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MEN'S SOCCER TIES  
WEEKEND GAME

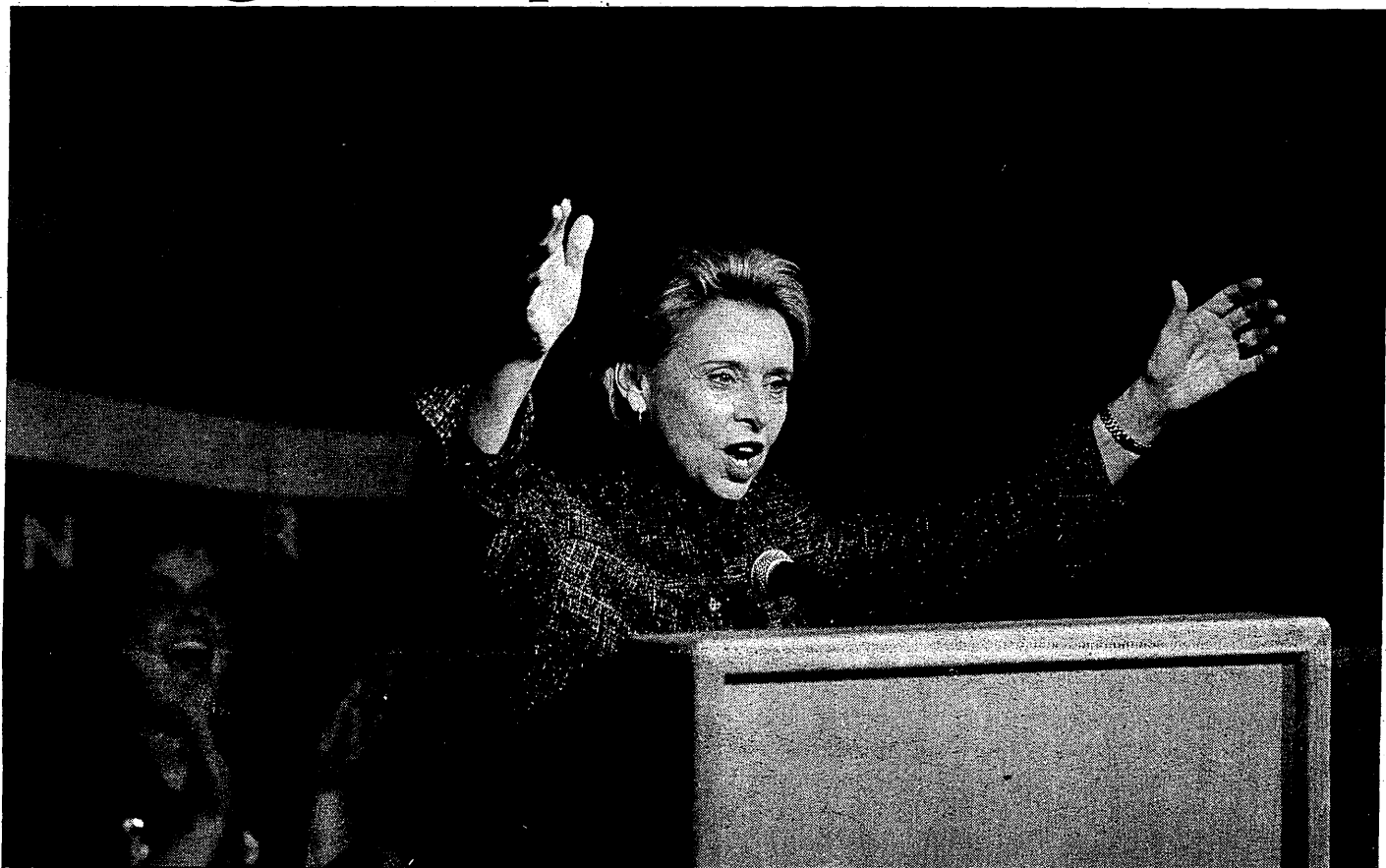
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Tuesday, November 4, 2008

# THE WESTERN FRONT

AN INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER SERVING WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SINCE 1970 | WESTERNFRONTONLINE.NET

## Gregoire packs the house



Gov. Christine Gregoire, backed by volunteers, addresses an enthusiastic crowd in the Viking Union Multipurpose room Monday.

photo by Kathryn Bachen THE WESTERN FRONT

**Corinna Storch**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

More than 750 people packed themselves into the Viking Union Multipurpose room to attend a "Get the Vote Out" rally, hosted by Western's Obama Vikings, said Western sophomore Colleen Toomey, one of the event coordinators.

Washington State Gov. Christine

Gregoire and Washington State Sen. Patty Murray were just two of the seven Democratic politicians speaking at the rally, which was hosted by Western's Obama Vikings.

Gregoire, who said she was prepared to campaign until 8 p.m. Tuesday, was the event's main and final speaker.

Murray introduced the governor on stage, and Gregoire was welcomed with

a standing ovation from the members of the Obama Vikings who shared the stage with her.

Gregoire's speech covered her main campaign points, such as providing affordable health care and maintaining Washington's current minimum wage.

All seven of the speakers used the ral-

see GREGOIRE page 7

## Bizarre weekend break-ins puzzle University Police

**Ashley Mitchell**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Broken locks, misplaced objects and confusion are the result of 29 break-ins that occurred in the Environmental Studies Building and Arntzen Hall during the last two weekends of October.

Over the weekend of Oct. 18 and 19, 14 break-ins occurred in Arntzen Hall and 15 more were reported in the Environmental Studies building on the weekend of Oct. 25 and 26, said David Doughty, assistant police chief of the University Police (UP).

This isn't the first time the campus has been hit by these types of break-ins, Doughty said. Similar incidents have happened every year since 2005.

"The funny thing is there seems to be no rhyme or reason for these break-ins," Doughty said. "Things in offices are moved, petty change is taken or computers are turned on and used. Usually nothing of value is taken."

The only item of value stolen was a graduate student's laptop that was taken out of the student's office, Doughty said.

University Police and Western faculty believe the primary reason for these break-ins are attempts to use the computers, Doughty said.

The offices hit the hardest are usually those where the computers are on, said Vivian Barnes, academic service manager for the anthropology department. Her of-

see BREAK-INS page 7

## Biking south of the border: A dyslexic perspective

A Western student embarks on a 10-month journey through South America on the bicycle he calls Einstein

Part two in a three-part series  
on the Fairhaven College  
Adventure Learning Grants

**Jillian Vasquez**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

The air is thick, damp and unbearably hot. Western junior Tyson Minck wipes the sweat from his brow and trudges along his way to Santiago, Chile, bicycle in hand. Though his flat tire is in urgent need of repair, his optimism remains in full gear.

As a recipient of Fairhaven's \$15,000 Adventure Learning Grant, Minck is stretching his dollar and mind to the fullest potential in his journey, which he titled "The Bicycle's Impact on South Ameri-

ca: A Dyslexic Perspective."

The Fairhaven College student is on a 10,000 mile-and-counting bike ride through South America. He lives on a budget ranging from \$3 to \$8 a day.

"Being extremely dyslexic, I have always used the bicycle to [alleviate] my frustrations with scholarly work," he said in an e-mail from Guatemala. "While I was applying for the grant, I rode my BMX daily to maintain a cool head."

Dyslexia is a learning disability manifested primarily in difficulty with reading and writing.

Minck was contacted through e-mail due to the high cost of calling the United States.

So far, he has ridden through Argentina, Chile, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua,

Honduras and El Salvador. He is currently in Antigua, Guatemala.

The original 10-month trip, which began in September 2007, has been extended in order for Minck to bike rather than fly home from South America. He expects to hit Bellingham at the end of February.

"It's healthy for me and the earth, [provides] a different viewpoint from backpackers who use buses, and allows me to see things at a peaceful 5-15 miles an hour," Minck said.

On his Japanese steel-frame 27-speed mountain bike, Minck cruises through tourist spots and sparsely populated cities, meeting people and noting the differences between their daily lives and life in the United States.

see GRANTS page 6

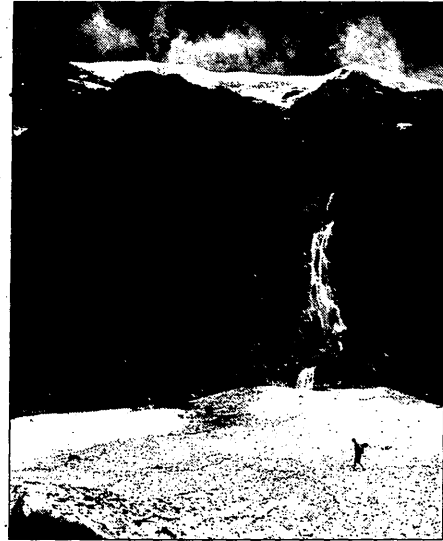


photo courtesy of Tyson Minck

Western junior Tyson Minck visited this glacier in Argentina during his trip.

## Cops Box

### Bellingham Police

Oct. 31

• Officers received a tip that two young men were going to fight on the 3200 block of Alderwood Avenue, and one of the men had a handgun. Officers intercepted both men and counseled them to stay away from each other. No gun was found.

Nov. 1

• Police received a report of malicious mischief on the 1500 block of Humboldt Street. Somebody had damaged the front door of a residence by throwing a pumpkin against it. There are no known suspects.

### University Police

Oct. 29

• Police stopped a driver south of campus on suspicion of speeding and using a cellular phone.

Oct. 30

• Police responded to a report of a sandwich that had just been stolen from the Viking Commons.



photo by Kathryn Bachen THE WESTERN FRONT

Liela Moss of The Duke Spirit performs during the opening set for Eagles of Death Metal Saturday night in the VU Multipurpose Room. Moss' band originated in London and is currently on a tour throughout North America.

## Residence life proposal accepted

Western's Residence Life team, a division of University Residences, has been accepted to present its program proposal at the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators annual conference next March.

John Purdie, associate director of Residence Life, helped develop the proposal along with other members of Residence Life and Western faculty.

Their program, "From Programs to Learning Partnerships: Utilizing the Residential Experience to Foster Self-Authorship," was one of 400 proposals selected to be presented. More than 1,000 proposals were submitted for consideration.

The National Association of Student Personnel Administrators' northwest region includes seven states and two provinces in Canada.

## High blood drive turnout

Western's fall quarter blood drive saw the largest donor turnout since 2001, registering 481 donors and collecting 358 units of blood.

The blood collected at Western on Oct. 21-23 will eventually benefit up to 1,074 patients.

Each weekday, 900 donors are needed by Western Washington hospitals in order to meet the needs of patients. Volunteer donors can aid as many as three patients with only one pint of blood.

## Students featured in Northwest Science

Research conducted by several Western students involved in studying the ecological effects of the scheduled removal of the Elwha River dam on the Olympic Peninsula was recently featured in a special issue of the journal Northwest Science.

The students are enrolled in Huxley College on the Peninsula College in Port Angeles. They worked with scientists, government and tribal agencies to research ecosystem restoration.

## WWU Official Announcements - PLEASE POST

The WWU Official Announcements appear in The Western Front twice per quarter. Submission policy: Announcements should be limited to 50 words and be typewritten or legibly printed. Announcements may be sent to [fast@wwu.edu](mailto:fast@wwu.edu)—in the subject line include a one-word topic and clearly note that the item is for Official Announcements. Items also may be sent to "Official Announcements," MS 9011, faxed to ext. 6817 or brought to Old Main Room 300. DO NOT SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS DIRECTLY TO THE WESTERN FRONT. Phoned announcements will not be accepted.

**MATH PLACEMENT TEST**—The WWU Testing Center administers the math placement test, and the schedule can be found at the center's Web site at <http://www.wwu.edu/depts/assess/tc.htm>. The test is given every day during the first week of classes each quarter and on most Mondays and Thursdays throughout the quarter. All administrations are at the Testing Center in Old Main Room 120, unless otherwise posted. Remaining schedule for fall quarter 2008: Mondays at 3 p.m. (Nov. 11, 17, 24; Dec. 1, 8) and Thursdays at 9 a.m. (Nov. 6, 13, 20; Dec. 4, 11).

**MILLER ANALOGIES TEST**—To arrange an appointment to take the MAT at the WWU Testing Center, contact the center, either in person in Old Main Room 120 or by calling (360) 650-3080. A fee of \$70 (note new rate) is payable at time of test. The test takes approximately 1.5 hours, and preliminary scores will be available immediately. Official results will be mailed within 15 days. See Test Prep Review at <http://www.testprepreview.com> for additional test preparation information and free practice tests.

**WEST-B TEST**—All individuals 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 <http://www.west.nesinc.com> for registration information and a study guide with sample test questions. Test dates for the 2008-2009 school year are Nov. 15, Jan. 10, Feb. 21, April 10, May 30 and July 11. Registration deadlines are several weeks in advance of each date.

**WEST-E TEST**—Washington state requires teacher candidates and teachers adding endorsements to pass a subject knowledge assessment for each chosen endorsement. This endorsement is called the Washington Educator Skills Test-Endorsements (WEST-E). WWU teacher candidates must pass the WEST-E test for each endorsement to be earned with a teacher certificate as a condition for entering the student teaching internship. New WEST-E tests administered by Evaluation Systems Group of Pearson will be implemented in two phases beginning fall 2008. Phase I tests are available in fall 2008. Phase II tests—Early Childhood Education, Early Childhood Special Education, Special Education and World Languages (French, German, Spanish)—will be available in fall 2009. Candidates are responsible for reviewing the Woodring College of Education WEST-E Test Resource Site at <http://www.wce.wwu.edu/Resources/Endorsements/WEST-E.shtml> for current registration and test information. Some students will need to pass the WEST-E/PRAxis II test to qualify for endorsement during the New WEST-E implementation period. Refer to the Woodring College of Education WEST-E Test Resource Site for test dates, registration and test information. 2008-2009 New WEST-E test dates: Nov. 15, Jan. 10, Feb. 21, April 4, May 30 and July 11.

**STUDENT TECH FEE PROPOSALS**—Full proposals for the 2008-2009 Student Tech Fee program are due by noon Dec. 1. The STF committee makes funds available to acquire new technology that enhances the quality of students' academic experience, provides additional student access to technological resources and integrates technology into the curriculum. Proposals are accepted from faculty, staff, or students through a recognized Associated Students organization. Full details are available on the STF Web site at <http://www.wwu.edu/stf/>. For more info, call Lisa Spicer at (360) 650-3917.

**BIOLOGY SEMINARS**—The WWU Biology Dept. has guest speakers coming to campus for seminars on Nov. 12 and 19 and Dec. 3. All are welcome to attend. More info: <http://www.wwu.edu/biology/>.

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
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# Plummeting gas prices ease pressure at the pumps

**Elizabeth Olmstead**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

As gas prices tumble from soaring summer highs to an average of \$2.59 per gallon in Washington, according to the Environmental Information Agency, students with cars are feeling less pressure on their wallets.

Western economics professor Steve Hansen, an expert on energy pricing, said the reason for the drop is a decline in demand, speculation on the market and slowdown in the economy.

Hansen said he sees the current gas crisis as identical to the energy crisis the country experienced in the early 1980s. At the turn of the decade, the economy hit a bump and gas prices rose, Hansen said. Prior to the increase, gas was and people bought cars with little thought to vehicle economy, he said.

"Oil was declining fairly rapidly, and cars were getting bigger and bigger, sprouting tailfins," he said.

After gas prices peaked around \$3.50 per gallon in the early 1980s, people changed their habits and prices decreased, he said.

Hansen said though gas prices rose higher this time around, people are now seeing the same thing he saw during that era. He said eventually people will see the prices rise again although he doesn't know how long it will take.

"We've been there before—there is no reason we won't be there again," he said.

Western political science professor Cynthia Horne, whose specialties include international economics, said massive oil demand from growing countries such as China contributed to the rise in the price of gas. When the world economy headed downhill, gas prices dropped as demand decreased, she said.

Horne said another cause of the original rise in gas prices last summer was because Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries artificially restricted oil prices across the globe.

The real dictator of gas price is not the average consumer filling up his or her car but rather large businesses and countries, Horne said. As these large-scale buyers cut back on demand, the average consumer benefits. If countries and international businesses step up their demand for oil, the prices will rise, she said.

### Newfound habits persist

Although it is unclear how long lower gas prices will last, many students are continuing to practice the habits they formed when prices were skyrocketing.

Western sophomore Andrew Taylor said he rode his bike more over the summer.

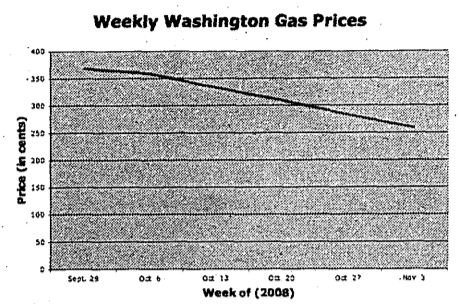
"I try not to [drive my car] just because it costs money and I'd rather ride my bike," Taylor said.

He said he only has to put gas in his car once a month, because he rides his bike almost everywhere he goes.

Western sophomore Adam Perrell said he began riding his bike the five miles to

work to save money as gas prices climbed last summer. Perrell said he will continue to ride his bike and the bus even if he has his car, but for work-related things, such as internships, he will drive. As a business major, he said he needs to appear professional, and it is hard to keep a suit looking nice while riding a bike.

Western sophomore Matt Colleen said he brought a minivan to school but only drives it about twice a week. He said he has bought only \$20 of gas this year.



data courtesy of the Energy Information Administration



photo by Michael Leese THE WESTERN FRONT

Western junior Carolyn Clarkson pumps gas on Samish Way Oct. 27.

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# Health center's waist screenings catch flak

Students voice discomfort, privacy concerns over waist measurements designed to identify health risks

Stephanie Sarff  
THE WESTERN FRONT

A new waist measurement practice at the Student Health Center has become controversial in the minds of some health center staff and Western students.

Since last fall, the health center has used waist circumference to examine students' metabolic risk factors.

Risk factors include excessive abdominal fat tissue and high triglyceride levels, which can lead to metabolic syndrome. People with metabolic syndrome are at an increased risk for coronary heart disease and strokes.

Suzanne Bailey, a registered nurse at the health center, said many students feel their privacy is invaded during these measurements.

Bailey said about half of the students she has seen this fall do not want to be tested for metabolic syndrome. Last year, only a quarter of students refused the service, Bailey said.

Student Health Center Medical Director Emily Gibson said she knows the center is making some students uncomfortable by taking skin-to-skin waist measurements.

Western senior Tamara Plandel said she was surprised and furious after her most recent visit to the health center. Because she was sick, Plandel said she was wearing three layers. Plandel said the nurse did not ask her to take any of the layers off, took her weight and waist

measurement and without providing much explanation, handed her a pamphlet with metabolic syndrome information inside.

"I was sick and left pissed off," Plandel said.

Gibson said the health center's goal is simply to better educate students about potential health risks and said the center's goal is not to make students' visits difficult.



photo by Graig Hill THE WESTERN FRONT

Western sophomore Everett Jackson weighs in after working out at the Wade King Recreation Center Sunday. Jackson said he does basic exercises such as chin-ups, chest dips and abs crunches twice a week.

"If there was a better way, we'd be doing it," Gibson said.

Jill Kelly, a registered dietician at Western, said students should be concerned about their weight now because it is a foundation for the rest of their lives. Kelly said health center staff are not trying to tell students they are fat, just warning them of potential lifelong health complications.

Plandel, a physical education and health major, said if she was not involved in health education, she would have panicked after her visit to the health center. She said the nurse did not ask her anything regarding her physical activity or eating habits and did not provide any information after handing her the pamphlet.

"That could have sent someone down a path of destruction," Plandel said. "You can't be educated through one pamphlet."

Gibson said the health center had a meeting to discuss continuing waist circumference measurements prior to the beginning of fall quarter. Although the majority of staff wanted to continue measuring waists, a few nurses opposed it, she said.

Along with taking weight, height, blood pressure and temperature measurements, Gibson said many nurses see waist measurements as another component to a student's annual visit.

Bailey said she thinks waist circumference measurements are an easy thing for both staff and students to take part in. She said although it is not a decisive fac-

tor in determining whether students are overweight, it gives nurses an idea about students' lifestyles.

Although she encourages students to participate in the screening process, Bailey said she is never offended when a student refuses the service.

Western junior Devin Lee said he thinks screening for metabolic syndrome is a positive thing. Lee said prior to his last visit at the health center, he would have never thought about getting a metabolic test done.

"When it comes to my health, I don't think too much could be considered invasive," Lee said.

Lee said he was not bothered by the waist measurement and did not find it offensive.

Since the program's inception, the health center has diagnosed three students with metabolic syndrome. Gibson said although this number is small, it suggests the health center intervened at the right time.

Gibson said during her 20 years at the health center, she has seen drastic weight increases among current Western students, compared to 10 years ago. She said at least 25 percent of Western's student body could be categorized as overweight.

To reduce health risks, Gibson said students should drink less caffeine, get sufficient sleep and keep alcohol consumption moderate, but added students don't need to strictly deprive themselves of foods they love to stay in shape.

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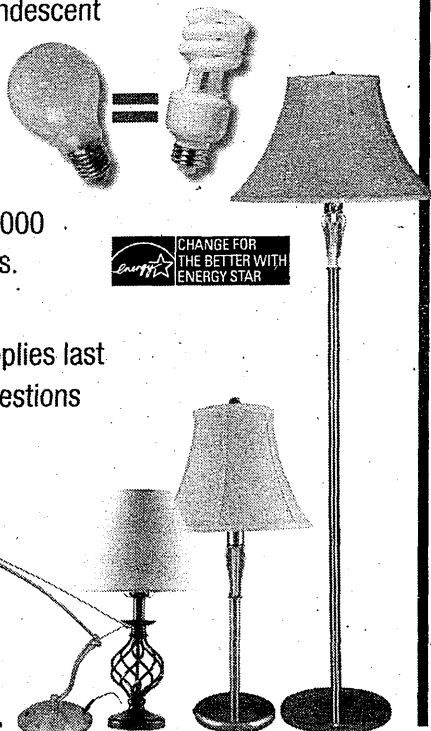
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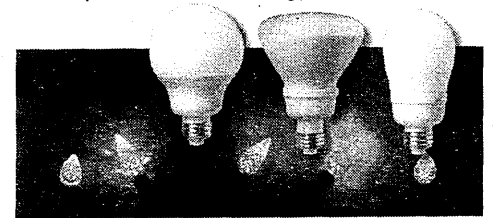
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# Immigration initiative draws criticism from students

Opponents of I-409 call measure 'divisive, unnecessary;' supporters say 'there are borders for a reason'

**Kaylin Bettinger**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Some Western students are working hard to oppose a Washington state initiative that if passed, would require stricter law enforcement on undocumented immigrants.

I-409 would require employers to verify their employees are legal by registering their information online. It would also prohibit immigrants from obtaining a driver's license without a valid social security number and would require police to work hand-in-hand with border patrol agents to ensure undocumented immigrants are deported.

Most of the initiative would only ensure that laws currently in effect are followed, but many students believe the legislation would have serious negative consequences throughout Washington.

Western senior Sydney Delacruz, an intern for the group Community to Community and a strong opponent of I-409, said immigrants play a crucial role in Washington's economy and culture, regardless of documentation.

Many of the jobs immigrants hold are undesirable to U.S. citizens, Delacruz said. Without low-wage workers in agricultural, custodial and other menial jobs, many businesses would not succeed, she said.

"Agriculture is such a huge industry in Washington state," Delacruz said. "If this passes, a lot of people who like to buy organic and local won't be able to. How

can farmers produce if they can't afford the labor?"

Western senior Angel Martinez, co-minister of education for El Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (MeCHA), said even given the economic concerns the country faces, people should not overlook the human aspect to what the initiative proposes.

"America was founded by immigrants themselves," Martinez said. "We are all sons of immigrants, so limiting them is limiting yourself; you're dividing society."

Joan Carson, a volunteer for the I-409 campaign, said there is no getting around the fact that undocumented immigrants are breaking the law.

"Americans who came here originally worked to their bones," Carson said. "[The undocumented immigrants] aren't making their countries any better and they aren't making ours any better," she said. "There are borders for a reason."

Carson said one of her main concerns is tax dollars are going toward people who do not contribute to the system.

According to a document created by I-409 promoters, \$11-22 billion is spent on welfare for undocumented immigrants every year.

Carson said she thinks there are many more than the documented 12 million illegal immigrants living in the U.S. She said she thinks it's unjust that immigrants can take American jobs without contributing to the economic system by paying taxes.

While undocumented immigrants

may not pay all taxes, Delacruz and Martinez said they do pay more taxes than people think. Between sales tax in Washington state and taxes taken out of the paychecks of undocumented immigrants with fake social security numbers, undocumented immigrants are contributing to the economy, Delacruz said. She said tax revenue from fake social security numbers has increased by \$20 billion in the last few years.

Western sophomore Meggie Garcia's father is a legal immigrant from Mexico. She said she can relate to people who want to come to America to find a better life because her father followed a similar path. However, she said without restrictions, America would become overcrowded.

"I think there should be restrictions, but I think there should be opportunity for other people," Garcia said. "My dad could never have accomplished what he did without coming here."

The best way to fix the problem of illegal immigration would be to change the laws, Delacruz said. One of the major flaws in the immigration system is how hard it is for people to immigrate legally, she said. If immigration laws were changed, it would be easier for people to come and live in the U.S. and contribute to American society legally.

"I feel like the process to come to the U.S. should be so much easier," Delacruz said. "The truth is that the process now is very cumbersome."

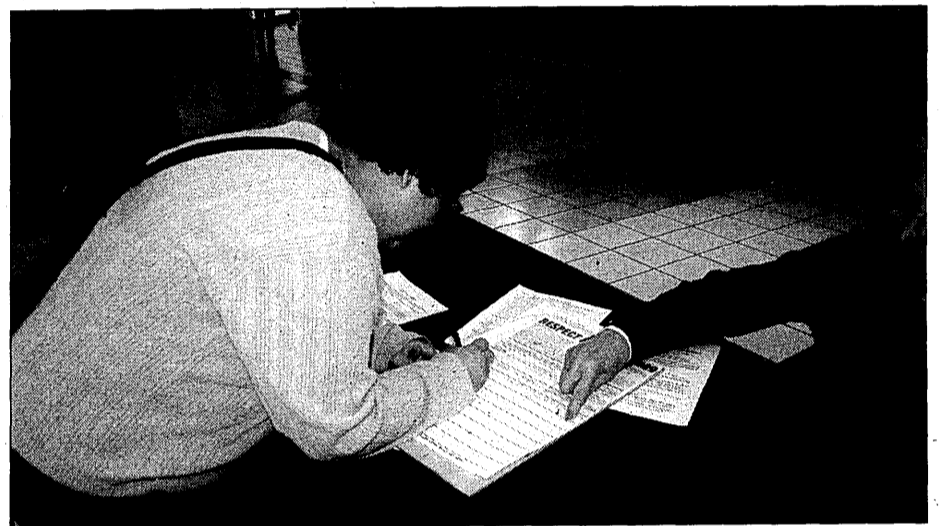


photo by Kaylin Bettinger THE WESTERN FRONT

Joan Carson (right), a volunteer for the I-409 campaign, shows Shantell Palmer (left) where to sign as she gathers signatures Friday at Bellis Fair Mall.

## Manufacturing and Supply Chain Management

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# GRANTS: Student plans to bike back to Bellingham in February

from 1

"The people who live on the roads that I pass on use a tiny fraction of the resources that Americans use," he said. "Their carbon footprint [is] the size of a baby's, while ours is the size of Shaquille O'Neal."

Fairhaven professor and coordinator of the grant program, Kathryn Anderson, said students must show a passionate interest and focus in their proposals.

She refers to this grant as the "hungry, tired, sick grant" because the journey does not come without hardship for those who tackle it.

"Their job is to do their best, be observant and [be] curious," she said. "If you do that, you can't fail."

To train for the trip, Minck biked down the coast of Baja, Mexico. During the three-week ride, he crashed his bike and had to recuperate in a dirty hotel, he said.

"After that experience, I knew that I lacked sufficient education to deal with first-aid issues such as altitude, infections and concussion," he said. "There was no way I was going to South America without this preparation."

Minck is no stranger to cuts and bruises, his mom, Dian Minck, said.

A serious biking accident several years ago, in which she said he broke every bone in his face, completely changed his appearance after 13-hour reconstructive surgery. She said Minck landed on his face after being catapulted over the front

handlebars of his BMX bike while doing dirt jumps. He didn't suffer any brain damage and the accident didn't deter him from his love of riding, she said.

"My life has always gone hand-in-hand with bikes," Minck said.

The Georgia, Vt., native said he has patched more than 100 flat tires on his trip. He views this as just a part of the journey.

"I suspect that most people can relate to the frustrations of fixing a flat on the side of the road in the pouring rain or blistering sun," he said. "I've done it so many times that it has become routine."

Minck has lived with dyslexia since he was diagnosed in second grade, Dian Minck, Tyson's mother, said.

"It has always played a pivotal role in his understanding of people and being generous of other people [and] understanding that not everyone is alike," she said.

Dian, who last saw her son in July 2007, said he brought a unique perspective to his interview in front of the grant program panel. He stopped the interview and brought in his lifelong friend, Mr. Einstein—his bike.

"That's a great example of his humor and how important it is to him," she said.

She said she was not afraid of how her son would handle the trip, since he has biked through Europe and been to Germany several times. She said she was worried more about the cultures he would encounter.

His 23-year-old sister Emily Minck said she also didn't have any doubts that



photo courtesy of Seth Holton

Tyson Minck poses on a rock with his makeshift guitar under a bridge in South America.

her brother would physically be able to withstand the trip.

"He's just very gung-ho," she said. "It's gotten him far actually."

To keep himself entertained, Minck has taken up playing guitar, in a sense. He travels with a tin can on a stick with three fishing lines for string. He calls his makeshift guitar *stupido basura guitaro*, or stupid trash guitar.

"The kids love it, the rain doesn't affect it and no one in their right mind is going to steal a tin can on a stick," he said.

To keep himself company, Minck makes up songs in his head to pass the time.

"I think I have about eight different songs with silly little histories and morals mixed in," he said.

His time has not been entirely solitary, however. Minck made friends with Carlos, a 53-year-old Argentinean, who toured with him through Peru and Ecuador for two months.

"We share many similar ideas on a happy, simple lifestyle, which made traveling by bike together very enjoyable," Minck said.

Minck spends the majority of his nights camping after long days of riding over paved and dirt roads.

"I recently found it funny how routine a life can be even when I don't know where I will sleep tomorrow night," he said.

The biggest change the trip has brought the traveler so far is in his eating

habits, he said. Before the trip, Minck was a vegetarian for 12 years. On the second day of his journey, he began eating meat due to the lack of vegetarian options.

"I felt forced to change," he said.

The social and cultural impacts on the availability of food were too big to allow him to be picky, he said. The largest bulk of the \$12,000 he has spent so far has gone toward food.

Seth Holton, who Minck calls his lifetime bike-riding buddy, visited Minck in Chile for a few weeks in January 2008. Holton remembers hopping into rowboats on a nearby lake one night after a long day of biking, to catch the full moon. Suddenly, where the moon appeared over the ridge, it was as if daylight broke.

"How pretty the country is just makes you slow down and take your time and relax because there's no sense rushing through all the things you're seeing down there," Holton said.

The pair grew up together in Vermont and have ridden through Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California together. Minck's trip was the perfect escape from winter, Holton said.

"I wasn't really surprised," he said. "He's always up to something."

Minck said he hopes to teach a Fairhaven course about bicycle repair and technological regression before he graduates next year with his concentration, titled, Human Impact on the Natural Environment: a Global Perspective, With a Focus on Bicycles.



photo courtesy of Seth Holton

Tyson Minck holds a large leaf on a 1000-kilometer stretch of dirt road in Chile called the Carretera Austral. Minck biked the road as part of his 10,000 mile-and-counting journey.

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## GREGOIRE: Candidates stress importance of student votes

from 1

ly to promote voting, as well as to discuss their own campaigns.

Kelly Linville, the incumbent running for State Representative in the 42<sup>nd</sup> District, started the rally off by encouraging the youth in the audience to vote. Linville said that while 60 percent of Whatcom County has already voted, only 25 percent of 18-24 year olds have voted, a comment received with hissing from the audience.

"This is an election where every vote counts," Linville said. "We're resting a lot on the young people in this room to get out there and get [their friends] to vote."

Incumbent Democrat Congressman Rick Larsen told members of the crowd their most important tool in this election was their index finger.

Use it to prod friends in the chest and encourage them to vote as well as to dial phone numbers and continue canvassing, he said.

Bellingham Mayor Dan Pike attended

the rally to support his fellow Democratic politicians.

"The rally was really energizing," Pike said. "From my perspective, this is a transformational election with so many critical issues."

The Sunday before the rally, Pike said he went door-to-door in the rain, encouraging citizens to vote.

"I collected a few ballots, but most had already voted," Pike said. "It was really encouraging."

Linville said even if most of the audience had already voted, it was still important to get the word out to friends and family.

"Because you've already done your job as voters, I'm asking you to volunteer," Linville said.

Linville said she has not seen this much enthusiasm since 1992, when former President Bill Clinton was elected.

"It's very important that the enthusiasm that started this campaign, and that obviously is nationwide, will finish that

campaign," Linville said. "And that it will not stop with [voters 25 and younger]."

Western senior Kess Smith was one of the first volunteers to show up at the Obama Viking's booth outside the Multipurpose room and was designated to blow up silver balloons used to decorate posters and tables advertising the event.

Western sophomore Ariana Rodriguez also volunteered at the rally for Obama Vikings. Rodriguez said part of the reason she came to the rally was to learn more about Gregoire's politics.

"I'm torn right now because I don't know as much as I want to," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez was one of the few undecided voters at the rally.

"I've heard such mixed things about her," Rodriguez said. "I've heard that tuition is going to be affected. Some people say she's helping, some say she'll hurt it. How is she going to help me?"

Tess Solenberger, 14, said she would have voted for Gregoire if she was old

enough. Tess skipped her classes at Fairhaven Middle School to attend the rally with her dad, Tom Solenberger.

"This is the first rally I've been to," Tess said. "There were a bunch of other classmates involved as well."

Tom said he went to the rally just to support Gregoire, who had his vote during the last election as well.

"Her approach is something that I can respect," Tom said.

Four years ago, Gregoire won the governor's seat by only 129 votes, out of a total of nearly three million ballots cast, according to The Seattle Times. That election has been called the closest governor race in American history by numerous news publications.

Many of the rally's speakers stressed the power of individual voters in this. Even Gregoire acknowledged their importance.

"When you win like I did last time, you know every vote counts," Gregoire said.

## BREAK-INS: Broken office locks cost up to \$400 to replace

from 1

office is on the third floor of Arntzen and in many cases, she has been the first to notice the intrusions into other offices.

"I came in and noticed offices where the locks on the doors were broken," Barnes said. "It's weird because things in the offices are moved and stuff is messed with. We consider it malicious mischief."

Anthropology department chair and professor Daniel Boxberger, who has an office on the third floor of Arntzen, was among those instructors whose offices were tampered with.

Nothing was stolen but it was clear someone had been there, Boxberger said.

A digital recorder and other various items ended up in the trash and his computer was turned on, Boxberger said.

A videotape was taken out of a cabinet and placed on the desk and a note from his aunt was moved from a drawer on one side of his desk to another, he said.

"It was very bizarre because they just went through my stuff," Boxberger said. "It's kind of irritating because it keeps happening. We have old locks and they aren't replaced until they are broken into."

Environmental science professor David Wallin's office was broken into as

well.

While his office wasn't tampered with like Boxberger's, someone had tried to use the computer, he said.

The computer had been turned on, and it was clear the individual tried to gain access but couldn't and presumably left, he said.

Some of his colleagues had experiences similar to Boxberger's on the second floor of Arntzen.

In one case, a faculty member reported a chair missing, and it was found down the hall in another office. Two chairs were pulled up to a computer as if someone was looking at the screen, Boxberger said.

"The odd thing about most of these break-ins is that there are so many and nothing is ever taken," anthropology professor Michael Grimes said. "My office was broken into and things of value, like my bicycle, weren't taken."

A storage office that contains valuable anthropological skulls was broken into on the third floor, but none of them were taken, Grimes said.

"It's clear that these individuals are not after property," he said.

Nine offices in a corner of the fourth floor of the Environmental Studies Building were tampered with, although none

of them were fully broken into, environmental science assistant professor Ruth Sofield said.

Her office was broken into a few years ago and her lock was replaced, preventing unwarranted entry, she said.

"I would like to see something proactive being done about these break-ins because they have been occurring for years," Sofield said. "A lot of offices were hit on the second and third floors of Arntzen, and it's scary to think that this has been happening so often."

The offices that were broken into contain door levers that, with extreme pressure, break and allow someone to enter, Doughty said. Once broken, these locks can cost up to \$400 to replace.

Due to the high cost, the university replaces the locks as they are tampered with. Seventy-eight have been replaced. They are replacing them with locks containing a clip that breaks under the same pressure. But with these locks, once the clip breaks, entry isn't possible.

"These locks are better because instead of replacing the whole lock, you can replace the clip which is only \$75," Doughty said. "Hopefully, this will come into use because over the last two weekends, the door lock damage total comes to

around \$10,000 with all the hardware and labor."

In 2006, UP arrested an individual in relation to the break-ins occurring that year, Doughty said. After the individual was arrested, the intrusions stopped, he said.

The person arrested by UP is a convicted burglar and a level three sex offender. The individual was breaking into the offices to use the computers to download pornography, Doughty said.

Although he is out of jail, UP have no reason to believe this individual is responsible because they have no idea about his current whereabouts, Doughty said.

No one else is suspected at this time, he said.

UP is increasing night patrols and increasing security, although there isn't much more officers can do because there are no leads or suspects, Doughty said.

Faculty members have been encouraged to guard their computers and keep things like exam masters and grading sheets in secured places, he said.

UP officers would like anyone with additional information about anything, such as the individual arrested in 2006, the break-ins or any possible leads to contact them immediately.

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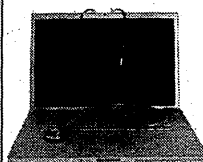
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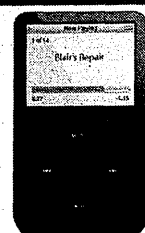
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# Coffeehouse Comedians

The Underground Coffeehouse Open Mic Night has become home to three regular comedians who perform new material every Tuesday

Talithia Taitano  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Recalling what it was like as a child during the Pokémon craze after teachers banned the exchange of Pokémon cards in school, Western sophomore Jim Allen joked last Tuesday on stage about how he

and his fellow schoolmates would secretly trade cards as if it were a drug trade during recess.

Allen, along with William Butela and Alex Haley is one of Western's three regular stand-up comedians who perform at the Underground Coffeehouse every Tuesday for Open Mic Night.

Butela, 20, a Western junior from Coupeville, Wash., has been performing comedy at Open Mic Night since the beginning of this year. Out of the three, he is the newest weekly stand-up comedian.

He said his comedic personality really came out when he started acting in plays for his high school. In his junior year of high school, he was voted the class clown.

"I watched a lot of Nickelodeon," Butela said. "Kenan and Kel really shaped my comedic personality."

He said he didn't actually start doing stand-up comedy until he came to Western. He said he usually gets his ideas from things that make him chuckle or anything that may spark his creativity. He writes it all down in a small notebook he carries around with him wherever he goes.

"I tell a lot of stories, which is the closest thing to having a style," Butela said. "I write about my life or observations I have about life in general."

Haley, a 21-year-old junior from East Wenatchee, Wash., started performing at Open Mic Night on a weekly basis at the beginning of last winter quarter. He is known for his crude jokes about awkward and uncomfortable situations.

"My uncle was a comedian and I guess that's where I got my first exposure to stand up comedy," Haley said.

He said when he was in the sixth grade, his teacher made a deal with him in which she would let him do stand up for the first 10 minutes of class as long as he would stay quiet for the rest of the day. He said he usually would tell his uncle's jokes regardless if his fellow classmates got them or not.

"I always got in trouble for talking too much in class because I would always try to say things that were funny," Haley said.

He said he continued to love comedy in high school, when he ended up being half of the talent show. He did five acts

out of the 10, one of which was a stand-up comedy routine. In the rest of the acts, he would play songs on guitar and do humorous skits with his friends.

In his senior year of high school he was nominated for three different superlatives, "Most School Spirited," "Most Comical," and "Most Likely to Be Famous."

"I did anything for attention, which shaped who I am today," Haley said.

The youngest of the three comedians, Allen, a 19-year-old sophomore from Tacoma, Wash., has been performing at the Underground Coffeehouse the longest, starting at the beginning of last school year. He has performed at Open Mic Night every Tuesday this year.

He said he first became interested in stand-up comedy after a friend introduced him to the Friday Night Stand-Up show on Comedy Central.

From there, he learned about the structure of jokes and different styles of comedy. In high school he won the "Class Clown" superlative. At his homecoming dance he even won "Homecoming Court Jester."

"I got to walk in the assembly and everything," Allen said.

Allen has been doing stand up since he was in high school. He would travel up to Seattle from Tacoma once or twice a month and perform at Open Mic Nights at the comedy clubs Giggles and The Comedy Underground. Once he got to Western, he started performing at Open Mic Night every week.

"I carry around a tiny notebook that fits in my back pocket," Allen said. "Usually if something strikes me at that moment, I'll write it down. Or I'll be talking to my friends and make a comment and if I notice it, I'll write it down and go back to the book."

Allen is now doing stand-up every Sunday at The Upfront Theatre in Bellingham. He often makes an outline for a certain jokes and recites it when he does stand-up comedy. He'll record himself performing at Open Mic Night, and if that joke gets a good reaction, he'll write it out word for word.

"You go on stage so many times that you figure yourself out," Allen said. "It's when you develop your persona."



photo by Graig Hill THE WESTERN FRONT

Western junior Alex Haley

**"The penis is simply the most unattractive thing God has ever created and no one would or should ever want to look at them. Don't get me wrong; I'm not trying to discourage anyone. It's a simple matter of function over fashion, really, but I think we can all agree it looks like something we made in third grade ceramics class."**

- Alex Haley, Western junior



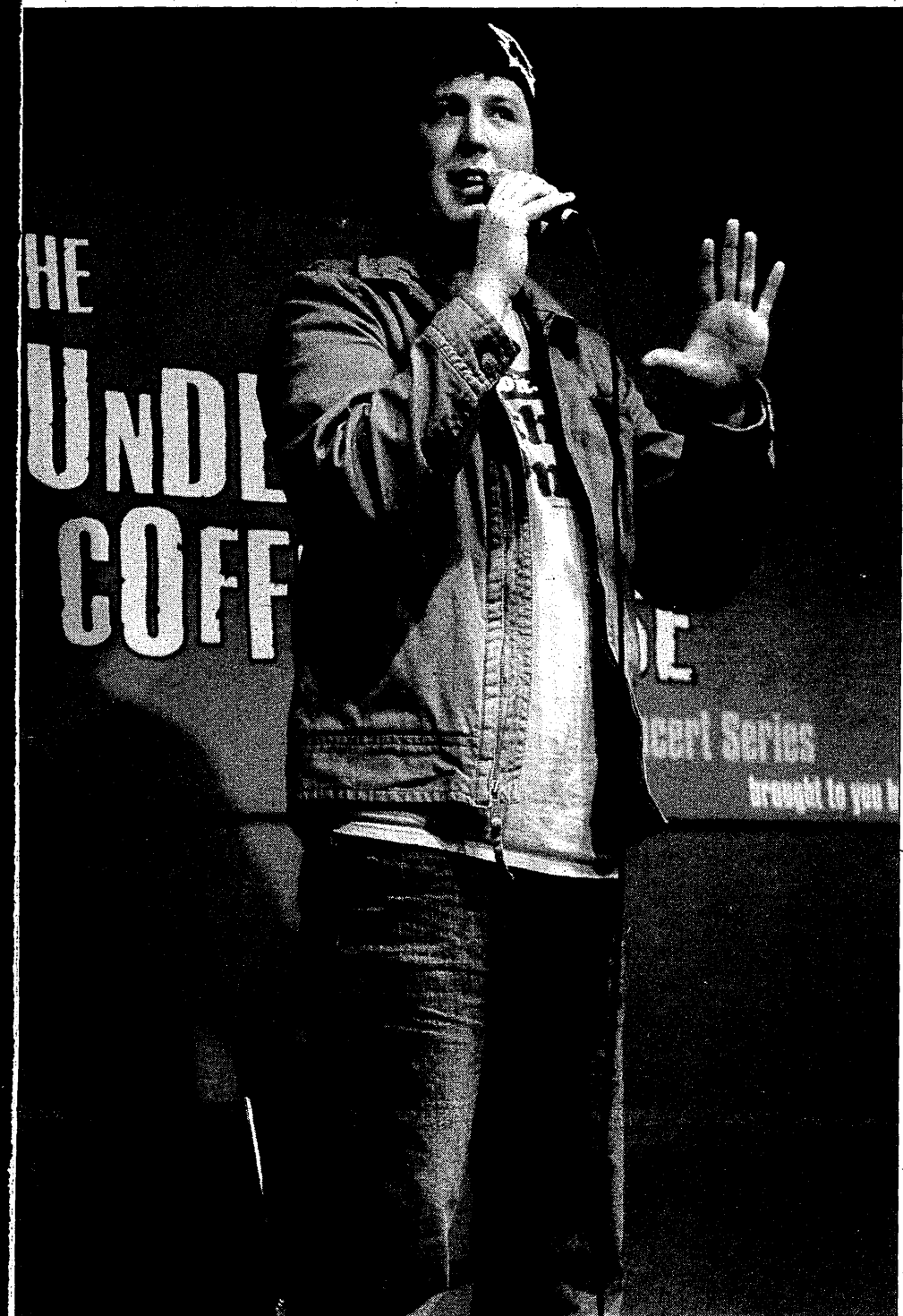


photo by Graig Hill THE WESTERN FRONT

Western junior William Butela

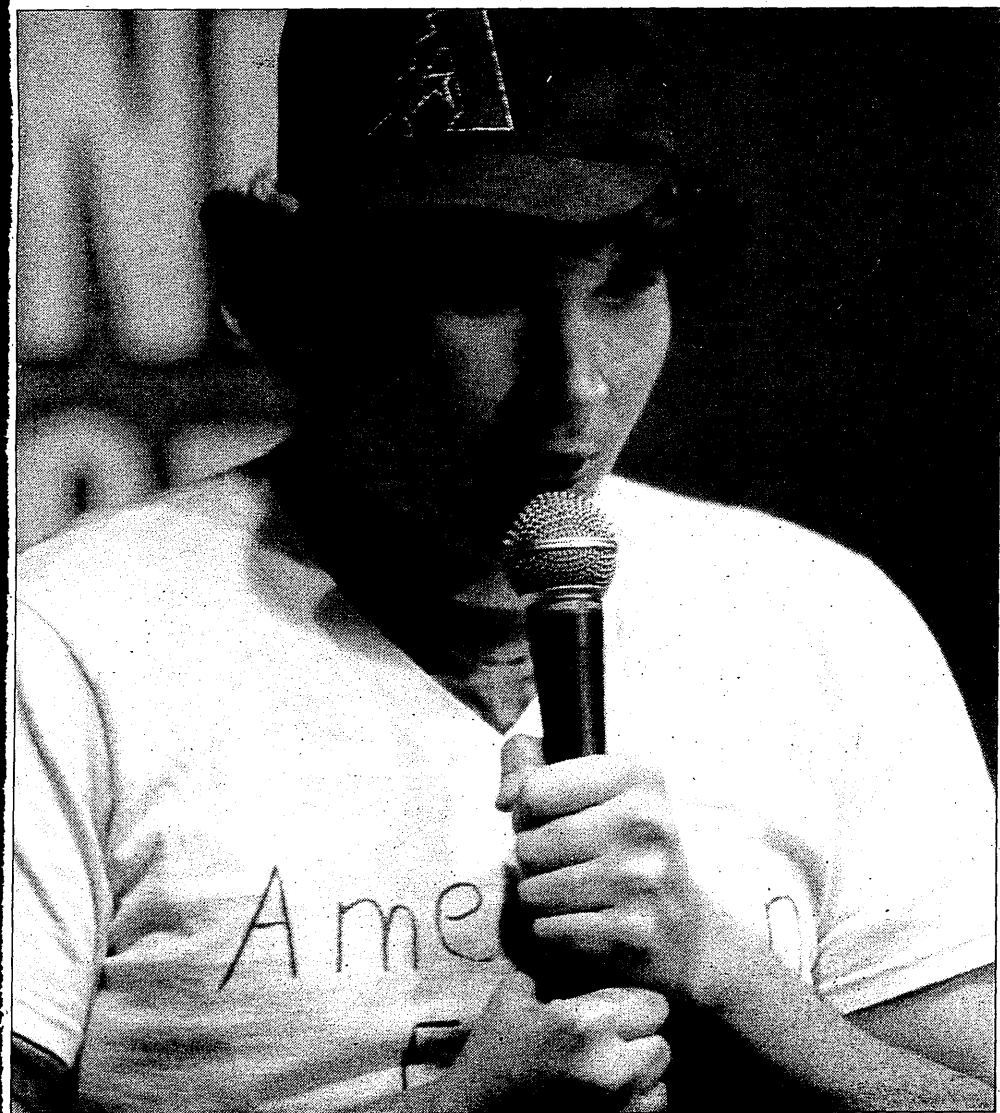


photo by Graig Hill THE WESTERN FRONT

Western sophomore Jim Allen

## A weekend for all tastes

Rock band Eagles of Death Metal played in the VU multipurpose room on Nov. 1, one day before Redman and Method Man performed to a sold-out audience



photo by Kathryn Bachen THE WESTERN FRONT



photo by Michael Leese THE WESTERN FRONT

# A TOAST TO DEMOCRACY

## Local left-leaning political discussion group bonds over beverages

Danielle Perry  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Nestled amongst the scuffed pool table, brightly-lit jukebox and light-brown panel walls of The Horseshoe Café's Ranch Room is one of Bellingham's newest political discussion groups: Drinking Liberally.

Meeting the second and fourth Tuesday of every month, Drinking Liberally is a subgroup of the national foundation Liberally Applied, an organization where left-leaning individuals can get together and partake in democratic discourse while enjoying a particular activity. In the case of Drinking Liberally, attendees can engage in energetic political discussion with friends while snacking on the Horseshoe's sweet potato fries and downing brews and spirits.

Founded by club head and local activist Dave Willingham, Drinking Liberally is a recent addition to Bellingham's political scene, having celebrated its one-year anniversary on Aug. 14. And although club members say it's becoming a well-known feature in town, newcomer and political blogger Elisabeth Britt said she anticipates it will continue to grow in popularity.

"I personally heard about the club when I met Dave while we were both working on the mayor's campaign together," Britt said. "But now there are Web sites which can link anyone interested in politics to Drinking Liberally, so I think the group will continue to expand even after the election."

While the average age of members appears to be around 30-40 years old, the group's clientele ranges from college students to local folks enjoying their retirement years. This wide spectrum of different generations causes some to believe conflicts of interest will arise due to differ-

ing policies, but long-time member and Bellingham native Bob Burr claims these fears are unfounded.

"I'm an older guy, so I was worried I'd feel out of place with a younger crowd," Burr said. "But everyone here has made me feel very welcome. I absolutely love it."

Like many members of Drinking Liberally, Burr's involvement in local political campaigns and rallies has been eating up all his time



photo illustration by Kaleb Gubernick THE WESTERN FRONT

lately, especially with the local and national elections at hand. And while he loves his work, Burr said Tuesday nights at the Horseshoe are some of the best times he's had this whole election season.

"It's a great chance twice a month to get away and spend a night talking with like-minded individuals," Burr

said.

Even though the club is called Drinking Liberally, anyone is welcome to come and discuss politics, as long as it's done in a respectful and intelligent manner, downtown Bellingham resident Ronnie Mitchell said, relating the passionate discussions that have cropped up between opposing political factions in past meetings.

Fond of passionate political discourse himself, Mitchell came upon the club completely by accident while he was surfing the Internet for left-leaning blogs and Web sites. After reading about a Drinking Liberally branch in San Diego, Mitchell said he began to look for more local branches of the organization.

"I originally read about the club while looking through one of my favorite political blogs," Mitchell said. "It sounded really interesting, and when I finally found a local chapter in Bellingham, I decided to check it out."

With no regulations on who can join the club, some might think Drinking Liberally compensates by forming particular cliques within the context of the overall group. However, Western senior Jake Lunden said this isn't the case, and Drinking Liberally functions as a gathering place where people can get together and discuss not just politics, but life as well.

If a person is looking for a place to openly discuss the policies and practices of a left-leaning political agenda, Lunden said he can't think of a better avenue to meet and talk with other people interested in politics.

"In the end, what are politics without a community?" Lunden said. "And what is a community if it can't share ideas with all its members? It's nothing. That's why this club is so important and also why I enjoy it so much."

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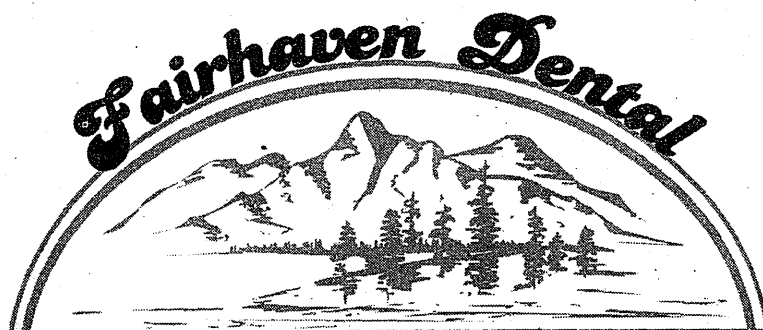
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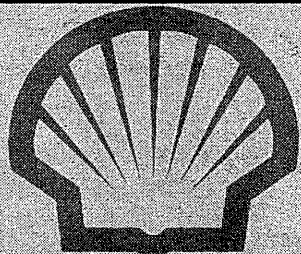
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# Not quite a biker gang

## The Iron Lotus 'scooter gang' rides to save money and have fun

Austin McKenzie  
THE WESTERN FRONT

More and more, the flapping red capes of Iron Lotus members can be seen trailing behind their motorized scooters on the streets of Bellingham.

The Iron Lotus is a group of Western students who recently acquired scooters and decided to make a "scooter gang" to go riding in groups, said Western senior and Iron Lotus founding member Brent Duncan. The group's main goal is to recruit members to ride around Bellingham together and have a good time.

Iron Lotus consists of six friends who purchased scooters around the same time. The group is based out of the Cobra Lounge, a hookah bar in downtown Bellingham. Austin Richards, a founding member, is the cousin of Cobra Lounge proprietor Paul Green, and the lounge is a place they often go to hang out.

The Cobra Lounge has become an inspiration for their "scooter call," a hand gesture that resembles a cobra that they make to each other while riding.

"The chicks dig it," Duncan said.

The gang has also adopted a dress code to make themselves more easily recognizable.

"If you're riding as an Iron Lotus, you have to wear a red cape," Duncan said.

The capes, in addition to being stylish, will help the scooter riders be more visible while driving, Richards said.

"People don't notice you as much [when you ride a scooter]," Richards said. "I've had a couple of close calls."

Since scooters are smaller, the driver needs to be careful of cars, said Western junior and founding member Mason Watt.

"I go by the tonnage rule," Richards said. "If they're bigger than you, let them do whatever they want."

Despite difficulties with other motorists, the scooters are still a lot of fun to drive and are cost effective, Watt said.

The growing popularity of scooters, especially among college students, is due to the greater fuel efficiency, said Justin Daniels, the sales manager at Chispa, a scooter store in Bellingham.

The least gas-efficient scooter gets approximately 60 miles per gallon, while more efficient scooters can go as high as 120 miles to the gallon.

"Even in lieu of a recent drop, it's pretty much a given fact that gas prices will go up again," Daniels said. "All that aside, the ecological benefits that you get when you ride a scooter versus a car are pretty dramatic."

Watt said he's been driving his scooter everywhere and has seen a dramatic decrease in his gas prices. The scooter cost him \$1,100, and he's saved more than \$200 on gas within the first month and a half, he said.

The Iron Lotus is looking for as many people as they can find to ride around Bellingham with them, Richards said. The group members recently made a Facebook group and are trying to recruit other scooter enthusiasts.

People who are apprehensive about scooters should give them a try, Duncan said.

"People always ask me, 'can I ride your scooter?'," Richards said. "They always come back with a big smile on their face."

The gang hopes to someday have a group of 50 riding together, Duncan said. The members want anybody who likes to ride scooters to join them any time at the Cobra Lounge and ride with the Iron Lotus.

"Scooters rock," Richards said.



photo by Graig Hill THE WESTERN FRONT

L to R: Senior Brent Duncan, junior Mason Watt and freshman Phil Swinburne—members of the recently formed Iron Lotus scooter club—gather at the Cobra Lounge before a Halloween ride.



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## WSU hate crimes are felt at Western

### Frontline

Opinions of the Editorial Board

A few weeks ago, several attacks occurred on Washington State University's campus. Three students were attacked and one had to be taken to the hospital due to a collapsed lung.

After the string of attacks, WSU realized their Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgendered (LGBT) community was being targeted.

Though these attacks may seem far away, Western students can take this as an opportunity to look at our own school and how we represent and treat our fellow students. Students can also lend support to those who cope with varying societal pressures by hiding their true selves.

At Western and any other American university, the wide variety of students, their different backgrounds and their ideas make college more than an academic experience. It is an opportunity to grow in life. If students feel unsafe or threatened in their learning environment, it can limit their own ability to grow.

Western is fortunate to have an administration that cares about the safety of its students. President Bruce Shepard sent an e-mail out to students on Oct. 28. In his letter he said, "Diversity makes us stronger." Shepard called for all students to stand together to combat the prejudice and bigotry which can poison communities:

Western students may be polite to the LGBT students but it is another thing to respect them.

Hateful or ignorant language can be just as dangerous as physical attacks. The word "gay" is not synonymous with stupid. If you hear someone use "gay" in that way, make a point to call them out on it.

Letting language like that belittle LGBT students makes it more difficult for them to fully participate and feel appreciated in Western's community.

In reaction to the attacks, a group of Western students from the LGBTA and the Ally Building Network worked together to show support to the victims of the WSU attacks.

The two groups had a written letter from the Western LGBTA coordinator for the WSU administration. The letter urged the WSU administration to take the attacks seriously and to incorporate values of diversity and safety into their campus.

The LGBTA and Ally Building Network also allowed students to sign short letters offering support to targeted students on WSU's campus.

These attacks are a clear example that we still have a long way to go. Today, we could elect our first black president, something the black community could not have imagined during the civil rights movements in the 1960s. Nor could the women fighting for suffrage ever imagine a woman could someday be vice president or president. Now, we still

have battles to fight. Prejudice is still infiltrating every facet of American culture.

There are voters out there who will not vote for Sen. Barack Obama because he is black or because they think he is a Muslim. There are people who will not vote for Gov. Sarah Palin because she is a woman, another prejudice we must overcome.

Many communities differ from the heterosexual white protestant norm. Communities that may not be considered mainstream are not threatening or wrong. These communities should be embraced and supported because their members are human beings with the same basic and fundamental rights as any other person.

Prejudice and bigotry should not be tolerated and will not be tolerated on this campus. Discussion and differing ideas are important and should be encouraged on campus. However, difference of opinion should never result in violence or hate crimes such as those that occurred at WSU in October.

Western students should bring up conversations about the social injustices that occur, not just on campus, but in our Bellingham community. Be part of the solution, not the problem.

The Editorial Board is comprised of the Editor in Chief Gabrielle Nomura, Managing Editor Jeff Richards, Opinion Editor Lisa Hust and coordinator of AS Alternative Transportation A.J. Garcia.

### Viking Voices

Opinions from around campus

## What is the most memorable moment from the election season?

Compiled by: Megan Jonas



**Alex Wanemaker**  
Junior

"I actually got to vote. This was my first year voting."



**Derek Duckworth**  
Senior

"I liked how Palin used, 'maverick' so many times in the election and the debate."



**Blair Vandegrift**  
Sophomore

"Last year, I was at the University of Oregon and I saw both Barack Obama and Bill Clinton speak, which was really cool."



**Missy Pangborn**  
Junior

"I thought it was hilarious watching McCain talk about Joe the Plumber in the last debate."

## Iraq Veteran to speak against occupation

**Cameron Harsh**  
Guest Columnist

How far would you go to defend your values? What if defending your moral convictions meant sacrificing your freedom?

As an American who has come into adulthood during a time when my country is embroiled in a modern quagmire, I have seen my peers risk their lives in a war of greed and power-mongering, encouraged to blindly obey and "Kill! Kill! Kill!"

Some argue that the U.S. bears the burden of being a global protector and defending people whose rights and freedoms are being violated. It is impossible, however, to liberate others when our own soldiers are not free to fulfill their military obligations with dignity and honor.

Iraq veterans have testified that orders they received in combat often contradicted the U.S. Constitution and Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). Soldiers are obligated under the UCMJ to refuse unlawful orders, yet those who do so are often prosecuted and imprisoned.

Mark Twain said, "It is curious that physical courage should be so common in the world and moral courage so rare." Former Staff Sgt. Camilo Mejia, an Iraq veteran turned anti-war activist, exemplifies both physical and moral courage.

Mejia will be speaking at 7 p.m. Nov. 6 in the Viking Union Multi-Purpose room.

Mejia enlisted in the Army shortly after immigrating to the U.S. in 1994. Like many Americans, Mejia's limited options made him vulnerable to the military's promises of a better future. In 2003, his contract was extended and he was deployed to Iraq.

During his tour, he could not reconcile his personal beliefs with the atrocities perpetrated against civilians and detainees.

The military's actions plagued his conscience and he began to speak out. "I knew I could say no to keeping prisoners on sleep deprivation, and to blocking ambulances on their way to the hospital," he writes in his book, "Road from ar Ramadi."

After two weeks of leave in the U.S., he refused to return to Iraq.

Soldiers have not only the right, but the legal and moral obligation to refuse orders that would result in the death or torture of civilians and detainees.

"If I returned to the war, I could be killed in more than one way," he said. "It wasn't just the physical death; it was also the many deaths of the soul every time you kill a human being."

Mejia submitted a formal application for discharge as a Conscientious Objector, an international right sanctioned by the United Nations.

Like many others, his application was denied. He was court-martialed, sentenced to a year in prison, stripped of his rank, and given

a bad conduct discharge. The military was determined to make an example of him.

When Mejia first went public, there were only 22 cases of desertion. Now, since the war started, more than 10,000 people within the military have spoken out.

Here in Bellingham, the Sanctuary City Movement, led by Western student Nick Spring, is fighting to offer legal sanctuary to military personnel who object to the occupation of Iraq.

The resolution will protect war resisters by preventing local tax dollars from funding the "persecution, prosecution or detention of absent without leave soldiers."

Soldiers have not only the right, but the legal and moral obligation to refuse orders that would result in the death or torture of civilians and detainees. Bellingham should be a safe haven for these courageous women and men.

Mejia sums up his decision to resist in one sentence: "I was afraid of waking up one morning to realize my humanity had abandoned me."

The U.S. military's treatment of war resisters is an affront to our country's founding ideals of independent thought and expression.

We, the people, must stand with heroes like Camilo Mejia in defense of human compassion, decency and freedom.

Harsh is a Western student majoring in human services and interning at the Whatcom Peace & Justice Center.

Next time you're online check out the articles you missed!

westernfrontonline.net

## Volleyball team sweeps Central

Derek Messling  
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Western volleyball team won their fifth-straight match in three sets against archrival Central Washington University Saturday at Nicholson Pavilion in Ellensburg, Wash.

In front of a crowd of more than 1,100 people, the Vikings, ranked 7th in the region, managed to hand Central its

first home loss of the season.

For the four Western seniors, it was the last chance to play their rival.

"The Western and Central rivalry has always been a big deal," Western senior middle blocker Angie Alvord said. "It was a great way to finish them off."

Powerful play by Alvord and Western senior middle blocker Tiana Roma helped the Vikings control the match, Western junior setter Kari Rice said.

Alvord finished with a match-high 17 kills while Roma added 13 of her own. Both Alvord and Roma led all players with three blocks each.

"It was a solid win that was well played by every player that took the court," Western head coach Diane Flick said. "But our two middles played great senior matches against our cross-state rivals."

Western sophomore libero Allison Gotz accounted for a match-high 22 digs, while Rice once again led all players with 41 assists.

Western led from start to finish and won the first set 25-15. Alvord's three straight kills in the second set secured a 25-20 win.

The Vikings, who never trailed in the final set they won 25-22, ended the match on a kill by Alvord with an assist from Rice.

Western's improving ability to execute its game plan is what separates the team's play now from what was seen earlier in the season, Flick said.

"We meshed so well against Central," Roma said. "We were relaxed and our communication allowed us to play well."

The loss dropped Central into fifth place in the conference with a record of 7-5. The Wildcats are 15-9 overall.

After starting the season with 13

straight wins, the Vikings volleyball team could see they were playing with an enormous target on their back, Rice said.

"[The target] is something that we discussed at the beginning of the season and we were feeling the pressure during our hiccup earlier in conference play," Flick said. "But we seem to have moved past that since the losses."

Success is not new for the Western volleyball program. Roma said the expectations were in place long before this group of players committed to play for the Vikings.

"It feels like we get everyone's best game each night," Roma said.

Western closes out the regular season with four matches in the next two weeks before looking to repeat the success of last year's postseason run to the national championship game.

"We have been practicing and playing so much," Roma said. "We are just getting to where we need to be to go out with a bang."

Western improved its overall record to 18-2 and retained its second place standing in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference at 10-2 behind Western Oregon University.

Western will play its next match against conference-leader Western Oregon at 7 p.m. Nov. 6 in Monmouth, Ore.

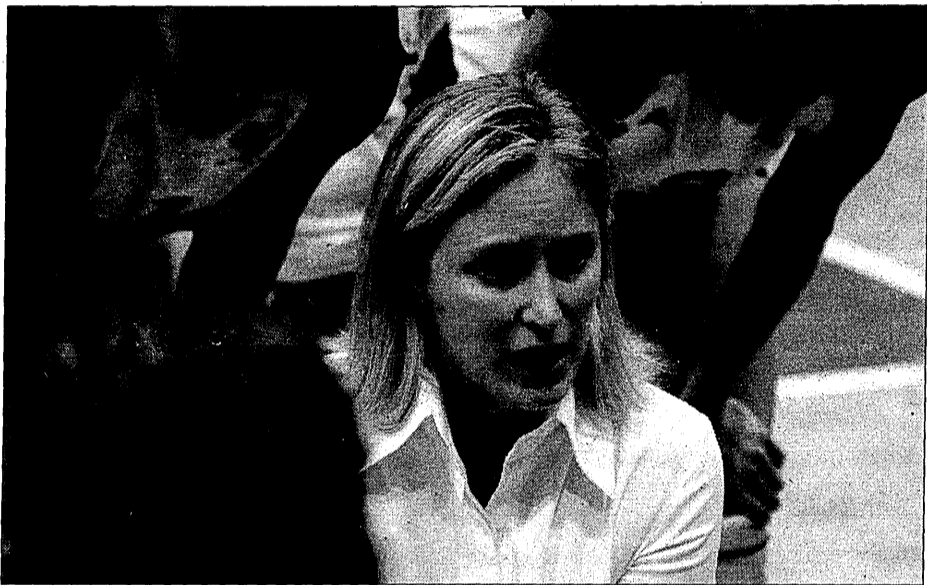


photo by Jon Bergman THE WESTERN FRONT

Entering her ninth season, Western head coach Diane Flick sets her sights on a fifth GNAC title and a second chance at winning the NCAA II National Tournament title.

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# Men's soccer loses focus, ties

Rod Lotter  
THE WESTERN FRONT

It took 75 minutes for the men's soccer team to take a 1-0 lead over 19th ranked California State University Los Angeles, and only 48 seconds to lose the lead. The game ended in a 1-1 tie Monday at Whatcom Community College's Orca Field.

"It was unfortunate we lost the lead so quickly," Western senior forward Samir Vejo said. "We outplayed them the whole game, and then we lost our concentration and it almost cost us the game."

Western sophomore forward Gibson Bardsley scored the first goal of the game during the 75th minute. Bardsley managed to curve the ball just inside the post after a pass from Vejo, his second assist of the season. It was Bardsley's sixth goal of the season.

"I think we played our best game of the season," Bardsley said. "It felt good to score a goal, but I wish I could have scored again, because we needed another goal to win."

California State tied the game with a header by forward Bryce Beall.

"We played well enough to win," Western head coach Travis Connell said. "It was a hard fought game, and we definitely made the other team earn their goal."

During the last minute of regulation play, Beall had a wide open shot from the 18-yard box and almost scored.

The major mistake the team made was losing focus, Connell said.

"It's happened a couple times this year," Connell said. "We score a goal and then the other team scores soon after. We didn't manage our emotions well this

game."

Despite their problems remaining focused, Connell was happy about the way the team played, he said.

"We did a good job of attacking the other team and controlling the tempo," Connell said.

The Vikings have a 9-5-3 record, going 4-0-1 in their last 5 games, including a 2-1 win over Montana State University Billings in a Great Northwest Athletic Conference game Friday. The Vikings

currently hold first place in the conference with a 5-1-0 record, one game better than Seattle Pacific University.

California State is third in the West region with a 13-3-3 overall record.

Western will close out the season with two conference home games. The first will be against Saint Martin's University at 7 p.m. Nov. 6 and the second against Seattle Pacific University at 7 p.m. Nov. 8. Both games will be played at Whatcom Community College's Orca Field.



photo by Graig Hill THE WESTERN FRONT

Western senior forward Samir Vejo tries to head the ball Monday at Orca Field.

# Women's soccer readies for playoffs

Stephanie Castillo  
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Western women's soccer team extended their longest undefeated conference run in 24 years to 13 games Monday by squeaking past visiting California State University Los Angeles by a score of 1-0.

Western entered the game ranked 18th in the National Collegiate Athletics Association Division II Coaches Poll and remain first in the Far West Region standings.

The Viking's record improved to 15-2-1 overall, and they remain 9-0-1 in conference play, while California State dropped to 7-9-3 overall.

"Games against California teams are always tough," Western junior forward Lucy Miller said. "We know as long as we are on our game, we can beat any team."

A goal by Western junior midfielder Kelly Irving in the 70th minute provided the shutout win for the Vikings. It was Irving's fourth goal in the past six games. Western sophomore forward Emily Frankland was credited with the assist.

Western senior goalkeeper Kylie Broadbent kept Western ahead of California State for the remainder of the game

see **PLAYOFFS** page 15

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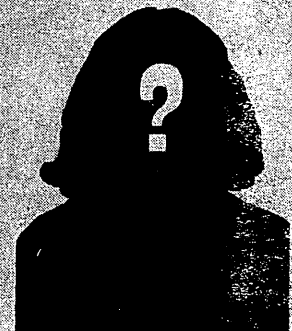
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# Football defense key to win over Dixie State

Josh Stilts

THE WESTERN FRONT

With the Western football team's playoff hopes on the line, the Vikings defeated the Dixie State College Rebels 20-14 Saturday in St. George, Utah.

The victory improved Western's record to 5-4 overall and 5-2 in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference, with one regular season game to go. The win also clinched second place in the conference for Western.

Although Western had its lowest point total of the season and only managed 311 yards of offense, the defense held Dixie State to a mere 240 yards of total offense.

Western senior quarterback Adam Perry led the offense with 243 passing yards, with senior wide receiver Travis McKee going to 123.

Four of Western's five penalties came in the second half, costing the Vikings a total of 60 yards.

"We shot ourselves in the foot with penalties," Perry said. "We wanted to run the ball in the second half and if we got another score, it would have been a nice bonus, but it was all about time management."

As the second half wound down, Dixie State held a 14-12 lead after Dixie State senior quarterback Dexter Hill con-

nected with junior wide receiver Skyler Ence on a 31-yard touchdown pass. That left Western with one minute, 34 seconds left.

Western marched down the field as McKee made four catches for 54 yards. With 18 seconds left, Perry aired out a pass to a leaping Western senior wide receiver Pat McCann for the touchdown.

"We had a play lined out but when we saw the way the defense lined up, we made the right adjustment," Perry said. "McCann made a great read on the ball."

Western went for the 2-point conversion and Perry found McKee in man-to-man coverage and scored.

"We checked the point chart three plays earlier," head coach Robin Ross said. "I told the guys that when we score on this drive, we're going for two."

Ross said it was the defense's ability to read the quarterback and make small adjustments that kept Dixie State's offense to only three first downs in the second half.

Contributing to the defensive performance, Western senior cornerback Kevin Jones was honored with Conference Defensive Player of the Week for Oct. 26-Nov. 1.

Jones had seven tackles, six solos, a forced fumble, fumble recovery and an interception he returned for 26 yards.

Western sophomore defensive lineman Don Thomas II, who had two blocked passes in the fourth quarter, said the adjustments on the draw play that Dixie State continued to run enabled him to get his hand on the ball.

"We had to contain [Hill] in the pocket," Thomas said. "We had to keep just enough pressure on him to keep him from trying to run with the ball."

Neither Dixie State nor Western were able to put points up in the second half, which spoke very highly of both defenses, Ross said. The difference was time of possession, he said.

"Offensively, it was a few penalties that kept us from scoring in the second half," Ross said. "Dixie [State] has a tough defense that uses a 3-4, which is something we don't often see and it kept the offense out of sync."

Western successfully converted six-of-14 third down attempts in the game, while Dixie State moved the chains on third down just once in eight tries.

Western will next face top rival Central Washington University, which is 9-1 overall this season.

The game will mark the 100th time the two teams have competed.

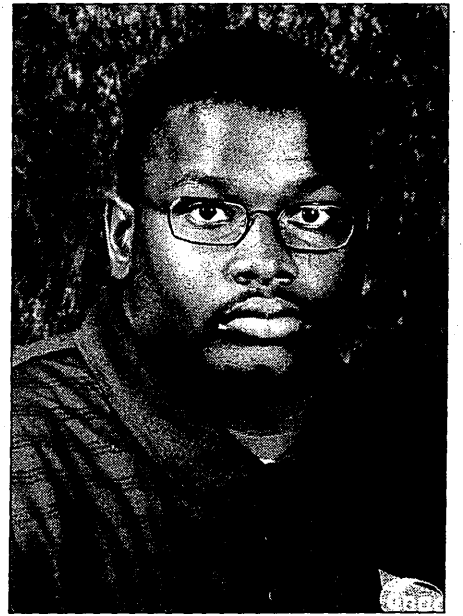
With the top seed of the conference moving on to the Dixie Rotary Bowl, Western could get the nod if nationally

ranked Central was given a national bowl bid.

If Central's team isn't awarded a national bid, it would represent the conference but it would take an overwhelming victory on behalf of Western to prevent Central from the bid, Ross said.

"I'd rather go [to Central] and make that our bowl game then worry about what happens on Sunday," Perry said.

Western's game against Central is at noon Nov. 8 in Ellensburg, Wash.



Don Thomas II

## PLAYOFFS: Women's soccer extends winning streak, wins 1-0

from 14

with a couple of key saves. Broadbent had a total of four saves on her way to her seventh shutout of the season.

With playoff births announced on

Nov. 10, the team is focused on the final two games this week and trying to get two more wins to round out the regular season with 15 consecutive unbeaten conference games.

If the Vikings remain first in the con-

ference, they will receive a bye the first round of the playoffs.

"We're anxious to hear about where we'll be in the playoffs," Miller said. "But it's very important to win the next few games."

The Vikings finish regular season play with two home conference matchups. They play Saint Martin's University at 4 p.m. Nov. 6 and Western Oregon University at 1 p.m. Nov. 8 at Whatcom Community College's Orca Field.

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