

## New trends in Western enrollment

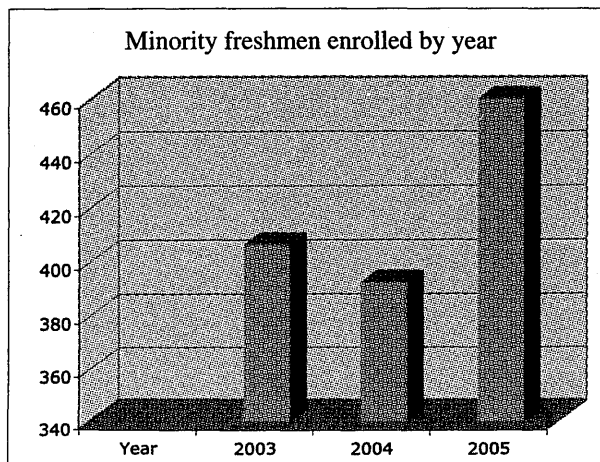
### Record number of new minority students enroll

By MARY ANDOM  
The Western Front

This year's freshman class boasts a record-high number of minority students. Out of 2,375 students, 460, or approximately 19 percent, are students of color, which was a 3 percent jump from 2004.

Although Western cannot use race as a basis for admission because the state of Washington outlawed affirmative action in 1998, the university has

see **MINORITY**, page 6



INFOGRAPHIC BY PETER JENSEN  
Record number of minority students enrolled fall 2005.

### Western now most exclusive public university in Washington

By DAN GROHL  
The Western Front

For the first time in Western's history, the university is the most-selective state school in Washington.

Western received the most applications for admission for fall quarter this year in its history. As a result, Western's Office of Admissions was more selective when it

picked this year's freshman class. Western accepted 66.8 percent of the 8,644 applicants.

The University of Washington is the second-most-exclusive school in the state this year. It accepted 67 percent of its applicants for fall 2005, University of Washington admissions counselor Matt Bishop said.

see **FRESHMEN**, page 6

## County holds first vote-by-mail primary

By JACOB BUCKENMEYER  
The Western Front

Voting day for Whatcom County's first vote-by-mail primary took place Sept. 20. No voters went to the polls. Instead voters had to mail their ballots by Tuesday to count in the election.

Approximately 24,500 voters mailed in their ballots for the primary election, which included races for membership on the Whatcom County Council, the Bellingham City Council and the Bellingham Port Commission, election supervisor Pete Griffin said.

In an unofficial tally, incumbent County Councilwoman Laurie Caskey-Schreiber will face newcomer Craig Mayberry in the general election for the County Council District 2 seat.

In the race for a seat on the Bellingham port commission, incumbent Scott Walker will face challenger Tip Johnson.

The Whatcom County Auditor's Office will finalize the results of the primary Sept. 30. The general election will take place Nov. 8.

The new process of voting is less complicated and less costly than poll voting, Griffin said.

County councilwoman Barbara Brenner, the Democratic representative at the election, said she is cautious about embracing the new method.

"I'm not too thrilled about the decision," she said. "We did it because of the cost. That was the main reason — really the only reason."

The vote-by-mail method seems too impersonal, and Brenner said that in the past she looked forward to making the trip to the polls and seeing people she knew.

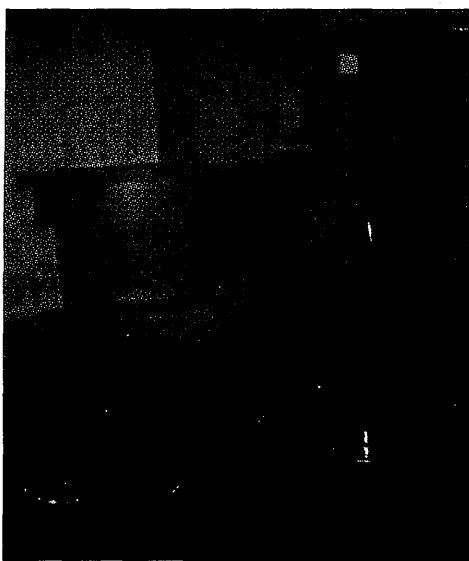
see **PRIMARY**, page 6

## ARNTZEN ATRIUM EXPANDS



LAUREN ALLAIN / THE WESTERN FRONT

With the addition of a smoothie bar and other health-food vendors, the remodeled Atrium encourages students to eat healthy.



TAYLOR WILLIAMS / THE WESTERN FRONT  
The Atrium includes more than 100 seats.

## Atrium reopens next week, adjusts for campus growth

By SHANNON DEVENY  
The Western Front

Pasta, pizza, frozen yogurt and coffee are just a few of the food items that will be available to Western students when the redesigned eatery, The Atrium, opens in Arntzen Hall tentatively on Oct. 10.

Formerly known as the Arntzen Atrium, The Atrium has doubled in size to approximately 4,000 square feet, construction administration manager Robert Schmidt said.

The extra space allows for a large seat-

ing area, something the original Arntzen Atrium lacked. An addition of 100 seats will be in the new Atrium, resident district manager Susan Vogelsson said.

"It doesn't feel like a cafeteria," director of business development Lisa North said. "We put in features and chose colors to make it somewhere students enjoy coming."

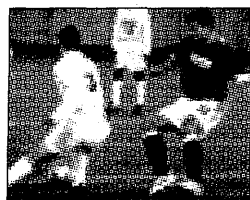
The university chose Arntzen for renovation for several reasons. First, it was an already-existing food location and food

see **ATRIUM**, page 4

### MIXED EMOTIONS

Students deal with the stress of moving away from home and living at college

FEATURES, PAGE 8



### SOCCER STUMBLES

Western loses to Seattle University at home for its third loss in a row

SPORTS, PAGE 10

### STUNTED SYSTEM

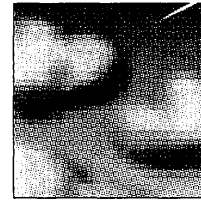
GURs at Western are several things, including expensive and dull — but practical they are not.

OPINIONS, PAGE 13

### WEATHER

Wednesday: Cloudy  
Hi: 66 Low: 50

Thursday: Cloudy  
Hi: 62 Low: 53



## COPS BOX

### University Police

**Sept. 24, 11:34 p.m.:** UP responded to a report of a large group of people with beer and a hookah on north campus. Officers responded and the issue was resolved.

**Sept. 24, 11:19 p.m.:** UP responded to a report of a group of 60 intoxicated students who were harassing and intimidating resident advisers and other students on north campus. Officers asked them to leave, but they refused.

**Sept. 23, 11:12 p.m.:** UP arrested an 18-year-old woman on suspicion of driving under the influence on the 400 block of Highland Drive.

### Bellingham Police

**Sept. 25, 10:30 p.m.:** Officers responded to a homeless woman who requested assistance with finding a place to sleep for the night on the 2800 block of Meridian Street. Officers transported her to a sheltered area and provided her with another blanket.

**Sept. 25, 3:45 a.m.:** Officers responded to a report of a fight between several people who were leaving a party on the 1300 block of 23rd Street.

**Sept. 25, 12:39 a.m.:** Officers responded to a report of reckless burning on the 1100 block of East Myrtle Street.

**Sept. 24, 3:34 p.m.:** Officers watched people stand on the corner of Railroad Avenue and East Champion. Officers did not observe any violations.

**Sept. 24, 2:30 a.m.:** Officers arrested a 21-year-old man on suspicion of urinating in public on the 2100 block of North Forest Street.

Compiled by Megan Muldary

# Viking Voices

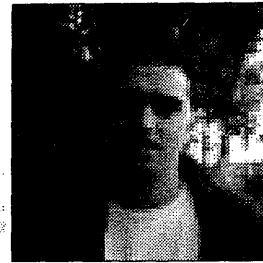
What is your favorite thing about the fall season?

Compiled by Kristen DuBois



**Mandy Kraft**  
Junior, creative writing

Drinking something warm and wearing sweaters while walking around in the cool air.



**Tony Smith**  
Sophomore, business management

It's such a mixture of winter weather and spring for me. You can be outside, but as it gets colder there's more to do inside as well.



**Karen Deaton**  
Senior, English literature

My favorite thing is the foliage and leaves changing color.

# AP Wire

## news briefs

### STATE NEWS

#### Man charged beating his daughter to death

A 31-year-old Pierce County man was sentenced to 50 years in prison for beating his 2-year-old daughter to death.

Tyran Smith's girlfriend, Christina Ann Tierce, was sentenced to 18 years. Each blamed the other for the death of the girl, Tyshell Smith.

Tierce pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and testified against Smith, who was convicted of homicide by abuse.

The girl died in July 2004. She suffered a blow to the head after visiting her father at his home south of Spanaway.

At one point, a videotape showed the girl was so dehydrated she could barely hold her head up and begged for water. Tierce then told her that her father would beat her with a belt when he got home.

### Tacoma ferry drill stages disaster

A staged explosion aboard a ferry in Elliott Bay, a mock dirty bomb in Tacoma and other scenarios tested emergency personnel this past weekend.

The exercises were part of the state's \$2 million Marine Terrorism Response plan.

Emergency personnel developed the plan during the past two years to help emergency agencies better work together in a multi-attack terrorist disaster.

Democratic Sen. Maria Cantwell attended Sunday's ferry drill to promote a bill she co-sponsored that seeks \$1 billion to improve communication between state and local agencies and improve Homeland Security.

In May 2003, the Department of Homeland Security oversaw a bioterrorism drill in Seattle that revealed communication problems and confusion among emergency

personnel.

### NATIONAL NEWS

#### Another abortion battle brews in Supreme Court

The Bush administration is asking the court to reinstate a ban on partial-birth abortions.

The appeal is the latest effort in a two-year legal fight about the law.

This summer an appeals court in St. Louis ruled that the law is unconstitutional because it makes no exception for a woman's health.

The government's top Supreme Court lawyer John Clement wrote in the Sept. 23 appeal that the case involves a "significant act of Congress that has been invalidated and permanently enjoined by the lower courts."

An argument about the procedure may set up a showdown the president's new nominee for the chief justice of the court, John Roberts, could decide.

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

#### Hundreds more detainees set free from Iraqi prison

The U.S. government is releasing 1,000 prisoners from Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison.

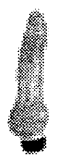
The Iraqi government asked the U.S. military to let detainees go in honor of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Arab governments frequently pardons nonviolent offenders during Ramadan, which begins next week. But this action also seems to be part of an Iraqi government effort to persuade Iraqis to vote in the Oct. 15 referendum on a draft constitution, especially the Sunni minority, which demands the release of thousands of prisoners who have languished in jail for the months without being charged.

Compiled by Kristina Weis  
AP Wire courtesy KUGS 89.3-FM

## The Western Front Online

Get off your Wal-Mart pleasure toy and onto The Western Front online.



[www.westernfrontonline.com](http://www.westernfrontonline.com)

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, CF 251, Bellingham, WA 98225. 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 CF 230, or by phone to (360) 650-3161.

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

### WWU Official Announcements - PLEASE POST

Deadline for announcements in this space is noon Friday for the Tuesday edition and noon Wednesday for the Friday edition, except when otherwise noted. Announcements should be limited to 50 words and be typewritten or legibly printed. Announcements may be sent to [FAST@wwu.edu](mailto:FAST@wwu.edu) in the subject line include a one-word topic and clearly note that the item is for Official Announcements. Items also may be sent to "Official Announcements," MS-9117, faxed to X/4343, or brought to Commissary 111. DO NOT SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS DIRECTLY TO THE WESTERN FRONT. Phoned announcements will not be accepted.

**A RETIREMENT RECEPTION IS PLANNED FOR DENNIS BOHRER** from 2 to 4 p.m. Oct. 7 in Biology 415. Bohrer, biology department scientific instructional technician supervisor, is retiring from the University on Aug. 31. Contributions toward a gift may be sent to Barbara Broughton at MS-9160 or dropped by the biology department office, BI 315.

**A RETIREMENT RECEPTION FOR CONNIE COPELAND** will be held from 3 to 5:30 p.m. Sept. 29 in the VU Multipurpose Room, with a program to begin at 3:15 p.m. Contributions to a gift may be sent to Sharon Brumley at MS-9001, or brought to OM 445. Online memories may be posted in advance at <http://depts.restek.wwu.edu/memorybook>.

**THE MATH PLACEMENT TEST (MPT)** will be held in OM 120 at 3 p.m. Mondays on Sept. 26; Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, Nov. 7, 14, 21 and 28; and at 9 a.m. Thursdays on Sept. 29, Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27, Nov. 3, 10, 17, Dec. 1 and 8. Registration is not required. Students must bring photo identification, their student number, Social Security number, and a No. 2 pencil. A fee of \$15 is payable in the exact amount at test time. Allow 90 minutes.

**THE MATH PLACEMENT TEST SCHEDULE AND SAMPLE TOPICS** may be found at [www.ac.wwu.edu/~assess/tc.htm](http://www.ac.wwu.edu/~assess/tc.htm).

**THE MILLER ANALOGIES TEST (MAT) IS ADMINISTERED BY APPOINTMENT ONLY** as a computer-based test. Make an appointment in person in OM 120 or by calling X/3080. A \$60 fee is payable at test time. The test takes about 1 1/2 hours. Preliminary scores are available immediately. Official results will be mailed within 15 days.

**WEST-B TEST.** Anyone applying for admission to state-approved teacher education programs must meet the minimum passing score on the basic skills assessment by the application deadline. Visit [www.west.nesinc.com](http://www.west.nesinc.com) for registration information and a study guide with sample test questions. Registration deadlines are several weeks in advance. WEST-B test dates for 2005-06 are Nov. 19, Jan. 21, March 11, May 13, and July 15.

**WEST-E PRAXIS.** Washington state requires anyone seeking teacher certification and teachers seeking additional endorsements to pass a subject knowledge assessment in the chosen endorsement area (the Washington Educator Skills Test - Endorsement, or WEST-E). The state has chosen specific Praxis II series tests to meet this requirement. Visit [www.ets.org/praxis/prxwa.html](http://www.ets.org/praxis/prxwa.html) for online registration information. Registration bulletins are also available in MH 216.

**INFORMATION ABOUT NATIONAL TESTING** is available at the Testing Center, Old Main 120.

**WANT TO STUDY ABROAD** in France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Poland, Spain or the United Kingdom? Come by an information table for the study abroad program, Academic Programs International on Sept. 27 from 10 a.m. to 1pm to hear more. Contact International Programs and Exchanges for more information at X/3298, [ipe@wwu.edu](mailto:ipe@wwu.edu), [www.ac.wwu.edu/~ipewwu](http://www.ac.wwu.edu/~ipewwu).

**INTERESTED IN STUDYING ABROAD?** The International Programs and Exchanges office will have an information session on Wednesday, Sept. 28, from 4 to 5 p.m. in SL 130. Come hear about the world of opportunities available. Contact International Programs and Exchanges for more information at X/3298, [ipe@wwu.edu](mailto:ipe@wwu.edu), [www.ac.wwu.edu/~ipewwu](http://www.ac.wwu.edu/~ipewwu).

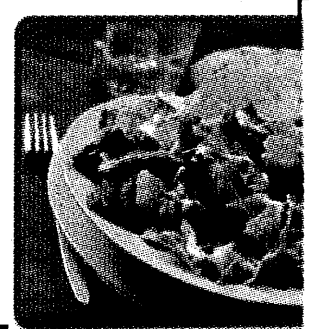
**ESCAPE THE COLD AND DARK OF WINTER QUARTER** by going on the Travel Literature and Writing in Australia Program. Meet at 5 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 28, in CF 224. Participants will arrive in Sydney Jan. 2, explore Western Australia, and return March 25. Sixteen credits. For more information, contact Lyle E. Harris at [LeH98284@yahoo.com](mailto:LeH98284@yahoo.com).

### Employers On-Campus

For updated information including locations see [www.career.wwu.edu](http://www.career.wwu.edu) or stop by OM 280.

Oct. 6: • Larson Gross; Oct. 10: • KPMG, LLP; Oct. 12: • Moss-Adams LLP; Oct. 13: • Clothier & Head; Oct. 14: • Target Stores; Oct. 17: • Accredited Home Lenders • Federated Insurance • PriceWaterhouseCoopers; Oct. 18: • Benchmark Document Solutions; • Clark Number, PS • Oct. 19: • Allegis Group/Aerrotek, Inc. • RSM McGladrey; Oct. 20: • Labinal, Inc. • Grant Thornton; Oct. 21: • Deloitte & Touche, LLP; Oct. 25: • Ernst Young; Oct. 27: • Abercrombie Fitch • Progressive Insurance; • Oct. 31: • SafeCo; Nov. 10: • Holland America; Nov. 14: • Apex Systems, Inc. • Federated Insurance.





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Continental Breakfast (Mon-Fri)	7:15-8:30	7:00-8:30	7:30-8:30
Breakfast (Mon-Fri)	8:30-10:30	8:30-10:30	8:30-10:15
Brunch (Sat-Sun)	10:30-1:00	10:30-1:00	10:30-1:00
Lunch (Mon-Fri)	11:00-1:30	11:00-1:15	11:30-1:15
Light Lunch (Mon-Thur)	1:30-4:45	Closed	Closed
Light Lunch (Fri)	1:30-2:30	Closed	Closed
Dinner (Mon-Thur)	5:15-6:45	5:00-6:30	5:30-6:45
Dinner (Fri-Sun)	5:15-6:30	5:00-6:15	5:30-6:30
Late Night Meal (Mon-Thur)	9:00-10:30	Closed	NEW for 2005: 10:30-Midnight

## Cafes & Markets



### Viking Union Café

We have your Starbucks® coffee and fresh bakery items when you want them. Refreshing fruit smoothies are here, too.

Mon-Thur 7:30a-10p  
Fri 7:30a-6p  
Sat 9a-6p  
Sun 10a-10p



### Viking Union Market

Located on the main level of the Viking Union, this is a great spot for breakfast, lunch or a snack anytime. You will find Cyberwraps, Grill favorites, Pizza, rice bowls, soup, fresh salads, sandwiches, baked goods, and lots of beverages.

Mon-Fri 7:30a-6p  
Sat-Sun 12-5p



### The Atrium

A place for meeting, eating and seating. The choices abound including Freshens nonfat frozen yogurt and smoothies, Earth Grown vegetarian, Pizza Hut Express, Sub Connection and a Starbucks espresso bar. The new seating area provides a comfortable place for over 100. Wireless network also available.

Mon-Thur 7:30a-7:30p  
Fri 7:30a-5p



### Miller Market

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Mon-Thur 7:30a-8p  
Fri 7:30a-5p  
Sat-Sun 11a-5p



### Ridgeway Market

This market offers a variety of drinks, snacks and ice cream. For late night snacks and munchies, the Ridgeway Grille and San Juan Subs are available too.

Sun-Thur 7-11p



### BT Market

How long does it take to walk from Buchanan Towers to the Viking Union? A lot longer than it takes to get to the center of a Tootsie Pop. So the Towers have their very own market. What a deal!

Sun-Thur 5-11p



### The Haven Market

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Fri 8:30a-3:30p  
Sat 2:00p-4:00p  
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### Rock's Edge Café

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Fri 7:30a-7p  
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### The Underground Coffeehouse

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# Hungry?

[www.dining.wvu.edu](http://www.dining.wvu.edu)

# Oyster Run means biker fun



Motorcycles line Commercial Street in downtown Anacortes, Wash. during the Oyster Run Saturday. Anacortes police estimated that 9,000 to 18,000 motorcycles made it to the annual event, which is in its 24th year.



ZACH KYLE / THE WESTERN FRONT  
Motorcycle clubs at the Oyster Run display their colors proudly. Clubs from around the state came for the rally.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DON HILL  
Owners exhibit their fastidious caretaking of their bikes through their elaborate paint jobs and custom designs.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DON HILL

PHOTO COURTESY OF DON HILL

## Atrium: Opening delayed until Whatcom County Board of Health approves new equipment

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

service was needed in this area of campus, North said.

"We had a study done in 1993 that indicated we were lacking enough seats for a campus of our size," director of University Residences Willy Hart said.

The original Arntzen Atrium only had 44 seats and will now have more than 100, which it needs, considering the growth of south campus, Hart said.

The Atrium is still waiting on approval from the Whatcom County Board of Health on some of its new equipment as well as a certificate of occupancy from the contractor. Once these are obtained it will take approximately two weeks to train all the new employees, Vogelsson said.

There will be, however, openings while the employees are training. In these openings one section of The Atrium, such as

Pizza Hut, will open and students will be able to come in, said Fran Laws, The Atrium on-site manager.

The estimated date to complete these tasks and activities is Oct. 10, after which the Atrium can open, Vogelsson said.

The funds for this project did not come from students or state capital funds, but from University Dining Services, Schmidt said.

The creation of The Atrium will help fund business growth on campus and is part of a capital contribution that came as part of a 10-year contract with University Dining Services, Vogelsson said.

The estimated cost to complete the project is approximately \$2.3 million, Hart said.

"The Atrium gives students an alternative to the library and the Viking Union to study or relax," said Mary Artz, Atrium student manager and Western junior.

The larger Atrium will be home to new

foods as well as old favorites. Pizza Hut and Fast Takes, a vendor selling smaller on-the-go food items, will continue to serve students.

The Sub Connection, formerly located in Carver Gym, has moved to The Atrium and will eventually add breakfast sandwiches to its menu. Hot Pots will continue to serve soup and rice, but hot cereals will be available in the morning as well.

The espresso bar has two new espresso machines and a walk-up window outside.

Some new food items include Pasta Plus, which gives students an option of pasta and various sauces. A vegetarian and vegan vendor will join in mid-October, and a frozen yogurt and fresh fruit smoothie station named Freshens will provide frozen treats for students. All these stations are in place to offer fresh, hot and affordable food for students, North said.

Meeting, eating and seating is The Atrium's slogan, and the conversion of two classrooms and a hallway into a lounge is the final factor that will make the slogan a reality, North said.

The whole seating area is carpeted, the curved walls are painted maroon and golden yellow, and three levels of seating are available for students to choose from.

The first level of seating includes tall, circular cafe tables, the second level offers square study or eating tables, and in late October, the third level of lounge furniture will complete the choice of the mix.

Other perks include a wireless-access hub in the seating area, an additional exit door, a new glass storefront, new lighting, a local artist's mural and a handicap-accessible double-door main entrance with a curved canopy to shelter students from bad weather, North said.

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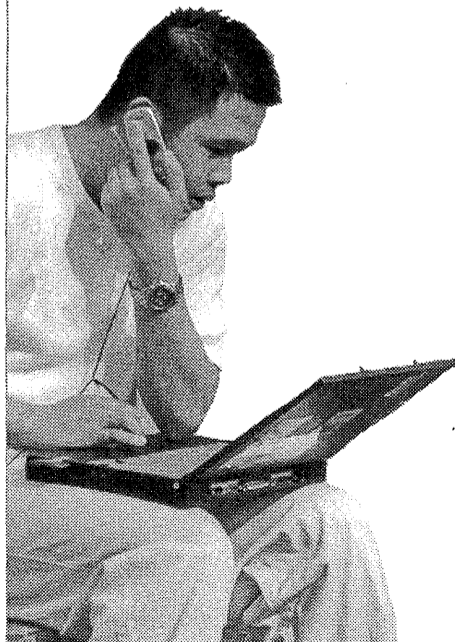
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# City receives grant to improve response to domestic violence

## Grant focuses on two-year improvement for enhanced police training

By MARI KARIYA  
The Western Front

The U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women awarded the city of Bellingham a grant for more than \$300,000 on July 1 for its work against domestic violence and sexual assault.

Commission director Sue Parrot presented information about the grant and its use Sept. 19 during a city council meeting.

The grant, which totals nearly \$305,000, will help Bellingham and Whatcom County — partnered with the Commission Against Domestic-Violence — expand their resources and enhance training of Bellingham police officers who respond to incidents of domestic violence and sexual assault during the next two years.

The grant will train Bellingham police officers to better and more fully respond to domestic violence cases in its first year and expand to other Whatcom County cities during the grant's second year, commission chair Kathy Washatka said.

Officers will gain a better understanding of cases and how to be more sensitive to make the process as easy as possible for victims.

The grant will also fund Domestic Violence Safety and Accountability audits of many parts of Whatcom County's criminal justice systems. These audits work to improve standards for the prosecution of batterers and

to ensure the safety of domestic violence victims during and after incident responses.

"We're lucky in our county that there is awareness and such cooperation to work together to create systems that support victims and children," Washatka said.

The grant stemmed from the commission's work during the past few years to make the local judicial process safer for victims of domestic violence.

Two years ago, the commission audited the Bellingham Police Department, the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office and the 911 emergency dispatch.

Through this audit, the commission gave 66 recommendations for ways these organizations could better serve victims of domestic violence and prosecute perpetrators.

The police department and the sheriff's office were implemented almost all of the advice, Washatka said. One of the audit recommendations was a focus group of domestic-violence survivors, who suggested a new system for the police's domestic violence response, Washatka said. Previously victims had the option of calling a victim advocate themselves.

The police now call a service provider, in this case, Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services of Whatcom County, and an advocate is automatically sent to the scene with police officers, Washatka said.

Domestic violence victim advocates are

volunteers who have trained to provide victims with resources to contact, such as housing or shelter options and support groups. These advocates are often survivors of domestic abuse situations themselves, and help victims with the process of healing from abuse.

During a frightening time such as a domestic violence incident, the focus group survivors said they did not want to have to make a decision about whether to call an advocate themselves.

Washatka said the focus groups provided information on what to improve on, and the second audit and grant will be funding more focus groups, making advocate response even more comprehensive.

Washatka said she hopes the grant will provide funding to eventually have advocates available at all hours, not just during busy times. Currently advocates are only available during business hours.

All of the organizations supported the first safety audit and are eager to implement the recommendations.

Some recommendations, such as reorganizing files, were not put in place because they lacked financial support.

The grant will fund those last few recommendations, which will also expand the audit process to cover more institutions with which victims of domestic violence have to deal.

City councilwoman Barbara Ryan said

### Statistics

- 20 percent of all Whatcom County Jail bookings were for domestic violence cases in 2003.
- Domestic violence felonies in Whatcom County have steadily increased since 2000.
- Probation referrals for domestic violence have also consistently increased since 2000.
- One in every three women throughout the world has been beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused during her lifetime, according to a 2000 John Hopkins School of Public Health survey.

Statistics from March 2005 Commission Against Domestic Violence reports, CASAS Web site

the police domestic violence response training that the grant has already implemented in Bellingham has shown an increase in the rate of prosecution as better trained police officers respond.

"Hopefully we will get a handle on this countywide," she said.

City councilman Gene Knutson said he is well-acquainted with the Bellingham police and their inner workings.

"I'm confident that the money will go where it needs to go, which is to domestic violence victims," Knutson said.

## The Western Front Online

Plastic spinners may lose their popularity, but The Western Front online never will.

[www.westernfrontonline.com](http://www.westernfrontonline.com)

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MARY ANDOM / THE WESTERN FRONT  
Western sophomore Anthony Thach takes part in the Ethnic Student Center kick-off barbecue, which was Saturday at the Pine and Cedar Park and helped freshmen adjust to Western.

## Freshmen: Fall 2005 class one of largest in Western's history

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Of the applicants Western accepted, 41.2 percent enrolled, assistant director of admissions Michael Barr said. Fall quarter 2005 has 13,000 students enrolled, the largest number Western has ever had. Last year, approximately 12,700 students enrolled fall quarter, he said.

"We're seeing the baby-boom echo right now," Barr said. "The children of the baby boomers are at the age when they are applying to colleges."

For fall quarter 2004, Western's Office of Admissions received 7,922 applications and accepted 75.1 percent of them, Barr said. Approximately 41 percent of the accepted applicants enrolled.

For 2005, the admissions office received 700 more applications than last year, Barr said. This was more applications than

the office expected, he said.

"All we can do is speculate; we really don't know why more high school seniors are applying for college," Barr said.

For fall quarter 2004 the University of Washington accepted 67.8 percent of its applicants, Bishop said.

Western does not want an image of being too difficult to get into, Barr said.

"We're in the business of educating people; we don't want to limit students' access to higher education," he said.

Western and the University of Washington admit similar-caliber students.

Western generally admits high school seniors with a grade-point average ranging from 3.42 to 3.83 on a four-point scale, Barr said. Incoming freshmen at the University of Washington had an average high school grade point average range of 3.58 to 3.89.

## Minority: Ethnic Student Center helps students of color transition

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

continued to increase the percentage of enrolled freshmen students of color, assistant director of admissions Michael Barr said.

Sixteen percent of the freshman class of 2004 was minority students.

Although the number of minority students is on the rise, some students feel Western is not diverse enough.

Western junior Dennis Williams, a transfer student from Seattle, said when he walks around campus the lack of diversity is visible. As one of the only minorities in his classes, Williams said he feels marginalized.

"I feel like I am the only one," Williams said.

So far, he is easing his transition to Western by joining the Ethnic Student Center.

"I don't think it is a matter of skin color but where you grew up," Williams said. "There are minorities who have grown up with white people all their lives. For others, coming to Western is a culture shock."

Minority students should not have to carry this burden on their own, Ethnic Student Center coordinator Michael Vendiola said. He said he encourages students to visit the center if they feel out of place and need help transitioning.

"Invisibility continues to be a struggle for students of color in a predominantly white university and a burden for them to defend their cultures," Vendiola said.

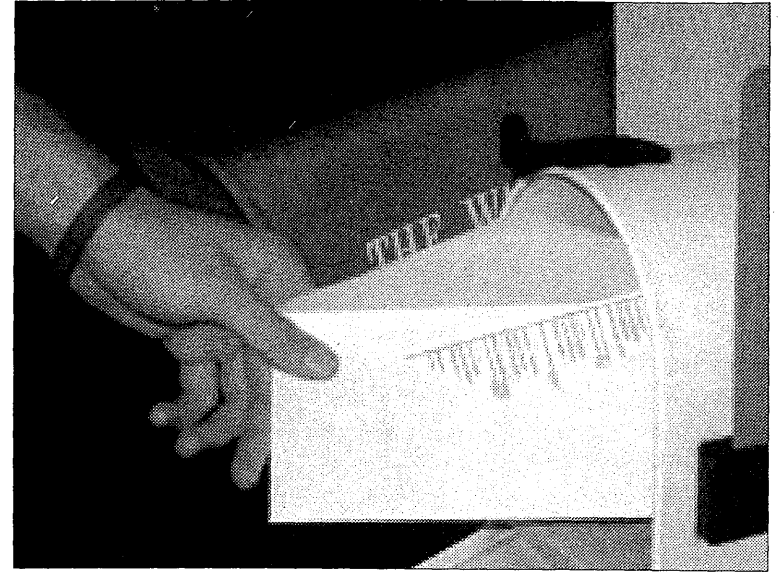
Western senior Stephanie Matthews said that when she came to Western she felt estranged from the black community in Seattle.

She joined the Black Student Union and Sisterhood Alliance, clubs in the Ethnic Student Center, which helped her foster a better sense of belonging and cultural identity.

"It makes me feel like I belong," Matthews said. "I can share my experience with other students, and they can respect it."

She said sometimes students on campus are intimidated to approach her and other minorities because they tend to stick together.

"We have to step out of our comfort zones," Matthews said. "If other (white) students do the same, then we would have unity."



JACOB BUCKENMEYER / THE WESTERN FRONT

The new vote-by-mail primary system, which 30 counties in Washington use, will save Whatcom County nearly \$1.5 million.

## Primary: New system has paper trail of votes to discourage fraud

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Marian Beddill, a representative for Whatcom Democrats, said she was cautious about seeing the social aspect of voting disappear along with the poll booth.

Upgrading Whatcom County's polls to meet standards of the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 would have cost Whatcom County \$1.6 million, Griffin said.

The switch to voting by mail cost only \$500,000, most of which federal grant money allotted through the 2002 act paid for, he said.

Voters received ballots 20 days before voting day, Griffin said. The change in method was also due to a lack of turnout at the polls. The extra cost of providing both poll voting and absentee-ballot voting was not worth it, Griffin said.

"Seventy-five percent of our voters already vote by absentee," he said. "We were basically running two elections."

Beddill was satisfied with the primary's technology but said she

would have liked to see more of the votes double-checked by hand.

Computers now tally the votes and a hand audit of votes will make it more difficult to manipulate the counting of the ballots, Beddill said.

"This election had a hand count, but not as extensive of one as I would have liked," she said. "A hand count of all votes, or at least a substantial sample, must go on forever."

Parties involved in the election can request a hand-counted audit of three precincts. The Auditor's Office conducted the audits for this election Thursday evening, Whatcom County Auditor Shirley Forslof said.

The hand audits matched the machine count, which gave her even more confidence in the method, Forslof said.

Thirty out of 39 counties in Washington now use the vote-by-mail method, Forslof said. She expects more counties to adopt the method by the end of this year.



# FEATURES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2005 • WESTERNFRONTONLINE.COM • PAGE 7

## STRANGE DAYS

### Rubbers named for former president and aide

A condom company in China is marketing prophylactics with the brand names Clinton and Lewinsky to leverage the famous incident that caused the impeachment of America's 42nd president.

The Guangzhou Rubber Group is distributing 100,000 free Clinton and Lewinsky condoms as part of a promotion to increase awareness of the product, as well as AIDS awareness, according to spokesman Liu Wenhua.

"The Clinton condom will be the top of our line," he said. "The Lewinsky condom is not quite as good."

The company decided to use the Clinton name because Chinese view the former president as a responsible person who would want to stress safe sex and prevent the spread of the AIDS virus, Liu said.

Clinton has campaigned vigorously in China to heighten AIDS awareness where the disease is spreading rapidly.

"The names we chose are symbols of people who are responsible and dedicated to their jobs," Liu said.

### Dutch reporter to use pot, heroin on live TV

A field reporter for a new Dutch television show intends to use heroin, marijuana and alcohol on the air during a weekly program targeting youth, producers said.

"Shoot Up and Swallow," the late-night show, premieres Oct. 10 and will show reporter Filemon Wesselink, 26, using the drugs.

Sophie Hilbrand, the show's host, will interview guests about drug use while Wesselink appears in segments taped in the field as he experiments with drugs and liquor.

The Dutch television network BNN, which produces the show, also plans to show Wesselink under the influence of LSD in a future episode.

"It's not our intention to create an outcry," BNN spokeswoman Ingrid Timmer said. "We just want to talk about subjects that are part of young people's lives."

The governing Christian Democrat Party spokesman Pieter Heerma is not sure the show is legal.

"We're going to ask the justice minister for his view on what the law says about this, and his view on the dangers and risks involved," he said.

The Netherlands is known for its lenient marijuana policies, but other drugs, including cocaine, heroin and LSD, are outlawed.

### Hungary drivers will get lemons or apples

Drivers pulled over for breaking vehicle codes in an agricultural area of Hungary will be given more than a ticket; students riding with police will also hand out lemons.

"A penalty coming from a kid for break-

ing rules generates a stronger feeling of guilt among adults than a simple fine," county police spokesman Gergely Fulop said.

Drivers showing good road habits will be rewarded with apples during a month-long campaign in Szabolcs-Szatmar-Bereg county, according to state news agency MTI.

Szabolcs-Szatmar-Bereg is approximately 125 miles from Budapest and is the center of Hungary's fruit industry.

### Teacher faces unemployment over feces cleanup

After telling recalcitrant students to clean up a pile of human dung in the back of her fourth-grade classroom, a substitute teacher has been told not to return to work.

The teacher, whose name has not been released, filled in for a teacher who was on maternity leave at Gammon Elementary School in Wichita, Kan.

After discovering the feces, three students began laughing and were then assigned clean-up punishment.

It was unclear who had defecated or whether it was done purposefully, school district spokeswoman Susan Arensman said.

An investigation was ongoing, and no decision had been made about the substitute teacher's status that might allow her to teach at other Wichita schools, Arensman said.

Cheryl Ward, an emergency medical technician and mother of two children at the school, said the teacher could have put the students' health at risk.

"There can be hepatitis and all sorts of things spread through human feces," Ward said. "It just doesn't make sense to have children cleaning that up."

Despite the uproar, the unnamed teacher was not too upset about administering the punishment.

"She was more upset that news stories about this are making the school and her kiddos look bad," Arensman said. "It's really unfortunate."

### Pilots fake emergency for soccer fans in Gambia

Emergency crews stood by last Tuesday to receive a chartered flight claiming to be running dangerously low on fuel. It was carrying 289 Gambian football fans who were late for an important match.

The flight, scheduled to land in Lima, Peru landed in Piura where the Gambian national team played Qatar in the Under-17 World Championship later in the day.

The fans would have been late to the game if the plane had landed in Lima.

"It was a sham," said Betty Maldonado, a spokeswoman for Peru's aviation authority, CORPAC. "They tricked the control tower, saying they were low on fuel."

The plane, along with its passengers and crew, remained in Piura the day after the match while authorities decided what penalty, if any, to impose on the airline.

Compiled by Dave Wilhite

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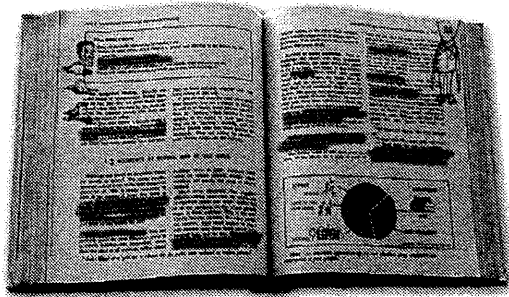
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# Helping students adjust

## Campus centers offer homesickness remedies

BY MEGAN MULDRY  
The Western Front

Moving to college away from friends and family can be a drastic change for students. The move can cause feelings of anxiety, excitement and stress. With these feelings, a student can become homesick.

Students should realize feeling homesick is completely normal, said Dr. Nancy Corbin, director of Western's Counseling Center. Students often feel homesick and happy to be at school at the same time.

Many times, students have known friends from home since kindergarten, and now, by moving to college, they have to become familiar with something new entirely on their own, Corbin said. Some students also come to college with a significant other back at home, which forces them to develop a new type of relationship and trust. Students have to make all of their own decisions, which is exhilarating and complicated at the same time, she said.

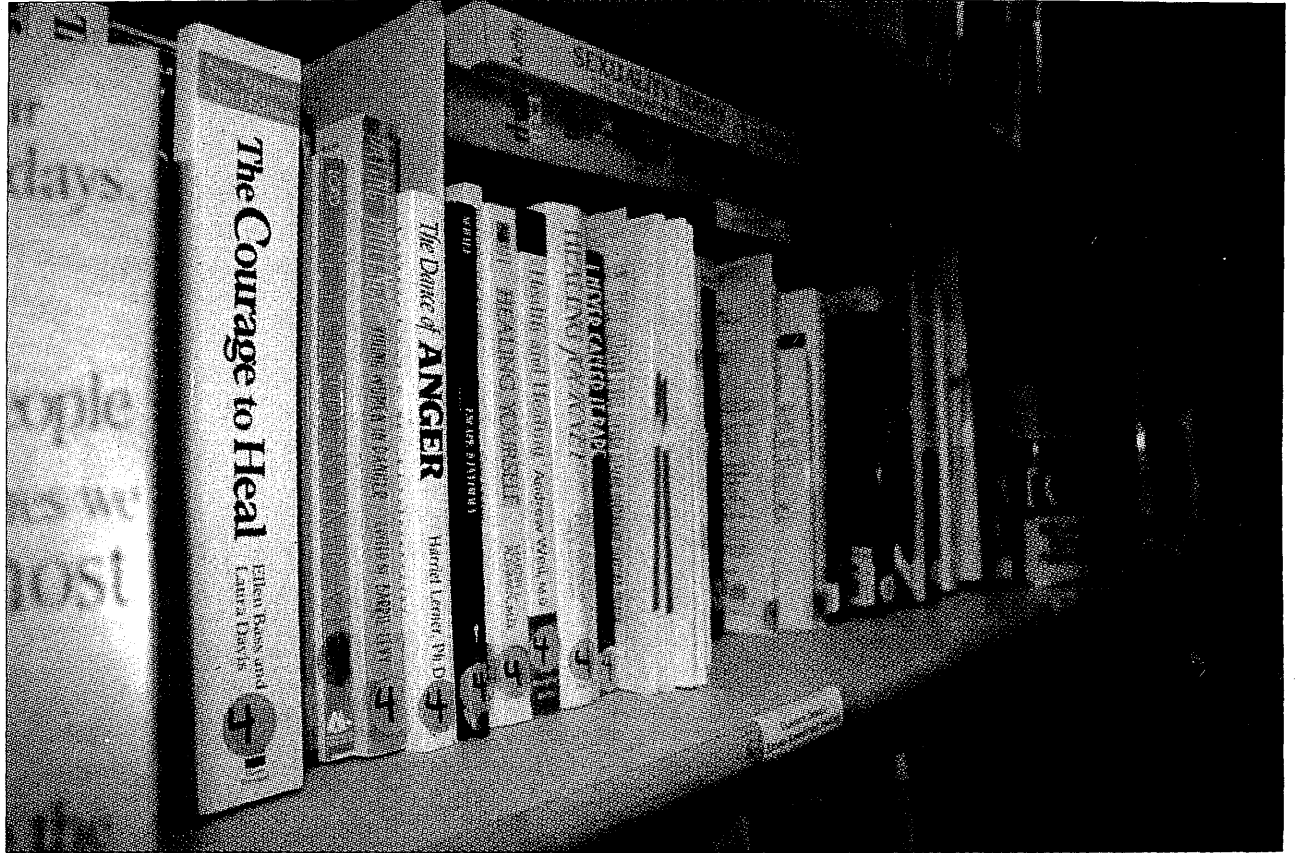
"I remember when I was in college and everyone took really long showers at first because they were looking for a private place to cry," Corbin said. "No one wanted to talk about missing home."

Being homesick can seem minor, but with the added stress and lack of sleep associated with college, the problem can grow, said Anne Hammond-Meyer, a pre-doctoral intern at the Counseling Center. When being sick gets to the point of needing to see a doctor, many students are confused about what to do. They wonder if they are sick enough to go to the doctor. Sometimes students want to be sick because that means being taken care of, which reminds them of when they lived at home.

"When at home, students used to rely on their parents when they were sick," Corbin said. "Now they have to determine if they are sick enough to go to the doctor and how to react to health concerns in general."

If the feeling of being away from the familiar becomes a problem or even a nuisance, many places on campus offer assistance.

The first option for students wanting to talk about missing home is always a new roommate or friend down the hall, Corbin said. Engaging in conversation helps because students can speak with each other about what is missing in their lives without feeling like they have a problem. The



TAYLOR WILLIAMS / THE WESTERN FRONT

The Wellness Outreach Center offers books and brochures to help students cope with homesickness.

Wellness Outreach Center, in Viking Union 432, is a place for students to speak with someone about missing home. Wellness Outreach Center coordinator Amy Riedel said it is a place to gather resources that help students determine where they should go with questions on mental and physical health issues.

The center offers free hot water to make tea or chicken broth for those who come in, Riedel said. The center also provides brochures about homesickness and stress-related issues. The center gives out cold packs to students who feel they have a minor cold and offer condom packs as well.

Seasonal Affective Disorder lamps are available for anyone's use. Designed to improve depression caused by bad weather, students can sit in front of these lamps on gloomy-weather days to absorb natural sunlight rays.

If students have questions a brochure cannot answer, they can look at health-related books in the library at the center.

The Student Health Center has a self-care center available for those who want to know more about taking care of themselves while in college, Riedel said. In addition to cold and condom packs, students can get questions answered about birth control and sexually transmitted diseases. The center offers HIV testing and a quitting program for students who want to stop smoking.

At this point, if a student is still feeling homesick, he or she can turn to the Counseling Center. Corbin said the center is a place where students can speak to someone who is not a roommate they just met and may not trust.

In order to cure homesickness, the best thing for students to do is get involved in school, Corbin said.

The Counseling Center first figures out what kind of homesickness a student has. Differences between missing a dog sleeping on the end of the bed and a grandparent being sick are important to look at, Corbin said. These have different complicated factors to them.

Corbin encourages students to come to the Counseling Center but

said speaking with their resident advisors and resident directors would be beneficial too. Resident advisors and directors are trained and often deal with the issue of being homesick. Resident advisors can come to the Wellness Outreach Center to receive help creating homesickness bulletin boards, which are located in their buildings. RAs can also become the wiser adult, similar to a parent that a student can go to for advice on topics such as classes, colds and homework problems.

Being homesick does not mean a student is broken. The feelings of being homesick get better and go away, Hammond-Meyer said.

"It is a quarter of change," she said. "It creates a time when students will get sicker due to stress and sleep deprivation. It makes the magnitude of being homesick seem bigger than it really is."

Another problem that can be associated with homesickness is being shy, Corbin said. College students who are shy often avoid social situations because they do not know how to engage in small talk or how to introduce themselves to other students. The Counseling Center will help develop these skills with the student so they can be confident when in a situation

where they have to be outgoing.

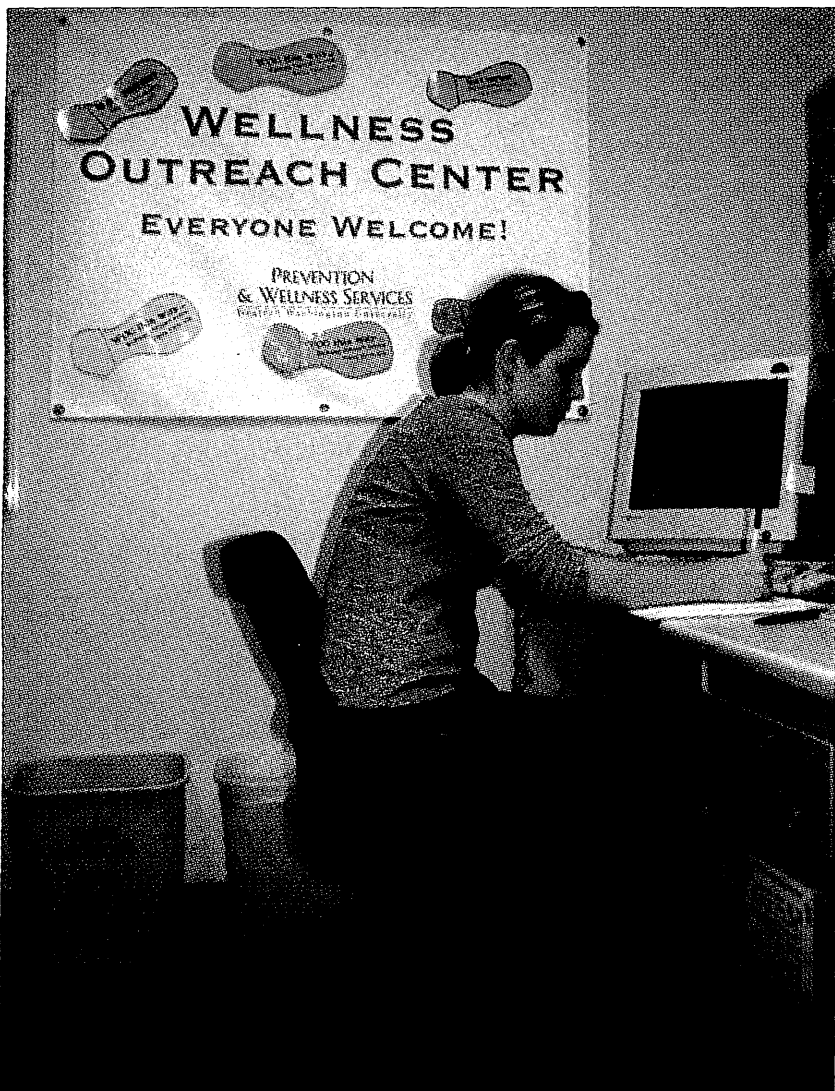
"Going home on the weekends may not help, especially if it keeps you from getting to know people here," Corbin said. "Take that time on the weekends to know Bellingham. Go to the movies, the parks or explore downtown."

Going back to the familiar is easy when a student is homesick, Corbin said. She suggests not going back home for jobs, family and a significant other. Missing a significant other and learning how to trust one who is back home or at a different college can make the transition to college even more difficult. Deciding if the relationship is worth staying in can create even more stress.

"It is not because you are young that you are homesick," Hammond-Meyer said. "It is a process that happens at any age. It's humanity."

*'I remember when I was in college and everyone took really long showers at first because they were looking for a private place to cry.'*

DR. NANCY CORBIN  
Counseling Center  
director



TAYLOR WILLIAMS / THE WESTERN FRONT

Western junior Jenn Johansen works at the Wellness Outreach Center with the Lifestyle Advisor Program.

## Free workshops

The Counseling Center offers workshops for students in Old Main 540.

**Relaxation:** 4 to 5 p.m. Thursdays

**Making peace with food:** 4 to 5 p.m. Tuesdays

**Riding the emotional wave:** 3 to 4:20 p.m. Wednesdays

**Art as self-expression:** 4 to 5 p.m. Mondays

**Women and self-esteem:** 5:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesdays



# Sketching creativity

## Student constructs gag comic strips, cartoons

BY SAMANTHA EVERTS  
The Western Front

Cartooning has always come naturally to Western senior Terrence Nowicki Jr.

In June, the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists honored him with the John Locher Memorial Award for his outstanding talent in cartooning. Through the national organization, he received the award for his editorial cartoons drawn for The Western Front.

According to the association's Web site, it created the award in 1986. The award

was named in honor of the late son of Dick Locher, a Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist and artist for "Dick Tracy," Nowicki said.

"I applied for the John Locher Memorial Award because I thought it could be a good opportunity for exposure," he said.

Kim Ossi, an editor for KRT Campus, a wire service for college newspapers, has a working relationship with the family who runs the annual John Locher editorial cartooning contest, which is how she found out about Nowicki.

"Upon seeing his work, we decided to see whether he would like to or be able to contribute to our wire service," Ossi said. "His editorial cartoons are outstanding and similar in style to most professional editorial cartoonists."

Nowicki, 23, said he has been drawing for as long as he can remember. He has taken numerous drawing classes throughout his life, but as with any skill, he said he always has room for improvement.

"I would like to be much better at imagery," he said.

Nowicki said he would like to do bigger

projects, such as creating his own comic book. He does not believe in, as he said, "cartoons by committee," in which someone in charge breaks the cartoon into parts and assigns it to different people. Nowicki said his dream job would be creator of a comic book that he would write and draw.

Nowicki said his hope for the future is to graduate from Western in June 2006 with a bachelor's degree in new media and find work as a cartoonist.

"I want to work anywhere where I can be doing something creative, ideally as a cartoonist," Nowicki said.

Aside from winning the John Locher Memorial Award, Nowicki also won the Society of Professional Journalism Mark of Excellence Award for editorial cartooning in 2004. While his awards are for editorial cartoons, Nowicki creates gag comic strips and political cartoons as well.

"All political cartoons are editorial, but not all editorial cartoons are political," Nowicki said.

Editorial cartoons are topical and can be about various subjects. Nowicki said a political cartoon either comments on or makes fun of politics. Gag comic strips are simply joke cartoons.

At the moment, Nowicki is drawing editorial cartoons for The Western Front and gag comic strips for the AS Review. He creates his comics for work, to relieve stress, when he is bored, to practice and just for fun, he said.

"You don't just wake up one morning and realize you have this amazing talent; it comes on gradually," Nowicki said. "My family and friends have always been encouraging, and in the past five years or so I've recognized I have the talent to be a professional cartoonist."

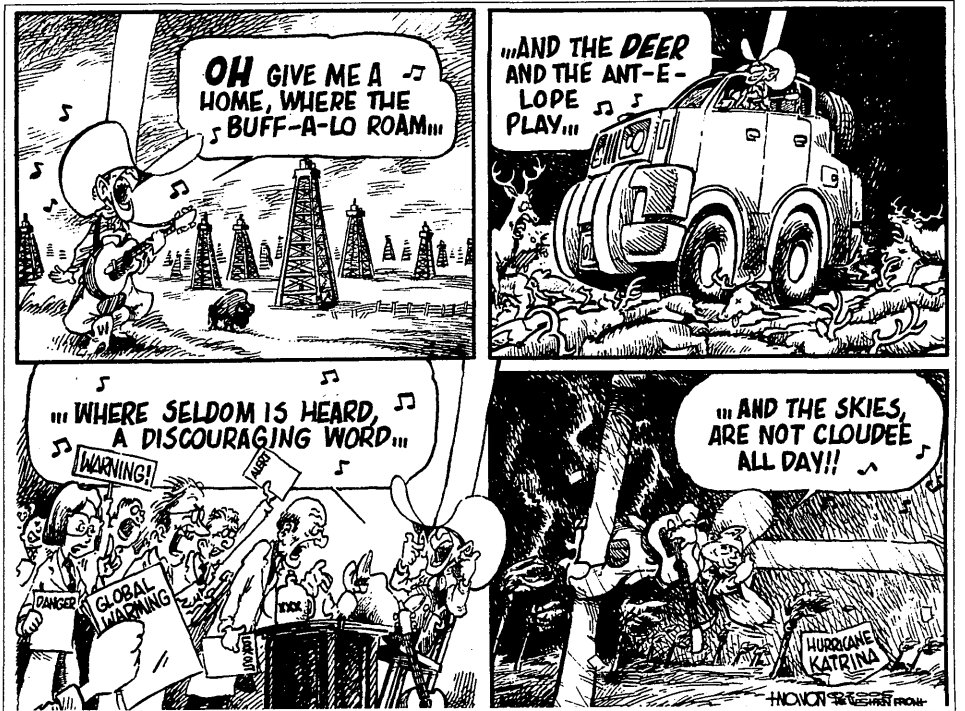
*'You don't just wake up one morning and realize you have this amazing talent; it comes on gradually.'*

TERRENCE NOWICKI JR.  
Western senior



TAYLOR WILLIAMS / THE WESTERN FRONT

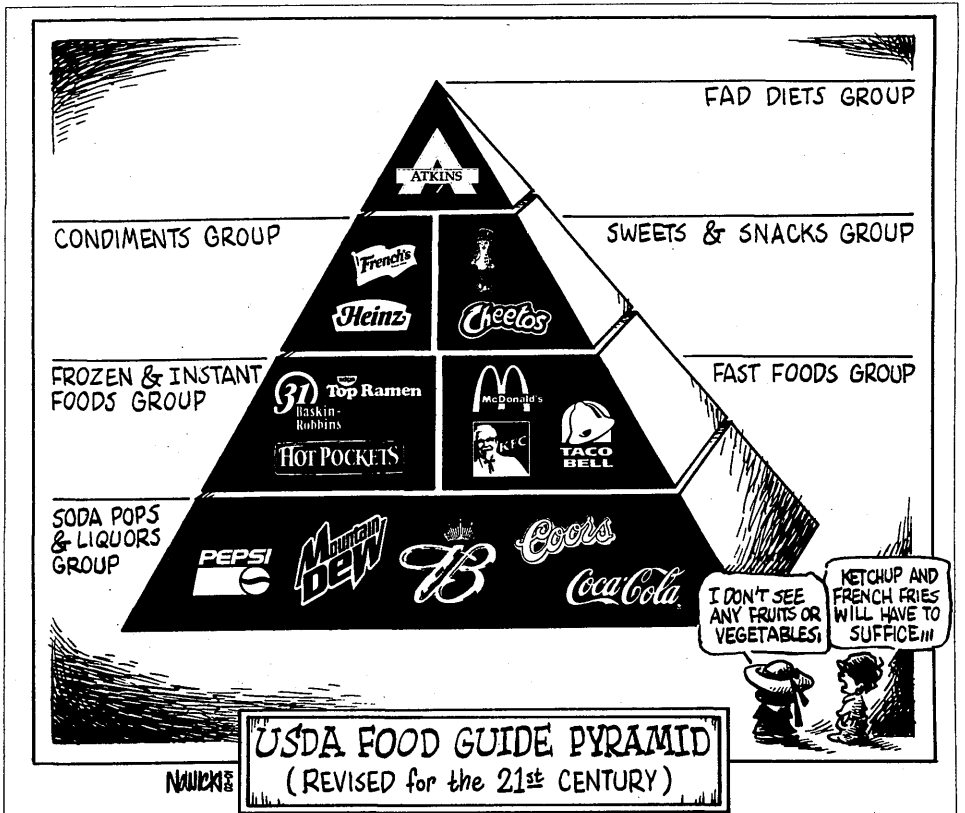
Western senior Terrence Nowicki Jr. received the John Locher Memorial Award for his editorial cartoons.



"Guitarded" drawn by Western senior Terrence Nowicki Jr.



"Tweedle dumb and tweedle dumber," (above) and "The new and improved food pyramid" (right) are two of the four cartoons that helped Terrence Nowicki Jr. to win the John Locher Memorial Award.



## Men's soccer falls to Seattle University

*Western's struggles continue as its record drops to 1-9-1 after losing game to Seattle University*

By DAVID WILHITE  
The Western Front

With Seattle University Redhawks, the current Great Northwest Athletic Conference champion, in town Saturday to take on Western's men's soccer team, the Vikings had their work cut out for them.

Down 2-0 late in the first half, Western freshman reserve midfielder Chris Jepson summed up the difficulties the squad experienced.

"It's going about how I expected," he said. "Every one of them is an all-star."

He paused for a moment as he watched the Vikings push the ball into Redhawks territory. "We'll see," he said.

Seattle University did not let up, however, and with better team speed and ball handling, the team shut out the Vikings 3-0.

"We made some mistakes in the game, and they made us pay for it," Western head coach Travis Connell said after the game. "They are a good team, but we played with better consistency in this game and made some improvements tonight."

At halftime, the Redhawks had out-shot the Vikings

12-4, with six shots on goal, two of which slipped past the goalie, Western senior Ben Dragavon.

Dragavon is the league leader in saves this season with 66.

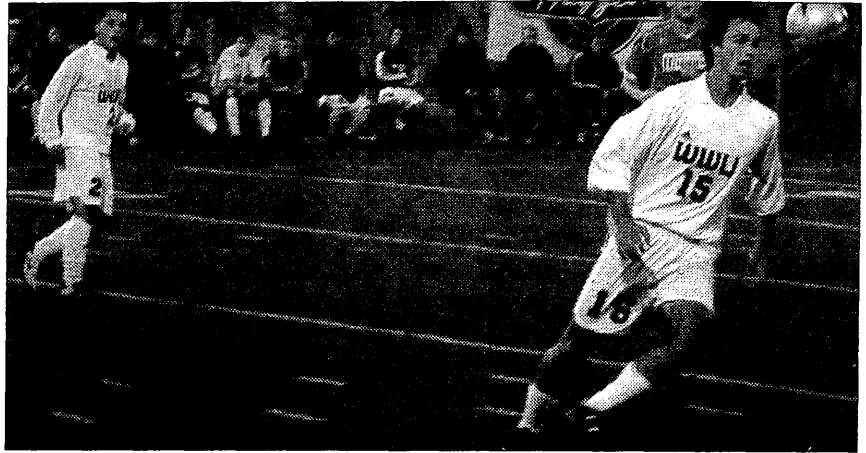
Although Connell said he felt the Vikings came out with renewed energy in the second half, out-shooting Seattle 7-4, Seattle sophomore defender Jason Cascio put the game out of range by scoring a goal in the 67th minute. The goal was the Seattle sophomore's first in college soccer.

"I came close to scoring a couple of times last year, but it feels good to make my first college goal," Cascio said.

Within minutes, the substitutes began rolling in for Seattle.

The Vikings missed a shot in the 69th minute when Western junior forward Jacob Haddock headed wide after a cross from Western senior midfielder Kris Pope.

The shot was the only real scoring opportunity the Vikings had all night.



DAVID WILHITE / THE WESTERN FRONT

**Western junior defender Blake Brown feels the pressure of Seattle University's offense early in the first half of Saturday's game.**

"We were out-played tonight," Western freshman forward Mirza Memic said. "They had a good strategy and were always one step ahead."

After Saturday's game, the Vikings are 1-9-1, 0-2-0 in GNAC. The team will take on Seattle Pacific University at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday at Interbay Stadium in Seattle.

The next home game is at 7 p.m. on Oct. 5 against Pacific Lutheran University at Civic Field and after the team plays Seattle Pacific University Sept. 28 in Seattle.

## Senior goalie finds success through work ethic, determination

By JULIE WAGGONER  
The Western Front

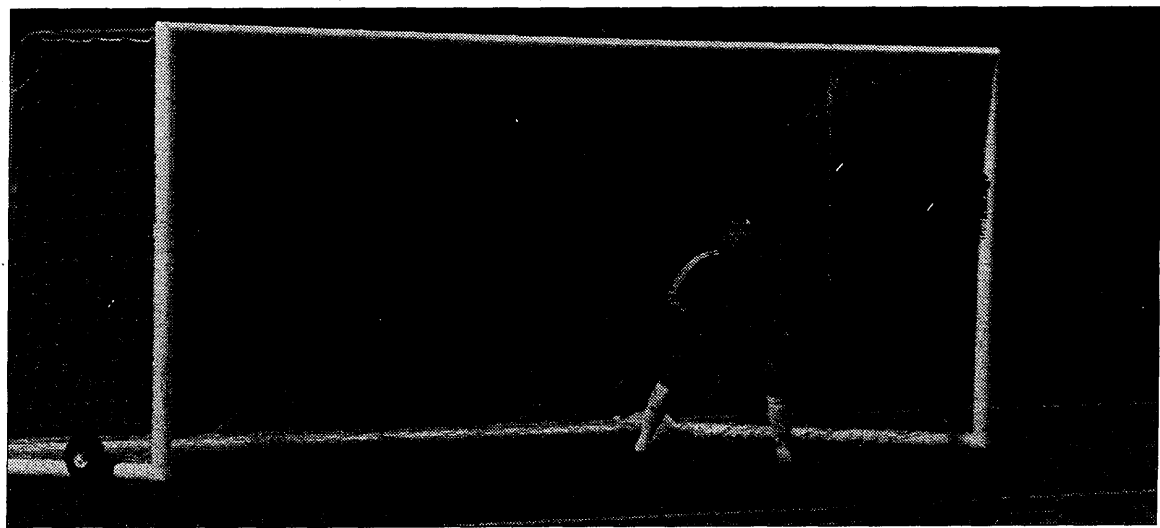
The chubby kid from middle school just might turn out to be Western's top soccer player. This happened to Western senior Ben Dragavon, who has been Western's starting goalie for the past four years.

"He's the best player on our team right now," said Dragavon's teammate and roommate, Western senior Gus Zadra. "The only reason we're in half the games we're in this year is because of him."

While playing at Monroe High School, Dragavon also played for the Cascade Avalanche club team. Zadra and current Western soccer players Kenny Mueller, Kris Pope, Kory Pope and Robbie Curry were on the club team at the same time. In 2001, the Cascade Avalanche and Dragavon's high school team both won the state championship.

Dragavon was overweight and not especially athletic when he tried out for the club team. The first two years he tried out, he did not make it. By working out with a trainer, Dragavon with intense commitment eventually became the team's starting goalkeeper, Zadra said.

"Whatever Ben does, he does it with complete intensity," Zadra said. "Everyone



DAVID WILHITE / THE WESTERN FRONT

**Western senior goalie Ben Dragavon anticipates the action late in the first half of Saturday's game against Seattle University.**

wants to play with Ben because he wins. He refuses to lose. He's so focused, he keeps you focused."

In college, the Great Northwest Athletic Conference named Dragavon Freshman of the Year, first-team all-conference as a freshman and sophomore and second-team all-conference as a junior.

"I'm always confident with him in the goal," said Greg Brisbon, Western associate head coach for men's and women's soccer,

who has been Dragavon's coach throughout his career at Western. "You can rely on him. Every year he's played, he's gotten better."

Dragavon has improved tremendously while playing for Western. He has only missed half of one game during his four years on the team, Zadra said.

Last spring,

however, Dragavon injured his knee by tearing his quad muscle off his patella. He took time off from soccer instead of having surgery to fix the problem and had to go through rehabilitation and strengthening. Although his knee has healed, he said it still aches and occasionally feels weak.

Dragavon said injuries are among the greatest challenges he has had to overcome. He has repeatedly burst the sacks of fluid that cushion his hip joints, which causes swelling the size of a softball.

"Ben never gets injured, and when he does he keeps going," Zadra said.

see **GOALIE**, page 12

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# Western's sailing team calls Lake Whatcom home

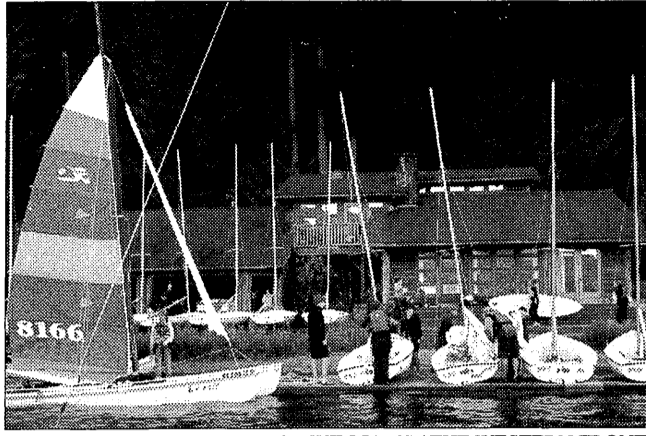
By JACKIE LECUYER  
The Western Front

The wind blows in from the northwest, sounding the wind chimes hanging over the abandoned front desk of the Lakewood boathouse. Sailboats bob up and down on the choppy water of Lake Whatcom, and white sails glow a warm yellow from the sunlight. The time is 3 p.m., and Western students fill the boathouse, nervously awaiting instructions. For some beginning sailors it will be their first time on a sailboat during the Western sailing team's first practice.

Western freshman Christen Irby leans against the boathouse wall, watching the commotion that surrounds her. Instructors and students race around looking for life jackets, water moccasins and missing pieces of sailboat equipment. Irby, originally from Durango, Colo., learned about the sailing club from the Sept. 20 Information Fair in Red Square.

"I have never been on a sailboat in my entire life," Irby said, moving out of the way of three students carrying windsurfing boards. "I'm going to try out, learn and hopefully compete."

The sailing club meets at 4:30 p.m. every Monday and Wednesday and at 2:30 p.m. every Friday. Students are not



TAYLOR WILLIAMS / THE WESTERN FRONT

The Lakewood Boathouse welcomes many students including Western's sailing team.

required to try out for the team unless they wish to compete, and all Western students can join.

Western senior Anna Klasterin said she joined Western's sailing team her sophomore year.

"I had never raced (sailboats) — I just showed up on the first day of practice and they taught me how to sail," Klasterin

said, pausing for a second to help a beginning sailor take a sailboat mast apart. "I love it. It gets you out on the water three times a week and it has a really nice team atmosphere."

Western's sailing team has traveled throughout the Pacific Northwest, California, Hawaii and Louisiana to compete.

The Lakewood boathouse has services for students other than those on Western's sailing team. Students from Western, Whatcom Community College and Northwest Indian College can rent kayaks, canoes, rowboats, paddleboats and windsurfing boards for \$3 per day, and sailboats and catamarans for \$5 per day. Western faculty and alumni can also use the boathouse's services. Students need to bring their college's identification cards so the attendant at the boathouse will know they belong to one of the schools.

The boathouse is open for students' recreational use fall and spring quarters but closes for instructor-training courses during winter quarter.

Equipment for all ability levels clutters the boathouse. Paddles, upturned boats, wetsuits and windsurfing boards are strewn on the floor. Western senior Stefan Schmidt, front desk attendant and sailing instructor, steps expertly around the mess as he gathers equipment for students.

see SAILING, page 12

# Gold gloves will decide baseball's MVP races



By ANDREW IRVINE  
The Western Front

The end of baseball season has already arrived, but the race for the two most valuable player awards in Major League Baseball remains debatable in both leagues.

In the National League, Albert Pujols has done as much, if not more, than anyone expected he could do for the St. Louis

Cardinals, the team with the best overall record in baseball. His opponent, Andruw Jones of the Atlanta Braves, has catapulted his team toward its 15th straight NL East title.

In the American League, David Ortiz has swung a clutch bat all season, anchoring the top offensive team in baseball, the Boston Red Sox, as it looks to repeat as the World Series champions.

Trying to beat Ortiz and the Red Sox is Alex Rodriguez of the New York Yankees. A-Rod has arguably had his best season as a pro and would take home his second MVP award in the last three years.

The two races involve four players, who all deserve to win the prestigious award but in the end, the two players who play gold-glove defense, Jones in centerfield and Rodriguez


at third base, will win the MVP trophies.

Pujols has done enough season to become the first National League player outside of San Francisco to win the MVP award since 1999. He would also be the first Cardinal to win the award in 20 years.

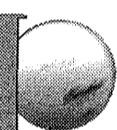
St. Louis has done its part as well, tearing through the schedule this season. As of Sunday, Pujols has batted .335 and is in the top five in most offensive categories, including batting average and home runs.

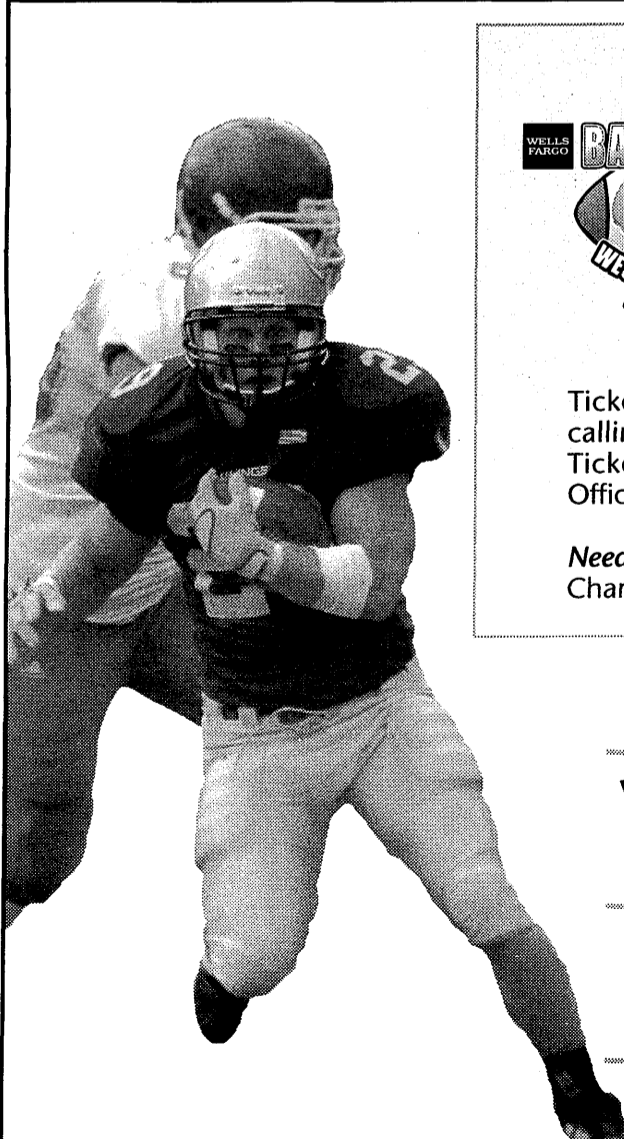
Pujols provides an intimidating bat in a lineup that already is stacked with established all-star-caliber players such as Jim Edmonds and Larry Walker.


see MVP, page 12



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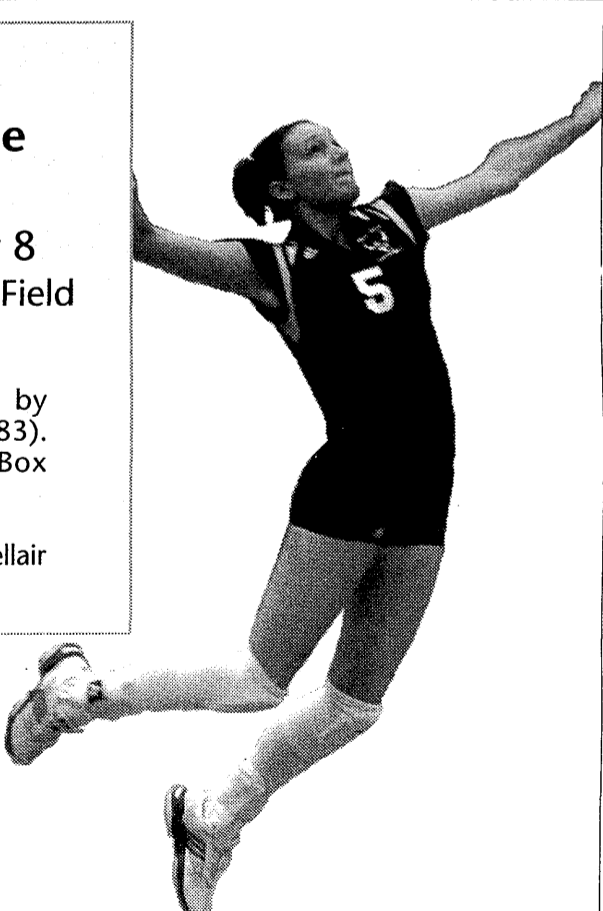
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# Goalie: Senior goalie highlights wins over top-ranked opponents in 2003 as career highlight

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

"He's so intense it's hard for others to keep up. He demands the best of everyone at all times, no matter what circumstances."

Dragavon said he has also had to deal with the extra pressure of playing goalie. As a freshman, he got worked up and jittery before every game, but now he handles the

stress in a much calmer manner, he said.

"Before games I get so nervous I almost don't want to do it, but after games I love it," Dragavon said. "Pressure motivates me to play better. If there's no pressure, there's no fun."

Playing for himself and his teammates and working not to let anyone down is another

driving force that keeps him motivated, Dragavon said.

"Ben's probably the hardest-working guy on the team now," Zadra said. "He was the hardest working at [the] club [team]. That's the only reason he's so good."

Dragavon arrives at every game and every practice before anyone else and is always the

last to leave, Zadra said.

Dragavon said his greatest moments on the field involved beating rivals Seattle University and Seattle Pacific University in 2002, as well as beating 2002 national champion Sonoma State University in 2003.

"Those are the games you remember, where it's like a battle," Dragavon said.

# Sailing: Lakewood boathouse opens doors to Western's sailing team, local college students

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

"I am here to help, but I am not a rescue operation," Schmidt said to three students checking out windsurfing equipment.

The boathouse requires all students who rent equipment to wear a life jacket the entire time they are in the water.

"I'm always keeping my eye out for students who have tipped over or are struggling," he said, watching the commotion on the docks while talking. "If people are wise, don't go in over their skill level and wear a life jacket, the thing most likely to happen is they'll get cold."

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Near the end of the sailing team practice, boat after boat files in to shore, and students wait to step off their sailboats and onto the wooden dock.

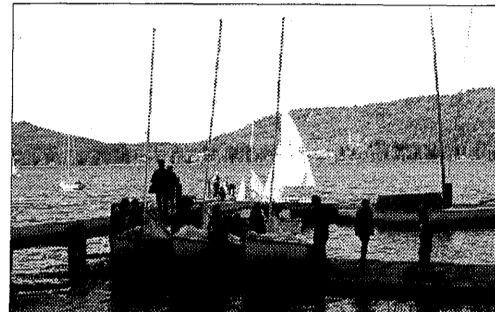
Western junior Marian Black sits on the paved floor of the boathouse, tying her tennis shoes as she prepares to leave.

"It was awesome," she said, clasping her hands in her lap. "I had only ever been on

a big boat before. My favorite part was flying along the water."

The sailing team will always take new members who are looking to sail, said Klastorin, but they will have to wait longer to compete if they do not sign up soon. Jeff Davis, manager of the boathouse, said the fees students pay every quarter support the boathouse, so they may as well take advantage of it.

"This is the most amazing service for Western students," Schmidt said. "It's actually ridiculous how cheap it is to come here and rent a boat. The biggest problem in getting students here is them not knowing



TAYLOR WILLIAMS / THE WESTERN FRONT  
**Western sailors of all abilities return from practice out on Lake Whatcom.**  
how great it is. You don't always have the opportunity to do this sort of thing."

# MVP: Jones and Rodriguez contribute defensive prowess their counterparts cannot deliver

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

The problem is, aside from Ichiro in 2001, the best player on the team with the best record rarely wins the award. No Yankee star took home the award during the team's domination of the late '90s. MLB writers do not usually vote for players who do not play on pennant contenders.

Vladimir Guerrero stole the AL MVP last year by carrying the Anaheim Angels into the playoffs. In 2003 Miguel Tejada laced game-winning hits throughout the final stretch of the season to win. The problem for Pujols is the Cardinals have been a lock for the playoffs since the All-Star break in the middle of the season.

During most other seasons, Pujols would walk away with the award, but in the first non-steroid season since the power surge of the '90s, Jones has belted 51 home runs and driven in 127 runs. He is leading a young

Atlanta Braves team and has put them in a position to win yet another NL East division title. Jones has grown as a player and a teammate since he entered the league nearly 10 years ago as a teenager, and now stands as an elite player in his prime.

*"The factor that will never show up in a box score is the dazzling defensive plays Jones makes that can alter a baseball game."*

The factor that will never show up in a box score is the dazzling defensive plays Jones makes that can alter a baseball game.

Sure, he is batting only .267, as of Sunday, but that does not reflect all of the extra base hits he has taken away, sprawling across the outfield grass and ending potential rallies or saving game-winning runs.

Numbers and wins alone do not win the MVP award. If it were, Pujols would win

The player who does the most to help his team win baseball games should receive the award. Without Pujols, the Cardinals would most likely make the playoffs. Without Jones, the Braves would be going home early for the first time since 1990.

In the American League, the race may be even closer. The only guarantee is that for the first time in 10 years, a player outside the AL West will win the award. David Ortiz and Alex Rodriguez have both had MVP-type seasons.

The stats are nearly identical. The teams are nearly deadlocked in first place in the East. Only two things will separate the race between Ortiz and Rodriguez in the end. Either the Red Sox or the Yankees will likely miss the postseason. Baseball writers would be hard pressed to give the MVP to the guy on the team that choked in the end. Both are performing in September and, unfortunately for them, it may depend solely on whose team steps up in the last week.

The deciding factor is that Ortiz is a designated hitter. While Rodriguez is snaring hard liners down the third-baseline and saving doubles, Ortiz is resting and pondering his next at bat while

sitting on the padded dugout bench.

Rodriguez has made a successful conversion from shortstop, where he played the first 10 years of his career, and is now a gold-glove candidate after making the move just last year.

Rodriguez is also persevering through expectations of being the highest-paid sports player and a New York Yankee. This season he is producing the way the Yankees pay him to. Rodriguez is having a better year than his 2003 MVP season, with the Texas Rangers and is playing for a team in playoff contention this time.

The Yankees will win the AL East title and A-Rod will win his second MVP award. The old cliché is that defense wins championships, but this baseball season, for Alex Rodriguez and Andruw Jones, it also wins MVPs.

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## Western not molding cultured students by requiring GURs



BY ZACH KYLE  
The Western Front

The theory is Western's General University Requirement system makes for well-rounded students who are better prepared to choose which professional field to pursue. The theory fails.

A transcript sporting the prescribed number of credits from the GUR sections — mathematics, social sciences, natural sciences, communications and comparative multicultural/gender studies — suggests a dynamic educational experience, but a paper list belies the uniformity of GUR classes.

These classes typically are taught in lecture halls cavernous enough to seat 100 to 350 students. A doe-eyed freshman looking over the heads of hundreds of students in stadium-style seats might remember the 21-1 student-to-faculty ratio Western has posted on its Web site and get confused. A professor looking upward into the expanse of bodies might give up any notion of creative presentation to the class.

"Yup," thinks the human at the podium, "looks like another quarter of PowerPoint lectures, online tutorials and videos."

And Scantron tests — the only practical way to test a big class — produce test scores that are weirdly disproportionate to the effort students devoted to preparation. A lazy student can pull Cs and Bs easily. Even filling in a skull pattern with the little circles a la Beavis and Butthead will earn a 25 percent grade. Yet the law of bubble tests stipulates that even

the most anal students rarely earn an A.

A row of A- scores gets frustrating, especially when the next kid looked hungover, rarely went to class and ended up with Bs on the same tests. When going through the motions is more rewarding than religious devotion to a class, the system is not working.

Students are adaptive creatures, and most readily accept their existence as a W number on a class roster. In one or two short quarters, freshmen discover the grade-earning process in large GUR classes is formulaic: they can rectify a half-quarter of apathy by cramming the night before a test.

Become familiarized with the jargon of the subject. If a student attended class, he or she can read their notes. Otherwise, reading anything in the textbook in proximity to bold print will suffice.

The rare paper a professor assigns in a GUR class is a joke. After reading 50 papers about

Pavlov and his dog, professors can muster little critique other than, "Nice job. Could have offered more of your own thoughts. A-."

Speaking of Pavlov, the predictable and conditioned nature of the coursework kills the spice of the GUR system's breadth of subjects. The unique and interesting aspects of each class congeal into the same bland routine, class after class, quarter after quarter. Because of this, the diversity of subjects in undergraduate classes relegates to knee-jerk academia, a reflexive exercise in giving the token effort the classes demand.

No freshman should rest easier knowing Math 112 (formerly Math 102) and English 101 are exceptions to the huge-GUR-class rule. Though the classes are small enough to be interactive and the TAs are no worse than professors, Math 112 and English 101

see GUR, page 16

## Opening liquor store doors Sundays will benefit state monetarily



BY TYLER HUEY  
The Western Front

Slowly but surely, numerous states are beginning to sell hard alcohol on Sunday, signaling the end of the Prohibition-era liquor ban.

Even though prohibition ended in 1933, the ban on Sunday sales still remains in 17 states. Washington, for example, began to allow stores to sell alcohol seven days a week Sept. 4, after the state legislature was successful in its third attempt to pass a bill. This includes two liquor stores in Bellingham. One off Lakeway, and the other in Fairhaven.

Lifting the ban makes Washington the 33rd state to allow the sale of liquor on Sundays, according to a July 23 Seattle Times article.

Allowing the sale of hard alcohol on Sundays has many benefits. With stores selling alcohol one extra day per week, profits will increase. Washington has initiated a two-year pilot project that allows 20 state stores to sell liquor on Sundays. The state chose the stores based on various criteria, such as retail-sales level and population density. According to the Washington State Liquor Control Board's Web site, Sunday sales will increase its annual gross sales by \$9.55 million during the two years.

Money issues aside, needlessly denying liquor stores business is unfair. Puritan beliefs are a reason the ban of selling alcohol on Sunday has continued in many states. For many people, Sunday is a religious day. In Jefferson-town, Ky., for example, the city prohibits the sale of liquor on Sunday.

tions," she said. "But I don't feel that religious and personal convictions should play a role in politics."

Aside from religious beliefs, another argument has arisen from grocery stores. Grocery stores complain that liquor stores damage their wine sales because they offer the same wine at lower prices. According to a July 23 Seattle Times article, liquor stores sell wine for nearly 10 percent less than supermarkets.

"The key issue we continue to have is they're allowed to sell wine at a price below what the supermarkets can sell it," he said. "Sunday sales by state liquor stores mean one more day supermarkets must compete with the state."

Sympathizing with supermarkets is difficult. Aside from wine, supermarkets sell countless other products. Liquor stores, on the other hand, primarily sell alcohol. If liquor stores can generate a profit by selling wine for less, then that is simply an example of capitalism at its finest.

Washington raised the price of wine earlier this year to appease supermarkets. Furthermore, the state does not require liquor stores to be open on Sundays. If opening on Sundays is not profitable, they certainly have the option to close.

Demanding liquor stores to stay closed on Sundays is absurd. Enforcing such a law would be just as ridiculous as not allowing people to drive on Sunday for religious reasons — claiming it should be observed strictly as a day of rest.

That does not make sense, and neither does this age-old liquor ban. Thankfully, the no-alcohol-sales-on-Sunday law continues to fade while the 21st century progresses.

"Sunday should be set aside as a family day when liquor isn't sold and people can become sober," a Jefferson-town minister said, according to an Aug. 18 Courier-Journal article. But, thank God for separation of church and state.

The Courier-Journal, located in Louisville, Ky., contacted Kay Ackerson, a Jefferson-town County councilmember. Ackerson said the ban hurts the small, mom-and-pop businesses that sell liquor.

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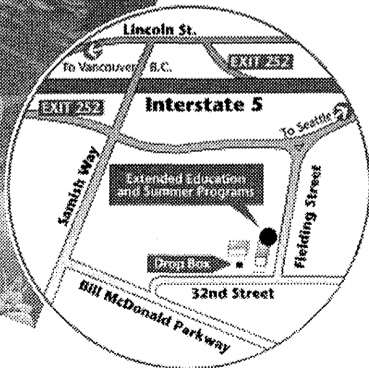
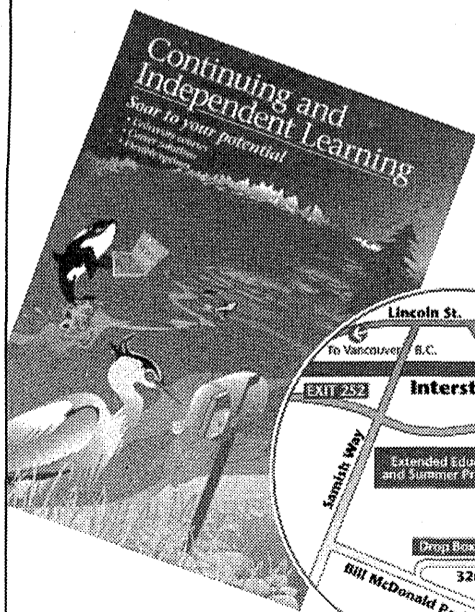
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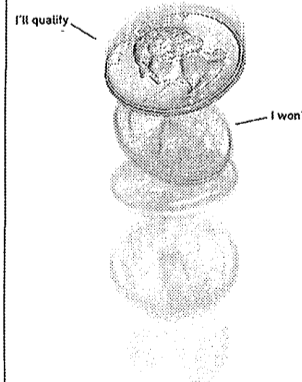
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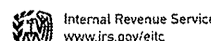
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## Frontline

### 'Kidsbeer' newest corporate attempt at corrupting children

A Japanese soft drink named "Kidsbeer" has become increasingly popular in Japan since its creation in 2003 and may soon be available throughout Europe, according to a Sept. 19 United Press International article. The nonalcoholic beverage comes in brown bottles and foams like beer, but tastes like cola. The product unnecessarily introduces children to beer and will ultimately benefit the alcohol industry.

According to an Aug. 5 UPI article, a restaurant in Fukuoka, Japan first sold the carbonated beverage, and after restaurateur Yuichi Asaba renamed the drink Kidsbeer, its popularity grew.

Japanese beverage manufacturer Tomomasu lessened the beverage's sweetness and gave the drink a beer-like head, and in 2003, the company was shipping 200 bottles a month. This number has grown to 75,000 bottles a month, as more restaurants and stores have begun selling the product, according to the UPI article.

The product's popularity is not the result of children's affinity for beverages that imitate beer — parents make the choice to purchase Kidsbeer for their children. In Japan, the legal drinking age is 20, but parents who buy their 5-year-olds beer-esque soda give children the impression that underage drinking is not only acceptable, but also encouraged.

Critics of bubblegum cigars and candy cigarettes argue the products are harmful because they introduce tobacco products to children who will grow up and be more likely to consume actual tobacco products.

According to a Sept. 19 New York Times article, sixth-grade students who used candy cigarettes were twice as likely to have smoked tobacco cigarettes, regardless of their parents' smoking habits. Kidsbeer is no different. According to the article, Kidsbeer's advertising slogan is "even kids cannot stand life unless they have a drink." The slogan creates the idea that alcohol is necessary to deal with the stresses of everyday life, and the product is simply a replacement drink until children can consume alcoholic beer.

Anheuser-Busch was right to withdraw a similar beverage from its line of products in 1978 after critics of its not-so-soft drink said it would encourage underage drinking. In 1995, critics of Royal Crown Draft Premium Cola forced the company to change the soda's label, on which draft was the largest word. The manufacturers of Kidsbeer should also change the product to make it appear less like an alcoholic product.

The creators of the product did not intend consumers to take Kidsbeer seriously, and the product is as harmful to children's health as soda.

Companies do not attempt to sell nonalcoholic beer to children, and its packaging and slogan set Kidsbeer apart from an average can of soda. Parents should take responsibility for the beverages they purchase for their children and leave beer drinking to adults.

*Frontlines are the opinion of The Western Front editorial board: Zoe Fraley, Brittany Greenfield, Molly Jensen, Stefani Harrey, Jessica Dignan, Taylor Williams, Lauren Allain, Peter Jensen, Adriana Dunn, Blair Wilson, Devin Smart, Bradley Thayer, Eric Sanford, Tiffany Sheakley and Jared Yoakum.*

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**Editor's note:** The views expressed on The Western Front opinion pages are the views of the authors or cartoonists and are not necessarily the views of The Western Front staff, managers or adviser.

### And we quote:

*"I have as much authority as the pope. I just don't have as many people who believe it."*

— George Carlin, comedian



## Justice Department wrong about pope



BY SAM ROBERTS  
The Western Front

Should a man who covered up the molestation of young boys be allowed immunity? The majority of people would say no.

But what if that man is the leader of the Roman Catholic Church? Still, the answer should be no.

According to a Sept. 20 Yahoo! News article, the U.S. Justice Department told a Texas court it should dismiss a civil lawsuit against Pope Benedict XVI, formerly known as Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, due to Benedict's status as the head of state of the Holy

See. Naming Benedict as a defendant, three plaintiffs brought a lawsuit against the pope.

The lawsuit alleged that Juan Carlos Patino-Arango, a seminary student at St. Francis de Sales church in Houston, molested the three boys. In the lawsuit, the plaintiff accuses Ratzinger of conspiring to cover up this occurrence.

A few things, however, do not add up when it comes to Benedict's immunity.

First of all, Benedict was not head of state at the time the plaintiffs brought charges against him. According to an Aug. 17 MSNBC.com article, the case went to court four months before the College of Cardinals named Ratzinger pope. It seems unreasonable to allow immunity in a case brought to court before the defendant was holding any position where im-

munity might be an issue. At the time, Ratzinger was head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith — not pope.

Even if Benedict was head of state when charged, precedent exists for suspending his immunity. The United States has brought heads of state such as Hermann Goering and Manuel Noriega to court while technically they should have still had immunity, since any wrongs they committed were outside the U.S., according to infoplease.com, an online encyclopedia. These are examples of leaders who had their immunity waived over issues the U.S. deemed important.

For those wrongs, the United States created the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act in 1976. The act suspends or waives diplomatic

see POPE, page 15

## Oil addiction will cripple America



BY MATT GAGNE  
The Western Front

Two hurricanes prematurely uncovered a new crisis looming for mankind.

Lines of automobiles sat stranded and out of gas as people tried to escape Houston. The crisis is a product of the oily fabric of Western civilization — nearly every aspect of U.S. society is dependent on oil, and even a little hiccup in the supply of the crude creates chaos.

Even before Hurricane Katrina pushed gas over the unprecedented threshold of \$3 per gallon, cries of outrage about rising prices at the pump echoed throughout the United States. In the aftermath of the tragedy that displaced thousands of people, oil production in the Gulf of Mexico reeled from damaged platforms and inoperative refineries. As the country recoiled in horror while the scene

unfolded, the U.S. economy felt the tremors of an energy crisis.

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita were eye-openers, not only exposing shortcomings, but also demonstrating how dependent this country is on one energy source.

Americans most often correlate the price of oil with the price per gallon of gasoline. Yet, gasoline is only one aspect of the oil industry. Oil fueled the industrial revolution, giving rise to the automobile and mass production, and became the foundation for the U.S. economy.

The properties of crude oil — through refining, creating a diverse spread of fuels and lubricants — allowed for the propagation of mechanical human aids to an extent the world had never seen before. Now Western society is dependent on these inventions for transportation and basic needs such as heating and food.

This dependency would not be a problem if the oil supply were limitless. Yet, a growing number of scientists say the world is on the verge of an oil shortage, as detailed in the book "Hubbard's Peak" by Kenneth S. Deffeyes. According to Deffeyes, in 1956

the respected geologist M. King Hubbard predicted U.S. oil production would peak in the 1970s.

Hubbard's peers considered the theory ludicrous at the time — the liquid gold was plentiful, and businesses and consumers could not conceive of conservation. Scientists and world leaders ignored Hubbard's warnings, despite his reputation — that is, until the 1970s, when U.S. production did indeed peak, according to Deffeyes. Since that decade, the United States has been dependent on foreign oil to meet its domestic needs.

Using methods similar to what Hubbard employed, Deffeyes said modern scientists have been tracking and predicting the world oil-production peak, which most say will happen within the next five to seven years. At the same time, oil consumption is increasing. As any economist can confirm, rising demand coupled with lessening supply will result in increasing prices.

Similar to Hubbard's peers, who discounted his peak-oil predic-

see ADDICTION, page 15



**Pope: Benedict called upon First Amendment earlier in lawsuit, thus sacrificing immunity**

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immunity for heads of state under certain circumstances.

One of those circumstances is "in which money damages are sought ... for personal injury or death," according to a copy of the document on Findlaw.com, a Web site with caselaw for legal professionals. It seems the Texas case is doing just that — seeking payment for the injuries done to three young men. According to the Foreign Sov-

ereign Immunities Act, the U.S. could deny Benedict immunity in this case.

Though the courts usually take the Justice Department's recommendation on cases involving diplomatic immunity, the decision is ultimately up to the judge of each case. Daniel Shea, one of the plaintiff's lawyers, said he does not expect the government to intervene in this case, and it will come down to the judge's decision, according to an Aug. 17 MSNBC.com article.

The Justice Department argues Benedict

is automatically granted diplomatic immunity as head of state of the Holy See and should not even have to ask for it, according to the MSNBC article.

According to the same MSNBC article, however, Shea said he plans to argue the constitutionality of the United States' recognition of the Holy See as a sovereign nation. The diplomatic recognition of the Vatican goes against the First Amendment's establishment clause, which bars the creation of any laws that deal with the establishment of religion.

In this case, Benedict dug his own grave. In a motion to dismiss the case on May 26, Benedict's lawyers cited the First Amendment then also, claiming the case would invite court intrusion into the internal affairs of the Roman Catholic Church — thereby setting himself up as head of a church, not head of a state and, in effect, sacrificing any possible immunity.

The government has no right to give Benedict diplomatic immunity, and frankly, the pope has no right to ask for it.

**Addiction: Only sensible way to avoid total chaos after oil peak is diversifying energy sources**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

tions, some scientists and economists discount the forecast of a world peak production in the near future. They argue oil is still plentiful; just waiting to be found.

Even some of the top officials of the oil industry, however, admit the world oil supply will peak and decline. Among those is Vice President Dick Cheney, who, before becoming President George W. Bush's running mate, was the CEO of Halliburton, a major player in the oil industry.

Some estimates show an average of 2 percent annual growth in global oil demand over the years ahead as well as a 3 percent natural decline in production from existing reserves, Cheney said in 1999, according to an article on lifeaftertheoilcrash.net, a Web site dedicated to scientific analysis of world oil usage.

Katrina's devastation created an artificial crisis, crippling the oil industry and prematurely raising gas prices as production fell. Despite Cheney's admission, much of the

federal government is in denial about the impending crisis, instead accusing oil companies of artificially increasing prices, according to a Sept. 26 Associated Press article. Investigations into the rising prices are in progress, and Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., has called for Bush to have the power to cap gas prices, according to the senator's Web site.

In reality, gas prices in the United States are low compared to the rest of the Western world. According to an Aug. 26 Christian Science Monitor article, gasoline prices in Europe have been more than double U.S. prices for years.

Prices in Amsterdam, according to the article, are more than \$7 per gallon. Faced with high gas prices, Europeans have adapted, integrating mass transit and alternative energies to alleviate oil dependency.

The crisis, therefore, is not high gasoline prices, as politicians seem to think. In fact, the only real consequence of higher prices would be to stimulate innovation to create alternative methods for manufacturing similar products. Instead the crisis is how dependent the United States is on oil, and how even a small disruption creates chaos.

The chaos not only results in production plants not running or cars dead on highways. Houston, according to a Sept. 24 report on National Public Radio, has a low supply of gasoline after the evacuation due to Hurricane Rita.

Because of congested highways going into the city, the prospect of more gas arriving soon is not likely. NPR reported citizens following a gasoline delivery truck, provoking the driver to ask for a police escort to ensure his safety. When gasoline supplies run short permanently or prices rise too high, stealing, fighting and hoarding may occur.

Oil companies are reaping record profits, and therefore, accusations of price gouging may be accurate. The president of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, in a speech posted on the organization's Web site in early September, claimed Saudi Arabia had plenty of oil, despite rumors of wells running dry.

But set aside both arguments and a dilemma still exists — the U.S. society and economy are shockingly dependent on oil. Whether it be a hurricane, artificial price inflation or empty oil wells, the United States will face a crisis if anything interrupts the oil supply in any way.

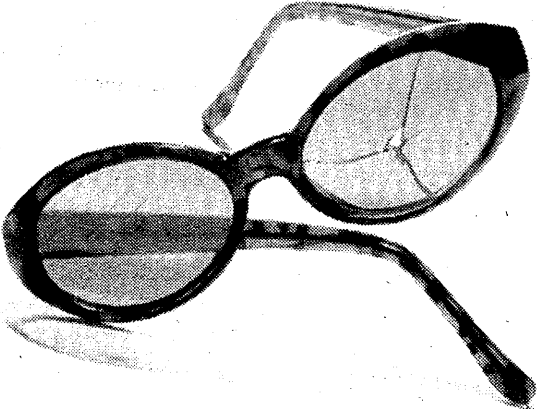
The solution lies in diversifying energy sources. Alternative, renewable energy sources are available. With supply and demand driving the economy, however, the demand for those alternative energies may not come until an oil shortage wreaks chaos on U.S. society.

Some progressive organizations and individuals prescribe to the renewable platform, but no mainstream implementation is in progress. Unfortunately, waiting until the true crisis hits will create a catastrophe that will make Hurricane Katrina's devastation pale in comparison.

*'The solution lies in diversifying energy sources. Alternative, renewable energy sources are available.'*

Amanda Geiger never saw the drunk driver.

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## GUR: Required classes in tuition collectors' best interest, make four-year graduation unlikely

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

are popular student choices for "my biggest headache at Western ever."

The English department's Web site states English 101's first objective is "to create a learning environment where it is hard for students and teachers to remain unthoughtful."

Many students, however, may feel that the process of writing a paper, rewriting that paper, then writing a paper about writing the paper kills whatever chunk of brain sponsors thoughtfulness. Assuming freshmen learned paper-writing basics in high school would go a long way to making the class more interesting and less of a waste of time.

Math 112 is not a waste of time, but forcing students with no interest in math to take it. Sharon Schmitz, assistant director of insti-

tutional research at Western, said Math 102 has earned the dubious distinction of being the most-failed class at Western. Math 112 should be review. Math people skip 112 or breeze through it. Nonmath people struggle and fail. Most of these people take the shortest route through the math GUR. Making them suffer is pointless.

The battle cry for the GUR system is that underclassmen do not always know what they want to be when they grow up, and taking a variety of classes helps them find the subject they most enjoy.

Freshmen can juggle fantasies of one day working in the Amazon as an anthropologist

or psychoanalyzing a patient as a practicing psychiatrist. They can search for their calling while whittling down the GUR requirements. Sounds perfect.

Well, an arrangement that helped students graduate would be better. Freshmen coming to Western who have already decided their major may graduate among the approximately 28 percent of Western students who earn degrees in four years, according to a Sept. 15 Bellingham Weekly article. That is if they can get into the early classes for the major that are prerequisites for the sequence.

Because the registration schedule is based on credit seniority, underclassmen often lose

class spots to upperclassmen who are also trying to complete that major. Sorry, freshmen. Perhaps fate will smile on you next quarter.

If underclassmen with plans can run into roadblocks, then many of those undecided, figure-it-out-as-they-go students are doomed to join the approximately 62 percent of students who graduate in five to six years, according to the Bellingham Weekly article. That means a lot of extra quarters costing between \$1,600 and \$1,700 each quarter.

If students coming to Western have no plan for a major, and if students who have a plan struggle to get the classes they need, the GUR system serves only the university's tuition coffers. The system drains the pocketbooks of students and parents, but the greatest tragedy of the GUR's is the surrender of scholastic zeal to a wholesale education.

*'If students coming to Western have no plan for a major, and if students who have a plan struggle to get the classes they need, the GUR system serves only the university's tuition coffers.'*

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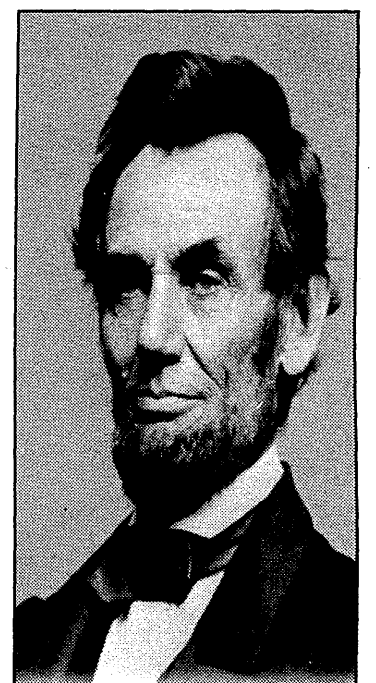
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