



Student vehicles to compete

BY JARED YOAKUM
The Western Front

Western's Vehicle Research Institute is gearing up for competition this coming May and June.

Two of the research institute's teams are preparing vehicles to enter in the SAE Mini Baja West Competition, June 1 to 4 in Washington, D.C., and the Tour de Sol May 13 to 16 in Albany, N.Y. The Mini Baja team and the Hybrid team are making final adjustments to their cars and will be ready to compete within the next week.

Western's Vehicle Research Institute, in operation since 1972, is one of the best in the nation, specializing in researching and constructing alternative-fuel, low-emission vehicles, said Sean Nelson, Western senior and team leader.

Nelson said the Mini Baja team expects to do well this spring and fully intends to beat its rank of 13 out of 93 last year.

"We'll hopefully do better this year," Nelson said. "We're getting the car done early so we can get some test time in it."

Nelson said the Mini Baja team expects to complete the car, Viking



JARED YOAKUM/The Western Front

Seniors Dustin Embrey and Noah Shaw make final adjustments to the seat of Viking 39. The car is one of the Mini Baja team's new cars that will compete in June.

39, within the next week, well before competition time. Viking 39 has been an ongoing project since last summer and is a collaboration between the 17 students on the Baja team and CATIA, a computer-

modeling program that has allowed the Baja team to test and experiment with the new car and its parts before production started, Nelson said. The Vehicle Research Institute takes pride in the fact that it makes nearly

all the parts used in its vehicles.

"It's cool because we can build anything we need in the shop," said Brian White, Western junior and

see VRI, page 4

Facebook is cause of AS conflict

BY PETER JENSEN
The Western Front

For its more than 4,000 members at Western, Thefacebook.com is a growing Internet fad students use to network with friends and escape studying.

Following a grievance hearing before the Associated Students election board Wednesday night, however, Thefacebook has been the subject of disputes between candidates in this AS election season.

The election board ruled unanimously that a group on Thefacebook, titled Russo For President!, that promotes the candidacy of Tony Russo for AS president, violated two sections of the AS election code. Russo is currently the AS vice president for business and operations.

The group promoting Russo posted his AS e-mail address, office phone number and a link to an AS Web site about him, which violated

see ELECTIONS, page 4

Donated prom clothing will help Whatcom teens

BY SEAN MCCORMICK
The Western Front

Senior prom is steadily approaching for many Whatcom County high school students, and for those who cannot afford the right clothing it is a stressful time.

The National Residence Hall Honorary is conducting a prom clothes and accessories drive called "Cinderella Cinderella" through April 17 at all campus

residence halls.

The National Residence Hall Honorary is a non-Associated Students-affiliated organization that restricts membership to Western students who have been living on campus for at least three quarters.

"National Residence Hall Honorary coordinates a lot of the leadership for campus residences," said Colin Christianson, president of the Residence Hall Association.

The Hall Honorary set up collection bins at each residence hall's front desk where students can bring prom clothes and accessories for men and women. They urge students to bring items such as dresses, suits, shoes, dress pants, shirts, ties, jewelry, new cosmetics and anything else prom-related.

"It's been mostly in the residence halls, but we'd like to involve the greater campus community,"

said Heidi Bay, Western junior and National Residence Hall Honorary programming chair. "It's a wonderful project with such potential."

Members of Hall Honorary will take all of the items to Bellingham's Blue Skies for Children organization located on Prospect Street.

Carrie Glenney, Blue Skies for Children operations coordinator, said Blue Skies for Children has

been operating since the summer of 1997. In 2000, the organization moved into the building where it now receives and then gives away clothing for foster, homeless and low-income children in Whatcom County.

Glenney said Western students are urged to bring any of their re-usable formal clothing to any of the residence hall bins to help Bellingham-area high school students dress for their prom.

Crosswalk will add safety to McDonald

BY BLAIR HABENICHT
The Western Front

At the bus stop outside Sehome High School, residents of Birnam Wood apartments jaywalk across Bill McDonald Parkway with eyes wide as cars peak on the crest of the hill.

Ferry Avenue releases more vehicles from a third angle, as students of the on-campus apartment complex pause atop the low grassy barrier dividing traffic until an opening in the cycle allows their passage.

But not for long. The city of Bellingham has begun installing yellow cautionary flashing lights above a soon-

to-be crosswalk at the Ferry Avenue and Bill McDonald Parkway intersection, said Steve Haugen, traffic operations engineer for the Bellingham Public Works Department.

"So many Birnam Wood students ride the bus, dropped off on the Sehome side of the street," said Allison Bennett, resident director of the Birnam Wood community. "It's a safety hazard, especially in the rain and at night."

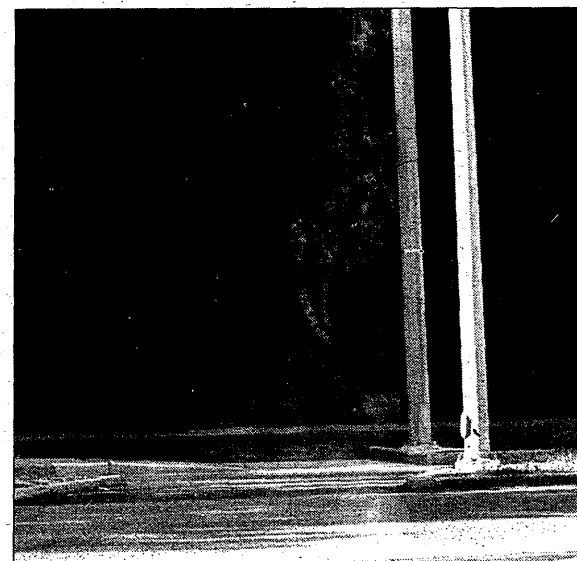
Bennett said residents of the apartments had been pressuring the city for more than a year to add a crosswalk at the intersection.

"The high demand of all pedestrians influenced the improvement," Haugen

said. "But mostly Western students crossing to and from their apartments."

Capital improvement funds distributed through the Bellingham Public Works Department will pay for the new crosswalk, which will cost approximately \$25,000, said Clark Williams, transportation manager for the Bellingham Public Works Department.

Allison Schwerzler, a Western senior and Birnam Wood resident, said she welcomes the crosswalk. Her only complaint is the lack of a crosswalk at the bus stop between Ferry Avenue and 33rd Street, where Schwerzler said many Birnam Wood residents exit the bus.



MIKE MURRAY/The Western Front

The new crosswalk by Birnam Wood nears completion.



PACIFIC PRIDE

Original Bellingham band recalls humble beginnings and returns to hometown.

ACCENT, PAGE 5

POLITICAL ETHICS

Tom DeLay's questionable behavior reflects badly on Republican party.

OPINIONS, PAGE 10

LONG DRIVER

Western junior golfer Katja Trygg shines.

SPORTS, PAGE 9



COPS BOX

University Police

April 13, 11:35 p.m.: UP responded to a report of an odor of marijuana in the Ridgeway Kappa residence hall. Police found nothing.

April 13, 10:24 p.m.: UP responded to a maintenance problem in Edens Hall North, when an elevator became stuck with someone inside.

April 13, 11:49 a.m.: UP responded to a report of a disorderly and mentally disturbed person in the Miller Hall Market. The person was voluntarily transported to the hospital.

Bellingham Police

April 14, 2:21 a.m.: Police arrested a man on the 100 block of East Bakerview Road. Police arrested the man on three Whatcom County Superior Court bench warrants and booked him into the Whatcom County Jail.

April 14, 1:09 a.m.: Police contacted occupants of a parked vehicle regarding their suspicious behavior on the 2000 block of St. Clair Street.

April 13, 11:28 p.m.: Police arrested a 40-year-old man on suspicion of possession of marijuana on the 2400 block of Texas Street.

April 13, 8:38 p.m.: Police responded to a report of a man threatening to kill his wife on the 300 block of Meadowbrook Court.

April 13, 10:15 a.m.: Police made a welfare check on the 3500 block of Northwest Avenue when a neighbor heard loud banging and possible crying.

Compiled by Katie Rothenberger

Viking Voices

If you could change Western's school mascot, what would you change it to?

Compiled by Bradley Thayer



Braden Peterson
Freshman, psychology

Pirates, because of peg-legs, parrots, wenches, rum and booty. Booty meaning treasure.



Mark Cavanaugh
Sophomore, communication

Hippies, because Western has a reputation of harboring hippies.



Callie Provazek
Junior, theater/education

Rosie the Riveter, to support feminist ideals.

AP Wire

news briefs

STATE NEWS

Salvage crews raise and tow 90-year-old fishing boat

Salvage crews raised and towed a 90-year-old wooden fishing boat Tuesday. The boat sank off the Shilshole Bay Marina in Seattle during the weekend. Crews towed the vessel to an Army Corps of Engineers collection area north of the Hiram Chittenden Locks.

As a precaution, an oil-containment boom surrounded the 59-foot vessel.

Crews removed 1,300 gallons of oily water from the vessel. Divers confirmed that the vent openings on the tanks were closed, which prevented a major fuel spill.

Yelm woman found dead on lawn

A girl riding her bike found a 31-year-old woman in Yelm dead in her front yard Tuesday with her 7-month-old daughter lying

unharmed by her side.

Thurston County sheriffs said the girl spotted the woman Tuesday night and went home to tell her parents.

Police have not identified the woman or revealed the cause of death. Police took the baby to Providence St. Peter Hospital in Olympia.

NATIONAL NEWS

Woman who found finger in chili drops lawsuit

The woman who said she found a finger in her bowl of chili at a Wendy's restaurant in Las Vegas last month, has decided not to sue the fast-food chain.

Anna Ayala's attorney told the San Jose Mercury News she is dropping her claim because it has caused her great emotional distress.

Last week investigators searched Ayala's Las Vegas home as part of their investigation into how a

finger ended up in the chili.

Wendy's has offered a \$50,000 reward for information that will help determine where the finger came from.

California right-to-die bill heading to state Senate

A right-to-die bill, modeled after one in Oregon, is making its way through California's government.

The state Assembly Committee approved the measure, sending it to an appropriations committee and then to the state Senate floor.

Supporters said the bill would give people who will die in six months the choice of ending their lives with a self-administered drug.

Conservation Congress approves feline hunting proposal

The hissing match continues in Wisconsin between cat lovers and hunters who support a plan to kill wild cats.

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress approved the feline hunting proposal, which will now go to another state board.

Under the proposal, a hunter could shoot any stray cat, even a household pet without a collar that is outside of its owner's control.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Man in hostage video may be contractor from Indiana

A man in a video pleading for his life may be a contractor from Indiana abducted from a water treatment plant in Iraq Monday.

U.S. Embassy officials said the man appears to be Jeffrey Ake, who was kidnapped Monday while working on a water treatment plant near Baghdad.

The hostage asked the U.S. government to save his life by pulling out of Iraq.

Compiled by Sarah Kuck
AP Wire courtesy KUGS 89.3-FM

Corrections

An April 5 article titled "Western Frisbee falls short against UW" incorrectly reported that Western's Ultimate Frisbee "A" team lost to the University of Washington's "B" team at the Dirty Deeds Invitational. The team won that game, but lost to the UW "A-defensive" team in the finals. The article also incorrectly reported that six teams played in the tournament. Thirteen teams actually played in the tournament.

An April 8 article titled "Discussion promotes common ground on abortion" referred to Karen Swallow Prior as being from Liberty College in Lynchburg, Va. The school is actually named Liberty University.

The Western Front regrets these and any other errors.

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, by phone at 360-835-3161.

Members of the Western Front 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 legible, printed. Announcements may be sent to 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.

THE MATH PLACEMENT TEST (MPT) is offered in OM 120 at 3 p.m. Mondays on April 18, 25, May 2, 9, 16, 23, and June 6 and at 9 a.m. Thursdays on April 21, 28, May 5, 12, 19 and 26, June 2 and 9. Registration is not required. Students must bring picture identification, student number, Social Security number and a No. 2 pencil. A \$15 fee is payable in exact amount at time of testing. Allow 90 minutes.

THE MATH PLACEMENT TEST SCHEDULE AND SAMPLE TOPICS may be found at www.ac.wwu.edu/~assess/tc.htm.

THE MILLER ANALOGIES TEST (MAT) is a computer-based test administered by appointment. Make an appointment in person in OM 120 or by calling X/3080. A \$42 fee is payable at test time. Preliminary scores available immediately; official results are mailed within 15 days. Testing takes about one and a half hours.

FIND OUT ABOUT THE WOODRING COLLEGE OF EDUCATION HUMAN SERVICES major at an information session at 1 p.m. April 18 in Miller Hall 210, or call X/7759.

A PRE-LAW WORKSHOP will be held at 12:30 p.m. April 21 in VU 464. For more information, contact the Legal Information Center, X/6111. **FREE PREPARING FOR A CAREER FAIR WORKSHOPS** will be held at 4 p.m. April 21 and noon April 25 in VU 567. Sign up at www.careers.wwu.edu, in OM 280, or call X/3240.

WEST-B TEST. Anyone applying for admission to state-approved teacher education programs must meet the minimum passing score on basic skills assessment by the application deadline. See www.west.nesinc.com for registration information and a study guide with sample questions. Test dates: May 14, July 9. Registration deadlines are several weeks in advance.

WEST-E PRAXIS. Beginning in September, Washington requires anyone seeking teacher certification and teachers seeking additional endorsements to pass a subject knowledge assessment in the chosen endorsement area. For a description and registration information, see www.ets.org/praxis/prxwa.html. Registration bulletins also are available in MH 216.

REMAINING WEST-E PRAXIS TEST DATES this academic year are April 16 and June 11. The June 11 test will not be administered at Western; check www.ets.org/praxis/prxwa.html for location and for registration information for the April 16 test.

STUDY ABROAD IN OVIEDO, SPAIN with AHA International and James Loucky next fall. Loucky will teach the course "Migration in a Global Age: The Changing Face of Spain and Europe." A minimum one year of college-level Spanish language experience is required. Contact International Programs and Exchanges at ipe@wwu.edu, X/3298.

THE ACADEMIC ADVISING CENTER IS CURRENTLY HIRING ACADEMIC STUDENT ADVISORS. Applications are available online at www.acadweb.wwu.edu/advising/Default.htm or can be picked up in the Academic Advising Center in Old Main 380. Applications are due by 5 p.m. Friday, April 15.

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

LOT RESERVATIONS. Twenty spaces will be reserved in 10G at 7 a.m. Saturday, April 16, for those attending a meeting of the Multicultural Advisory Board. • Twenty spaces will be reserved in lot 12A on Thursday, April 21, for those attending a scholarship luncheon.

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

BIOLOGY SEMINAR. Ruth Harper-Arabie (environmental sciences, "Using Proteins and Enzymes in Environmental Toxicology: Metallothioneins and Glucose Phosphate Isomerase," 4 p.m. April 20, BI 212. Refreshments, 3:50 p.m.

Employers On Campus

For complete and updated information, including locations and deadlines, visit www.career.wwu.edu or stop by OM 280.

April 20 • Walla Walla School District; April 29 • Deep Creek Custom Packing • Enterprise Rent-a-Car • Jeld-Wen • Wm. Wrigley, Jr. Co.; May 2-3 • Newell Rubbermaid; May 3 • Larson Gross; May 6 • Target Stores; May 18 • PetSmart.

'Take Back the Night' one of many sexual awareness programs

Personal Safety Tips

- *Stay alert to your surroundings.
 - *Trust your instincts — if you feel uncomfortable in a situation or place, LEAVE.
 - *Report suspicious activities to police.
 - *Travel on busy, well-lit streets or pathways near emergency phones and with companions whenever possible.
- Emergency Phone Numbers:**
- *In any emergency, dial 911.
 - *From campus phones, this number is 3911.
 - *For campus police, dial 650-3123.
 - *For a Greencoat Escort, call 650-3555.
 - *A 24-hour help line is available through CASAS (Crime And Sexual Assault Services) at 650-3700.

Information courtesy of the Environmental Health and Safety, Student Affairs/Academic Support Services, and Public Safety.

By JESSICA DIGNAN
The Western Front

Cheers and chants will echo throughout the night, from dusk until well after dark, as Western women take to the streets April 21 to make a stand against sexual assault.

Take Back the Night, a Bellingham tradition since 1976, will take place Thursday to provide an opportunity for women and men to show their support for ending sexual assault on campus. April is sexual awareness month for Western.

A coed pre-rally event will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center. Keynote speakers Amy Richards and Jennifer Baumgardner, co-authors of "Manifesta" and "Grassroots," will speak about the culture of sexual violence against women and how that violence affects women's everyday lives, Western Women's Center co-coordinator Jasmine Sheldon said. In past years, the PAC has been filled to capacity, with approximately 700 people participating in the pre-rally. After the rally, 200 to 300 women will begin the march.

The women-only march will start at 8 p.m. Participants will start at the PAC immediately

after the pre-rally and make their way through campus to the Ridgeway residence halls, then down High Street before circling back to campus. Once back on campus, the march will end in Red Square, where the women will meet with members of the Western Men Against Violence, who will hold a candlelight vigil in support, Sheldon said.

While the women are marching, the men will discuss how the march affects them and their feelings, since the march is for women only.

"This is about us seeing the need for them to march and feeding off the women's energy," said Andrew Bruch, Western junior and member of Western Men Against Violence. "It was really energizing to see them come back last year and be so empowered."

Poetry reading, fire-dancing and radical cheerleading are on the agenda of after-march events taking place in Red Square, Women's Center co-coordinator Norene Roberts said. Afrose Ahmed, Associated Students Production social issues co-coordinator will read her own poetry. Fire-dancing is a

celebratory form of dance involving sticks or strings that are on fire on one end. Western cheerleaders and Western women will chant about domestic violence, sexual assault and body image, Roberts said.

"Their cheers are educational, empowering and entertaining," she said.

Though the march is only for women, men are invited to take part in the after-march events.

"We highly, highly encourage men to participate in the rally and vigil, but the march is women-only," Roberts said. "It's a symbolic gesture of women walking alone at night, free of fear."

Bruch said he also sees the importance of the march being women-only.

"It is OK for women to know where their keys are when they leave, to be aware when they see a male across the street after dark," Bruch said. "This is one night when they don't have to think about that stuff. This is a chance for women to take back the night for themselves, to be safe, to feel camaraderie with other women and to not feel alone."

'It's a symbolic gesture of women walking alone at night, free of fear.'

NORENE ROBERTS
Women's Center
Co-coordinator

Campus events for sexual awareness month

Women Supporting Women — A group for students affected by sexual assault or abusive relationships. Students must contact Sarah Rankin by April 15 to register for the group.

Connections — A new weekly discussion group for women to discuss issues such as body image, health, careers, relationships and the media. This drop-in group is open to all women. Connections meets from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. every Monday in VU 714.

Night of Testimony — An open discussion to share experiences of sexual assault or to listen to others tell their story. It will be held April 20 in VU 462. Two sessions are scheduled, the first from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. for men and women, and the second from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. for men-only and women-only sessions.

Take Back The Night Walk — The walk is scheduled for April 21. The night begins with a coed rally in the Performing Arts Center

at 6:30 p.m. Following the rally all of the women will march from campus to downtown Bellingham, and loop back to campus.

Western Women's Festival — The third annual festival will be at 6 p.m., April 30. All activities take place in the VU, with the exception of the keynote speaker, Dr. Jean Kilbourne, who will speak from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in Miller Hall 163.

Associated Students

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Apply April 4th - 18th
AS Salaried and Hourly Jobs

for the academic year of
2005-2006

Job Descriptions & Applications are in the file cabinet outside the AS Personnel Office, VU 505

Turn applications into wooden box outside VU 505 by 5pm of the close date (April 18th)

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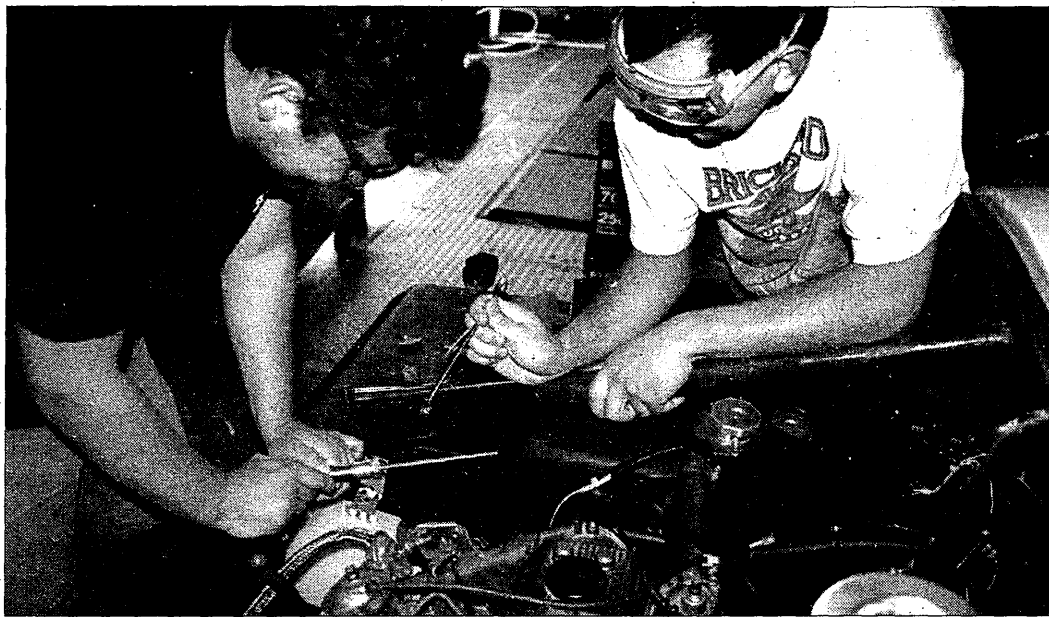
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VRI: Vehicles will compete in rock crawl, drag race, hill climb and maneuverability challenge



JARED YOAKUM/The Western Front

Western Juniors Ryan Cruse and Brian White make some adjustments to the bio-diesel engine in Viking 23, one of the Hybrid team's new cars that will compete in May.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Hybrid team member.

Along with Viking 39, the Baja team is taking Viking 37, one of the cars that competed last year. While they built Viking 39, some of the students spent time fixing handling and electrical problems on Viking 37.

"We updated the rear suspension and fixed problems we encountered last year," Nelson said.

With the two cars nearly ready, the Baja team is geared up.

"We're stoked," said Dustin Embrey, a Western senior and Baja team member. "We've put so much work into this, we're ready to go."

The Baja team's cars will compete in events such as a rock crawl, drag race, hill climb and maneuverability challenge

in the competition.

Along with the Baja team, the Hybrid team is getting ready for its upcoming competition, the annual Tour de Sol.

It features car designs from throughout the United States, showcasing alternative-fuel and low-emission concept vehicles. The Hybrid team will enter Viking 32 and Viking 23, and both cars will compete in events such as a Monte Carlo rally, a hill climb and an autocross, White said.

"Car dependent, we're doing all the events," said Kate Stenson, Western junior and Hybrid team leader.

With refinements made on the two cars, the Hybrid team is hoping to beat last year's third place finish. Viking 32 and Viking 23 are in top shape with new interiors, a one-liter Daihatsu turbo diesel engine and a carbon fiber chassis, Stenson said.

Elections: Election board member abstains from vote

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sections of the code restricting the use of official AS mediums in campaigns. The group also violated the code by displaying the AS logo on a campaign Web site.

Viewers of the group and potential voters could have assumed that the AS was endorsing Russo, Western sophomore and election board chair Brett Jordan said.

For violating the code, Russo must post an apology for the infractions on the Thefacebook group and suspend posting and distributing his campaign material on campus until at 10 a.m. Monday.

Russo's opponent in the race, Western junior Nick Cizek, filed the grievance Monday, the first official day of the election season. The hearing was the first this year and made for an ominous start to the campaigns, said Chiho Lai, Western sophomore, election board member and Russo campaign volunteer.

"I was surprised to see a grievance filed this early," Lai said. "I wish

Nick would have communicated with Russo so this could be settled elsewhere."

After learning about the grievance, Russo apologized to Cizek for the group, which he said Lai created two weeks ago without Russo's direction. Lai said he removed the group's content that Cizek found objectionable cizek filed the grievance, Lai said.

Lai abstained from voting with the board on the matter, citing a conflict of interest.

"Chiho has a pretty big concentration of power," Cizek said. "Such a concentration could potentially corrupt our election systems."

Election board members can volunteer for campaigns, Lai said, but are encouraged to withdraw their vote when it is considered a conflict of interest. The decision is a personal one, and nothing in the election code requires it, he said.

"In this environment, I don't think it's a problem," Lai said. "Most people involved with student government hold multiple positions on clubs, if not within the AS."

Russo said he thought the posting of the AS e-mail address and phone number was inappropriate, but argued that the link to his Web site was only displaying his public record and goals for the campaign. The AS logo ensured that voters knew he was running for an AS position, he said.

The outcome of the hearing, however, set a precedent on how candidates should use Thefacebook as a campaign medium, elections coordinator and Western senior Tyler Kimsey said. Candidates are uncertain of the impact the Web site will have on the elections, he said.

Lai said it provides a medium for communicating with large numbers of potential voters, but he is certain it will not influence voters in the way the upcoming debates and discussions of the issues will.

"The facebook can be used for good," Kimsey said. "It could increase the traditionally low voter turnout. Anything to get students aware of the elections will be helpful, but I'm not sure Thefacebook will remain this popular for much longer."

Editorial Cartoonist Wanted

The Western Front is accepting applications for a weekly cartoonist. Please e-mail samples of your work to thewesternfronteditor@yahoo.com or drop them by The Western Front newsroom in Communications Facility 222.

ATTENTION MUSIC LOVERS!

Major Label recruiting college Reps to start Fall 05.

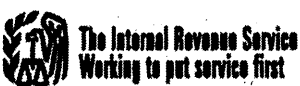
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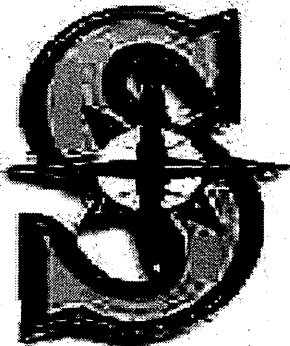
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From coast to coast

The Pale Pacific discusses touring, West Coast style, a big name change, a new EP and forthcoming album upon the band's Bellingham return.

BY LEAH WEISSMAN
The Western Front

From the Pacific to the Atlantic oceans, The Pale Pacific, formerly known as The Pale, has traveled the nation at large while on tour, but chooses to identify with its Northwest sound.

"You can kind of geographically pick out where a band is from just by listening to their music, and we are definitely from the West Coast," drummer Greg Swinehart said.

He said touring throughout the United States is a life-changing event because of the different people the band meets on a daily basis.

"It seems that bands from the West Coast are more relaxed, but I guess that could be disproved in a second," Swinehart said.

Originally from Bellingham, The Pale Pacific played at small Bellingham venues before moving to Seattle.

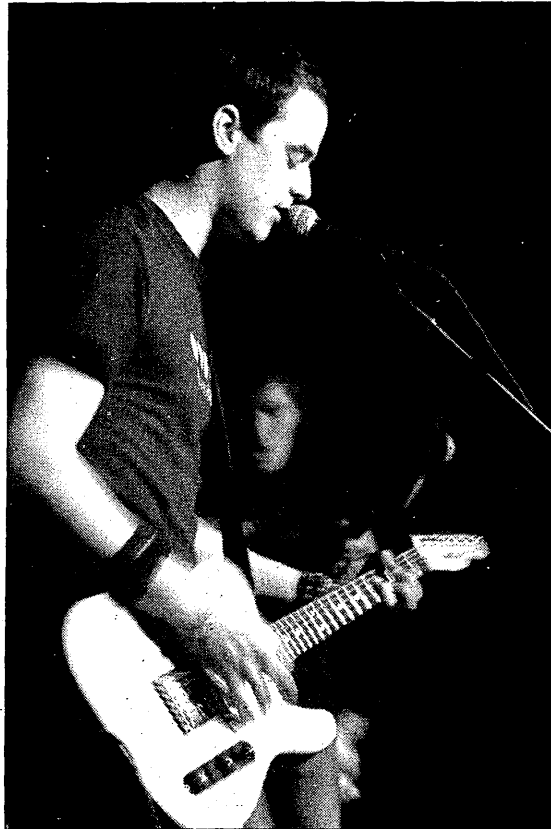
"The big difference between now and when we released 'First Attempt at World Domination' (the band's first album) is we were just playing at Stuart's Coffee House in between studying for finals," Swinehart said.

Three of the four band members live in Seattle, while bass player Justin Marcus resides in Bellingham and attends Western as a senior.

Swinehart said he moved to Seattle partly for himself and partly for the band.

"If you sell a lot of records in Bellingham, no one really notices," Swinehart said. "But if you sell the same amount of records in Seattle, you get put on the charts."

Going on two national tours and a West Coast tour last year was the most significant experience for the band so far, lead singer Gabe



Left: Pale Pacific singer Gabe Archer plays with bassist Justin Marcus (foreground) at their show on Thursday night at the Viking Union Multipurpose Room. Right: Marcus.

Archer said. He said New York and southern California are fighting for a tie as his two favorite places to tour.

"I think your life changes when you leave home six weeks at a time," Swinehart said. "You just gain perspective. You get home and ask yourself 'who do I want to call?'"

Swinehart said that even with all the traveling, coming to Bellingham is a big deal.

"Every time we play in Bellingham there's such a homecoming feeling," he said. "I went to a lot of concerts in the Viking Union, so being able to play there is unbelievable."

While on tour, the band had to change its name from The Pale to The Pale Pacific after it received a cease and desist order from a band in Houston named Pale, Swinehart said.

He said the band brainstormed several names, including The Pale Public and The Pale Pacific, while knowing they definitely wanted to keep the word "pale" within the title for sentimental reasons. The Pale Pacific seemed to fit because the band is from the Northwest and considers its music to have a West Coast style.

Neither Archer nor Swinehart could attach a distinct sound to West Coast music in comparison to

East Coast style, although Archer did describe The Pale Pacific's sound as more melodic. Swinehart said East Coast bands tend to be busier and more frantic-sounding.

"We are all pretty upbeat guys, and so we lean forward to sun-drenched music," Swinehart said, referring to The Pale Pacific's sound.

The three members of Late Tuesday, an all-girl Bellingham band, said they have been friends with The Pale Pacific since the band asked Late Tuesday to open for them at their first CD-release show in 2000 in Bellingham. Jocelyn Feil, one of the vocalists and guitarists of Late Tuesday, said

The Pale Pacific's music is always thoughtful, catchy and on the edge of pop.

"Aside from music, we've had summer parties and self-imposed Ping-Pong tournaments," Feil said.

The Pale Pacific's latest EP, "Rules are Predictable," released on April 5, let the band finally have a chance to catch up with itself, Archer said.

"In 'Gravity Gets Things Done' (the band's third album), it felt like we were just trying to get to the chorus," he said.

The Pale Pacific recorded its recent four-song EP throughout fall and part of winter on Orcas Island in a cottage complete with a log fireplace and high ceilings for a reverberating sound. Archer said the atmosphere was less distracting and helped the band become focused and inspired.

"Besides feeling like a winter record, I think it is more of a slow builder," Archer said. "The lyrics are less personal for me."

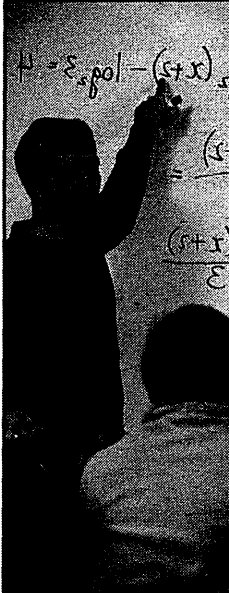
The Pale Pacific started when Archer and his cousin Cameron Nicklaus, the band's main guitarist, began playing in high school, Swinehart said.

Archer said he and Nicklaus played in a talent show in the second grade: He played the keyboard and Nicklaus played the drums, but they lost to a girl who twirled a baton.

"She must have dropped the thing like five times," Archer said.

Both shameless U2 fans, Swinehart and Archer said other music that really connected the band included Depeche Mode and The Cure.

"One of my secret goals in this band is to make better and better road trip music," Swinehart said.



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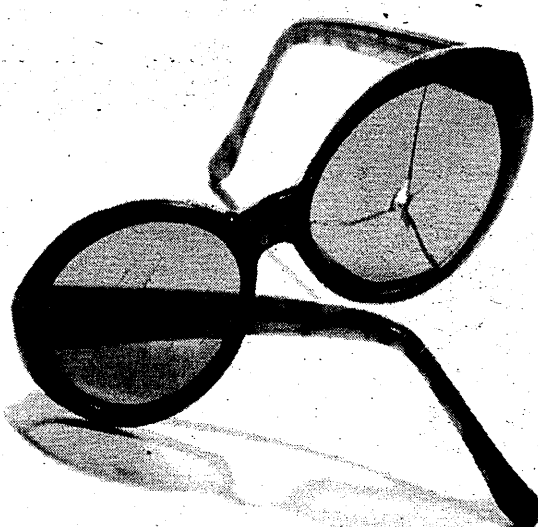


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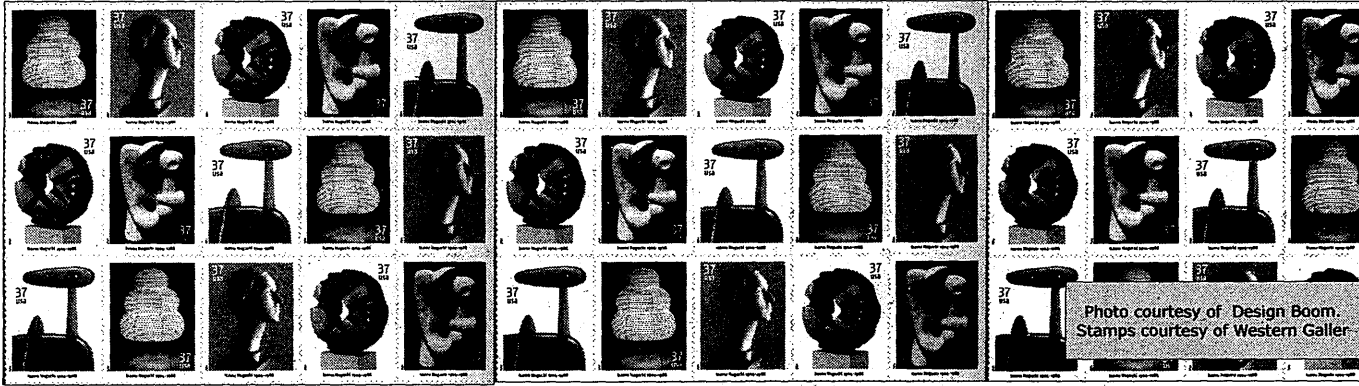
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A JOURNAL OF TRAVELS: Western features artist's posthumous work



BY STEFANI HARREY
The Western Front

Western students walk through Red Square every day, sometimes even multiple times a day. Little do they know they are walking past a sculpture from one of the greatest artists of the 20th century, Western Gallery director Sarah Clark-Langager said.

Isamu Noguchi created the "Skyviewing Sculpture" in 1969 for Western. The black square structure stands in Red Square near Fraser Hall, and other pieces he created are currently in the Western Gallery.

"You can rank Noguchi up there with Picasso," Clark-Langager said.

The exhibit at the Western Gallery is on display until June 10 in conjunction with Noguchi's 100th birthday, Clark-Langager said. He died in 1988.

Noguchi's exhibit is on loan from The Noguchi Museum in Long Island City, N.Y., Clark-Langager said. She said she is displaying the exhibit in two parts. The largest part of the gallery contains photographs from his travels throughout the world in the early 1940s and 1950s. The smaller section of the gallery features videos of sets Noguchi created for dancer Martha Graham, as well as a video of a celebration dance around the "Skyviewing Sculpture."

Clark-Langager said the photographs act as a diary of his travels after World War II. The photographs document what the world looked like after events such as the bombing of Hiroshima. Noguchi wrote information that will be on display next to each set of photographs in the gallery, explaining how he felt about each location he visited.

Students from various educational disciplines can find something that relates to their studies in the Noguchi exhibit, Clark-Langager said. Noguchi traveled to war-torn countries, nations in political uproar and places in religious turmoil, such as India, Japan and other southeast Asian nations.

"The exhibition cuts across many disciplines," Clark-



Photo courtesy of The Isamu Noguchi Foundation and Garden Museum.

"People by Edge of River," Bali, 1950.

Langager said.

Many of the photographs have common themes as well, Clark-Langager said. Noguchi focused on dance across cultures, as well as religious sculptures, buildings and monuments in his photography.

"All of his art interrelates," Clark-Langager said.

Part of the dance exhibit at the Western Gallery includes a video of a site-specific dance that Western dance faculty member Pam Kuntz choreographed.

Kuntz said she created the dance for the opening ceremony of Western's annual Japan Week in 2003, after Noguchi became the focal point of the celebration. She said she wanted to use his sculpture in Red Square to celebrate Noguchi.

The video playing in the gallery features nine dance students, dressed in all white, performing around the sculpture.

"I wanted the dancers to be noticed and seen," Kuntz said. "White seemed to pop."

Kuntz said in order to get ideas for the dance, she took the dancers to the sculpture and improvised. As ideas emerged, Kuntz said the concept of the number three seemed to stand out the most, since the sculpture has three sides and stands on three brick pillars. Dance students in groups of three performed in the video.

While improvising alongside the sculpture, the concepts of surging and retreating, suspension and balance came to her, Kuntz said. She then choreographed the routine that gallery patrons can now view in the video.

Aside from the Western dance video, two other videos play in the Noguchi exhibit. Both videos feature sets Noguchi designed for Martha Graham of the Martha Graham Dance Company, with which he had a close relationship for more than 30 years, Clark-Langager said.

After being inspired from the places he traveled while taking photographs, Noguchi created the dance sets and furniture on display in the gallery.

In order to create an organized display, Clark-Langager arranged the photographs in the gallery in groups based on geographic location.

"The photographs are lined up closely together on three

trays on each wall," said Melanie Iwasaki, a Western senior and studio art major. "It was abnormal to see them displayed that way — usually photographs are spread apart from each other."

Iwasaki said galleries usually display photographs far apart from each other, so gallery patrons can view each photograph alone to fully take in the scene. Aside from displaying Noguchi's photographs closer together than usual, the gallery also mounted them as prints on foam core, Clark-Langager said.

"Using foam core is a no-no in the art world," Clark-Langager said.

Usually, framing professionals mat and frame gallery art, so the foam-core mounting of Noguchi's work is rare, Clark-Langager said.

Noguchi never intended the photographs to be art pieces, she said. Noguchi used his photographs as documents through which he could remember a particular place. He meant to use the photographs as a travel diary, not an art display, she said.

Iwasaki said the photographs reminded her of something one might see in a National Geographic magazine.

Some of the photographs have taken on new meaning after the Dec. 26 tsunami damaged two of the shrines Noguchi photographed in India, Clark-Langager said.

Clark-Langager said patrons of the gallery will experience something not accessible anywhere else in the United States except in The Noguchi Museum in Long Island City, N.Y.

When she asked the museum to use the exhibit at Western, Clark-Langager said the museum would let her display it because Western has taken good care of Noguchi's sculpture in Red Square. She said before she allows people to put the sculpture on apparel or other advertisements, she has to approve it with The Noguchi Museum.

Iwasaki said she enjoyed seeing the video of Western students dancing around the Noguchi sculpture in Red Square and appreciated the small model of "Skyviewing Sculpture" on display inside the gallery.

"It is great to see something familiar in a gallery," Iwasaki said. "That doesn't happen very often."



Photo courtesy of The Isamu Noguchi Foundation and Garden Museum.

Kohima, Nagaland, India.

"Catching Time" with the dance faculty

By KATE MILLER
The Western Front

Colorful costumes, innovative movement and mind-opening music combine to bring the annual faculty dance concert to audiences Thursday night.

The Western dance program faculty members choreographed six original performances for the concert, which opened Thursday. This sets it apart from previous performances, such as last quarter's "Dance Works," which contained student and faculty choreography. The faculty dance concert is also the only department-sponsored performance in which both the faculty and students perform, said Jessica Stahl, a dance faculty performer, dancer and production manager.

While the pieces do not share a common theme, all the movements fall in the genre of contemporary dance, which Pam Kuntz, a dance faculty member, choreographer, dancer and artistic director for the concert, refers to as "the dance of ideas."

Kuntz choreographed a playful interpretation of children's games in her piece, "When do we learn how." Kuntz said the costumes are vivid and imply an exploratory

childhood playground.

"(Contemporary dance) is an art form that can open a person's eyes to the world in a new way, and we could all use that," she said.

Dancers leap off, circle and climb chairs they use as props while they convey the experiences of winning and losing through their facial expressions and movements. Kuntz's piece also features a live music performance, composed by Michael Gurule, a Western senior and music major.

All of the pieces are collaborations between the experiences and ideas of the dancers and choreographers, Kuntz said.

Pieces range from flowing duets such as dance faculty member Dionne Noble's piece "31 miles of silence + 8 birthday cards," to playful group dances such as Kuntz's, and dance faculty member Andy Noble's high-energy, hip-hop piece "Signal." Other pieces include one by Nolan Dennett, the director of the dance program at Western. He set his piece "Whispers and Cries" to music by accompanist Mike Bajuk. The program's newest faculty member Rebecca Jorgenson choreographed a dance titled "The Other Side."

A highlight of the concert is the original film "Egg Skin," which Andy Noble



KATE MILLER/The Western Front
Western dance faculty member Jessica Stahl and Western junior Mary Thies rehearse at the Performing Arts Center stage before opening night of the faculty dance concert, which runs through Saturday at the PAC.

choreographed, and Bajuk and Talitha Jones, a Western graduate student and dancer, composed music for, Stahl said. This "dance for film" shows the audience angles of the dance they normally cannot see, she said.

"The camera can move around the dance, but the audience has to stay in their seats," Stahl said.

While the department has produced two other films similar to "Egg Skin" in the past, this is a larger production, and dance faculty members have worked on it for more than a year, Stahl said.

Western sophomore Andrea Squires said she values working with the faculty choreographers because of the years of dance experience they have.

"I like the idea of being in a faculty piece," she said. "The teachers have a really strong idea of what they're doing."

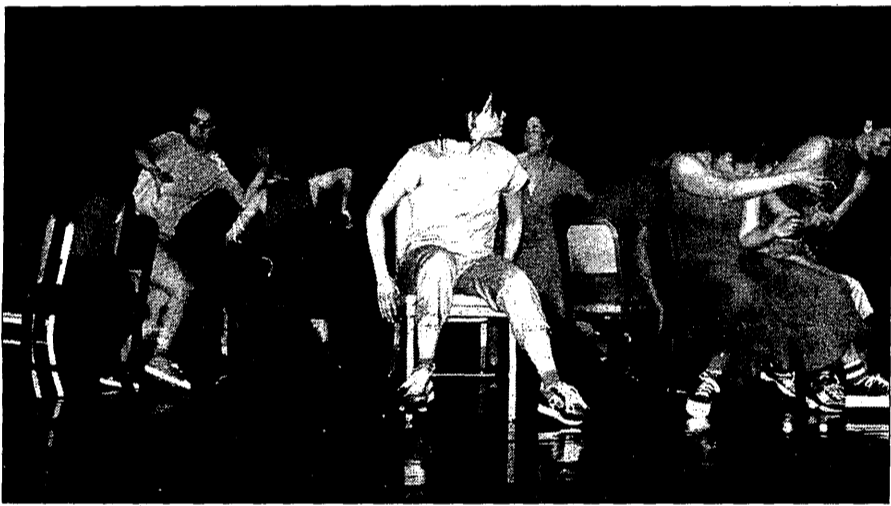
Twenty-five dancers rehearsed for 10 weeks after auditioning for the concert last quarter, Stahl said. The rehearsal time is in addition to choreographers' and dancers' school schedules.

Some dancers, such as Western freshman Erica Wagner, who performs in "When do we learn how," worked on homework as they

watched other rehearsals in an attempt to ease the stress of classes, she said.

"It's been really tough with school, but it's worth it," Wagner said of the nearly 65 hours she has spent rehearsing.

Western's dance faculty will perform again in the program called "Catching Time" at 7:30 p.m. today and 2 p.m. Saturday. For ticket information, call 650-6146.



KATE MILLER/The Western Front
Dancers rehearse before opening night at the PAC for the piece, "When do we learn how," as part of the "Catching Time" performance.



KATE MILLER/The Western Front
Western juniors Jessica Hoage (front left) and Ty Vennowitz practice their piece, "When do we learn how," before opening night at the PAC.

In the spotlight

Friday, April 15

Acoustic and indie rock

Underground Coffeehouse; 650-3000, Free
Solo project 1985 performs with Tony Presley and Purrbot. Show starts at 8 p.m.

Jazz

The Nightlight Lounge; 650-0331, \$8
Robert Walter's 20th Congress performs at 8 p.m.

Saturday, April 16

Earth Day workshop

Whatcom Children's Museum; 733-8769, \$3.50
Make a sculpture out of recycled newspaper to celebrate Earth Day beginning at 1 p.m.

Rock

The 3B Tavern; 734-1881, \$5
The USS Horsewhip CD release show with The Wastelanders and Treasures starts at 9:30 p.m.

Astronomical event

Hovander Homestead Park; 592-5748, Free
The Whatcom County Association of Celestial Observers features slide shows, activities and telescopes. Local astronomy experts will be present. Event is open from 2 to 11 p.m.

Sunday, April 17

Puppet show

Whatcom Museum; 676-6981, \$4 general and \$3 museum members

Thistle Theater presents "Baba Yaga and the Bag of Gold" at 2 p.m.

Blues

The Nightlight Lounge; 650-0331, \$10
Kelly Joe Phelps and special guests open their set at 9 p.m. Doors open at 8 p.m.

Tuesday, April 19

Big Brothers Big Sisters benefit

Bellingham High School; 671-2626, \$5
Eoin Colfer presents the latest in his series of children's books, "Artemis Fowl: The Opal Deception," in a fundraising event for Big Brothers Big Sisters. It begins at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 21

Poetry reading

Barnes and Noble Booksellers; 647-7018, Free
Local poets Tim Pilgrim, Robert Russell Marquardt, Malcolm Kenyon and Anita Boyle read their poetry, followed by an open mic. The reading begins at 6:30 p.m.

Folk

Mount Baker Studio Theatre; 734-6080, \$20
Small Potatoes performs at 7:30 p.m.

Mariners' new faces do not spell playoff success



MICHAEL LYCKLAMA

The character broadcast announcer Harry Doyle in the classic baseball movie "Major League," said, "You can tell a lot about how the season is gonna go by the first hitter of the year."

The 2005 Seattle Mariners must look appealing to Doyle. Right fielder Ichiro Suzuki led off the season April 4 by picking up where he left off last year, hitting a line drive into left field for a base hit. Unlike the majority of last year's players, Ichiro easily strolled across home plate, thanks to Mariners first baseman Richie Sexson's three-run home run to left field.

When the team finished 2004 with a 63-99 record — 29 games behind the first place Anaheim Angels in the AL West Division Mariners management realized it would have to loosen the grip on its wallet in order to keep its loyal fan base. Management responded and addressed the team's most urgent issue — offense. Seattle finished last in the American League in runs scored, home runs and slugging percentage.

Despite a struggling pitch staff that posted a 4.76 earned run average — 21st in the majors — the Mariners front office improved in the offseason by hiring manager Mike Hargrove and signing free agents Sexson, third baseman Adrian Beltre and shortstop Pokey Reese.

Too many question marks haunt this year's team for fans to believe it will make the playoffs. But 80 wins and a third-place finish in the AL West will have the Mariners headed in the right direction.

The Mariners made its first big move of the offseason by signing Sexson to a four-year, \$50 million deal. Sexson, 31, did not receive many offers after a check swing tore the cartilage in his left shoulder in April 2004 and ended his season.

Outfielder and first baseman Shawn Green, now with the Arizona Diamondbacks, suffered the same type of shoulder injury in 2003 with the Los Angeles Dodgers, and his ability to hit for power has suffered since then. But before the Mariners signed Sexson, he passed a physical exam of his surgically repaired left shoulder and proved his power by hitting two home runs in his first game as a Mariners player.

When healthy, few players can hit the ball harder or farther than the 6-foot-8-inch, 237-pound Sexson. Between 2001 and 2003, he had a .274 batting average, with 39 home runs, 117 RBIs while with the Milwaukee Brewers. In the Mariners' first seven games this year, Sexson leads the team with two home runs and nine RBIs.

The signing of Sexson showed that the Mariners management is willing to spend to compete.

The team followed the Sexson deal by signing third baseman Adrian Beltre on

Dec. 16, 2004 to a five-year, \$64 million deal.

Beltre, who turned 26 on April 7, played third base regularly after joining the Dodgers mid-season in 1998 at age 19. He played an average of 147 games during each 162-game season from 1999-2004 as Dodgers' third baseman. He finished second in the National League Most Valuable Player voting, hitting a .334 batting average, with 48 home runs and 121 RBIs.

'Given all the money the Mariners spent on improving one of the worst offensive teams in baseball, the team had little money to improve the pitching staff.'

While Sexson and Beltre will improve the Mariners' offense, the new additions also will improve the Mariners' defense. Though not as talented as 2004 first baseman John Olerud, Sexson is athletic and "almost graceful," according to a STATS, Inc. 2005 scouting report listed on ESPN.com.

If Beltre had not spent his first seven years playing in the National League with St. Louis Cardinal third baseman Scott Rolen, winner of six Gold Gloves, he already would have at least one Gold Glove. Both the American and National Leagues give out Gold Gloves to the best defensive player at each position. According to a March 31 Seattle Times article, a National League scout called Beltre one of the most underrated defensive players at any position in the major leagues.

Another Gold Glove-caliber player, Reese, joins Sexson and Beltre in the 2005 Mariners infield. Fresh from helping the Boston Red Sox win the World Series, Reese signed as

a short-term solution at shortstop. While he will not light up the scoreboard offensively — he has a career .249 batting average — Reese is one of the top defensive players in the game. He has won two National League Gold Gloves at second base. He also can provide speed on the base path, stealing 38 bases in 1999 with the Cincinnati Reds.

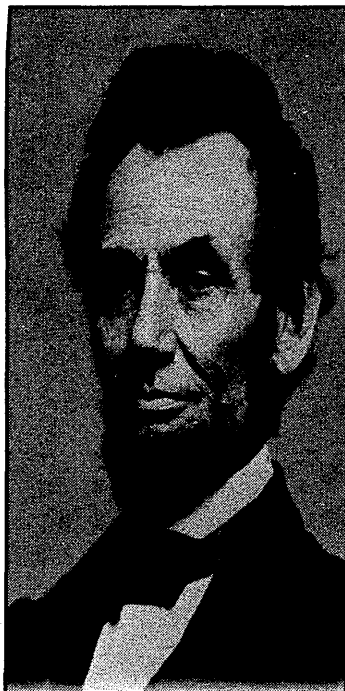
Injuries have plagued Reese in the last four years and he has played less than 120 games per season since 2001. As of April 15, Reese is on the 15-day disabled list. New Mariners shortstop Wilson Valdez, whom the team signed April 1, and utility infielder Willie Bloomquist will replace Reese at shortstop until he returns.

Brett Boone, a four-time Gold Glove second baseman, will round out the Mariners' infield, giving the team a Gold Glove candidate at every infield position. Boone will attempt to rebound offensively after hitting .251 in 2004, with 24 home runs, 83 RBIs and a career-high 135 strikeouts.

The Mariners outfield improved in the offseason with the emergence of center fielder Jeremy Reed, whom six of 19 ESPN analysts picked to win the AL Rookie of the Year, according to ESPN.com. With Reed as the center fielder, outfielder Randy Winn will move to left field. The move will shift former left fielder Raul Ibanez to the designated hitter role and give the Mariners one of the top defensive and flexible outfielders in the majors.

Given all the money the Mariners spent on improving one of the worst offensive teams in

see MARINERS, page 9

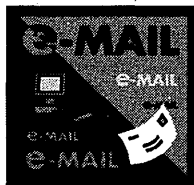


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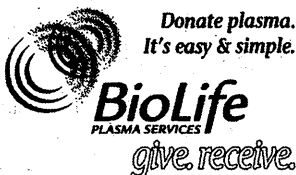
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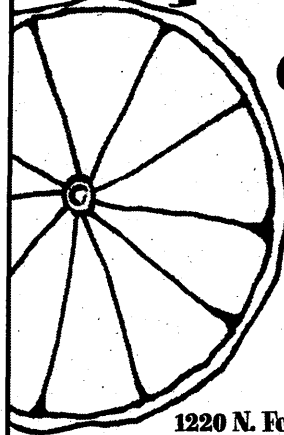
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Don't Miss Out!

Trygg leads by example for women's golf team

BY DEVIN SMART
The Western Front

With Western's women's golf team ranked No. 11 in the National Golf Coaches Association/NCAA II poll, head coach Dean Russell said Western junior golfer Katja Trygg has been the catalyst for the team's success.

"She is our silent leader," Russell said. "Her personality blends so well with the rest of her teammates. We have great chemistry on this team, and she is a big part of it."

Trygg won her fourth medalist honor at the Chico State Spring Classic April 11 and 12, shooting rounds of 79 and 76.

Trygg has lowered her scoring average by 3.5 strokes, from last season's 80.5 to 77 for this season. Her improvement has placed her second in the country for her scoring average on par-3 holes and fourth for her scoring average on par-4 holes. Russell also said that at the beginning of the season, Trygg was No. 1 in the nation in overall scoring.

Western junior teammate Candice Wagner, whom Russell called one of the team leaders, said Trygg is the main reason for the team's success.

"She is our biggest asset," Wagner said. "We would not be who we are without her. We always know she is going to (get low scores) for us. We almost expect it because she is so consistent."

Trygg's rise to the top of Division II college golf was not predestined, Russell said. When she came to Western as a freshman in 2002, she had to walk on to the golf team because Western did not offer her a scholarship. Trygg said she did not start playing golf until she was a freshman at Bainbridge High School. By the end of her four years in high school, her average score was approximately 85, a far cry from her 76.9 scoring average this season.

"I had always hoped (of becoming a top player), but it is not something that I thought would happen," Trygg said.

Trygg said she attributes her success to her growth in confidence and to her own abilities. She said she does not have any secret tip that drastically improved her golf swing — just hard work and a belief in her ability.

Trygg is not a one-dimensional golfer; she has an all-around game, Russell said. He said Trygg is a solid ball-striker who drives the ball approximately 240 to 250 yards off

the tee and is a talented iron player. Russell also said her strongest facet is her ability to reduce her number of strokes around the green, whether she is putting, chipping or hitting from the bunker.

"Katja is a technician of bunker play," Russell said. "Her short game can make a bad shot look good."

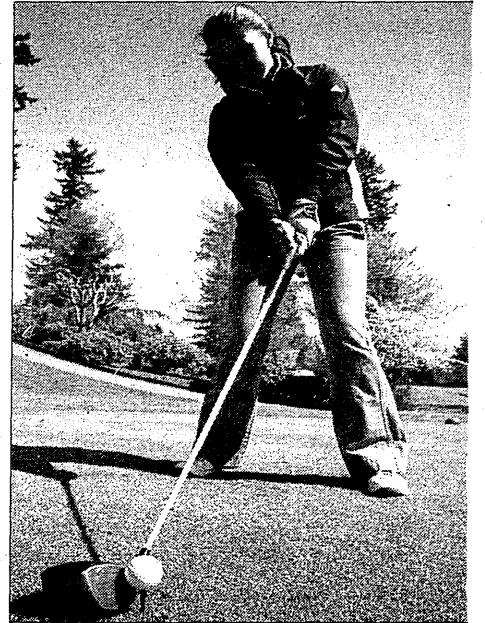
Wagner, who said she practices at Bellingham Country Club with Trygg nearly every day, confirmed Russell's praise of her short game.

"She gets it up and down from everywhere," Wagner said. "She putts like a maniac."

Trygg said her family members have asked her if she will become a professional golfer, and she has to remind people just how good one needs to be in order to obtain a spot on the Ladies Professional Golf Association Tour. Her current plan is to pursue a career as a PGA teaching professional, she said.

Russell said he thinks Trygg would do well in this field.

"I think with the large passion she has for the game of golf, she would be an outstanding golf professional," Russell said.



CHRIS HUBER/The Western Front
Western junior Katja Trygg tees off during practice Thursday afternoon at Bellingham Golf and Country Club.

The women's golf team has finished the regular season, and the post-season begins with the NCAA II West Regional starting June 2.

Mariners: Both starting and relief pitching must bounce back in 2005 for Mariners to succeed

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

baseball, the team had little money to improve the pitching staff. According to ESPN.com, the Mariners gave up 212 home runs last year, the second highest in the American League.

Aside from Mariner pitcher Bobby Madritsch, who posted a 6-3 record with a 3.27 ERA in 2004 for the Mariners, the team will have to rely on starting pitchers Jamie Moyer, Joel Piñeiro, Gil Meche and Aaron

Sele, who combined for a 29-35 win-loss record and a 4.99 ERA, to rebound from shockingly unsatisfactory years.

The bullpen presents another weakness. Eddie Guardado, who is recovering from a torn rotator cuff, knee surgery and a strained right hamstring, will attempt to regain the form that earned him the nickname "Everyday Eddie." Guardado saved 45 games in 2002 and 41 games in 2003 with the Minnesota Twins.

Seattle also will need relief pitcher Shigetoshi Hasegawa to put up numbers similar to his 2003 1.48 ERA rather than his 5.16 ERA in 2004.

Pitcher Ryan Franklin will have to adjust to moving back to the bullpen after pitching 200 innings last year and only winning four games while losing 16.

The team must wait to see how much pitcher Jeff Nelson, in his fourth stint with the Mariners, has left in the tank, and

whether J.J. Putz and Matt Thornton can pitch in the majors.

Simply put, the Mariners will play a new brand of baseball in 2005. Seattle can no longer rely on the pitching and defense that won 116 games in 2001.

The strength of this team comes from the heart of the lineup — Bêltre, Sexson, Boone and Ibañez. This year's Mariners team will not win 116 games, but it will improve on last year's total of 63.



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Frontline

The Western Front adheres to code of ethics

The Western Front recently learned that one of its reporters, Shannon Hutchinson, is running for the position of Associated Students President. After much deliberation, The Western Front editorial board has decided that while Hutchinson will remain on The Western Front staff, she will not be published this quarter because of the potential for a conflict of interest or the perception of biased reporting by The Western Front staff. While Hutchinson will still be enrolled in the class, she will not be involved in the writing or production of any news stories.

The Western Front abides by the Society of Professional Journalists' code of ethics, which thousands of writers, editors and other news professionals follow, according to SPJ's Web site. The code states that journalists should:

- Avoid conflicts of interest, real or perceived.
- Remain free of associations and activities that may compromise integrity or damage credibility.
- Shun secondary employment, political involvement, public office and service in community organizations if they compromise journalistic integrity.
- Disclose unavoidable conflicts.
- Clarify and explain news coverage and invite dialogue with the public about journalistic conduct.
- Admit mistakes and correct them promptly.
- Abide by the same high standards to which they hold others.

Hutchinson's candidacy could affect the way she covers local issues or could cause the perception in the public that this is happening. Publishing Hutchinson's articles gives her exposure to the public that other candidates do not receive, and it could cause the public to doubt the validity of any reporting The Western Front does on issues relating to the AS, both before, during and after the elections.

Hutchinson's candidacy will not affect the way The Western Front approaches and covers the AS elections. All stories relating to the AS presidential race will be prefaced with an editor's note that mentions Hutchinson's connection to the paper.

The editors of The Western Front hold themselves to the same standards as professional newspapers, which the SPJ code of ethics outlines. The Western Front takes any potential conflicts of interest seriously and is doing everything in its power to keep the community informed about decisions it makes relating to those potential conflicts. The Western Front will report on all issues relating to on-campus politics without bias and will remain transparent to the public while doing so.

Frontlines are the opinion of The Western Front editorial board: Caleb Heeringa, Laura McVicker, Zoe Fraley, Brittany Greenfield, Timory Wilson, Chris Huber, Elana Bean, Marissa Harshman, Molly Jensen, Adam Rudnick, Krissy Gochmour, Christina Twu, Blair Wilson and Greta Smoke.

The Western Front

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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:

*"Find out what you're afraid of
and go live there."*

—Chuck Palahniuk, freelance journalist



DeLay's actions are damaging



AARON HART

Republicans who are questioning the actions of House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, have a valid reason to be concerned. If he continues to use questionable ethics like he has been, his fellow Republicans will have to throw him out themselves just to save face.

"Tom's conduct is hurting the Republican Party, is hurting this Republican majority, and it is hurting any Republican who is up for re-election," said Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Conn., according to an April 11 Associated Press article.

DeLay is getting flack for using rhetoric that could provoke

violence toward the judges involved in the Terri Schiavo case, having connections to lobbyists who are under investigation, allegedly making campaign payments to family members and promising endorsements in exchange for votes, according to the article.

Allegations such as these are enough to put DeLay on everyone's minds, even though he has stayed under the radar of many Americans. Forty-two percent of those responding to a USA Today/CNN Gallup Poll this month said they had never heard of him or knew too little to form opinions, according to an April 12 USA Today article.

DeLay should have been under public scrutiny long ago. Last year, a House bipartisan panel criticized him for saying he promised to endorse a retiring House Republican's son to succeed him

— as long as he voted for Bush's Medicare drug plan, according to the USA Today article. Most will agree this is not the way politicians should conduct business on Capitol Hill. Family members should not get favors in the political arena if representatives cast the right vote. Even DeLay's backers should be able to see how unethical this is.

Many Republicans are questioning DeLay's comments regarding Terri Schiavo's death after federal judges refused to order doctors to re-insert the brain-damaged woman's feeding tube.

"The time will come for the men responsible for this to answer for their behavior," DeLay said after Schiavo's death. Now federal judges are seeking \$12 million in new security measures because leaders in Congress make them feel threatened, said Sen. Edward

see DELAY, page 12

Poor do not benefit from tax loopholes



TARA NELSON
FROM THE LEFT

If you are like me, you waited until this week to do your taxes.

Most people put off their taxes because they don't want to pay them. But doing your taxes can be interesting — even educational. This year, for example, I decided to have fun with my taxes and itemize to see what loopholes were available to me. What I found both sickened and amazed me.

I logged on to TurboTax, an inexpensive, Web-based electronic tax filing system, and began browsing all the possible exemptions. I was amazed that I

could save so much money if I just took the time to do the work. For one, I did not realize that anyone whose adjusted gross income was less than \$10,000 could qualify for a \$170 earned income tax credit, a refundable tax credit that supplements low- and middle-income workers.

But that was just the beginning of my hunt.

I also discovered that people can deduct state income tax and some state sales tax on the purchase of yachts, recreational vehicles, automobiles, houses and other large items, donations to political campaigns and some losses as a result of theft and gambling — including pulltabs.

Deductions include payments to doctors, chiropractors, psychologists, counselors and physical therapists, health club memberships, deductions for

premiums paid for medical insurance, purchases of prescription drugs, and medical equipment such as crutches and prescription eyeglasses — even miles patients travel and expenses such as lodging and food patients consume while obtaining treatment.

Students can write off tuition or indirect college expenses if they paid for them out of their pockets — including books, lab fees and penalties for adding a class late.

The only problem was that I, being an occupant of one of the lower income brackets, did not make enough money to qualify for any of these deductions.

That's right. Because I am poor, I had to pay for these expenses. But then I wondered, who pays the majority of taxes if wealthier people get all these deductions?

see TAXES, page 12

Obese patients deserve insurance coverage for surgery



ELISA SPARKMAN

The field of surgery has made amazing technological advances during the past few decades, including bariatric surgery, more commonly known as obesity surgery.

Obesity surgery involves reducing stomach size, forcing the patient to consume fewer calories, resulting in sufficient weight loss. The rise in the number of these procedures has grabbed the attention of the media and has recently raised the eyebrows of state governments as well.

Sen. Joseph Crisco, D-Woodridge, Conn., proposed Senate Bill 130 in January, according to the Connecticut General Assembly's Web site. The bill proposes that insurance companies should cover obesity surgery expenses if a doctor deems it medically necessary, according to a March 22 Associated Press article. The article also states that the Georgia and Louisiana legislatures are considering similar bills. Connecticut's Legislature should pass the proposed bill because obesity is a serious medical problem.

Obesity is related to many other medical problems, such as asthma, high blood pressure, sleep disruption and infertility. Obesity is directly related to nearly 70 percent of cardiovascular diseases, 42 percent

of breast and colon cancer, and 80 percent of Type II diabetes, according to the Web site of the Coastal Center for Obesity, a medical center that specializes in bariatric surgery and related information.

Weight-loss surgery significantly reduces obesity-related illnesses, and many doctors even call it a cure for them. Americans spend \$100 billion treating weight-related illnesses and another \$100 billion on weight-loss products and services each year, according to the center. The cost of obesity surgery can range from \$20,000 to \$35,000, according to the AP article. The cost can be quite intimidating to insurance companies, but a successful procedure will eliminate medical costs in the future.

Obesity is an epidemic. According to the Weight-Control Information Network Web site, which is an information service of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, approximately one-quarter of adults in the United States are obese. The

site defines obesity as more than 25 percent body fat in men and 30 percent body fat in women.

Obesity can lead to premature death and is responsible for approximately 300,000 deaths each year. The Journal of the American Medical Association published a study March 10, 2004 that concluded poor diet and physical inactivity may soon surpass tobacco as the leading preventable causes of death in the United States. In 2000, tobacco use accounted for 18.1 percent of deaths in America. Poor diet and physical inactivity resulted in 16.6 percent, according to the study.

Last year the federal government allowed for Medicare coverage of gastric bypass surgery, a type of bariatric surgery, and Medicare reconstructed a policy that designated obesity as a non-illness, according to a recent medical article on locateadoc.com, which provides local doctor and medical information to the public. The article also states that some insurance companies, such as Michigan's M-Care, now

provide benefits, including discounts on weight-control programs and bariatric surgery, for clinically obese policyholders.

The risks associated with bariatric surgery cause insurance companies to worry about additional medical charges due to surgical complications. Insurance companies also fear that patients will have the surgery when it is not completely necessary, according to the recent locateadoc.com article.

Every surgery has risks, and patients need to be well aware of them. The bill, however, would require a doctor's approval of the surgery before the insurance company could cover it and does not guarantee insurance coverage of the surgery for everyone. The benefits of bariatric surgery greatly outweigh the costs, not only for those who are morbidly obese, but for insurance companies as well. If Connecticut passes the bill, it will set a precedent for other states and help the United States battle the epidemic of obesity.

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DeLay: House majority leader needs to adhere to ethical standards of his party

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Kennedy, D-Mass., in an April 11 USA TODAY article.

DeLay should choose his inflammatory rhetoric more carefully. Some fanatics could easily take his statement the wrong way — or the right way depending on what exactly he meant — and decide that their duty is to personally remove a judge or two from office.

DeLay is also under scrutiny for his ties to two lobbyists whom the Justice Department, the Interior Department, the IRS and two Senate committees are investigating. Jack Abramoff, who is suspected of influencing companies to donate money that DeLay used to fly overseas, and Michael Scanlon, a former DeLay spokesman, received \$82 million from the Choctaw Indian tribe for their services in preventing the closure of a tribal casino after they had worked behind the scenes to get it shut down, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., said in hearings this past fall, according to the USA Today.com article.

These men are exactly the kind of people politicians do not want to have connections with if they want any hope of being re-elected. If the Republican Party is going to stick to its platform of ethics, it should get to the bottom of

DeLay's dealings with these two men and let the public decide if he deserves to stay in office.

On top of all this, DeLay is facing allegations that his wife and daughter received more than \$500,000 for working in his election campaign and political action committees, according to an April 13 AP article.

And DeLay's response to all the criticism is simple: blame the Democrats and the media. DeLay is suggesting that his fellow senators respond to questions about his ethics by dismissing them as part of a "mammoth operation" Democratic supporters are funding with the sole intent of destroying him as a symbol of the Republican majority, according to an April 12 AP article.

'The Republican Party needs to realize that keeping around a guy with such questionable ethics is damaging the solidarity of its own members.'

In the April 12 AP article, DeLay asserts that Democrats have no goal aside from stifling the Republican agenda and creating partisanship. At the same time, however, he is polarizing even his own party with unethical behavior. The Republican Party needs to realize that keeping around a guy with such questionable ethics is damaging the solidarity of its own members. The right thing to do would be to stick to the ethics it espouses — which he fails to live up to — by showing Tom DeLay the door before he does something the whole party would regret.

Taxes: Shift to national sales tax would affect low-income bracket most and minimize social funding

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

From my research, it's not who you might think.

In a 2003 study, the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, a D.C.-based nonpartisan research group, found Washington state's tax system to be the most regressive in the nation, meaning poor people pay the highest percent of their income in taxes. Washington families earning less than \$17,000, for example, pay 17.6 percent of their income on state and local taxes. Meanwhile, the wealthiest 1 percent of Washington taxpayers pay only 3.3 percent of their income, according to the study.

On the federal level, the trend is similar. The wealthiest 1 percent pay only 3.2 percent more of their income in taxes than the rest of the nation, and the richest corporations often pay little or nothing in federal income taxes, according to a 2004 study by the same organization.

'The sooner we realize that what is good for everyone is good for ourselves as well, the better off we'll all be. And that's something we can all feel good about April 15.'

Even so, the federal tax system is still technically progressive, meaning poorer people pay a smaller percentage of their income than wealthier people do. Rep. John Linder, R-Ga., introduced a bill in January 2003, however, which could reverse that.

If passed, the bill would shift the federal tax system from an income tax to a national sales tax, further transferring the tax burden onto the lower and middle classes. This would happen because poorer people tend to pay a greater percentage than wealthier people of their income on sales tax. Tim Eyman would be proud.

The bill is not only unfair to people who need tax breaks the most, but could demand a tax rate of as much as 50 percent to replace the revenue generated from the federal income tax, according to a 2005 study by the same organization.

In addition, neoconservatives would likely attempt to make up for those losses by eliminating Social Security and Medicare benefits.

Groups who advocate the national sales tax, such as Americans for Fair Taxation, argue that forcing businesses and wealthy individuals to pay more taxes would likely force them to relocate, which could harm the overall economy. They also claim it will force poor people — who already spend most or all of their income on basic necessities — to save.

The message from the neo-cons is clear: Poor people need to learn to stop having medical emergencies and unplanned expenses or choose between food and heat.

In addition, researchers have had overall difficulty proving that these taxes hurt economic growth. And most economists will agree that firms look at more than just cheap labor and lack of industry regulations when seeking to relocate. Policies that contribute to a higher quality of life, for example, are likely to create an environment where firms want to move.

This could explain why countries with high taxes also tend to be the most affluent.

Think about it this way: Poor people make poor customers. And taxes that have little or no income redistribution affect not only the poor but can create poor infrastructure, bad public health care and schools that do not educate students in a way that will be beneficial to society as a whole.

Public services are not just food stamps and welfare. They are funding for police departments when we want to keep our property safe from people who steal or deal drugs because of a lack of other economic opportunity. They are funding for jails, schools and safety nets for our elderly or disabled loved ones so they don't end up on the street, creating an eye sore that we wish to sweep under the rug.

The sooner we realize that what is good for everyone is good for ourselves as well, the better off we'll be. And that's something we can all feel good about April 15.

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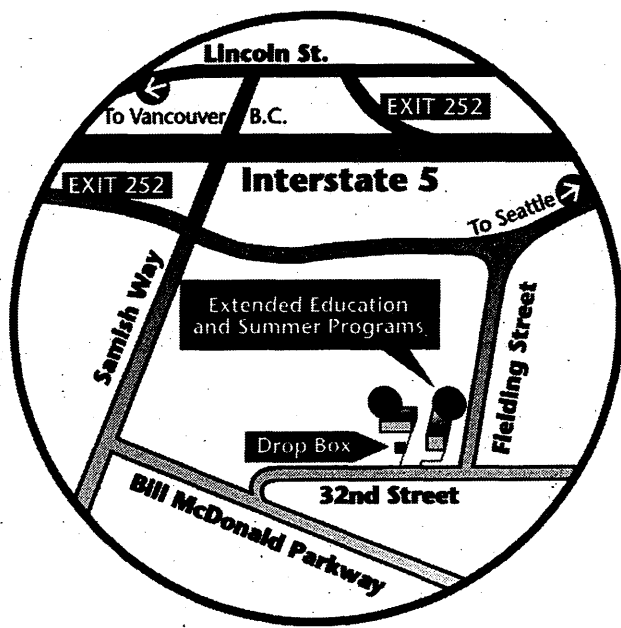
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