

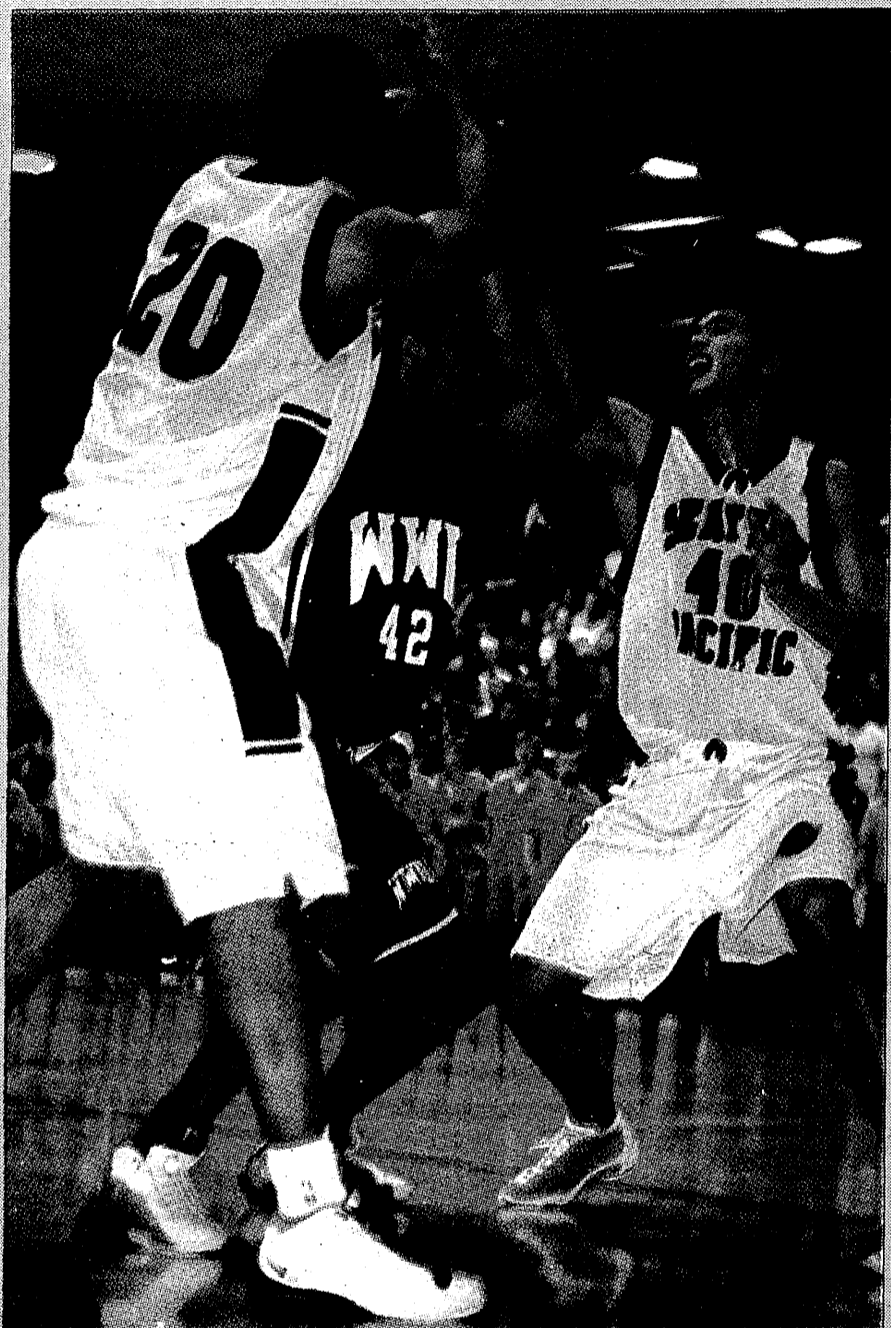
The Western Front

Western Washington University

Volume 120 Issue 2

Bellingham, Washington

Vikings fall from first



Heather Trimn/ The Western Front

Viking forward Maurice Tyree (42) is dominated by Seattle Pacific University players Yusif Aziz (20) and Daniel Sandrin (40). Both teams were undefeated going into Saturday's bout. The Vikings lost 96-89. See story, Page 10.

'Pit' protest trial ends in hung jury, retrial date set

By Lisa Mandt
THE WESTERN FRONT

The "pit" protester case ended Monday in a hung jury after eight hours of deliberation. It will be retried in February.

The three defendants were charged with conspiracy to commit disorderly conduct.

Following the verdict, city prosecutor Jeffrey Lustick immediately called for a retrial, requiring defendants Joanne Ernst, Timothy Talley and David Sansone to appear at 10 a.m. in Bellingham Municipal Court Feb. 5 for a pre-trial hearing.

"It is not uncommon in a hung trial to call for an immediate retrial," Lustick said.

He said the hung trial proves the court system is fair and that a unanimous vote is needed for a conviction.

"I'm very happy and proud of the jury for giving this case this much care and consideration," defense witness Ellen Murphy said. "However, I am very disappointed that the prosecutor called for an immediate retrial."

In response to the hung jury, defendant

Ernst expressed her disappointment in the retrial decision and said she may not appeal, depending on the length of her sentence if convicted.

"I will probably appeal because this kind of thing (restriction of first amendment rights) needs to be stopped," Talley said. "If we are found innocent, we will probably file a civil suit."

Talley expressed his frustration in the decision to retry the misdemeanor case.

"If the city is going to continue in this waste of time and money, then so be it," he said.

The defendants said they classify this trial and prosecution as a "witch-hunt," but the city responded by denouncing the accusation. Instead, the prosecution argued that the defendants went too far in their actions.

To argue their case, the prosecution relied on videotapes of the city council sit-in, along with many other pieces of evidence.

"We also used photographs, e-mails that were transmitted between the defendants,"

See JURY, Page 4

Budget cuts may hike tuition

By Laura Thoren
THE WESTERN FRONT

A 15 percent tuition increase could be an option for Western's Board of Trustees to compensate for recent statewide budget cuts. Any possible tuition increases, however, would be decided after legislative session is complete in mid-March.

The board of trustees met Monday in Seattle to discuss fund raising at Western in preparation for the state legislature's budget decision.

"The trustees discussed the impacts of the budget cut and what the university needs to make up the money," Student Trustee Jeff Kelly said. "The board has not yet discussed specifically what it will do."

According to Gov. Gary Locke's state budget proposal for 2002-03, submitted last month, Western will be required to cut 5 percent from its 2002-03 budget of \$93.6 million.

Locke's proposal for higher education also included maintaining a growing enrollment, increasing financial aid to low and middle-income students and giving tuition-setting authority to the governing boards of universities.

The proposal also expands enrollment for worker retraining programs at technical and community colleges.

"We support the additional tuition flexibility in the governor's budget," President Karen Morse said in a December news release. "If authority is granted by the legislature, we will propose tuition adjustments to our board of trustees only in amounts necessary to maintain the high quality of Western's programs and prevent cuts to areas that serve and effect students."

Western student and political science major Megan Stydulf receives partial student aid to cover her out-of-state expenses

See TUITION, Page 4

Poor air quality complaints relocate Western offices

By Josh Haupt
THE WESTERN FRONT

Air quality concerns forced three Western administrative offices to move during December, with relocations finished this past week.

Workers in Western's Offices of accounting, purchasing and telecommunications complained during the past few months of respiratory problems, headaches, tearing eyes and coughing fits, Frits Ponsen, director of telecommunications, said.

The departments were previously located at the Administrative Services Building A at 333 32 St.

The accounting office moved to Old Main 580/320, purchasing was relocated to both Wilson library 677 and Edens Hall 116 and telecommunications moved to Viking Addition 22.

Complaints from the workers in the office of Telecommunications alone were "chronic," Ponsen said, with nearly all employees reporting respiratory problems to some degree.

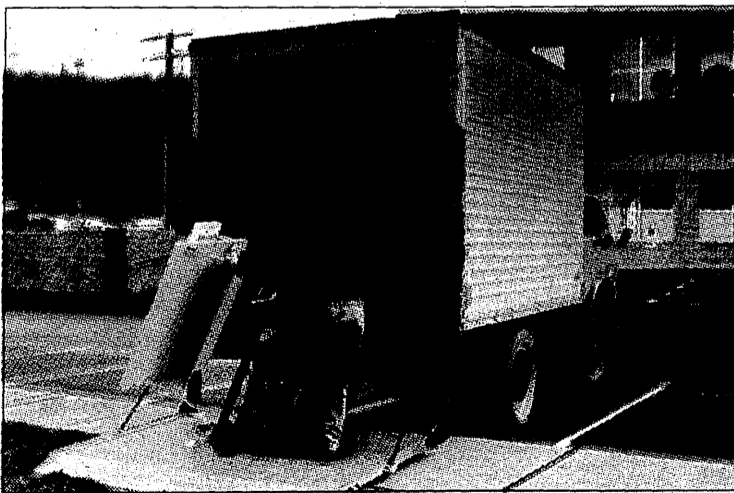
"I had some problems with breathing," telecommunications employee Bobby Hallock said.

Ponsen said he believed residual glues from recent constructions and mold created from moisture seeping up through the building's foundation might be the reason for the complaints.

"I've not felt anything myself though," Ponsen said.

Although 20 people complained at one time during the past months, no solid data existed yet, said Gayle Shipley, director of environmental health and services.

"Even if it's just one person,



Amber Hurley/ The Western Front

Dave Schuyler of Western's Transport Services moves furniture out of Administrative Services A on 32nd St.

you have to take it seriously," she said. "This is a health issue."

The Office of Environmental Health was working with

Facilities Management to make sure the air quality concerns are fixed as soon as possible.

Director of Facilities

See OFFICES, Page 4

IN THIS ISSUE

Western Women's Basketball

Viking women win 13-straight at Carver Gym with a 88-82 victory over Western Oregon University.

See story, Page 11.

One group of happy ass-slappers

A new AS club called



SLAPS! lures its members with one object: Slap your mate's ass before your ass is grass.

See story, Page 9.

COPS BOX

University Police

Jan. 11, 4:06 p.m.: Officers responded to a car prowling in Parking Lot 16CR. Stereo equipment was stolen through the passenger-side window.

Jan. 11, 8:40 p.m.: A student reported receiving threats in the Ridgeway Commons dining hall. The student chose not to press criminal charges.

Jan. 12, 12:00 a.m.: A man reported a suspicious noise in Haggard Hall. When he investigated the noise, he saw a man walking out of the building with a fire extinguisher. The suspect was gone when UP arrived.

Jan. 12, 11:20 p.m.: A Domino's pizza bag was reported stolen while the driver was making a delivery in Parking Lot 5. UP found no suspects.

Bellingham Police

Jan. 12, 12:39 p.m.: A vehicle was reported stolen on the 2300 block of Bill McDonald Parkway.

Jan. 12, 10:49 p.m.: A suspect was arrested on suspicion of a DUI and marijuana possession. He was cited and released.

Jan. 13, 9:04 a.m.: Officers responded to a commercial burglary at the 3900 block of Iron Gate Parkway.

Compiled by Tyler Hicks

AP WIRE NEWS BRIEFS

STATE NEWS

Bellingham murder suspect sentenced to life

James Allen, 52, was sentenced Monday to life in prison without parole after admitting last month that he raped and killed Keri Lynne Sherlock, 20. Allen admitted killing Sherlock on Oct. 3, 1998. Her body was found on a logging road 30 miles east of Bellingham.

Sherlock was visiting relatives while considering whether to attend Western.

UW program offers drug counseling without pressure

An experimental University of Washington program for marijuana users offers counseling without pressuring them to quit.

The \$1.3 million project is funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

The project leader, Roger Roffman of the School of Social Work, said it supports people who are ambivalent about drug use.

By the time the four-year

Marijuana check-up ends this fall, it will have provided counseling to 250 participants.

Roffman said he hopes it will lead to a continuum of care that ranges from education to treatment for drug users.

NATIONAL NEWS

Christian Longo arrested in Mexico

The FBI confirmed that fugitive Christian Longo, wanted on charges of killing his wife and their three children, was captured in Mexico Sunday night.

The FBI in Portland, Ore. said Longo was arrested in a grass hut in Tulum 60 miles south of Cancun by Mexican authorities and FBI agents.

When he was arrested, Longo was living at a beach camp.

Authorities said Longo is back on U.S. soil and is being detained by authorities in Houston where he is scheduled to appear before a federal magistrate.

Jury selected in trial of former priest

Jury selection began in the

trial of a former Roman Catholic priest accused of molestation.

John Geoghan, 66, is standing trial for allegedly abusing an 11-year-old boy during his time as a priest at a Boston parish. More than 130 people claimed he fondled or raped them during the 30 years he served in the area. Geoghan faces more than 80 civil lawsuits.

Geoghan could face up to 10 years in prison if convicted. He was defrocked in 1998.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Queen praises son's handling of Prince Harry's drug use

Queen Elizabeth voiced her approval of the way Prince Charles is dealing with Prince Harry's experimentation with alcohol and marijuana.

In a statement released from Buckingham Palace, the queen said she "supports the action which has been taken in response to the seriousness of Prince Harry's behavior."

Prince Charles sent his 17-year-old son to a rehabilitation clinic in London for a day so he could talk to recovering addicts

and see the dangers of drug use.

A royal source confirms press reports that last summer Harry admitted to smoking marijuana with friends and drinking with them at a pub. He was 16-years-old at the time.

Marijuana is illegal in Britain and the drinking age is 18.

More lives claimed in Mideast violence

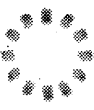



A roadside shooting near a Jewish settlement in the West Bank left one Israeli dead and another wounded, Israeli security sources said.

A few hours before the shooting, a Palestinian militia leader was killed in a bomb blast, which the Palestinians blame on Israel. The militia leader admitted to killing Israelis.

Israel has been targeting suspected Palestinian militants during the past 16 months, sparking retaliatory attacks by the Palestinians.

Compiled by Paul Nicholas Carlson

Western Weather

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			
Sunny 41-28	Partly Cloudy 45-30	Partly Cloudy 45-31	Partly Cloudy 45-32

Corrections & Clarifications

In the Jan. 11 issue, minimum wage increased 18 cents. The Front regrets these 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/7287, or brought in person to Commissary 113A. 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 MATH PLACEMENT TEST is offered in OM 120 at 9 a.m. Jan. 24, 31 Feb. / 14, 21 28, March / 14, and 21 The test is offered at 3 p.m. Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 11 25, March 4, 11 and 18. Registration is not required. Students must bring photo identification, student number Social Security number and a No. 2 pencil. A \$15 fee is payable in the exact amount at time of testing. Allow 90 minutes. The schedule and sample problems may be found at www.ac.wvu.edu/~assess/tc.htm.

THE TEST FOR ENTRANCE INTO TEACHER EDUCATION will be given in OM 120 at 2 p.m. Feb. 17 and in FR 4 on March 7. Registration required stop by OM 120 or call X/3080 A \$25 fee is payable in exact amount at time of testing. Allow 2 1/2 hours, not administered individually. Fall deadline: April 1.

THE MILLER ANALOGIES TEST is offered in OM 120 at 2 p.m. Feb. 8 and March 5. Registration is required in OM 120 or call X/3080 A \$35 fee is payable at test time. Allow 1/2 hours. Registration limited to 16 students. Test is not administered individually.

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

A TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM informational meeting will be held at 7 p.m. tonight, Jan. 15, at the Bellingham Public Library downtown. Recruiting is under way for summer 2002 admission into a post-baccalaureate elementary certification program. Priority application deadline is Feb. 1. Call X/2326 for more information.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON UPDATES TO PARKING rules and traffic regulations at Western is scheduled for 2 p.m. Jan. 24 in OM 413, with changes proposed to Washington Administrative Codes 516-12, 13, and 14. For more information, call Legal Services, X/3117.

THE VIKING UNION GALLERY will host a one-night reception from 7 to 9 p.m. Jan. 15 with artist Jack Gunter. The reception will be at the ARCO Exhibit Building, 206 E. Prospect St. Gunter's exhibition, "Secrets of the Mount Vernon Culture," will be on display there through Jan. 20.

THE TUTORIAL CENTER OFFERS the following sessions: **Time Management**, 4 p.m. Jan. 15, HH 153; **Note Taking**, 4 p.m. Jan. 16, HH 153; **Reading for Meaning**, 4 p.m. Jan. 17, HH 153; **Test Taking**, 3 p.m. Jan. 22, BH 227 and **Math Study Skills**, 4 p.m. Jan. 23, HH 153.

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Board of trustees receives tuition-setting authority from Gov. Locke

From TUITION, Page 1

and would be affected by a possible tuition increase.

"My mom has taken on a second job to cover my school expenses," Stydulf said. "If tuition went up, I would probably get a job and try to get more financial aid. I probably wouldn't transfer schools."

Western was approved for a 6.1 percent tuition increase last year, said Bob Edie, Western vice president of external affairs. "It will be a higher tuition increase this time."

The board does not favor high tuition and high financial aid, Edie said.

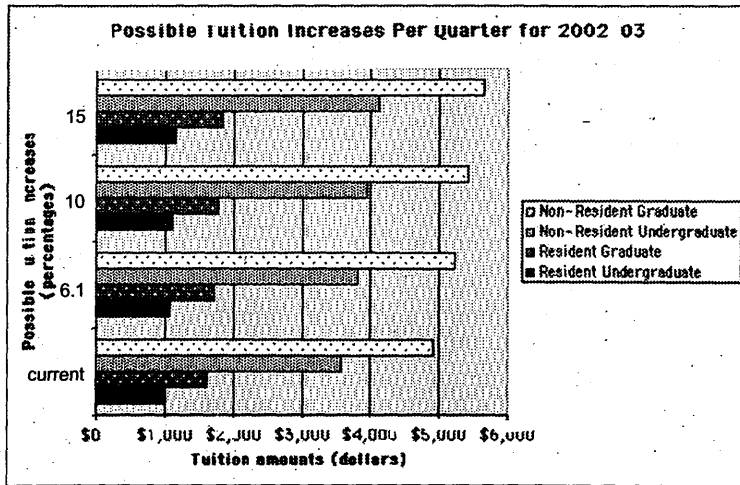
Maintaining enrollment is also a part of the governor's

proposal. Current enrollment goals for the next year remain unchanged since the release of the budget proposal, Karen Copetas, director of admissions, said.

Western receives state funds based on the number of credits students register for. This number is called the full time equivalent, she said. Next fall, Western projects an increase of 120 FTE for a total of 11,066 FTE.

"It certainly could change if something unexpected happens with the budget," Copetas said.

Western also reported that in 2001-02, 8,175 students received financial aid totalling more than \$61.9 million.



Industrial design major Nate Kuhns pays for school through scholarships and financial aid. "I can't see a tuition increase

affecting me," he said. The state legislative session began Monday and will continue until March 14.

Faculty senate debates GUR requirements

By Amber Blondin
THE WESTERN FRONT

Faculty Senate Chairman Steve Ross announced Monday Western's General University Requirements may not match state guidelines.

Ross, Academic Coordinating Commission chairman, said the minimum number of credit hours to complete GURs at Western should be less than or equal to 60 credits, according to state law.

Western requires students complete 90 GUR credits and 90 credits for each specific major, including elective and minor courses.

Phil Montague, philosophy department chairman, said after searching numerous archives, he could not find anything to support Ross's claim.

A decision was not made and the subject will be discussed further during the board's next meeting Jan. 28.

Concerns about employee safety require Western to move offices

From OFFICES, Page 1

Management Tim Wynn said the decision to move the offices was made because they had no precise knowledge as to the cause of problems.

"Even if it's just one person, you have to take it seriously. This is a health issue."

Gayle Shipley
Director of Environmental Health and Services

"We decided to get the people out of there until we had a better idea of what was causing this," Wynn said.

"The university has been working closely with Dawson Construction to identify and correct the environmental concerns," he said.

Other investigative options, Shipley said, included contracting Indoor Environmental Engineering, a consulting firm based in San Francisco.

She said the firm already spent several days investigating and taking samples, but no data was available yet to be published.

Prosecutor calls for Feb. 5 retrial

From JURY, Page 1

eyewitness testimony and analysis investigation that found the four bike locks were purchased together," Lustick said.

One concern Talley said he had was that the prosecution's witnesses were city employees.

"This uses the city government to silence a grassroots public ground swell," he said.

Acknowledging that the city witnesses were employees of the city, Lustick said, "the fact is that they were witnesses, that is why they testified."

In arguing the defenses' case, Ernst and attorney David Hunter relied on eyewitness testimony.

"The most compelling evidence about being not guilty is that no

one ever asked us to stop interrupting the meeting," Ernst said. "If asked, I personally would have sat back down."

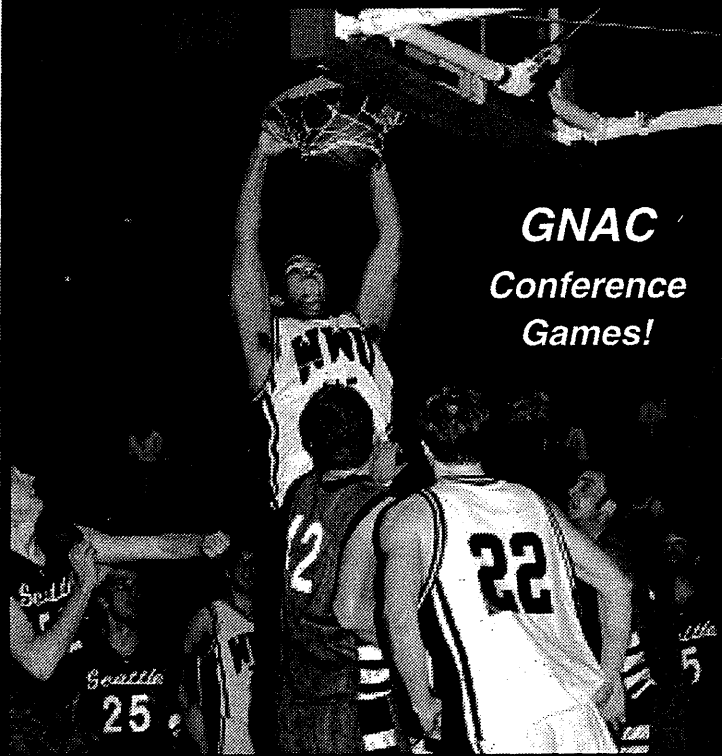
While under oath, Talley and Sansone admitted they engaged in conspiracy to disrupt the meeting, Lustick said.

Among the other individuals involved in the sit-in, Nathaniel Welsch — a of the participant in the bike locking — pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct. Shannon Huffman and an unknown man have warrants issued for their arrest, Lustick said.

With the pre-trial date set for Feb. 5, the prosecution still has the option of dropping the case or amending the charge, but nothing has been decided yet.

The Western Front Online Poll
What do you think about Western's proposed tuition increase?
Vote at:
westernfrontonline.com

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BE PART OF THE TRADITION!

Unemployment rate hinders students in job hunt

By Gerald Craft
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western graduate Lief Larson has not had a job for six months, despite spending three hours per day job hunting.

"When I first moved up here in 1996, I had two jobs," Larson said. "Now I've graduated, my loans are due and I can't find a job, not even delivering pizzas!"

Bellingham residents have seen an increase of over two percent in the county's unemployment rate since last year, according to Washington State Employment Security Department.

The national unemployment rate is currently 5.4 percent; nearly 2 percent lower than Bellingham's unemployment rate of 7.3 percent, said Victor Hayes, US Bureau of Labor Statistics information specialist.

Western senior Kim Hardy said she has not had a steady job since February 2001.

"I've been in Bellingham for

four years," Hardy said. "When I moved up here from Tacoma, I was able to transfer from the Kinder Care there to the one up here. Now I don't have any hook-ups like I did with Kinder Care."

The energy crisis had a large impact on unemployment, Malinda Bjaaland, coordinator for the Whatcom Work Force Development Council said. With electric rates so severe in this area, she said businesses were having problems paying electric bills.

Bjaaland said the crisis drove many businesses, such as Intalco Aluminum Co. and Georgia Pacific West Inc, away from the area, leaving many out of work.

The states most impacted by the energy crisis, including Oregon and Nevada, are the three states with the highest unemployment rates, Lisa Williamson, an unemployment statistics analyst from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, said.

This shows the energy crisis

had a direct impact on the unemployment rate, she said.

Guy Giacalone, owner of Mannino's Italian restaurant, said the energy crisis has definitely affected his business expenses.

"When you're running ovens and air conditioners and dishwashers and microwaves all day, you're pulling down a lot of electricity," Giacalone said. "With electric rates so high, you can't not feel an impact."

"These kids get almost no hours. They do it in hopes of getting more hours, which few people get unless someone quits."

Josh Gryzb
Zumiez board shop manager

He said the higher bills forced him to cut down on his greatest expense - employee hours.

Bjaaland also said there's been an increase in the number of people visiting the employment security department following Sept. 11.

"Sept. 11 has had a large retail impact," Bjaaland said. "Fewer Canadians are coming across the border and purchasing."

Hardy said she had an interview at Rite Aid, but the manag-

er told her he could not afford to hire anyone since the September attacks.

Between 75-100 people come to Zumiez board shop at Bellis Fair Mall every week to either ask for or turn in a job application, manager Josh Grzyb said.

Although applicants come in year-round, he only hires once in the early summer and once in November.

He said he will hire about 15 sales associates at these times, but only three will get more than five hours per week.

"These kids get almost no hours," Grzyb said.

"They do it (work here) in hopes of getting more hours, which few people get unless someone quits," he said.

"Mall traffic is way down," he said. "Traffic fell by about 20 percent since the attacks."

Grzyb said he's been forced to cut many of his employees' shifts.

Bjaaland said with over 15,000 college students in the area and a surplus of dislocated workers, finding a job in Bellingham can be difficult.

Larson said his troubles began in June when he quit his job at the Teriyaki Bar downtown.

"I almost had a job at Sol de Mexico, but the manager could only hire one person," Larson said. "It was between me and my friend Christy and he left it up to us to decide."

Larson said the stress of deciding was too overwhelming and he didn't want to risk his friendship with Christy so he told her to take the job.

However, Grzyb said mall traffic has picked up recently. Giacalone said energy rates have been decreasing.

Most people will eventually get hired if they continue to keep checking up on the job, Grzyb said. Enthusiasm, an outgoing personality and a good resume also help, he said.

Larson said he plans to move to a different state where finding a job might be easier since unemployment rates are lower in most other states.

"I'm pretty much a 23-year-old bum with a college degree in this town," Larson said. "It's time I moved away."

Unemployment rates by county

November

County in WA	Unemployment rate (in percent)
Yakima	12.1
Okanogan	10.7
Skagit	8.2
Mason	7.4
Whatcom	7.3
Pierce	6.9
Spokane	6.7
Snohomish	6.3
King	5.7

Information from Washington State Employment Security Department

This lecture series celebrates the wealth of knowledge at Western Washington University with eclectic talks by faculty who are experts in their fields.

☎ 650-7545 disability needs and parking info.

"Earth Visions - Reading the Rocks of the Pacific Northwest"
free lecture by Scott Babcock, Geology Professor
Tuesday, Jan. 15
SMATE 150
5:15 PM

TURNING POINTS

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SLEEP LATER. SCRY. YOU CAN IGNORE YOUR ROOMMATE WHO'S PARTYING DOWN THE HALL.

Western assists local businesses affected by Sept. 11

By Donja Walker
THE WESTERN FRONT

Facing the possibility of closure due to the economic impact of the Sept. 11 events, local businesses look to stay open with funds from the federal government and the assistance of Western's Small Business Development Center.

The Small Business Association is offering the Economic Injury Disaster Loan to small businesses across the country that cannot meet operating expenses due to the destruction of the World Trade Center. Applications are due Jan. 21.

"The attacks have been devastating to our business as well as nationwide," said Sandy Lindsay, receptionist for local travel agency Alluring Asia Inc.

Alluring Asia Inc. had a 90 percent cancellation rate and their colleagues in New York lost \$500,000 in refunds, Lindsay said.

The travel industry appears to be the industry that has suffered the most, she said.

"Travel agencies have also had a really big problem because Internet travel is on the rise (so they are already being pressured)," Nancy Jordan, program manager for the Small Business Development Center, said. "The Sept. 11 attacks just took the wind out of them."

Financial problems are forc-

ing businesses to layoff many of their employees and in some cases close down.

Debbie Norris, a receptionist for Bay Shore travel agency in Blaine, said the Bay Shore travel agency in Ferndale was closed because of cancellations and profit losses. People are afraid to travel, she said.

"Until traveling is safe and secure, the travel industry is going to keep spiraling downhill," Bellingham Travel Agency owner Frank Zurline said. "We are dealing with it by experiencing a lot of internal cutbacks."

"
"The attacks have been devastating to our business as well as nationwide."

Sandy Lindsay
Receptionist, Alluring Asia Inc.

Travel was not the only industry affected, Jordan said. Manufacturing, shipping, retail, import/export and businesses dependent upon cross-border commerce were also affected by Sept. 11.

Originally, the EIDLs were only available to businesses declared disaster areas by the president, including New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, but the SBA decided to allow businesses nationwide.

The EIDL is a long-term, low interest rate loan. The amount of each loan is determined by the actual injury of the business, according to the SBA.

In order to qualify for the loan, the SBA said businesses must prove they are not able to meet their operating expenses as a direct result of Sept. 11, not due to the economic downturn.

In December, more than 300 small businesses in Washington state requested an application, Jordan said.

Graduating students interning at the Small Business Development Center of Western's College of Business and Economics are assisting businesses applying for the loan with the application process required by the SBA.

The SBA requires three years of tax records, current financial and profit/loss statements, monthly sales figures verifying losses experienced, insurance and disaster tax information and a written explanation of how the attacks affected their business.

The SBA also requires businesses to obtain appropriate insurance coverage, which could be full hazard insurance or flood hazard insurance, depending on the borrowers location.

"The SBA's regulations are strict because of their overall goal," Jordan said. "They want to be able to provide funds for businesses to recover, not those who were already struggling."



Heather Trimm/ The Western Front

The travel industry was most affected by Sept. 11, said Sandy Lindsay, receptionist for Allury Asia Inc.

SPRING SPECIALS
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FEATURES

Campus & Community

January 15, 2002

The Western Front • 7

Strange DAYS

Hospital mix-up promises elderly men bundles of joy

A London hospital admitted last week that it mistakenly sent letters to 30 people, including six elderly men, informing them they were pregnant.

The letters were sent by a computer system that automatically generates letters to patients telling them their operations have been postponed.

A representative for the Chesterfield and North Derbyshire Royal Hospital said human error was the cause of the false letters. The computer letters offer specific reasons, and the applicable option is then chosen.

"The girl operating the system has simply chosen the wrong option," the representative said.

None of the people who received the letters were actually pregnant. Working practices have been changed to ensure the mistake will not happen again, the representative said.

Shark has no daddy

At the Henry Doorly Zoo in Nebraska, a bonnethead shark was recently born.

The shark was born in a tank

that only contained females. Zoo officials said they are skeptical as to how it was conceived.

"If we solve this mystery, it's going to make one of the most interesting scientific papers in a long time," zoo director Lee Simmons said.

The offspring died within five hours of its birth.

DNA tests have been conducted by veterinarians on all of the bonnethead sharks, but results may not be known for weeks, officials said.

"With DNA fingerprinting, we can use it to trace the paternity of the dead shark," Simmons said. "We'll know for sure who the animal is related to."

Shark experts around the world were consulted, but Simmons said they are also baffled.

Some have theorized that the mother shark retained sperm cells from an earlier impregnation. But Simmons said it is not possible because the 3-and-a-half-year-old female who gave birth came to the zoo as a baby herself and would have been too young to carry sperm cells.

eBay your body away

Stating the reason as an effort

to raise money for his unborn child's future, a carpenter's apprentice tried to sell the rights to his mummified body on eBay.

James Olheiser, 24, offered the rights to display his mummified corpse for \$250,000. He said the mummified remains would become part of a public or private collection.

Olheiser posted the offer on the popular Internet auction site only to have company officials pull the item within 15 hours. A representative for eBay said it violated guidelines that prohibit the listing of human bodies or body parts on the site.

"I figured it would be some weird millionaire who would pay \$250,000," Olheiser said.

Olheiser and his wife are expecting a daughter in May. The couple hoped to use the money to pay bills and fund their daughter's college education.

Man escapes jail to go on beer run

More time behind bars and less time in them may be the case for a Vermont convict who allegedly broke out of jail to go on a beer run.

Authorities said Mark Delude crawled under a fence

at the Caledonia County Work Camp in St. Johnsbury, Vt. last month and walked more than a mile to a local convenience store.

While at the store, Delude bought a case of Budweiser, a 40-ounce beer and a carton of cigarettes before walking back to the compound.

Delude's easy escape ended after he crawled back under the fence and was caught by a state police officer "slightly inebriated" after consuming the 40-ounce.

It may be a long time before Delude enjoys his next brew. The inmate, who was serving an eight-to-30-month sentence for a series of minor offenses, was transferred to a more secure facility and could face an additional two years behind bars.

"Star Wars" fans reach unnecessarily high levels of geekdom

Could the force be any stronger between John Guth and Jeff Tweiten of Seattle?

The two die-hard "Star Wars" fans secured the widely uncoveted first and second places in line outside the Cinerama, where previous films in the

saga premiered, on Jan. 1.

The two are unsure whether or not "Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones," which is scheduled to open May 16, will even play at the theater.

Guth, 32, president of the Seattle Star Wars Society and Tweiten, 24, one of the club's 1,200 members, said they are "dedicating their lives to a cultural phenomenon that has inspired their hearts and instructed their values throughout their lives."

The two said they hope to set a world record for waiting in line for a movie. The two will attempt to do so only with "short, alternating breaks" for the entire four-and-a-half months.

To capture "the journey and the evolution of waiting for an event," the two said they are taking hourly photos of themselves and will post them on a Web site that is still under construction.

Pictures of the pair doing things such as sitting, waiting and continuing to wait will eventually be available at www.WaitingForStarWars.com.

"Sometimes the best thing about something is the wait," Tweiten said.

Compiled by Amber Blondin

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Hot like the sun

By Hollie Joy Brown
THE WESTERN FRONT

Two Bellingham firefighters are not only fighting house fires this year; they are putting fire into the eyes of women all over the country.

Half-dressed in their fire-retardant suits and aimed to please, these two single and robustly beautiful men are happily doing the work it takes to fulfill their jobs as Mr. April and Mr. June in this year's nationally distributed firefighters calendar. The calendar has been making women squeal for the past seven years, but this is the first year firefighters from Bellingham have taken on the challenging and grueling role.

Western alumnus Dave Stephen (Mr. April) and co-worker Ryan Provencher (Mr. June) sacrificed their time and volunteered to take on the lusty positions to help raise money for the Washington State Council of Firefighters Burn Foundation.

"I feel so cheap," Provencher jokingly said of his job. "I have a brain, too."

The sale of the calendars this year is expected to exceed \$100,000, Burn Foundation President Rod Heivilin said.

"We put a notice out to all the professional firefighters in the state," he said of the selection process.

After sending a finished application and photo to the Burn Foundation, the two men went through grueling judging periods before they were finally selected out of 40 other men.

The judging panel was made of members from the media and 20 women who purchased judging seats at an auction the year prior, Heivilin said.

"Judging was based on more than a pretty face," blonde-haired, blue-eyed Stephen said. "It included public speaking skills and how we interacted with other people."

Provencher said he applied after a friend of his did it the year before and recommended it. He said he then persuaded Stephen to apply.

"It seemed like a lot of fun," Stephen said.

Somewhat reserved in their new positions as every woman's fantasy, the two didn't tell their co-workers about volunteering for the calendar for more than five months.

Provencher said the secret slipped a month before the unveiling of the calendar Sept. 21, 2001.

"Believe me, working (at the fire station), you couldn't get an ego if you tried," Provencher said.

Co-worker Jeff Bruebaker said the news brought "a 'flulling' of ridicule opportunities."

Someone made a collage of Stephen and Provencher's photos alongside pictures of interior designer Christopher Lowell, Bruebaker said laughing.

"I remember there were (xeroxed) photographs of their calendar on 10-20 fire stations for people to write comments," co-worker Kelly Gambini said.

"My wife is always asking about them," Bruebaker said jokingly.

In addition to radio shows and appearances, part of their job was

to participate in calendar signings where upwards of 400 love-hungry women per signing had their calendars autographed by each firefighter.

While the other firefighters signed the calendars and passed them to the next person, Stephen said he tried to talk to each woman individually and get to know her.

"I was the man of many words," Stephen said.

The women went through the signing line and used a rating system of G, PG, PG-13 and R that determined what the firemen would write on their calendars.

"There are bold women out there," Stephen said.

"Women would come through the line and say 'shock me,'" Provencher said. "We're representatives of the fire service and the charity, so most of us tried not to cross lines." Some things that were written on the calendars he couldn't repeat, he added.

"Unless they asked, I wasn't comfortable writing risqué stuff in their calendar," Stephen said.

Provencher was one of the three in the calendar who made a guest appearance on the Dec. 11 episode of "The Ricki Lake Show," a syndicated daytime talk show. The episode was about women who wanted to date men in uniforms.

Although he said he sadly but purposefully did not date any of the women on the show, he saw many women in the audience who were appealing. The show brought a lot of attention to the calendar and the firefighters.

"A couple of guys have been recognized," Provencher said of the experience, "but not us." Recognized or not, the two pin-ups have not gone unnoticed.

Provencher said he has been asked out quite a lot while Stephen said he has had offers but he didn't take them.

The job of meeting a lot of pheromone-producing women who thought of them as gods was not the daring duo's favorite part of the calendar experience.

Provencher said his favorite part was the camaraderie with all the guys in the calendar. "I've made friendships that will last beyond the calendar," he said.

Stephen agreed and said meeting new people and seeing new things was his favorite part.

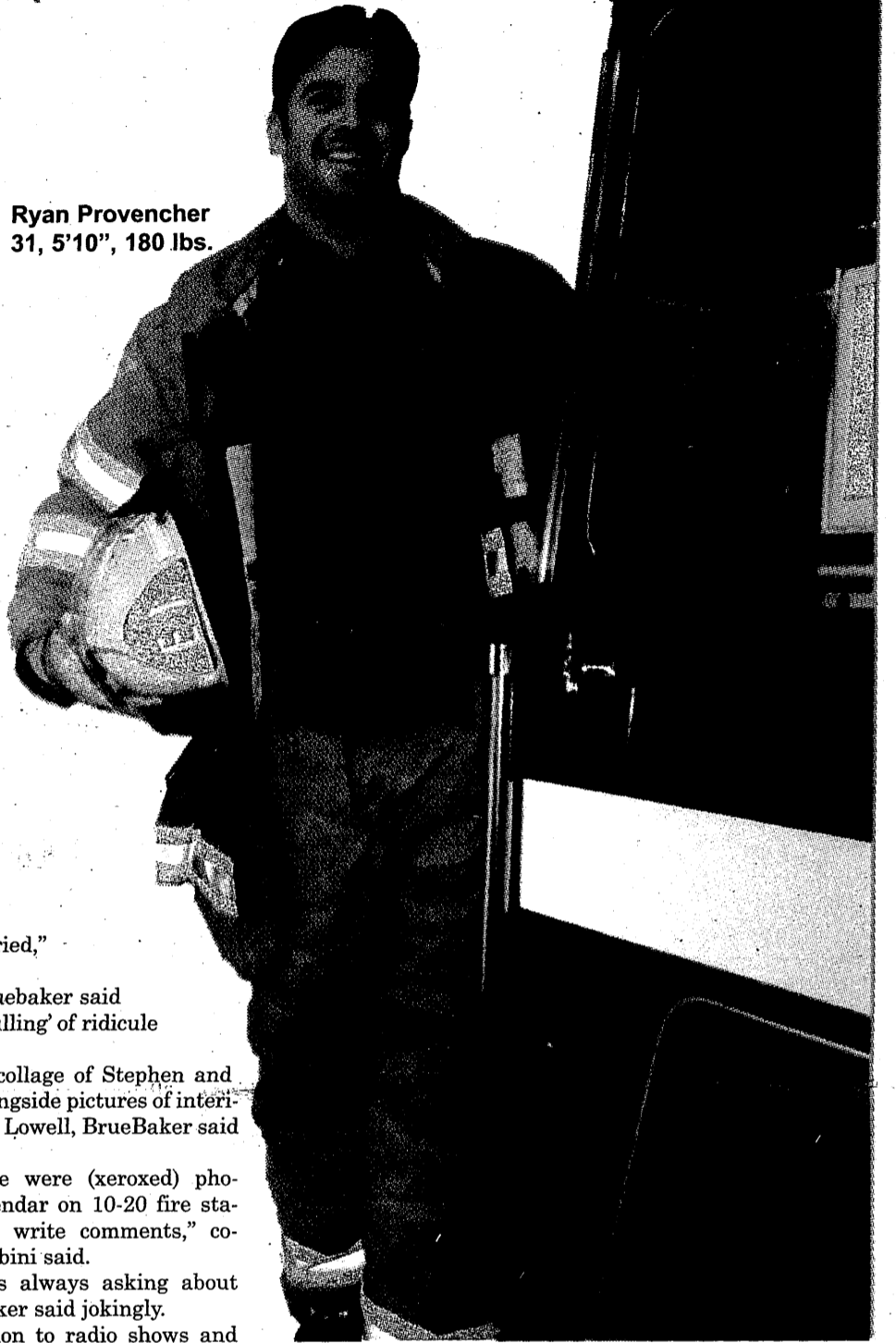
"We've had access to a lot of things we normally wouldn't have," he said of his media experience.

Although both men were critical of their photos in the calendar, Provencher had a select fan with her own criticism.

Provencher said when his mom saw his picture, she said, "Ryan, it looks like you're going to cry."

Wet like the rain

Ryan Provencher
31, 5'10", 180 lbs.



Dave Stephen
29, 5'9", 185 lbs.

Photos by Heather Trimm
The Western Front

For more information about The 2002 Firefighters Calendar, call 1-800-847-6572 or visit www.firefightercalendar.org/

A History of Community: Western's Center for Pacific Northwest Studies gives Bellingham a new perspective with local artifacts

By Sarah Loehndorf
THE WESTERN FRONT

Something about seeing an object more than half a century old mere feet from one's face is truly enchanting, whether it is a map of a once-bustling city or a ripped photograph taken on graduation day of an unknown student. The feeling is something that cannot be acquired by flipping through a widely distributed textbook in a crowded library.

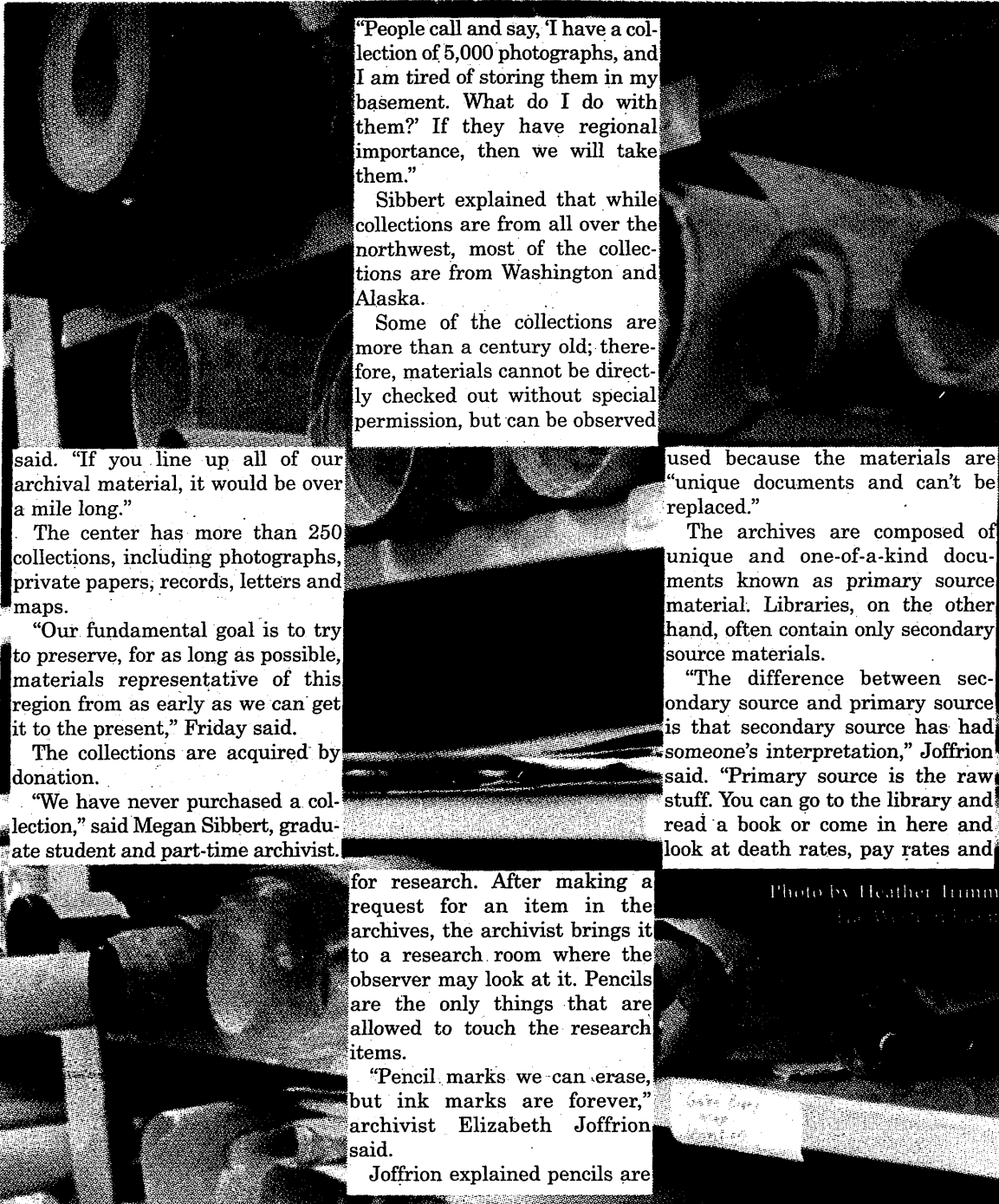
Western's Center for Pacific Northwest Studies has been a main source of archival information for the community, county and state for more than 30 years. The center shares a building with the Washington State Archives on Bill McDonald Parkway. Within the building there are three different archives: the Northwest Regional Branch of State archives, the center for Pacific Northwest Studies and the university records archives.

"We have people (visit the Center) from all over North America," said Chris Friday, director of Pacific Northwest Studies and Western history professor.

Friday said community members, academic researchers, Western students, faculty and staff use the center most.

Uses range from lawyers who employ the collections in court cases to citizens who would like to find what was on their property before their house was built.

"Archives are a place where we are going to have material that is one of a kind," Friday



"People call and say, 'I have a collection of 5,000 photographs, and I am tired of storing them in my basement. What do I do with them?' If they have regional importance, then we will take them."

Sibbert explained that while collections are from all over the northwest, most of the collections are from Washington and Alaska.

Some of the collections are more than a century old; therefore, materials cannot be directly checked out without special permission, but can be observed

said. "If you line up all of our archival material, it would be over a mile long."

The center has more than 250 collections, including photographs, private papers, records, letters and maps.

"Our fundamental goal is to try to preserve, for as long as possible, materials representative of this region from as early as we can get it to the present," Friday said.

The collections are acquired by donation.

"We have never purchased a collection," said Megan Sibbert, graduate student and part-time archivist.

used because the materials are "unique documents and can't be replaced."

The archives are composed of unique and one-of-a-kind documents known as primary source material. Libraries, on the other hand, often contain only secondary source materials.

"The difference between secondary source and primary source is that secondary source has had someone's interpretation," Joffrion said. "Primary source is the raw stuff. You can go to the library and read a book or come in here and look at death rates, pay rates and

for research. After making a request for an item in the archives, the archivist brings it to a research room where the observer may look at it. Pencils are the only things that are allowed to touch the research items.

"Pencil marks we can erase, but ink marks are forever," archivist Elizabeth Joffrion said.

Joffrion explained pencils are

figure it out on your own."

Former Western geography professor Jim Scott founded the Center for Pacific Northwest Studies.

"Scott had an interest in regional history in the early 1970s, in a time when regionalism became a subject to study," Joffrion said.

Friday said the archives should not be a starting place for research, but rather a place for further investigation. While archivists are available to direct people where to go, it is better to go to the archives with some background on the subject.

While the center preserves archives, it also maintains present items that might be regionally and historically significant in the future. A current project includes the collection of important items from the past 20 years such as recent political materials including the papers of former Rep. Jack Metcalf.

"What we collect today is history tomorrow," Friday said.

Items from the center have appeared at the Whatcom Museum of History and Art and Western's Wilson Library. The center will also work with the city of Bellingham for the upcoming Centennial in 2003-2004.

An online publication series, which will make information easier to attain, is in the final stages of development.

"It's a way to bring our material to a community beyond Western," Friday said.

For more information about the Center for Pacific Northwest Studies, visit <http://www.acadweb.wvu.edu/cpnws/>.

Photo by Heather Trimm

An ass-slapping good time awaits students in a new AS club

By Josh Haupt
THE WESTERN FRONT

The game is called SLAPS!, and the aim is simple: to slap your fellow slappers' asses before they slap yours. Welcome to Western's newest Associated Students club, SLAPS!

"To promote the slapping of gluteus maximus across Western's campus and all over our fragile Earth" is how Jonny Ursin, president of SLAPS!, described the focus and goal of the club.

The game was "invented" last year by Ursin and his roommates and apparently has caught on far and wide. Spokane, Anchorage, Cleveland and, believe it or not, Costa Rica all have "chapters" of SLAPS!, in addition to a chapter separate from Spokane in Eastern Washington.

"We have members throughout the country," said Shannon Steinle, an English major and treasurer of SLAPS!

Charlie Hunter, an anthropology major and secretary of SLAPS!, heads the Costa Rican chapter.

"He's currently out of the country spreading SLAP in Costa Rica," a smiling Steinle said.

The group claims approximately 20 members on Western's campus, including seven female members.

"We are many," Ursin said.

But, the only reason that SLAPS! has slightly stronger male representation is the fact that it was started by a bunch of guys living together in a house last year, explained Kyle Hunter, civics major and vice president of SLAPS!

"It's definitely an androgynous sport," Ursin said.

The group was recently given unanimous approval by the AS board.

"The only concern the AS had with SLAPS! was that it

not be played indoors," Hunter said.

"We did a demonstration for them, showing them the different moves that we use," Ursin said. "They got a kick out of it. They were laughing and smiling."

But players should beware.

"It's a pretty intense sport," a laughing Ursin said, "and sometimes people get hurt."

"It makes me feel like a man," math major Charlie Beil said.

The group plans to use the \$50 every AS club is allotted to make up buttons that would identify members to one another, Steinle said.

"There's always a possibility for liability with this kind of game," a giggling

Steinle said. "It forces you to become ... intimate with different people, so the buttons are a way of separating slappers from non-slappers."

"I think it's worth noting that some people play SLAPS! for the wrong reasons," Ursin said.

The buttons issued to each new "slapper" would contain the person's signature — a sort of waiver, allowing slappers to ambush each other without liability concerns, Steinle said.

The rules are fuzzy as of yet, as with any new up-and-

coming sport, but SLAPS! is in the process of writing a club charter.

"SLAPS! can be played one-on-one, but usually the minimum is three players and up," Steinle said.

SLAPS! is also contemplating the possibility of T-shirts, no doubt to identify members to each other from longer distances.

As of now, recruitment for the group is based on word of mouth, but SLAPS! has big plans for the future. Ursin said he hopes the sport will spread even farther than it has already gone.

"I think that we should have a table in Red Square one day with cookies stolen from Marriott," English education major Derek Smith said.

"We hope to eventually make it to the status of holding tournaments," Steinle said. "Even if we don't get that far, hopefully our successors will be able to hold them five to six years from now."

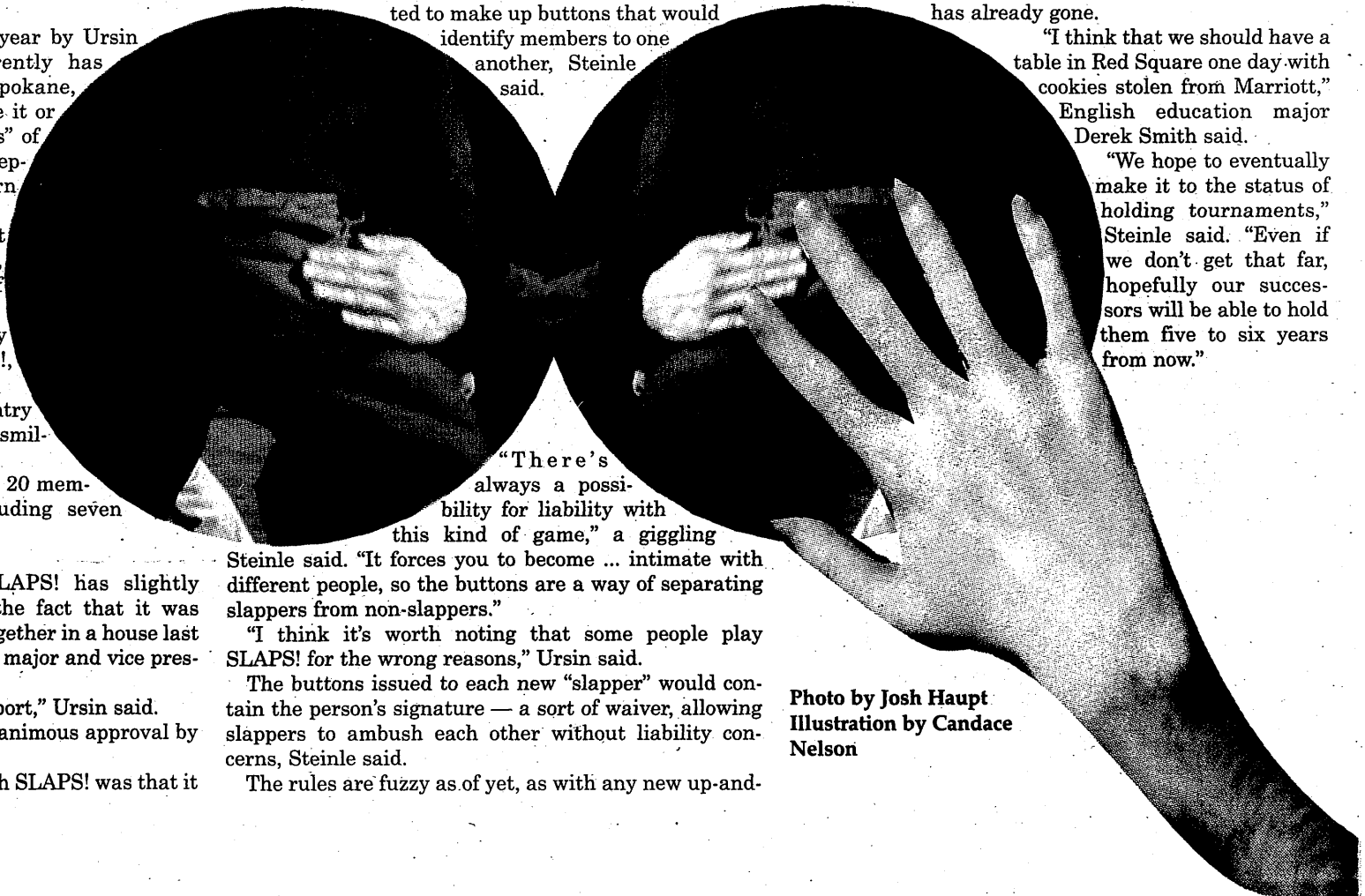


Photo by Josh Haupt
Illustration by Candace Nelson

SPU and Mickey Mouse beat Vikings

By Donja Walker
THE WESTERN FRONT

With Western leading Seattle Pacific University 24-9 ten minutes into the game, SPU switched to a "Mickey Mouse" defense that crippled the Vikings offense and allowed the Falcons to take control of the game.

The Falcons' constant changes on defense keyed a 96-89 win over Western Saturday at Royal Broughman Pavilion in Seattle.

"Box and one, triangle and two, those are Mickey Mouse defenses," Western forward/center Brian "Yogi" Dennis said. "Only high schools play those bullshit defenses."

The loss drops the Vikings record to 4-1 in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference and 10-4 overall. The Vikings also fall from their perch atop the GNAC as they came in tied for first with SPU and Humboldt State University.

The first half seemed promising for the Vikings as they took advantage of the Falcons man-to-man defense and took a demanding 24-9.

"I think that we played very well in the beginning of the game," said Western men's basketball coach Brad Jackson. "Toward the end of the half they switched defenses on us and we didn't adjust really well."

Facing an early 15-point deficit, the Falcons' began

switching to different zone defenses in an attempt to keep the ball out of the hands of Western guard Shelton Diggs. Diggs poured in 10 of the Vikings first 24 points and looked on his way to big game.

”
'Toward the end of the half they switched defenses on us and we didn't adjust really well'

Brad Jackson
Head Coach

The Falcons box-and-one zone defense placed one man constantly on Diggs while the rest of the team played zone. This limited Diggs performance, leaving him scoreless for the remainder of the half.

"Once they switched to zone, we didn't knock down our jump shots," Diggs said.

After the defensive switch, SPU went on a 20-4 run to take a one-point lead with three minutes left in the half.

The Falcons led 36-31 at the half, but the Vikings came out strong in the second half and regained the lead. The lead would be short-lived. The Vikings were unable to overcome the Falcons hot shooting as they fell behind by 13 points midway through the second half. The Falcons shot 71.4 percent in the second half to keep the Vikings at bay.

The Vikings were able to cut the deficit to four with a 17-8 run with just over four minutes left in the game. But, with time dwindling, the Vikings were forced to foul the Falcons to keep

the clock from running out. The excellent free throw shooting by the Falcons' senior guard Nick Johnson made it hard for the Vikings to cut down the lead. Johnson finished the game with 28 points and was 11 of 12 from the free throw line.

Inspirational play by Western guard Darnell Taylor, who only saw six minutes in the first half, kept the Vikings in the game.

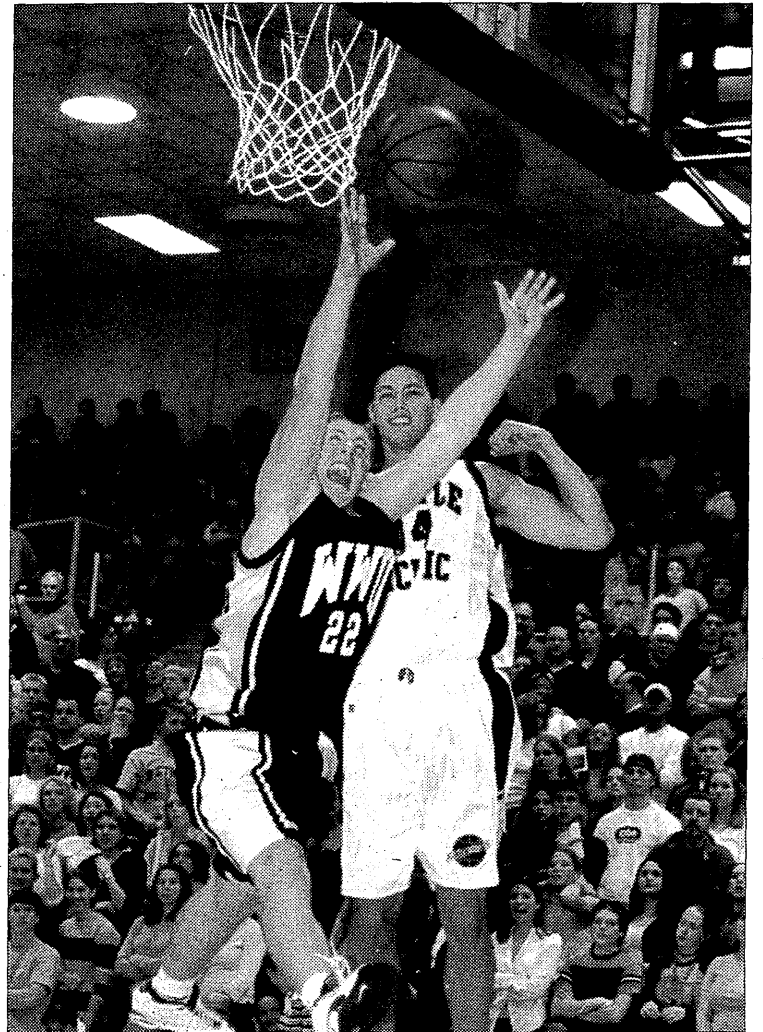
"Darnell Taylor came in and did a great job," Jackson said. "He came in and sparked our offense."

Taylor ended the game with 20 points, all of which were scored in the second half.

The Vikings managed to have five players finish the game with double digit scoring. Western center Mike Palm ended the game with 16 points and hit 6 of 6 from the free-throw line. Guard Jacob Stevenson finished with 14 points and seven assists. Diggs added 13 points, and forward A.J. Giesa had 10.

The Vikings are putting the unfortunate loss behind them and are preparing for the next game 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan 17 against the University of Alaska Anchorage.

"It's a disappointing loss," Jackson said. "We just have to start focusing on our next game against Alaska Anchorage."



Heather Trimm/ The Western Front

Viking guard Jacob Stevenson drives hard to the basket as SPU's Eric Sandrin defends. The loss dropped the Vikings out of first place.

Box Score

SEATTLE PACIFIC 96, WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY 89

WESTERN WASHINGTON (4-1, 10-4)

Taylor 7-9 5-5 20; Palm 5-8 6-6 16; Stevenson 5-15 4-6 14; Diggs 5-11 0-0 13; Giesa 4-9 0-0 10; Dennis 3-4 0-1 6; Burrell 1-4 2-2 5; Campbell 1-4 0-0 3; Tyree 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 32-65 17-20 89.

SEATTLE PACIFIC (5-0, 13-1)

Johnson 8-14 11-12 28; Stone 4-8 8-9 17; Aziz 7-9 2-8 17; Cato 4-9 2-4 12; D.Sandrin 4-5 0-0 9; E.Sandrin 3-7 0-1 7; Woodard 2-2 0-2 4; Harris 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 33-55 23-36 96.

Western Washington	31	58	-89
Seattle Pacific	36	60	-96

When going out or at a party, Most Western Students:

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- 12 oz. Beer =
- 4-5 oz. Wine =
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Avoid drinking games

Use a designated driver

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Choose not to drink or determine in advance not to exceed a set number of drinks



Hard to believe? Well, two large representative and randomly selected samples of Western Students (638 in 1998 and 502 in 2000-2001) told us they typically drink 0, 1, 2, 3 or at the most 4 drinks when they party.

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Lady Vikings remain undefeated at Carver

By Amber Hurley
THE WESTERN FRONT

After a shaky start, the Western women's basketball team called on their bench to lead them to victory.

Luckily for the Vikings, center Susan Rodgers and guard Megan Quarterman each came off the bench to score 18 points and lead them to an 88-82 victory over Western Oregon University Saturday at Carver Gym.

The win kept the Vikings tied with Seattle Pacific University for first place in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference with a record of 5-1 in league play and 11-3 overall this season. The Vikings are looking to make their fifth straight trip to the national tournament. Western Oregon's third straight loss left them at 2-3 in league play and 9-5 overall.

The Wolves started the game off strong and jumped out to a 21-17 lead with eight minutes left in the half.

The Vikings managed to gain a small lead three minutes later after center Jenn McGillivray

caught fire. McGillivray scored on three consecutive possessions giving the Vikings a 28-26 lead. Western Oregon countered and pulled ahead with a 17-10 run to end the first half at 43-38.

"We weren't clicking and talking in the first half," Vikings' forward Stacey Miller said.

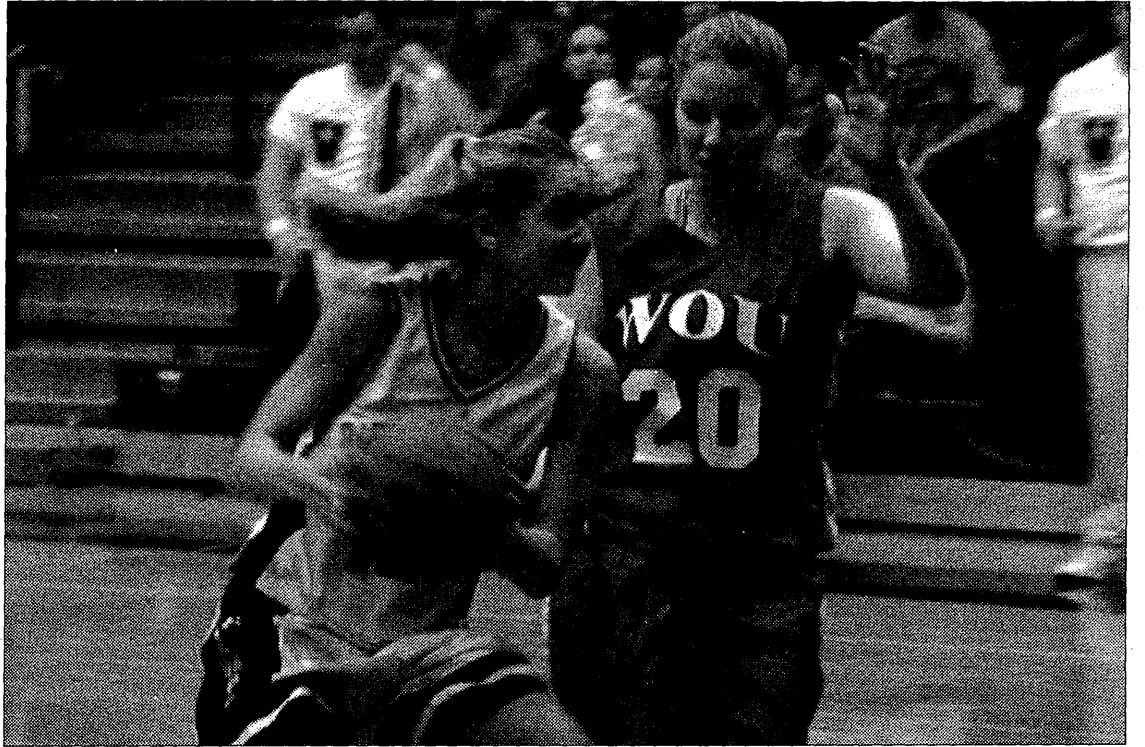
The Vikings' perfect record at home this season was inspiration to get fired up for the second half.

"We weren't going to lose in our home court," Miller said.

Western extended its home floor winning streak to 13 including an 8-0 record at Carver Gym.

In the second half, the Vikings struggled to stay alive as the Wolves pulled ahead to lead 53-44 as their offense slipped past the Viking's defenders for easy baskets.

With 8:37 left in the second half, the Vikings went on a 16-7 run with guard Jodie Kaczor scoring eight. The run continued when Miller hit a three-pointer to give the Vikings their first lead in the game since before the half at 65-62. The



Josh Porter/ The Western Front

Viking guard Megan Quarterman drives past Western Oregon's Heather Ottmar. Quarterman came off the bench scoring 18 points to lead the Vikings to a 88-82 win.

Vikings dominated the rest of the game and shoot 69.2 percent from the field in the last nine minutes of the game.

"In the second half, we knew we had to bear down and play better," Kaczor said.

Vikings head coach Carmen Dolfo said it was all about finding the hot spot and getting the ball there.

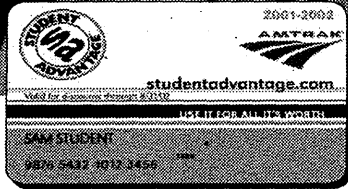
One of the hot spots was Rodgers who came in and picked up the pace late in the second half to score 12 of her 18 points in the last 10 minutes of the game.

The Vikings also had key contributions from center Jenn McGillivray who had 17 points and seven rebounds.

The Vikings hit the road this week as they travel to Northwest Nazarene University in Nampa, ID Thursday for their next Great Northwest Athletic Conference contest.

Northwest Nazarene comes into the game with a 2-4 record in the GNAC and 7-6 overall.

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Viking all-stars strut for scouts

By Jon Walsh
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western football all-stars Erik Totten and Scott Mitchell traveled to Kingsville, Texas to compete against the country's elite seniors in the Whataburger Cactus Bowl.

Eighty seniors at the NCAA Division II level were invited to train twice per day for a week and play in the 2002 Cactus Bowl for a sea of professional scouts.

The Cactus Bowl gives the NFL prospects a chance to strap on their helmets one last time in their college careers and compete with the best division II players the country has to offer.

With that in mind, Western's best packed their bags for the trip to Texas. Totten, a strong safety/kick returner and Mitchell, a quarterback, are arguably two of the best to ever step on the field for the Vikings.

Three players from last years bowl game were selected in last year's 2001 draft and 22 others signed with NFL teams as free agents.

"With so many scouts at practice everyday, it just added to the excitement of the whole thing," Mitchell said. "It was a lot of fun and I looked forward to practice every day."

Totten and Mitchell spent a week getting to know their new teammates and practicing twice per day under the close eye of scouts. They also got the chance to meet people in the community and many sponsors.

"The best part of the trip was getting the chance to meet people from all over the country and getting the chance to play with the best at the division II level," Totten said. "It was an overall good experience."

Both Totten and Mitchell started for the West squad that lost 42-10 to the East.

Mitchell threw a four-yard touchdown pass that capped a 12-play, 63-yard scoring drive midway through the second quarter for the West's only touchdown.

Mitchell, the Great Northwest Athletic Conference Offensive player of the year, completed 6 of 17 passes for 84 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions.

Totten, who was named to ten All-American teams over the last two seasons, was credited with four tackles and also had a 19-yard kickoff return.

Totten led Western this season with 69 tackles. He also intercepted three passes this season and was named a first-team all-league selection on both defense and as a kick returner.

Mitchell was ranked No. 9 in pass efficiency nationally with a rating of 154.2 and No. 12 in total offense with 270.9 yards per game. He also set a school record with a 61.5 completion percentage, while passing for 2,778 yards and 25 touchdowns and only throwing five interceptions.

"We got a chance to go out, be competitive and compare ourselves to the rest of the nation," Mitchell said. "It was fun just to be out there with all the rest."

Dilfer: present and future of Seahawks



Josh Dumond

SPORTS COMMENTARY

This off-season, the Seattle Seahawks must make key personnel decisions if they plan to christen their new stadium with a playoff berth. Trent Dilfer should be at the top of their priorities.

Yes, the same Trent Dilfer who is the Seahawks' backup quarterback. And yes, the same guy who led the Ravens to a Superbowl championship last year.

It is hard to believe there is this much hype about a backup quarterback. The truth is Dilfer should have never been the backup quarterback. He should have started the whole season and he should also be the future of the Seahawks quarterback position. It is hard to understand how the

Ravens could just dump their starting quarterback after he led them to the championship. The Ravens may be regretting that decision as their offense has struggled since Dilfer left.

At 29, Dilfer is just now reaching his prime as an NFL quarterback. He won all four of his starts this season and has made huge steps toward being an elite quarterback in the NFL.

Unfortunately, head coach Mike Holmgren endorsed Matt Hasselbeck as the Seahawks quarterback of the future all season long. Hasselbeck went 5-7 in his starts and had some good moments, but did not pan out as the Seahawks quarterback of the present or future.

Holmgren needs to spend time worrying about what is happening in the present and not in the future. He needs to re-sign Dilfer or else he will go start for another team and come back to haunt the Seahawks. Wouldn't that be fitting if Dilfer signed with

another team and won another Superbowl? It could happen, and knowing the Seahawk's luck, it wouldn't be surprising if it did.

There is no doubt that Dilfer should be the future of the Seahawks. He is not the average aging veteran quarterback that a lot of people think he is. Unlike Hasselbeck, he has a lot of experience under his belt and knows how to win games.

“There is no doubt that Dilfer should be the future of the Seahawks”

Not only does Dilfer need to be re-signed, but he also should be named the starting quarterback.

Recently, Holmgren has backed off his decision to name Hasselbeck as the quarterback

of the future. He has talked to Dilfer about coming back next season and has inclined that he might open up the quarterback position so Dilfer and Hasselbeck can compete for the starting job.

That's fine, but if you look at what happened during the season, the quarterback controversy has already ended. Dilfer is 4-0 and Hasselbeck is 5-7.

Being the starting quarterback on a team that won the Superbowl is enough to be able to continue being a starting quarterback in the NFL. People make the argument that the Ravens won it with their defense, but without Dilfer they wouldn't have won anything.

So now it's do-or-die time for the Seahawks. They can either re-sign Dilfer and have a proven quarterback for the future, or we can watch Matt Hasselbeck's mediocrity as a starting quarterback continues for seasons to come.

'Hockey dad' exemplifies youth sports in America



Chris Smith

SPORTS COMMENTARY

Incidents involving angry parents and coaches have been occurring far too often and youth sports leagues need to focus on how to control this.

An example of this anger occurred when Michael Costin was beaten to death by Thomas Junta, because Junta was upset about rough play at a hockey practice involving both of their sons.

The two parents started arguing on the sidelines and words turned into punches. Eventually, the two were separated by another man and Junta left the arena. He returned a short time later and continued fighting with Costin in front of a dozen 10 to 14-year-olds. When Junta left, Costin was unconscious. He died the next day.

Junta was found guilty of involuntary manslaughter last Friday and can receive a maximum sentence of 20 years in

prison. This is just one example of violent parents in the past few years. Another involves the arrest of an assistant baseball coach who broke an umpire's jaw during an argument.

Other incidents include a coach choking a 15-year-old umpire during a tee-ball game while a group of 6 and 7-year-olds watched, as well as a father shoving a referee and biting a coach at his son's wrestling match. His son was 7 years old.

“It is not parents right to insult children while they are on the field.”

All these problems could have been avoided by simply following what El Paso, Texas has done to stop angry parents and coaches.

The city has started mandatory parent training sessions to help parents control their rage at games. This resulted after a

season of youth football included a gunfight, two stabbing incidents and countless attacks on officials. The sessions have video footage of angry parents and an official to explain the rules of each sport.

Most importantly, it includes a code of conduct sheet explaining that if they act in an inappropriate manner, they can be suspended or banned from attending youth sporting events.

The code of conduct should also make heckling children illegal. It is not parents' right to insult children while they are on the field. The parents should reserve that for when they buy a ticket to watch professionals play.

The conduct program has worked extremely well in El Paso. Parent Paula Powell recalled that before the sessions started, parents had a "winning is the most important" attitude and many had forgotten that the reason they were there was to watch their child participate. She added that none of the 6,000 parents or coaches have had to be disciplined since the sessions began.

To complement what El Paso

has done, each game should be attended by a league official. This would ensure that anger is held to a minimum and would also help the league run smoother because they could see first hand any problems that arise on the field.

There is a very good chance that neither Junta nor Costin would have fought had these precautions been taken by the local hockey league.

First off, they would have been more aware of their anger. They would have also known that if they acted on their emotions, they would not be able to watch their sons play hockey anymore.

The same holds true for the baseball coaches. Had they been warned in advance that their actions would get them banned from the league, their mind may have been able to hold back their body from acting on their emotions.

It would be in the best interest of every sports league to adopt both of these ideas. They would greatly reduce angry parents and get their sport back to being what it was meant to be in the first place: fun for parents and children alike.

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Tuition increase means added strain on students



Stacey Gorgen

COMMENTARY

High school brings students years of friends, fun and dreams of college.

Teachers tell students to go to college because it is the smart thing to do. Parents tell their kids to go on with their schooling and to get as much out of it as they can, but increasing costs are making this more difficult.

A higher education is supposed to be one of the best decisions a student can make even though tuition is costly and many students have to deal with this reality on their own.

Higher education is quickly becoming a basic necessity in a society that is challenging and

competitive. Students rely on financial aid, scholarships and jobs to support them, adding much stress to make the grade and leaving them worrying about paying back student loans for years to come.

“Many students may have to put in more hours at work to help make ends meet”

For many students, this is the first time on their own and taking on the responsibility of providing for themselves is a lot to tackle right away.

Students are always instructed to concentrate on school and make it a number one priority.

Yet, students have to sit back and watch tuition rise year after year. Students are expected to manage multiple tasks at one

time, but sometimes it can get too wearing and overwhelming for one person to handle.

According to Assistant Director of Admissions, Michael Barr, tuition could increase 10 to 12 percent in the near future.

This will require students to deal with finances more cautiously than they already do.

Students may have to put in more hours at work to help make ends meet.

These extra hours at work will mean fewer hours dedicated to studying, less time sleeping and yes, even less time partying.

It is obvious that studying is a necessity in college if you want to make the grades that are required of a student.

There are pressures and expectations that a student must fulfill for their major and preparation for graduation.

Good study habits require time, health and rest. Students who will need to work added hours will feel

run down in all these aspects. A typical college student is expected to lose sleep, but they shouldn't have to lose any more than they already do.

College students, no matter how studious they may be, need to have some form of a social life.

“Students who to work more hours due to the tuition increases are going to have to readjust everyday schedules.”

Time with friends is needed to escape from the pressures of classes and work.

Students who need work more hours due to the tuition increases, are going to have to readjust everyday schedules.

With the increased enrollment Western has seen over recent

years, tuition should stay at the same rate.

More students attending the school each quarter would mean more money coming in to the university.

Students complain that Western is already receiving enough money as it is. Does it need more? Of course the more money Western receives, the more professors it can hire and the nicer facilities it can provide for students.

However, this means some students are paying money towards projects they may never see.

Barr said in past years Western has been considered one of the most economically efficient universities in the state, which shows that it is obviously doing fine with the amount of money that it has.

Every student may want to see more money coming in to the university, but coming at the expense of the students is not the best thing.

TV trial only way to ensure that Moussaoui gets fair hearing in court



Brandon Ivey

COMMENTARY

The 55-year-old federal law prohibiting cameras inside of federal court rooms should be changed, allowing the world to watch the prosecution of Zacarias Moussaoui.

Moussaoui is thought to be the 20th hijacker — the alleged terrorist who was missing from the planes that crashed in the World Trade Center on Sept. 11. He was arrested in August on immigration violation and is now being charged with conspiracy to kill and maim persons within the United States.

Moussaoui has requested that television cameras be

allowed to broadcast his trial to the United States and the world. Court TV has offered to broadcast the trial.

“If the trial is behind closed doors, suspicion will be raised about the fairness of the trial.”

If the trial is behind closed doors, suspicion will be raised about the fairness of the trial. Broadcasting it will quell any suspicion by allowing the public to follow the proceedings.

The judge has already allowed two closed circuit cameras into the courtroom for preliminary hearings.

The cameras were small and unobtrusive, and the images were seen by people in two over-

flow courtrooms.

Some argue that broadcasting the trial could endanger jurors. That dilemma could easily be taken care of by placing restrictions on what could be videotaped, with one restriction of not showing the jury.

The public has a right to know exactly what is happening throughout the trial. For a case this large in scope, the public should not have to rely on a few reporters in order to follow the trial.

Federal prosecutors counter that witnesses might somehow limit what they say knowing the trial is being broadcast.

All witnesses are sworn in and must tell the truth. A few video cameras should not change that.

Showing the trial on television would only guarantee Moussaoui a fair trial, because

every motion and ruling would be scrutinized.

Others say that broadcasting the trial could, in some way, help other al-Qaida members mobilize by transmitting codes to other members.

“If the government does not allow broadcast of this trial, it may mean it has something to hide.”

But terrorist will not have any time to watch television because they will be too busy trying to stay alive.

Having video cameras in the courtroom may add fuel to the media frenzy fire and Moussaoui may be better known after the trial.

At least people will believe

his trial was fair.

Even if cameras were not allowed, they will no doubt be positioned outside of the courtroom to record any one who walks outside. Allowing cameras inside will serve an unbiased view of the trial.

Time and time again people have said that Sept. 11 changed America and that none of us will ever be the same.

That attitude is perfect for the overruling of the old law banning cameras in federal courthouses.

Federal laws are not exempt from this new era of change. This trial is the perfect time to allow cameras into the federal courtrooms.

The man on trial is allegedly connected to the events of Sept. 11. If the government does not allow broadcast of this trial, it may mean it has something to hide.

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See *WWU Bulletin* for explanation of GURs.

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Frontline

Pit protesters speech rights denied

On a cold December evening, more than 300 years ago, a band of unruly revolutionaries looted a ship in the Boston harbor and perfumed the water with tea leaves.

These people were vandals, probably considered terrorists by rulers of the American colonies — they were also revolutionaries.

Yesterday, a jury returned undecided from deliberations on a Bellingham court case where three residents endured a trial, at which their right to challenge the government was nearly stolen. But indecision breeds doubt and doubt in the right to freedom of speech is something Americans cannot risk.

One warm June night, several protesters marched into a city council meeting, requesting council response to a demonstration for public space less than a mile away in an abandoned basement on Railroad Avenue and East Holly Street. This group simply wanted to be heard, but the council silenced and censored them by postponing comment because they weren't on the agenda.

Postponing comment on this on-going issue was akin to pretending the large-scale protest in the "pit" was not happening. The council treated the protesters like irritating children, who, if ignored, would simply go away.

In response, the protesters stood in front of the council tables, three locked themselves together with bike locks and two tossed yarn around the room in protest.

When the council couldn't establish order in the room, they left, again censoring the protesters dissenting voices and their right to peaceful protest. After discussing the event, the protesters departed from the chambers. They even cleaned up the yarn. No one was hurt. No property was damaged. The room didn't even smell like Earl Grey.

And yet they were called deviants because they attacked the government. A week later, police arrested and charged David Sansone, Timothy Talley, and Joanne Ernst with disorderly conduct and conspiracy based on the meeting's video tape.

According to Washington law, disorderly conduct is defined as "intentionally disrupting a lawful meeting of persons without lawful authority." The law is unclear and, moreover, negates American history. When was public dissent ever lawful? The Boston Tea Party was certainly not lawful and the "partiers" probably prearranged the demonstration, but most Americans now consider them heroes.

Regardless, the issue pertains to free speech and demands a clearer definition of what kind of conduct constitutes "disruptive."

In 1964, U.S. Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan opined "that debate on public issues should be uninhibited, robust and wide-open, and that it may well be vehement, caustic and sometimes unpleasantly sharp attacks on government and public officials."

That trial, *New York Times vs. Sullivan*, formed the basis for numerous free-speech decisions. Brennan's opinion was based on his interpretation of the founders' intention for the Bill of Rights' First Amendment. That fact cannot be ignored when dealing with freedom of speech. Americans from Bellingham to Boston cannot afford to waffle on free speech issues.

The constitutional protection does not depend upon "the truth, unpopularity or social utility of the ideas," he said.

State prosecutors should not pursue this free-speech issue further, and if they do, Sansone, Talley and Ernst should fight like hell to preserve their rights, no matter how unpopular they become.

In his closing arguments, defense attorney for Sansone and Talley, David Hunter said, "We can live with this little piece of theater in the city council chambers. The question is can we live without it?"

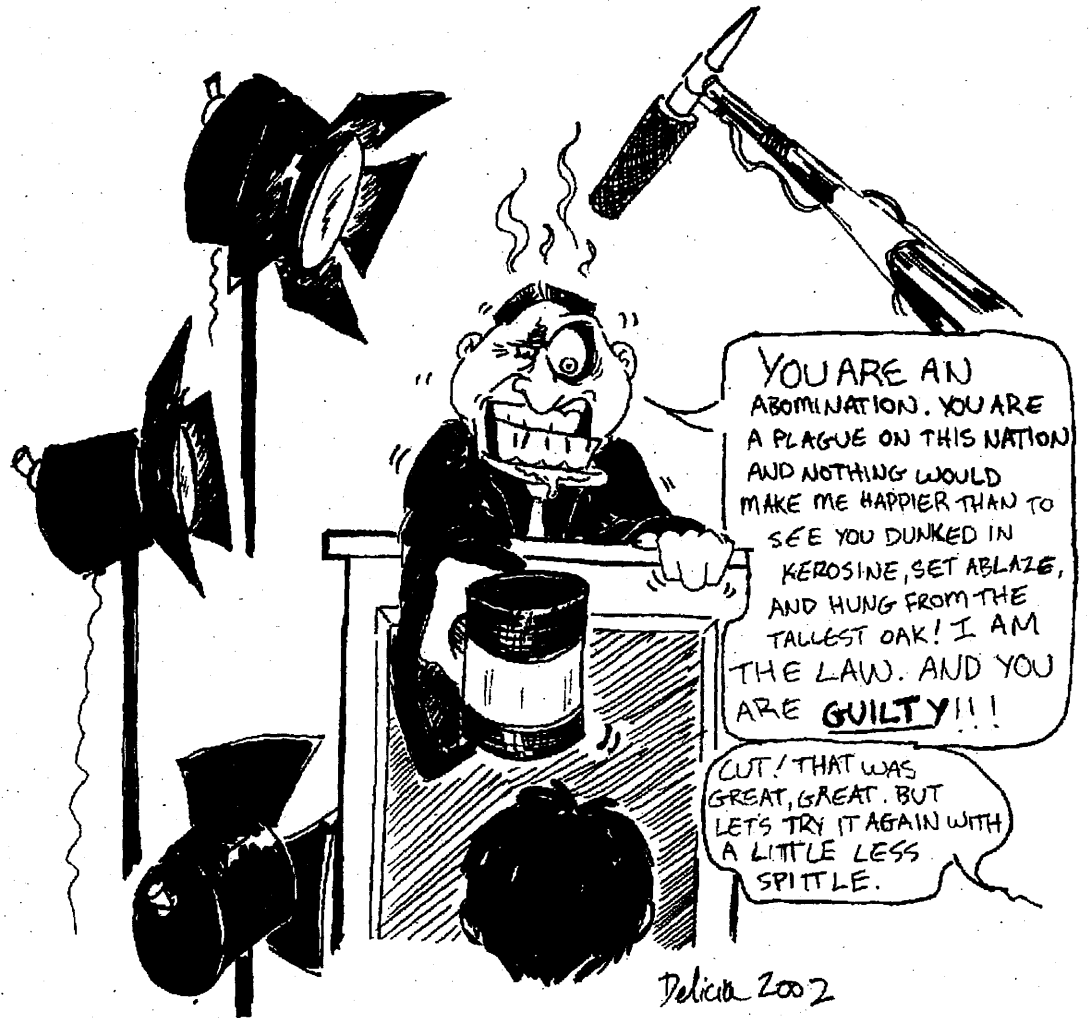
In a country that was founded by a group of people voicing their opinion by littering a harbor with tea leaves, let's not silence public speech for a group of people who clean up their mess when they leave.

Frontlines are the opinions of the Western Front editorial board: Hollie Joy Brown, Jennifer Collins, Helen Hollister, Courtney Howard, Paul Olund, Josh Porter and Joseph Terrell.

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Homer's Odyssey here at last



JR.
Cook

HOMER'S
ODYSSEY

To start off, I am not Greg Woehler or Lisa Curdy.

I am the one and only Homer E. Cook, Jr.

Hence the name of my column.

That's the last time you'll hear me refer to myself as Homer. Because simply put, I don't like the name. I was named after my dad, if you couldn't tell from the Jr.

The only solace I had with a name as horrid as Homer was that my dad went through the same taunting and teasing I did as a kid.

However, he didn't have "The Simpsons" to contend with. And believe me I've heard them all.

It's been a sad and strange set of circumstances that brings me to you faithful readers of the Western Front.

I was supposed to be working in Seattle at a public relations firm this quarter.

But, thanks to the ludicrous paranoia that has gripped our great country, I was downsized out of a work-ridiculous-hours-

for-peanut-pay internship.

Honestly, I'm not bitter.

As much fun as working full time for less than I was making at Marriott sounds, bumming around Western blabbing to all who will listen is much more appealing.

This is the one and only advisory for my column, borrowed from Chris Rock's song, "No Sex (in the Champagne Room)" (changed for tense agreement, of course):

“
It's been a sad and strange set of circumstances that brings me to you faithful readers of the Western Front.”

- Some of the things I'm going to say may not apply to you

- Some of the things I'm going to say may offend you.

What you will see in this column is nothing more than the world as I see it. Which means at some point I'm going to say something and piss you off.

To that I say, "Good."

Because as long as you're pissed off, you're going to keep reading.

Far too much goes unsaid

here at Western and this column is going to be a bastion for the unspoken.

Everything, from race to my latest exploits in the streets of Bellingham, is fodder for these slow-typing fingers.

Debate and discussion is the aim this quarter.

Even if the views appearing here don't mirror your own, throwing a paper in someone's face because of an argument that started because of my little column is not discouraged.

The average student doesn't give a crap about the Vehicle Research Institute, (sorry Michael Seal) so I'm not going to mention it, starting...now.

So, nearly 200 words later you've wasted your five-minute break reading a column with no point.

This is the first and last time that will happen. But it was fun, wasn't it?

Just wanted to provide a little preview to allow readers to get to know me before never reading another column of mine again.

If this all sounds slightly paranoid, it should. Sharing thoughts with 12,000 people per week is a bit overwhelming, but it also sounds like a lot of fun.

And so begins the Odyssey of the one that is Homer.

Bus survival depends on higher sales tax



Derek
Sheppard

COMMENTARY

The financial cards are stacked against Whatcom Transportation Authority and voters need to support a tax increase to maintain bus service in a county where mass transit plays such an important role.

Since Initiative 695 passed, WTA has lost \$6 million of fund-

ing and is seeking voter approval to raise the county sales tax three-tenths of one percent in order to continue providing its current services.

“
If the sales tax increases, every \$10,000 spent will only cost \$30 more per years.”

I-695 was Tim Eyman's 1999 voter-approved, tax-hacking initiative that sought to create \$30

car tabs for all. While deemed unconstitutional, the initiative still went into effect with an amendment supplying local transit authorities with their own transportation taxes.

If the tax increase does not pass, WTA will be forced to cut services by nearly 50 percent, creating numerous hardships for a community that is one of the most active users of mass transit in the state.

Some opponents of the tax increase cite inefficiencies in the system, such as empty buses

See BUSES, Page 13

U.S. hypocritical with war actions, silently supports terrorism abroad



Josh Haupt

COMMENTARY

The United States is engaged in an intensely hypocritical war on terrorism that serves political purposes and not those espoused by the newly elected president.

If the United States is so concerned about the actions of terrorist groups and truly dedicated to the task of stamping out terrorist acts, then they should take a short stroll down memory lane.

“The actual number of Chileans who suffered or died under the U.S. imposed regime headed by Pinochet is uncertain.”

For example, the New York Times magazine focused on the massacre visited upon the people of El Salvador on Dec. 11, 1981.

On that day, the U. S. trained and financed Atlactal battalion slaughtered more than 800 people in the political opposition village of Mozote.

There have never been any trials and don't expect one anytime soon.

According to forensic evidence gained from the remains of 143 bodies unearthed in 1992, 131 were children under the age of

12 years old.

But let the short tour of American-sponsored terrorism in foreign affairs continue.

Another example is the U.S. bombing of Laos that occurred during our misguided attempts to stop the communist domino effect in Southeast Asia during the period from 1964 to 1973.

Bomblets from U.S. cluster bombs became de facto antipersonnel mines when they did not explode on impact as designed.

In 1996, the United Nations estimated that 500,000 tons of unexploded explosives were still present in Laos.

An article by Barry Wain of the Wall Street Journal put the estimated casualty rate at 20,000 — nearly half of them deaths.

So just for reference a brief recap: Via a secret (illegal) war the United States totally saturated many nations in Southeast Asia with cluster bombs, many of which still remain to kill indiscriminately daily.

If that's not terrorism on a mass scale, what is?

Look at the United States involvement in Chile via the most warm and fuzzy of mass murderers, General Augusto Pinochet.

In a book by Robinson Rojas Sandford, daily tortures are documented, which occurred at torture centers set up in Chile.

These torture centers were U.S. backed and funded after the overthrow of the democratically elected President Salvador Allende.

The actual number of Chileans who suffered or died under the U.S. imposed regime

headed by Pinochet is uncertain.

One thing is certain though, they call them “The Disappeared” and they're called that for a reason. They ain't coming back.

The definition of terrorism is the systematic use of violence, terror, and intimidation to achieve an end.

But terrorism as defined by the United States means only those groups who engage in terror tactics who aren't world super powers with the money and influence to cover up their past deeds.

The U.S. trained people who committed these crimes were trained at the School of the Americas, which continues to function.

“Bomblets from U.S. cluster bombs became de facto antipersonnel mines when they did not explode on impact as designed.”

The School of Americas has most recently training government forces in Columbia to use similar tactics in the war on drugs.

This is a blatant example of state-sponsored terrorism.

It isn't a secret, the U.S. government is currently engaged in the continued daily bombing of Afghanistan.

In this they continue to polish the terror tactics that they have so generously decided to spread throughout the world.

At least Americans are good at it.

Buses benefit Bellingham residents, tax increase helps students and seniors

From BUSES, Page 14

and duplicate lines as sources creating an unneeded burden on taxpayers.

The problem with this argument is that providing bus service to the entire county is never going to be entirely efficient and the shortcomings of the current route schedules do not equal the 47 percent cut expected if the tax increase fails to win voter approval.

Outright cuts in lines vital to Western students and community members coupled with severe cutbacks in other lines could create huge problems. Many people who rely on WTA to transport them to and from busy areas such as campus, Sunset Square and the Guide Meridian.

It is no secret that Western students are one of the reasons WTA's bus system is so widely used.

As campus expands, admissions soar and parking becomes dismally scarce, the increasing number of students living off campus will rely on busses to get to and from school.

Not only is Western growing, but Whatcom County and Bellingham continue to expand.

Traffic back-ups in areas like the Guide Meridian and Sunset Square are already a regular occurrence. As expansion continues, it is in the city's

best interest to at least maintain the current level of mass transit, rather than cut it in half.

Another hurdle faced by the WTA is Tim Eyman's newest bid to finally create the \$30 car tabs he promised with I-695.

Eyman's latest initiative, I-776, would negate the current tax for local transit agencies, such as WTA, that remained after I-695 was amended. If the success of I-695 is any indication of how I-776 may perform at the polls, the situation looks grim for WTA.

Currently sales tax is 7.9 percent. If voters approve the WTA tax increase, it will rise to 8.2 percent.

Undoubtedly when people see sales tax jump over the 8 percent mark eyebrows will raise. However, it needs to be put into perspective.

If the sales tax increases, every \$10,000 spent will only cost \$30 more per year.

Opponents say the tax increase would negatively affect lower income residents. However, more seniors and college students, will spend less than \$10,000 in a year.

In other words, the tax increase would cost most low income residents less than \$30 per year.

Whatcom county needs to realize the importance of public transportation, and support the WTA tax increase.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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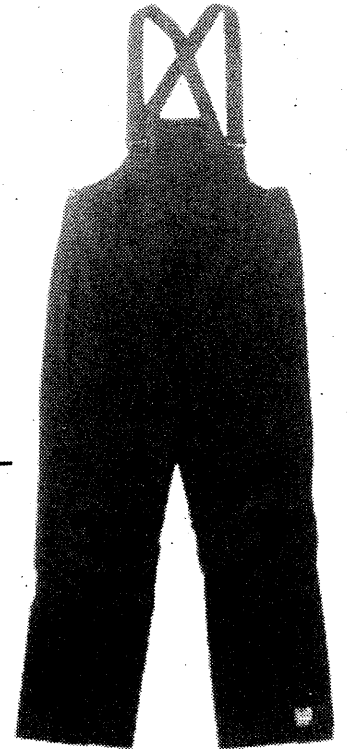
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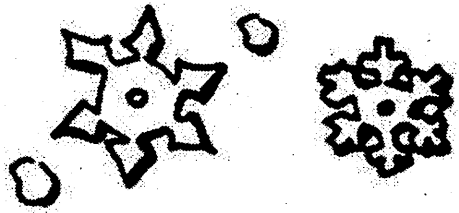
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