

# The Western Front

Western Washington University

Volume 120 Issue 17

Bellingham, Washington

## County voters approve WTA sales tax hike to preserve bus service

By Tyler Hendrick  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Whatcom County residents narrowly approved a 0.3 percent increase in the local sales tax Tuesday for Whatcom Transportation Authority to maintain its current bus service.

Proposition 1 won by an 8 percent margin with the approval vote receiving 54 percent.

The tax increase will make up for the \$6 million the WTA lost after Initiative 695, which decreased car tabs, passed in 1999, according to the WTA web site. Since I-695 passed, WTA has been using a reserve fund created in the 1980s to maintain its current number of bus routes.

Rick Gordon, WTA director of service development, said he is very pleased the tax passed.

"It is clear the public likes public transportation and that they appreciate the services we provide them," Gordon said.

Gordon said the WTA still has issues facing it that need to be addressed.

"Right now the ridership in rural communities such as Lynden, Ferndale, Blaine and the eastern parts of the county are very low," Gordon said. "We need to work with these smaller communities to develop cost effective services for them to increase the ridership."

Gordon said the money received from the sales tax will be used to maintain current levels of bus service. He also said money may be left to increase bus services in some areas.

See BUSES, Page 16

## Nader warns of everyday corporate control

By Josh Haupt  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Consumer rights advocate and 2000 presidential candidate Ralph Nader cautioned a packed audience Tuesday night about corporations' control over people's everyday expectations.

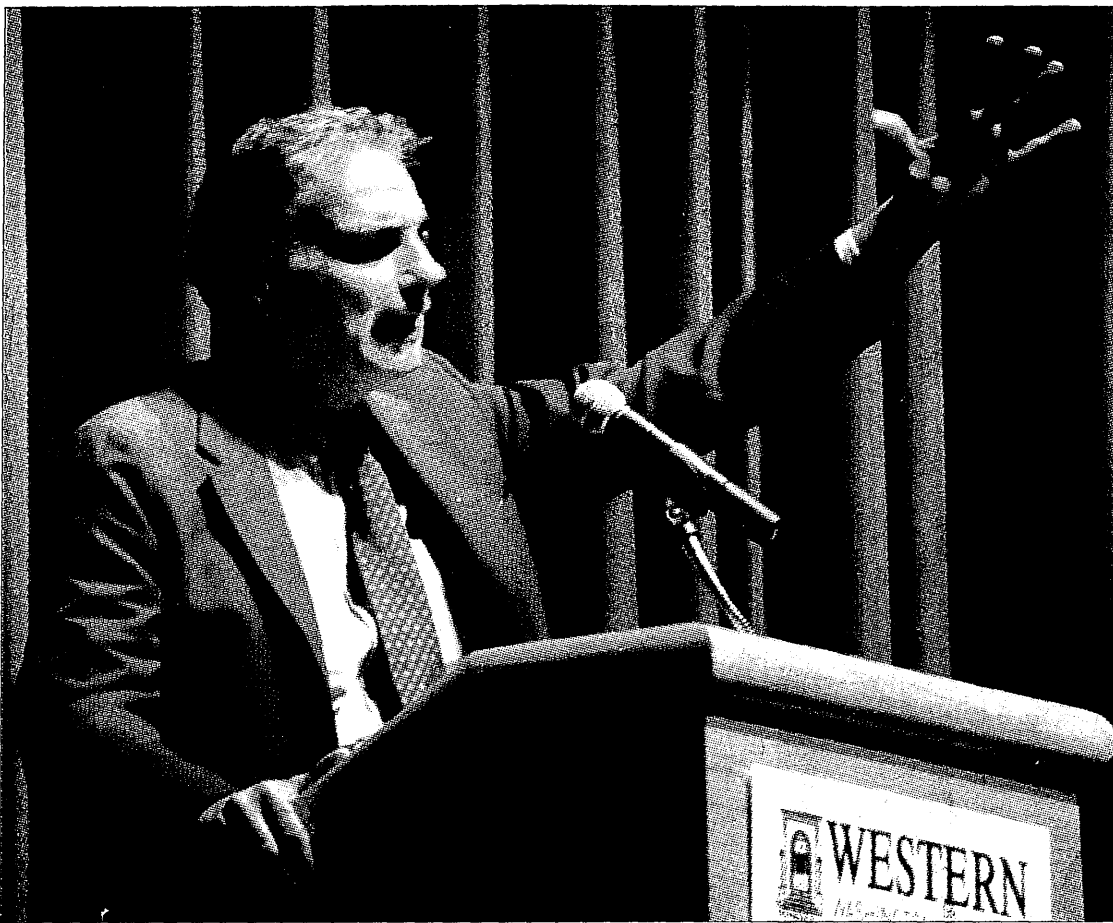
Before he spoke at the Performing Arts Center, Nader said at a press conference earlier in the day, he had not decided whether to run for president again in 2004. He touched briefly on the recent election campaign.

"Al Gore talked to the American people as if they didn't understand English," Nader said. "George Bush talked to the American people as if he didn't understand English."

Nader discussed what he described as the unbelievable power that corporations wield affecting the smallest parts of our lives.

"How many of you have grown up corporate?" Nader said to a sea of blank faces. "All of you. We all grow up corporate. You grow up looking at the world the way the dominant institutions want you to look at the world."

See NADER, Page 4



Josh Haupt/ The Western Front

Consumer rights advocate Ralph Nader speaks to Western students, faculty and Bellingham community members on the importance of being wary of manipulation of patriotism.

## Fair trade panel encourages campus coffee switch

By Laura Thoren  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Students for Fair Trade organized a panel March 4 of speakers to educate the Western community on the importance of fair trade coffee.

"Making change is possible," Food Services Director Nori Yamashita said. "But do customers really want to switch? We want to make sure that customers are making an educated decision."

The three member panel consisted of Yamashita, volunteer Jeremy Simen and Alethea Kelly, a local roaster and owner of the Conway Coffee Shack.

"Western could be the first school in the region to sell only fair trade coffee," Simen said.

Fair trade coffee benefits the small scale coffee growers in many ways, Simen said. It guarantees its growers a living wage of \$1.26 per pound of coffee sold, which helps them meet basic needs such as food, clothing and education, he said.

It also allows them to invest in their communities, such as building factories that are locally owned and operated, Simen said.

Currently at Western, all drip coffee purchased from University Dining Services is fair trade certified, Yamashita

said. University Dining Services is working with Starbucks to provide fair trade espresso and decaffeinated coffee.

If Western decided to switch to another coffee company, Yamashita said the change would be difficult because it would require removal of all of Starbucks' equipment.

Also, Western requires campus food services to carry a minimum amount of liability insurance. Sodexo requires its vendors to have at least \$5 million in liability insurance.

"A small company might have difficulty covering that," Yamashita said.

Although no formal agreement exists between Western and Starbucks, Sodexo would like to continue to work with Starbucks, Yamashita said.

"If they can show that they are paying farmers \$1.20, is there an issue?" Yamashita said.

Viking Union Director Jack Smith said Western is a leader in the fair trade movement, offering exclusively only fair trade drip coffee.

Unlike Western, other schools such as San Francisco State and University of California at Davis, offer both fair trade and non-fair trade drip coffee, Smith said.

See COFFEE, Page 4

## Olympic Pipeline Co. to spend \$500,000 on park restoration



Annie Johnson/ The Western Front

The Olympic Pipeline Company is planning to restore the area around Whatcom Creek. Destroyed plant life can be still seen along the creek and throughout Whatcom Falls Park.

By Derek Sheppard  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Standing beneath the charred remains of trees scorched in the June 10, 1999 Olympic Pipe Line Co. explosion, Bellingham resident Roland Vandenbos, 48, said he will never see Whatcom Falls Park the way it was before the disaster.

"I don't think they could put enough money in the park to get it the way it was," he said.

While the park will not return to its pre-explosion state any time soon, Olympic has taken action since the accident to help restore the park and its wildlife.

A group of trustees, consisting of members from Olympic, national, state, city and tribal agencies released a plan March 7, stating that Olympic will provide \$500,000 to help restore Whatcom Falls Park.

In addition, the plan outlines steps the trustees and agencies will take to rejuvenate the park's natural resources, including trees, vegetation and fish populations.

"(The trustees) evaluate different options for compensation and implementation," said Jim Clark, health, safety and environment manager for British Petroleum.

"(The plan) is a result of a lot of work, a lot of science by the trustees and experts," he said.

He said British Petroleum has run the Olympic pipeline since July of 2000.

The restoration efforts are not punitive actions against Olympic, rather, they are designed to compensate for the environmental damage to the park, Clark said.

Clark said he thinks Olympic has been socially responsible in dealing with the environmental

See PARK, Page 4

### IN THIS ISSUE

#### Western's lack of varsity baseball

Find out why Western hasn't resumed men's varsity baseball.

See story, Page 11.

#### J-Tyme spins for Western

Jason "J-Tyme" Guerrero's KUGS radio show, "Mass Appeal" was nominated for Best College Hip-Hop Radio Show of 2001 by Urban Network Magazine. See story, Page 8.



# COPS BOX

## University Police

**March 13, 2:00 a.m.:** Officers responded to a vehicle collision. The officers took an accident report and arrested a 23-year-old man for driving under the influence and driving with a suspended license.

**March 12, 8:40 a.m.:** An officer responded to a 9-1-1 call regarding a possible broken window in the Ross Engineering Technology Building. A faculty member had misdialed trying to call maintenance to report that the window was stuck open.

**March 11, 7:55 p.m.:** Officers responded to an alarm in a secured area in Miller Hall. Officers did not find anyone in the area.

## Bellingham Police

**March 14, 2:17 a.m.:** A woman reported seeing and hearing a prowler outside her house in the 2300 block of Lafayette Street.

**March 13, 10:02 p.m.:** Officers responded to a report of a fight at the YMCA in the 1200 block of State Street.

**March 13, 8:01 p.m.:** Officers responded to a woman's report that someone had thrown eggs at her front porch. No damage was done other than clean-up.

**March 13, 5:02 p.m.:** Officers responded to a hit-and-run accident in the 1400 block of Birchwood Avenue.

*Compiled by Suzanne Almoslino*

# AP WIRE NEWS BRIEFS

## STATE NEWS

### Coast Guard seizes drugs, stop illegal immigrants

A Coast Guard helicopter crew returned to Port Angeles after 45 days patrolling off the coast of Central America.

The Coast Guard said the helicopter and its five-man crew helped seize more than 1,800 pounds of cocaine and intercept 170 illegal immigrants that were headed to the United States.

### Plans for Paine Field center delayed

Plans for an aircraft museum and conference center at Everett's Paine Field have been postponed.

In a 3-2 vote, the Snohomish County Council blocked promoters from seeking \$2.6 million in state sales tax money by stripping language from an ordinance that would have allowed a county department to apply for funding from the Snohomish County Public Facilities District.

Without the tax money, backers said it will be difficult to

finance the \$16 million project.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### Pearl suspect may receive death penalty

The Muslim extremist currently in custody in connection with the kidnapping and slaying of Journal reporter Daniel Pearl could now face the death penalty in the United States.

Omar Saeed was indicted by a federal grand jury in New Jersey on charges including hostage-taking.

### Man will serve time for lying

A Saudi man will spend six months in prison for lying to the FBI about his links to one of the Sept. 11 hijackers.

The sentence was handed down to Faisal Al Salmi today in Phoenix.

He told agents after the attacks he didn't know hijacker Hani Hanjour.

### Military needs more troops

Active U.S. troops, reserves and National Guard are ex-

hausted from the pace of fighting in Afghanistan and protecting the homeland, a top general told Congress, endorsing proposals to increase the forces.

"They're tired, sir," Army Gen. William F. Kernan, commander in chief of the U.S. Joint Forces Command, told the House Armed Services Committee Thursday.

"We are busy," he said. "We are busier than we have ever been."

Rep. Ike Skelton, D-Mo., said leaders of the four military services indicated they need a total of 51,400 more people.

The Pentagon announced this week that the number of Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps reservists on active duty for the war against terrorism broke the 80,000 mark for the first time since Sept. 11. It is the largest mobilization of the National Guard and Reserve since the 1991 Gulf War.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Navy calls off helicopter search

The Navy is calling off the search for three crew members

on a Navy helicopter that crashed into the Mediterranean Tuesday morning.

The crash occurred off the coast of Greece during a routine training flight.

The Navy said the three crew members are presumed dead.

### Man claims he killed reporter

Pakistani police are trying to verify the claims of a man who said he killed Journal reporter Daniel Pearl.

Officials identify the man only as Adnan.





Apparently, he turned himself in to a Pakistani newspaper, which handed him over to police.

The newspaper's chief editor said the man claimed he killed Pearl with an axe on a boat off the southern port city of Karachi, where the correspondent was kidnapped in January. A videotape later confirmed Pearl was dead.

A police official said the man is being questioned, but "nothing is certain so far."

*Compiled by Kirsten Carlson AP Wire courtesy of KUGS 89.3 FM*

## Western Weather

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
			
<b>Showers</b> 43-28	<b>Showers</b> 41-27	<b>Partly Cloudy</b> 42-30	<b>Partly Cloudy</b> 50-32

# Corrections and Clarifications

In the March 12 issue, in "Sales tax increase flawed, students should seek another alternative," the Whatcom Transportation Authority sales tax increase is 3 cents for every \$10. In the March 12 issue, "Western first Washington school to compete in table tennis," Western freshman Ryan Paxton belongs to the WesternTableTennis Club. We regret these and any other mistakes.

## WWU Official Announcements

Deadline for announcements in this space is noon Friday for the Tuesday edition and noon Wednesday for the Friday edition. Announcements should be limited to 50 words, typewritten or legibly printed, and sent through campus mail to "Official Announcements," MS-9117, via fax to X/7287, or brought in person to Commissary 113A. DO NOT SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS DIRECTLY TO THE WESTERN FRONT. Phoned announcements will not be accepted. All announcements should be signed by originator.

PLEASE POST

**SUMMER QUARTER DEGREE APPLICANTS** must have their applications on file in the registrar's office by today, March 15. Students who plan to graduate fall quarter must have applications on file by June 7.

**STUDENTS WHO INTERRUPT THEIR STUDIES AT WESTERN**, other than for a summer quarter, must complete an application for readmission by the appropriate priority deadline. For summer quarter continuing to fall and for fall quarter, the priority deadline is April 1. Applications are available from admissions in OM 200, X/3440.

**THE MATH PLACEMENT TEST** is offered in OM 120 at 3 p.m. March 18 and at 9 a.m. March 21. Registration is not required. Students must bring photo identification, student number, Social Security number and a No. 2 pencil. A \$15 fee is payable in the exact amount at time of testing. Allow 90 minutes. The schedule and sample problems may be found at [www.ac.wwu.edu/~assess/tc.htm](http://www.ac.wwu.edu/~assess/tc.htm).

**CAN'T FIT THOSE LAST COUPLE OF CREDITS** in your schedule this summer? Try taking an online course through Woodring Extension Services. There is no specific class time to meet — fit your education around your schedule. For detailed information, call X/3308 or X/3717.

**AN OUTDOOR CENTER SNOWSHOEING TRIP TO MT. BAKER** will take place March 16. Cost is \$40 for students/staff/alumni and \$40 for others. For more information, call X/3112.

**THE OUTDOOR CENTER WILL HOST** a Mt. Baker Bicycle Club slide show by Kirsten Carpenter of her journeys through Australia, Europe, Israel, India, Nepal, Southeast Asia and the United States. The event is scheduled for 7 pm. March 18 in VU 552.

**APPLICATION PACKETS FOR THE STUDENT TRUSTEE** position are available in the Associated Students board office, VU 504. Application deadline is 5 p.m. April 2. For more information, call X/3460.

**TWO SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE TO PREMED STUDENTS:** the Whatcom County Medical Society Scholarship and the Dr. Ralph and Mrs. Eleanor Rinne Scholarship. Deadline for both is April 15. Applications and full descriptions are available from the Academic Advising Center in OM 380.

**THE ARK AND WINIFRED CHIN EARLY LITERACY SCHOLARSHIP** is open to juniors, seniors or graduate students majoring in education or related fields. Recipients earn \$500 to \$1,000 implementing a preliteracy project at Lummi Head Start during the 2002-03 academic year. Priority deadline: April 16. Applications: WL 481 or X/7542.

**A COURSE IN CROSS-CULTURAL COMPETENCE**, Edu 427k, begins May 6. Tuition for the 2-credit course taught via the Internet is \$278. The course requires access to a computer and printer, and Netscape or Internet Explorer 4.0 or greater. To register or for more information, call X/3308. Grading is S/U only.

The Western Front is published twice weekly in fall, winter and spring; once a week in summer session. Address: The Western Front, Western Washington University, CH 110, Bellingham, WA 98225-9100. The Western Front is the official newspaper of Western Washington University, published by the Student Publications Council, and is mainly supported by advertising.

Opinions and stories in the newspaper have no connection with advertising. News content is determined by student editors. Staff reporters are enrolled in a course in the Department of Journalism, but any student enrolled at Western may offer stories to the editors.

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

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

# Registration difficulties postpone graduation date

By Romeelah Payofelin  
THE WESTERN FRONT

While Western junior Abby Parent was on the phone attempting to register for her spring quarter classes, the system announced "closed section."

"It's frustrating," Parent said. "This happens every quarter, and I'm behind in credits."

In January, Carl Simpson, Office of Institutional Assessment and Testing director, and assistant director Sharon Schmidt presented a report to departments to inform them of courses that need to be enlarged to better meet student demands.

Follow-up studies are underway based on winter and spring quarter registrations.

"We wanted to do studies for the entire year, since not all classes are offered in the fall," Schmidt said.

According to the report, students attempting to register for General University Requirement courses have more trouble registering for classes. Students attempting to register for upper division classes do not find the

same problems. "There are some departments that have higher demands than seats available," Schmidt said. "In general, there are enough seats to meet the demand in upper division courses."

Simpson and Schmidt presented the report to help departments prepare their schedules for next year.

Simpson said he hopes departments will consider creating a better system of waiting lists as a result of the report.

A better system of waiting lists may not help much, said Patricia Roberts, secondary education program manager.

Roberts said the department has deadlines students must meet if they wish to student teach. Students enrolled in secondary education are encouraged to meet with their advisor to plan their schedules ahead of time, as classes are sequential, she said.

Students who miss a class in the sequence fall behind and waiting lists are not used in the secondary education department, Roberts said.

"You can only student teach twice a year since secondary schools run on a semester system," she said. "We don't believe in asking students to wait six more months to student teach because the classes are full."

Michellane Calhoun, English department program assistant, said using waiting lists and placing enrollment caps may guarantee students a spot in a class they want to take.

"It rewards the first person who's on the list," Calhoun said. "It assures students will be motivated to get on the list when they want to get a spot in the class. It'll soften the reality of having too many students but not enough space."

According to the report, which used registration data from fall quarter 2001, 43 percent of students are able to eventually enroll successfully in all courses they first attempted to enter.

Another 21 percent were able to enroll in all but one of the courses they attempted to enter, according to the report.

Enrollment is considered successful if the student does not

enroll in their desired section, but enrolls in the same course, Fabiano said.

"With these rates, I think students are successful," Schmidt said. "We're trying to match students wants and needs. Still, students don't always get what they want, but they get what they need."

The report said one-in-six students are unable to register for four or more courses when they go through the process of selecting classes.

According to the report, nearly all students registered for their full load of credits, but took unnecessary courses.

Students may not graduate as quickly as they would like, said Pamela Jull, director of the Office of Survey Research.

"So far, I've gotten into two classes," Parent said. "I'm in life-guarding and history 432, because the class (history 432) was open. I've registered for only seven credits, and I need more because I'm trying to graduate next spring."

Demand for courses was underreported, because some

## How to get classes

- Because many students continuously add and drop classes during registration, sometimes a person can catch a vacant seat.

- Be persistent. One student managed to get into Math 114 after 359 attempts.

- Ask the teacher for an override code.

Info from Office of Institutional Assessment and Testing

students who use Western's ClassFinder learn the course they wanted is already full. When this occurs, they do not even attempt to register for the course, Schmidt said.

"This kind of hidden demand can't be eliminated, but students shouldn't assume a course they really want to attend is impossible to get into," Schmidt said. "You don't know until you try."

# Student Health Center offers new birth control, shot lasts one month

By Kirsten Carlson  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western junior Alison, who asked that her name be withheld, started taking Lunelle, a new birth control shot, last September. The student health center began offering Lunelle fall quarter as an alternative to birth control pills. Lunelle is an injection women receive once a month to prevent pregnancy.

Kristin Elliot, media contact

at the Pharmacia Corporation, which manufactures Lunelle, said different birth control methods provide different levels of effectiveness.

"I think a lot of people think all the options are equally effective," she said. "That's not true."

Elliot said Lunelle, like birth control pills, is more than 99 percent effective.

However, birth control pills must be taken at the same time each day or their effectiveness

decreases, Elliot said. She said with just one shot of Lunelle, a woman is protected for a month.

One shot of Lunelle works for a month because the hormones are in microcrystals that slowly dissolve and are absorbed by the body, according to the Lunelle Web site.

Western senior and Peer Sexual Health educator Megan Ritzert said Lunelle is great for women who forget to take the pill.

"I think it has a higher degree of spontaneity than birth control pills," Ritzert said. "You don't have to remember a daily pill, which can be a positive thing for some people."

Alison said she switched to Lunelle because she feels it is more convenient than pills.

"It's better for me because I don't have to stress about taking the pill," she said. "They set up an appointment for your next shot when you're there, so I don't

really have to worry about it."

Ritzert said it costs \$30 for one shot of Lunelle at the student health center, compared to \$15 for a one month supply of birth control pills.

Elliot said Lunelle's side effects are similar to those of birth control pills, including bloating, breast tenderness and irregular periods.

Alison said the only side effect she has noticed is the mood swings she has experienced.

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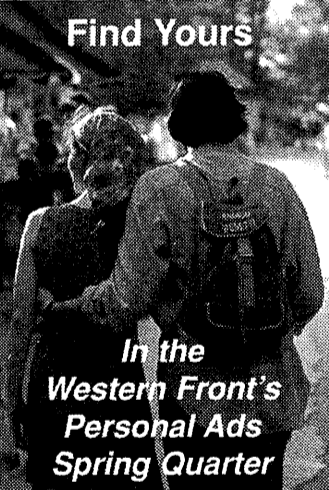
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Mon/Tues 7:30am-8:00pm	Mon-Thurs 7:30am-6:00pm
Wed/Thurs 7:30am-5:00pm	Fri 7:30am-5:00pm
Friday 7:30am-3:30pm	Sat/Sun CLOSED
Sat/Sun CLOSED	
<b>Carver SubConnection</b>	<b>Creative Juices</b>
Mon/Tues 7:30am-3:00pm	Mon-Thurs 7:30am-9:00pm
Wed-Sun CLOSED	Fri 7:30am-5:00pm
	Sat/Sun CLOSED
<b>Arntzen's Atrium</b>	<b>Bigfoot's Bistro</b>
Mon-Wed 7:30am-4:15pm	Mon-Tues 11:00am-9:00pm
Thursday 7:30am-3:15pm	Wednesday 11:00am-5:00pm
Fri-Sun CLOSED	Thurs-Sun CLOSED

**Spring Break hours**

<b>Viking Union Market</b>	<b>Creative Juices</b>
Mon-Tue 11am-2pm, 5-6pm	Mon-Fri 7:30am-5:00pm
Wed-Fri 11am-2:00pm	Sat/Sun CLOSED
Sun/Sun CLOSED	
<b>Miller's Coffee House &amp; Espresso</b>	
Monday-Friday 7:30am-5pm	
Saturday/Sunday CLOSED	

Bigfoot's Bistro, Carver & Arntzen will be CLOSED.

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## Former presidential candidate criticizes Bush's 'West Texas sheriff' attitude on terrorism



Paul Olund/ The Western Front  
**Three-year-old Adrienne Leroy holds up a sign used during Nader's 2000 election campaign.**

From NADER, Page 1

"We are now in an era when corporate power is as entrenched as it ever has been," Nader said, "commercializing almost every nook and cranny of our society."

Nader also urged people to be wary of where the manipulation of patriotism by people like Attorney General John Ashcroft can lead.

"We cannot allow the flag to be used as a gag in the mouth of millions of Americans," he said.

He said the USA Patriot Act sets a shocking precedent towards further corruption of civil liberties.

Mirroring Nader's message for people to organize and work together, Tuesday's audience looked like a town hall community meeting. People of all age groups sat intently listening awaiting Nader's speech.

"I voted for him, and he's been a bit of a hero of mine for awhile," Western junior Marlan Peterson said.

Western senior Megan Gill said she came to hear Nader's views on environmental issues.

"He's really influential in the environmental rights world, which doesn't seem to be an important topic to the current administration," Gill said.

Nader touched on the environment as an example of corporate domination of people's everyday lives.

Nader said one reason solar power has not been developed further is probably because "Exxon doesn't own the sun."

Throughout his speech, Nader prompted citizens to take the initiative to educate themselves and take an active role in their country by realizing the importance of being civic-minded.

"A civic-minded person will say 'Show me an injustice and I'll strive for justice more than ever before,'" Nader said.

Evenings, weekends and spare time are where change is made, Nader said. He said if the 500 million hours the American public spent watching the Superbowl were properly re-directed, they could provide universal health care. Nader neglected to mention how this could be achieved, however.

He also urged young people to take up the struggle against corporate rule.

"Students in the '60s were just like you," Nader said. "It's your turn now to put your arm to the wheel of justice."

Referring to the World Trade

Organization protests, Nader said corporations' status and control remained unchallenged until 40,000 to 50,000 people sent a message to them in Seattle.

Nader finished by stressing the importance of citizens working together and motivating themselves.

"How can we rationalize our futility when we see what our forefathers did," Nader said. "Organized time will beat organized money any day of the week."

Nader's speech touched briefly on foreign policy issues during a question and answer period with audience members.

They asked questions on topics from children's daycare to President Bush's recent declaration that certain nations represent an "axis of evil."

Nader also said the Sept. 11 attacks comprised the single worst intelligence failure in U.S. history.

Nader compared George Bush's attitude towards the war on terrorism as that of a "West Texas sheriff," saying all moves made by any administration need to be rooted in international law.

Nader concluded by stressing, "We have to learn how to wage peace."

## Whatcom Creek restoration project includes plan for fish protection

From PARK, Page 1

impacts of the disaster.

A civil trial against Olympic regarding the deaths of two 10-year-old boys, Stephen Tsiervas and Wade King, is set to start April 22. The trial may be moved to Spokane in order to have an unbiased jury.

Liam Wood, 18, was also killed in the accident as he was fishing in the creek. His family has not filed a lawsuit.

Vandenbos said he does not want to condemn Olympic for the incident until it is determined exactly who was at fault.

"If it's not their fault, they've done quite a bit," he said. "I would like to see more put into it."

Vandenbos said he was pleased to see that Olympic purchased land, once slated for a condominium development, to enlarge the

park.

"That property would go over to the city or parks," Clark said. "We basically just hand the deed over."

Olympic will fund development of lands acquired adjacent to the park, according to the restoration plan. This land will enlarge the park with an access road, bathrooms and a parking lot.

"The biggest problem we have with the creek is the canopy or shade," Whatcom Creek Hatchery Manager Earl Steele said.

He said because the charred trees next to the creek are sparse, they do not provide enough shade for the creek, resulting in rising water temperatures during the summer.

In addition, Steele said the lack of dense tree cover and foliage can cause silt to build up in the creek. As rain water drains into the

creek, the runoff carries silt with it and may cause problems for spawning fish, he said.

"Any natural spawning in the creek is going to be hampered," Steele said.

Despite the possible problems, Steele said the salmon populations in the creek is recovering and doing extremely well.

Last fall, a record 27,500 chum salmon and 4,000 king salmon were recorded in the creek.

He said the number of salmon spawning cycles through years of high and low runs.

"The fall before, I had 511 chum, which was the worst season I've ever had," Steele said.

He said since the pipeline explosion, his hatchery runs appear to have remained on their usual cycles of spawning.

The restoration plan states

100,000 fish were killed after the explosion, including 8,842 salmon.

The plan also states native fish populations are in danger because of rising water temperatures, lack of trees and vegetation and the lack of food in the river for the fish.

The restoration plan is in agreement with the Oil Pollution Act, which permits a committee to determine actions and monetary appropriations to restore the environment in the area affected by the accident, according to the restoration plan.

Vandenbos said Olympic, along with volunteers, has done extensive work on restoring many areas of the park.

"Maybe my grandchildren will see it the way it was," Vandenbos said.

## Yamashita: switch to fair trade coffee could be hard

From COFFEE, Page 1

As the university is in the midst of determining contracts for campus dining services, Davis said the fair trade coffee issue cannot be decided until a contract is finalized.

He said he expects dining services contracts to be finalized at the next meeting of the Board of Trustees on April 12.

Along with Yamashita, Western's Facilities and Services Council, as well as the AS Board of Directors has input on the final decision to make Western an entirely fair trade campus.

STUDENT THEATRE PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

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# Improvisation performance relieves dead weak tension

By Suzanne Almoslino  
THE WESTERN FRONT

With more than 500 people watching, Western sophomore Mike Murphy admitted he was a little nervous before he began the improvisation performance. "People go into improv thinking they're going to do something stupid," he said. "But after enough performances, you kind of silence that inner critic." Murphy said Wednesday's crowd was the biggest he'd ever performed for. "You either go in to it 100 percent or just crumble," he said. "And I was like, 'Dude, you're not crumbling.'" Murphy is one of six members

of the Dead Parrot's Society that performed improvisational comedy Wednesday in Arntzen Hall 100. The Student Alumni Association hosted the comedy night to give students a break during dead week. Unexpected Productions, commonly called Theater Sports, from Seattle, performed improvisation as well. "It's always fun to be able to participate in a show, and just be silly, especially around finals week," said Western junior Jeanne Allen, who was picked to be in a skit with the actors from Unexpected Productions. Western senior F. Tyler Burnet said he started Dead

Parrots Society, an Associated Students club that promotes fringe theater. He said it is theatre that is usually considered to be outside the mainstream. Though Dead Parrot's Society focuses on comedy, improvisation can include other genres as well, Burnet said. "Every once in a while we do good theater that just doesn't have a script," Burnet said. Even improvisation has a few rules, Burnet said. One of them is always accepting offers. This includes audience suggestions and the suggestions of actors. "If one person walks onstage and says 'Hi Grandma' you are now that person's grandma," Burnet said.



Suzanne Almoslino/ The Western Front  
F. Tyler Burnet leads the Dead's Parrot's Society and beginning actors in becoming ballerinas at Thursday's rehearsal.

# Western administers only Washington peer-based HIV testing program

By Kirsten Carlson  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western junior Nick, who asked that his real name be withheld to protect privacy, said he had unprotected sex with a girl he did not know during spring break last year. Nick went to the Student Health Assessment and Information Center to get a free human immunodeficiency test. Western's HIV testing program is unique because it is the only peer-based program in Washington and one of only a few in the country, said Pat Fabiano, Prevention and Wellness Services director. Nick said he liked that stu-

dents give the tests because he found it easy to relate to them. He also said he liked the methods the students took to ensure confidentiality. "I thought it was really well done and really confidential, and it was free too," Nick said. "I don't think there was anything they could have done to make it better," he said. Confidentiality is a key part of the HIV testing program. Last names are not used for any part of the test. Each student is represented by a number, which appears on all the paperwork. Sometimes the HIV tester does not know the first name of the student they are testing. Fabiano said she feels the HIV

testing program is very effective because the testers are students. All of the testers are Lifestyle Advisors that have undergone training taught by county health officials to get their HIV tester certification. Fabiano said they also go through additional training about sexually transmitted diseases by the Prevention and Wellness Services staff. Western senior Brian Dore is an HIV tester. He said the HIV testing program consists of two phases, the pre-test and the post-test. Before the test, the testers discuss the student's behavior that put them at risk to contract sexually transmitted diseases

and discuss ways to reduce those risks. Following the pre-test, a nurse at the SHAIC draws blood. The results are available in approximately two weeks. The second part of the test is the post-test. Dore said during the post-test the student learns if he or she is HIV positive. If the results of the test are negative, then the tester and the student discuss ways to prevent contracting HIV, Dore said. If the results are positive, the tester discusses a plan of action of how to deal with HIV and also get the student in touch with resources, such as the Whatcom County Health Department and a physician.

Nick said the student testers eased the tension of finding out the results. "They know what you're there for and it's an unspoken kind of weirdness," he said. "They do everything they can to make you feel comfortable, and not just (treat you) like you're some diseased boy or something." Nick said his results were negative. Dr. Emily Gibson, Student Health Center medical director, said she feels the program is effective because hundreds of students concerned about HIV exposure are reached every year. Fabiano said Western administered 206 HIV tests during fall quarter.

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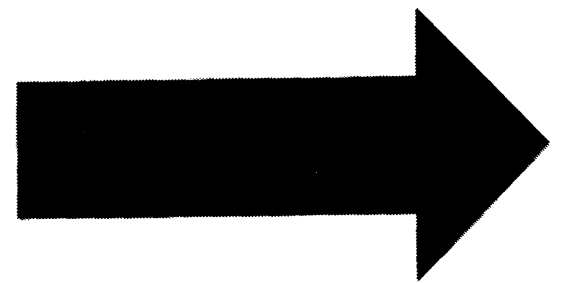
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Helen Hollister/ The Western Front  
J-Tyme scratches vinyl during "Mass Appeal," his specialty radio show on KUGS 89.3 FM. J-Tyme is responsible for bringing underground hip-hop to Bellingham.

# Unearthing the hip-hop

By Amber Hurley  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Most Bellingham residents don't know Jason Guerrero's real name. To them, he is the one and only KUGS disc jockey of late Friday night hip-hop who goes by the name J-Tyme.

Nominated for Best College Hip-Hop Radio Show of 2001 by Urban Network Magazine, Guerrero has made a name for himself not only in Bellingham, but around the United States.

Guerrero, 28, was picked as a finalist for his work on his hip-hop show called "Mass Appeal," which airs from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. Fridays on KUGS. Guerrero said he has hosted shows on KUGS since January 1998.

Five DJ's in the nation are nominated for the award and besides Guerrero all of the 2001 nominees are from large east coast cities.

"It's kind of weird knowing me, being from this small college town, that they thought of me as fully representing college hip-hop to their standards or expectations," Guerrero said. "I was really surprised and honored."

Urban Network is an industry trade magazine in which more than 100 DJs from across the United States report play lists and send in tapes of their shows.

The finalists for the contest were chosen in November 2001 based on three criteria.

One of the criteria is the quality of relation-

ship the DJ has with Urban Network, which includes reporting play lists on time and sending in tapes of shows.

Another was the DJ's relationship with various record labels. Lastly, DJs were judged from a critique of mixed compact discs that DJs send in to the magazine of music they mix into compilation albums.

"It's really exciting, one, that it's someone from our station, and two, that it's him because he works so hard at what he does," KUGS music director Bret Tiderman said.

Guerrero said he became interested in mixing soon after high school and decided to ask a friend in the DJ business how to get started.

The friend lent him his turntables and some records for a few days to see if he really had an interest, he said.

"For that whole week that's all I did," Guerrero said. "I locked myself in my room and I would mix everything I could get my hands on. I was up all night and all day and from then on I was hooked."

Western senior Kevin King said he has seen J-Tyme at The Factory, where he mixes on Thursday nights. He said he has also seen him at Christo's Restaurant and Casino Bar.

"He knows what's up," King said. "He's one of the better DJs in town."

Guerrero plays more variety than other DJs; not only in different songs, but in different types of hip-hop music as well, King said.

Guerrero said the hip-hop world is divided into two main genres: underground and main-

stream or commercial.

Mainstream hip-hop hear on mainstream underground hip-hop on MTV or to be played on stations, Guerrero said.

The format for hip-hop, but commercial song he won't deny it air play focused on undergro-

"The good part about knowing what to play people on the dance floor on at 12 a.m., the from 12 a.m. until

"I personally do (music)," Guerrero using the terms un-

cial, but you know, a good song, it's a good Guerrero got the "Appeal" from a favorite ground group Gangsta He said the title ap-

# Honk if you love



Film maker Renee Tajima-Peña takes road tripping to a whole new level

By Ailey Kato  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Renee Tajima-Peña, an independent filmmaker from Los Angeles, first experienced the United States in the same way as most people do. When she was young, she piled in the family car for the all-American road trip.

When she was older, she decided to embark on her own road trip in search

of Asian-Americans. A documentary film emerged.

Tajima-Peña visited Western last week to present and discuss her film, "My America (...or honk if you love Buddha)." She is an Academy Award-nominated director and Sundance Film Festival award winner.

"Growing up in the '60s and '70s, if you were an Asian on the road, you were part of the attraction," Tajima-Peña said.

In many parts of the United States during the 1960s and 1970s, people were not used to seeing Asian-Americans.

She said during her family road trips she would drive across five states with her family and never see another Asian face. In the 1990s, a surge of new Asian immigrants came to the United States.

"I really wanted to find out the meaning of these changes and the road is the way to do it," Tajima-Peña said.

She said she modeled her film on Jack Kerouac's book, "On the Road." She began filming the documentary in her early 30s with a film crew and was finished in 1997.

Renee Tajima-Peña said she traveled throughout the United States to find funny, engaging people that break stereotypes.

She visited a Chinatown fortune cookie entrepreneur in New York City, eighth generation Filipinos in New Orleans and World War II internment camp sites in Mississippi and Arkansas.

She talked with Hmong refugees in Minnesota, Korean-American rappers in Seattle, South-Asian gay and lesbian activists and Chinese-American debutantes in California.

"People ask me why I make movies and it's usually because something pisses me off."

Renee Tajima-Peña  
Independent filmmaker

Western senior Derrick Escorpizo, programmer for the Associated Students Production Social Issues, said the Filipinos from New Orleans provoked the most conversation.

In the film, Tajima-Peña interviewed eighth generation Filipino sisters who said they considered themselves white.

Escorpizo said this comment struck him as odd, but their perspective must be taken into consideration by realizing that people and situations are different.

Tajima-Peña said the film was "a planned chaos." Sometimes she went to interesting people she had heard about and other times she met people to talk with along her road trip.

After graduating from Harvard University, Tajima-Peña said she tried to get a non-paying internship working

in television, but never got any offers.

"It was a racist, sexist industry and that's why more independent films were being made," Tajima-Peña said.

She said the independent film movement boomed in the early 1980s. She said it was a political movement as well as an artistic movement.

"There were people like me who had passion and anger, who wanted to make films about our culture and our heritage," Tajima-Peña said.

Western senior Andrew Rogge said the purpose of the event was not about the movie or Tajima-Peña.

"It's about the formation of identity," Rogge said.

When she was growing up the focus was on assimilation, not on being different, she said. She said she was taught to blend in and not talk about her culture.

Tajima-Peña said these kind of activities are important to bring to campus because they plant seeds for social change on a wider spectrum.

"People ask me why I make movies and it's usually because something pisses me off," Tajima-Peña said.

She said she wanted to make "My America (...or honk if you love Buddha)" because Asian-Americans were not on the map and their contributions to society were not recognized.

"The reason I called this film 'My America' is because I realized how much (Asian-Americans) own the place," Tajima-Peña said. "We have been here for a long time."

This year marks the 100th anniversary of her family immigrating to the United States.



Ailey Kato/ The Western Front  
Renee Tajima-Peña answered questions about being Asian, filmmaking and road-tripping during her presentation March 7 in the Viking Union multipurpose room.



## Western senior Jason "J-Tyme" Guerrero delivers underground music to the masses

plays a lot of different kinds of hip-hop and tries to appeal to a wide audience of hip-hop fans.

Guerrero said his definition of hip-hop is best summed up in a line from a rap song by KRS-1, which says "rap is something you do and hip-hop is something you live."

He said hip-hop is made of four elements which he calls "the cornerstones of hip-hop." Those cornerstones are break dancing, MCing (rapping), DJing, and creating graffiti.

In addition to mixing music on his show, Guerrero does many promotions and interviews to enhance listenership, he said.

Through his relationship with Urban Network, Guerrero said he maintains contact with record labels which connect him with interviews and promotions from hip hop artists such as Snoop Doggy Dogg, The Roots, Kurupt, the X-ecutioners and Wyclef.

"J-Tyme has an amazing amount of contacts," Tiderman said. "He sets up interviews, shows and phone calls. He records station (identifications) for us from so many huge hip-hop artists. He really keeps KUGS connected to the hip-hop scene."

Guerrero said he has released three mixed CDs, which he sells at his professional gigs. His latest CD is a double CD that is a mix of 44 songs, which he sells for \$15.

One of Guerrero's favorite things about mixing at clubs is seeing the people rush out onto the dance floor when he plays a good song, he said.

"I'm totally into it," Guerrero said. "I'm dancing you know, and rapping with the music and I think that if people see me getting into it that (they) might feed some of the energy onto the dance floor, or they could just think I'm crazy."

Guerrero's best advice for people who want to DJ is not to expect to be a success overnight.

He said he has been a DJ for 10 years and just in the last four years he has really been able to start doing what he wants and make a name for himself.

"The good part about J-Tyme is he knows what to play so he gets all the people out on the dance floor," said Reece DeGolier, owner of The Factory. "If he comes on at 12 a.m., the dance floor is full from 12 a.m. until he's done."

Along with his DJ work, Guerrero is a full-time student at Western. He intends to graduate this spring with a general studies major.

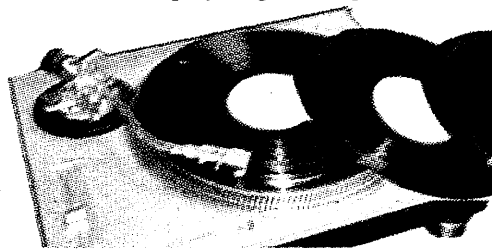
In the future he said he would like to be working in Los Angeles at a record label with promotions or as a mix show DJ.

Urban Network will announce the contest winner this May at a conference in Las Vegas honoring the nominees.

Guerrero said he will spin at Christo's Restaurant and Casino for its St. Patrick's Day celebration on Saturday night.



Photos by Tyler Hendrick/  
The Western Front  
Jason "J-Tyme" Guerrero spins and mixes for the crowd at The Factory, where he performs every Thursday night.



is what you would see on MTV, while with artists don't strive to be on mainstream radio

how is mainly under-said if he finds a good way people will like, he just because his show is music.

Reece DeGolier  
Owner of The Factory

like to categorize it. "I do find myself underground and commercial personally, if it's a mix." He for his show "Mass" song of his by under-... led to him because he

# Hoopin' it up

## Local residents twist the night away Mondays at the 3B Tavern

Robin Duranleau  
THE WESTERN FRONT

ned on smiling faces as bodies an and dipped. Reggae music background as joyous bar-goers bodies in ways they may have possible. e neck, the arms, the stomach g. Anywhere from one to seven

rings at a time, the movement brought out everyone's ability to shake their hips.

Every Monday night, Bellingham residents gather at the 3B Tavern to drink beer, shoot some pool and spin homemade rings resembling Hula-Hoops.

Disc Jockey Jordan Rain, 27, said he has been spinning records at the 3B for nearly two years. For nearly a year, he has been bringing his homemade Hula-Hoops to the tavern for people to twirl.

"I had the idea just to bring (the Hula Hoops) in here as sort of a way for people to break the ice, to get up and move a little bit and to break up the energy," Rain said.

Rain said he believes the hoops, made of PVC piping, help people to move their hips and feel more comfortable on the dance floor.

"They don't hold anything back," Rain said.

Whatcom Community College student Jessie Cassidy has been Hula-Hooping for nearly four years. She said that she usually brings a Hula-Hoop wherever she goes.

"I just have a really good time doing this," Cassidy said.

Cassidy said she was excited when she learned about the Hula-Hoop night.

"I went to Alaska for four months," Cassidy said. "And

I came home and my brother was like 'You want to go Hula-Hooping?' And I was like 'There's actually a place to go Hula-Hooping in town?'"

Cassidy said she has spun up to seven Hula-Hoops at the same time at the 3B.

"Jessie has got to be the best Hula-Hooper I've ever seen in my life," Rain said.

Cassidy still has a way to go before beating any world records.

In June 2001, Lori Lynn Lomeli, 44, set the U.S. record for spinning 83 hoops simultaneously.

In 1986 Tonya Lynn Mistal hooped for 88 hours straight. These accomplishments landed both women spots in the Guinness Book of World Records.

The Hula-Hoop phenomenon has been around for more than 40 years.

The toy company WHAM-O invented the Hula-Hoop in 1958. In the first four months of production, WHAM-O sold 25 million Hula-Hoops.

The company claimed the Hula-Hoop was the "greatest fad the United States has ever seen."

Cassidy was later joined on the dance floor by Jeffrey Myers, 28. Myers said he has been frequenting the 3B for nine years.

He said he enjoys the music and the Hula-Hooping on Mondays.

Myers said twirling hoops creates a good vibe.

"I enjoy the motion and movement of the body," Myers said. "Musical and physical expression is almost like bliss in the body."

Rain said he feels the music has a lot of energy.



Photos by Ailey Kato/ The Western Front  
(Above) Caroline Buchalter, Western alumna, said she is a Monday night regular Hula-Hooper.  
(Left) Jessie Cassidy gyrates to reggae rhythms at the 3B Tavern on a recent Monday night.



"The vibe of the music is pretty positive," Rain said.

He said he believes that the gloomy weather of the northwest makes people more self-conscious and reserved, and the hoops help to loosen that up.

Bartender Siren Cox said she is usually too busy to spin a Hula-Hoop around, but she said that people seem to enjoy it.

Cassidy, who has been coming to the 3B since October, said Mondays are always fun.

"Once every other Monday I'm out here probably shaking a hoop or something," Myers said. "I can't ever leave without shaking it a little bit. It feels good."

## Rebuild or reload? Vikings lose seven seniors

By Ivy Plewman  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Some would say Western men's basketball has reached the end of a dynasty. Vikings fans will see plenty of changes in the team next year, most noticeably the absence of seven strong seniors.

Being pushed out of a playoff spot created a disappointing finale to the seniors' season.

"The season came to a very, very disappointing end," senior center Brian "Yogi" Dennis said. "We were screwed out of the playoff spot."

Viking forward Andy Wheat said he thought the season shouldn't have ended when it did.

"We finished strong," Wheat said. "I thought it was an injustice that we didn't make the playoffs."

*"Watching them go from being freshmen, figuring it all out, to having confidence and determination. It's gratifying."*

Brad Jackson  
Western head coach

Despite the foul end of the season, the senior players look positively on their experience at Western and on their last season. "Being our senior season, we had to step up," senior guard

Darnell Taylor said. "I realized it was coming to an end so I enjoyed every moment."

Seniors A.J. Giesa, Robert Harvie, Jacob Stevenson, Shelton Diggs and Dennis have played together at Western for four years. Wheat and Taylor both joined the team later.

*"I realized it was coming to an end so I enjoyed every moment."*

Darnell Taylor  
Western guard

Having spent four years together helped the team to create very strong bonds both on and off the court.

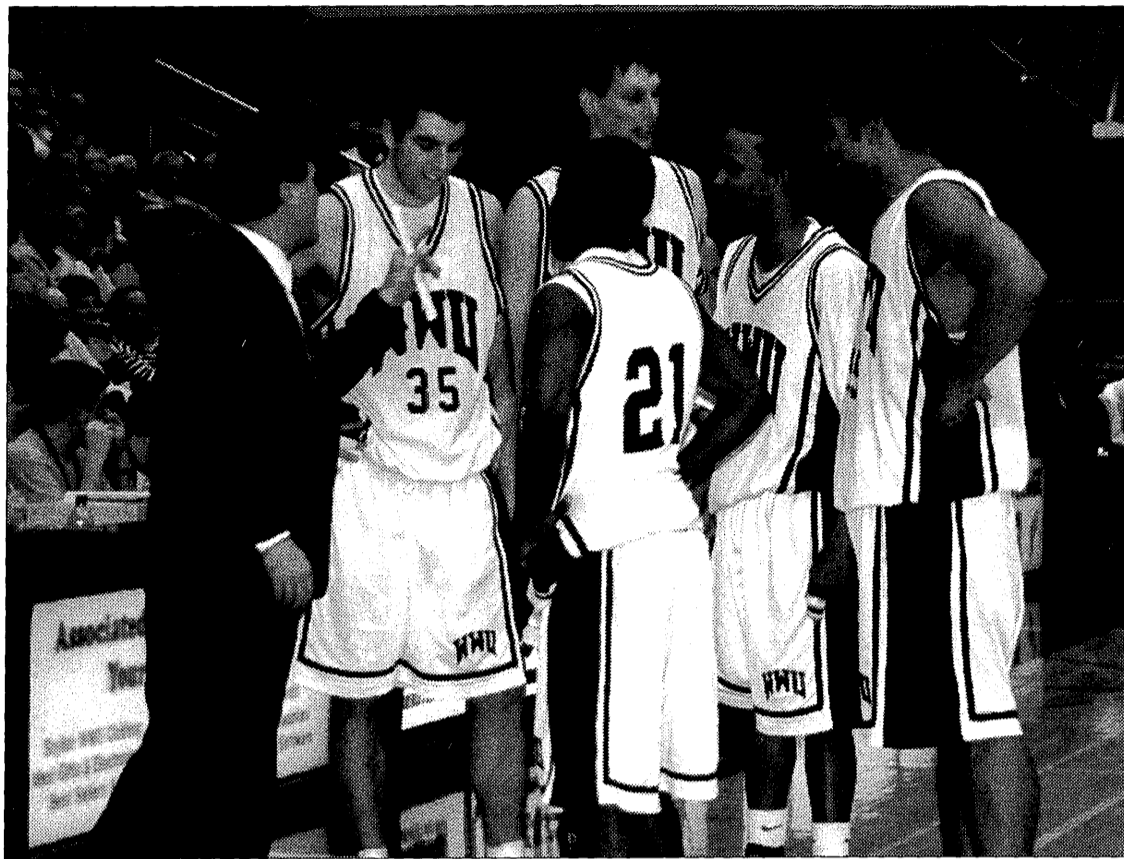
"It was easy for them to be all business on the court, but off the court we were all friends," Taylor said. "They're my boys. I've never been on a team who could do that without holding grudges, without being mad after practice."

Wheat said he noticed the strong bond between the teammates and the senior class when he transferred from Edmonds Community College.

"The team has great chemistry," Wheat said. "All the teammates are close friends. We had a really good time together. It's the camaraderie."

Diggs said he will miss that off-court closeness.

"I'll miss hangin' out in the locker room," Diggs said. "We're still gonna hang out, but I'll



Heather Trimm/ The Western Front

With seven seniors graduating from the Western men's basketball team, head coach Brad Jackson will see a lot of new faces in his huddles next season.

miss that next year."

Head coach Brad Jackson said watching the players progress as players as well as people while at Western has been rewarding.

"That is one of the things you enjoy the most," Jackson said. "Watching them go from being freshmen, figuring it all out, to having confidence and determination. It's gratifying."

Western has been a memorable experience for every one of the

seniors. As they finish their degrees or student teach or possibly play overseas, the men all have memories from Western basketball that will last a lifetime.

"I always wanted to play college basketball," Harvie said. "The team was like a family. I made good friends."

Wheat referred to the crowd as the most memorable part or playing at Western.

"The crowd support from everybody was great," Wheat

said. "They stood behind the team even when we weren't doing so well. There were no bandwagon fans."

As for next year, Jackson is optimistic.

"We'll be coming in with a new look," Jackson said. "We have strong numbers coming back to build on in Nehemiah Campbell, Mike Palm, and Jason Burrell. We also have a very fine freshman class. We hope we can be very competitive."

ROBIN WILLIAMS EDWARD NORTON DANNY DEVITO

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# Madness only beginning

# Varsity baseball not feasible

By Matthew Hietala  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western's mens varsity baseball program was dropped after the 1981 season during a tough era in Viking athletics. Something had to be done. The basketball team was coming off a 4-21 season and the football team was 2-8.

A committee was formed to evaluate Western athletics. The committee figured baseball, coupled with its costs, could be eliminated easily, said Western Sports Information Director Paul Madison.

More than 20 years later, Western still doesn't have a varsity baseball team.

The main reason there is no baseball program now has to do with NCAA regulations on gender equality. Currently Western has 15 varsity sports, seven men's and eight women's. In order to receive tuition waivers from the state, the male to female ratio in these varsity sports must closely resemble the student population.

Women make up 54 percent of the total student body and approximately 51 percent of athletes competing at Western. If a men's varsity baseball team were to be added, men would likely make up a greater percentage of athletes than women. No tuition waivers would be granted, thus Western would lose a lot of money.

For baseball to become a school-funded varsity sport, another women's sport would have to be added or one of the current men's sports would need

to be dropped. Administration does not see this happening anytime soon.

"We're not interested in dropping a sport to add another," said Western Director of Athletics Lynda Goodrich.

Funding and facilities would need to improve in order to bring baseball back to Western.

Western doesn't currently have a baseball field and each Joe Martin Stadium use requires a fee. With daily practices, this would become costly. Western would have to construct a new baseball field to add a varsity team.

Western began a club baseball team shortly after the varsity one was eliminated. Current club coach and player Adam McNeley said not having a home field is difficult on their practice schedule.

He said the club team tries to practice wherever they can find an open field, but often they can't.

"Sometimes we have to go use softball fields," he said.

McNeley said the batting cage facilities at the Sportsplex are far from desirable.

Western would have to build new ones if they had a varsity team, Goodrich said.

She said they would also need to hire a coaching staff, and good coaches tend to be costly.

The baseball club has many financial obstacles to hurdle because they are not funded through the school. The team does get a small allocation from the state and Western has a founder account from last year's team that helps cover a minimal amount of the general cost, but

there still are plenty more out-of-pocket expenses, McNeley said.

McNeley said the team has to pay for rental vans for road trips, gas, hotels and game balls. Each player also has to buy his own uniforms, often costing close to \$200, he said. But teams usually have to pay a fee to enter a tournament. Even if they play a "home" game at Joe Martin Stadium, they have to pay for the umpires along with the field fee, he said.

was dropped, women's crew and both men's and women's soccer were added. Cancellations in those sports are rare, making them economically attractive.

"Soccer can be played rain or shine," Madison said.

This ties in with the financial aspect, she said. Varsity baseball is expensive and financially unattractive because games are often canceled due to weather.

"That happens to us in softball," Goodrich said.

The women's softball team had three double headers canceled this year. Goodrich said they have been lucky so far because they haven't had to pay for road trips. Two of the double headers have been at home and the other was canceled early enough to save a trip.

McNeley said the club team tries to be positive that its games will be played before they make long trips. Sometimes the games are canceled after all the money is paid, he said. It's not possible to get a refund on \$100 worth of gasoline.

"If we actually go, we have to eat it (the money)," he said.

Goodrich said she figured the cost of adding a baseball program would be roughly \$150,000, and that's the low end estimate. She said adding any other women's sport would probably be the same cost.

"Where do you come up with the money?" Madison said.

Goodrich said the only way she sees a baseball team being added anytime soon is if someone donated \$3 million and said they wanted Western to have a baseball team.



Josh Dumond

SPORTS COMMENTARY

After one day of surprises, bracket busters and raucous fans all over the nation supporting their team, the excitement of March Madness has begun without an end in sight.

March Madness is a time for buzzer beaters, David vs. Goliath matchups, drinking beer, hanging out with friends, and some good, old-fashioned basketball.

Is there anything better than waking up sprawled out on the couch, nursing a hangover, skipping class while watching the "tourney" all day long?

Sports just does not get much better than March Madness and it is too bad it only happens once a year. When else can basketball-craving fans join their friend's bracket pool and root for teams they have never heard of and know nothing about?

Fans find themselves with four brackets on their coffee table with endless scenarios possible. It is hard to root for the underdog after picking the higher seed, but fans find themselves rooting for them anyway only because they want to see the big dogs go down.

For once it is normal for fans to be jumping around the room with goose bumps after a huge upset by a school they have no

See UNDERDOG, Page 12

“This area's really bad for baseball and softball.”

Lynda Goodrich  
Western Athletic Director

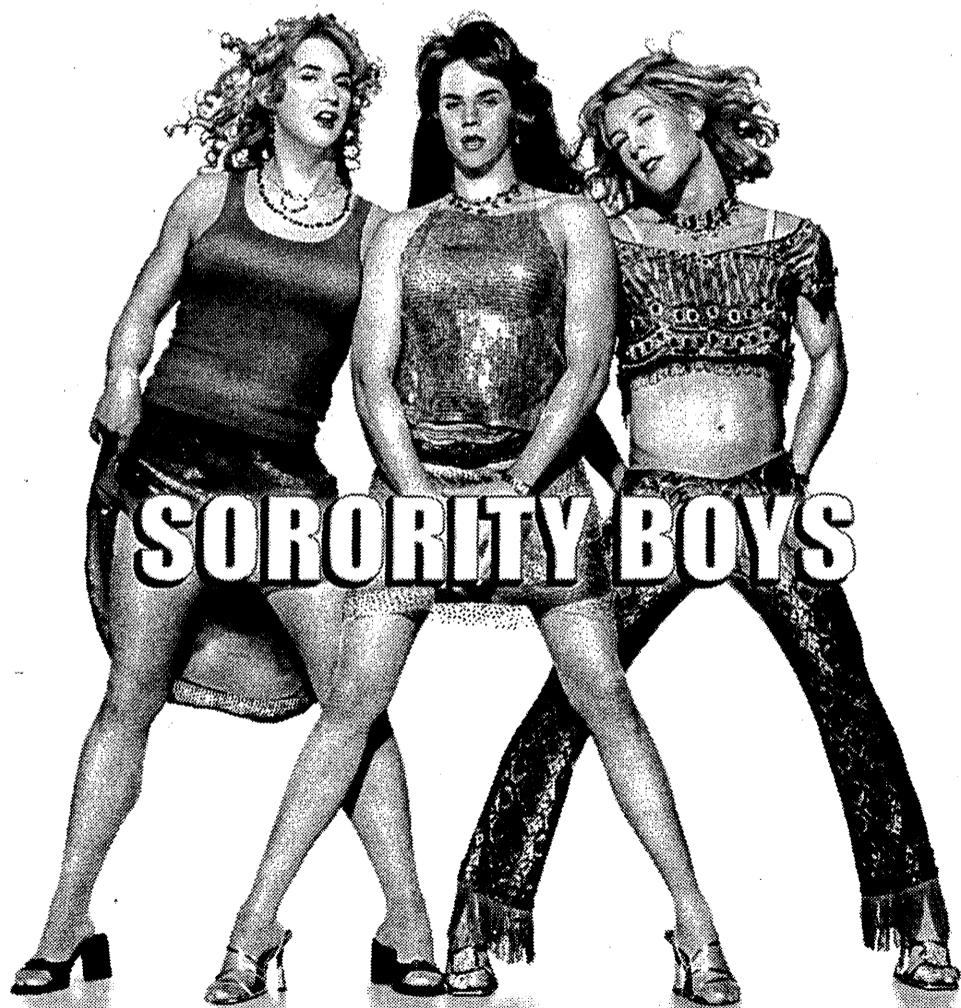
Goodrich said she is concerned about bringing back the baseball program because it would conflict with scheduling. College baseball teams usually play more than 40 games in a regular season. Central Washington University's team is scheduled for nearly 50 games. This would cut into much of the athletes' class time, especially if the team were to make the playoffs, where even more games would be played.

With few colleges and universities in the area with varsity baseball teams, the travel distance to games would be longer, Madison said.

Baseball in Bellingham also means rainouts.

"This area's really bad for baseball and softball," Goodrich said. When the baseball program

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# Western baseball finds talent off-campus

# Believe in underdogs

From UNDERDOG, Page 11

affiliation with.

That's not normal behavior for the average fan. March Madness brings out the best fan in all of us.

March Madness is also a time for those non-basketball fans to shine. These are the fans who never pay attention to basketball, but want to get in on the craziness of March Madness. They put their five bucks in, fill out a bracket without any knowledge of the teams, and don't pay any attention to the tournament.

Two weeks later they are surprised to find out they won the pot of \$200 while their friends are wondering what the hell happened.

Here are some words of wisdom for bracket pools. If fans are in a pool for the money, they shouldn't pay attention to the regular season, records, or tournament seedings. If they are in it for fun they should pay attention to those things.

Yesterday, everyone learned some of the twists and turns of March Madness. Gonzaga worried too much about their seeding instead of Wyoming and lost. Kent State is for real. Marquette is not. Ohio State and Kansas are both lucky to still be alive.

Who knows what the rest of the tourney will bring? Be ready for anything and everything and enjoy it because this frenzy only happens once a year.

At age 5, Scapini started playing baseball along side his brother Nick. However, at that age, he didn't stand out as anything special and spent most of his younger years in his brother's shadow.

"One year I quit because I got so sick and tired of people always asking if I was Nick's brother," Scapini said. "I remember he sat me down and told me 'Who cares what others say.' He would tell me just to play my own game."

When asked who inspired him to continue playing baseball, Scapini said his brother Nick, who not only helped him out as a kid, but in college as well.

When Scapini played at Green River Community College, he said he missed out on fun activities due to baseball practices and games. He vividly remembers one particular time when he was unable to go to the Apple Cup because of baseball. When Scapini complained to his brother, he put his baseball career in perspective for him.

"He got mad at me about complaining how I couldn't hang out on the Apple Cup weekend," Scapini said. "He wrote me this letter that said he would trade places with me any day."

Scapini kept the letter from his brother in his hat that year while he pitched to remind him how lucky he was, and said he would never forget what his brother has done for him.



Candace Nelson/The Western Front

## Viking pitcher Barry "Chip" Scapini has resurrected his baseball career at Western after a three-year layoff.

decided to tryout again for the team.

Scapini offers the team a different look than the rest of the pitchers because he is left-handed.

"It makes me different, because the majority of the pitchers are right-handed, so it gives me a different look," Scapini said. "Most lefties have extra movement on the ball as well, so that gives me an advantage."

Scapini throws a variety of different pitches, but said his fastball is his best pitch.

"If I need to get somebody out or throw a strike I would pitch the fastball," Scapini said, whose fastball has been clocked as high as 84 miles per hour. "The other pitches I show so the hitters are so they will have them in the back of their mind and not just wait for the fastball."

By Niki Smith  
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Western men's baseball club found a new pitcher in the most unlikely of places. Taking advantage of rules that let non-students participate in club sports, the Vikings found talent outside of the student body.

Vikings pitcher Barry Scapini, 22, moved to Bellingham three years ago with the idea that he would continue his baseball career at Western, yet three years later he is just starting that mission.

After graduating in 1998 from Hazen High School in Renton, Scapini played one year at Green River Community College.

Following that year, he moved to Bellingham and enrolled at Whatcom Community College.

Scapini was at a local bar when he first heard about the baseball club at Western. Looking into it, he decided to tryout for the 2000 season, but instead chose to take a coaching job at Sehome High School.

"I think it is fun to coach kids and point them in the right direction," Scapini said. "I remember my dad was always my coach and he made time to play with me, but I also remember the kids who didn't have anyone to play catch with."

The following year Scapini took the year off from baseball and realized how much playing meant to him. This year, Scapini

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# OPINIONS

Letters & Editorials

March 15, 2002

The Western Front • 13

## Women deserve equal chance in sports



Heidi Mulhern

COMMENTARY

The NCAA standards for gender equality in collegiate athletics is an exceptional concept to provide at this level.

This standard provides equal participation among athletes and shows how a college endorses and supports equality among men and women.

This gives women athletes a chance to prove themselves and try to gain more recognition from outsiders.

In the past, men have enjoyed the freedom of sports at the collegiate level, while females have constantly been put on the back burner and continue to receive half-assed coverage.

A great example of gender differences in sports is in the media coverage.

Much more coverage and privileges are awarded to men's sports and they receive much more television coverage.

“

*'Not having another men's collegiate team is a good idea an even though there is only an eight percent difference in genders exists on campus.'*

Currently March Madness is showing on television and men's games are dominating the screen, while women's scores scroll along the bottom of the screen, as if this is enough of a

highlight for a women's game.

If schools have to follow this NCAA policy in gender equality, then it would be nice to see this reflected in television coverage to show this policy is present at the collegiate level.

This policy is obviously not present at the professional level, because extended cable is needed to catch a WNBA game, while NBC regularly televises NBA games.

Since 54 percent of students enrolled at Western are female, this policy abides by the percentage, which results in more female athletics.

This is why Western does not have a baseball team, as many have wondered.

Not having another men's collegiate team is a good idea even though there is only an eight percent difference in genders on campus exists.

The percentage is large

enough that women have a right to one more sport than men. If Western were to go against the NCAA gender equality policy, tuition waivers would be pulled.

”

*'Much more coverage and privileges are awarded to men's sports and they receive much more television coverage.'*

The waiver is like a scholarship, but just waives the tuition of outstanding athletes. If Western were to go against this policy, this perk would be lost.

Western's actions in following the NCAA standards for gender equality are well supported and the baseball team will just have to wait.

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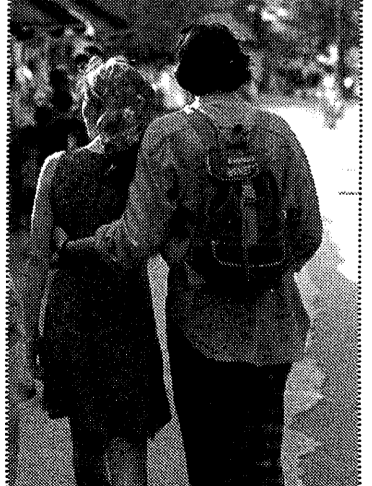
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# Frontline

## Professors grade students, evaluations necessary for students to have input

Western currently has no policy requiring faculty to issue teaching evaluations at the end of each quarter. By neglecting to institute such policy, the administration is ignoring the students it is supposed to represent. Evaluating teacher performance is necessary to maintain a high level of quality faculty. It remains the only viable platform to voice criticisms students might have regarding faculty instruction.

According to Western's faculty handbook guidelines, tenured and non-tenured faculty are not required to provide teacher evaluations.

Students help fund faculty salaries, and should therefore have an opportunity to decide who is not providing exceptional educational instruction.

Teachers reflect student's performance through grades. Similarly, students should have the right to indicate performance levels through class evaluations.

Theatre department chair Mark Kuntz said he gives class evaluations because they help him become a better teacher. The evaluations include questions about timeliness, course content, teacher accessibility and course difficulty.

Kuntz said he uses the information from the evaluations to improve class curriculum and teaching style.

Assistant biology professor Craig Moyer said the school does not emphasize student feedback enough, so he creates his own questionnaire with 25-50 questions to better understand what his students are thinking.

Moyer said it is important to improve classes so students feel as though they are getting their money's worth.

Still many faculty members cite tenure and excessive teaching experience as reasons to refuse evaluation. Tenure is not an excuse for invincibility from student evaluation. In order to retain the most capable teachers in employment, faculty should not be free from the criticisms of the students they instruct.

All faculty, tenured or not, stand to improve from student response. It is the responsibility of the administration to ensure that all students are allowed this medium to voice such concerns.

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

## The Western Front

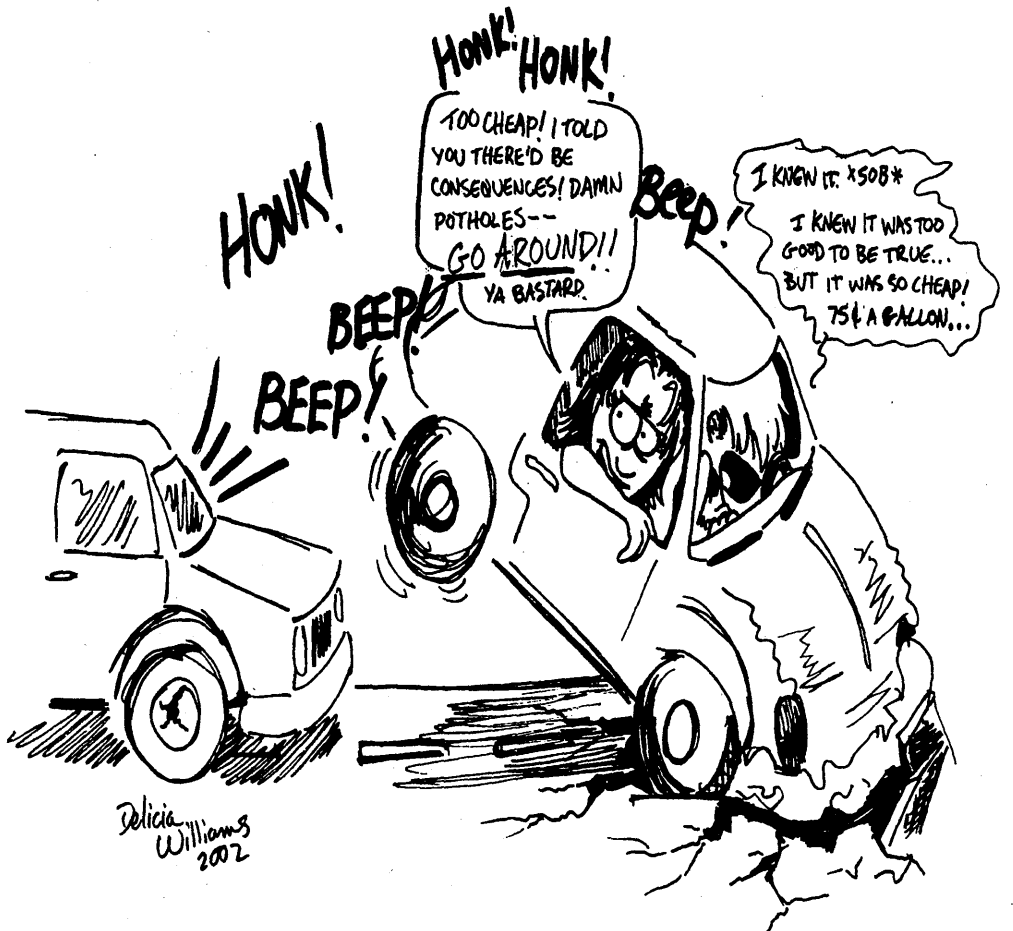
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### And we quote:

"The numbers proposed by Mr. Bush — a huge tax cut, increased spending for defense, education and health and money set aside for Social Security — did not add up when he was running for President. They did not add up when he proposed his own budget last month. They certainly did not add up when the economy was jolted by terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, sending revenues plummeting. And they do not add up today as Congress begins wrestling with the budget."

The New York Times editorial board, March 14, commenting on President Bush's proposed budget



## Voters should approve gas tax



Marissa Bisnar

COMMENTARY

Putting off tasks until they become too big to handle is a problem that challenges many people.

Whether it's writing a big term paper, or getting a sore tooth fixed, the situation will just get worse if it's not dealt with early.

Washington state is currently facing this same situation concerning its transportation sys-

tem, which is in dire need of improvement.

If taxpayers do not pay now, they will have to pay even more in the future.

*"The gas tax would be phased in over a few years and would only affect those who drive frequently."*

The Legislature's \$8.7 billion compromise to relieve traffic congestion Tuesday night is

based upon a voter approved nine cents-per-gallon tax increase, which would make it the second highest gas tax in the United States, according to the Associated Press.

Washington's gas tax is a flat tax that has increased seven times over the last 25 years, according to the Washington State Department of Transportation.

Safety must be a priority for people who are not willing to give up the extra money.

Washington's roads are extremely hazardous, roads flood and crumble yearly, and

See GAS, Page 15

## Students should consider AS Board



Brian Martin

AS VOICE

March 7 was an important date for Western's campus.

The tone for next year's Associated Students began to take shape as the representation of 11,000 students is soon to be decided.

This was when the filing period for candidates running for a position on the AS Board of Directors was opened.

Students from every part of campus started down the road to try for one of the seven spots in Western's student government.

Each year a handful of brave Western students are faced with many sleepless nights as they lie awake thinking of their next campaign strategy.

They will not only increase their stress levels, but will also have their courage tested and their imagination exercised over the next two months.

This is a time of heightened anxiety, but it is also a time for new opportunities.

It is a time to meet new people, to make new friends, and to have the chance to make a difference on Western's campus.

Some say that most students are not cut out to run for office and to become the student voice for an entire campus, but they are wrong.

If a student has had an opinion on something that affects them on campus, they should think about running for office.

If they ever felt like they could represent students, or had ideas that would benefit the entire campus, they should run for office.

If a student has ever looked for a way to get involved, to become part of campus life, or feel like they should give back to the place that has given them so much, they should run for office.

No matter what reason a student comes up with, if they can represent the students on Western's campus they need to run for a spot on next year's AS Board.

Prospective candidates should not let a perceived lack of experience with the Associated Students deter them.

Nor should students let the idea of too much responsibility

stop them from becoming an important part of their campus community.

In fact, more responsibility, oddly enough, actually makes a student more productive and looks really good on a resume.

With seven positions open, and each handling a different aspect of campus life, there is sure to be an opening that interests everyone.

After having two positions run unopposed last year, the current board of directors hopes it won't happen again.

These positions are too valuable for students not to have a choice.

Yes, the candidate-filing period opened March 7, but it is not too late if someone feels like they want to run for a position.

Prospective candidates have until April 5 to fill out their candidate packet.

If this sounds intriguing, they should talk to the current AS Board and stop by VU 504 and grab a packet and start down the path that could change their life.

They could make a difference in themselves and make a difference on Western's campus.

They should sign up today.

## Washington roads among worst, lack of adequate funds problem

From GAS, Page 14  
some even take lives.

The Blue Ribbon Commission on Transportation, a board created by the Legislature and governor in 1998 to give an analysis of statewide transportation needs, claimed in its report that Highway 2 from Everett to Cashmere and Highway 270 from Pullman to Idaho were among some of the roads that need repair.

The commission identified almost 1,000 bridges that are not earthquake-safe.

Other proposals included congestion relief at the Blaine border crossing and 520 bridge over Lake Washington.

These hazards affect everyone's safety.

The gas tax would be phased in over a few years, and would only affect those who drive frequently.

The tax would help fund various alternative transportation options such as buses, vanpools and carpools, ultimately easing congestion.

If legislators decide to conduct a private vote, people could vote as early as this summer.

Paying or putting the tax off means paying more in the long run.

People have to accept the gas tax now before Washington's roads become even worse.

Western Front Online

Times will be a changin"

www.westernfrontonline.com

### Articles lacked accurate information

I am writing in regards to the two articles written under the title "Western Club explores Transgender Issues."

I have several problems with the two articles written attempting to cover two events put on the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Alliance (LGBT) and the Women's Center.

First, the LGBT and the Women's Center are not clubs; they are organizations that are a part of the Associated Students Resource and Outreach Program with salaried staff members.

Both of these organizations are very large and serve as

### Letters to the Editor

cores of activism, resource referral and support for their communities.

The most gut wrenching inaccuracy in the article about the documentary is the absolute disregard to the correct use of gender pronouns.

Even though the writer stated that she would be using s/he to refer to people who did not identify with either the male or female gender, she continued to refer to two people from the documentary, Roisin Bean and Davis McKensie as she and her. I am appalled that this mistake was so carelessly overlooked.

With so many gross inaccuracies in this article, what was the point of covering these events in the first place?

The writer did not even take the time to interview anyone from the above organizations to

make sure the issues were represented in a respectful and accurate manner.

These two articles sent more negative messages about transgender people, which is exactly what these two events were trying to avoid.

Finally, it was completely disrespectful that the people in the article were referred to as a "transgendered individual."

The point of these programs was to show that gender does not have to be seen as an either/or category. Referring to the people on the panel in this way totally made them seem abnormal.

Kelly Smith

Women's Center Co-Coordinator

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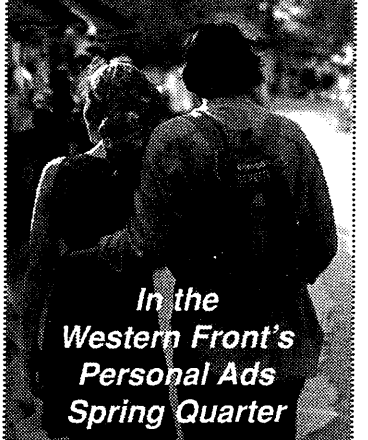


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# County sales tax increase prevents bus route cuts

From BUSES, Page 1

Western senior Chad Herman said he is glad the tax increase passed because he rides the bus to school every day.

"The bus is an important service for everyone, especially for the students," Herman said. "I know they were looking at cutting some routes from Ferndale and I know some students that take the bus from out there, so it wouldn't have been good for them."

United for Bellingham, a political action committee, gave other options on its Web site, including

reducing or privatizing the specialized transportation services.

Lynn Carpenter, United for Bellingham representative, said she is concerned about how the WTA spent its reserve money after I-695 passed.

"If they (the WTA) had shown some reaction when their spending was cut a couple of years ago, I wouldn't have a problem with the tax increase," Carpenter said. "They continued to spend like they had all the money in the world. Then when their reserve fund was low they went to the vot-

ers and asked for more money."

Chris Robertson had good things to say about the tax hike.

"It is a good thing for the students," Robertson said. "It is a really good bus system. People can live in Bellingham without a car because the bus system is so good."

If the voters had turned down Proposition 1, WTA would have cut fixed bus route service by nearly half, and made additional cuts to specialized, weekend and evening services, including the elimination of 12 routes serving Western.

# Locke to sign tuition hike

By Laura Thoren  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Gov. Locke approved a 14 percent tuition cap today, for all state regional universities, including Western, as part of the state's \$22.5 billion budget plan.

The state's Higher Education Council approved changes that would cut university funding and increase tuition for students.

Other changes included a 16 percent tuition cap increase for the state's research institutions and a 5 percent cut in funding for regional schools rather than

the originally proposed seven percent cut.

It is unclear at this time where budget cuts will be made at Western, Associated Students President Corey Eichner said. Those questions will not be answered until Western's Board of Trustees meets April 12.

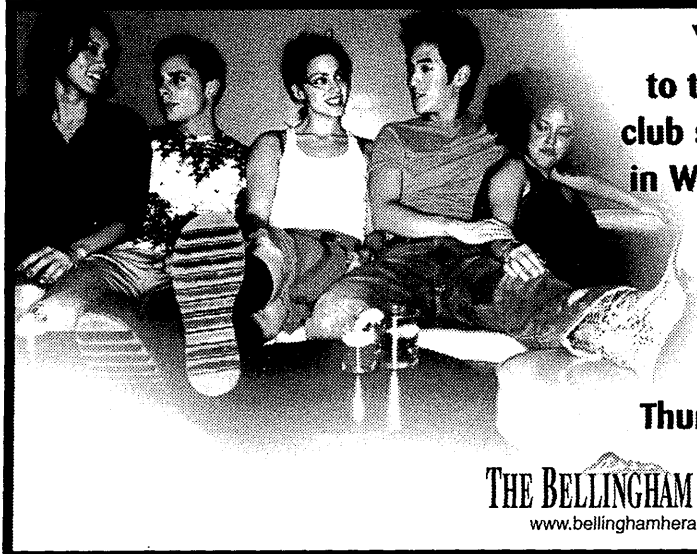
Eichner also said he hopes that when raising tuition, the Board of Trustees will consider the state Senate's intention that students not bear all the burden of the cuts.

"There will also be no restrictions on tuition waivers," Eichner said.

**The Western Front is looking for a spring quarter cartoonist.**

**Submit your letter of intent and work sample to College Hall 09 before March 27.**

Questions? Call 650-3162 or e-mail to wfront@cc.wvu.edu



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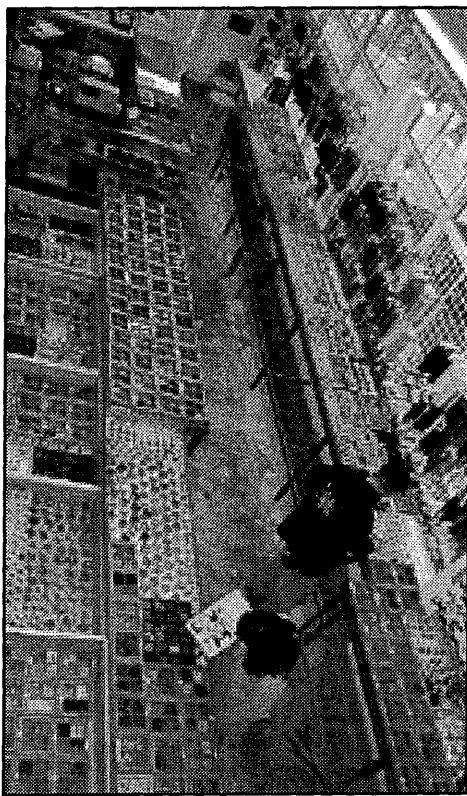
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## Who's Who in Bellingham Business



For 13 years Bead Bazaar has been helping Bellingham residents discover the fun and ease of making their own personalized jewelry. Their selection of beads is large and ranges from elegant stone & crystal to the more ethnic bone & wood, with lots of glass, clay and metal in between. Bead Bazaar carries the supplies to create earrings, chokers, bracelets and other items as well.

They also help with the 'how-to' of making jewelry. There's a large selection of books for ideas, knowledgeable staff ready to answer questions, tools and counter space to work, free demonstrations and hand-outs.

Bead Bazaar is conveniently located close to Western in the Historic Fairhaven District. So come in ready for fun and a desire to make jewelry suited to just your taste and style.

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# Faith

## Sikhing one god

By Dian McClurg  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Sikhism may not be represented at Western as a religious club or in a formal organization, but several Western students do practice the Indian religion.

"Sikhism is the fifth largest religion in the world," senior Minto Singh said. "I know at least 15 people at Western who practice the religion."

Sikhism is distinct from other Indian religions. People of all faith are welcomed into the Sikh temple. Sikhs believe in one god and the equality of all human beings. The Sikh faith rejects the Hindu caste system, idolatry and ritualism. Sikhism preaches universal equality and scorns those who consider women to be evil and inferior to men.

Singh was born into the Sikh faith 24 years ago in Punjab, India. His family moved to New York City when he was 3-years-old and then to Bellingham seven or eight years ago, but they have kept their faith.

Senior Harmit Gill, 23, was born in India and his family moved to California when he was a child. Gill grew up in Washington, attending Sikh temples in Surrey, British Columbia and in Lynden.

Gill and Singh began an Associated Students club called Zamana to organize the exchange of social, cultural and intellectual issues for people with a special interest in India, Pakistan, Nepal and other South Asian countries. Currently members are planning an event for April to celebrate Vaisaki, the Sikh new year.

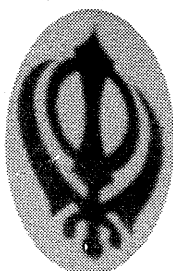
Junior Suki Sangha has lived in Lynden with her family for nearly 18 years. Her father, Mohinder Sangha, is the president of the Sikh temple in Lynden. Guru Nanak Gursikh Temple was named after Guru

Nanak, the 15th century founder of the Sikh religion.

For an average Sunday service, nearly 50 people attend the Sikh temple in Lynden, Sangha said. On days when the temple offers a free lunch, called a Langar, after service, the temple is packed with nearly 150 people, she said.

The largest concentrations of Sikhs live in Punjab, where the religion originates. The country with the second largest population is England, followed by Canada and then the United States.

"I'm not sure why Sikhs have been drawn to those particular countries," Singh said. "Probably because they offer good economic opportunities for the people compared to other places."



Khalsa: Sikh Saint-soldiers  
Emblems of the Faith

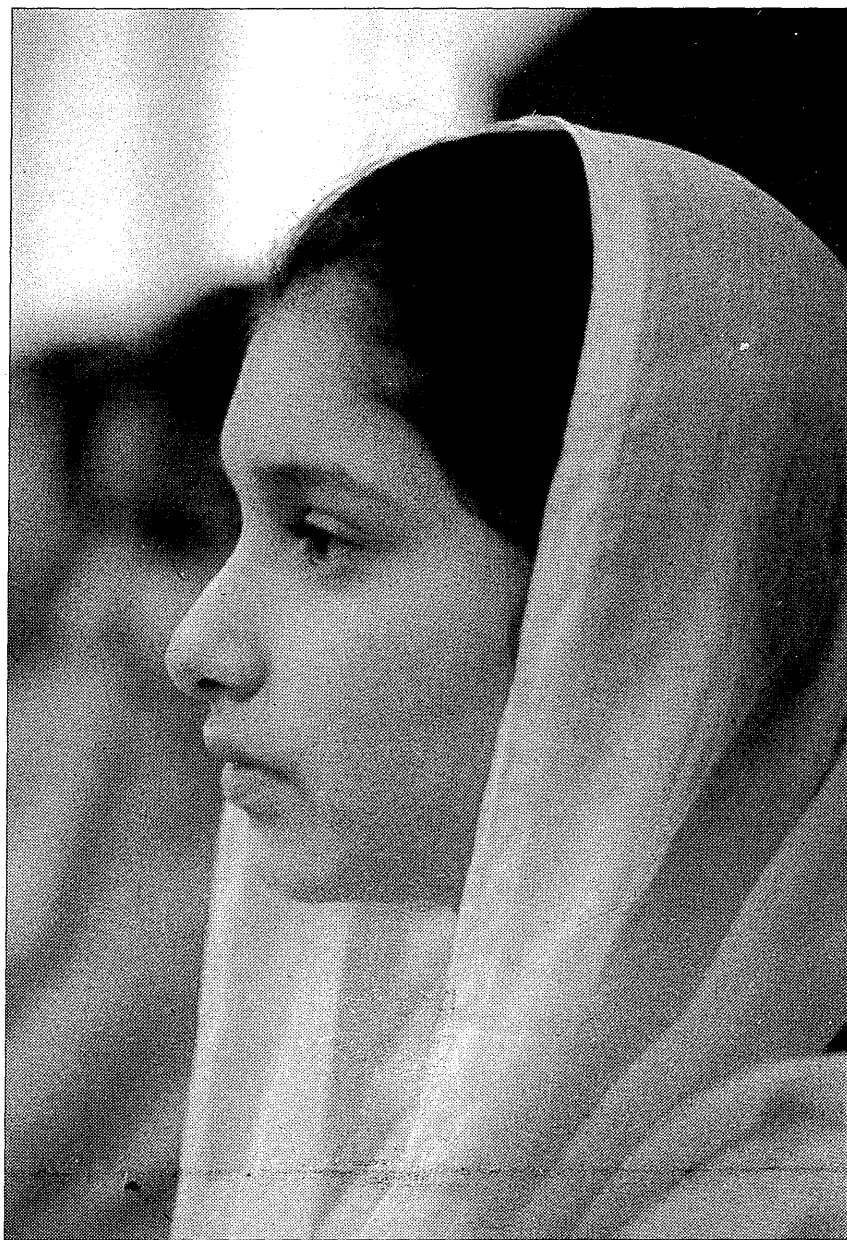
**Kesh:** Uncut hair. A sign of resignation to the Will of God.

**Kangha:** A small wooden comb used to keep hair tidy at all times.

**Kach:** Long undershorts typically worn by soldiers for freedom of movement.

**Kara:** A steel bracelet worn around the wrist as a reminder of one's faith.

**Kirpan:** A saber to be used as a last measure of protection in case the need to defend oneself or another arises.



Jennifer Collins/ The Western Front

Local Sikh Kiran Gill ponders a service Sunday at the Nanak Gursikh Gurudwara Sikh Temple in Lynden. She is one of about 150 people who attended the service. Sikhs welcome people of any religion to visit their services and share Indian meals afterwards.

## Building bridges, Restoring Eden

Club works to unite Western Christians and environmentalists

By Dian McClurg  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western senior Katie Frankhauser has been a Christian her whole life and an environmentalist since she enrolled at Huxley College of Environmental Studies in fall 2000.

The same year she became a Huxley student, Frankhauser learned of a national group called Restoring Eden, whose purpose was to bring together Christians and environmentalists in a mutually beneficial relationship formerly thought impossible.

Frankhauser said she suddenly realized she could do the unthinkable. She could combine her faith with her convictions and establish a Western chapter of Restoring Eden.

In spring 2000, Frankhauser joined with Huxley senior Candice Youngren to form the Associated Students club Restoring Eden. The club works to overcome stereotypes and misconceptions that keep Christians from understanding their call to environmentalism, and environmentalists from understanding how to work with Christians.

"There are huge barriers of stereotypes there in both groups," Frankhauser said. "Many Christians believe they can't be environmentalists without becoming pagan worshippers of the earth. Many environmentalists believe

Christians will never be interested in environmentalism because Christianity is solely concerned with humans and saving human souls."

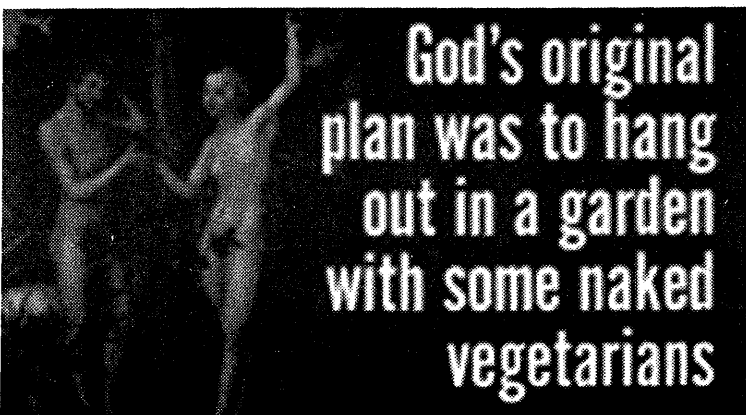
The club's founding premise is based on scriptures from the Bible telling Christians of their call to stewardship of the earth, said Ryne Leckie, Huxley senior and member of Restoring Eden.

"The call to stewardship has been overlooked and is not a major issue in the church today," Leckie said. "I'd like to try to help it become more so, and show environmentalists that Christians do have this call and can be a part of the work they do."

One of the biggest challenges for Restoring Eden has been to attract members, Leckie said. Currently there are about seven members.

Restoring Eden has worked with Western Environmental Watch and Greenways. On Earth Day, the club partnered with Bellingham First Baptist Church

"Just by our being involved in other groups on campus, people are finding out about Restoring Eden," Frankhauser said.



### IN THIS ISSUE

#### The 'Inn' thing



Western students worship, seek the meaning of life and build friendships at The Inn services.

See Story, Page 6.

#### Faith and terror

Local Muslims and Sikhs



remember the first harrowing days after Sept. 11 and still cope with discrimination at the

Canadian border, at school and work.

See story, Page 4.

# Action potential

For members of the Christian group Athletes in Action, the greatest victory attainable is accepting Jesus Christ into their lives.

By Rick Segreda  
THE WESTERN FRONT

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus Christ bestowed blessings on the gentle, the sorrowful, the merciful and the peacemakers — hardly qualities that are immediately associated with competitive sports.

Would Jesus don boxing gloves or a football helmet? Indeed, the very essence of competition, the desire to prove one's supremacy over others in a skill, seems an affront to humility.

Not for Scott Staley, a freshman who runs cross-country.

"It's not wrong to be competitive, to be the best you can be," Staley said. "It can be bad when you wish bad on your opponent."

Staley belongs to Athletes in Action (AIA), a ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ that brings together students who share both a love for sports and a love for the man they recognize as the Son of God.

"Our ultimate goal is to love

our neighbor," he said. "But if I run, I want my fellow runner to run his best."

*"I don't think God is a Western fan; I think he is more concerned with how we get along."*

**Kirby Myers**  
Immanuel Baptist Church pastor

That way, Staley said, his victory will be an honest one.

His fellow Christian athletes shared Staley's view. At a weekly gathering on Indian Street, the Western chapter of AIA talked about winning competitions not in terms of glorifying themselves or belittling an opponent, but in terms of glorifying God by making the most of a passion and skill they attribute to him alone.

Humility comes by way of gratitude.

"God gave you an opportunity to compete," Western golfer

Shannon Fitzpatrick said. "A lot of people don't even have the chance."

Kirby Myers, who will attend spring training in Florida, is a pastor at Immanuel Baptist Church and the spiritual mentor for AIA. He drew a distinction between what AIA does and religion.

"This is not about religion," Myers said, "but a relationship with Jesus Christ."

Indeed, "religion," Myers said, "is what got Jesus killed."

For AIA, their faith also provides balance and adds perspective to the aggressive demands of competitive athletics.

Myers quoted Blaise Pascal, a 17th-century scientist and mathematician who believed deeply in Jesus Christ: "We are each born with a Christ-shaped vacuum in our heart that only Christ can fill."

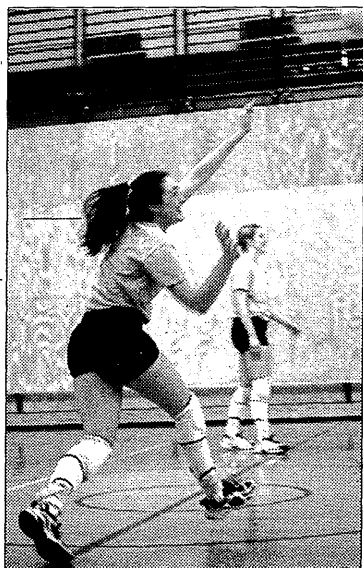
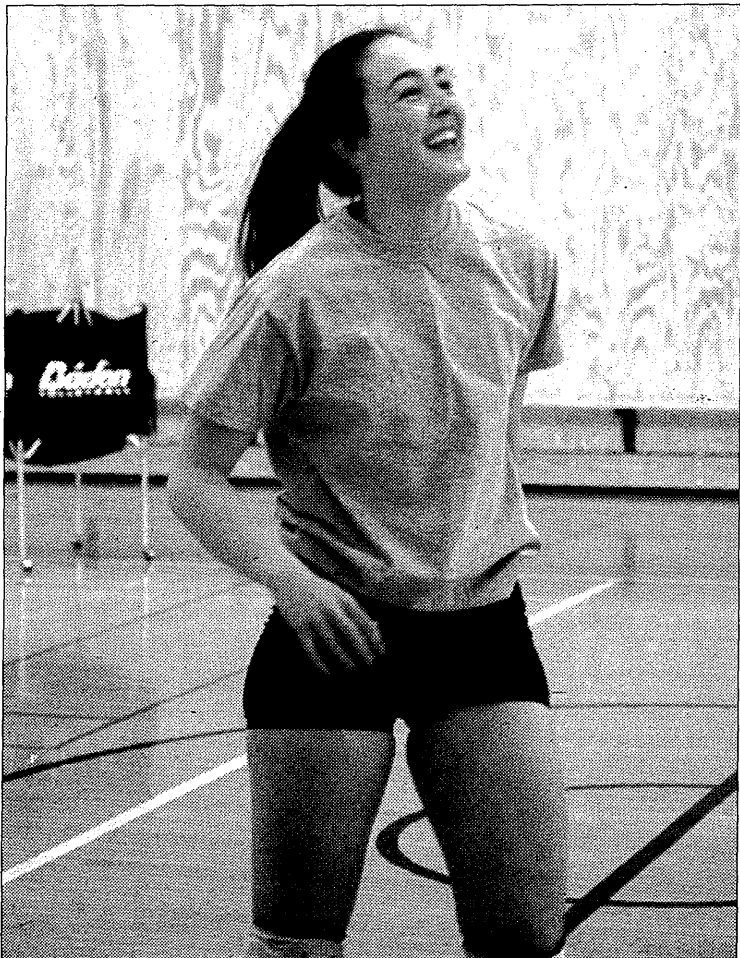
"Until you come to know Christ, anything else is just icing on the cake," Myers said.

"The competitive spirit is still there, but you still have something else," Fitzpatrick said.

Andy Wheat, a forward for the Viking men's basketball team, said the disappointment of not having his team get into the national playoffs, especially after a nine-game winning streak and for reasons that are still being disputed, has been tough.

"That's the last time I'll ever play competitive," Wheat said.

"But that's not everything," he said. "For some people it is



Candace Nelson/ The Western Front  
**Nicola Parker, Western volleyball player and member of Athletes in Action, smiles during practice. Parker is a sophomore and a defensive specialist for the Vikings. AIA brings together students sharing an involvement in sports and a love for Jesus Christ.**

## About the insert

On occasion and usually toward the end of the quarter, the Western Front editors get inspired to produce something extra. In past quarters, The Front has published inserts about travel and Bellingham's nightlife.

In selecting faith as a topic for this insert, we attempted to cover a wide range of beliefs and spiritual issues. Of course, we can only fit so much in eight pages, and we wanted to avoid covering topics we had already addressed this quarter.

If you feel that our coverage is lacking anything or we failed to report about a deserving topic, please contact us at [wfront@cc.wvu.edu](mailto:wfront@cc.wvu.edu) or through our Web site at [westernfrontonline.com](http://westernfrontonline.com). We will do our best to address any concerns or story requests.



Rick Segreda/ The Western Front

**Athletes in Action member and Western junior Steve DeKoker (left) practices cross-country running with Martin Ranney, his running partner.**

everything."

"Back in 1992 Magic Johnson said if he could win a gold medal in Barcelona, that would be enough for him, but it wasn't," Myers said. "When the Bulls won their fifth championship, Michael Jordan was already thinking about their sixth."

The challenge to reconcile a violent, injurious sport, such as boxing, with Christianity is a tough one, Myers said.

"That's why we have a lot of golfers and runners," Myers said jokingly.

Josh Wright, an offensive tackle for the Western football team, said that football is almost like a sinful sport.

"You do things there that you are not allowed to do in public," Wright said.

"Sure you care about your opponent off the field," he said. "But still you play your best."

Myers did not argue for any winning team being a chosen people.

"I don't think God is a Western fan; I think he is more concerned with how we get along," he said.

The AIA meeting featured prayers, songs and inspiration. They listened to an audio tape of the late "Pistol" Peter Maravich,

who described a career that was one of the most spectacular in NBA history in contrast with a hellish personal life.

"In 1970, I signed the largest contract in sports history," Maravich said on the audio tape. "I sat at a press conference with Howard Cosell and 42 microphones and said, 'I've arrived! Now all I need is that ring! Then I will be happy for the rest of my days on earth.' That was me on the outside. But at the height of my popularity, I was miserable."

Twelve years later, in 1982, Maravich found his peace with God.

Staley closed the AIA meeting with a quote from I Corinthians 9:24-27.

"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize."

UMHE at WWU

### United Ministries in Higher Education at Western Washington University

A goal of UMHE/WWU is to stimulate awareness and discussion of the relation of faith, society, and science and to witness to non-churched and non-Christian students about Christian concern for society and the world, as well as for the individual.

#### Upcoming events:

Abla Nasir, General Secretary of  
the YWCA of Palestine.

Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer, Assistant Prof.  
of Justice and Peace Studies at the  
Univ. of St. Thomas and author of several books.

Panel discussion on "Global Warming".

Matthew Fox, founder and president of the  
University of Creation Spirituality.

And more!!.....look for UMHE at WWU.

Information contact: Vicki @ 676-9531  
or [vldaybaz@qwest.net](mailto:vldaybaz@qwest.net)

# A second look at religion

*Students re-examine their beliefs and go against the mold*

By Ailey Kato

THE WESTERN FRONT

Western senior Jamie Sullivan was raised as a Roman Catholic until she was 15. She then converted to Protestantism.

At age 19 she had questions about religion she could not answer, so she took a step back from religion, and she no longer considers herself a Christian.

"I felt really hypocritical," Sullivan said. "I didn't really fit any particular mold."

Sullivan said she does not want to take a system of beliefs and fit herself into those expectations.

"I feel I have to create my own way of living," Sullivan said.

She said her personal beliefs involving God are unconventional.

Western sophomore Liz Racely grew up in a Christian home and said she considers herself a Christian.

She said when she came to college she began to realize what it means to live a Christian life.

"Being Christian is not just a Sunday notion," Racely said. "It's seven days a week. It's recognized every time you go to sleep, every time you wake up and should never be forgotten during the day."

Racely said Christianity is probably the worst thing for her because she is a "control freak," but she has to rely on the gifts God has given her to live up to her potential.

Although Racely said Christianity is difficult to practice, she finds it rewarding.

"Christianity doesn't work for me; it's a pain," Racely said. "But just knowing that, I take (being a Christian) as a challenge."

Racely said she likes to test her Christian friends because they can become too comfortable in their beliefs. She said she admires Christians with strong convictions in their beliefs, and she wants to know how they got to

that point.

"I believe I am a representation of the struggle to do the best with what I've been given and to be a well-rounded person," Racely said.

She said some Christians might judge her, point their fingers at her and tell her she is not deep in her faith.

"I'm glad I don't see things the way everyone else does," Racely said.

She said she believes God is the underlying theme in everything. The question is whether this is apparent.

”

*'You are supposed to believe in God and only God, but I believe there could be something more.'*

Alicia Bergschneider

Western freshman

"I don't fit the mold, and the day I fit the mold is the day I will really question," Racely said.

Western junior Chris Fryer began to question practicing Mormonism during high school. He said when he began taking science, philosophy and other classes in college he started to seriously question religion.

"I have a hard time believing in anything spiritual," Fryer said.

Fryer said he has been interested in reincarnation and would like to read more on the subject. He said he would have to scientifically rationalize reincarnation for himself and does not believe reincarnation is the work of a supreme being.

He said the more he talks about religion, the more he discovers about his beliefs.

"(The topic of religion) comes up a lot because of my

parents," Fryer said. "They are so devout (in the Mormon religion), and I'm not. According to them I'm living in sin."

Fryer said his parents understand that he has to determine his beliefs on his own, and they pray for him.

Western freshman Alicia Bergschneider was raised Episcopalian. She said she has not attended church since coming to study at Western. She said when she has the choice, she does not think it is necessary.

"(My family) are not every-Sunday-type of people," Bergschneider said.

She said when she goes to church with her family, they go to the service, go home and never talk about religion.

"You are supposed to believe in God and only God, but I believe there could be something more," Bergschneider said.

Sullivan said she has never been exposed to anything except Christianity her entire life, but she is interested in exploring other religions.

"I am definitely willing to try things again, but I don't think I will ever commit myself to anything specific," Sullivan said.

She said she considers herself to be spiritual.

"(Spirituality) is the pursuit of feeling passionately about things," Sullivan said.

Sullivan and Racely are roommates and met when Sullivan still considered herself a Christian.

"I never want her to feel uncomfortable or feel forced to mold in a certain way," Racely said.

"Although it looks like (Sullivan) took a step back from Christianity, it's actually a step forward for her," Racely said. "It's her own personal discovery."

Racely said she is rediscovering her own beliefs everyday.

"(Religion) is something that is beyond surviving," Sullivan said. "I think it's important for everyone to give some serious thought to it."

## The Destiny of America and The Promise of World Peace

At this time of world turmoil, the United States Baha'i community offers a perspective on the destiny of America as the promoter of world peace

More than a hundred years ago, Baha'u'llah, the founder of the Baha'i Faith, addressing heads of state, proclaimed that the age of maturity for the entire human race had come. The unity of humankind was now to be established as the foundation of the great peace that would mark the highest stage in humanity's spiritual and social evolution. Revolutionary and world-shaking changes were therefore inevitable.

The Baha'i teachings state:

The world is moving on. Its events are unfolding ominously and with bewildering rapidity. The whirlwind of its passions is swift and alarmingly violent. The New World is insensibly drawn into its vortex...Dangers, undreamt of and unpredictable, threaten it both from within and from without. Its governments and peoples are being gradually enmeshed in the coils of the world's recurrent crises and fierce controversies...The world is contracting into a neighborhood. America, willingly or unwillingly, must face and grapple with this new situation. For purposes of national security, let alone any humanitarian motive, she must assume the obligations imposed by this newly created neighborhood. Paradoxical as it may seem, her only hope of extricating herself from the perils gathering

around her is to become entangled in that very web of international association which the Hand of an inscrutable Providence is weaving.

The American nation, Bahai's believe, will evolve, through tests and trials, to become a land of spiritual distinction and leadership, a champion of justice and unity among all peoples and nations, and a powerful servant of the cause of everlasting peace. This is the peace promised by God in the sacred texts of world's religions.

Establishing peace is not simply a matter of signing treaties and protocols; it is a complex task requiring a new level of commitment to resolving issues not customarily associated with the pursuit of peace.

Universal acceptance of the spiritual principle of the oneness of humankind is essential to any successful attempt to establish world peace.

The emancipation of women, the achievement of full equality of the sexes, is one of the most important, though less acknowledged, prerequisites of peace.

The inordinate disparity between rich and poor keeps the world in state of instability, preventing the achievement of peace.

Unbridled nationalism, as distinguished from a sane and legitimate patriotism, must give way to

a wider loyalty, to the love of humanity as a whole.

Religious strife, the cause of innumerable wars and conflicts throughout history, is a major obstacle to progress. The challenge facing the world's religious leaders is to contemplate, with hearts filled with compassion and the desire for truth, the plight of humanity and to ask themselves whether they cannot, in humility before their God, submerge their theological differences in a great spirit of mutual forbearance that will enable them to work together for the advancement of human understanding and peace.

Baha'is pray, "May this American Democracy be the first nation to establish the foundation of international agreement. May it be the first nation to proclaim the unity of mankind. May it be the first to unfurl the standard of the Most Great Peace."

During this hour of crisis, we affirm our abiding faith in the destiny of America. We know that the road to its destiny is long, thorny and tortuous, but we are confident that America will emerge from her trials undivided and undefeatable.

—National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States

For more information and a free copy of the booklet *The Promise of World Peace* Please visit our Web site at [www.usbahai.org](http://www.usbahai.org) or call us toll free at 1-800-22-UNITE

# Pilgrims and patriots

Local minorities ride Sept. 11 aftershocks

By Jennifer Collins  
THE WESTERN FRONT

At first you see Uncle Sam: The familiar expression; the white hair; the top hat; the stars and the red and white stripes.

Then you see his finger — his middle finger. It is raised and it is directed at you.

Then you see the words: "To those responsible: We are coming for you."

And you catch a reflection of yourself in a parked car window near your apartment. You notice your black hair and pronounced nose. You look at yourself as the world sees you — an Arab and a Muslim. And you sink into your house.

In the days after Sept. 11, many people with Arab appearances throughout the United States found messages like these in their mail or tacked to their doors.

Bellingham was no different. Soon after the buildings fell, Hussam Abdo, 26, came home to find Uncle Sam flipping him off.

News reports of hate crimes flashed through his head, and at first he was nervous that "they" would come after him.

But Abdo didn't sink back into his house. He wasn't paralyzed by his fear. He called the Bellingham police, who called the FBI. He told his friends at Whatcom Community College where he studies business. He spoke on KUGS, and at a Kappa Hall forum.

"At first, I was very angry at that person," Abdo said. "Then I thought, I would rather that person come and ask me 'why' and I can invite him for coffee. And we can talk."

Abdo's desire to share his perspective with non-Muslims gave him the courage to tell his story to friends and college media. Abdo immigrated to America eight years ago as a Palestinian refugee when he was 18, and last year he took his oath of citizenship.

He is part of a small group of Muslims in Bellingham who found themselves spokespeople for the seven million Muslims in this country after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Initially, people like Abdo and Nadeem Israr, president of the Islamic Society of Bellingham, were invited to speak about their religion and experiences in hopes of alleviating community tensions.

Bellingham Police Lt. Dac Jamison said, while the note on Abdo's door was probably disconcerting, it was not serious enough to be considered a hate crime.

"We didn't find any prints on the thing," Jamison said.

Jamison said Bellingham residents didn't report "any valid" hate crimes.

## A family flees

But instead of relief, many Muslims still face continued discrimination at work places, in school and at international borders, Israr said.

"When you live in a small society like Bellingham, people see what you do," Israr said. "Now people scrutinize more."

People scrutinize the business trips he takes to British Columbia, the organizations in which he's involved, and the size of the American flags outside his Bellingham business, Copy Source. Israr said he feels as if people are always suspicious of him.

And for one Muslim family, the scrutiny became too intense, Israr said. The father, who wished to remain anonymous, couldn't bear sending his children to a school where they faced discrimination.

When he also had trouble finding a job, he told Israr he would be moving back to Saudi Arabia.

Israr said he spoke with the father often, but failed to persuade him to stay.

"He had little kids and he did not want to take chances," he said.

So the family members departed the United States, leaving Abdo, another friend, something to remember them by.

"That furniture in my house, it's his," Abdo said, speaking of the father in the family.

Because they couldn't transport it to Saudi Arabia, the family gave Abdo his living room furniture — a symbol of the costs of prejudice.

## A bewildering border

Israr said the discrimination is worst when he crosses the Canadian-American border on business.

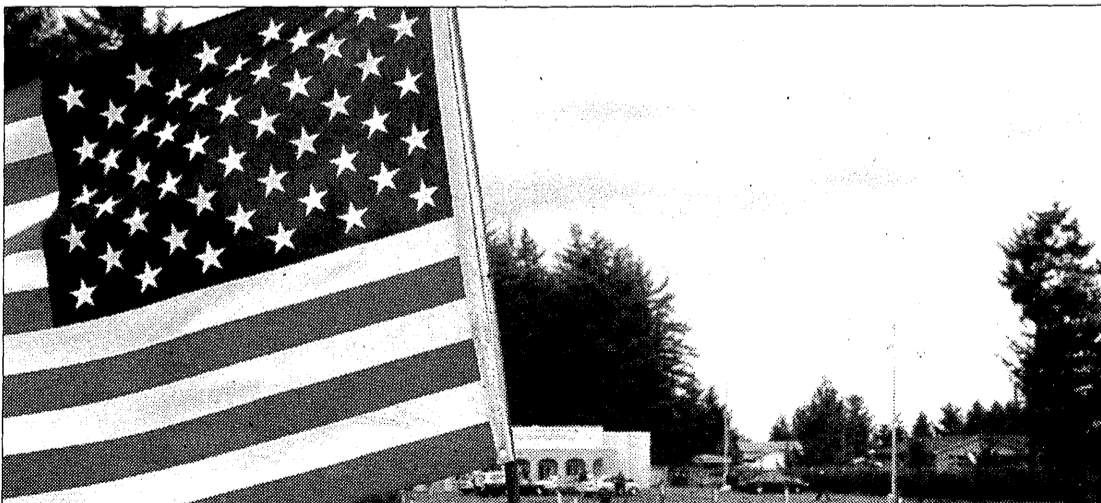
When he approaches the border, typically the cars ahead of him get through border check stations in 30 seconds.

But when he approaches, border guards ask him several questions including, "When was the last time you went to Pakistan?"

Israr is an American citizen who left Pakistan in 1982. He's lived in Bellingham for 12 years and has owned his business for 12 years as well, but border guards still treat him as a foreigner, he said.

"Now if your name is Muslim..." he said. "Racial profiling — it's not a joke."

Before Sept. 11, Abdo visited his brother in Canada four or five times per week. He even had an express pass that allowed commuters to cross the border without inspection.



Photos by Jennifer Collins/The Western Front  
U.S. flag flaps in the wind outside Lynden's Nanak Gursikh Gurudwara Sikh temple.

# Find Family

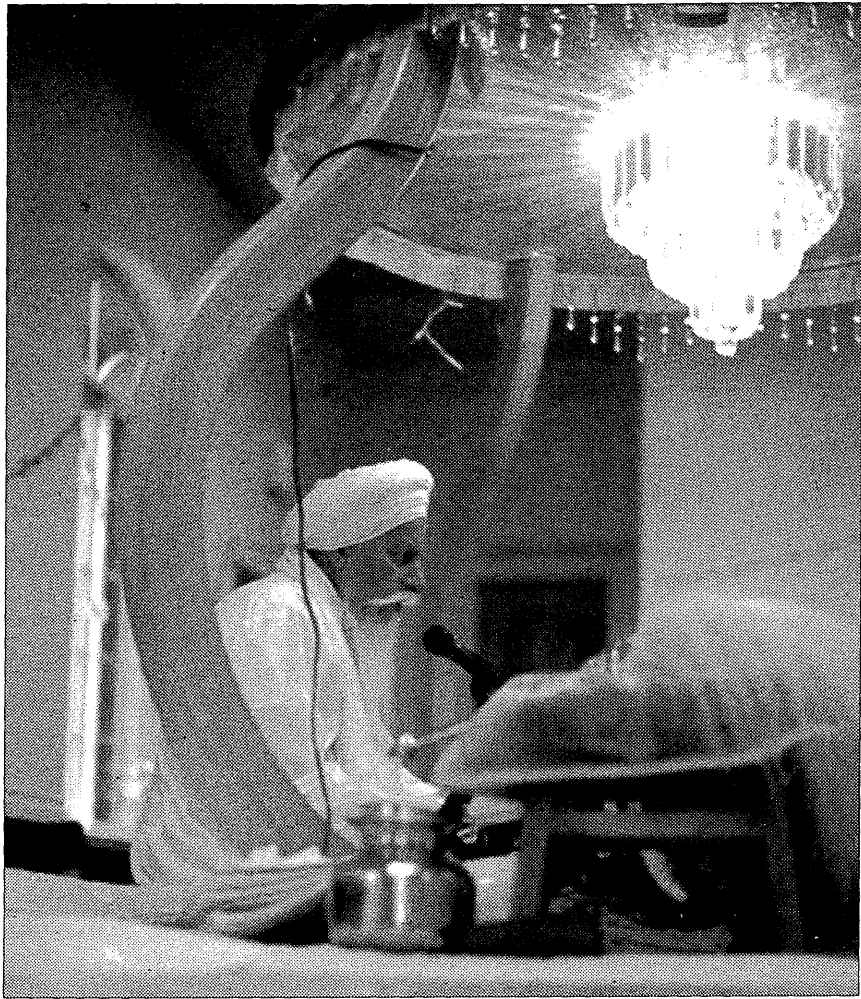
Just out of curiosity, what is a family these days? Come to First Baptist Church and find out!

**Sunday Morning**  
College LifeGroup @9:00 a.m.  
Worship @10:30 a.m.

**Sunday Evening**  
Hannah's Creek contemporary worship @6:00 p.m.

**FIRST**  
  
**BAPTIST CHURCH**

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**Baba Nahar Singh reads from scripture at the Sikh temple meeting Sunday. Singh is helping to organize the construction of a Blaine park dedicated to Sikh culture.**

After the terrorist attacks, the border guards took away everyone's express pass. Now he only visits a few times a month because it's just too difficult to get across because of his Arab features, he said.

Abdo said he feels frustrated defending himself against people who see him as a terrorist.

"We're all being banished," he pleaded. "When Timothy McVeigh (committed) terrorism on Oklahoma City, no one was afraid of Christian terrorists. It's not fair at all."

In response to the speculation, Israr chose to fly flags outside and inside his business, but he said he resents feeling as though he must do so.

"I shouldn't have to prove to my fellow Americans how good an American I am," he said. "My actions should prove that."

**Speaking out**

But Abdo and Israr are in the minority. Bellingham activist and folksinger Erin Corday said most Muslims don't speak out about discrimination.

"Most of the people I spoke to totally downplayed it," Corday said.

Soon after Sept. 11, Corday and fellow activists formed a group called Side by Side to facilitate links between Muslim families, other minorities and what she calls "mainstream white groups."

"I believe in helping minorities advocate for themselves rather than advocate for them," she said.

At first, nationally reported hate crimes caused many Muslims to stay home from school or work, she said. Later, some local Muslims received threatening notes and some were physically harassed.

"There was one Muslim woman who was poked by a

*"Guide us to the Straight Way. The Way of those on whom you have bestowed Your Grace, not (the way) of those who earned your Anger, nor of those who went away."*

*— A reading from the Quran*

male coworker," Corday said. "In some Muslim countries, that is akin to sexual assault."

But most harassment was not reported because Muslims and other targeted groups did not want to be perceived as "whiners," Corday said.

When young people threw stones at a sign outside the Guru Nanak Gursikh Gurudwara Sikh Temple in Lynden, temple spokesman Satpal Sidhu said they decided to take action.

Sidhu and the temple executive committee president, Moe Sangha, told their story to the Bellingham Herald the following day.

"We wanted people to know that it was misfounded that Sikhs look like Osama bin Laden," he said. "We wanted people to know we are American like everyone else. So we put an American flag on top of our sign."

Sangha and Sidhu explained the Sikh religion isn't Islam; the only commonality is a turban, he said. They also invited community members to a candlelight gathering at the temple on Sept. 16, and many people attended, he said.



**Satpal Sidhu**

But not everyone heard the message. The weekend after Sept. 11, a Sikh woman was cooking dinner at home with her daughter, while her husband was away. Four young white males crept into her backyard, and one rushed toward her open back door, Sidhu said.

Quickly, the woman latched her backdoor and called 9-1-1, but the intruders escaped, Sidhu said.

After the incident, he said many people were worried about being harassed. At the weekly gathering, Sidhu said the granthi ji, the Sikh spiritual leader, advised fearful people not to go out unless they had to. And he advised people to tell their supervisors immediately if they were harassed.

Sidhu, 52, has lived in the United States for 14 years and in Canada for 10 years after he emigrated from India. He doesn't wear a turban. He also said he, personally, has never been harassed.

In the months since Sept. 11, Sidhu said much of the harassment has subsided. When it occurs, he attributes it to a lack of communication on both sides.

"People from India can't speak English very well," he said. "Some of the people that are (harassing them) just don't care. You can't reform everyone."

**Reform: one by one**

Israr said he hopes the media will begin advocating "common sense," which to him means recognizing that very few of the 1.2 billion Muslims worldwide are terrorists.

"But sometimes the common sense is the sense that is least common," he said.

Bilal Hashmi, a sociology professor at Western, echoed this frustration.

"One of the first misconceptions is that Muslims are terrorists," he said. "What's going on over there in Northern Ireland? What's going on with Timothy McVeigh? Nobody called him a Christian terrorist."

Hashmi will try to dispel some of the myths in the media about Muslims when he teaches classes in the spring about Islam. The meaning of the Arabic word "jihad" is one of those myths. The media, he said, has defined jihad as a war against the West. But jihad actually means "a struggle to make one's self be more altruistic," he said.

**Sharing tea**

On a micro level, Abdo has tried to teach his friends about his Palestinian her-

itage and Muslim religion.

He doesn't consider himself fanatical, but when people ask him about Islam he points them to a bright yellow Islam fact sheet tacked to a bulletin board in his apartment.

He welcomes his friends to his home to study and eat Arab meals, which he follows with Arab tea, a rich blend of herbs that he mixes with spoonfuls of sugar.

Although he has been persecuted, Abdo said he would never give up his U.S. citizenship. Living in Palestine outside Jerusalem, he said he wouldn't have the chance to go to college and make a decent living. He considers his family "middle class," but his father only makes \$300 per month.

When Abdo was able to come to America as a Palestinian refugee, he said he rejoiced at the opportunity to live in a country where he could get an education.

"This is the only country where you can learn how to be independent — learn how to be a man," he said.

His Israeli travel document reads "XXX" in the space next to his nationality.

"I call myself Mr. X," he said.

Abdo lives in America because he finally has a country. And as an American he defends his right to freedom of religion and freedom of speech. Despite a threatening note with an antagonistic Uncle Sam, he has not been silenced.

He continues to speak out about Islam and, to this day, no one has come for him.



**(Above) Muslim Hussam Abdo, 26, brews Arabic tea in his Bellingham apartment. Shortly after Sept. 11, he found a note on his door threatening, "To those responsible, we are coming for you."**

**(Below) Abdo displays his American passport and Israeli travel document, which he now keeps only as a souvenir. When he was 18, Abdo immigrated to America from Palestine. Last year, he earned his U.S. citizenship.**



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# Carrying on the tradition

## The Inn attracts students to worship at lively services

Amber M. Bomar  
THE WESTERN FRONT

In a Presbyterian church off North Garden Street, an average of 600 students gathered to worship God and mingle with each other. A light-hearted spirit entered the room as students began to sing, dance and clap. Some raised hands and others gently bowed in quiet, humble adoration.

The Inn, a college church service affiliated with the Associated Students, has been around for 28 years and is still going strong. It began when a group of college students decided they wanted to start a bible study.

"It started with a group of students, and the leader's name was Tom Cooper," said Jim Schmotzer, executive director of The Inn. "It was a loose bible study gathering, and then it started becoming more than just a bible study, with worship involved and more people coming, and they connected with the Presbyterian church and asked them to oversee it."

Schmotzer said The Inn is not necessarily a church, but more of a place for students to come and just enjoy having fun in a good setting.

"It's great if they want to come to church, but that's not our goal specifically," he said.

This is what makes the Inn different from other religious groups at Western.

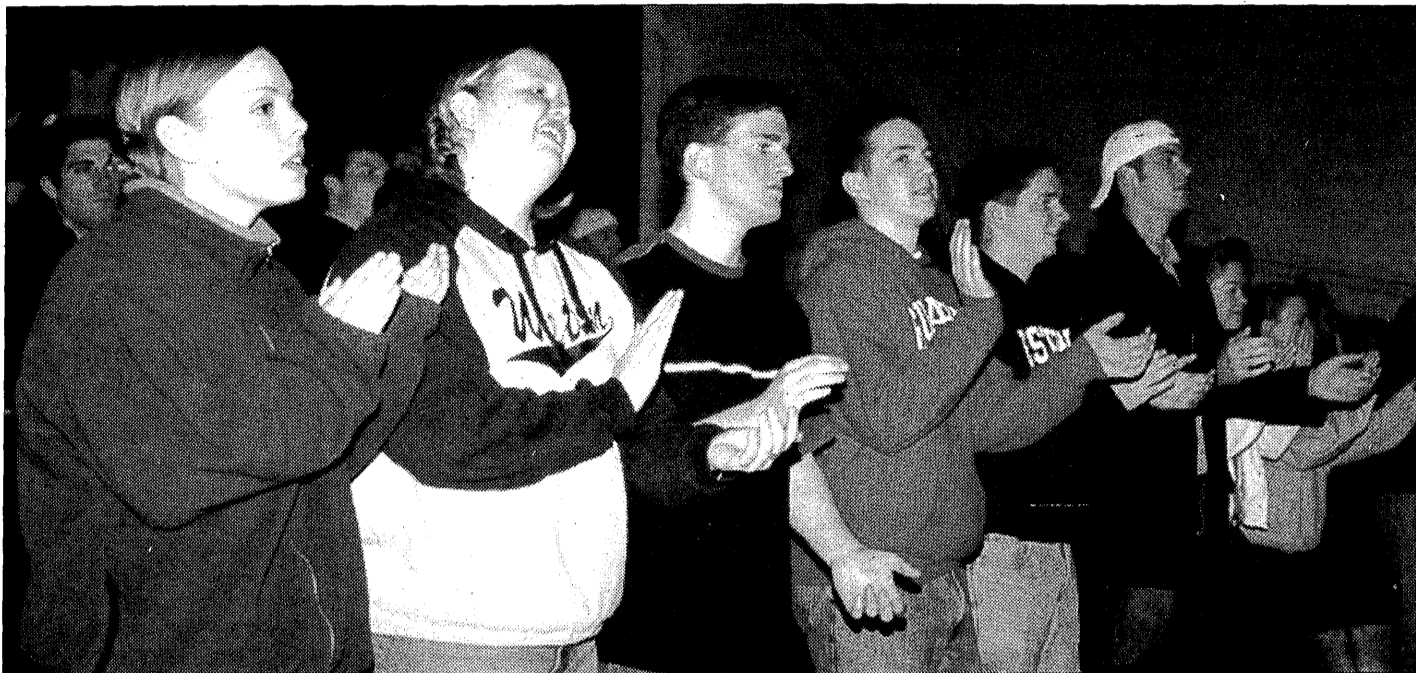
"Our uniqueness is probably most visible as far as culture goes," he said. "We use contemporary culture as a tool and we try to break down religious stereotypes. We don't do 'church', and we try to be as non-religious as possible."

Schmotzer said The Inn tries to encourage students to establish relationships with other students they meet there. He said one way they do this is by having care groups, small groups of nearly 10 people who get together to mingle and read the bible outside of The Inn.

"We want to establish relationships, and use the bible to build those relationships, and care groups are one way we do that," he said.

Schmotzer said one way The Inn has tried to do this is by establishing 'casa groups,' which are co-ed bible study groups, which study the bible and train for leadership, and 'senior bible studies,' groups, which study the bible more intensely than the others.

Other Inn activities include mission trips during spring break, outdoor recreational activities such as snowshoeing,



Students worship with music at The Inn. The service begins and ends with music and hand clapping.

backpacking and rockclimbing, retreats, various social gatherings and a program for student leaders called "The Shop" on Monday nights.

Schmotzer said The Inn was established for college students to build relationships doing these activities, and it is not directed toward high school students.

"Most churches do high school ministry, and The Inn was started by college students for college students," he said. "We don't check I.D., but we function mainly for college students."

Many college students said they enjoy The Inn and they go because they love the atmosphere.

Holly Hallet, a sophomore who has been going to The Inn for three years, said she loves it because it's a place where she can forget about what's on her mind and de-stress.

"It's good to come and forget about tests and stuff and all the worries of life and enjoy fellowship with other people," she said. "The experiences I have every week encourage me to come back."

Hallet said she will not forget at Thanksgiving when students were asked to go up to the front of the church and say what they were thankful for.

"We got up and said what we were thankful for, and six of my friends got up, including me, and we all said we were thankful for our friendships," she said.

"My (favorite) thing about The Inn would be my friendships I have made," Hallet said. "I have an amazing group of friends. I've never felt so loved in my entire life."

Willow Weston, The Inn ministry

coordinator, said her first time to The Inn made her question faith.

"My junior year at Western, I was seeking out the meaning of life, like who am I, why am I here, who's God?" she said. "I came to a concert at The Inn," she said. "I was pretty freaked out, actually. I don't remember anything anyone said standing out to me, but when I saw all the people worshipping God, I started asking myself if there was a God to be worshipped."

Weston said the experiences she has at The Inn continue to amaze her.

"People off the streets walk in here on Friday nights during (Jesus at Midnight), drawn to the music and just break down and give their lives to God," she said.

Weston said these experiences are the reason she loves being a ministry coordinator at The Inn. She said she kept going because the Inn became a community to her. Going to the Inn allowed her to be a part of a community that supports and cares for one another. The people that she has met through the Inn have provided her with fellowship and encouraged her to grow in faith in Jesus Christ.

Western sophomore Aaron Connelly, who started going to The Inn last spring, said he likes the feeling he gets from going to The Inn each week.

"You feel so good when you walk out of here because of the worship and the music," he said. "I think everyone should come to The Inn. It's a good way to get to know people and it's good, innocent fun."

Connelly said he enjoys the activities The Inn sponsors.

Sophomore Amanda Meerdink, who is on the worship team, said she enjoys the activities the most.

"I've been on both spring and fall retreats, worship team, a mission trip

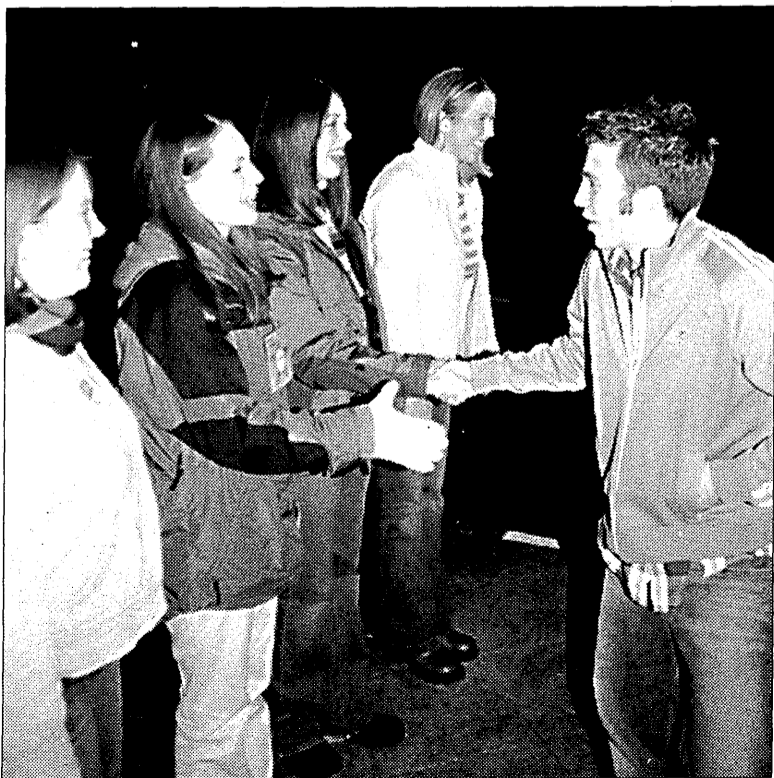
and a service project with Target-Earth," she said. "The mission trip was a blast. It was great to get to know people and a really good use of my spring break, too."

Schmotzer said out of all the things he does, the mission trips stick out the most in his mind.

"I like the mission trips," he said. "It's the one time I'm with a group of students for a week." "I've never been on a bad mission trip. The highlight for me is I walk away knowing 25 to 30 students I wouldn't have known."

"This church has a long history of caring for students," Schmotzer said.

The tradition lives on 9 p.m. Tuesdays.



(Left) Allison Shadle, Natalie Dennis, Abby Ratley and Holly Hallet greet students at The Inn on a cold Tuesday evening. The Inn attracts 600 students to Tuesday night services.



Photos by Candace M. Nelson/ The Western Front  
(Right) Jake Loya welcomes a fellow Inn-goer with a hug outside First Presbyterian Church, home of The Inn.

Deepak Chopra Louise Hay  
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# What the Hillel? Jewish students gain community through AS club

**Suzanne Almoslino**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western freshman Rachel Zommick said one of the reasons she chose to attend Western instead of another school is because of Western's Hillel.

"I always knew there were Jewish organizations for college students," Zommick said. "It's one of the things I looked for when I was picking out colleges."

Hillel is a Jewish club on campus, which focuses on the social aspect of being Jewish. Other campus ministries share the Shalom Center, but Hillel is the only one that does not hold services.

Compared to other Associated Students religious clubs, Hillel is quieter about its activities.

Zommick said when Hillel hosts a non-religious event such as an arts and crafts fair, it will invite other AS clubs, but it would never advertise anything that is religiously oriented.

"We would never go out and ask people to join Hillel," Zommick said. "You don't recruit. It's against the faith."

Hillel co-coordinator Jason Kaltenbacher said the club accepts all students from Jewish backgrounds, no matter how knowledgeable they are about their faith.

"We're not out there to make people more Jewishly observant," Kaltenbacher said. "We are there to help students feel they are a part of a group or a small community."

Hillel meetings are varied, Kaltenbacher said. Once per month, a local rabbi from Congregation Beth Israel comes to the Hillel meetings to lead a discussion about Judaism.

Kaltenbacher said the rabbi often picks topics that will apply to everyone, no matter how religious they are, so no one feels left out.

"He might talk about the Jewish afterlife, Jewish spirituality or mysticism," Kaltenbacher said. "The point is to make sure no one feels left out," he said.

**“**  
*It can be hard to be Jewish at a university like Western because there isn't a large Jewish presence on campus.*

**Jason Kaltenbacher**  
Hillel co-coordinator

Other weeks, members might watch a Mel Brooks movie, organize a kosher cooking class, make Challa (Jewish bread) or go to Stuart's Coffee House for jazz night.

"We want to help Jews find each other," Kaltenbacher said. "It can be hard to be Jewish at a university like Western because there isn't a large Jewish presence on campus."

Kaltenbacher said one way the Hillel can accommodate students from an Orthodox background is by serving only vegetarian dishes. That way, the students who choose to eat kosher will be able to eat whatever is served because they don't have to worry about eating unclean foods or mixing meat and milk.

Andrea Cohen, co-coordinator of the Hillel, said Jews often feel like a minority. She said the Hillel meetings are a nice, relaxing time when members don't have to worry about defending their beliefs.

"We've had a lot more Jewish-oriented programming this year," Cohen said. "Previously it was more of a social club."

Kaltenbacher said the Tuesday night meetings still tend to be social activities with a Jewish theme. Religious activities often take place on Shabbat, which is the Sabbath that begins Friday nights at sunset.

"We might have a Hafdala on Saturday night," Kaltenbacher said. A Hafdala is a short service, which marks the end of Shabbat.

For the more important services, Hillel members often arrange to attend services together.

Cohen said the High Holy Days that come in September are the most significant of the Jewish holidays. The High Holy Days consist of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, which are the Jewish New Year and Day of Atonement, respectively.

During the High Holy Days, nearly 22 people from the Hillel went to services at Congregation Beth Israel in Bellingham, even though school had not yet started.

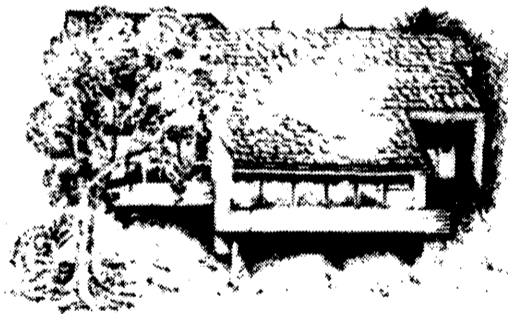
"Even if you don't go to services at all, you go to that one," Cohen said.

Cohen said she is looking into starting Shabbat services at the Hillel in the future.

"We want to have services here so people wouldn't have to commit to an hour and a half service," Cohen said. "They could come (to services) and then have dinner and hang out with their friends."

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Daily Mass  
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### Lutheran Campus Ministry

Worship On Wednesday  
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Bible Study & God Talk  
7:00 pm Monday

### ☆ Hillel of WWU

Tuesday Coffee House  
Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

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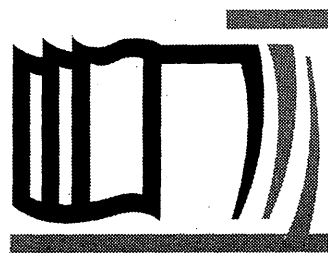
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