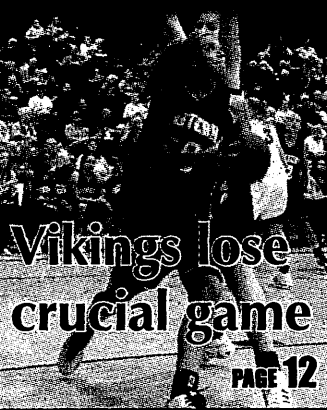


IN THE FRONT SPORTS

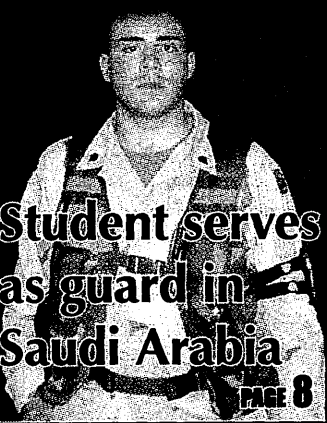


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God and devil meet in PAC
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Student serves as guard in Saudi Arabia
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WEATHER

Tuesday
44°/29°

Wednesday
42°/31°

Thursday
41°/31°

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Protesters gather to object military recruitment strategies

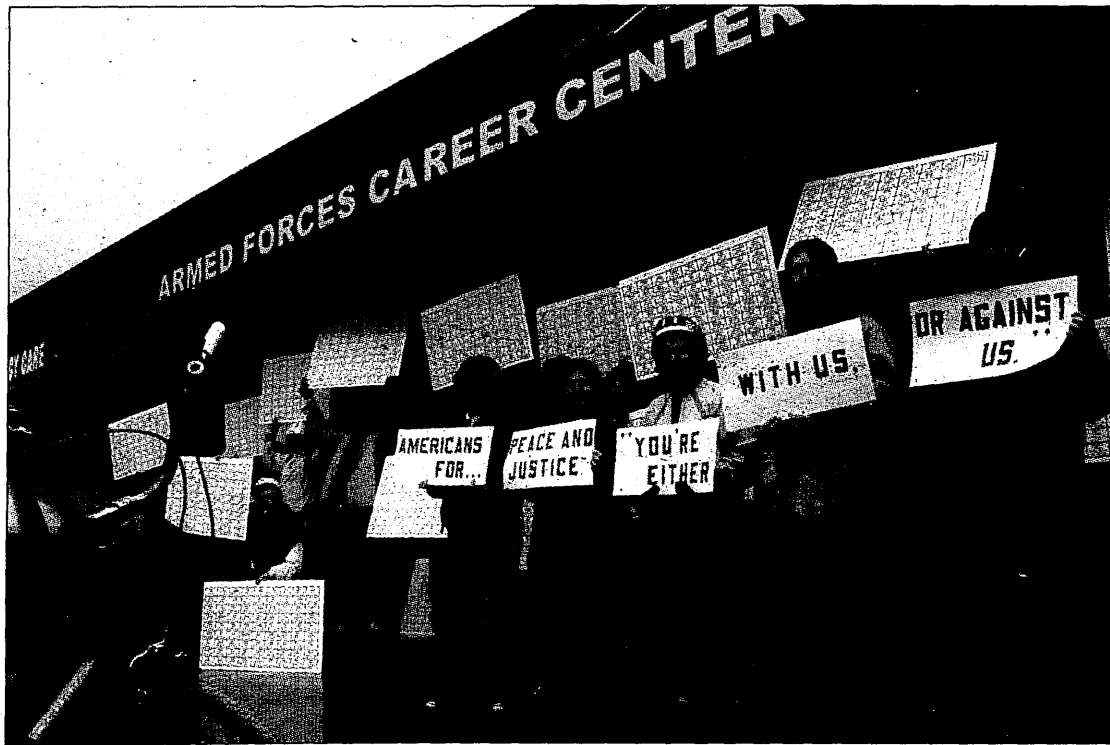


photo by Mark Malijan THE WESTERN FRONT

Western students, including the Associated Students club Students for a Democratic Society, joined forces with community members Feb. 24 to protest military recruitment strategies and the Iraq war at the Armed Forces Career Center on Telegraph Road in Bellingham. The protesters held signs containing the names of fallen soldiers from the war. For the story see NEWS, page 4.

Discussions while dining

Jessica Araujo
THE WESTERN FRONT

Students will have the opportunity to share ideas, beliefs, experiences and lunch while engaging in an educational and informative discussion from noon to 1 p.m. on Feb. 27 in Viking Union room 420.

The event is part of the Brown Bag Discussion series, an ongoing dialogue series that connects students with different topics and subjects, said Cicero Delfin, a graduate student in the Student Affairs Administration program.

Previous Brown Bag Discussion topics have included the recent "Let's Talk About Sex!" and "disAbility."

"I thought it would be a good experience to do this Brown Bag Discussion for the Ethnic Student Center because I know that there are a variety

see DISCUSSION page 5 ▶

Recreation center check-in policy could change

Associated Students Board of Directors encourages different admittance methods

Jeff Backman
THE WESTERN FRONT

Admittance into the Wade King Student Recreation Center can be a hassle for students who forget their Western student ID cards.

The Associated Students (AS) Board of Directors will consider a resolution on Feb. 28 suggesting one option that some board members think might make it easier to work out for those forgetful students.

James Sanders, AS Board Vice President for Academic Affairs and Western senior, introduced the resolution at the Feb. 21 board meeting.

If passed, the resolution will insist the recreation center use students' Western ID numbers to pull up pictures on the computer to allow access, rather than the current system that requires students to bring in their Western card.

AS President and Western senior Mark Iozzi said the resolution is a way for the board to empower students who can appeal to the recreation center committee. He said the AS Board of Directors does not have direct control over the affairs of the recreation center, but wanted to add its opinion as the official voice of the students to the issue.

Sanders said an electronic database of Western ID cards is available to attendants at the recreation center. He said the rec center has a policy allowing each student to forget his or her Western ID card one time per quarter by using the database to check the person's identity.

"I feel this is a frustration of myself, many other board members and many students I've talked to personally on campus," Sanders said. "I am guessing it's a widespread problem that students think it's a hassle to take their Western cards to the gym."

Recreation Center Membership Services coordinator Bob Hofstetter said the database system is not a reliable way to verify a person's identity.

He said the picture shows up only a portion of the time, the picture that comes up on the computer is distorted and it only stays on the screen briefly, making it hard for desk attendants to positively identify the person.

"The picture pops up at best about 75 percent of the time," Hofstetter said.

When the recreation center first opened four years ago, its policies allowed more flexibility, Hofstetter said. But recreation center staff found students were



photo courtesy of Peter Than

Wade King Student Recreation Center staff member Western junior Amy Shaver checks Western senior Dustin Wilson in by swiping his student ID card in May 2006.

abusing the policy.

"We would catch someone come in and give their [Western] number, and then their buddy, that goes to Whatcom [Community College], come in right behind them using [the Western student's] card," Hofstetter said about a common problem with the current system.

"It's pretty difficult to catch the ones that are similar," he said. "We obviously catch the 250-pound lineman coming in with Suzy's card."

Hofstetter said on average the desk attendants catch about

three people attempting to use someone else's card per day.

Taking the cards of the students who try to cheat the system is the only way to discourage the attempts, and if students were allowed to just use a Western number there would be nothing to lose, he said.

The recreation center Building Manager Mat Lathrop said Western cards that are confiscated by facility staff are sent to Edens Hall where students

see REC CENTER page 5 ▶

>>News Briefs<<

Hiring committee to name new AS student senate chairperson

The AS Student Senate will be hiring a new senate chairperson in the coming weeks. The position has been vacant since Christian Opfer, the former chairperson, resigned Jan. 23.

Applicants for the position have been vetted by a hiring committee, which is made up of three students and advised by Kevin Majkut, the Director of Viking Union Student Activities. The committee will recommend three of the applicants to the student senate. The senate will then interview and vote to decide the person to hire as senate chair.

Soprano to perform at Western

Boston-based soprano Brenna Wells will be performing as part of the Virginia Hunter Endowment Scholarship Recital at 7:30 p.m. on March 18 in the Performing Arts Center Concert Hall. Tickets for the recital are \$10 for students and senior citizens and \$20 for the general public.

Guest chef cooks for Western students

Western Dining Services will host executive chef Joaquin Suarez of Bogota, Colombia from Feb. 26 to March 2 as part of a global exchange program. Suarez will present "Authentic Colombian Lunch" at 11:30 a.m. on Feb. 27 in the Viking Union Market and "Flavors of South America" at 5:30 p.m. on March 1 at the Fairhaven commons.

The lunch on Feb. 27 is \$5 and the dinner on March 1 is \$10.35.



photo by Justin Steyer THE WESTERN FRONT

The outdoor sculpture "Untitled (Steam Work for Bellingham)" lets off some steam on Feb. 26. The sculpture is fenced off because of construction on the Academic Instructional Center.

Fairhaven College hosting benefit concert

The all-female quartet, Motherlode, will perform in a benefit concert for first-generation students at Fairhaven College at 7:30 p.m. on April 7 at the Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship. Tickets for the show are \$8 for students and senior citizens and \$14 for adults.

Service-learning in Costa Rica

A service-learning program titled "Rainforest Immersion and Conservation Action" will be offered through the Huxley College of the Environment. Students in

the program will study abroad in Costa Rica from June 26 through Aug. 3. They will study two different rainforests and learn about conservation science and policy making.

Showcase introduces students to sciences

The interactive science presentation "Bugs, Lights, & Lightning!" will be held at 10 a.m. on March 3 in Science Lecture Hall 150. The show is free for students in grades 5-9 and their parents.

Compiled by Jeffrey Ehrhardt and Jeff Backman

Cops Box

Campus Police

- Feb. 22, 1:23 a.m.: Police responded to a report of two suspicious people with backpacks climbing a wall at Edens Hall South.
- Feb. 22, 4:52 a.m.: Police responded to a report of a male sleeping in a Haggard Hall classroom.
- Feb. 22, 10:26 p.m.: Police responded to a report of a student who fell off his long board outside of Mathes Hall and reportedly broke his wrist.
- Feb. 23, 3:35 a.m.: Police responded to a report of a male in the Environmental Studies building wearing several layers of clothing and a hooded sweatshirt over his head. Upon arrival, the police issued a trespassing warning.

Bellingham Police

- Feb. 23, 2:39 p.m.: Police responded to a report of a prowler on the 1400 block of H Street.
- Feb. 24, 12:01 a.m.: Police arrested a 21-year-old male on suspicion of disorderly conduct after responding to a report of a loud party on the 2100 block of Harris Avenue.
- Feb. 24, 3:18 a.m.: Police arrested a 29-year-old male and a 35-year-old male on suspicion of disorderly conduct after responding to a report of a fight on the 300 block of Holly Street.

Compiled by Danielle Koegel

Apply to be a Western Front editor

E-mail a resume and cover letter to:
Spring Editor-in-Chief Jessica Harbert at
jessicaharbert@gmail.com

Deadline: March 8, 5 p.m.

THE WESTERN FRONT

WesternFrontOnline.com

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WWU Official Announcements - PLEASE POST

Deadline for announcements in the space provided is the Tuesday before the announcement. Announcements should be typed, double-spaced, and be typewritten on a piece of paper. All announcements should be sent to: wwuofficialannouncements@wwu.edu. Please include a phone number and e-mail address. All announcements should be sent to: Official Announcements, 1150 University Way, Bldg. 443, Bellingham, WA 98225. ANNOUNCEMENTS DIRECTLY TO THE WESTERN FRONT. Phased announcements will not be accepted.

TESTING SCHEDULES for winter quarter may be viewed at www.ac.wwu.edu/~assess/tc.htm.

THE MATH PLACEMENT TEST will be given in OM 120 at 3 p.m. Mondays on March 5, 12, and 19, and at 9 a.m. Thursdays on March 1, 8, and 15. Registration is not required. Students must bring picture identification, their student number, Social Security number, and a No. 2 pencil. A fee of \$15 is payable in the exact amount at time of testing. Allow 90 minutes.

THE MILLER ANALOGIES TEST is offered by appointment only. Make an appointment in person in OM 120 or by calling X/3080. A \$60 fee is payable at time of test. Test takes approximately 1 1/2 hours. Preliminary scores will be available immediately. Official results will be mailed within 15 days.

FACULTY ARE REMINDED THAT RESERVED PARKING SPACES are available for their use after hours and weekends with a valid parking permit or bus pass, as posted in lots 10G, 17G and Parks Hall.

HUMAN SERVICES MAJOR OPEN HOUSE. Find out more about the Woodring College of Education Human Services major from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. on March 1 in Miller Hall 403. For more information, call X/7759.

COLOMBIAN CHEF TO VISIT WWU. Executive chef Joaquin Suarez from Bogota, Colombia, is visiting campus through March 2. He will present an "Authentic Colombian Lunch" in the Viking Union Market from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm on Feb. 27, and a dinner, "Flavors of South America," at Fairhaven Commons from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. on March 1. Lunch costs \$4.99 and dinner \$10.35. For more information, call Lisa North at X/2970.

WEST-B TEST. Anyone applying for admission to state-approved teacher education programs are required to meet the minimum passing score on the basic skills assessment by the application deadline. Visit www.west.nesinc.com for registration information and a study guide with sample test questions. Remaining test dates for the current academic year are March 10, May 12, and July 14. Registration deadlines are several weeks in advance.

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR CAMPUS COMPACT CONFERENCE. Friday, March 30, is the online deadline to register for the Western Region Campus Compact Consortium continuums of service conference, "Catching Waves: Using Engagement to Address Critical Issues." The conference will be April 12-14 in San Jose, Calif. To register, visit <http://www.acadweb.wwu.edu/campcomp/onlinereg.html>.

DEPOSITS ARE DUE BEFORE APRIL 1 FOR PRIORITY CONSIDERATION for "Rainforest Immersion and Conservation Action" in Costa Rica June 26-Aug. 3. Participants can earn 10 credits. Cost is \$4,000 plus airfare, with a \$100 nonrefundable deposit and another \$100 for nonresident students. For financial aid options and eligibility, call X/3470.

WEST-E PRAXIS. Washington state requires individuals seeking teacher certification and teachers seeking additional endorsements to pass a subject knowledge assessment in the chosen endorsement area. The state has chosen specific Praxis II series tests to meet this requirement, now referred to as the WEST-E Praxis. Visit www.ets.org/praxis/prxwa.html for a description and online registration information. Registration bulletins are also available in MH 216.

FOR GROUP OFFERINGS AND WORKSHOPS AT THE COUNSELING CENTER this quarter, visit www.wwu.edu/chw/counseling. For more information call X/3164.

On-campus recruiting

For complete, updated information, see www.careers.wwu.edu or stop by Old Main 280.

Feb. 23: • Apex Systems, Inc.; Feb. 26: • Washington Mutual Bank; MARCH 1: • Aerotek, Inc.; MARCH 8: • Fund for Public Interest Research; MARCH 8-9: • Microsoft Corp.

PHYSICIANS

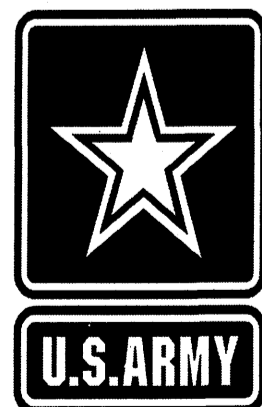
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Clubs join forces to celebrate day of dissent

Kelly Lemons
THE WESTERN FRONT

More than 100 people stood in the rain on Feb. 24 at the Bellingham Armed Forces Career Center and listened to citizens take turns denouncing the war in Iraq and military recruiting through a bull horn beneath an umbrella.

The gathering was part of a protest organized by Western's Students for a Democratic Society (SDS).

Western sophomore and SDS member Alex Williamson told the crowd he knew three people who have died in the Iraq war — two of them were recruited at his high school in Edmonds. Williamson said he came to the event because he wanted to make people aware that a war with Iran is a real possibility and would be fought by people being recruited into the military now.

Whatcom Community College sophomore Sean Burke, an SDS member, said this event was the beginning of an anti-recruitment campaign that will hopefully force recruiters to give potential enlistees all the information regarding the risks of military service.

"Recruiters are lying to our youth and peers," Burke said.

More than half of the protestors sat astride bicycles bearing signs with slogans, such as "honk for impeachment," attached. They were associated with a loose-knit bicyclist organization called Critical Mass that had gathered at noon in the empty parking lot of the Depot Market Square at the corner of E. Maple Street and Railroad Avenue before riding en masse to the recruiting center.

Critical Mass is a gathering of bicyclists who on the last Friday of each month ride through cities nationwide to promote pollution-free forms of transportation.

Western senior Deanna Mohr said this was the first time she had ridden as part of an agenda. Mohr shares a two-seater bike with Whatcom Community College sophomore Brandon Kilgore and heard about the event from a flyer on campus. Kilgore said while Critical Mass is an anti-vehicle protest, it is mostly a celebration of the bicycle.

"I don't want Critical Mass to only be associated with the anti-war movement," Kilgore said. "But the oil thing is there."

The connection between war and oil is why Fairhaven College sophomore Helen Jones said she asked Critical



photo by Mark Malijan THE WESTERN FRONT

Whatcom Community College sophomore Sean Burke speaks to the crowd of protestors at the Armed Forces Career Center in Bellingham.



photo by Mark Malijan THE WESTERN FRONT

Members of the international group Critical Mass ride their bikes to a protest on Feb. 24 at the Armed Forces Career Center in Bellingham. Critical Mass is an organization promoting pollution-free modes of transportation.

Mass to participate with SDS and protest the war in Iraq.

As the protest ended, Sgt. 1st Class James W. Denison unlocked the door to the Armed Forces Career Center. The two-time veteran of the war in Iraq said he locked the door to avoid a confrontation. He stood with other military personnel looking out the window toward the diminishing crowd.

"We fight for the freedom for people to do this," Denison said.

Fewer than a dozen protestors stepped inside the door of the recruiter's office and began singing the words "bring them home."

Joseph Snow, who was inside the office, walked up to the crowd wearing a black leather jacket with military pins and buttons and pulled a picture out of his blue jeans to show them his son, Marine Lance Cpl. Ryan Mitchell Snow.

Snow told the group that both his sons, Ryan and Travis, are fighting in the war in Iraq. He spends his time at the recruiter's office across from the mall because it's one of the few places he can come for support, Snow said.

As his eyes began to tear, Snow said that when his son told him that he won't turn his back on his country, Snow told him that his country has turned its back on him.

Snow said he doesn't want the public to treat the soldiers like they did during the Vietnam War.

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Associate Dean of Students Collins to speak at Brown Bag Discussion

► **DISCUSSION** from 1

of programs and knowledgeable individuals on our campus," Delfin said. "I think the discussions are a great way to connect those programs and individuals to the students at the Ethnic Student Center."

"Just by knowing that there are women of color who are making a difference by being leaders will give me hope for the future."

- *Connecia McNeal, Western senior and Brown Pride club coordinator*

Delfin began compiling the discussion series with an informal search for topics that students might be interested in and then he searched for a faculty member to speak at the discussion on women of color in leadership.

"I was looking for someone with experience on the subject," Delfin said.

Delfin asked Associate

Dean of Students Renee Collins to speak at the event.

The intent is to stimulate thoughts, discussions and reflections on the subject of women of color in leadership, Collins said.

"Along with suggestions to have Renee Collins as a guest, I also knew that she would be a prime example to lead such a discussion," Delfin said.

Connecia McNeal, Western senior and coordinator of the Brown Pride club, is planning on attending the discussion.

"When I go I am hoping to learn more about how to make a difference as a leader, considering I am a woman of color," McNeal said. "Just by knowing that there are women of color who are making a difference by being leaders will give me hope for the future."

McNeal said it is important for Western students to attend because this discussion will offer them insight into an issue they may not think about or recognize on a daily basis. They may grow from the experience, she said.

Sanders: Scanners will be expensive

► **REC CENTER** from 1

can pick them up.

Hofstetter said a fingerprint or handprint recognition system has been the best solution suggested to deal with the problem.

"Adding something like a fingerprint scanning option would alleviate [the problem]," Hofstetter said. "After four years of operation, this issue of entry has always been a big one and that would be a great thing, it would ease a lot of the tensions between patrons that forget their cards and the staff here."

Hofstetter said a fingerprint or handprint scanner would cost approximately \$5,000 and would be paid for with money donated to the Wade King Foundation.

"This is something that we really want to do," Hofstetter said. "It solves a problem in our eyes. If we had that system we would be able to recoup costs of people who are getting in right now who shouldn't be."

Sanders said he does not like the suggestion of hand scanners.

"I think that this idea will most probably be expensive," Sanders said. "I know many students would be uncomfortable with having their handprint information stored on some university database."

Iozzi said the recreation center has gone through several policies concerning students showing up without cards. He said it is clearly a problem the recreation center staff recognizes and is trying to make a complicated solution to a simple problem.

Iozzi said he knows there are issues with the

current software, but solving those issues makes more sense than spending money on a new system.

"I know many students would be uncomfortable with having their handprint information stored on some university database."

- *James Sanders*

Associated Students Board Vice President for Academic Affairs

"It seems to me that fixing software problems creates a better solution than these complicated systems they come up with like buying hand scanners and all kinds of new hardware for the facility," Iozzi said.

Iozzi said the current system limits interaction between staff and patrons, and changing the system would resolve the issue.

"This would allow their employees to have more interaction with their members," Iozzi said. "The people who scan my card generally don't look at me."

Sanders said he has been disappointed by the amount of attention desk attendants give to patrons as well.

"Oftentimes, desk attendants don't take the time to stop their conversations and look at the Western card and scan it into the computer," Sanders said. "A lot of times they will just glance at you, take the Western card, swipe it and continue their conversation with the other desk attendant."

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Summer preview informs students

Aaron Weinberg
THE WESTERN FRONT

Unlike most students who filtered in and out of the Viking Union Multipurpose Room to learn about Western's summer classes on Feb. 26, Western senior Philip Silves visited for a non-academic reason.

"I just came for the free ice cream," Silves said.

Silves, along with three of his friends arrived before class to take advantage of the complimentary ice cream in a freezer positioned in the back corner of the room.

In addition to free ice cream, visitors at the 2007 Summer Session Preview were greeted at the entrance with free stress balls and Summer Session pamphlets with course offerings.

From there, students could visit with any of the more than 20 tables represented by various departments.

This summer, Western will

offer approximately 450 classes, a number that is typical for summer classes, said Summer Programs and Marketing Director Marlene Harlan.

Harlan said there are only minor changes to the course offerings from previous years.

"We're offering a few less GURs [General University Requirement] and a few more courses within majors," Harlan said.

Harlan said an average of 80 GUR classes have been offered during summer quarter over the past three years and said there will be approximately 70 GUR courses offered this summer.

Typically, classes are smaller and shorter during summer sessions, with approximately 3,000 students enrolled and classes lasting between six to nine weeks, although some can be shorter or longer.

Harlan thinks summer

quarter is a great time to catch up on credits, and said there are intensive series classes where you can learn one year of Spanish in one quarter.

Harlan said there are reasons to take summer courses other than trying to graduate on time.

Some classes give students travel experience to different countries.

For the first time Western will be offering a class that takes environmental studies students to Costa Rica for six weeks to study in a rainforest, as well as a trip to Italy for art students and a contemporary culture class in Mexico.

Western senior Samara Steele said she thinks summer classes are a good opportunity to get into classes that are normally difficult to register for because they fill up so quickly.

"I took summer classes last summer and I found them to be a lot more laid back," Steele said.

Vehicles support Vikings

License plates bring in scholarship funds

Matt Jarrell
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Western Alumni Association is fundraising scholarship money by offering specialized Western license plates for students, family, staff and alumni.

For \$47.75, the Department of Licensing can add a Viking ship character onto a license plate.

Since April 1996, Western has been one of seven Washington state universities to offer a specialized character for car owners.

Other universities that carry specialized license plates include the University of Washington, Washington State University and Central Washington University.

Jennifer Dana, Special License Plate Program manager said 550 WWU license plates are on the road in Washington today.

By purchasing the collegiate plate, \$28 goes to the License Plate Scholarship fund for any incoming freshmen, transfer or current Western students who choose to apply, said Jeniene Bengtsson, administrative assistant for the WWU Alumni Association.

Gina Kim, Western junior and sociology major, has received the License Plate Scholarship for two consecutive years. Kim found the scholarship on the Western scholarship Web site, and filled out the application online.

Tuition, books and other expenses can be overwhelming, Kim said.

"Money should not be a deterrent to those who have worked hard and want to further their education," she said. "The funds from the license plates are a fantastic cause that stays within the school."

Requirements for application include undergraduate standing, scholastic performance, financial necessity, extracurricular activities and service to others.

The Alumni Association awarded 28 scholarships, totaling approximately \$64,000 in the 2006-07 academic school year alone.

The Alumni Association License Plate Scholarship application can be found online at the Western scholarship Web site. The deadline is March 2 and applications can be turned in at the Alumni Office in Old Main room 420.

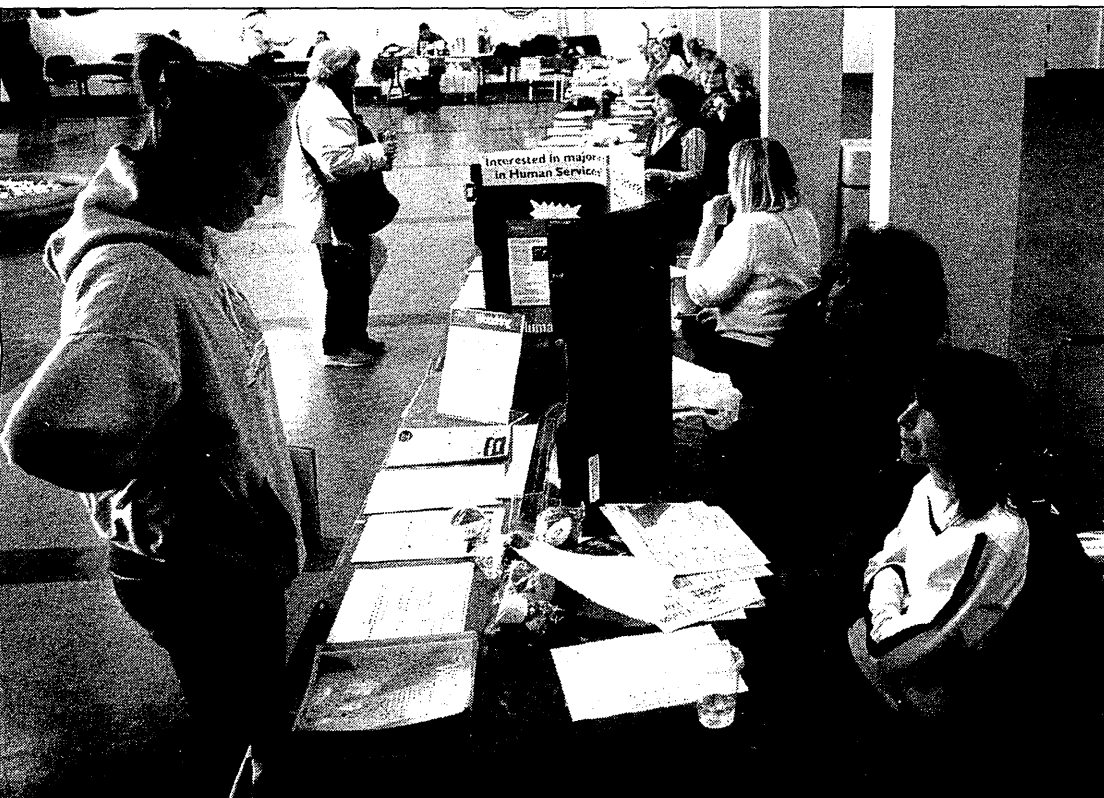
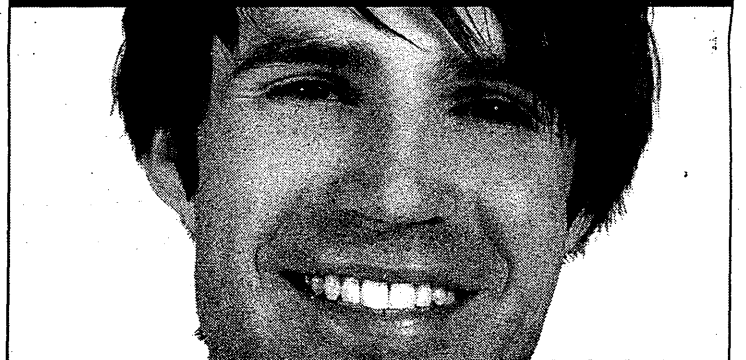


photo by Mark Malijan THE WESTERN FRONT

Western senior Molly Johnston (left) talks to Jane Verner, director of Bellingham Human Services (center) and Misti Williams, program coordinator of Bellingham Human Services (right) about summer classes in the Human Services Department at the 2007 Summer Session Preview in the Viking Union Multipurpose Room on Feb. 26.

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Students phone to fund school trips, scholarships, presentations

Jessica Araujo
THE WESTERN FRONT

Every week in a brick building off 32nd Street, approximately 18 Western students don headsets and spend their work shifts staring at computer monitors. They spend the evening calling complete strangers to achieve a common goal — to raise money for Western.

This fundraising campaign, known as the Phonathon, is part of the Western Washington University Foundation. The foundation is a non-profit organization founded in 1966 to solicit, accept and distribute private donations to the university, according to its Web site.

The money the Phonathon raises goes toward scholarships, helping faculty and students attend conferences and providing learning resources, such as books for the library, said Amber Asbjornsen, Phonathon coordinator for the Western Foundation.

The Phonathon brought in more than \$500,000 last year, setting a

new record, and adding to the \$6 million total budget of the Western Foundation, Asbjornsen said.

"It is important for students to realize that everything they are offered at Western is not just because of state funds," Asbjornsen said. "It's important to realize that students are working for students."

Western junior Riley Sweeney had never heard of the Phonathon until he saw a job opening for a caller through the Career Services Center. As a caller, Sweeney helps bring in hundreds of dollars each night, he said.

"I make around 150 calls a night," Sweeney said. "We call parents of current students, parents of alumni who have donated in the past, alumni and friends of Western like former professors."

The money the Phonathon raises also pays for technology on campus, Asbjornsen said.

"Most of the software we have has been donated by alumni who work for Microsoft," she said.

The Phonathon raises money for

different programs and departments at Western, said Chelsea King, Western senior and student manager of the Phonathon.

"Academic departments send us a proposal of a certain thing they need money for," King said. "For example, the communication department has sent us a letter saying it would like money for new computers in the computer labs."

The physical education, health and recreation department has used the money the Phonathon has raised to give scholarships to students, to bring in guest speakers and to purchase new equipment, said LeaAnn Martin, chair of the department.

"It's important to stress the significance of continuing the cycle of giving because future students are going to rely on the current graduating students for donations," Asbjornsen said. "Everyone is benefiting from the generosity of alumni, so hopefully by the time students graduate, they will continue that cycle."



Oyster Dome

Lisa Hust
THE WESTERN FRONT

Hikers can enjoy a clear view of Samish Bay, the San Juan Islands and the Olympic Peninsula from atop Oyster Bay, which is located at a 1,600-foot elevation on Blanchard Mountain.

The Pacific Northwest Trail on Chuckanut Drive leads to Oyster Dome. The trail is off the side of the road past the Oyster Bar Restaurant near mile marker 10. The start of the trail is marked by a stone that reads, "883 miles east to the Rocky Mountains, 223 miles west to the Pacific Ocean."

This is where the six-mile round-trip trek to Oyster Dome on Blanchard Mountain begins. The hike is moderate with a steep incline for the first mile. It takes approximately three to five hours to hike to Oyster Dome and back.

Avid rock climbers can enjoy the cliff below Oyster Dome, which is also home to bat caves. Hang gliders can launch from a site by the Trailhead-Samish Overlook.

The trail is open year-round. Hikers who want more time on Blanchard Mountain can stay at the camping area near Oyster Dome and Lily Lake.

photo by Lisa Hust THE WESTERN FRONT

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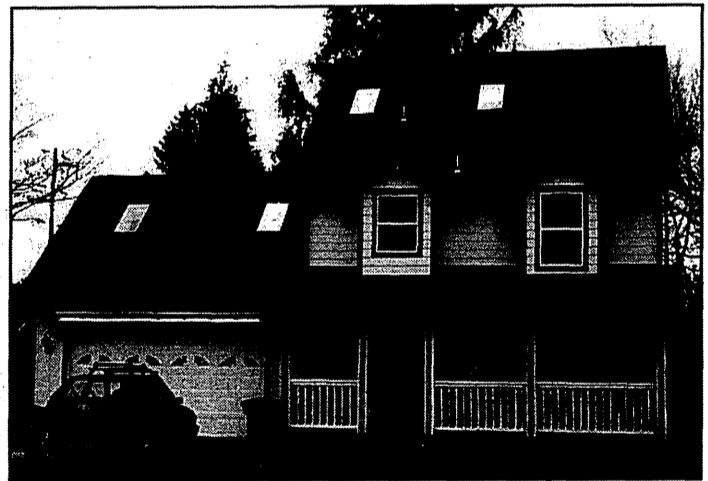
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A soldier's story

Western senior Ryan Allen talks about his tour of duty

Jessica Araujo
THE WESTERN FRONT

At 4 p.m. on Feb. 20 in the crowded, noisy Sehome Village Starbucks, Western senior Ryan Allen patiently waits for his tall pomegranate juice frappuccino.

He has an unexpected look of serenity on his face considering he is juggling a double major in English literature and vocal performance and a full-time job, while being a husband, a father and a soldier.

With a drink in hand, he makes his way over to a small table. The hiss of steam from the espresso machines, the clank of the metal milk containers and the jumbled noise of conversations fade as he begins to tell his story of serving in the Washington National Guard during a time of war.

"I joined the Washington National Guard about a month before September 11 happened," Allen says. "My timing couldn't have been worse. I was freaking out when the United States declared war and the thought of actually being in combat scared me."

Ryan Allen was a combat engineer in the Washington National Guard for nearly five years. He served a one-year tour of duty in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia from February 2004 to February 2005. Allen says his mission was to guard the personnel who were training people for the Saudi National Guard.

"My father served in Vietnam as a marine and I know it sounds a bit corny, but I believe in this country, so there was a sense of pride there," Allen says.

Growing up, Allen said he did not have a close relationship with his father and that they rarely spoke.

"My dad has all sorts of medical issues because of Vietnam," Allen says. "I thought being in the military would give me an idea about where my father was coming from and maybe give us some connection."

Allen met his wife Sarah, who is now a senior at Western, during their freshman year. They were married in December 2003 before Ryan was sent overseas.

In February 2004, after months of training, which Ryan Allen said he had to balance in between class schedules, he left to serve in Saudi Arabia.

"I felt sick when he told me he had heard his unit was being deployed overseas," Sarah Allen said. "Everyone was hearing about so many soldiers being hurt and killed over there and I was scared that someday it would be me opening the door to have someone in the service tell me my loved one had been killed."

Ryan said he was fortunate enough to have his own room because many soldiers were forced to live in cramped tents. It was a lot different than what the soldiers in Iraq are faced with, Ryan Allen said.

Ryan's friend, Western junior Marc Poblete, was deployed to Iraq around the same time Ryan was deployed to Saudi Arabia. Poblete said he joined the National Guard in August of 2002 because he wanted to serve after Sept. 11.

"Over in Iraq you have to have the mindset that everything is going to be bad," Poblete said. "Living conditions were bad. I lived in tents infested with rats and giant spiders, and there were always sandstorms."

Poblete said nothing was worse than the constant fear of injury or death.

"I thought being in the military would give me an idea about where my father was coming from and maybe give us some connection."

- Western senior Ryan Allen

In Saudi Arabia, Ryan Allen didn't have to deal with as severe as conditions, though the bulk of his training was tailored around preparing for emergencies.

"My training was based around explosives," Ryan Allen says. "They would make us watch pictures of people in our job who had messed up."

The pictures were graphic and it got so bad that people would actually throw up, Ryan Allen says.

"I was also a part of the Quick Reaction Force, which always had to be prepared for the worst," Ryan Allen says. "Whenever anyone was trying to get through the gate we were called and my heart would pound rapidly."

Although Ryan Allen had been trained and prepared for the worst situations, the only injury he suffered when he was in Saudi Arabia was not combat-related.

"I messed up my ankle playing basketball," Ryan Allen says. "I tore my ankle really bad in both directions. It didn't break, but it was bad enough that I needed a cast."

Ryan Allen says he felt sad, though at the same time relieved that his only injury was from a game of basketball, considering what his father experienced in Vietnam.

"Growing up with my dad with all of his issues from Vietnam, I know what war can do to somebody," Ryan Allen says. "So I didn't want to go to Iraq, but at the same time I felt I wasn't doing my part since there wasn't that much happening in Saudi compared to Iraq."

In between the year Ryan Allen spent in Saudi Arabia, he traveled back to Washington to visit with his family on Aug. 11, 2004. When his plane landed at SeaTac, he says he was overcome with joy after seeing his wife and his newborn son Noah for the first time. Noah was born 10 days before Ryan's return home and Ryan says he is just now getting over the guilt he felt for missing his son's birth.

"I felt like the worst husband and father for a long time after I got back, despite anything my wife said," he says.



Western senior Ryan Allen returns home from Saudi Arabia to see his wife, senior Sarah Allen and to see his 10-day-old son Noah for the first time.

When Ryan Allen returned home he began to have a stronger relationship with his father.

"I'm able to have some really good conversations with him now," Ryan Allen says. "I have an idea about what he went through when he was a marine. Before I wasn't able to approach him, let alone talk to him about things in my life. But now he's the first person I call when I'm having problems."

Even though it was hard for Ryan to be away from his family and friends, he has signed up for another six years of service, this time with the National Guard band. He is the lead vocalist and being a part of the band allows him to do what he loves and serve his country, Ryan Allen says.

He says he has mixed feelings about the war in Iraq and doesn't know what could be done to end it.

"When the war first started and troops were

New student club supports Barack Obama for presidential candidate

Amanda Howe
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western students gathered in a Fairhaven College conference room Feb. 22 to draft a mission statement and request official recognition from Western's Associated Students for the newly founded campus club, "Obama Vikings: Western students United for Obama."

Fairhaven senior Sam Kelly Jr. announced his decision to spearhead the club's formation during a Feb. 10 function sponsored by Western's Black Student Union, in celebration of Black History Month. U.S. Senator Barack Obama announced his plans to seek the Democratic Party's 2008 presidential nomination earlier that day.

The 10 members present at the club's Feb. 22 meeting agreed the club's purpose is to give students a way to network with the official Obama campaign and to support the politician's efforts to plan for an exit strategy in Iraq and increase funding for public education.

Kelly said he felt a newfound enthusiasm for the political process after the 45-year-old U.S. senator's campaign announcement.

Kelly said he was inspired by Obama's dedication to what Kelly refers to as an open and honest government, which he hopes will limit influence of corporate lobbyists on political decision making.

"I never subscribed to any sort of politics or parties, or core issues before," Kelly said. "Obviously there are issues I'm pretty passionate about, but the way they're linked to [political] parties always made me nervous to claim anything, because of all the game playing."

Other members with long-standing political involvement said they have been waiting for someone like Obama to enter the race and to revitalize their interest in democratic discourse.

"He actually has experience in the community," said Grete Martinson, Western senior and Obama Vikings member. "It's really exciting being involved so early [in the campaign]."

Jesse Moore, a Western admissions staff member and Obama Vikings adviser, said his appreciation for Kelly's endeavors and support for the senator's bid for the presidency drew him to get involved in the club.

"I care a lot about Sam, but also, anybody who can speak with such clarity about such complex issues that wipe away the disenchantment I've been feeling for a long time with words, then I'm all ears," Moore said, referring to Obama.

Obama's appeal to younger generations hasn't gone unnoticed. The online networking forum Facebook.com, with a user base largely comprised of the under age 35 demographic, has a club called Barack Obama (One Million Strong for Barack), which is devoted to the senator's presidential aspirations and was founded on Jan. 16 by University of North Dakota alumnus Chris Hughes.

Obama Vikings aims to stimulate voter turnout of young adults by forming strong ties with other clubs on campus and increasing social collaboration within the community, Kelly said. Events, such as voter registration rallies, could boost student involvement and encourage them to exercise this right, he said.

A study conducted by Maryland-based organization, the Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement in 2005, found approximately 42 percent of all 18-to-24 year-olds voted in the 2004 presidential election.

Western senior Robbie Gilchrist said the Obama Vikings could invite the Seattle-based hip hop duo the Blue Scholars to Western for a concert aimed at getting students to register to vote. The club added the suggestion to next meeting's agenda, which the members will discuss March 2. Time and location are still pending.

The Obama Vikings agreed that members should stick to clean, respectful dialogue not only during club meetings, but also when engaging students or other campus clubs who hold different political ideologies.

"The goal is to be encompassing and inclusive," Kelly said.

Presidential candidate Barack Obama

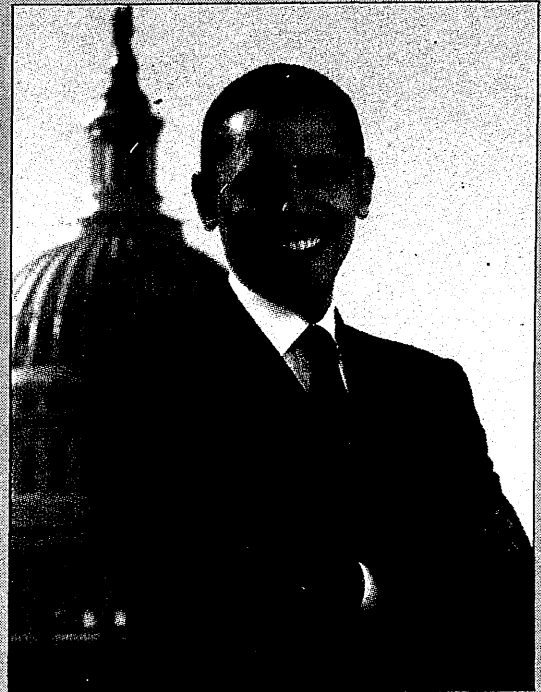


photo courtesy of Barack Obama's official Senator Web site

Party affiliation: Democrat

Born: Aug. 4, 1961 in Hawaii

Residence: Chicago, Ill.

Education: Graduated from Columbia University in 1983, earned law degree from Harvard University in 1991

Offices: Served on Illinois State Senate for eight years, currently serving as U.S. Senator for Illinois

Information compiled from Obama '08 Web site

Prospective Democratic candidates for 2008 election

- U.S. Senator Joseph Biden, D-Del.
- U.S. Senator Hillary R. Clinton, D-N.Y.
- U.S. Senator Christopher J. Dodd, D-Conn.
- Former U.S. Senator John Edwards, D-N.C.
- Former U.S. Senator Mike Gravel, D-Alaska
- U.S. Rep. Dennis Kucinich, D-Ohio
- U.S. Senator Barack Obama, D-Ill.
- Governor Bill Richardson, D-N.M.
- Former Governor Thomas Vilsack, D-Iowa

Information compiled from the Federal Election Commission Web site of official filings

in Saudi Arabia



photo courtesy of Sarah Allen

Obama on Aug. 11, 2004 to visit with his wife, Western's first time.

being sent over, I thought, man this is going about it the wrong way," Ryan Allen says. "I honestly felt that it should have been taken care of the first time we were over there."

Ryan says he feels strongly about the media's role in the war. He says that when soldiers see the media's portrayal of them as negative, their morale is hurt and it makes it harder to be overseas.

"The thing that is frustrating is the fact that nobody knows what will hurt or help the situation," Ryan Allen says. "If our troops are stretched thin then maybe sending more would help, or at least I would hope that it would help, but really I don't know what would help solve this war."

Ryan gulps the last of his drink. The scrambled noises of the Starbucks start to return as he ends his story. With a smile, he stands, throws away his empty cup and gathers his things. He needs to go pick up Noah from day care.

WESTERN FRONT REVIEW

Vagina Memoirs performers get personal

Sarah Mason
THE WESTERN FRONT

Performers on stage pause — sometimes to remember their lines, other times to slowly inhale and tear up in front of the hundred pairs of eyes and ears of the audience.

To say the 13 women on stage during performances of the Vagina Memoirs are actors isn't exactly appropriate. Though each of the women who performed had a five-minute pre-written monologue, the words they spoke during the four shows last week were their own—narrating personal feelings and events rather than performing as fictional theatrical characters.

The knowledge that each monologue on stage is an excerpt from the innermost thoughts of the performer makes the memoirs so powerful. The emotional charge this created during the memoirs cannot be recreated by well-rehearsed actors, no matter how flashy the costumes are, how complex the choreography is or how well the script is written.

The performances are connected with the Western's Women Center's V-Week, which focuses on destroying female stereotypes and communicating women's issues, said Women's Center co-coordinator and Western senior Rhyanne Andrus. She said a central theme of the memoirs is female empowerment.

Though the themes may be profound — some of the performers spoke of sexual harassment and cancer during their five-minute memoirs — Andrus said the women's performances are not sorrowful. The deadpan comedy of some of the women speaking about sexual realization or investigations into pornography would loosen even the toughest set jaw into a smile.

Originally performed four years ago under the title of "Vagina Dialogues," the memoirs have grown in popularity since Western students started them 4 years ago, said actor and director Sarah Weeks, a Western senior.

Inspired by playwright Eve Ensler's "Vagina Monologues," which are scripted performances rather than personal memoirs written by the performers, Weeks said the memoirs change every year with each new cast of performers.

This ever-changing facet gives the memoirs some of its appeal. Every year the audience witnesses a different performance, as new women take advantage of the venue not to "air dirty laundry" as Weeks said, but to start a dialogue with the community about common issues women face.

Between heaven and hell

See God on trial
and learn the history
of the devil at the
Underground Theatre

Jeffrey Ehrhardt
THE WESTERN FRONT

A trial will be held at Western. The courtroom is the Performing Arts Center and the jury is the audience. The accused? None other than God and the Devil.

The productions of "The History of the Devil" and "The Trial of God" will ask audience members to think about their relationship with God, the devil, and the people caught in between. Performances will be held in the Performing Arts Center's Underground Theater and start on Feb. 27 and Feb. 28, alternating days through March 10.

Both plays are part of this year's series of performances entirely run and organized by Western graduate theater students, a first for Western's theater department.

While both plays do exhibit philosophical questions about the nature of God and the devil, they are not out to tell audiences how to think, said Western graduate student Lexi Clements.

"By seeing these two plays, Melissa [fellow graduate student and organizer] and I hope that each individual audience member will come to their own conclusions about good and evil and the responsibilities we have to ourselves and to the entire human race," Clements said.

Clements picked "History" because of the raw and daring style of its author, Clive Barker.

"I saw this play when I was 18 and it left a lasting impression," Clements said.

In "History," British lawyer Samuel Kyle is whisked away along with several other court officials to the shores of a lake in Kenya. They are pressed into service to oversee a trial of the devil, who wishes to exonerate himself of his crimes

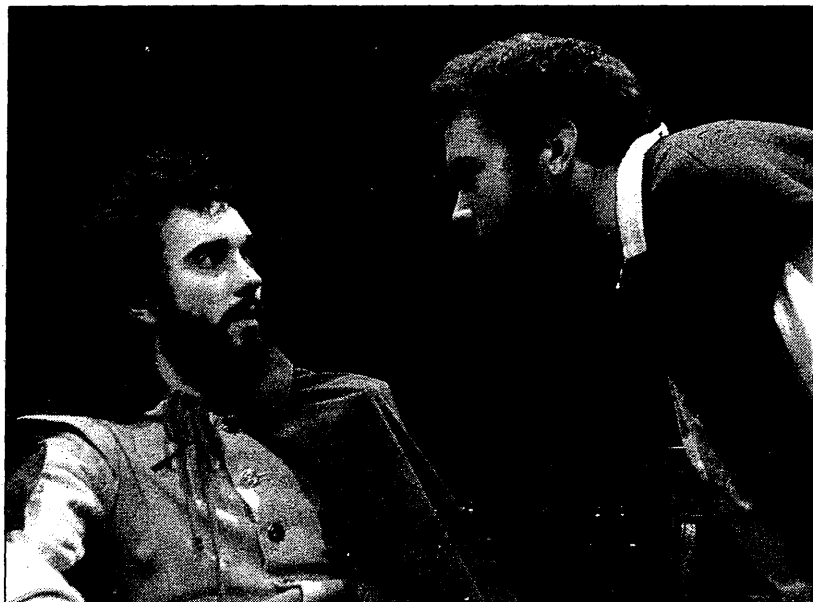


photo courtesy of Anneliese Kamola

Western student Harry Jamieson's character Yankel (left) is questioned by Western senior Mike Tilton's character Berish in "The Trail of God."

against humanity and return to heaven. Several cases involving the devil are brought up that suggest two sides of his story, and as the jury the audience is left to decide the verdict.

Clements said the details of how exactly the audience decides the verdict will be revealed on opening night.

Three Jewish minstrels have come to the tavern to celebrate Purim with the local Jewish population, not knowing that Berish and his traumatized daughter are all that's left. After they discover that fact, Berish proposes that they hold a trial accusing God of being accountable for the suffering in the village.

"You hear a lot of different sides to the argument," said Western senior Mike Tilton, who is performing as Berish in the play.

Western freshman Kate Hodges, who takes on the role of Hanna in "Trial" said that plays have caused many of its actors to take a look at their own beliefs and notions about the world.

"There's been a lot of soul searching with the cast," Hodges said.

"Trail" doesn't involve the audience like "History" does, Mock said, but instead leaves them asking their own questions long after the play is done.

"It's about taking the verdict home and thinking about it," Mock said.

The History of the Devil

7:30 p.m., Feb. 27, March 1, 3, 6, 8
2 p.m., March 10

The Trail of God

7:30 p.m., Feb. 28, March 2, 7, 9, 10
2 p.m., March 4

The Underground Theatre
\$8 general / \$6 students

Fellow graduate student Melissa Mock wanted to pick a show that served as a counterpoint to "History." Mock decided to pick "Trial," written by Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel, one of her favorite authors.

"The plays complement each other in style and have similar themes," Mock said.

"Trial" is set in a small Ukrainian village within the tavern of the Jewish innkeeper Berish.

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Fashion show exposes stereotypes

'Undressing the Other' confronts social norms through clothing stigmas

Lisa Hust
THE WESTERN FRONT

Stereotypes will be exposed when 13 women take the stage to combat the socially constructed ideas of normalcy through monologues of personal experiences and visual attire.

The show, "Undressing the Other: The Naked Truth About Stereotypes," will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 27 in the Viking Union Multipurpose Room. This is the show's third year and is sponsored by the Social Issues Resource Center, the Women's Center and the Ethnic Student Center.

The performance is a two-act take on a fashion show setup. The first act features cast members dressed in clothes that exaggerate stereotypes, and bulkier, bigger, and flashier accessories to emphasize characteristics that are often stereotyped. The actors will then monologue from that stereotyped character's perspective.

In the second act, cast members will take the stage as themselves, dressed normally, and speak about personal experiences and emotions related to stereotypes in general, not just clothing related. At the end of the show the floor is opened for the audience to ask questions of the cast and share comments.

Western senior Sandra Villarreal has been part of the production since last year when she portrayed an "exotic Latina." This year she is playing the role of "Little Miss Perfect."

"[Stereotypes] affect everyone on a daily basis," Villarreal said. "Whether we decide to see it is a different story. This show is about opening the eyes of those who often decide to keep them shut."

Other returning cast members have taken up roles as the paparazzi, a group of people who will play the "bad guys" during the show.

"The show is about opening the eyes of those who often decide to keep them shut."

- Sandra Villarreal, Western senior and "Undressing the Other" cast member

"The paparazzi is supposed to objectify participants to make them uncomfortable and the audience uncomfortable, to show how ridiculous stereotypes are," said Western senior and cast member Jennifer Horton. "We represent society's most nasty and unfair nature."

Western sophomore and cast member Maribel Galvan is depicting a "wannabe chola," which she described as a female gangster.

Galvan said one of the most difficult aspects of the show is breaking down the stereotype in herself. Galvan

said that people coming to the show should expect the unexpected and come with an open mind.

Western alumna, Stephany Hazelrigg created the show. Hazelrigg said stereotypes are often visually expressed through attire. Hazelrigg said she decided to use a fashion show format because it was the perfect venue for people to visually express stereotypes.

"A young woman in our society is taught to show her body and wearing less clothing is really desirable and attractive," Hazelrigg said. "But is she really liberated? Is she really free? Is she really secure and confident in herself or is she buying into images that tell her that this is what strong, confident and sexy look like?"

The Feb. 27 show is the first in a series of four performances taking place throughout the community ending on March 4. Each show is free but will be accepting donations for local organization, Healthy Choices for Girls.


Other places to catch "Undressing the Other: The Naked Truth About Stereotypes"

7 p.m., March 1
Whatcom Peace and Justice Center

7 p.m., March 2
Center for Expressive Arts and Experimental Education

8 p.m., March 4
Fairhaven Public Library

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Vikings' playoff hopes vanishing



photo by Mark Malijan THE WESTERN FRONT

Western senior guard Mollie Stelmack looks to score during a 76-52 loss to Seattle Pacific University on Feb. 24 at Royal Brougham Pavillion in Seattle.

Seattle Pacific hands Western third straight loss

Greg Applegate
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Western women's basketball team had a tough night scoring against Seattle Pacific University on Saturday, as they only shot 27.6 percent from the field.

Western lost 76-52 on Feb. 24 to SPU, the top team in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC), at the Royal Brougham Pavilion in Seattle.

The Vikings dropped to 17-9 overall and 9-6 in the GNAC with their third straight loss. Before the game against SPU, Western was two games behind SPU and in third place in the GNAC.

SPU head coach Julie van Beek said she came into the game knowing defense was going to be crucial.

"Offensively, I think we struggled for the first 25 minutes of the game, but our defense carried us," van Beek said. "We started off slow then we changed defenses. We went from man-to-man then we tried two different zones and both times we switched zones. We were able to keep them from scoring."

Western head coach Carmen Dolfo said SPU played good defense but missed easy shots.

"I didn't think [the zone defense] hurt us any more than their man," Dolfo said. "I think we did a really poor job of finishing our shots."

The Vikings did not have a starting player reach double figures in scoring. Western sophomore reserve forward Willow Cabe led the Vikings in scoring with 11 points.

Cabe said Western played hard but came up short.

"We couldn't really buy a

see **BASKETBALL** page 13 ▶

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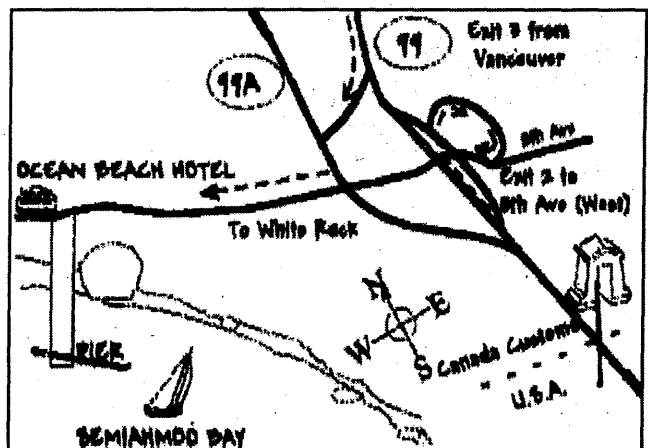
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Western lacrosse dominates Lewis and Clark

Andrew Sleighter
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Western men's lacrosse team battled through heavy rain to beat Lewis and Clark College 23-1 on Sunday at Griswold Field in Portland, Ore.

Western coach Jesse Savage said the Vikings dominated the game from the beginning.

"It was their first game of the season and they're a pretty new team," Savage said. "We actually came together and played pretty well."

Western didn't allow Lewis and Clark its first goal until the third quarter

and led the game 12-0 at halftime.

Senior attack Andy Young said the Vikings defense was the key as they held their opponent to fewer than 10 shots in the first half.

Western kept Lewis and Clark from shooting by playing body defense and staying in front of their men, Young said.

Sophomore goaltender Noah Symington had seven saves and only allowed one goal.

Young led the team with eight goals and four assists.

Young said the team is looking

forward to this weekend with games against Pacific Lutheran University and the University of Puget Sound, both at the Turf Field next to the Wade King Recreation Center.

Western is ranked No. 2 in the Pacific Northwest Collegiate Lacrosse League (PNCLL) behind No. 1 University of Montana.

"Our biggest competition is Montana," Young said. "We played them last year in the division championships and they beat us."

He said two wins this weekend would boost the team's confidence for their

showdown with Montana next week.

Savage said the team's hopes for this season are high.

"Our expectation is to win every game," he said.

Both Young and Savage said they look forward to seeing fans at the games this weekend and hopes that playing in front of a crowd gives the team an advantage.

Western plays Puget Sound at 1 p.m. on Saturday and Pacific Lutheran, ranked No. 3 in the PNCLL, at 12 p.m. on Sunday, both at Western on the Turf Field.

Dolfo: We're definitely not playing like we can

► BASKETBALL from 12

bucket and they couldn't miss," Cabe said. "I guess we could've gotten out on their shooters a little more, but they were just on."

SPU shot 52.1 percent from the floor and improved to 11-3 in the GNAC and 18-7 overall. University of Washington transfer junior guard Jackie Hollands led SPU with a game-high 22 points.

SPU is 68-2 in its last 70 home games and no GNAC team has come within nine points of SPU on their home court this season. With two games remaining for SPU, this win puts them closer to reaching the GNAC title.

NCAA Division II regional rankings are released weekly on Wednesdays and the top eight teams from the West Region make the post season. Western was ranked No. 5 in the West Region before their losses against SPU and Seattle University.

Dolfo said it's been frustrating because she knows her team can play better than they have been.

"We're definitely not playing like we can and to our potential," Dolfo said. "We're going to take a few days off, get ourselves back together and hopefully have a good last game."

Western senior guard Mollie Stelmack, the team's only senior, will play her last regular season game at home at 7 p.m. on Saturday against league-rival Central Washington University at Carver Gym.

Stelmack leads the team in scoring, averaging 15.7 points per game. She is shooting a team-high 42 percent from the three point line and leads them team in assists with 90.

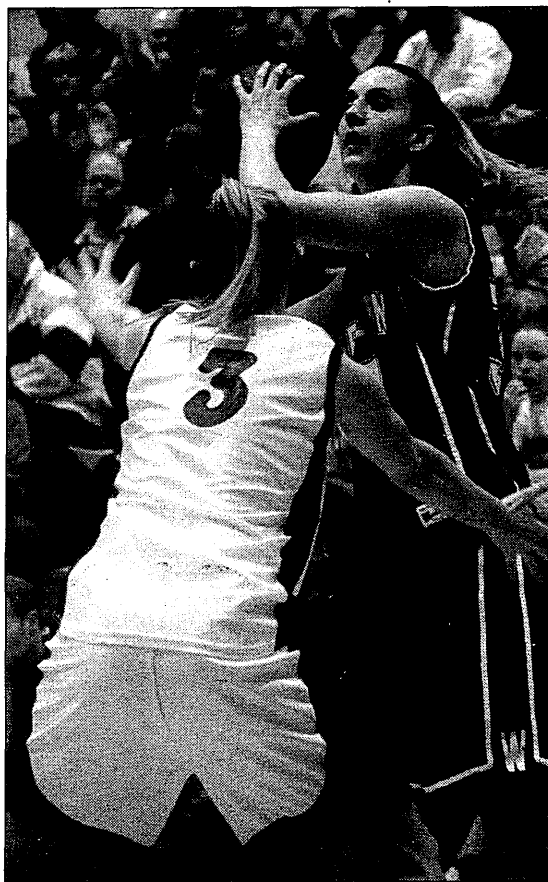


photo by Mark Malijan THE WESTERN FRONT

Western sophomore forward Willow Cabe looks to pass during the loss to SPU on Saturday in Seattle.

Western men's basketball

Feb. 24 game recap:
Western Washington: 91
Western Oregon: 93

Players of the game: Western Oregon senior forward Jacob Mitchell scored 32 points, including a game-winning tip-shot as time expired in overtime. Western senior forward Lukas Henne scored 26 points and grabbed eight rebounds.

Next game: Western finishes up its season with two home games against Seattle Pacific University on March 1 at 7 p.m. and Saint Martin's University on March 3 at 3 p.m. Both games are at Carver Gym.

Notes: Seattle Pacific leads the Great Northwest Athletic Conference. Western has lost 13 of its last 18 games. Henne leads the Vikings in points, rebounds and shooting percentage. Sophomore guard Ira Graham has scored in double figures in all but two games this season.

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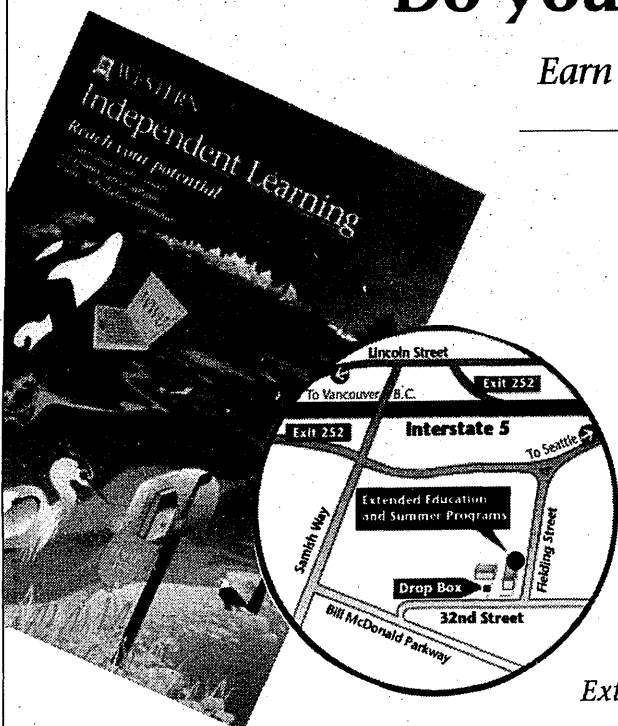
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Don't shy away from campus activism Show your concern for social issues and problems



COLUMNIST
Mary Andom

In a makeshift tent, students from the World Injustice Awareness club and the Campus Christian Fellowship staged a 30-hour famine in Red Square.

For what you may ask?

To combat hunger and poverty around the world.

Not many college students know the feeling of living hungry, myself included. I can survive for our hours not eating but I know by the end of the day, I have a full fridge of food waiting for me at home. As I live my happy, productive, healthy life in the U.S., I am reminded that I could have easily lived a life matched with hardship.

The Associated Student club the World Injustice Awareness Club was founded in Spring 2005 by students interested in campus-wide education on world issues. It is one of many groups on campus dedicated to elevating the consciousness of Western students.

College campuses have always been a hotbed for political and social activism. One does not have to look far to discover social concern at Western. With a click of the mouse, students can organize, collaborate and socialize around a cause via the Internet.

Facebook.com has transformed into a community bulletin board where students can participate in anti-war demonstrations, protest immigration raids or donate money to save darfur campaigns.

The World Injustice Awareness club wants to become more than a Facebook advocacy club by taking direct action and fighting hunger in the community and the world.

"The daunting task of making positive social change can cause some students to feel overwhelmed and ultimately turned off by engaging in activism."

Many groups on campus want to bring awareness to their particular social cause. Although this is admirable, it is important to move that passionate discussion into actual change.

As a member of the African Caribbean Club we have had deep, introspective conversations on issues of poverty in Africa. For hours we would

contemplate ways to alleviate some of the world's complex problems, only to end up frustrated and hopeless.

But where do you begin? The daunting task of making positive social change can cause some students to feel overwhelmed and ultimately turned off by engaging in activism.

It's not that students are apathetic, uncaring or disconnected, but many of us don't know how exactly to help. What can one person do to change the world?

I know many people who are extremely cynical of organizations that help those in need. They wonder how much of their money will reach the less fortunate and not fill the pockets of the rich.

This kind of mentality hinders many of us from conserving energy, purchasing supplies carefully, donating money and showing compassion for those in need.

It is understandable to have these feelings of powerlessness to combat world problems and improve the living conditions of all people throughout the world.

There is suffering in our communities with people living on the margins of society, are suffering through hunger and in poverty. In Bellingham, 20.6 percent of the population and 9.4 percent of families are below the poverty line.

Walk around downtown Bellingham on a Saturday night and you will see Salt on the Street, a local service group organized by Cornwall Church serving hot meals to the homeless.

There are hundreds of ways to help fight world hunger and poverty or any other cause.

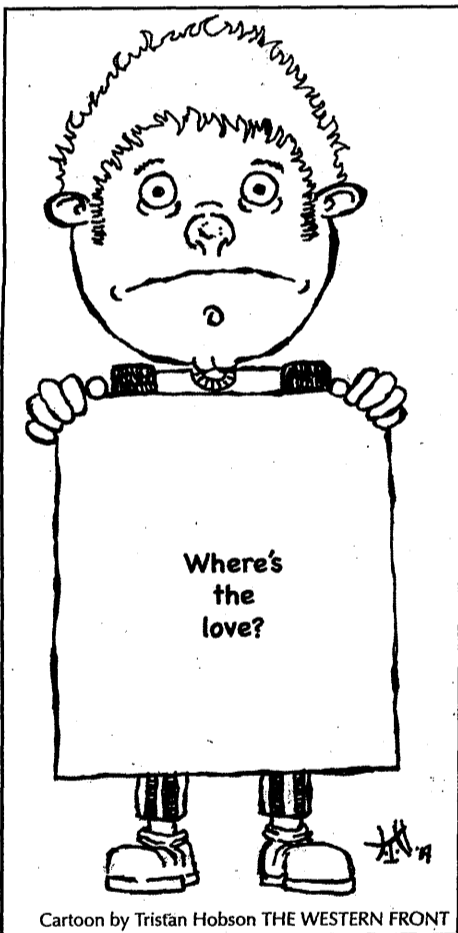
The first step is to inform yourself — knowledge is power. With

a full understanding, you can advocate for your cause better. Go to the library and research a cause — what are the political, environmental and cultural issues?

The next step is to take action. The U.S. government, as well as hundreds of non-governmental organizations, play a vital role in improving the lives of people worldwide by implementing policies and allocating resources. Sign petitions, participate in rallies, join an organization and teach others about a cause.

In your efforts, don't forget to look locally. What's going on in your own community? Who is in need in your neighborhood? Volunteer at a soup kitchen or a food bank, donate clothes you no longer need or donate to local outreach programs.

I believe in the greater good of mankind. As humans, we should show our compassion and humanity to victims of poverty. We all have a moral obligation to help those in need, especially those who have no voice. As anthropologist and writer Margaret Mead said, "A small group of thoughtful and concerned citizens can change the world."



Cartoon by Trisfan Hobson THE WESTERN FRONT

Knowing your rights will protect your freedoms

In light of the six minor in possession (MIP) citations on campus last week, students need to establish a respectful

frontline
Frontline editorials reflect the opinion of the editorial board and not the staff or advertisers of The Western Front.

If you find yourself being interrogated by UP, exercise those rights.

For instance, the police cannot search the trunk of your car without a warrant. They can, however, search for anything that is in plain sight.

They also cannot arrest you without probable cause, meaning circumstances that would lead an officer, in light of his or her training, to believe that a crime has been, is being, or is about to be committed.

So, if you ever find yourself being questioned by the police, don't assume they can arrest you for nothing.

With the knowledge of your rights, you can be empowered to make informed decisions with how you conduct yourself to avoid police contact.

If you are going to have a party, keep it indoors, small and quiet. Many parties are broken to neighbors complain, which can result in tickets for noise violations. Talk to your neighbors before holding a party. It is not only clever, but courteous.

It isn't the smartest idea to go to a loud house party in a highly patrolled area, such as High Street, or ones promoted on Facebook.com.

Before going to a party, know where it is. It could be in a part of town more prone to police patrols. It might not be worth the trouble if there is a good chance it will be broken up.

Know your rights whether you're breaking the law or not. When the consequences arises for breaking rules, realize your place in the big scheme of things. Also, give the police a break, they're just doing their jobs.

The editorial board is comprised of Editor-in-Chief Nicole Lanphear, Managing Editor Amy Harder, Opinion Editor Ryan White, advertising office representative Kayla Britt and student-at-large senior Zach Frazier.

relationship with both University and Bellingham police.

As a citizen, you should familiarize yourself with your rights. Knowing your rights will better prepare you to deal with the police.

"You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law. You have the right to an attorney. If you cannot afford an attorney, one will be provided for you." These Miranda warnings aren't just television cop show jargon.

Police officers are the enforcers of the law for society, and they deserve our respect and tolerance.

If you respect the police, they will respect you. They are not here to ruin your life, they are here to uphold the law. Be polite, because any rude behavior will further their suspicion of you.

The relationship between Western students and the police is often strained.

Most of the interactions students and the police are negative, such as traffic tickets, MIPs and breaking up parties. This is why most students have a negative perception of the police. We shouldn't regard the police as our enemy; we should commend them for helping maintain law and justice in our community.

If you find yourself breaking the law by speeding or drinking underage know exactly how to protect yourself from the law. It doesn't help the situation to become irrational. Yelling or using profanity will not get you anywhere. Don't take it upon yourself to "stick it to the man."

Your rights still apply even when you're living on campus. Don't think you don't have any options just because you're on school property; you have all the rights of a normal citizen.

POLLSTER

What do you think of the University Police?

- A. They're out to get me
- B. They provide an invaluable service to campus
- C. We have campus police?

TO VOTE, GO TO
WesternFrontOnline.com

Results from last POLLSTER

What do you think of the large store ban?

- A. It will hurt the economy with fewer jobs- 26%
- B. It will help Bellingham's community feel- 47%
- C. I don't think it directly affects me- 5%
- D. What ban?- 21%

Let your voice be heard!

Send letters to the editor at thewesternfronteditor@yahoo.com



Want to write a Guest Column?

The Western Front is looking for professors, faculty members, club leaders or other community members who want to write a 400-to-500-word column about an issue at Western.

Send your column ideas to thewesternfronteditor@yahoo.com

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Connect with your neighbors at these local events:

- York Neighborhood Association General Meeting**
Wednesday, February 28th @ 7:00 pm
Garden Street United Methodist Church, 1326 N. Garden Street
- Sehome Neighborhood Association General Meeting**
Tuesday, March 6th @ 6:30 pm
WECU Education Center, 600 E. Holly Street
- York Historic Preservation Committee Meeting**
Wednesday, March 14th @ 7:00 pm
Nelson's Market, 514 Potter Street

Not sure what neighborhood you live in?

Download a Bellingham neighborhood map at www.cob.org/documents/gis/maps/cob_nhoodmap.pdf

Looking for off-campus living resources and tips?

Check out www.OffCampusWWU.com

Ad paid for by the WWU-Bellingham Campus Community Coalition (www.coalition.wvu.edu) and funded by NIAAA grant # 1 U18 AA015455-03. AA/EO Institution. For disability accommodation call (360) 650-4028.

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Lent applies to more than practicing Christians

Guest Column

"What are you giving up for Lent?" Not just Christians, but anyone who wants to shed a few pounds or kick a coffee addiction seems to ask the question this time of year. Maybe a better question is, "Why are you 'giving something up' for Lent?"

Every season has a reason and preparation for heaven is the reason for the season of Lent.

Lent is 40 days of fasting and penance between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday when Christians fast to unite themselves more closely to Jesus, who, as Scripture tells us, was tempted by Satan in the desert after fasting alone for 40 days. He was tempted to serve Satan instead of God in exchange for food,



Buckenmeyer

wealth and power. His faithfulness to God in the face of temptation testifies that worldly ambitions are not as important as a Christian's relationship with God.

So, during Lent each Christian follows Jesus into the desert and enters into the mystery of His fasting, suffering and temptation. Practicing self-denial is difficult, but in each temptation to give up, the Christian draws hope from the knowledge that Jesus was tempted yet persevered.

Giving up simple pleasures helps put things into perspective. If one has the right attitude about it, it can reveal what is really most important in life. Habits and possessions can control the lives of

those who place their hope in them, so Christians refrain from certain pleasures to keep their focus on God.

During Lent, Christians remember that chocolate, coffee, cars and warm showers were meant to enrich their lives, not define them.

"Giving up simple pleasures helps put things into perspective."

At the end of Lent, the church celebrates the passion and death of Jesus on Good Friday, then His resurrection on Easter Sunday. The seasonal liturgy of the Church has a balance of mourning and celebration so that Lent doesn't just teach Christians to live a better life, it reminds us that Jesus was victorious over suffering

and death.

As Catholic monk and mystic Thomas Merton wrote, "It is of the very essence of Christianity to face suffering and death not because they are good, not because they have meaning, but because the Resurrection of Jesus has robbed them of their meaning."

Every year when Christians sacrifice small comforts for Lent, they remember that they can't rest in this life because their home is not on earth. It's not a love of suffering or hatred for the human body; sacrifices during Lent are a sign and a reminder that life on earth points to something greater to come.

-Western senior Jacob Buckenmeyer is a peer minister of social justice and evangelization for Newman Catholic Campus Ministry.

viking voices

Who would you like to run for president in 2008? Why?



Geoffrey Rathbone
SOPHOMORE

"Lyndon LaRouche needs to run for president in 2008 because the 21st time is the charm."



Hannah Higgins
SOPHOMORE

"I'm torn between Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama because either way we get the first woman or African American president."



Imtiaz Arshi
FRESHMAN

"The John McCain of 2002 specifically would be a great president in 2008 because his public opinion at the time matched what I believe in."



Nicole Ellison
JUNIOR

"Rudy Guiliani did a great job handling 9/11 and I think he'd be a great candidate for president."

Compiled by Matthew Jarrell

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