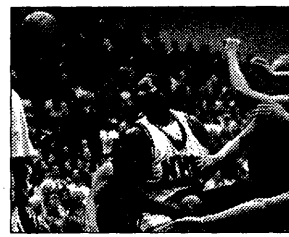




Fat Tuesday fun
Mardi Gras celebrations abound
in Bellingham.
See Story, Page 8.

Seniors stifle Central
Palm's 20 rebounds lead Vikings to
four-point victory against Central.
See Story, Page 10.



FRIDAY, March 7, 2003

The Western Front

Western Washington University

Volume 124 Issue 15

Bellingham, Washington

Polarized views flood Red Square



By Shauna Bakkensen
THE WESTERN FRONT

Students heatedly debated the United States conflict with Iraq as campus groups presented information in Red Square on Wednesday about the pending war.

Western's Anti-War Movement and the Peace Resource Center planned the event in conjunction with a worldwide "Books Not Bombs" student strike against an Iraq war.

The National Youth and Student Peace Coalition, an organization of 15 student and youth organizations, arranged the student demonstration.

"We wanted to do a solidarity action as a part of a national day of protest," said Nate Johnson, Peace Resource Center coordinator.

The previous day, the College Republicans passed out red-white-and-blue ribbons and buttons in support of U.S. troops.

"The ribbons are just a way of showing support," College Republicans President Mike Swanson said. "It doesn't mean that you're pro-war for wearing it. It just means that in this time of international crisis, we stand with the U.S., President Bush and the brave men and

women protecting our freedom."

The group handed out 145 ribbons and 50 flags.

Sixty-seven people participated by providing postcards for students to write letters to troops in the Middle East.

Carl Shook, president of Western's Anti-War Movement, said he wanted various campus groups to express their opinions about war.

"We need different opinions, and we need to challenge people's fears," he said. "It is an essential part of being a democracy."

Frequent and vigorous debate can challenge people's thinking, Shook said.

Action Now!, a group that presents community discussions on topics ranging from health to economics, provided information about a sustainable community and world.

Action Now! volunteer Ben Soklow said the democratic system is failing.

"We need to have a truly democratic system," he said. "If the media did its job, there would be a revolution tomorrow, and war with Iraq would be a non-issue."

Economics is at the heart of the United States' actions against other countries, he said.

Johnson said the media are

See STRIKE, Page 6



Peter Louras/The Western Front

Working side by side, Western senior and Marine Corps reserve Pete Tunis (left) watches Western senior and president of Western's Anti-War Movement Carl Shook (right) combat the gusty winds during Wednesday's war strike in Red Square.

Anti-terrorism laws provoke privacy fears



By Valerie Bauman
THE WESTERN FRONT

With the publicity given to the Bush administration's new Domestic Security Enhancement Act, citizens are concerned about the side effects anti-terrorist legislation may have, said Jordan Gross, an attorney and community speaker for the American Civil Liberties Union.

The most talked-about aspects of the legislation are privacy and civil rights issues, Gross said.

"It's an issue of awareness and level of information," Gross said. "The more informed people are about this, the more concerned they are."

Since Sept. 11, the federal government proposed several measures to ensure the country's safety including the USA Patriot Act, the Homeland Security Act, Total Information Awareness Act and the Terrorism Information and Prevention Act.

TIPS encountered so much public resistance that Congress did not pass it, Gross said. TIA is stalled and may not pass

See TERRORISM, Page 6

Level III sex offender at 1000 Indian St. dies

By Joe Mack
THE WESTERN FRONT

Level III sex offender Colet K. Brewer, 46, was found dead of an unknown cause Monday night at his 1000 Indian St. home, Bellingham Police Lt. Craig Ambrose said.

"As far as we could tell, there were no signs of foul play," Ambrose said. "Right now we're considering it a standard death investigation."

Western freshman Kye Beaton reported the death to police after an unknown woman approached him and asked him to alert the authorities. Beaton said he and three acquaintances were skateboarding on Indian Street to a friend's house off E. Maple Street.

"I had fallen down (off the skateboard) when I was approached by a lady who told me to call the cops because there was a body at 1000 Indian Street," Beaton said. "I didn't know whether or not to

take her seriously, but you have to in that situation."

The Bellingham Police Department responded to the call at 11:30 p.m. and pronounced Brewer dead on arrival. The cause of death is uncertain at this time, and the police are awaiting the results of the autopsy from medical examiner Dr. Gary Goldfogel, Ambrose said.

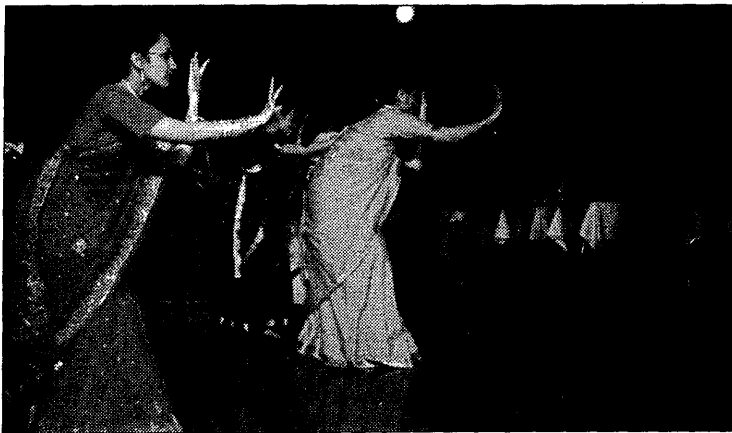
Ambrose said he did not know when the autopsy would be complete.

Brewer was moved into the house near

campus Oct. 21 last year after his release. He was most recently convicted of second-degree assault with a deadly weapon and unlawful imprisonment.

Western junior Pedro Hernandez lives at 1004 Indian St. — two houses down from Brewer's former house. He said he did not see anything out of the ordinary before he went to sleep at approximately 10:30 p.m.

"There was nothing really going on — no loud noises or anything," Hernandez said.



Helen Hollister/The Western Front

Dance group India Mystica dazzles the Women of Color Empowerment Dinner crowd Thursday night.

Empowerment dinner recognizes career success of minority women

By Andy Aley
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Women of Color Empowerment Dinner on Thursday night celebrated the professional and cultural accomplishments of prominent women in the community while providing encouragement for minority students at Western.

"Live it up, explore, have fun," said Tanya Kim, youth program manager at the International District Housing Alliance in Seattle, speaking at the dinner. "Be honest with

yourself. Know what your boundaries are, and explore."

The event, along with others taking place at Western during Women of Color week, recognized women who have been successful in their careers while maintaining their cultural heritage, said Erin Starkey, Western junior and intern at the Office of Student Life.

Sonia Arevalo-Hayes, senior assistant director at the Office of Student Life, founded the event five years ago. She said one of her goals

See DINNER, Page 6

COPS BOX

University Police

March 5, 10:22 p.m.: UP found an ATM card in Red Square.

March 5, 2:20 p.m.: UP responded to a report of an alarm activated by students in Bond Hall. Officers decided the area was secure.

March 5, 2:15 p.m.: UP responded to the Ridgeway Commons Dining Hall after burned popcorn activated a fire alarm. Officers found no damage to the building.

March 5, 7:09 a.m.: UP responded to a report of a burglary in the Art Annex. A staff member arrived to find the office door pried open.

Bellingham Police

March 5, 3:28 p.m.: Officers arrested a youth for possession of less than 40 grams of marijuana in the 1600 block of Meridian Street and booked the youth into juvenile detention.

March 5, 2:10 a.m.: Officers with the K-9 unit assisted U.S. Border Patrol in searching for drug smugglers in the Blaine area.

March 4, 9:35 a.m.: Officers responded to a call from a drunken man in the 100 block of Telegraph Road asking the police to take him to Detox.

March 3, 5:10 p.m.: Officers responded to a report of a stolen license plate in the 3100 block of Adams Avenue.

Compiled by Shauna Bakkensen.

Viking Voices

Do you think campus prices should be the same as retail prices for food sold in community stores?

Compiled by Krystal Ann Miller.



Josh Sidell
Undecided, junior

'No, they should be cheaper. Why does Western need to make extra money when we already pay them for our education?'



Zaneta Wright
Theater Arts, junior

'If they are going to charge us more, the community has a right to know where the money is going.'



Kris Bailey
International Business, senior

'Definitely. They are a business just like everyone else.'

Online Poll Results: 46.7 percent of voters said yes. 46.7 percent said no. 6.6 percent had no opinion.

www.westernfrontonline.com

AP WIRE NEWS BRIEFS

STATE NEWS

Representative retracts anti-Islam comments

Washington state Rep. Lois McMahan, R-Gig Harbor, apologized Wednesday on the floor of the House of Representatives for remarks she made after a Muslim religious leader gave the morning prayer on Monday.

McMahan said she refused to listen to the prayer because it was an "issue of patriotism." She said she did not want to participate because she associates Islam with anti-American sentiment.

A national Muslim group criticized McMahan for her remarks, and state Republican leaders said her comments do not reflect the party's views.

Police arrest anti-war protesters at air force base

Spokane police arrested 10 anti-war protesters who blocked the entrance to Fairchild Air Force Base on Thursday morning.

Spokane County Sheriff's spokesman Cpl. Dave Reagan said traffic was blocked for 15 minutes because of the demonstration that began at 7 a.m.

One of the demonstrators, Rusty Nelson, said the protest was planned to call attention to the Bush administration's plans to go to war in Iraq.

NATIONAL NEWS

Study finds Bush's decisions increased energy rates

Senate Democrats insist President Bush bears some of the blame for soaring energy prices.

They prepared a study finding Bush's decisions after Sept. 11 led to a boost in the federal emergency oil stockpile, a decline in commercial oil stocks and resulted in soaring energy prices.

Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham defended the decision to fill the reserve for national security reasons. He said the amount that was diverted was so small it could not have had an

impact on energy prices.

Court will not charge mother for leaving kids home alone

Prosecutors in Greeley, Colo. will not file charges against a mother accused of leaving her six children home alone while she took a 17-day vacation, prosecutors said Thursday.

District Attorney Al Dominguez said he did not have enough evidence to charge Jennifer Ferrell, 33, with child abuse.

Police said Ferrell left Feb. 3 for Italy with her boyfriend. The next day, an anonymous caller alerted police that her children were home alone, prompting an investigation.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Israel suffers first bombing in two months

A suicide bombing in Haifa, Israel on Wednesday killed at least 15 people and injured dozens more.

The bombing was the first suicide bombing in a two-month period in Israel. No group has claimed responsibility for the bombing yet.

Palestinian Cabinet Minister Saeb Erekat condemned the attack but added "We reject the Israel government finger-pointing that the Palestinian authority is responsible."

Iraq leaders downplay orders to disarm

Saddam Hussein dismissed the United Nations order to destroy his Al Samoud Two missiles as a ploy to demoralize Iraqis.

The Iraqi leader called the Al Samoud missiles a "minor" issue, and said "the enemy" focused on them "after they could not find weapons of mass destruction because they do not exist."

Iraq began destroying its missiles on orders of Chief U.N. Weapons Inspector Hans Blix.

Compiled by Greta Olsen.
AP Wire courtesy KUGS 89.3-FM

Corrections and Clarifications

In the "Local divers train future underwater explorers" article published March 4, Sam Mossey, Western senior and master diver, was improperly identified. In the same article, students must complete four ocean dives in two days. Also in the same article, Jason Flake was misquoted when he said "Recreational divers are not recommended to go no deeper than 100 feet."

Within "In the spotlight" events calendar published on Feb. 28, the "Women of Color Empowerment Dinner" is an annual event and began at 6 p.m.

The Front apologizes for this and any other mistakes.

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 Friday for the Tuesday edition and noon Wednesday for the Friday edition. Announcements should be limited to 50 words, typewritten or legibly printed, and sent through campus mail to "Official Announcements," MS-9117, via fax to X-4343, or brought in person to Commissary 111. DO NOT SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS DIRECTLY TO THE WESTERN FRONT. Phoned announcements will not be accepted. All announcements should be signed by originator.

PLEASE POST

THE ACADEMIC ADVISING CENTER IS HIRING PEER ADVISERS for the 2003-04 school year. Come to OM 380 to pick up an application. Deadline to apply is today, March 7.

EARN ACADEMIC CREDIT ABROAD while gaining professional experience. On March 10, the regional director of AHA Global IE3 internship program will host an information table from 9 to 11 a.m. in the VU lobby, and another in HH 25 from 4 to 5 p.m. For more information, call X/3298.

THE MATH PLACEMENT TEST is offered in OM 120 at 9 a.m. March 13 and 20 and at 3 p.m. March 10 and 17. Registration is not required. Students must bring photo identification, student number, Social Security number, and a No. 2 pencil. A \$15 is payable in exact amount at test time. Allow 90 minutes.

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT. President Karen W. Morse will present the Diversity Achievement Award at June commencement. The Award recognizes individuals, departments, organizations, or community members who have enhanced diversity and multicultural understanding at Western. Send nominations to Bev Jones, Provost's Office, MS-9033, OM 450, by March 10. For more information, see www.wwu.edu/depts/provost/.

SUMMER QUARTER DEGREE APPLICANTS: Students who expect to graduate at the close of summer quarter must have a degree application on file in the registrar's office by March 14. Students planning to graduate fall quarter must have an application on file by June 6. Applications/instructions are available in OM 230.

THE MATH PLACEMENT (MAT) schedule and sample problems may be found at www.ac.wwu.edu/~assess/tc.htm.

THE MILLER ANALOGIES TEST (MAT) will be given at 2 p.m. March 11 in OM 120. Registration is required in OM 120 or by calling X/3080. A \$42 fee is payable at test time. The MAT is not administered on an individual basis. Allow 1 1/2 hours. Registration limited to 16.

WEST-B TEST. Applicants to state-approved educator preparation programs and those from other states applying for a Washington residency teaching certificate must have a minimum passing score on basic skills assessment. Residency teaching certificate applicants who completed an educator preparation program outside Washington and have not passed WEST-B may be granted additional time. Test dates: March 15, May 17, July 19. Western is a test site, however, registration is required through www.west.nesinc.com.

STUDENTS WHO INTERRUPT THEIR STUDIES AT WESTERN, other than for a summer quarter, must complete an application for readmission by the appropriate priority deadline. Applications are available in OM 200. Priority deadline is April 1 for summer continuing into fall quarter and for fall quarter.

CHECK THE TESTING Web site, www.ac.wwu.edu/~assess/tc.htm, for testing schedules.

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

GUR reform alters the course of education, threatens liberal arts

Western administration plans to redefine which courses count toward basic classes

By Matt McDonald
THE WESTERN FRONT

Proposed changes to Western's current General University Requirements may lighten the credit load, produce smaller class sizes and allow students to concentrate more intensely on their major.

By early spring 2003, two new proposed models to change GUR requirements will go to the Academic Coordinating Commission for review.

"There was a desire to address and make GUR classes smaller in size," said Dale Dinnel, Western psychology professor and General Education Task Force member.

He said that one of the main criticisms of the present GUR system is that classes are large and impersonal.

"It is difficult for them to stay excited here because they don't get to know people well in their classes," Dinnel.

The general education program at Western has had only minor alterations since it went into effect in 1974, Kris

Bulcroft, vice provost of undergraduate education said. The ACC recommended in 2001 that Western create the GETF to revise the necessary credit load, range and rationality of the general education program in order to meet the current needs of students.

"Our VP for academics is on the (GETF) that has been going through the process for reforming," Associated Students President Allison Smith said. "Also, a couple of weeks ago we had a forum, and it was sponsored by the Associated Students to talk about the whole process of GUR reform and what students wanted to see come out of it."

The GETF, which consists of Western faculty and students, proposed drafts of two projected models of general education programs to the campus community. Faculty, staff and students gave feedback on the general education models in order to pick the best possible one.

"The GUR plan doesn't give enough time to take your major

classes," Western junior Matt Vance said. "I haven't started my major classes until now."

The present general education model requires 70 to 87 credits from six areas.

"The number of credits required seemed a little larger than most universities in the state of Washington," Bulcroft said. "Also, even though students were interested (in courses) they could not always get into courses they wanted to take."

Two models have been proposed, but they are not finalized at this point. Model 1, the Revised Distributive Model, consists of an average of 58 credits from content areas such as humanities, social and natural sciences. Credits are also required from competency areas such as English, math and creative expression. At the junior and senior levels, three to five credits are required outside of a student's major.

"(GUR reform) would free up a lot of credits to be followed up in a major, or to have a minor, See REFORM, Page 16

Model 1: Revised distributive model

| | Credits |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| A.) Competencies | |
| - English 101 | 4 |
| - Second writing course | 2-5 |
| - Math/Quantitative Reasoning | 3-5 |
| B.) Content | |
| - Humanities | 12-15 |
| - Natural Sciences | 11-12 |
| - Social Sciences | 12-15 |
| - Creative Expression | 4 |
| - Jr/Sr Requirement | 3-5 |
| Total Credits Required | 58 |

Model 2: Integrative-distributive model

| | Courses | Credits |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|---------|
| A.) Content | | |
| - Humanities (including arts) | 3 | 12 |
| - Natural Sciences | 3 | 12 |
| - Social Sciences | 3 | 12 |
| B.) Competencies | | |
| - Critical thinking/Literacy | 1 | 2 |
| - Writing | 3 | 9 |
| - Diversity | (sophomore requirement) | |
| - Math/Reasoning | 1 | 4 |
| - Reflecting and Integration | 1 | 3 |
| Total | 15 | 54 |

Information courtesy of the Western GenEd Reform.

Professors fear GUR reform will take focus off the liberal arts

By Matt DeVeau
THE WESTERN FRONT

Lowering the number of General University Requirements would allow Western students to focus primarily on their majors. Some professors, though, fear this might detract from the liberal arts.

The General Education Task Force will present its final recommendations on GUR reform to the Academic Coordinating Commission, a branch of the faculty senate, on April 1. The ACC will consider two proposed models that would lower the number of GURs by at least 15 credits, to 58 and 54 credits, respectively.

"To the extent that people want to reduce the size of the GUR program here, I think that the liberal arts are threatened," said Tom Downing, philosophy professor and chairman of the ACC.

Kris Bulcroft, vice provost for Undergraduate Education, said Western is committed to the liberal arts, and any reform would still distribute credits broadly across the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences.

"The general move to make the general education requirement somewhat smaller should not be perceived as a diminishing of the importance of the liberal arts," Bulcroft said. "I've heard students here at Western describe their (GUR) experience as a set of hoops they have to jump through to get to where they really want to be, which is their majors."

Dale Dinnel, GETF member and Western psychology professor, cautioned against students focusing solely on a science major without obtaining a background in the liberal arts.

"Sciences and technology unmoderated by issues of morals and ethics or issues of

history are dangerous," he said.

Phil Montague, General Education Requirements Committee chairman and philosophy department chair, said a smaller GUR program would perpetuate what he believes to be Western's historic emphasis on major courses.

"Instead of availing themselves of electives or broadening their perspectives, (students) will tend to be more focused in the major and consequently will have a less liberally oriented education," Montague said.

Bulcroft said a smaller GUR program could actually enhance the quality of the liberal arts by allowing students to choose more electives.

"(Lowering the number of GURs) gives you a little more autonomy to package your curriculum in a way that's meaningful," she said.

Downing, however, said it is important

to expose students to a greater background of information.

"If you just let students, 18-year-olds, show up and just take what they wanted, they would avoid things they hadn't heard of, things that sounded hard, and there would be a big gap in their education," Downing said. "That's why we say you have to sample from a variety, and moreover, you might find that you really kind of like an area you've never heard of."

Julie Krom, Associated Students vice president for academic affairs, said it is in the best interest of a student to have a broad range of knowledge, but she thinks students should be able to choose the courses they want.

"My hope is that students would empower themselves to have control over their education and want to get their money's worth," Krom said.

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Lecturers caution of war effects on women, children

By Abiah Weaver
THE WESTERN FRONT

A decade ago, the United States was wrapped with a large yellow ribbon in support of the Persian Gulf War. Since that war, more than 500,000 Iraqi children have died as a result of U.S. economic sanctions, said Vivian Stromberg, executive director of MADRE, an international human rights organization.

"People were afraid to say they were against that war," Stromberg said. "If you listen to the Bush administration, they say most people support the (impending) war except for those few freaks. There are more than a few freaks (opposed to the war)."

The women studies department invited Stromberg and Dr. Fathieh Saudi to present their stories as part of the "Every Child Has a Name: No War Against Iraqi Families" tour.

As part of the national speaking tour, Stromberg and Saudi, a pediatrician in Jordan, visited the Viking Union on Wednesday evening to speak about the impact of war on Iraqi women and children.

Stromberg said most Americans are unaware of how women and children are disproportionately affected by war.

"Nowhere on television do you see a grandmother shopping or children on a playground in Iraq," she said. "Countries dehumanize countries during war."

The United States' attempts to dehumanize the people of Iraq to increase support for military action has resulted in more than one million deaths, the collapse of the health system and the suppression of civil and political rights, Stromberg said.

Supporting human rights in the Middle East, Stromberg and other women delivered approxi-

mately 10 tons of milk and medicine to hospitals in Baghdad in cooperation with the General Jordanian Federation of Women in 1991.

"The war that is happening now is not going to be against the power, but against the people," Saudi said. "Women and children are the most vulnerable."

By bombing the hospitals where women work and imposing sanctions that increase the workload of women and children, the United States' actions pose a threat to the quality of life of Iraqi families, she said.

"The pain of war is the same for an American mother as an Iraqi woman," Saudi said. "If people saw the faces of the women and children, they would see we are the same."

Eighty percent of Iraqi families live on less than \$2 per day as a result of the sanctions, according to the speakers.

See WAR, Page 16



Keith Bolling/The Western Front

A giant puppet of an Iraqi woman holding a dying child in Red Square promotes the "Every Child Has a Name: No War Against Iraqi Families" presentation on Wednesday.

Trial results of new AIDS vaccine offer small hope against epidemic

By Abiah Weaver
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Washington State Department of Health reported three new cases of HIV and AIDS so far this year, bringing the total of people in the state living with the virus to more than 8,000.

Since 1982, when the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention named the virus, approximately 6,000 people have died in Washington from HIV-related conditions which awaiting a cure.

"On average, it takes 47 years to develop a vaccine, generally speaking," said Michael Little, volunteer coordinator of the Sean Humphrey House, an HIV treatment center in Bellingham. "A cure is a long way off."

Hundreds of research companies throughout the world are testing vaccine candidates, but none with the success of VaxGen, a California-based firm, he said.

The company released results from a trial study of the first AIDS vaccine, AIDSVAX, last week.

"The results look promising at first," Little said. "But it doesn't look that

promising on the large scale. It was a big step, and ultimately we will learn from (the study), but more research is necessary before any vaccine develops."

The AIDS vaccine was 13 percent successful overall, but it was more effective on nonwhites, including blacks and Asians, he said.

If this study is accurate, it would discredit hundreds of other pieces of research, Little said.

"These results show that there are genetic differences between races, but other scientific studies say differently," Little said. "Seventy-eight percent looks promising, but the group wasn't accurately represented in the sample either."

The company vaccinated fewer than 314 blacks in the study, and AIDSVAX was 78 percent effective among blacks.

Blacks are the group with the fastest-growing number of HIV cases in the United States, he said. Twenty-three percent of the new HIV cases reported in Washington in 2002 were black — a 5 percent increase from the previous year.

The study did not test enough blacks to verify the vaccine's effectiveness,

Little said. Only a small number of qualified black participants volunteered for the study.

"It appears nonwhites have a higher level of antibodies that would result in more protection," said Jim Key, VaxGen director of communications. "We are still looking at the differences in the lab. We will have to do more studies before the vaccine is released to the population."

The Food and Drug Administration requires a 33 percent success rate before it will consider endorsing any new vaccine. Although the vaccine was adequately successful for blacks, the company must have success among the general population to receive the administration's acceptance, Key said.

During the past three years, 5,400 participants throughout North America, Puerto Rico and the Netherlands received the vaccine: a genetically engineered copy of the virus that resists new infections in the immune system. One hundred thirty-five of the participants were tested in Washington through the University of Washington, Key said.

The participants were HIV-negative

homosexual men and women who have sex with HIV-positive partners, according to the study.

VaxGen will continue to study AIDSVAX, specifically its success among blacks, to learn more about the different strains of the virus, Little said.

In the past, AIDS vaccines have not been very successful because they mutate within the body, losing effectiveness over time, Little said.

"Energies (spent on a cure) should be equally placed by treating the people living with it," he said.

People living with AIDS currently spend \$17,000 each year treating the virus with a combination of drugs, consisting of approximately 25 pills each day. Most only live seven to 10 years on the treatment, he said.

Most people living with the virus are not optimistic about a cure, Little said.

"It would be groundbreaking, and it would change a lot of lives," he said. "But most are just trying to stay alive with the (medication) they've got. The research is not that promising to give enough hope to people living with AIDS."

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[illegible]

Terrorism: Government weighs pros, cons of passing Domestic Security Enhancement Act

Continued from Page 1

because Congress has cut its funding.

"People reacted," Gross said. "Those were one of the main reasons for stopping TIPS and for stalling TIA. I think (party lines) are getting shaken up. This issue of privacy is a non-partisan issue."

Conservative talk radio host Kirby Wilbur said while it is important to be critical of the federal government, the Bush administration is taking necessary measures to ensure the country's safety.

"There are situations where secrecy is required and mandatory," Wilbur said. "We have to remember that this is a time of war."

Wilbur said it is imperative to use search powers to seek out individuals believed to be involved in terrorism, but it is inappropriate to give the government the power to search large databases — like credit history — to find information to implicate someone in a crime.

The government will have those powers and more if the Domestic Security Enhancement Act is passed, Gross said.

"I trust Bush, and I trust the administration, but once this

mechanism (of broad search powers) is set up, I think it will be permanent because government never shrinks," Wilbur said.

The new act would give the government these and other powers that were contained in the almost-defunct TIA, Gross said.

The future of anti-terrorism legislation

Gross said the issue of homeland security is constantly evolving as more acts are put before Congress. The most recent Domestic Security Enhancement Act is particularly controversial because it contains sweeping search measures from TIA, Gross said.

Now, because of the Domestic Security Enhancement Act, a new term called "domestic terrorism" could include Americans who have participated in protests such as the World Trade Organization riots in 1999.

The new legislation would define organizations that use protest tactics and civil disobedience as terrorist organizations, Gross said.

Currently, under the Patriot Act, authorities must obtain a warrant through a secret court system set up through the Foreign Intelligence

Surveillance Act, Gross said.

The bill would also give the government covert access to materials like credit reports without consent or judicial review outside of the FISA courts.

"Sometimes the standard of probable cause might be too high," Wilbur said. "Terrorists are trained to avoid detection."

Originally, the FISA courts were intended to address international terrorism, involving mostly non-U.S. citizens.

The original Patriot Act has a sunset provision, meaning four years after its passing, the federal government has to assess its effectiveness and necessity and either preserve it or end it. The Domestic Security Enhancement Act has no such measure in place.

"We lose the battle to the terrorists when we give up the Constitution to fight them," Lerner said. "That does two things: It weakens us, and two, it reduces our security."

The public responds

At a recent forum at the Bellingham Public Library, Gross and other speakers responded to the community's concern about homeland security measures taken by the federal government.

Gross said the public seems to be afraid civil liberties will be lost as the government tries to prevent future terrorist attacks.

"I think what scares people the most is that this allows the government to operate in secrecy," Gross said. "If we don't know what our government is doing, how can we ever hold our government accountable for what it's doing?"

Toby Faber, Western senior and executive chairman of the College Republicans, said the homeland security secrecy measures are necessary.

"If you want effective surveillance on a suspected terrorist, you can't nail a note on the door saying: 'We were here, love the FBI,'" Faber said.

As more people learn about what the Patriot Act contains, more people are upset by it, Gross said.

Dan Lerner, a Fairhaven College professor and member of the Washington State board of directors for the American Civil Liberties Union, said he wants more people to understand what is at stake with these new acts.

"I think we are very distinctly less free than we were on Sept. 12," Lerner said. "I think we're less safe by any and all measures."

Before the Patriot Act, authorities had to provide a judge with reasonable evidence in order to receive a warrant to enter private property, Lerner said.

"It's changed now," Lerner said. "There is permission for all kinds of searches, called 'sneak and peak.'"

A "sneak and peak" is when authorities search private property without notifying the owner.

Anyone who is aware of the entry — for example an apartment manager — has a gag order preventing him or her from sharing that information under penalty of federal law.

In the FISA court system that is now in place, the standard of probable cause has been removed as a requirement for a warrant to place a phone tap or perform a "sneak and peak."

Faber said the American people should trust the government and the FISA courts to do the right thing.

"When you're investigating a terrorist, you don't declare someone a terrorist, or in cohorts with a terrorist without information," Faber said. "You predicate that with law enforcement investigation ... warrants are still required through the foreign intelligence court."

Dinner: Women of color overcome cultural expectations, racism to triumph professionally

Continued from Page 1

for the event is to provide academic and professional advice and encouragement to students through the voices of professional women.

Tom Nerini, director of admissions, and Renee Murray, coordinator of the career planning program, presented Doris Kent with the Women of Color Empowerment Award. Two unnamed Western students nominated Kent, health educator in Prevention and Wellness Services, for her energy, enthusiasm and work as a mentor, adviser and friend.

"This, for me, is one of the greatest honors, to be recognized by students and peers," Kent said.

Cultural expectations can make it difficult for women of color to succeed in college, Arevalo-Hayes said.

"In other cultures, a woman of color knows her place: in the home," she said. "If I would have believed that, I would have stayed home and waited for a man to marry me and never pursued my dreams."

Arevalo-Hayes said she chose dynamic women with good stories who have overcome obstacles in their past to be panelists at the event.

Cheryl Crazy Bull, president of Northwest Indian College and panelist at the dinner, said that while her mentors were influential, her success came primarily from herself.

She said being her own advocate and reflecting and questioning her decisions in life were important to being successful.

Josie Estrada, a first grade teacher at Roosevelt Elementary School in Bellingham, said believing in herself and working hard has allowed her to be successful despite facing racism and a difficult move from Mexico to the United States when she was 7 years old.

Estrada said she dropped from best to worst student in her class after moving. She said although she lost the confidence she needed to go to college, she never lost her desire.

"I wanted to go to college,

but questioned my ability," Estrada said.

She said support and guidance from her high school English teacher gave her the confidence she needed to take the college placement test her guidance counselor told her would be too difficult for her to pass.

All of the women said maintaining a sense of balance between their professional life, family life and cultural heritage has been extremely important to their success.

Starkey said she attended the dinner her first year at Western, and it inspired her to become involved on campus.

She said she called the Office of Student Life after the event to find out how she could par-

ticipate.

"It's what really pulled me in as a woman of color here at the university," Starkey said. "The women are real. It gives a lot of the students a vision."

Attendance at the event has grown steadily since it began five years ago.

Thirty-five people attended the first dinner, and more than 250 attended Thursday, Arevalo-Hayes said.

"It's been really great to see it grow," said Valerie Hernandez, Western senior and former event coordinator. "I like to come here and see a lot of people I know and feel like we're unified. It gives us a break from school to come back to what's important to us."

Strike: Demonstrators stress open dialogue about war

Continued from Page 1

not doing their job of informing the public.

"Everyone is aware we are pretty much going to war, but (television companies) spend too much time working on their 'Target Iraq' logos instead of telling people the real issues," he said.

Veteran Outreach Center coordinator Brian Howells said U.S. government officials are more informed than anyone on campus, and he is willing to serve his country if needed.

"(VOC) is not pro-war," he said. "Nobody likes war, but

sometimes it is necessary, like getting rid of Hitler in World War II. It is up to the government officials to decide."

Howells said Shook asked U.S. Army recruiters to leave the anti-war event earlier in the morning.

"If roles were reversed and we had a 'Support our troops' rally and we kicked out an anti-war demonstrator, we would be under scrutiny by campus administration," Howells said. "Why is it OK to kick off our military personnel?"

Shook said he invited the

recruiter to stay, but asked him to stop handing out water bottles and video games carrying Army logos.

"As military personnel he has a valid opinion, but the material he had was not in the spirit of the event," he said.

Shook said U.S. citizens should strive for open dialogue about world issues.

They should not neglect their voting power in order to change public policy, he said.

"Subjects like these are too big to be kept in the private sphere," Shook said.

Phones got you hung up?

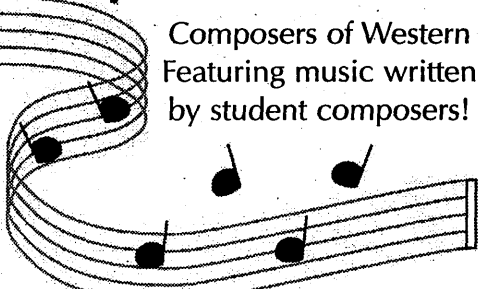
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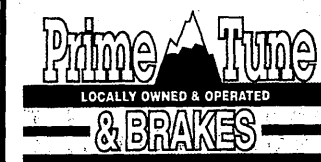
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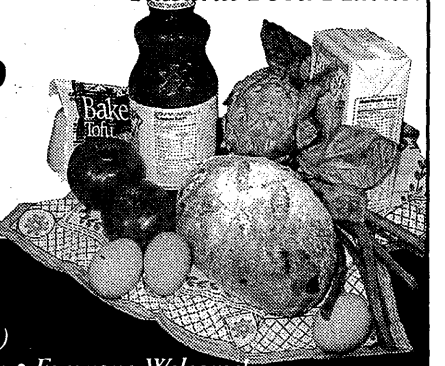


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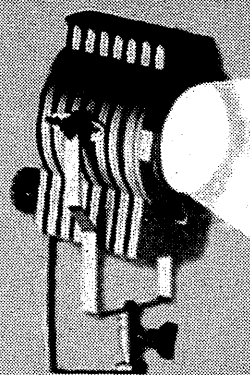
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In the spotlight

March 7

Live reggae

Wild Buffalo House of Music; 208 W. Holly St.; \$10; 752-0848

Clinton Fearon and the Boogie Brown Band play at 9 p.m. The Seattle-based band performs music from its Jamaican roots. Fearon is from St. Catherine, Jamaica and was previously a member of the reggae group The Defenders.

March 8

Craft fundraiser

Bloedel Donovan Community Center; 2214 Electric Ave.; free; 714-1762

From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Cedar Tree Montessori presents its spring fundraiser with 20 vendors, free demonstrations and crafts made by local craftspeople for sale.

Movie

Pickford Cinema; 1416 Cornwall Ave.; \$4; 738-0735

The Pickford presents "Creek Story," a documentary about Whatcom Creek. The documentary was produced by local filmmaker Dan Hammill.

Book signing

Barnes & Noble; 4099 Meridian St.; free; 647-7539

Seattle-based true crime author Ann Rule signs books at 3 p.m.

March 9

Art opening and reception

Stuart's Coffee House; 1302 Bay St.; free; 752-2024

Artist Dinah Daniel presents her work from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Daniel's artwork

will be displayed until March 31.

March 11

Classical guitar concert

American Museum of Radio; 1312 Bay St.; \$5 for students and seniors, \$10 general admission; 738-3886

Classical guitarists Michael Philip Kudirka and Eric Benzant-Feldra perform at 7:30 p.m. Known as "The Duo," the two began performing together in 1997. They received first and second place at the 10th Annual Portland Guitar Competition.

March 12

Comedy

Arntzen Hall 100; free; 788-8579

Improvisational groups Dead Parrot Society and Theatre Sports present a free comedy night at 7 p.m. The groups

will accept donations for Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Whatcom County.

March 13

Music

Western Performing Arts Center main-stage; \$10; 650-6146

Western presents Stephen Sondheim's epic musical thriller "Sweeney Todd." The performance is intended for a mature audience. The musical runs from March 13 to March 15.

Lecture

Science Lecture 150; free; 650-7545

Ex-astronaut George "Pinky" Nelson discusses his ideas about education reform. Nelson flew in the Columbia and Challenger shuttles, logging more than 400 hours of space travel.

Compiled by Sarah Loehndorf.

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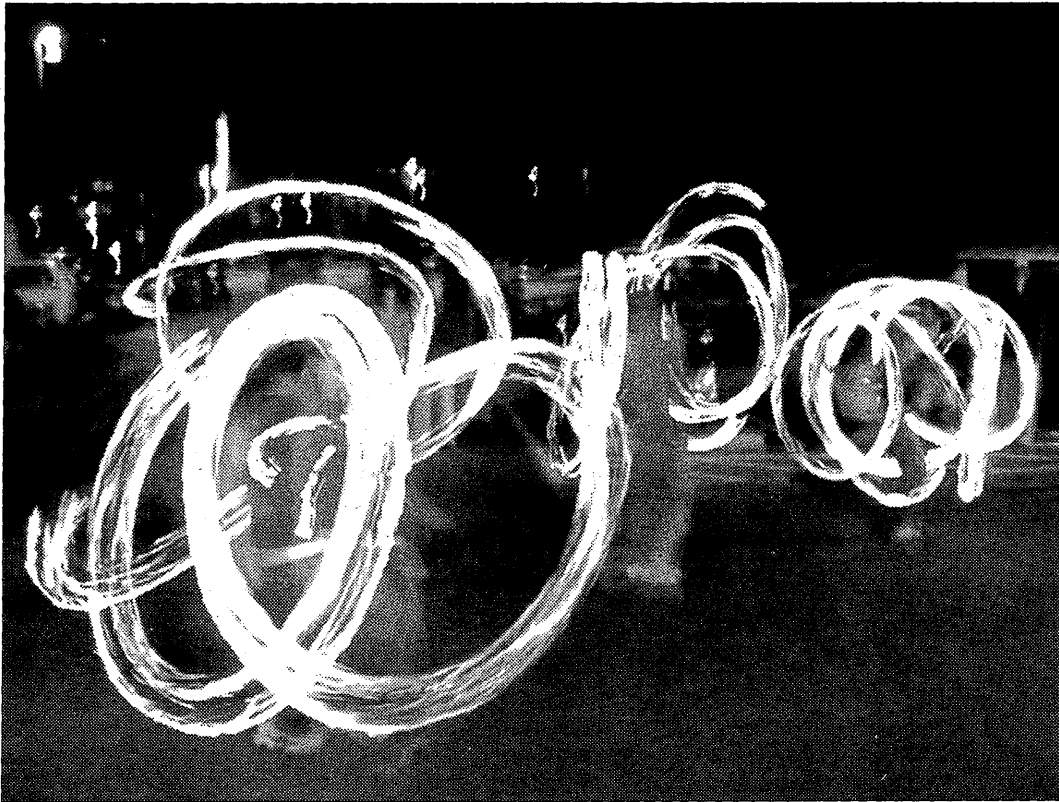
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Mardi Gras ma



Carl Weiseth/
The Western Front

Fire performers and Bellingham residents Ryan Smith, Stacy Simmons, Seth Christian and Kayla Traisman swirl roaring orbs of flaming kerosene for club-goers celebrating Mardi Gras at Christo's Club on Tuesday night. The performers spun poi balls in Christo's parking lot.



Tyson Lin/The Western Front
Stephanie Neria, Christo's Club waitress, spins through an array of beads to give out to Mardi Gras attendees at Christo's on Tuesday night.

Playing with fire

By Carl Weiseth
The Western Front

Balls of roaring flame wove intricate patterns through the cold night air, soaring inches away from the faces of fire-dancers as they twirled for Mardi Gras celebrators Tuesday night.

The group of four fire dancers performed for more than 40 spectators for nearly 90 minutes outside the entrance to Christo's Club, entertaining both club clientele and passersby who stopped to observe the performance.

"It was pretty spectacular," Western senior Matt Laughter said. "Obviously everyone likes the danger involved, but it really is an art form as well as just performance."

Laughter said he came to Christo's after hearing his friend, Ryan Smith, would be performing at the club. Laughter said he didn't know quite what to expect when he showed up, but after watching Smith, Stacy Simmons, Seth Christian and Kayla

Traisman perform, he was amazed by the speed and control the twirlers had with fire.

"It was my first time actually seeing it, and by the end it was making me want to get a set of poi and try practicing," Laughter said. "When they had all the performers spinning at the same time it was awesome. They really knew what they were doing."

Although Traisman used a fire staff as well as finger extensions lit with fire, the group's main method of performance was spinning fire-poi — balls of kevlar cloth wicking attached to a length of chain and then dipped in kerosene or white gas.

The art of poi spinning was originally developed by native New Zealanders before being adopted by street performers in Europe and Australia who refined the art form.

"It's exhilarating to be so close to an element that you're not supposed to handle," Western sophomore Smith said. "It's a great form of meditation and concentration, and it really brings people together."

Smith was responsible for organizing the event and said he has been fire-twirling for approximately a year. He first became interested in twirling poi after watching performers at a beach party in Tokyo where he was studying abroad, he said. After seeing others fire-dance, Smith said he decided to learn and began practicing whenever he got the chance.

"There was a shop there that I used to go hang out in

front of and spin to attract customers," Smith said. "I just did it for fun at first, but then it became a little more permanent, and I ended up there almost every day."

Whatcom Community College student Simmons has also been practicing poi-spinning for nearly a year. Simmons said

she was drawn to the sport after seeing a friend perform for her while living in Western's dorms.

"She kept talking about twirling, and then one day I finally got to see it," Simmons said. "I just thought, 'Wow, I totally have to learn that. That is one of the coolest things I

have ever seen.'"

After performing, Simmons said her friend taught her some of the basic moves and let Simmons try using her set of poi.

Simmons said although she desperately wanted to learn more, she still didn't have a set of poi to practice with.

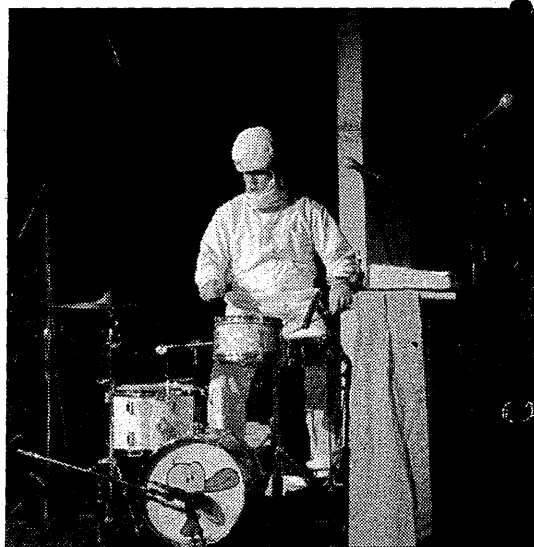
"As soon as I tried it, I was addicted," Simmons said. "I went home and duct-taped hackie-sacks to glowsticks on the end of shoestrings and ended up knocking out all the lights in my house practicing."

Simmons, who also performs fire-breathing and eating, said she performs with fire-poi in cities all over Washington. She said she has performed numerous times in events at the Bellingham Community Food Co-op, for the opening of the Bellingham Outdoor Theater and often just for fun at parties around the area.

"I haven't really done it to make money," Simmons said. "I just go out there and try not to have any expectations. If people enjoy it, that's awesome, but I just try and do the same thing I would be doing in my back yard."



Carl Weiseth/The Western Front
Bellingham resident Kayla Traisman skims a streaking ball of flame across the ground during a Mardi Gras performance. The effect uses poi balls and kerosene.



Keith Bolling
Tad Hutchinson (left) and Chris Ballew rock suits Tuesday night in the Viking Union multipurpose room.

By Keith Bolling
The Western Front

Spotlights illuminated two "astronauts" as they rocked out on a mini-drum set and keyboard. Later, they transformed into fishermen and rocked out just as hard. Finally, two sea captains emerged from a wreckage of musical instruments wearing captain's hats and neon orange Windbreakers, only to disappear moments later.

Chris and Tad had just arrived from an appearance at the Bellis Fair Mall food court, said Casey McNerthney, Western senior and coordinator of the Underground Coffeehouse, as he introduced the band. Chris Ballew, formerly of the Presidents of the United States of America, and Tad Hutchinson, from the Young Fresh Fellows, ran onstage at the Viking Union multipurpose room Tuesday wearing full spacesuits as the band Chris and Tad.

Although Ballew and Hutchinson continued to make references to their food court appearance throughout the performance, they did not actually play at the mall. Yet, this was not much of a surprise. Most of the concert seemed to be an inside joke, and few of the band's antics could be considered serious.

"It's music that makes you feel like you are being robbed," Hutchinson said.

Hutchinson sat down on a small "children's drum set" and Ballew took his place behind

Drunkness and mayhem

Bring on the beads and bulls

By Tyson Lin
The Western Front

Drunken smiles, rowdy laughter, earsplitting music and, most importantly, thousands of beads enticed hundreds of college students to spend Tuesday night at the bars.

The Fairhaven Pub and Martini Bar and Christo's Club each sponsored events to celebrate Mardi Gras.

"We brought in the mechanical bull because it tends to be a favorite among the college crowd," said Macky McNish, Word-of-Mouth entrepreneur and Fairhaven Pub promoter.

Western senior Craig Bosch said he rode the bull many times during the night.

"The bull was incredible," he said. "You have a couple of beers, you grind that sucker and next thing you know, your feet are over your head."

Bosch said the mechanical bull was only one of the attractions to enjoy.

"There were a lot of good looking ladies, and I was almost one of the winners with the most beads," he said.

Shaun Kehrberg, Word-of-Mouth and Fairhaven Pub promoter, said the Fairhaven gave away more than 1,000 strands of beads.

People received them at the door, when they rode the bull and randomly throughout the night, he said.

The Fairhaven is not trying to promote "Girls Gone Wild" where women have to earn their beads by taking off their clothes, McNish said.

"I am really encouraging women not to take off their tops for (beads)," Christo's Club promotion manager Sergio Colon said. "I think Mardi Gras should be about partying and letting loose."

The beads are like a prop, Colon said. They are not a form of money. Women and men should not have to earn their beads.

Colon said he purchased more than 2,000 beads online from a New Orleans bead shop.

"I wanted enough to go around so everyone had an equal amount," he said.

Besides the beads, Christo's Club found other ways of celebrating Mardi Gras.

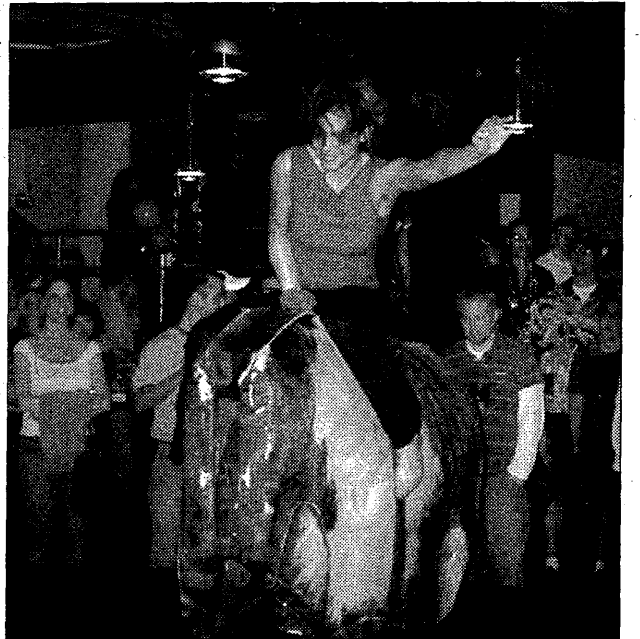
Four fire dancers were dancing, twirling and throwing batons with fire on the ends into the air outside the club. Inside, the

Craig Bosch
Western senior

"Miller Girls" gave away beads, T-shirts and key chains, Colon said.

"Last night was an incredible night," Bosch said. "I felt like I was in New Orleans, crazy Mardi Gras central. But no, I was in Bellingham."

"You have a couple of beers, you grind that sucker and next thing you know, your feet are over your head."



Tyson Lin/The Western Front

Western senior Kara Lang straddles the bucking mechanical bull at the Fairhaven Pub and Martini Bar on Tuesday night.

Rock 'n' roll jokers

Chris and Tad mix wacky antics and zany songs for an eccentric spectacle.



Keith Bolling/The Western Front
Chris and Tad in their space-purpose room.

keyboard labeled "Orgatron 1." While Hutchinson hammered on his mini-drum set everything from his hands and feet to litnaracas, Ballew played guitar, without distortion or effects, and keyboard — times simultaneously.

We were sick of loud rock bands playing distorted guitars," Hutchinson said. (The music) is more rock 'n' roll than rock, use it chugs along and is snappy."

They launched into their set, which included songs such as "Chimp," "Jilted" and "Jetty." They also played zany songs such as "Bloo," about having only one blue bead of having "the blues."

After a few songs, the band removed their suits to reveal stunning outfits of light blue "fisherman hats," light blue shirts and lemon-colored pants. "What other band comes out with a real statement?" Ballew said.

Between songs, the musicians told stories and goofed off. Hutchinson whipped out a tape, old toy keyboard and began an impromptu dueling keyboard competition. In a fierce battle, Hutchinson won with an aggressive solo.

This song is dedicated to the feeling that you will never be like Bill Cosby," Ballew said. "We are launching into their final song, "P.N.W. (Pacific Northwest) Blues."

Ballew said he enjoys running offstage. One night in Olympia he ran off the stage, out the

back door, around the block, back in the front door, and a bouncer harassed him while he was trying to get back onstage, he said.

Sure enough, in the middle of their set, Ballew ran two full-speed laps around the multipurpose room.

The concert reached a climax as Ballew tumbled over his keyboard, continued to play while on the ground and slowly toppled the drum set as he rolled into it.

For an encore, the Chris and Tad band appeared back onstage among the wreckage wearing matching sailor hats and neon orange Windbreakers only to bow, say good-night and disappear for the final time.

This concert was one of many shows the Underground Coffeehouse has put on.

"We just called them up and asked them if they would play," McNerthney said. "It was so great to deal with two guys who are huge rock stars but are so cool."

Transitioning from playing in huge rock bands to a two-person crew was easy for them, Hutchinson said. Instead of having to arrange band practice with so many people, all they had to do was call one person and ask if he wanted to play, Ballew said. They also enjoy the ability to improvise and make things up as they play, he said.

"We are taking advantage of being little," Ballew said. "I enjoy playing funky shows where no one has any expectations, including me."



Keith Bolling/The Western Front

Chris Ballew crashes through the drum set while playing guitar as Tad Hutchinson tries to keep a microphone stand from tumbling over. Their crazy performance included three costume changes and a keyboard duel.

Burrell scores 20 as Western men sting Central

By Joshua Fejeran
THE WESTERN FRONT

Amid the sounds of keys jingling and the student section singing Steam's "Na Na Hey Hey Kiss Him Goodbye," the Western men's basketball team sent the Wildcats back to Ellensburg with a breathtaking victory Wednesday night at Carver Gym.

With the 87-83 win, the Vikings, who are out of play-off contention, improved to 9-8 in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference and 15-11 overall.

"This is one game of the year that you have to get up for," Western junior forward Stefan Dickason said. "Everybody came out here with great defensive intensity and we were able to pull it out."

The Vikings started out hot and opened up a 14-4 lead early in the first half. The Wildcats struggled to keep up as Western freshman guard Ryan Diggs unleashed an offensive barrage in the first half, shooting 4-5, including 3-3 from the three-point line, for 13 points. Diggs finished the game with 16 points.

With 2:30 left in the first half, Diggs was called for a technical foul after a scuffle broke out as Western and Central players fought for a loose ball. Diggs and Central

forward Anthony Lewis trash-talked to each other as Diggs was restrained by teammates.

"He's a really good player and once he matures and gets a little better, he'll be a great player," Dickason said.

The Vikings finished the first half shooting 75 percent from the three-point line and walked into the locker room with a 46-35 lead.

The game went back and forth in the second half until the Wildcats made a 13-2 run to bring the score to 74-71 with 4:26 left in the game. The Vikings managed to stop Central's momentum when Western freshman guard Grant Dykstra hit a pull-up jumper and Western senior center Mike Palm sunk two free throws.

With Western leading 85-78 and 14 seconds remaining, Central guard Scott Freymond drove the length of the court and laid it in to cut the lead to five points.

"Their defensive pressure got to us in denying the wings and the ball pressure," Western junior guard Jason Burrell said. "We just had to calm down and just try to execute on offense, get the ball reversed and just be patient. Once we got the ball reversed, we were getting good shots."

With 10 seconds left, Wildcat guard

Alex Swerzbin stole the ball on the inbounds and managed to call timeout to retain possession while falling out of bounds. The Wildcats then inbounded the pass to guard Kasey Ulin who hit a baseline three-pointer to cut the lead to two points with six seconds left. The Vikings successfully inbounded the ball, throwing cross-court to an open Burrell who was promptly fouled. Burrell sunk both of his free throws to fend off a resurgent Central comeback.

"Our defense, by and large, was pretty good tonight," Western head coach Brad Jackson said. "We really tried to emphasize taking the three away at the end of the game, but they hit a couple big ones at the end."

Burrell led the Vikings with 20 points, including 14 in the second half, and six rebounds.

Palm, Western senior forward Nehemiah Campbell and Western senior center Chris Stevens were all honored before the game at senior night. Palm had a career-high 20 rebounds and 16 points, which moved him into second place on Western's career scoring list. Campbell had nine points and Stevens had two points coming off the bench.

"(Palm's) been carrying us all year," Burrell said. "We run everything through him, and by that it opens up everything for everyone else. Without him we wouldn't be too far."

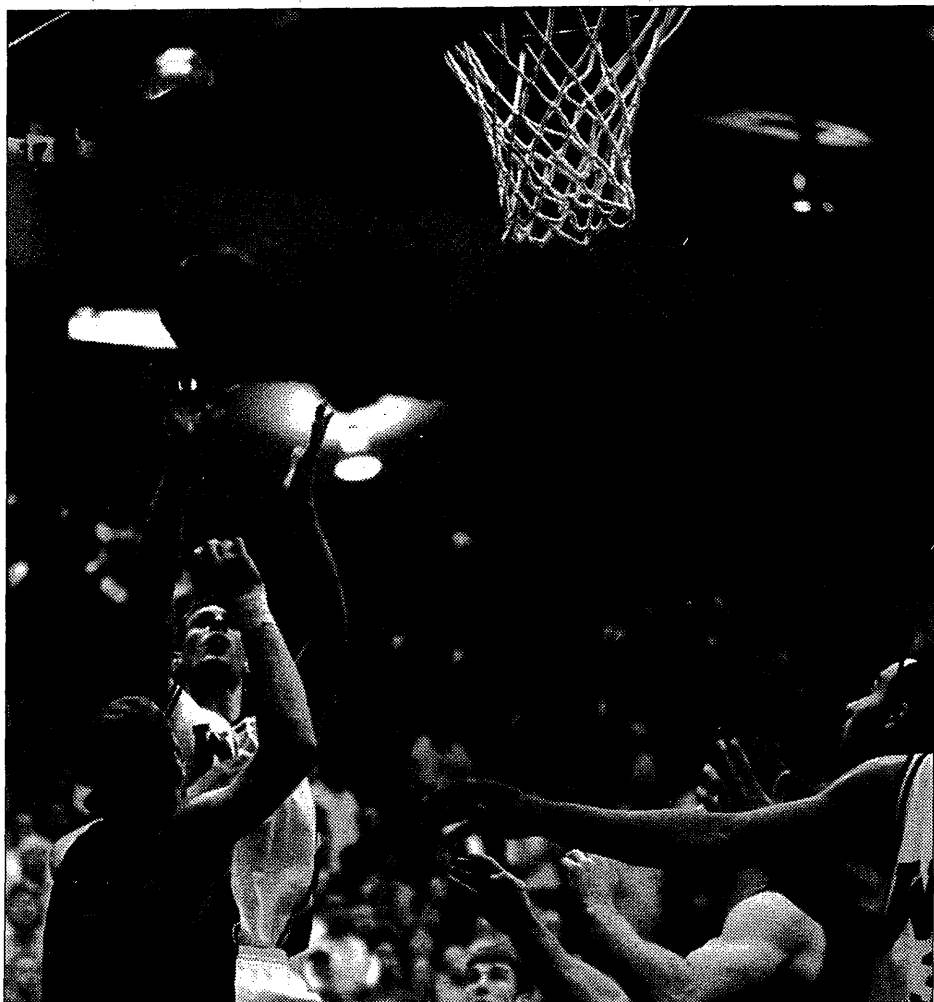
Jackson said he was impressed with his younger players, but "really expects" his experienced ones to step up late in games.

"Central is always a big win," Jackson said. "Anytime you can beat your rival, that's huge. We're pleased with the victory."

The Vikings play its last game of the season against St. Martin's College at 7 p.m. Saturday in Carver Gym. The Saints have the worst record in the league — 2-14 in the GNAC and 2-24 overall — but will arrive in Bellingham on a two-game win streak after suffering 28 straight losses.

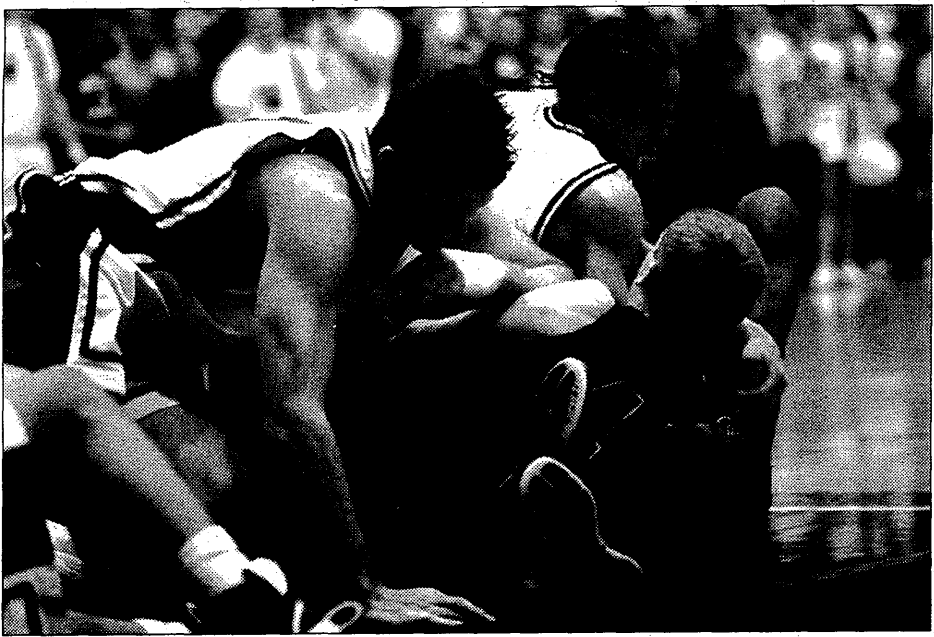
Box Score

(FG-FGA, points): Jason Burrell 6-10, 20; Grant Dykstra 5-8, 16; Mike Palm 5-10, 16; Ryan Diggs 5-10, 14; Nehemiah Campbell 2-6, 9; Stefan Dickason 2-4, 8; Maurice Tyree 1-3, 2; Chris Stevens 0-0, 2



Peter Louras/The Western Front

Western senior center Mike Palm pulls up for a jump shot over Central defenders in the Vikings' 87-83 victory against the Wildcats on Wednesday night. Palm finished the game with a career-high 20 rebounds.



Peter Louras/The Western Front

Western senior center Chris Stevens and freshman guard Ryan Diggs battle Central's Jay Van Hook for a loose ball.

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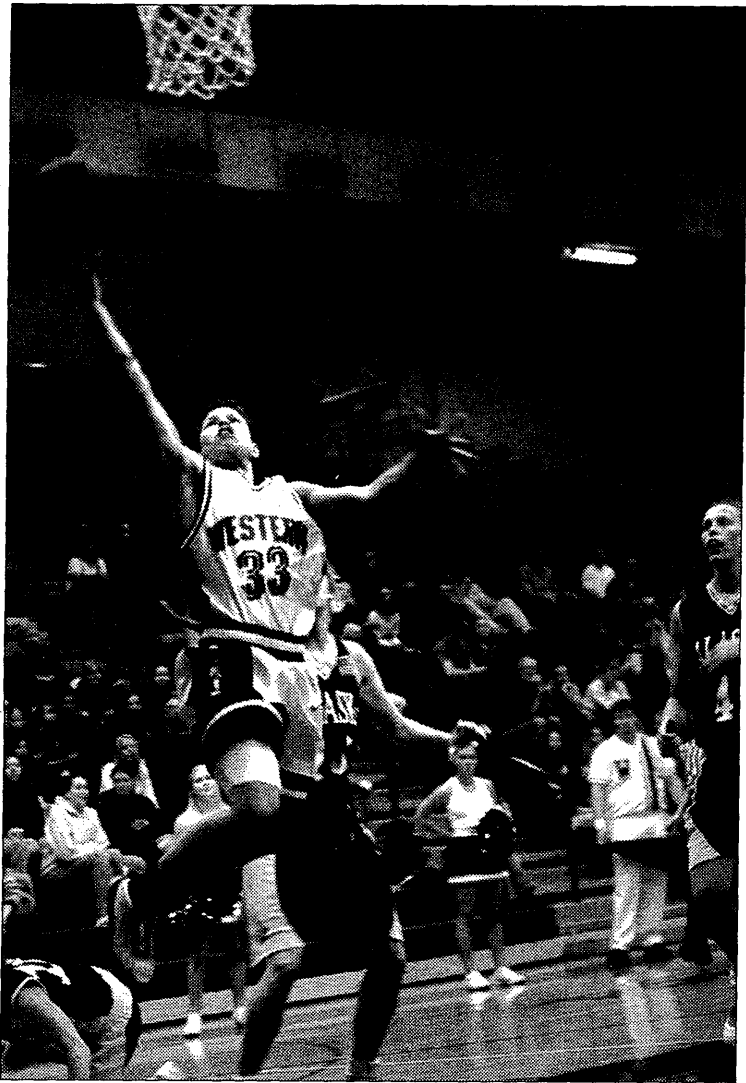
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Seniors step up; Vikings stomp Seawolves



Peter Louras/The Western Front

Western senior guard Kristy Eggen soars to the hoop for a layup in the Vikings 83-56 victory against the Seawolves on Thursday night. Eggen finished the game with six points.

By Niki Smith
THE WESTERN FRONT

After coming out flat in the first half, the Western women's basketball team depended on its seniors to crush the University of Alaska-Anchorage Seawolves on Thursday night in Carver Gym.

The Viking women beat the Seawolves 83-56 and improved their record to 13-3 in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference and 21-5 overall. They are currently No. 3 in the West Region.

"We really wanted to bury a team," Western senior forward Stacey Miller said. "We have not buried a team for a long time, and it felt good to do that."

The Vikings struggled offensively in the first half, scoring only four points in the first five minutes.

"We started a little slow offensively," Miller said. "Things were just not rolling. We were giving them a lot of second chances in the beginning."

The seniors noticed the lack of offense and provided the momentum the Vikings needed to take an 11-4 run against the Seawolves with 5 minutes, 43 seconds remaining in the first half.

"Me, Q (senior forward Megan Quarterman) and Kristy (Eggen, senior guard) did not single ourselves out, but it is just that time; you can't hold anything back anymore," Miller said. "I just think we are playing with everything we got."

Miller led the charge in the first half as the Vikings took a solid 38-27 lead into the locker room.

"I thought she (Miller) played a great game," Western head coach Carmen Dolfo said. "She was in a little foul trouble in the second half, so she didn't play a lot. She just really stepped up as a great senior, hit her shot, looked confident and worked really hard."

Miller finished the game with 19 points, six rebounds and one assist.

"At half-time we were focused on blocking out and on defense and definitely coming out strong," Miller said. "I think every person out there played as well as they could have."

During the second half, the Vikings controlled both ends of the court and started to gain complete control of the game.

"I thought we really clicked well, particularly in the second half offensively," Dolfo said.

Western junior forward Jenn McGillivray said the Vikings players have been focusing on their defense for the last two weeks of practice.

"We have had two weeks of really good practice," McGillivray

said. "I think that it finally showed. This week I think we finally put things together, and you could tell we have been working really hard on our defense."

McGillivray finished with 12 points and four rebounds. Quarterman had 11 points.

Western will play University of Alaska-Fairbanks at 7 p.m. Saturday in Carver Gym.

"At this point, we are really focusing on what we need to do and working together and playing together," Dolfo said. "I think it is great to be home and have our last game on Saturday."

Box Score

(FG-FGA, points): Stacey Miller 7-12, 19; Jenn McGillivray 4-8, 12; Megan Quarterman 5-12, 11; Susan Rodgers 5-12, 10; Tessa DeBoer 2-6, 9; Tina Donahue 3-5, 8; Kristy Eggen 2-3, 6; Samantha Hubbard 1-1, 5; Jodie Gerald 1-2, 2

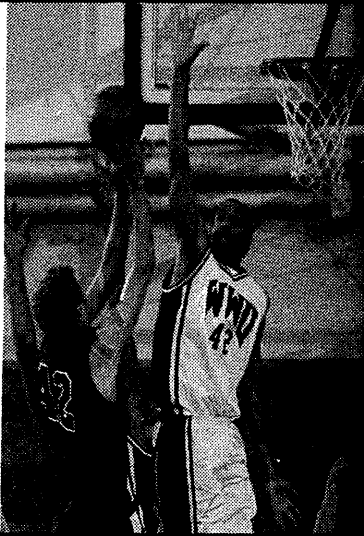
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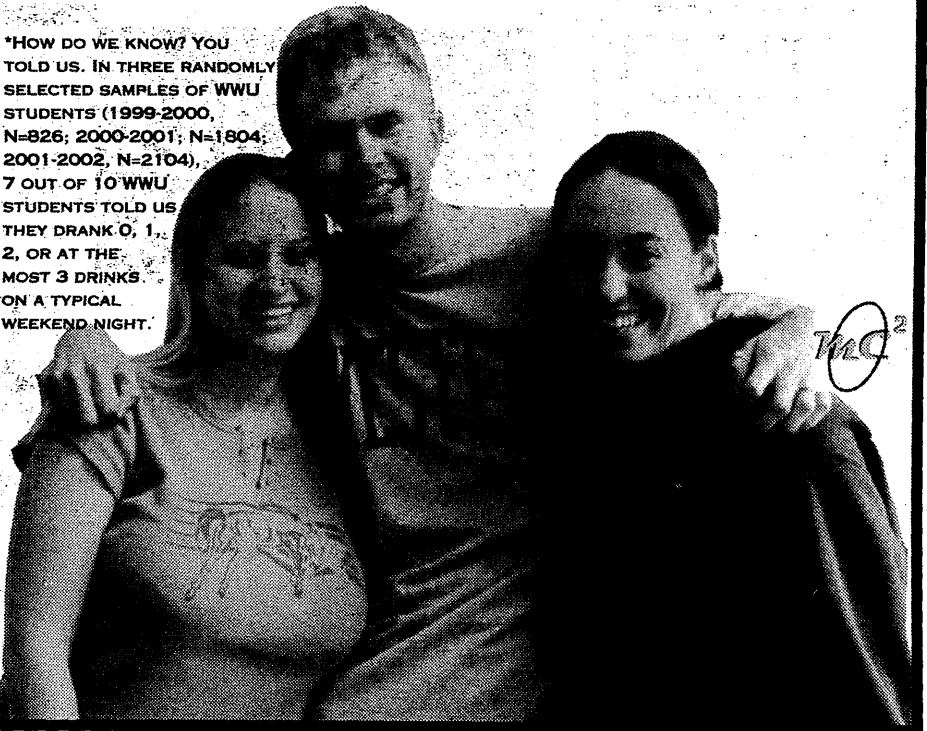


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Judge women by skills, not looks



Jenny
Maag

COMMENTARY

Forty years after the creation of Title IX, women in sports are still battling objectification and prejudice. Female athletes must take responsibility for the way they allow themselves to be marketed, and they must fight to receive fair media coverage, whether they are amateur athletes or professionals athletes.

Women first entered the sports world as cheerleaders, wearing short skirts and brandishing pompoms. Long before females wore uniforms and sports bras, male athletes and fans believed women belonged only on the sidelines and in revealing clothing. The legacy of cheerleading is apparent in current images of female athletes.

Despite the fact that Anna Kournikova is ranked by the Women's Tennis Association as number 50 out of 50, she regularly appears in sports media like "The Best Damn Sports Show Period" purely because she is attractive. David Letterman aired an "Anna Kournikova Play of the Day" every night in 2001. The spot was only a few seconds long and was nothing more than sexy images of her playing tennis.

Female tennis players who have actually won tournament titles, unlike Kournikova, deserve coverage. Women's tennis should be offended that media attention is dependent on the attractiveness of its athletes, and Kournikova should be offended that she is treated as an object.

Women also face discriminatory attitudes about females who play, coach or report on sports. A 1995 survey revealed that women's sports suffer from

widespread homophobia, according to the Feminist Majority Foundation. More than half of female administrators surveyed said their involvement in sports often led others to assume they were lesbians.

The sports media allow male athletes to keep their private lives private, but pry into the lives of female athletes and force them to portray heterosexual images. This is evident in the latest pictures of female basketball players on WNBA.com. "This is who I Am 2003" features Ticha Penicheiro, Sue Bird, Sheryl Swoopes and Jennifer Azzi passively posing in pretty dresses and revealing clothing. These images teach young girls who idolize female athletes that women are valued for their beauty, not for their skills or abilities. This is unacceptable.

Not only female athletes suffer the burden of objectification, and not only males perpetuate the problem.

Women also face discriminatory attitudes about females who play, coach or report on sports.

When Fox Sports reporter Angie Arlati visited the Detroit Tigers to take batting practice at their open tryouts, co-anchor Kerry Sayers previewed the spot saying Arlati traded her credit cards and trips to the mall for a bat and ball. Arlati was the first University of Washington softball player to earn All-Pac-10 and All-American honors, and was recently inducted into the Husky Hall of Fame. Sayers' comment was ignorant, degrading and sexist.

Women are also sometimes perceived as less athletic and therefore less deserving of media coverage. While it is true that women are born with less muscle tissue than men, on average they possess greater flexibility, smaller size and a higher percentage of body fat, according to the FMF. These qualities make them as well, or better suited, to sports like long-distance running, horseracing, gymnastics and swimming.

Female athletes are capable of amazing physical feats and should be celebrated for their power and skill, not for how attractive they are.

Vikings honored for academic excellence

By Tyson Lin
THE WESTERN FRONT

Two players on the Western women's basketball team were named to the Great Northwest Athletic Conference academic All-Star squad on Tuesday.

The GNAC honored Western junior forward Tessa DeBoer and senior guard Megan Quarterman for their performances on and off the court.

"Getting an education is the main reason why I am (at Western)," Quarterman said. "Basketball comes second."

DeBoer and Quarterman are great examples of the Western women's basketball program, said Jodie Kaczor, Western women's student assistant coach.

"Not only do they focus on basketball, but they really incorporate how important school is," she said. "They both put as much time into basketball as they do school."

DeBoer and Quarterman excel at everything they are involved in, Kaczor said.

"They both play huge key factors in our winning streak and they carry this off the court," she said. "They have so much heart and passion in everything they do."

The GNAC named DeBoer to the team for the second consecutive year.

She has a cumulative 3.7 GPA while Quarterman has a 3.44 GPA.

DeBoer said it is difficult being a full-time student while playing basketball because of the lack of free time.

Quarterman said her time is also limited, and managing school and basketball becomes a daunting task.

"The hardest part is missing so much class and having to reschedule (tests and presentations)," she said.

Quarterman said the play-offs also make it hard to balance academics and basketball because both are important.

"Instead of focusing for finals (like a normal college student would), I am thinking of regionals and nationals," she said.

Quarterman is averaging 12.3 points and 2.6 rebounds per game, and DeBoer is averaging 9.6 points and 7 rebounds.

"These two are great role models for the team," Western senior forward Stacey Miller said.

To be eligible for the academic team, student-athletes must have a minimum GPA of 3.2.

"It's good to know all the hard work spent in the classroom and on the court pays off," Quarterman said. "You can be successful at both."

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Note to government: listen to kids T-shirt protester unjustly punished



David Stone

COMMENTARY

Children have always been valued for their innocence. They are considered untouched by the evils of the adult world. They are forthright not only about their feelings but also about their opinions. Based on a recent Gannett News Service study, it seems they should be appreciated for their understanding and skepticism of national politics as well.

The Bellingham Herald published a story from Gannett on Monday titled "Tips for parents whose children worry about Iraq." The article listed the questions of children from 10 to 18 years of age. A Gannett education reporter answered the questions, which a school psychologist checked for appropriateness for different age groups.

In a time when concise information on the Iraq conflict is scarce, it is ironic that answers finally came from the questions of kids.

The questions and answers were enlightening.

Winterliteka Lacey, 10, from Phoenix asked the most obvious question: "Why do they want to start the war?"

The answer provided in the article was simple enough for a child to understand: Iraq said they destroyed all of their chemical weapons, but Bush does not believe them and thinks that war is the only way to disarm Iraq.

It is strange that it has taken this long

to get such a clear answer. The New York Times had at least 13 articles in their online issue in reference to Iraq on Monday. The articles had information ranging from new resolutions coming from the United States to the possible halting of archeological digs in the Middle East. None of these articles answered why we might be going to war. It took a child's question to get a straight answer.

Other questions inquired about the Bush administration's ability to afford the war.

"With the country already experiencing a budget deficit, how will we finance a war in Iraq that will undoubtedly cost trillions of dollars while maintaining tax cuts and government programs at home?" said Stephanie Berger, 17, from Scottsdale, Ariz.

This question has been barely addressed in the media. The answer, however, was once again uncomplicated and informative: No one knows exactly how much the war will cost.

The answer cited estimates from the Congressional Budget Office. The amount was broken into three categories: between \$9 billion and \$13 billion to deploy the troops, \$6 billion to \$9 billion per month to fight the war and \$5 billion to \$7 billion to bring the troops back home. The answer put these costs into context comparing them to the space program's \$3 billion-per-year price tag. Furthermore, it explained the federal government's ability to spend money it does not have, as well as the budget for the next year. The answer was no longer than four paragraphs.

It would have taken hours of time and a degree in economics for the average person to come to the same conclusion after sifting

See CHILDREN, Page 15



Tim Gadbois

COMMENTARY

Attention please. To everyone who just walked in: Welcome to the United States of America, also known as the United States of Fear and Ignorance. Please do try to keep it down a bit, huh? At any time, feel free to suppress those radical views in favor of more bland ones; they are so much easier to digest. Oh, and please do not forget to check those freedoms of speech and expression at the door — nasty little things.

Forgive the sarcasm, but perhaps the point should be made more clear. No one — not even educators — has the right to inhibit anyone's, even students', freedom of speech or expression.

Case in point: On Feb. 17, Bretton Barber, a high school student from Dearborn Heights, Mich., walked into his high school wearing a black T-shirt. On it were the words "International Terrorist" and a picture of President George W. Bush. At lunch, the principal, Judith Coebly, gave Barber a simple choice: Turn it inside out or go home. Barber asked why. And then, in a smashing move that will echo through the ages as one of the greatest debate-enders ever, Coebly told him that students cannot wear clothing that promotes terrorism.

Despite Coebly's obvious confusion and misinterpretation, perhaps a good rundown is needed on why Barber's taste in clothing and political views is perfectly legal and democratically healthy.

In 1965, three students were expelled for wearing black armbands in protest of the Vietnam War. The parents of John Tinker, one of the students who was expelled, decided to take the case to court. The case went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. In the historic 1969 Tinker v. Des Moines judgment, the court upheld 1st and 14th Amendment rights and ruled that students did "not shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate." Barber and every other student across the nation have these same rights.

Furthermore, Barber was not some idiot kid simply trying to stir up commotion at his school. Barber, who has quickly developed a political awareness well beyond his years, is a member of the American Civil Liberties Union and regularly attends anti-war demonstrations. He has the right to express his opinions and not be sent home and punished for them.

Educators can stand in the hallways and pick out every "threatening" aspect they see in students, but they would be doing more harm than good. If everyone had the same opinions and voices, or chose not to express them, America would be as bland as Styrofoam: tasteless and white. Democracy does not work like that and neither should this nation's schools.

But Barber still had trouble. Coebly and other policymakers still had an issue to pick because of a vague clause in the Tinker v. Des Moines decision, which also said that educators may stop expression that "substantially interferes with the functioning of a school." Educators take advantage of this clause; the Barber case proves that.

See SHIRT, Page 15

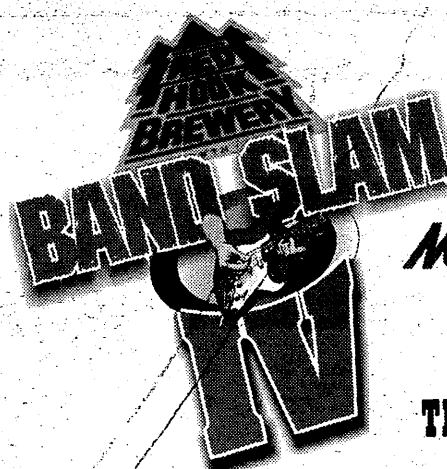
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Frontline

Month-long celebrations should be part of Americans' everyday life

When studying this Sunday, make sure to observe a little-known national holiday: Go Commando Day on March 9.

Yes, that is right. A Go Commando Day actually exists, where participants are encouraged to go without underwear, and it is fast approaching. Often overshadowed by this important day, National Women's History Month is also celebrated in March.

This is one of many months set aside for the sole purpose of giving attention to a group or cause that otherwise receives little recognition. All of the months set aside to celebrate certain people are a ridiculous attempt to recognize those who already should be a part of everyday life, 365 days a year.

As some people often forget, last month was Black History Month. June is set aside for gay and lesbian pride and September for Hispanic heritage.

These months were once important to raise awareness of issues that lacked attention. Awareness, however, should already be incorporated into history textbooks, media and people's consciousness — the places that truly constitute change.

By designating February as the one month out of the year to represent 12.3 percent of the country's population, black history is often overlooked in curriculum at schools. Setting aside February as Black History Month might tell teachers that they only need to focus on that specific topic for a maximum of 30 days out of the year.

This feeble attempt to cover the diversity of the United States and be politically correct trivializes the real issues affecting the people recognized for only one month. The people's histories these months claim to celebrate are not considered part of mainstream history and news. Naming a month for important issues results in superficial coverage.

October is Breast Cancer and AIDS Awareness Month. By designating a month for these important issues, they lose attention during the rest of the year. It seems absurd to group these issues with other events in October such as Dinosaur Month and National Cookie and Pasta Month.

To celebrate Women's History Month along with Naughty Vegetable Day (March 16), Fly a Kite Day (March 27) and Butt Appreciation Day (March 14) is patronizing to the serious implications behind it.

All holidays are commercialized, and products are specially created to identify with the holiday in order to make money for corporations. National Candy Month in June is an obvious attempt to send a mass exodus of children to candy shops. Important issues such as March's focus on women's history should not be exploited for capitalistic gains. This only further demeans these causes.

So as days turn into months and months turn into years, remember to think about the real issues faithfully, and do not limit them to their specified months. Celebrate daily, and please, keep the underwear on.

Frontlines are the opinion of The Western Front editorial board: Helen Hollister, Ailey Kato, Paul Nicholas Carlson, Andrea Jasinek, Brandon Rosage, Peter Malcolm, Katie James and Jeremy Edwards.

The Western Front

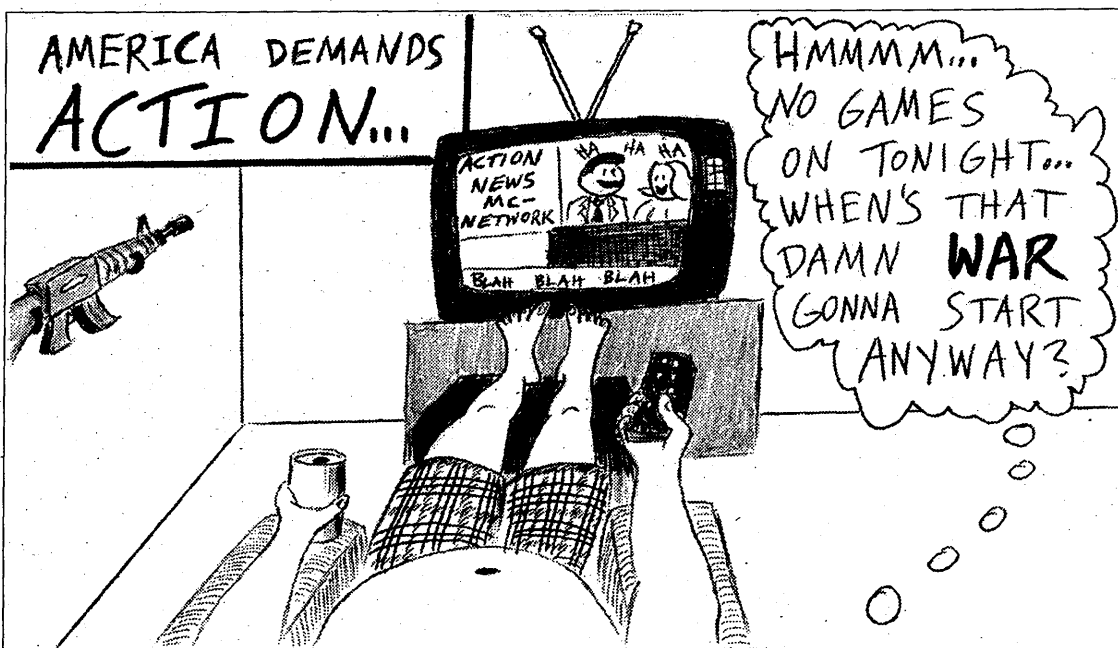
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And we quote:

"Rhode Island is neither a road nor an island — discuss."

-Linda Richman, host of Coffee Talk.



Americans must support soldiers, not war



Sarah Loehndorf

COMMENTARY

On Sept. 9, 2001, 750 sailors, many of them only 18 years old, graduated from Navy boot camp in Great Lakes, Ill. Two days later, on Sept. 11 — as their friends from high school adjusted to college life — they prepared for war.

War protests and political ideologies have since divided the country unnecessarily. These differences aside, Americans must not forget to support American troops.

The men and women in the armed forces should be thought of as separate from those in political power who make decisions. Most people who serve in the military do so to enhance their own life, see the world or prepare for a college education — not for the political reasons that cloud the decisions in Washington D.C.. Americans need to support the military forces in the Persian Gulf, regardless of whether they

support the war.

More than 250,000 U.S. troops are currently stationed in the Persian Gulf waiting for a possible attack. Yet, Americans have never been so distanced from the country's involvement in war.

In the past, the draft called the nation's men to battle. With no draft, the reality for many Americans is that war is not a reality. Few Americans know soldiers, sailors or marines, and even fewer have family serving in the Middle East.

National Public Radio reported in January that out of 540 members of Congress, only one member had a child who is currently enlisted and in active duty. Americans simply do not have the ties to the war that they have had in previous wars, making support for the troops nonexistent.

The last draft occurred in 1973 during the Vietnam War. Young men received their draft cards and were promptly shipped out. Today, however, military personnel are simply volunteers. For many, the choice to join the military was not to see battle but to enrich their quality of life. Obtaining a free or partially paid education as well as a large

enlistment bonus and the chance to see the world may sound much more enticing than paying for college or joining the workforce.

By signing up for the military, many have put their lives at risk. Technology has given the public a false feeling of increased troop safety.

After the Persian Gulf War, the use of "smart weapons," which allow bombs to hit their targets more accurately, gave the illusion that the United States was fighting a bloodless war with few casualties and safer conditions for troops. With the further advancements in technology today, many Americans think the country can go into Iraq with its stealth bombers and cruise missiles and remain practically invisible, hiding behind our technology. That is not the case. Thousands of soldiers and marines are waiting in bordering countries, sleeping in tents on the desert sand, waiting for war.

Anti-war advocates argue that war would not be possible without the military action of the troops; however, supporting troops is not synonymous with

See **TROOPS**, Page 15

Eve of 21st birthday marks time for reflection



Mike Baab

ACT YOUR AGE

Tomorrow is my 21st birthday. I plan to get up early, buy enough cases of Pabst Blue Ribbon to sedate a Serengeti elephant herd and commence drinking.

As functional alcoholics go, I am merely a toddler. I may not have started drinking until I was 17, but that doesn't mean my bloodstream was a tabernacle choir before I unscrewed my first flask.

When I was in sixth grade, my shift, morally bankrupt sister told me she would give me a few hits from her AC/DC bong if I took over her paper route for a few afternoons.

I agreed, and spent most of the ensuing afternoon laughing at "Tiny Toons" and feeling sorry for Luigi because he was living in Mario's shadow.

I realized that marijuana was the perfect drug for me. It put me in the mood to do the only things I'm good at: eating and

sitting. By the time I got to eighth grade, I was the school's Head Stoner.

During my swamp-headed middle school years, I was supporting my habit by providing a much-needed commodity to the 12- to 14-year-old community — Playboy. I had been cursed with a tangled garden of chest hair since I was tall enough to go on the rides at Enchanted Forest, and by the time I was 12 I looked like I was ready for Social Security.

Armed with my tit-fuzz, I could walk into almost any bookstore in Seattle and buy Hugh Hefner's brilliant literacy aid by the stack. I charged my classmates \$10 per Playboy. If the administration had let me repeat the seventh grade a few times, I probably would be partying in The Grotto by now.

When I got to high school, I had tried my hand at stonerdom and smut peddling, but I had never tasted a drop of alcohol. It seemed like beer guzzling always led to other things, such as cow-tipping, mullets and bastard children.

During my freshman year of high school I quit smoking

weed. I had gone from the jolly, Santa-style stoner to the gloomy, Nine Inch Nails kind. When I realized I had more Pink Floyd albums than friends, I knew it was time to wean myself off the bong.

I took my first non-Communion drink right after I got to community college. I was hanging out with my friend James, whose heroic alcohol tolerance had made me challenge my assumptions about the yeasty beverage.

I told James I wanted a martini, which was the only drink I knew of. As he rattled around the kitchen, he told me he didn't have any martini glasses. He came out with an A&W Root Beer mug half full of vodka and told me to get cracking.

I didn't know that martinis were meant to be sipped, so I took a gulp like a blue whale as soon as he gave me the glass. I almost yakked all over his coffee table. The vodka tasted worse than the antifreeze my sister made me drink when I was 11. I shakily set the cup down and started making abrupt consonant sounds and shaking my

See **ALCOHOL**, Page 15

Troops: Blame decision-makers, not those following orders

Continued from Page 14

supporting the war. By supporting the troops, Americans send the message that they appreciate the protection the troops provide.

Distinctions need to be made between the people making the decisions to strike and those carrying out the plans. While military personnel implement the orders of their superiors, they do not make the decisions to attack. They know they have a job to do, and they obey their orders.

Whatever their political persuasion, Americans need to make it clear that they support U.S. troops.

While U.S. military forces may be thousands of miles away, they know what their country believes in. The messages that America can send are strong enough to reach all corners of the earth.

It is time to send the message of support to our troops in the Middle East. Americans need to avoid the resentment that was so

grotesquely displayed after troops returned from the Vietnam War.

Enlisting in the military, especially in times of war, is a huge sacrifice. To the families and friends of the military forces, it means months without hearing from or seeing their loved ones. For the United States it means protection, thanks to thousands of nameless and faceless individuals. The least Americans can do is support these individuals.

Alcohol: Night of total inebriation signifies coming of age

Continued from Page 14

head back and forth.

"If that's too much for you, I can get you something else," James said in his best syrupy voice. "Do you want a wine cooler or something, Susan?"

My throat felt like a Molotov cocktail, and the only response I

could make was a hoarse cough. After a few more minutes of seizure aftershocks, I took a sip from the martini stein.

"That's fantastic," I said, sounding like I had a severely brain-damaged frog in my throat. "I could start to like this."

Since then, I have matured. I

have moved from a bong to a beer bong. Tomorrow I will be taking my first legal sip. I have high expectations for the Bellingham bar scene, and I'm easy to please. As long as they serve their martinis in root beer mugs, they won't get any complaints.

Shirt: Opinion of one student is not beginning of anarchy

Continued from Page 13

Educators can take anything out of their hallways that seemingly presents any sort of threat, symbolic or otherwise.

Educators need to grow up and stop fearing the children they have dedicated their lives to teaching. One black T-shirt is not

going to keep the bells from ringing or tests from being taken. One opinion is not going to create mass hysteria, all leading up to a stampede down the hallway. This is not Columbine — this is a political idea.

Instead of sending students home at the first sign of "radical"

thought and shunning interesting and valuable discussion, educators should invite more politically charged debate. It would get kids to start thinking about the world and issues around them. Hell, it might actually get students to start reading the newspaper.

Children: Innocence produces answers

Continued from Page 13

through all of the numbers and propaganda being provided by the Bush administration and presented by the media.

Along with the questions from Viet Vo, 11, from Winooski, Vt., asking why other countries do not want to go to war, and Luke Gilliam, 10, from Taylors, S.C., asking how life in America will be affected, the article provided the most concise and educated

summary of the conflict with Iraq that has been published in recent months.

The kids asked all the right questions and received all the right answers. It took the innocence of children to ask questions so the rest of the world could get the facts and figures they need to understand the Iraq conflict. Before the United States tries to start another war someone should ask the kids what they think.

Letter to the Editor

Blair Anderson wrote (Feb. 28 Community Voice) urging support for the war and the president arguing that "we are fighting a war"

With the exception of Secretary of State (General) Colin Powell and Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta (the only Democrat in the cabinet who served in military intelligence in Japan and Korea), none of Bush's cabinet (notably not President George Bush, not Vice President Dick Cheney, not Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, not Attorney General John Ashcroft) ever served on active duty in the military. Indeed, the President himself during the Vietnam War avoided active duty by cutting in line to join the National Guard where he would be safe. And even there, he was AWOL, so often that he could have been prosecuted as a deserter under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. See www.awolbush.com for details. Fortunately for him, he was "well-connected."

Beware of cowards who declare "we should go to war" when they intend others to fight for them.

Oh, and if Iraq is not about oil, why does Bush express no urgency to disarming North Korea and establishing democracy for the North Koreans who have been starving for years?

Thomas M. Goetzl

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Reform: New plan effective next fall

Continued from Page 3

or to even double major," said Julie Krom, AS vice president for academic affairs and GETF committee member.

In the end, reform will allow students to graduate earlier, Krom said.

The number of Western students graduating in four years fluctuates between 25 percent and 30 percent, registrar Joe St. Hilaire said. A new student GUR program could propel a student to graduate sooner, but the current 180-credit graduation requirement will remain the same, and any leftover credits would be filled by electives, he said.

In Model 2, the Integrative-Distributive Model, students will take 15 courses from competency areas for approximately 54 credits. During a student's freshman year, a three-

quarter long series of three humanity, social or natural science courses would be required. A student's sophomore year would have one quarter that consists of a pair or more of content courses from different area classes.

"Students came (to Western) expecting to be going right into their majors, and they were told there is this general education thing they have to do first," Bulcroft said. "The question was, 'Why and how relevant was this to my major and my life?'"

The finalized ACC-determined model would take effect by fall 2004.

"It is unknown whether they would be phased in over a period of time or not," said Susan Mancuso, General Education Task Force chair. "Students currently enrolled at Western can stay in the current program."

War: Embargo affects Iraqi families

Continued from Page 4

to UNICEF. In 1990, 45 percent lived in such poverty.

"The Iraqi people should not be poor, and they are really poor now," Saudi said. "It is the land of petrol. They should be living richly like the people of America."

Cynthia Moulds, Western interim director of women studies, said inviting MADRE was necessary to bring awareness of human rights issues associated with war to the community. Human rights issues are often overlooked because political issues traditionally receive more attention in the country, she said.

"(The conflict with Iraq) is the most pressing, most important thing in our lives right now," she said. "If anyone has made a difference, it is these women."

To Stromberg, Saudi and the other women of MADRE throughout the world, protest-

ing the impending war is imperative to defending the rights of Iraqi families from globalization and war. Stromberg encouraged the crowd of approximately 100 students and community members to protest military action and economic sanctions.

"The war on terror is wreaking terror around the world," Stromberg said. "Globalization has all sorts of implications. This war on terror is a globalized war."

Abandoning the fear to speak out against the impending war that silenced the nation during the Persian Gulf War will help protect the people of Iraq from a U.S.-imposed government and future human rights violations, Stromberg said.

"(Americans think) the enemy is an extraterrestrial coming into this country," Saudi said. "But the enemy is not coming here, it is going to Iraq."

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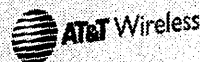
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