper of Western Washington University, published by the Student Publications Council, and is mainly supported by advertising. Opinions and stories in the newspaper have no connection with advertising. News content is determined by student editors. Staff reporters are enrolled in a course in the Department of Journalism, but any student enrolled at Western may offer stories to the editors.

Advertising inquiries should be directed to the business office in College Hall 07, or by phone to (360) 650-3161.

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

WWU Official Announcements

Deadline for announcements in this space is noon Thursday for inclusion in the next Tuesday issue.

Announcements should be limited to 50 words. Announcements may be submitted by e-mail to pubs@cc.wwu.edu. The subject line should contain a brief topic title and clearly state that the item is for official announcements. Items sent by e-mail should be sent separately from submissions to FAST.

Announcements that are typewritten or legibly printed also may be sent through campus mail to "Official Announcements," MS-9117, sent via fax to X/7287, or brought in person to Commissary 113A. DO NOT SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS DIRECTLY TO THE WESTERN FRONT OFFICES. Phoned announcements will not be accepted. All announcements should be signed by originator.

PLEASE POST

THE MATH PLACEMENT TEST will be offered in OM 120 at 9 a.m. June 29, at 3 p.m. Mondays on July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Aug. 6, 13 and 20 and at 9 a.m. Thursdays on July 5, 12, 19, 26 and Aug. 2. During the break between summer and fall quarters, it is offered at 9 a.m. Thursdays on Sept. 6, 13 and 20. Registration is not required. Students must bring photo identification, student number, Social Security number and a No. 2 pencil. A \$10 fee is payable in the exact amount at time of testing. Allow 90 minutes. Sample problems may be found at www.washington.edu/oea/aptp.htm.

THE TEST FOR ENTRANCE INTO TEACHER EDUCATION (TETEP) will be given at 2 p.m. July 17 and Aug. 7 in OM 120. Registration is required in OM 120. A \$25 fee must be paid in exact amount at time of registration. Registration is limited to 16 students; the test is not administered on an individual basis.

THE MILLER ANALOGIES TEST (MAT) will be given at 2 p.m. July 26, Aug. 21 and Sept. 21 in OM 120. Registration is required in OM 120 or by calling 650-3080. A \$35 fee is payable at test time. Registration is limited to 16 students. Allow 1-1/2 hours.

WINTER QUARTER DEGREE APPLICANTS must have a degree application on file in the registrar's office, OM 230, by Aug. 24. Applications are available in OM 230.

INFORMATION REGARDING NATIONAL TESTING is available at the Testing Center, OM 120.

KEEP YOUR WESTERN CARD. Students, faculty and staff are reminded to keep their Western Card for the duration they are affiliated with the University. Once registered for fall quarter, students can go to the Card Office, EH 108, to receive a validation stamp for the 2001-2002 school year.

INFORMATION REGARDING NATIONAL TESTING is available at the Testing Center, OM 120.

Grooving with Guarneri at lunch

By Bryn Johnson
THE WESTERN FRONT

An eclectic mix of cultural beats filled the Viking Union Eatery on Wednesday. Passersby could not help but stop and listen as the sound of an electric violin soaring above jazzy bass, African percussion and electric guitar.

Guarneri Underground quartet played its musical world tour as the first of Western's Noon Concert series. Forced inside by drizzling weather, the group dazzled listeners.

"Come rain or shine we will always try to bring the music to you," band leader Jeffrey Sick said.

Jumping from the beats of Puerto Rico, to a piece that honored one of the band's inspirations, Carlos Santana, the moved its listeners around the world with Bob Marley's song, "I Shot the Sheriff", and a little bit of Celtic magic from beneath the fairy hill.

Sick said his band sounds like "the musical version of the

travel channel."

Meridith Murray, a local businesswoman, read about the group and brought her boyfriend to hear the show.

"I love all kinds of music, especially world music," Murray said.

The couple enjoyed the music so much they took their shoes off, moved some table and began dancing to the eclectic beat.

"Come rain or shine we will always try to bring the music to you said,

Jeffrey Sick
GuarneriBand Leader

Children from the Fairhaven daycare joined the couple and those who stayed in their seats were tapping their feet and clapping with the music.

Both Sick and the band's bass player, Mikel Rollins, ventured into the crowd, kneeling down to entertain the kids, and engaging the small crowd.

Combining an all-star cast of

musicians, the band members each bring a different musical influence. Leading the band's whirlwind tour is Sick's electric violin and flamboyant showmanship.

"Music is all about language and the best way to learn about music is to listen to people who really now how to speak the language," Sick said.

Listening to musicians like Santana and Paul Simon, Sick got the idea for a band that would have the whole world as its stage.

Combining his training on the violin and a love for all kinds of music, Sick formed the band in 1994 with only one other violinist.

The band has grown since then and gone through a lot of changes.

Sick has never held an audition. He found his other band members by talking to people who had a sound he liked.

The band members "found each other like kindred spirits," he said.

Besides organizing the group, Sick also arranges most of the songs, produces its



Photos by Quoc Tran/ The Western Front
Fairhaven daycare kids jam to the eclectic sounds of Jeffrey Sick and the Guarneri Underground Quartet at the first day of six Noon Concert Series this summer.

albums and also plays in six other bands.

Lisa Rosenberg, Western's student activities coordinator organizes the Summer Noon Concert Series.

"I try to pick music that is universally enjoyable," Rosenberg said.

She said she also strives to expose people to different

kinds of music, including the new world beat sounds of the Guarneri Underground Quartet.

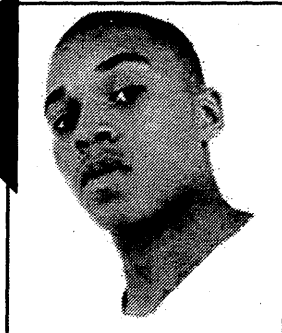
The noon concert series will continue exposing Western students, faculty and community members to a diverse array of music including Celtic ballads, bluegrass and acoustic rock.

Jeffrey Sick plays his violin and watches as some concert goers dance to the Guarneri Underground Quartet

Having trouble getting your GURs? (General University Requirements)

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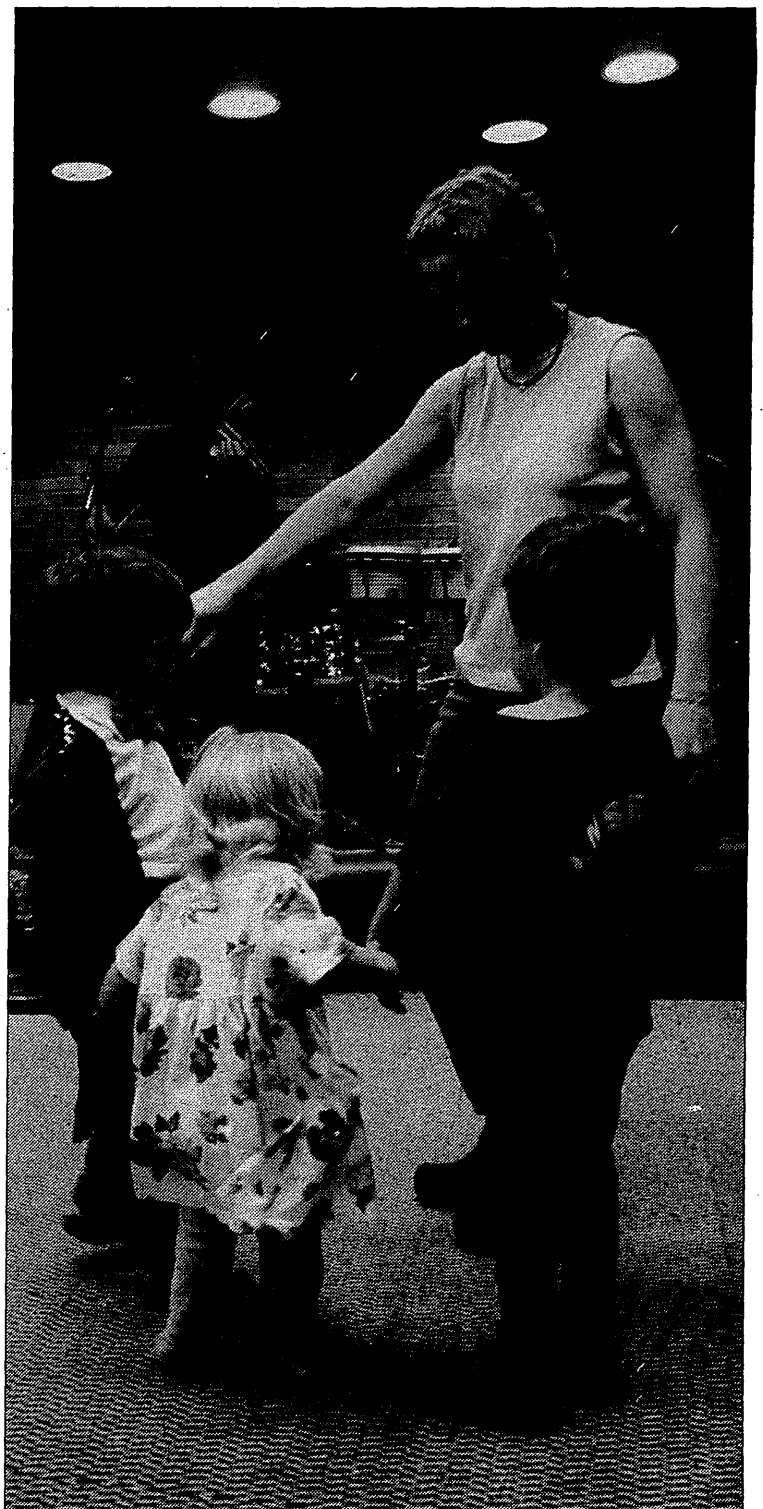
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Experiencing the Outback

By Melisa Jennings
THE WESTERN FRONT

Fresh air, green luscious plants, edible gardens and sounds of nature are all encompassing at the Fairhaven Outback Farm, which is located between Buchanan Towers and Fairhaven College.

The Outback is home to Summer in the Outback – a week-long outdoor environmental education summer camp for children.

The camp is sponsored by the Outdoor Experiential Learning Site and Bellingham Roots and Shoots, which is a non-profit program established by Jane Goodall that focuses on children learning about nature.

Kids from local schools come each day to learn about and interact with nature. The camp is designed to give kids an opportunity to learn to love being outside and love the environment, said Jessa Friesen, Summer in the Outback camp co-director.

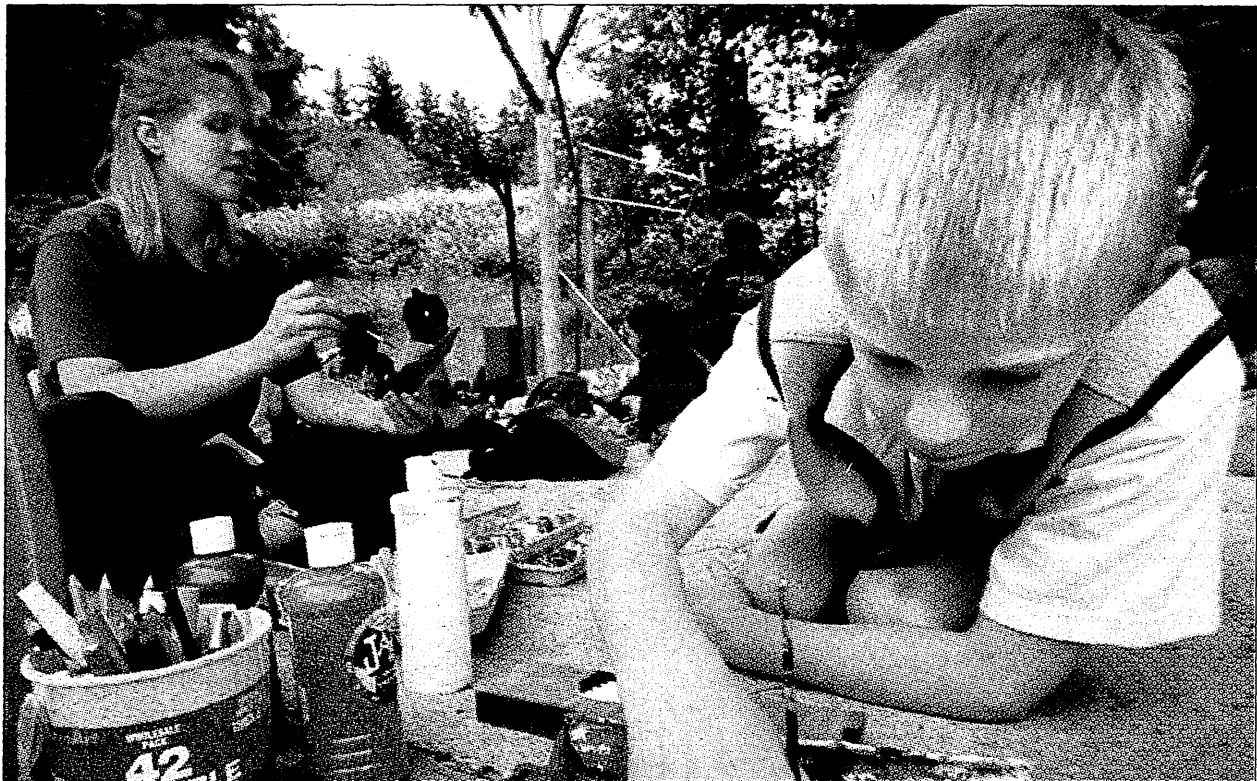
"I want them to connect with nature," Friesen said.

During the camp, the kids are separated into four groups by age. The campers are aged 5 to 13, and each chooses a nature name like Eagle, Star or Cat Litter, Friesen said. Each group has a theme for the week and is assigned a certain area of the Outback, called a quadrant, to cultivate.

Within their quadrants, the campers participate in lessons based on their particular themes about nature. Groups learn about the natural resources within their quadrants and how to take care of them. For example, one group is studying soil while spending time in the garden and learning about what comes from the earth.

"This gives them a sense of ownership," Friesen said.

The groups partake in one field trip each day and engage in various activities like a variety show for their parents, nature hikes and a sleepover at the Outback where they have campfires, night hikes and s'mores.



Photos by Chris Goodnow/The Western Front

Galen O'Moore, 9, dips his paintbrush for his painting of a bald eagle. The camp had many arts and crafts opportunities for the kids.

"There are so many activities we don't get to them all," said Heather Gosnell, a camp counselor and Fairhaven student. "There's so much to do here."

With the garden, performing stage, tree forts and natural arts and activities, the kids love to be in the Outback, Friesen said.

The directors chose not to apply too much structure or pressure on the campers to learn, but decided to allow the kids to be free in nature, Friesen said.

"It just feels so good to see the kids having a good time," said Kristy Clark, Summer in the Outback co-director. "It's too bad adults don't get to play more."

Clark said Summer in the Outback is about enjoying the outdoors and creating a connection with nature.

"I want them to make a connection with the natural world and have a positive experience in the outdoors," Clark said.

"(The counselors) make it fun while you're learning, and you don't even know you're learning," said Shayla Jillson-Lucas, a camper.

Clark said she wants the kids to feel like they belong in nature and not feel separated from it.

Along with environmental education the counselors also teach the kids about respect and communication, Clark said.

"There's a loss of play and loss of connection with the outdoors and the Outback creates an opportunity for kids who might not have access to the outdoors," Clark said.

Friesen and Clark teach a five-credit 300-level course at Fairhaven College that students who want to become counselors for the camp need to take.

This is the first year that student counselors have earned credit for the course, Friesen said.

This the third year of the Summer in the Outback it has been the most successful, Friesen said.

The camp has eight group leaders, two directors and 45 campers.

The students met twice a week for listening to environmental education readings, practicing camp activi-

ties and participating in Roots and Shoots club meetings, Friesen said.

As camp counselors, the students were responsible for creating their entire curriculum for the week, organizing activities and purchasing supplies for camp.

"We want the students to have a full experience," Friesen said.

The student counselors turn to the directors for advice on how to work with the campers. They meet every morning before camp to discuss the previous day and what improvements can be made as a group and individually, Friesen said.

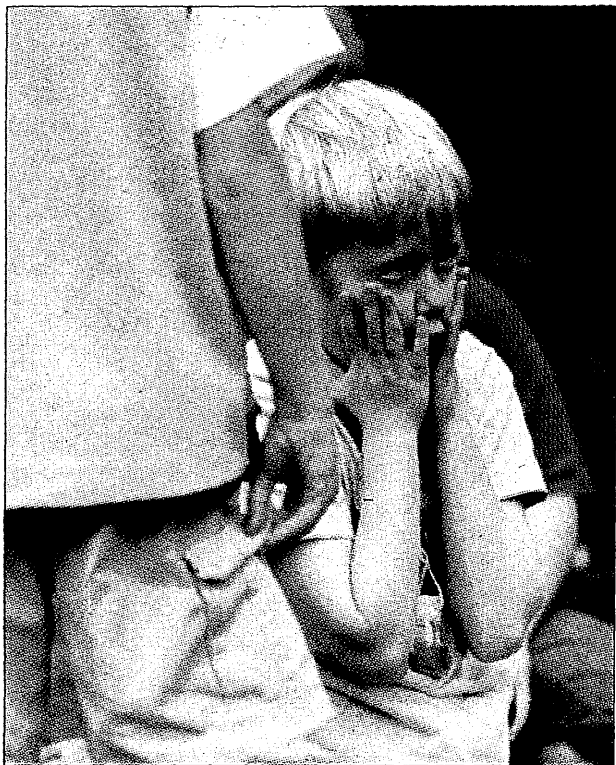
This year the camp was able provide scholarships to 10 campers with the assistance of monetary donations from Fairhaven College and organic food donations from the Community Food Co-Op in Bellingham.

"My goal is to never turn anyone away," Friesen said.

Clark said the campers could come to the Outback anytime.

Summer in the Outback began June 25 and ends June 29. The camp runs daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The camp is open to all children and costs \$70 for the week.

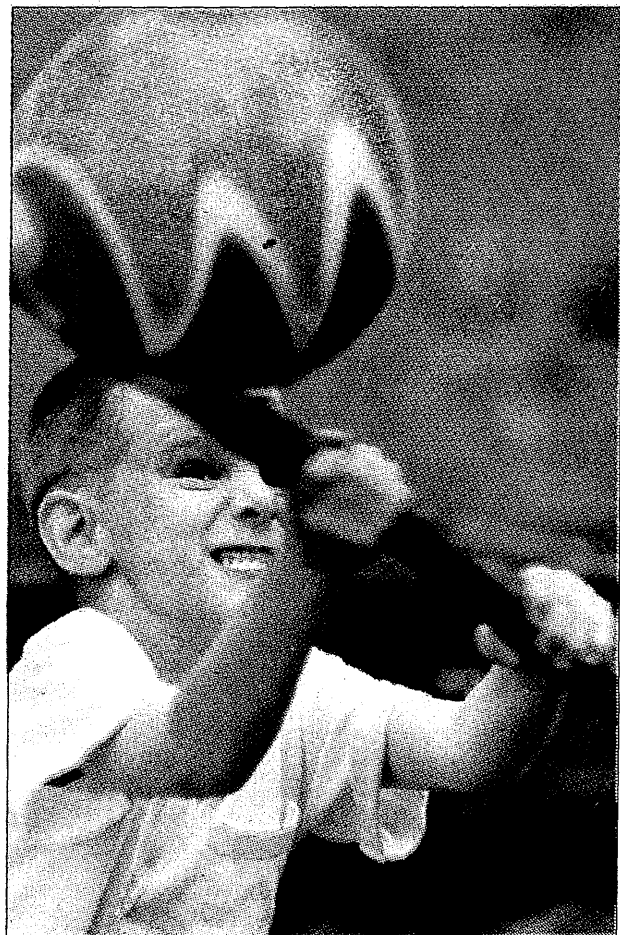
Created in the 1970s by Fairhaven students as a place for gardening.



Evan Mathews stretches his face in frustration while playing a game



Right: Nikolas Kelly, 6, grimaces as he hits a ball at the Fairhaven Outback camp Tuesday. Left: Juan Campos, 12, and Tyler Tse, 11, take a seat during lunch.



Western's high school football camp starts

Head Coach Rob Smith teaches players about teamwork

By Teresa Moreau
THE WESTERN FRONT

A loud roar emanated from Carver Gymnasium Wednesday as 800 high school football players from California to Alaska attended Western's football camp to become better players.

Before campers took the field, the head coach of Western's football team, Rob Smith hyped them up.

When Smith commanded a hit, campers were to crouch to their best defensive position until he said to relax. And that is what they did.

When the helmets colored red, white and blue took over the football field they were split into varsity and junior varsity teams. The teams will play a variety of seven-on-seven or eleven-on-eleven games.

Justin Odom, viking tight end and his teammates instructed the campers on their respective positions. Odom, a transfer student from Idaho State, attended Western's camp the summer before his High school senior year.

"The camp helps players get better and get along as a team," Odom said.

Another player returning to camp is Juneau High School Senior Eric Tollefson who is an offense receiver and a strong safety. This is his third year traveling from Juneau, Alaska for camp.

Tollefson said that he has

learned better reads. He said he enjoys camp because it's not about individual talent. "It is all about team effort," Tollefson said.

His coach Ray Bradley said camp is a worthwhile because it gives players jump-start on the season. He said he would have brought more players if he could.

"It is a great program," Viking tight end, Adam Snel said.

Snel has been playing for Western for three years. "The football camp has grown from 60 to 800 players in the past 12 years," Smith said.

Smith lettered for three years at the University of Washington and played in the 1978 Rose bowl. He came to Western after spending five years as top assistant at Renton High School. Now, Smith is in his 12th year of coaching at Western and has been named one Western's Coaches of the century.

Smith has lead the Vikings to .500 or better seasons for the past nine years. And his commands for the first day of camp were heard.

All day long campers drilled, took hits and kept their heads up.

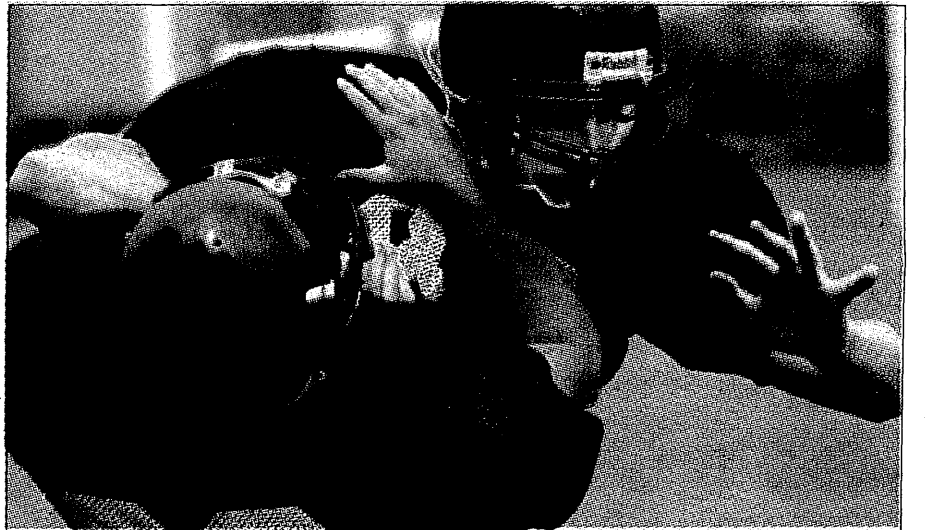
Then at 9 p.m. seniors ran their sprints and got their heights and weights checked.

They returned to their dorms in Fairhaven or Ridgeway for lights out at 10:30, when they could finally relax.



(Top) Lango Faifai and Brian Anderson and (bottom) Stephen Long and John McDonald, all from Hudson's Bay High School in Vancouver, Wash. participate in drills at Western's high school football-camp on south campus, Wednesday.

Photos by Chris Goodenow/ The Western Front



Campus recreation activities will continue through summer quarter

By Cheryl Baptista

THE WESTERN FRONT

Summer quarter has begun, barely anyone is around, the campus is dead.

However, this summer the Campus Recreation Center is offering many activities and classes that are both physically challenging and entertaining.

The Campus Recreation Center in Carver Gym is offering intramural leagues, non-credit classes, tournaments and open recreation use of campus facilities, secretary supervisor Katie Stiles said. Campus Recreation is responsible for running Carver Gym, non-varsity team sport clubs and the handling of gym reservations.

Stiles said, "the activities get people together to meet new people." The summer intramural leagues include softball on Tuesday and Thursday nights, and soccer on Mondays and Wednesdays. Western students may sign up as teams or the Office of Campus Recreation can assign them to a team.

Non-credit step aerobics, yoga, and Thai kickboxing classes start this week. The classes cost between \$20 and \$25 and are two or three days a week.

Campus Recreation will host a variety of tournaments this summer. The golf tournament will be on July 20, croquet on July 19 and 2-on-2 outdoor volleyball will be July 16 and 18.

Open recreation is also available this summer for tennis, racquetball, table tennis and basketball. The open recreation hours of availability and location depends on the activity. Open recreation is for all students, faculty and staff members and allows people to use the campus facilities during designated times.

"Anyone can come, everyone is invited," Stiles said.

Although there are fewer students during the summer, a greater percentage of those students participate in Campus Recreation activities, especially open recreation.

During the summer people become more active and make use of the gym, Western senior and intramural supervisor Lauren Fode said.

Sign-ups for all activities and additional information is available at the Office of Campus Recreation at Carver Gym 101, which can also be reached by phone at 650-3677.

WWU GURs Available from Independent Learning

Communications Block B: French 103 (5)

Humanities: Classical Studies 260 (4); English 216 (5), 281 (5), 282 (5) and 283 (5); History 103 (4), 104 (4) and 112 (4); Liberal Studies 232 (4), Music 104 (3)

Social Sciences: Anthropology 201 (5); Canadian-American Studies 200 (5); Economics 206 (4), 207 (4); Linguistics 204 (4); Psychology 201 (5); Sociology 302 (5)

Comparative, Gender and Multicultural Studies: Anthropology 353 (4); East Asian 201 (5) and 202 (5); English 338 (5); History 280 (5); Women Studies 211 (4)

Mathematics: Math 102 (5), 107 (3), 124(5), 156 (4), 157 (4), and 240 (3)

Natural Sciences B: Environmental Studies 101 (3)

See *WWU Bulletin* for explanation of GURs.

To preview a course outline, call or stop by
Western Extension Programs
800 E. Chestnut ♦ 650-3650

WESTERN
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Frontline

Summer parking fees utterly ridiculous

Summer session has begun. Empty dorms and a few students roaming Red Square mark summer at Western. But one thing is the same as the rest of the year — students still need to buy parking passes.

There is never a break for students when it comes to parking. When one drives to campus he or she can see plenty of unused spaces in the C parking lot and campus residence lots. The campus residence lots stay primarily unused during the summer. Instead of parking in these empty lots students are forced to either take an inconvenient bus or become parking vultures and scout for a free parking spot outlying the campus.

To purchase parking permits, however, is absurd during the summer. Parking rates are only discounted \$10-20 from a regular quarter for a nine-week summer session.

The cheapest parking lot is 16CR, which sits next to 21st Street. One should note that it would still be a hike to campus.

Parking rates during a regular quarter help encourage students to find other modes of transportation. During the summer, however, Whatcom Transportation Authority buses run less frequently to campus. So, hopping a bus to campus becomes more difficult.

Another reason to have high parking rates is to create competition for the spaces. In the summer, fewer students are enrolled according to estimates the Registrar's office gets.

During the summer last year, 3,005 students attended Western. This summer it is projected to be the same.

Western has plenty of space for students to park. Out of 24 parking lots, students are allowed to purchase permits for only four of those

The only detriment of student parking for free on campus is that people may lose their jobs. The Parking and Transportation Department is self sustaining and uses the money generated from permits to improve parking lots and pay salaries of Parking and Transportation management.

If one actually drives in these parking lots they would notice and feel that these lots are riddled with potholes. Potholes that seem to be there for several quarters and never filled. So, if Parking and Transportation Services are unwilling to fix the problems, maybe employees should take a summer vacation.

According to parking policy, most faculty and student parking lots are opened to the public to park for free after 5 p.m. The reasoning is that there are fewer people on campus at that time, thus lots are bare.

Summer is the 5 p.m. of a regular quarter. Hardly any students are on campus.

To pay for summer parking is ridiculous, utterly ridiculous.

Frontlines are the opinion of The Western Front editorial board: Heather Baker, Brendan Manning, Levi Pulkkinen, Laura Thoren and Brendan Shriane.

The Western Front

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And we quote:

'I think it's the best piece of legislation to come from the dim-witted legislators in a long time.'

-Rollo Van Styke, Bellingham insurance agent on the new teen drivers law



Safety first, cell phones second



Taber Streur

COMMENTARY

All too often, our minds are clouded by the distractions of daily life while we drive. The focus of driving becomes second to figuring out if we are going to ask that new girl in class out or not.

We rock out to new music like Linkin Park that gets our adrenaline rushing and makes us scream as we drive down Bill McDonald Parkway with the other college students. It seems that the last thing we need in a car is another distraction.

Cellular phones have been coming under fire recently because they are said to be distracting to use while driving. On June 25, the New York State Senate set a precedent by banning hand-held cellular

phones while driving by a vote of 125-19. A recent poll by Quinnipiac University showed that 87 percent of New York voters supported the idea. The law will be backed by a \$100 fine starting in November.

“It seems that the last thing we need in a car is another distraction.”

The New York Ban is a practical safeguard that should be followed by other states.

In the current state of technology, with voice-activated dialing and hands-free headsets, the problem of being distracted while driving is easily solved.

The New York ban allows for these earpieces, but forbids driver to actually hold the phones while driving.

“The banning of cellular phones would lead to far fewer

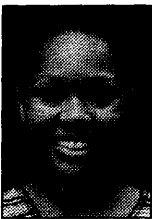
accidents on the road,” Western senior Heather Bartek said. “People could and need to pay more attention to their driving skills rather than their communication skills while driving.”

Bartek, like so many other Western students, said she finds cellular phones easy to obtain, cheap to use and too convenient not to have with her at all times.

All of us have seen the effects that cellular phones have on a person's concentration, and how some of us don't need any more distractions from driving. The time may come when people will laugh that we actually had to have a hand-held device. Until that time, however, all states should implement similar bans.

This hand-held cellular phone ban would make for less dangerous drivers on the road, which means more lives saved and more girls and guys at the bars and in classes for us all to worry about asking out.

How will you spend your tax refund?



Tamara Harvey

COMMENTARY

President Bush has found the ultimate way to gain the affection and political allegiance of America's taxpayers — tax rebate checks.

Everyone who paid taxes this year will receive a check. The Internal Revenue Service will send out letters telling the amount of your check and when you can expect to receive it. Checks will be mailed according to the last two numbers of your social security number.

Single taxpayers will receive as much as \$300, single parents who head the household as

“(O)ur government did not create a plan to use the money in a way that would improve the shortfalls of our country’

much as \$500 and married couples as much as \$600.

Supposedly, this is just the beginning of a \$1.35 trillion tax-cut plan that Bush wants to enact over the next ten years — assuming he stays in office.

No one can deny the happiness felt as we all anxiously wait to receive our checks by mail. I will be faithfully checking my mailbox as my arrival date nears. Nothing is better than old, hard cash to spend at will.

What is depressing is that our government did not create a plan to use the money in a way

that would improve some of the shortfalls of our country.

Schools, homeless shelters and medical facilities could benefit from additional funds intended for technology or research.

Is a little pocket change more important to us Americans?

Though some frown at the fact that, like most of Bush's plans, the wealthy benefit most from the tax refund, people will be smiling when it is their turn to cash in.

We have two options when our checks arrive: We can spend them wisely or consider them a late “birthday present” from the government.

One must decide whether to spend the check on rent and bills, or a sparkling glitter belt to spice up a dull wardrobe.

Underage drivers are protected by new Law



Greg Woehler

COMMENTARY

The faces of people waiting at the Department of Licensing office in Bellingham on Wednesday looked as gloomy as the weather outside.

Most of the seats were taken and about 15 people stood at the back of the room, rolling their eyes and shuffling their feet, waiting for their numbers to be called.

DOL offices around the state are seeing a sharp increase in the number of applicants for driver's licenses as teens try to avoid new restrictions that will begin July 1st. The laws aim to make Washington's roads safer by limiting when drivers under 18 may drive and dictating who may ride with them.

The laws are unfair and heavy-handed; they punish good drivers as well as bad simply based on their age.

They are also completely necessary and justified.

Driving is a privilege, not a right.

With the possible exceptions of guns and football, nothing is closer to the average American's heart than driving. Manifest Destiny is woven permanently into our DNA; deep down, we all want to be Richard Petty or Mario Andretti.

We yearn to expand, explore and travel. We look at driving as a divine gift passed down from on high when we turn 16.

But Washington roads are getting crowded and, inevitably, as the population grows, privileges must be sacrificed.

Statistics clearly show that teens are the most accident-prone group of motorists. They have more than twice as many fatal car accidents as all other

age groups combined.

"For decades, auto fatalities have been the number one killer for 15 to 20-year-olds," said Rollo Van Slyke, a Farmer's Insurance Group agent in Bellingham.

According to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration statistics, 520,000 teens were injured in car accidents in 1999 and 4,900 teens were killed.

"That's an average of 13 deaths every day," Van Slyke said.

One of the new rules says new drivers may not be on the road between 1 and 5 a.m. without someone 25 or older in the car.

Another rule states that drivers between 16 and 18 may not have any passengers under the age of 20 in the car unless they are immediate family members.

If drivers under 18 get two moving violations, their license will be revoked for six months.

"It's totally unfair," 16-year-old Jeremy Bonner said as he

waited at the DOL to take his driving test. He scheduled his test weeks ago to make sure he beat the deadline. "I haven't even gotten my license yet, and they want to punish me for something I didn't even do.

Sorry, kid, life ain't always fair.

"I'm a good driver," Bonner said, emphatically. "I get good grades, I don't do stupid stuff. I'm not gonna turn into an idiot just because I have my friends in the car."

Van Slyke said he was well aware of this claim among teenagers.

"They'll say it makes no difference who they have in the car," he said. "But I can show you time and time again, teens get in cars with friends and it's an accident waiting to happen."

Washington is hardly alone in buckling down on teen drivers. In fact, they're late getting on the bandwagon. Thirty-two states have already passed similar laws and 12 more are con-

sidering them.

Van Slyke said there has been a 60 percent drop in teen driving fatalities in states that already have the laws.

Besides making roads safer, the laws may have a slightly positive effect on the check-books of Washington drivers.

He said the new laws aren't likely to lower insurance premiums for older drivers, but rates might not increase as quickly.

"There's no way for insurance companies to charge teen drivers their fair share," Van Slyke said. "It would cost too much. We all subsidize teen drivers."

When asked what he'd say to teens who may think the state is picking on them, he said, "The new laws are either gonna save your life or one of your close friends. Are we picking on them? No. The legislators are trying to save lives.

"I think it's the best piece of legislation to come from the dim-wit legislators in a long time," Van Slyke said.

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Write us and let us know.

Submit a letter to the editor no more than 250 words to:

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ECTF educates about reduction

From 2001 UTILITIES, Page 1

Watt Watchers.

The ECTF released a memo to the Western community May 29, stressing the importance of reducing energy and meeting Gov. Gary Locke's 10 percent reduction in energy consumption at each state-run agency.

According to the memo, utilities will cost Western \$1 million more during 2001-2003 than they did during 1999-2001.

The first step toward meeting the 10 percent reduction, according to the committee, is voluntary reduction. Employees and students were asked to turn off lights, shut down computers and unplug unused electronic equipment, especially during the peak hours between 8-10 a.m. and 4-8 p.m.

Along with education on voluntary reduction, Western started making short-term operational changes such as not lighting sculptures at night and reducing heat in each building by two

degrees.

The second step will be making major operational changes that would affect building uses and scheduling. One proposed idea is extending Thanksgiving break to a week.

"I think there were other, better ways of saving energy than shutting down for a week," Western graduate Megan Herink said. "I am paying for my education and I

want to get all of the hours and time with teachers."

The final step in reducing energy use will be facility modifications.

Although it is an important step in conservation, the facility projects will take funding that is not currently available.

"Quick fixes have been done in the past," ECTF Chairman Bill Managan said. "Now it is going to take renovations which cost cash," he added.

'Quick fixes have been done in the past; now it's going to take renovations which cost cash'

Bill Managan
ECTF Chairman



Sonja Rose/ The Western Front

Western Student Blythe Bodman changes a burnt-out light bulb in her apartment. 60-watt light bulbs are recommended to reduce energy costs.

MyWestern.com opens this fall

From MYWESTERN, Page 1

Larry Gilbert said the goal of the MyWestern.com Web site is to integrate information pertinent to Western students.

Students will use their universal user name to log into the Web site and from there will be able to check e-mail from this site and others, such as Hotmail and America Online, Gilbert said.

Students may also personalize the types of mail they receive and create their own accounts.

Another useful feature for Western students will be links to their courses and to course bulletin boards set up by instructors. Faculty will also be able to send course lists to their

e-mail accounts.

Students will also receive individualized messages pertaining to their major, including course changes and deadlines for applications.

The site will not have advertisers.

MyWestern.com has gone through test runs with help from Western students, said Laurie Jewett, a part-time consultant working with the Web site.

The response has been very positive, she said, especially with the new e-mail system.

The new version of the Web site will be available for new students at SummerStart in August and open to all students fall quarter.

The Western Front Online

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westernfrontonline.com

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Passes are non-transferable. No discounts for multiple quarter purchase.

*Routes 90, 95, 96, 97 run on WEEKDAYS ONLY during WWU's academic quarter. Campus Express (Route 90) runs through June 14, 2001. Bus pass or cash fare required to board.



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