

'Hopefully people will learn that our vision is as overrated as our hearing is overlooked.'

DAVID ENGBRETSON
Western geology professor

SEISMIC SOUNDS



TAYLOR WILLIAMS / THE WESTERN FRONT

Western geology professor David Engbretson pets his guide dog, Fritz, in his Viking Union 552 classroom.

Legally blind professor finds way to teach using only sound

BY TALI BENDZAK
The Western Front

Due to his failing sight, Western geology professor David Engbretson is teaching a class this quarter he developed pioneering the study of earth science in a unique manner — using sound.

"He is developing an entirely innovative class — the sounds on Earth," geology department chair Scott Babcock said. "What he is doing is changing your whole way of perceiving the Earth. I think what he is doing is important."

Born with a rare, unnamed disorder that caused scar tissue to form in his retina, Engbretson, 58, was legally blind by his 30s and has had to rely on his remaining senses to understand and teach about the Earth. After earning a bachelor's degree in geophysics at Western and a doctorate at Stanford University as a young man, he returned to Western to teach geology full-time in 1983, with limited sight.

In addition to his original disorder, Engbretson was diagnosed with cone-rod dystrophy disease in 1995, which caused his eyes' rods and cones to gradually degrade, resulting in further vision loss. Engbretson said he misses conducting fieldwork, such as reading maps and studying minerals.

see **PROFESSOR**, page 6

Provost has presidential dreams

Western's Andrew Bodman is finalist for Eastern Washington University presidency

BY JACOB BUCKENMEYER
The Western Front

Andrew Bodman, Western's provost and vice president of academic affairs, might move across the state to Cheney to become president of Eastern Washington University as early as this summer, he said.

Bodman is one of three finalists who will travel to Eastern this week to participate in forums in which Eastern students and Cheney community members can ask questions regarding the qualifications of each candidate, said Gordon Budke, chair of Eastern's presidential selection committee.

Eastern is looking for a leader who cares about students, Budke said.

Bodman will speak Thursday and Friday at the university's main campus in Cheney and at its auxiliary campus

in Spokane, Budke said.

Bodman, provost at Western since August 1999, said a position as a university president is the next step for a provost.

"I think Eastern is an institution which has made substantial progress the last six years or so," he said. "It is an institution which is clearly moving forward, and this happens to be a very attractive-looking job."

Eastern's former president Samuel Kirkpatrick left in July to become president of Metropolitan State College in Denver, and the presidential selection committee began its work to replace him in mid-July, Budke said.

All three finalists are provosts of their universities, Budke said. The other finalists are Rodolfo Arevalo, who is provost and vice president for academic affairs at the University

of Texas-Pan American, and John Folkins is provost at Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

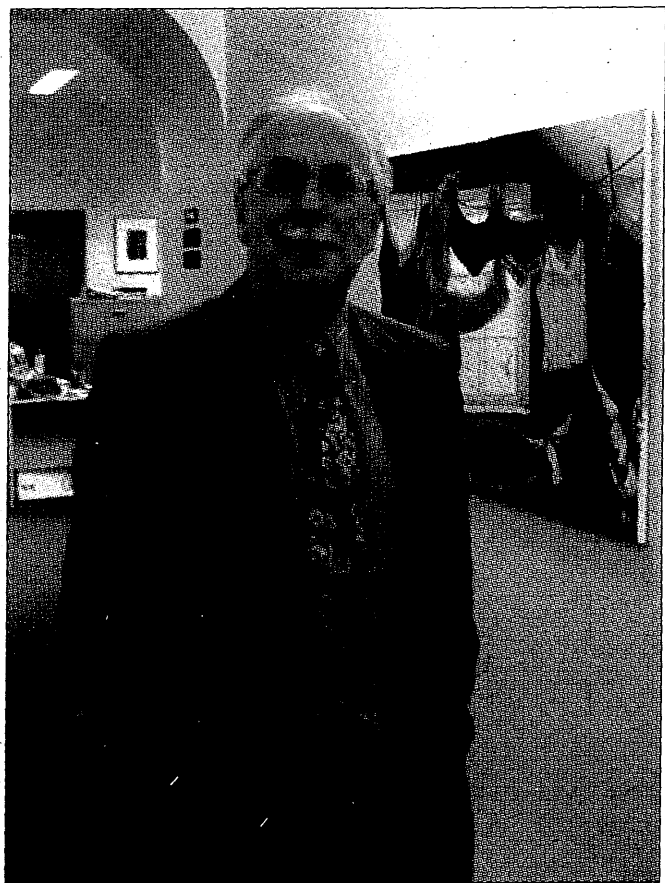
Budke said he is not surprised all of the candidates are provosts, as many of a provost's duties transfer well into presidential positions.

"Being a provost, you're assigned the responsibility of ensuring that the academic quality is strengthened," said Kris Bulcroft, Western's vice provost of undergraduate education. "It's a good training ground to become a president because you can tell the university's story better; you know the challenges, the strengths, the issues that confront us, having been in the role of provost first."

Bulcroft works with Bodman and said Bodman's work at Western has prepared him for the high level of responsibility that comes with being the president of a university.

While a provost is an internal representative of a university who

see **BODMAN**, page 6



JACOB BUCKENMEYER / THE WESTERN FRONT

Andrew Bodman, Western provost and vice president of academic affairs, has spent six years at Western.

MIND PASTIME

Gallery offers residents of all ages a chance to learn with interactive exhibits

FEATURES, PAGE 8



QUICK RECOVERY

After a Nov. 19 loss, the Western men's basketball team has won two games in a row

SPORTS, PAGE 10

TOUGH LOVE

Parents need to keep strict policies when raising their children; it only helps in the end

OPINIONS, PAGE 14

WEATHER

Wednesday: **Cloudy**
Hi: 33 Low: 24

Thursday: **Cloudy**
Hi: 36 Low: 27



COPS BOX

University Police

Nov. 27, 2:28 a.m.: UP arrested a 32-year-old woman on suspicion of driving under the influence on the 2400 block of Douglas Avenue.

Bellingham Police

Nov. 28, 6:17 p.m.: Officers received a report of possible gunshots fired on the 3200 block of Barkley Boulevard.

Nov. 27, 11:04 p.m.: Officers arrested a 27-year-old man on suspicion of possessing methamphetamine and tools for burglary on the 2600 block of Pacific Street.

Nov. 27, 10:43 a.m.: Officers responded to a report of animal organs left on a car on the 1700 block of 32nd Street.

Nov. 27, 12:34 a.m.: Officers responded to a report of a possible suicide on the 1200 block of Girard Street. Medics transported the individual to the emergency room for a mental health evaluation.

Nov. 25, 4:30 p.m.: Officers responded to a report of a stabbing on the 1200 block of Lincoln Street. Officers arrested a 29-year-old man on suspicion of filing a false report about the stabbing.

Nov. 24, 8:56 p.m.: Officers responded to a report of illegal drugs found on the 2400 block of James Street. Officers impounded the drugs.

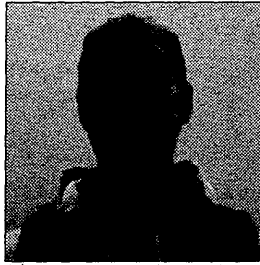
Nov. 24, 1:10 a.m.: Officers arrested a 20-year-old man on the 1300 block of 32nd Street for driving a stolen car. After a brief car chase, the man abandoned the vehicle and fled before police K-9 units found him.

Compiled by Beckie Rosillo

Viking Voices

How do you deal with dead-week stress?

Compiled by Shannon Deveny



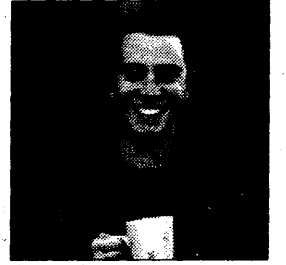
Josh Gellert
Senior, recreation

I eat, drink and sleep, but not in that order.



Holly Edwards
Junior, physical education

My boyfriend caters to me during the week, and then we party with friends on the weekend.



Connor Eagan
Junior, marketing

Regular visits to Mount Baker to board and drink hot chocolate with lovely ladies.

AP Wire

news briefs

STATE NEWS

Driver error one possible reason for Seattle monorail crash

Two monorail trains clipped each other on a curve in the tracks Saturday evening in downtown Seattle. Medics took two people to hospitals with minor injuries, a fire department official said.

Investigators are looking at three possible causes for the crash — operator error, signal malfunction or communication problems between the trains.

The trains came to a screeching halt Saturday night in a shower of sparks and breaking glass. Firefighters rescued 84 passengers using ladders.

Twenty-year-old skier falls to death at Mt. Baker Ski Area

A skier who fell off a cliff at an out-of-bounds area at the Mt. Baker Ski Area died Sunday.

Whatcom County Sheriff Deputy Mark Jilk said the man fell at least 120 feet.

Officials won't release the 20-year-old Canadian man's name until his relatives are notified.

Mt. Baker Ski Area general manager Duncan Howat said the man was skiing with his brother and two friends when they decided to go into the out-of-bounds area looking for fresh snow.

Howat said the man crossed two rope lines warning of the cliffs. Ski area employees found the body soon after he fell.

NATIONAL NEWS

White House Christmas tree arrives from North Carolina

The White House Christmas tree is at the executive mansion in Washington, D.C. First lady Laura Bush was on hand for the arrival Tuesday as a band played "O Christmas Tree."

She said the tree, an 18-foot Fraser fir from the Smokey Holler Tree Farm in North Carolina, signifies the 40th year the National Christmas Tree Association has given the tree, located in the White House Blue Room.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Japanese man arrested for starting bogus invasion story

Tokyo police arrested a former computer programmer Monday for allegedly posting a fabricated news article that said China invaded the Japanese island of Okinawa. The former programmer posted the phony article Oct. 18 on a fake Japanese-language Yahoo! News Web site.

Tokyo police arrested the 30-year-old man on suspicion of violating patent laws. Police said the man allegedly credited the article to Kyodo News Agency and published it on a Web site he had

designed to look like Yahoo! Japan Corporation's news Web site.

Police said the story had a headline saying, "Chinese military invades Okinawa."

Japanese Citizens accessed the Web site 66,000 times until police took it down Oct. 19.

U.N. relief efforts in Pakistan remain underfunded

A U.N. official said relief efforts lack enough funding to help approximately 3.5 million people left homeless by an earthquake in Pakistan Oct. 8.

U.N. troops and aid workers are constructing shelters as quickly as they possibly can.

The United Nations received \$216 million in emergency relief funds from countries around the world, only 39 percent of what it asked for.

Compiled by Zach Kyle
AP Wire courtesy KUGS 89.3-FM

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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

BIOLOGY. • Amy Springer (genetics candidate, Mount Holyoke College), "The African Sleeping Sickness Parasite *Trypanosoma Brucei*: Sensing Its Way Through The Host." 4 p.m. Nov. 30, BI 234. Refreshments, 3:50 p.m.

THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS BOOKSTORE WILL HOLD A HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE on Wednesday, Nov. 30. All faculty, staff, and students are invited. There will be lots of great discounts and giveaways throughout the day, and there will be cookies, warm drinks and holiday music from 3 to 6 p.m.

ALL STUDENTS EXPECTING TO GRADUATE at the close of spring quarter must have a degree application on file in the Registrar's Office by Dec. 2. Students wishing to graduate during summer quarter 2006 must have a degree application on file by March 10.

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.

THE MATH PLACEMENT TEST (MPT) will be held in OM 120 at 9 a.m. Thursdays on 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 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 1½ hours. Preliminary scores are available immediately; official results are mailed within 15 days.

WEST-B TEST. All 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 for registration information and a study guide. Registration deadlines are several weeks in advance. Test dates for 2005-06 are 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/prixwa.html for online registration information. Registration bulletins are also available in MH 216.

HAROLD AND Lyla LANT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS are now available to students pursuing a career as a lawyer and who have applied to an accredited law school. Full description and application materials are available in Academic Advising and Tutorial Services, OM 380. Deadline is Feb. 1.

FALL GROUP OFFERINGS THROUGH THE COUNSELING CENTER include • Relaxation Training, drop in for one or all sessions, 4 p.m. Thursdays, OM 540; • Ride the Emotional Wave, drop in for one or all sessions, 3 to 4:20 p.m. Wednesdays, OM 540.

TO LEARN IF WESTERN IS CLOSED DURING STORMY WEATHER, call 360-650-6500 after 6:30 a.m. or tune to KGMI (790 AM), KBAI (930 AM), KPUG (1170 AM), KUGS (89.3 FM), KISM (92.9 FM), KAFÉ (104.3 FM) or KWPZ (106.5 FM). The decision to remain open or to close will be broadcast beginning between 6:15 and 6:30 a.m.

STORM LINE/EMERGENCY HOTLINE CARDS FOR POSTING IN THE OFFICE OR AT HOME have been sent to each employee via campus mail. Employees who did not receive one, or who need additional cards, may call the Office of University Communications, X/3350.

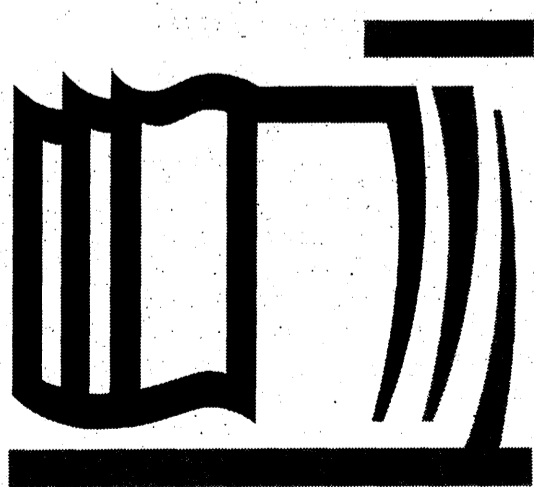
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Tower will grace city's sky

BY DAN GROHL
The Western Front

More than 75 years after the 15-story Bellingham Towers became a feature of the Bellingham skyline, developer Rick Westerop has plans to bring the city's residents farther into the sky.

Westerop organized a community meeting Nov. 17 to hear input about his plans for buildings on Maple Street and its intersection with Railroad Avenue, including a new 18-story tower.

"This will help bring life back to our downtown community that has been vacant for so long and is now starting to regenerate," project architect Jeff McClure said.

The area consists of abandoned industrial buildings.

Westerop will submit final plans by January 2006 to the Bellingham Planning and Community Development Department for approval, he said.

Westerop aims to have the plan for the tower approved by March 2006 and to begin construction in summer 2006. Westerop expects construction to last 18 to 20 months.

The plan calls for a four-story building along Maple Street, with 25 apartments above ground-floor commercial space, McClure said. Along Railroad Avenue, Westerop is proposing to build 14 ground-floor studio apartments with 14 two-story townhouses above.

The department approved Westerop's previous plans for the site four years ago, he said. Bellingham's strengthening economy allowed him



ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF RMC ARCHITECTS

This artist's rendering depicts the 18-story building to be constructed next summer. It will be Bellingham's tallest building.

to change the plans this year to include the 18-story tower.

The most dramatic change between the two plans is the addition of the 18-story building, McClure said. The tower includes a four-floor parking garage below 14 stories of condominiums.

The tower will include approximately 79 condominiums, he said.

The design will not obstruct residents' views of Bellingham Bay, McClure said.

Bellingham resident Ken Weaver said he recently purchased a condominium off of Maple Street that would have a view of the proposed tower.

"After 27 years of looking at the Georgia-Pacific site, this is a thousand times better," Weaver said.

The project will rejuvenate the downtown shopping district, Westerop said. More people living downtown means more shoppers.

Wellness Center postpones finals stress-relief event

BY KYRA LOW
The Western Front

Students looking forward to free massages at the stress-relief event at the Wade King Student Recreational Center during dead week will now have to wait until early next quarter.

The event, put on by the Wellness Outreach Center, includes techniques on hand and back massages, tea and stress information and art projects such as coloring to help students cope with the stress of finals.

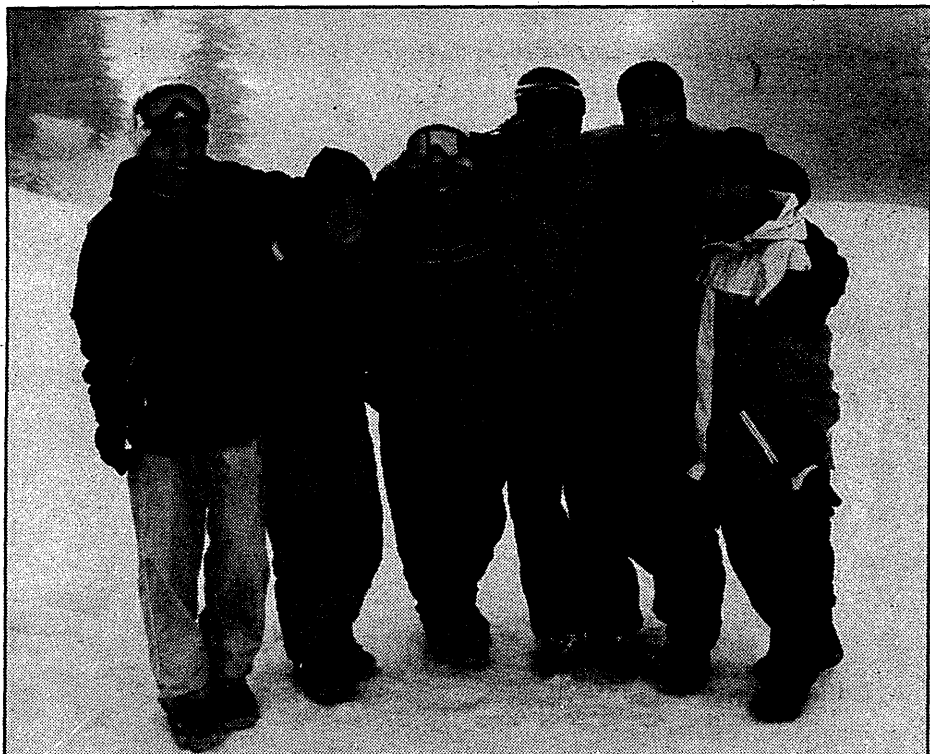
The event switched dates because many student employees at the center felt overwhelmed with school and thought the delay would enable them to put on a higher-quality event given the extra time to prepare, center coordinator Amy Riedel said. The center has not decided on specific dates for the event next quarter.

"Free massages would be awesome," Western sophomore Dayana Anderson said. "I am a theater student, and theater is like a job on top of school. The school needs to do something about it. If you are going to do all these things that stress us out you need to help us cope with that."

Western junior Summer Huntington, a volunteer and stress specialist at the center, said students' stress levels vary with class standing.

"Stress levels are pretty high for juniors and seniors," she said. "Underclassmen seem a lot less stressed because of their lower-level classes and less sense of urgency to graduate."

Students dealing with stress during dead week still have options. The center is located in Viking Union 432 and has volunteers who have received training in stress-reduction techniques. Resident directors can also request the center put on stress-relief workshops in their residence halls.



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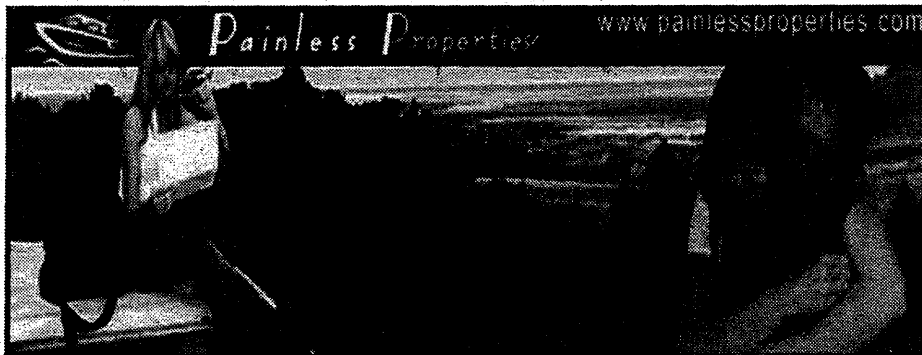
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Bodman: Provost would regret leaving Bellingham

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

works with students and faculty, a president is a more visible external representative and has to deal with alumni and state legislatures, Bulcroft said.

While a step up the administrative ladder is appealing, Bodman said he would regret leaving Western because of the university's quality and Bellingham's atmosphere.

"Western is an extremely attractive place to be," he said. "You have a combination of an absolutely excellent university with a town that's really an extraordinarily interesting place to live, so I really would want to find a combination of location and university better than what I have here, and that's very difficult to do."

The hiring firm A.T. Kearney, which Eastern used to narrow its search for candidates, contacted Bodman about Eastern's presidency in August. Bodman said several search firms have contacted him about positions, but he usually turns them down because they don't allow him to advance his career.

Buff Schoenfeld, executive assistant to Western President Karen Morse, said she wasn't surprised the firm contacted Bodman about such a high-profile job.

"People are coming to him because he's the provost of an excellent university," Schoenfeld said. "We would really be sorry if Andy leaves, but at the same time we recognize that he's ready to be a president, and it's a natural kind of progression."

After the forums, Eastern's selection committee will interview candidates and hopes to choose one by mid-December. If hired, the new president could begin work in July 2006, Budke said.

"I think that Eastern has made great strides and become more visible in the state and the nation," Budke said. "This is an opportunity for the next president to take us to the next level as far as helping us with our enrollment, helping us refine and sophisticate our programming, and to continue to build image."

Professor: State provides sound equipment Engebretson uses

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"The university has been supportive and helpful in allowing me to continue to teach," Engebretson said.

Since spring quarter of 2004, he has worked part-time, teaching geology courses that allow him to instruct students through sound with the Viking Union's sound system.

"Hopefully people will learn that our vision is as overrated as our hearing is overlooked," Engebretson said.

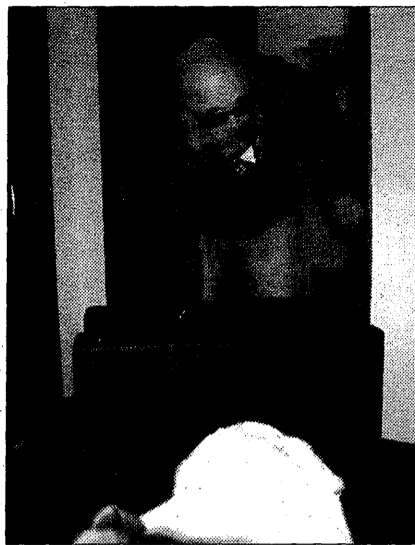
Engebretson took fall quarter 2003 and winter quarter 2004 off because of his worsening eyesight to decide how he could continue to teach. Teaching becomes more strenuous for Engebretson as his blindness increases, geology department manager Chris Sutton said, but Engebretson realized he could teach with sound.

"He took his time off to think about it, and it was his wish to continue to teach," Sutton said.

Washington State Department of Services for the Blind is a rehabilitation agency that supplies Engebretson with tools, such as speaking computers, to do his schoolwork outside of the classroom. The department provided Engebretson with a computer that reads books to him when he places pages on a scanner. He also uses his remaining peripheral vision to decipher the magnified letters of typed or written documents.

"He's amazing," Sutton said. "It's not like he's the poor blind man. Dave is very functional."

This quarter Engebretson teaches Geology 297, sounds on Earth, which he designed. The course's purpose is



TAYLOR WILLIAMS / THE WESTERN FRONT
Engebretson moves a subwoofer, which is part of the equipment he uses to teach geology.

for each student to study an aspect of Earth's geology and its sounds and then describe the science of how the sounds work, Engebretson said.

Students present their studies to Engebretson and the general public at the end of the quarter in what Engebretson calls a concert.

Students' projects include topics such as earthquakes, ocean tides, whales, room acoustics, dinosaurs and guitars, Engebretson said.

Western senior Ben Cooper, one of Engebretson's students this quarter, is sonifying, or producing, sound from the Milankovitch cycles, a theory that describes the Earth's tilt-axis change during its orbit around the sun. Cooper measures the theoretical amount of solar energy Earth has received in the

past 5 million years.

Insolation, the scientific process of measuring the amount of solar energy hitting Earth, depends on the planet's orbit. Cooper described the tilt of Earth's axis as the way a spinning top wobbles when rotating.

"Insolation measures how much solar energy is hitting the earth over a certain amount of area or a given amount of time," Cooper said. "It's like the more solar energy, the louder the tone. The less solar energy, the quieter the tone."

Cooper said he plans to use his research and his passion for music to make songs by repeatedly playing sounds his research acquired.

Inspired by Engebretson, Cooper is a geology major and wants to use sound to teach geology, Cooper said.

"It's a different way of understanding science," Cooper said.

Babcock said working with Engebretson is rewarding. Babcock was a Western geology professor when Engebretson studied in the 1970s.

"His work is some of the most important in plate tectonics," Babcock said. "The whole department, I think, sees him as an inspiration."

Engebretson said his family provides a strong support system. His wife, Deborah Engebretson, 53, is Western's political science department program coordinator; his son, David Engebretson Jr., 37, is also suffering from cone-rod dystrophy disease; and his guide dog, Fritz, takes him everywhere he needs to go.

"There is a lot that you can learn from listening," Engebretson said. "It's a whole different way to learn."

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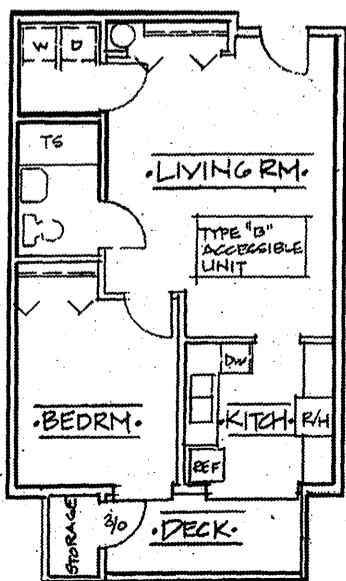
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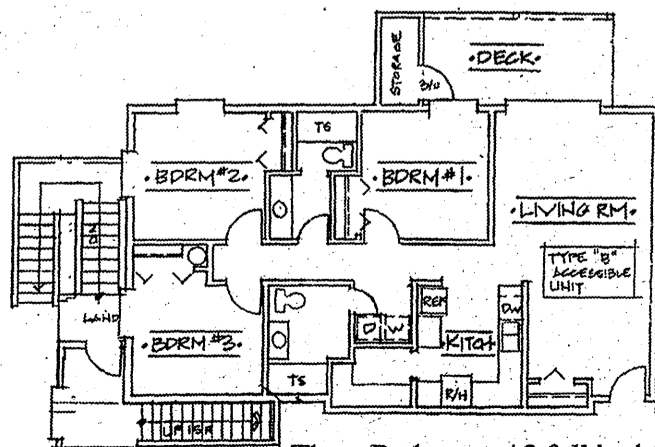
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FEATURES

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2005 • WESTERNFRONTONLINE.COM • PAGE 7

STRANGE DAYS

Alaskan inmates sell moose meat for charity

Inmates at a prison work farm will process the meat of moose struck by trains each winter along a 68-mile stretch of track north of Anchorage, Ala.

The meat will be processed and distributed to soup kitchens and other charities serving the needy in Alaska.

The prisoners at the Point MacKenzie Correctional Farm will take on the project as part of a joint effort by the state Department of Corrections, the Alaska Railroad and the Food Bank of Alaska.

"We don't want to give the impression that we're celebrating moose being killed," said Merri Mike Adams, development director for the Anchorage-based food bank. "If it's going to happen, let's not waste the meat."

Last year trains killed 183 moose in Alaska.

The highest number of moose killed by the Alaskan rail system is on the track where the moose will be collected, officials said.

In a place where snow accumulates deep across tracks, moose wander into the path of trains, which cannot stop.

"No one ever wants to see moose hit," railroad spokesman Tim Thompson said. "At least now we will see a more effective

distribution of the meat."

Vermont teacher gives anti-Bush quiz

A Bennington, Vt., teacher is facing accusations of giving his students a vocabulary quiz that included criticism of President George W. Bush.

The administration of Mount Anthony Union High School is questioning the teaching methods of social studies teacher Bret Chenkin, who gave his students a quiz several months ago.

The quiz asked students to pick the proper words to complete sentences.

One question from Chenkin's quiz was: "I wish Bush would be (coherent, eschewed) for once during a speech, but there are theories that his everyday diction charms the below-average mind, hence insuring him Republican votes."

Coherent was the correct answer.

"It is absolutely unacceptable," school superintendent Wesley Knapp said. "Teachers do not have a license on a particular standpoint."

Chenkin, who has been a teacher for seven years, said he likes to share his liberal ideas as a way of sparking debate. He said the quizzes are being taken out of context.

"I'll put in both sides," Chenkin said. "Especially if it is going to cause a lot of grief."

Croatian man offers kidney, cornea to pay off loan debt

Nenad Vrbanic, a 40-year-old Croatian man, has racked up 35,000 euros in loan debt and wants to pay it off by selling his cornea and kidney.

Vrbanic has already sold his car and house to help with the debt and now lives with his mother.

Angolan wins Brazilian prison beauty pageant

Women in prison can be beautiful, as a recent prison beauty pageant in Brazil proved.

Angelica Mazua, 23, who was locked up four months ago after Brazilian police found cocaine in her bags as she boarded a plane to Africa, was this year's judges' choice.

Inmates from 10 prisons competed in Thursday night's event in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

The pageant included beauty, poetry, prose and congeniality categories.

A nonprofit group that provides makeovers to underprivileged women did the

contestants' nails and makeup.

Contestants wore donated evening gowns and discussed how the event gave them a renewed sense of self-respect.

Top prize for the competition was 360 reais or \$164. Second and third places took home smaller cash rewards.

Pregnant school teacher fired

The Saint Rose of Lima School in New York fired a school teacher for being pregnant and unmarried.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn said Tuesday that the school was following the principles in the teachers' handbook, which say "a teacher cannot violate the tenets of Catholic morality" when it fired school teacher Michelle McCusker, 26.

The school dismissed McCusker Oct. 11 from her job after she told school administrators she was pregnant and did not plan to marry.

McCusker and the New York Civil Liberties Union filed a wrongful dismissal complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Monday saying the firing was unlawful discrimination based on sex and pregnancy status.

Compiled by Lorean Serko



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Interactive mind games

Exhibits, fine art engage residents

BY MARI KARIYA
The Western Front

The seasons are changing and days are getting shorter. To keep occupied during the cold winter months, Bellingham residents, especially college students, are looking for fun, inexpensive activities. Students who enjoy participating in outdoor activities often find themselves cooped up at home with nothing to do.

Mindport offers an alternative to typical indoor winter activities. The interactive gallery at 210 W. Holly St. has been open at its current location for three years but was previously located at a smaller venue on Grand Avenue.

Mindport developed from a series of ideas to open a space where people could interact with objects, Mindport director Kevin Jones said. One of the original ideas was to open a tool shop where residents could build objects using tools and materials provided by the shop, but liability issues led to the dismissal of that idea, he said. Then a friend who had already built some interactive exhibits, Joe Edwards, suggested they open an interactive museum — and Mindport was born.

Opened by Jones, Edwards and Robin Burnett, Mindport has been providing visitors with mentally stimulating fine and interactive art for 10 years.

Mindport's goal is to provide a place with exhibits that point to interesting phenomena, stirring interest by any means, whether they relate to science, intellect or imagination, Jones said.

"We don't put a lot of signs up that say, 'This is what you're supposed to be thinking,'" art director AnMorgan Curry said. "We're trying to stimulate what you might think or you might see. We're not about trying to get you to think a particular thing — we would just like you to have fun thinking."

No one is sure what to expect when entering the front door of Mindport. Part museum, part gallery, part science center — Mindport is a puzzle, meshing interactive exhibits and fine art. Mindport has three main areas — the interactive front room, fine art gallery back room and a cozy corner library space with two full bookshelves of material.

In the interactive exhibit area visitors can touch, move and hear the art. Most exhibits are displayed with a small notebook containing suggestions on how the exhibit can be used, how it was made and what prompted the idea for it.

The interactive room features more than 30 permanent tactile exhibits. New exhibits are added as they are imagined and built by Jones, Curry, exhibits manager Bill Lee and the three Mindport docents.

Since the interactive exhibits are not withdrawn periodically like in other galleries, they have occupied the whole interactive side of the gallery.

When new interactive exhibits are completed, they will be added to the fine art gallery, making all of Mindport interactive, Mindport docent Karen Weber said. Weber and two other docents, Tallie Jones and Allie Volland, explain or demonstrate exhibits to Mindport visitors.

The fine art gallery is a sunken room off of the interactive area with an open floor plan and art lining the walls.

Currently in the fine art side of the gallery is the work of Arunas Oslapas, Western industrial design associate professor. Oslapas' masks made of bicycle seats are in the window facing West Holly Street.

The masks draw passers-by to the window with their inventive use of ordinary objects. With a bicycle seat as the base, a variety of handles, pieces of grommied belt, doorknobs, drawer-pulls, brushes and broom bristles are all used to make faces resembling tribal masks.

Mindport will feature Western assistant art professor Seiko Atsuta Purdue's sculptures in the fine art gallery in a mixed-media show titled "Wish Tying," which opens Friday.

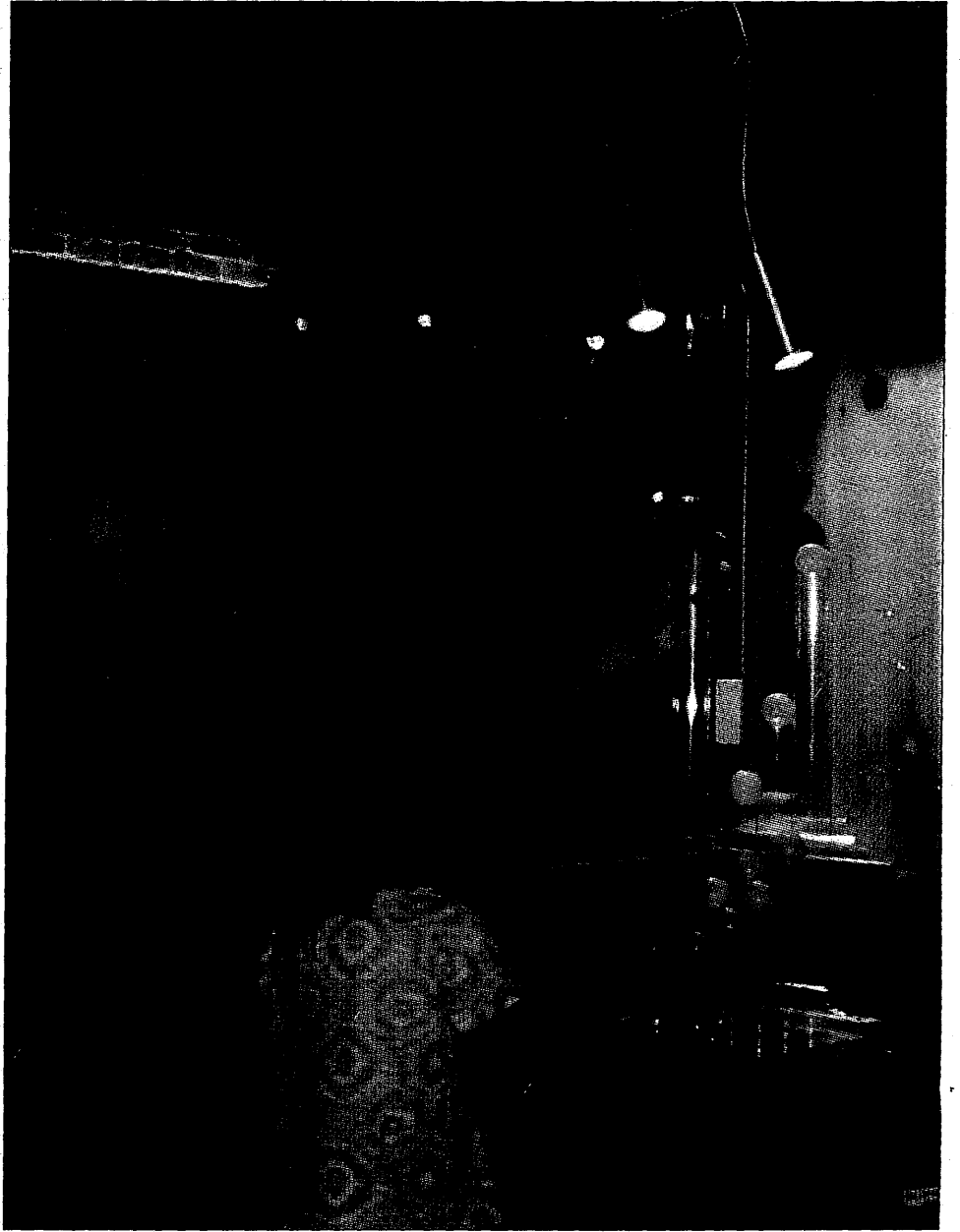
Funded entirely by private donors and a modest entrance fee, Mindport manages to keep costs low for visitors. Admission to Mindport is \$2, so almost anyone can afford to come in from the cold and play a little.

"One of the reasons we charge only \$2 a head is to get people to come in and not be overwhelmed with, 'What if I don't like it and I just bought a 10 or 15 dollar ticket?'" Curry said.

Some interactive exhibits turn ordinary objects such as a TV set into extraordinary art. One exhibit uses strong magnets to distort a TV screen, while another uses feedback in a video camera to create unique colors, shapes and patterns.

"People are very aware of conventional uses for TVs and video playback," Curry said. "We're trying to say, 'See, you can do something else with this too; you can make a piece of art out of it.'"

Many exhibits use air pressure, such as the tall Cartesian Diver exhibit, in which two plastic diver figurines are raced up and down long tubes full of water using hand pumps.



MARI KARIYA / THE WESTERN FRONT
Erin McDonnell, 38, and her daughter Petra McDonnell, 5, experiment with air pressure Oct. 30 at Mindport on West Holly Street.

Mindport plays host to class field trips from local elementary schools. One exhibit that attracts children is the stream near the entrance, Weber said.

The stream exhibit presents visitors with a rocky, winding stream and a variety of small wooden boats. Visitors can change the course of the stream by moving rocks, and can see which shape of boat floats best downstream.

"I think they like it because it allows them to do things they're normally not allowed to do," Weber said. "They can splash and make a flood. They get to decide how the water goes."

Mindport isn't just for kids, however,

Curry said.

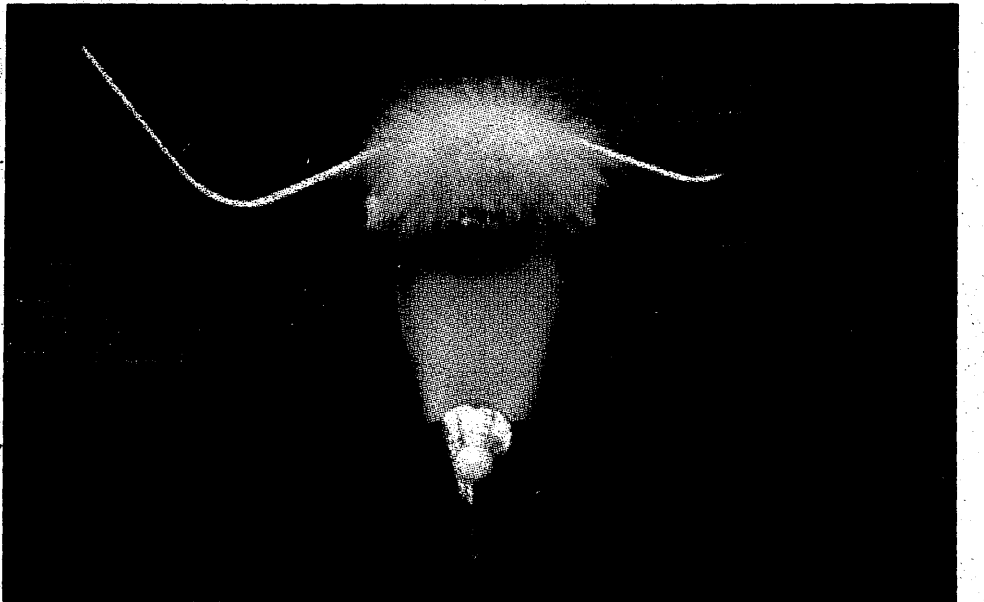
"We're trying to get a clearer perception out that although children are welcome to come, we're not a children's museum," she said.

Because of the many levels of intellectual stimulation its exhibits offer, Mindport can be interesting for all ages.

"We want people to talk together across generations," Curry said.

The gallery displays work from artists in the community, including art from students, faculty, professionals, amateurs and children.

Anyone is welcome to submit his or her art and can contact Curry to be considered for a show.



MARI KARIYA / THE WESTERN FRONT
Western industrial design associate professor Arunas Oslapas' masks made of bicycle seats are on display in Mindport's fine art gallery.

CLASS ACT

Students perform German play

BY SUSIE PRUSSACK
The Western Front

Students enrolled in associate professor Walter Suess' German 406 class this fall are experiencing more than a typical quarter of verb conjugation, grammar review and vocabulary.

The class, titled fluency through dramatization, takes a different approach to learning a language by discarding the usual paradigms of a language class. In the four-credit class, 24 students memorized a German play they will perform Friday under Suess' direction.

Suess said the long-term goal of the class is to make students more confident with speaking and more familiar with German culture. He hopes the introduction to theater will help many of his students overcome shyness, especially those without acting experience.

"The most important issue of this class is to give confidence to the students through drama," Suess said. "If they can improvise, that is what real life is all about. It's not about the lines. The lines are just a little by-product for now."

At the beginning of the quarter the class focused on reading and understanding the play. Students began rehearsing Nov. 3. They are devoting the last four weeks of class to the performance, concentrating on memorization, vocal projection and phonology, or how sounds combine to make words.

Suess said that although the class is 400-level, any German-language student with a basic knowledge of the language, from the 100-level and above, can enroll in the class and participate in the play.

The three-act play written by Friedrich Dürrenmatt shortly after World War II is titled "Der Besuch Der Alten Dame," or "The Visit."

The play is about an old woman who seeks revenge against town leaders who expelled her from her hometown after having a child out of wedlock. The story discusses the nature of greed and the value of human life, said Western senior and German 406 student Nathan Halsan.

"It's a bit of a political story," Halsan said. "It's relevant to our times now just as much as it was in the '50s when it was written."

Suess said he is giving his students the option to alter parts of the play that look at Germany after World War II. The alterations would include modern references to the war in Iraq or the Enron scandal by changing names or terms.

"I tell my students, 'It's not my class, it's yours,'" Suess said. "I act only as a facilitator."

Suess said his class is giving many students their first chance to learn about acting.

"In acting, you learn to have composure, you learn to have security, and you learn to do it with dignity," Suess said. "It's a great tool."

Suess, who started teaching at Western in 1991, said this is his second year teaching the class at Western. He has taught the class at other universities, including Portland State University and two schools in California.

Teaching and theater are his passions, he said, and he loves the opportunity to combine the two in this class.

Suess said he first participated in theater when he sang in a boys' choir and onstage in opera performances as a child.

"I had a great fascination with theater ever since," Suess said. "In theater, you are becoming something new. You are interpret-



TAYLOR WILLIAMS / THE WESTERN FRONT

Associate professor Walter Suess' German 406 class poses Oct. 17 after rehearsal for its upcoming play.

ing the world for the viewer."

Halsan said he isn't worried about his acting skills during the performance because of the nature of the play and its characters.

"The play calls for sarcasm and ridiculous acting, and that is good because none of us are trained actors," Halsan said.

Western senior and German 406 student David Bialik said he believes the play will facilitate a deeper understanding of the German language and culture for him and the other students.

"You have to be more than a parrot mimicking the words," Bialik said. "The words must have meaning."

Bialik said acting experience is unnecessary to be successful in the class.

"We're not actors," he said. "We're doing it because we're dedicated students who love the language."

Bialik said Suess is an integral part of the class' learning process because of the way he creates an interactive learning environment.

"Dr. Suess has an energy level that rivals that of students half his age," Bialik said. "He's very positive and encouraging, and he brings these elements into the classroom and into rehearsal."

Because the play has more parts than the class can fill, the students are taking two or three roles each.

Western junior Rebecca Nelson plays a doctor as her main role. Nelson said she was scared to participate because she has a horrible memory, but she is realizing her parts are manageable as she memorizes her lines.

Nelson said she thinks the class will expand her German skills and understanding of German culture. The combination of pronunciation and memorization gives all of the

students confidence, she said.

Western junior Rachel Hansen said the class is helping her feel more connected to the German culture.

"You can study German and pronounce German, but you don't really feel connected," Hansen said. "To do a play, you're actually acting out situations."

During the first month of class, before the students began working on memorization and pronunciation, Suess guided the students line by line through the play, stopping along the way to clarify sections and engage the students in the play's cultural context.

Hansen said if students had a question about the language or a cultural reference, Suess clarified it in modern terms.

"There is a lot of important cultural content in the (play)," said Halsan, who is playing a butler as his main role. "It's not just about learning the language, but understanding German culture and society."

The students will perform the play at 5 p.m. Friday in the Old Main Theatre. Suess is providing English summaries for members of the audience who do not speak German.

"People shouldn't be afraid to come just because it's in German," Hansen said.

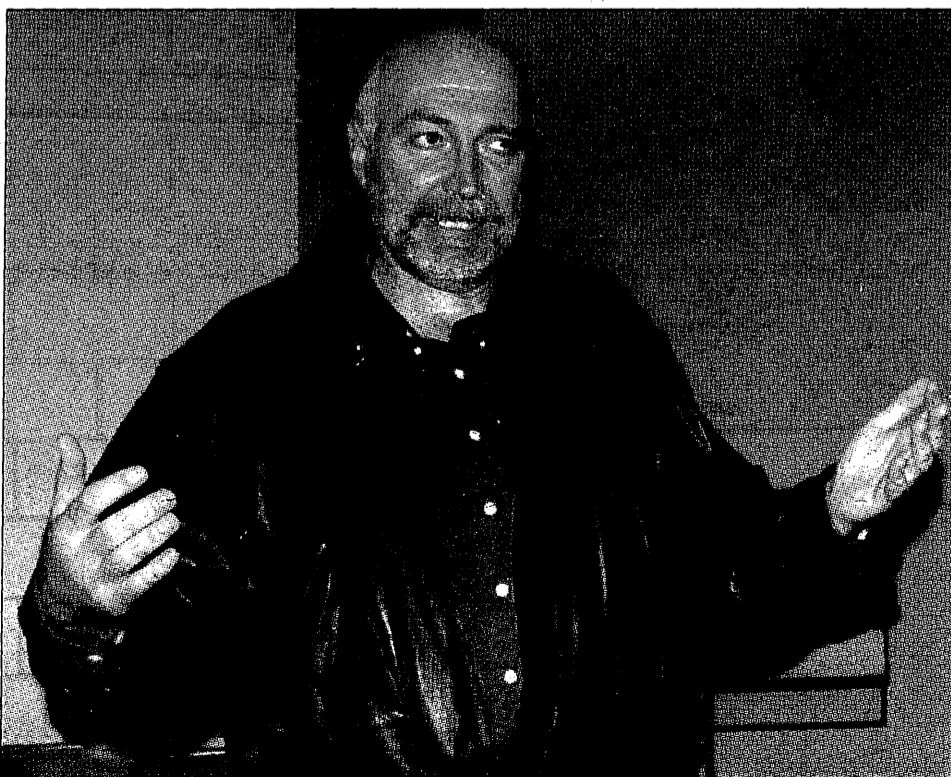
The audience will be able to understand the plot from the English summaries and the students' acting, Suess said.

Everyone is welcome to come to the free performance, and Suess said he will invite middle school and high school students from schools along Interstate 5 to Olympia.

Suess said he is excited for the performance and already has a plan for next fall's play, which will be about identity.

Suess said his favorite part of teaching the class is seeing the transformation of students who never thought they could memorize lines and perform a role in German into students who know they can with confidence.

"It just fills me with so much pride to see the change in personality," Suess said. "To know that I can let them loose and just know they won't be eaten alive if they go overseas."



TAYLOR WILLIAMS / THE WESTERN FRONT

Associate professor and director Walter Suess explains costume ideas to his German 406 students. They will perform "Der Besuch Der Alten Dame" Friday.

Vikings slam Orediggers

Western wins blowout 100-66 for its second straight victory

By ZACH KYLE
The Western Front

The Western men's basketball team might as well have walked away from Carver Gym as victors over the Colorado School of Mines Orediggers after a single crushing play just 10 minutes into Saturday's game.

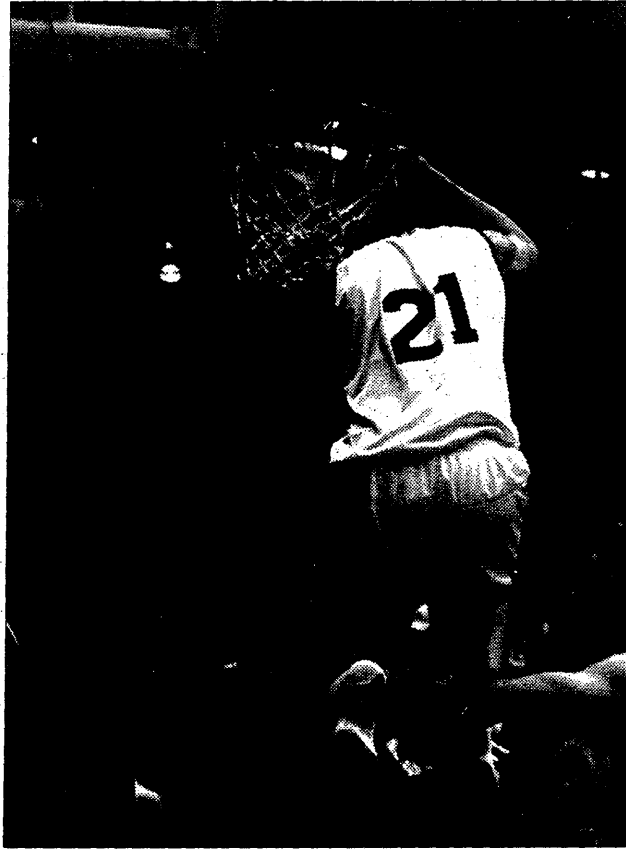
Dribbling left off a screen at the top of the key, Western senior point guard Kyle Jackson threw a high lob to cutting senior forward Tyler Amaya. With perfect timing, Amaya caught and dunked the ball behind his head in one motion to put Western up 19-10 — as close as the Orediggers would come to the Vikings en route to a 100-66 Western win.

The victory followed Friday's 97-90 win over Sonoma State University, giving the hosting Vikings two wins in the four-team Chuck Randall Thanksgiving Classic. The Vikings, 3-1 on the season, are ranked No. 4 nationally in the National Association of Basketball Coaches Division II Coaches Poll.

Western senior guard Ryan Diggs, the top-scorer of the game with 29 points, received honor as the tournament's most valuable player. Amaya, who finished with eight points, three steals and two blocked shots, was named an all-tournament team selection. He scored 19 points and grabbed nine rebounds in the Sonoma State game.

The Vikings efficiently racked up points, shooting 62 percent from the field and 52 percent from the three-point line. Western senior forward Grant Dykstra finished with 20 points, seven assists, six rebounds and four steals. Senior center Tyler MacMullen chipped in 14 points.

Mines junior center Ian Elseth led his team in scoring



CHRIS HUBER / SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN FRONT
Western senior forward Tyler Amaya reverse dunks an alley-oop pass from Western senior point guard Kyle Jackson midway through the first half.

with 24 points and was named to the all-tournament team. The only other Oredigger to score in double figures was Mines senior guard Travis Test, who scored 11 points.

Diggs, who also handed out six assists and nabbed four steals, said the Amaya alley-oop dunk opened the flood gates in the game.

"When Tyler Amaya caught that alley-oop, things really started going," Diggs said. "It was definitely a turning point. It got me pumped up."

Western coach Brad Jackson said Amaya's dunk energized the team.

"The lob to Amaya was a big play emotionally," Jackson said. "It really got our guys going. It was a set play we ran, and Kyle (Jackson) made a great pass because he was kind of off balance, but Tyler made a great catch and obviously a great dunk."

Diggs said pressuring Orediggers ball-handlers enabled the Vikings to get steals and turn the pace of the game in Western's favor.

"The coaches did a good job of calling some presses because the (Colorado School of Mines) team kind of slowed it down a little bit," Diggs said. "We started pressing, started getting active and things started going our way. We started hustling more; the offense started coming more. (We were) getting steals, getting on the break. And that's the type of team we are — a fast-break team."

Jackson said the Vikings' goal was to keep the Orediggers off guard by frequently changing defenses.

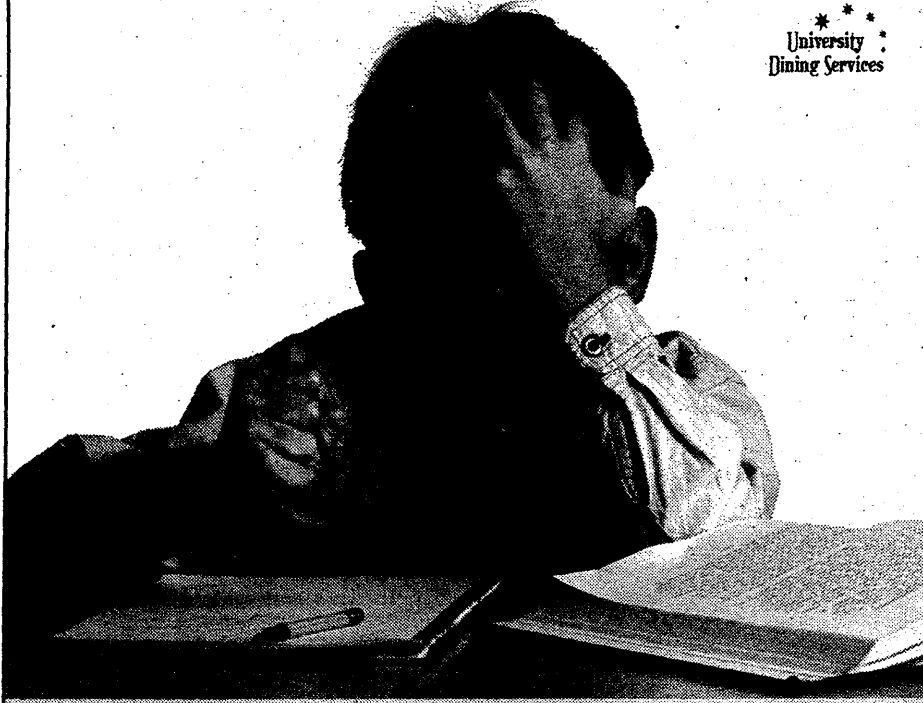
"We knew they were a very methodical team," Jackson said. "We felt as though we had a little bit better quickness and a little bit better athleticism, and so we wanted to pressure them and change our defenses up. We ran several different presses and traps and changed between man and zone quite a bit. We wanted to just keep them off balance and not let them get into a rhythm. We didn't want to play a game in the 50s or 60s, which I'm sure they would have preferred."

see CLASSIC, page 11

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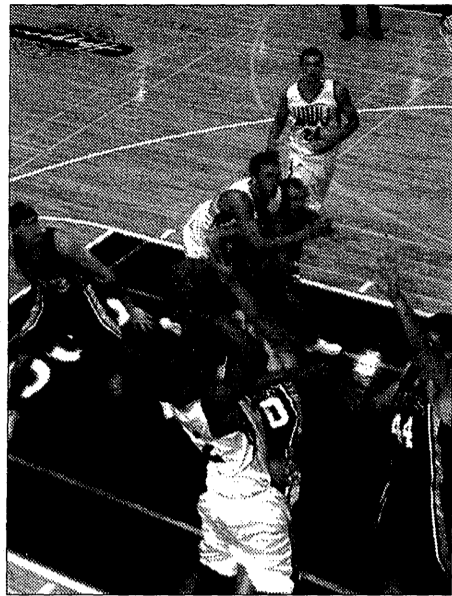
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Classic: Senior Diggs led Vikings in win over Orediggers, scoring 29 points with six assists



CHRIS HUBER / SPECIAL TO THE WESTERN FRONT
Western senior guard Ryan Diggs (shooting) has scored a total of 60 points in the last two games.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

The Orediggers were sloppy on offense, turning the ball over 23 times compared to the Vikings' 13. Vikings defenders harassed most Orediggers players' shots. The Orediggers only consistent source of points was Elseth collecting offensive rebounds for easy put-back baskets.

Western senior guard Preston Vermeulen hit all three of his three-point attempts scoring nine points. He said the Vikings' 52 percent three-point shooting is a result of quality shooters getting wide-open shots. He said Western's post players found open perimeter shooters when double-teamed, and the Vikings' ability to create fast-break opportunities enabled shooters to spot up for unguarded shots before the defense could set itself.

Diggs set a Western record Friday during Western's win over Sonoma State by shooting a perfect 19 for 19 from the free-throw line. After shooting 11 for 14 from the line Saturday, half of Diggs' tournament-high 60-point total came from the charity stripe.

'I've been focusing on my strengths lately — just trying to get to the rack, get to the hole.'

RYAN DIGGS
 Western senior guard

Diggs said shooting a high number of free-throws is an indication to himself he is playing aggressively.

"I've been focusing on my strengths lately — just trying to get to the rack, get to the hole," Diggs said.

Vermeulen said opponents often foul Diggs because with his quickness defenders can't stay in front of him.

"In the open court, he's one of the best in the conference," Vermeulen said. "He drives to the basket better than anyone I know. The only way to stop him is to foul him."

Jackson said Diggs has improved his ability to pick the spots to attack during his four years at Western.

"I think anyone who has followed Ryan in his time here knows that he's a phenomenal athlete, but this year he's matured a lot mentally and is playing a lot within himself," Jackson said. "He's at his best in the open court, but he's making really good decisions this year in the half court. He's being very calculating, staying under control, taking the drive when he has it, pulling up when he doesn't."

The Vikings will play Hawaii Pacific University 7 p.m. today in Carver Gym. Hawaii Pacific's record is 0-1 after losing to Emporia State University 71-70 Nov. 19. The Vikings defeated Emporia State 95-94 for its first win of the season Nov. 17.

• Diggs was named co-GNAC Player of the Week for his MVP-performance in the classic. He shared the honor with Seattle University senior guard Bernard Seals.

Women's basketball cruises to victory

Vikings ride 21-point halftime lead to defeat Grand Canyon University Antelopes Saturday

By KYRA LOW
 The Western Front

The Western women's basketball team's 48-27 halftime lead was more than enough to withstand the Grand Canyon University Antelopes' comeback attempt in the second half of Saturday's game.

The Vikings hung on to win 82-65 for its second victory of the Lynda Goodrich Classic. The Vikings beat Northwest University Friday 88-44. The two wins brought the

team's record to 2-0 on the season.

Western senior center Courtney Clapp and Western senior forward Tina Donahue each scored 15 points to lead the Vikings.

Two Vikings, Clapp and Western senior guard Kelly Dykstra, earned spots on the classic's all-tournament team, which highlighted exceptional players from the weekend's classic. Clapp shot 7-10 from the field and was 1-2 on three-pointers Saturday. She was 5-8 from the field Friday. Dykstra shot a game-high 18 points Friday, with two

three-pointers, and shot 4-9 overall and 3-7 on three-pointers Saturday.

"We had a good weekend," Clapp said. "We were able to put a lot of pressure on their guards. We had good pressure on the backcourt."

The Vikings players were not as strong in the second half of Saturday's game in which Grand Canyon outscored them 38-34. But because of the big first half lead, the games' outcome was never in doubt.

"They played well," Clapp said. "They

took it at us and never gave up. They fought hard."

The bench aided in the victory with 23 points. Western junior guard Mollie Stelmack scored nine points. Western sophomore forward Liz McCarrell added six points, and junior forwards Krystal Robinson and Arielle White each added four points.

Western head coach Carmen Dolfo said consistency throughout the game will be key when team plays Lewis-Clark State College at 7 p.m. Thursday in Carver Gym.

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Trying to recruit without Smith

By ANDREW SLEIGHTER
The Western Front

Following former head coach Rob Smith's recent departure, Western football faces the prospect of recruiting players without a head coach — a task recruiting coordinator Zach Tinker said the program can tackle.

"The program is thriving now," he said.

During Smith's tenure the team was 9-0 in 1995 — the first undefeated season since 1938 — made it to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Championship game in 1996, and after moving to the Great Northwest Athletics Conference in 2001 Smith was named GNAC Coach of the Year in 2001 and 2003.

Tinker, who cannot comment on specific players because of recruiting rules, said the recruitment process did not cease after Smith's retirement.

"We are actively recruiting kids up until and since coach Smith's resignation," Tinker said.

He said the program had used Smith as a selling point to recruits.

"He had a ton of name

recognition around the state, a ton of name recognition for what he did with the program — so we obviously sold his success," Tinker said.

Colleges need to be promoted on more than just their head coach, Tinker said.

"A big part of recruiting is selling your head coach and selling your coaching staff in general, but also a huge part of our recruiting and our philosophy here is to sell the university as a whole," Tinker said. "And the university hasn't fundamentally changed overnight just because coach isn't here."

Tinker said Western can still offer recruits a prime location between the major cities of Vancouver and Seattle, a high-quality education and the excitement of a new head coach.

Smith's retirement, however, did raise questions in some recruits' minds.

Quinn Hagg, senior defensive end at Anacortes High School and possible Western recruit, said he was surprised when he read about Smith's retirement in the newspaper.

"It was kind of a shock," he

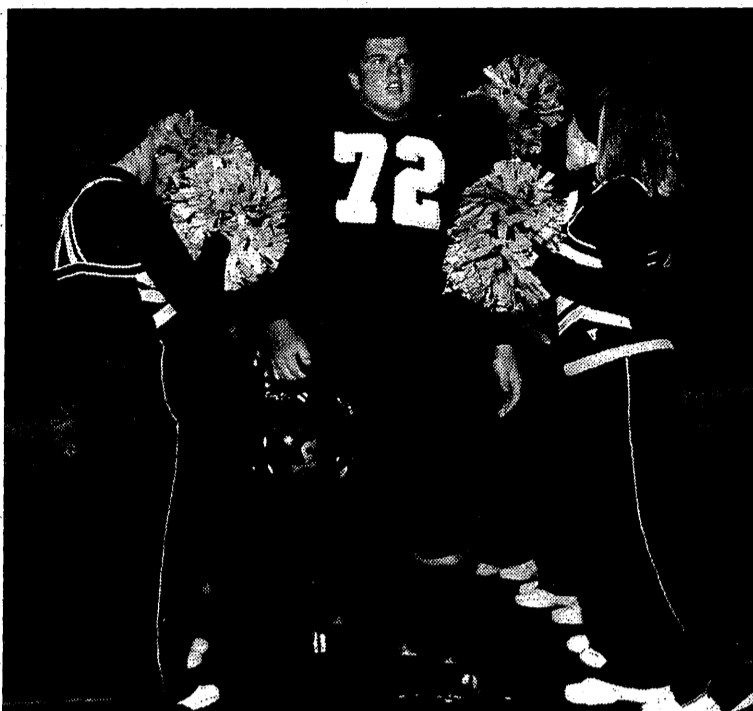


PHOTO COURTESY OF DUSTY STURGEON
Dusty Sturgeon, North Beach High School senior lineman, is considering attending Western. The Associated Press and WashingtonPreps.com named him to the first-team all-state offensive line for the 2004 season.

said. Hagg said he is strongly considering attending Western. If he receives an offer from a school with a similar football program,

the fact that Western has no head coach would play unfavorably into his decision.

"It turned me away from (Western) a little," Hagg said.

Another potential recruit, Dusty Sturgeon, North Beach High School senior lineman, said Smith was part of the initial reason he considered Western and said Smith's retirement disappointed him.

Sturgeon said the primary basis for his decision, however, is the program — not the head coach. He said the role he will play in the program, the system the team runs and the opportunity for playing time are more important.

Tinker said Western was close to cutting its football program due to lack of success and notoriety before Smith's arrival in 1987 as an assistant coach. But due to Smith's efforts, Western can expect the head-coaching job to be highly sought-after by potential candidates.

"It is now a quality job," Tinker said. "Before Rob came along, this was not considered a great place to coach necessarily."

Western currently is considering candidates to replace Smith.

Tinker is confident Western will hire a coach who can make an impact when visiting recruits.

"It's going to be someone who can walk into the living room and knock your socks off," Tinker said.

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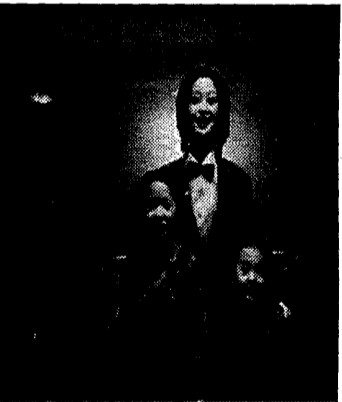
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By **JUSTIN MORROW**
The Western Front

Dec. 7, 1941, was a typical Sunday on the isle of Oahu in Hawaii.

The breaking of early morning clouds gave the sun a bird's-eye view of palm trees swaying across the majestic shoreline, while crystal-clear water brushed against the white, sand-covered beaches and gently kissed the outskirts of America's paradise.

Across the vast expanse of the continental United States, citizens were going about their day of leisure. In the Bible Belt, clocks were approaching a rendezvous with noon, and Southerners were huddled around coal stoves anticipating a date with The Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy Show featuring special guest Judy Garland. In Seattle, families dressed in their Sunday best piled into the car for a drive across the newly constructed State Route 520 floating bridge — ready for adventure.

But, without warning, ecstasy became anguish. An invisible

enemy had rained down destruction and mayhem across the Pacific Ocean, and a day that started with so much promise ended in agony at Pearl Harbor. America was under attack.

Before 10 a.m. — when most modern college students hit the snooze button to sneak a couple extra minutes of extra sleep — 2,400 U.S. soldiers, sailors and civilians lost their lives, and more than 1,100 were injured.

On this day, roses crumbled under the heavy weight of destruction and lilacs lost their blossoms. The face of the country took a couple of left hooks to the jaw, but the heart of America was unscathed.

The human desire for freedom goes beyond the surface of skin and skeleton and reaches to the soul. In times of national crisis, Americans have banded together and shown an uncompromising attitude toward people who undermine the values of this nation. The Revolutionary War saw the rise of the patriot. The Civil War shook down the intolerance of Americans who supported slavery, and World War II saw the rise of the hero.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, the president of the United States during the second World War, said America would defend itself with boundless energy. This task and responsibility fell upon the shoulders of sleeping giants ready for the challenge. The citizens of the Great Depression and early 1940s — coined the greatest generation — sacrificed everything for the future.

America loves a hero.

The movie screen produced John Wayne and Clint Eastwood, whose defiance of injustice made them legends. The young men and women who served during World War II came from the same mold. But unlike Wayne and Eastwood, not all of the soldiers were immortal.

After the tally was penciled in, 292,131 Americans died during World War II wartime operations. The military gave Purple Hearts — awarded to soldiers who are wounded, died in combat

or died after being wounded — to between 800,000 and 1 million Americans.

They sacrificed for the greater good of humankind, and now a monument will forever honor them in Washington, D.C.

In April 2004, 58 years and four months after the Imperial Army of Japan signed the official declaration of surrender, a momentum to commemorate the achievements and sacrifices of 16 million soldiers who served in the armed forces during World War II began in the nation's capital.

Sadly, the greatest generation is moving on from this earth in rapid succession. The majority of this generation is more than 80 years old, and every day 12,000 protectors of freedom and democracy shut their eyes and say goodbye to life, according to an April 30, 2004 San Diego Union-Tribune article.

The last living links between the old world and the new high-speed world of today are losing the chance to tell their stories.

The 83-year-old woman whose exterior has succumbed to the rigors of aging — but was a beauty in her day — has countless tales of drinking whiskey and dancing with the girls while Ella Fitzgerald and Dizzy Gillespie poured out of the jukebox.

The retired master sergeant — who loved his wife with unabated passion for 53 years until age caught up with her and she passed away from cancer — tells stories as a gleam of joy shines from his eye, yet somehow a tear manages to escape at the same time. A lifetime of adventures awaits an active listener, and with approximately 3.5 million wartime heroes still alive, the plethora of wonderful stories is immeasurable.

Dale Carnegie, in his book titled "How to Win Friends and Influence People," said the desire to feel important is the key factor that makes humans different from animals. The simple gesture of shaking the hand of a veteran and letting him or her know how much the sacrifice means to this generation will leave a lasting impression. The time to let them know how much they are appreciated is running out, so please act swiftly and let the operation begin.

'The last living links between the old world and the new high-speed world of today are losing the chance to tell their stories.'



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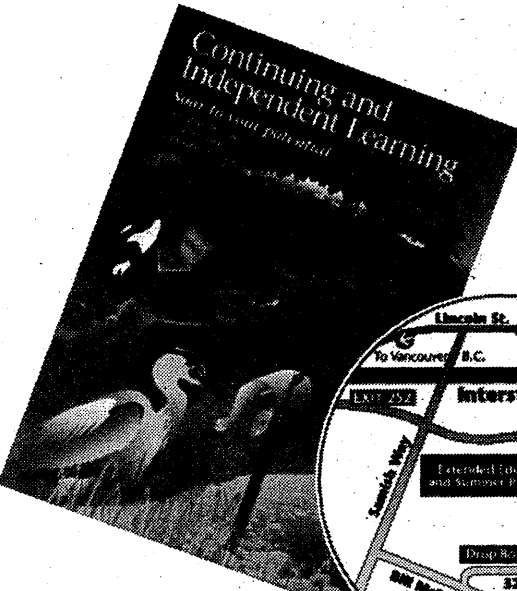
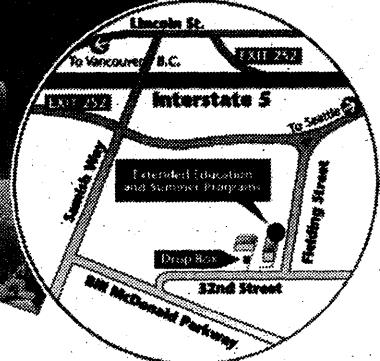
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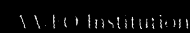
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Frontline

Dear Atrium, get better

The newly renovated, highly publicized Arntzen Atrium opened its doors to students this fall. The hype surrounding the revamped campus eatery lured students into believing its improved products would be worth the additional three weeks students had to wait for it to open.

But it only took a few laps around the Atrium for students to realize it is merely another venue in which Sodexo, the company that supplies food to campus eateries, can obtain a few more dollars from Western students' already-empty wallets. Disappointed students and faculty have one message for the Atrium: Get better.

The company advertised the Atrium as a market that would provide the Western community with organic and vegetarian options. But these items — which range from a sundry of juices to a Jazzy Bean Salad — send the message that, according to Sodexo, an organic label is synonymous with higher prices and unappetizing food.

The Atrium's organic fare occupies only one corner of the cramped facility. Cups advertising that they contain Starbucks coffee greet eatery visitors, and Pizza Hut workers at the opposite end of the Atrium crank out breadsticks that one can only assume aren't organic.

According to Sodexo's Web site, the company employs more than 120,000 workers in North America and raked in \$6 billion in sales in 2004. The corporation's inclusion of organic products at Western probably was not motivated by its wish to satisfy a single university's population.

Sodexo has capitalized on Western's unique community by changing the packaging of its undesirable food products and marketing them as healthy and natural alternatives to the food it sells in markets throughout campus. The company knows hungry students will eat anything — even a \$5 energy bar that resembles congealed dog food and tastes like sawdust.

Eating healthy food is important, and for vegetarians and vegans at Western the Atrium's increased variety of on-campus food choices is a welcome change.

But Sodexo neglected to consider that, while vegetarians and vegans are opposed to consuming animal products, they still have taste buds like everyone else. If a student is forced to fork more than \$7 for a meal, it should at least be edible.

If all else fails, starving students stuck on south campus can always resort to cramming packets of complimentary soup crackers into their jacket pockets. They may not be organic, but at least they're free and delicious.

Frontlines are the opinion of The Western Front editorial board: Zoe Fraley, Brittany Greenfield, Molly Jensen, Stefani Harrey, 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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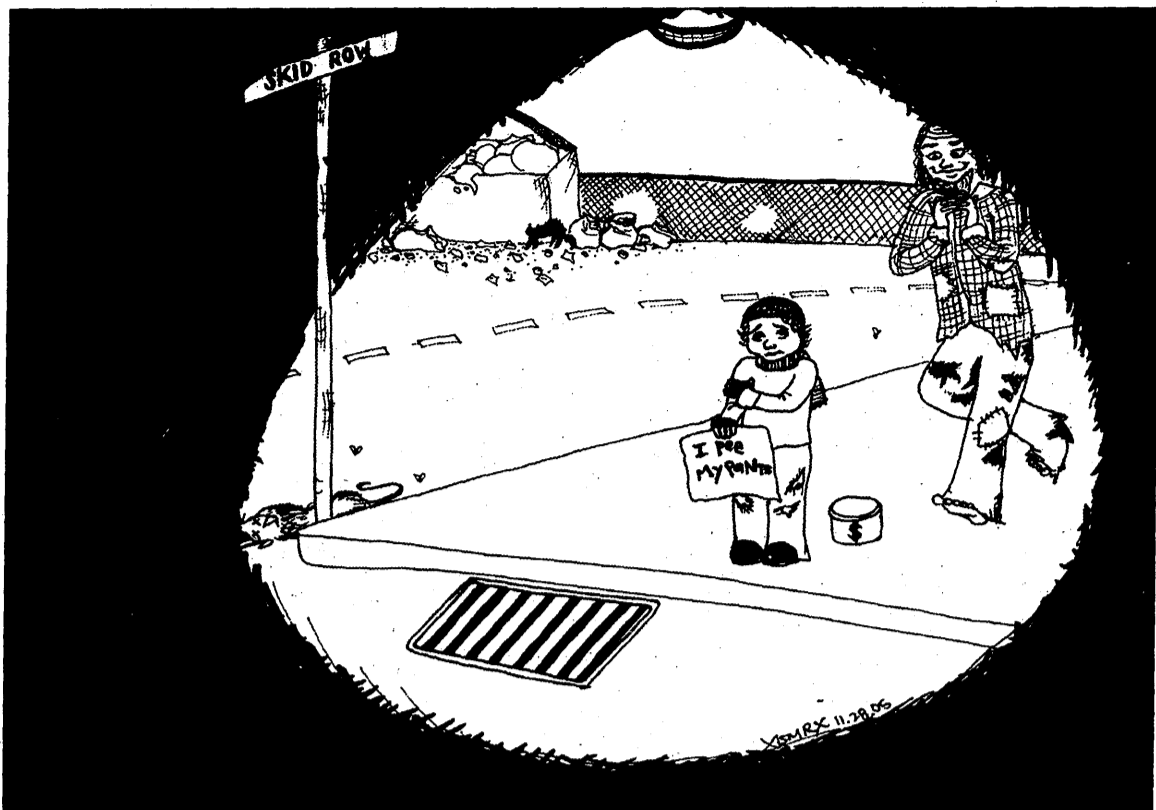
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Editor's note: The views expressed on The Western Front opinion pages are the views of the authors or cartoonists and are not necessarily the views of The Western Front staff, managers or adviser.

And we quote:

"Democracy means that anyone can grow up to be president, and anyone who doesn't grow up can be vice president."

— Johnny Carson, comedian



Kids need repercussions



BY BECKIE ROSILLO
The Western Front

Tough love is not child abuse. Making a teenager stand on a street corner with a sign declaring what a slacker she is simply is an example of good, old-fashioned tough love.

When all other methods fail, parents need to send a loud and unmistakable message to their children and keep them on the right path.

According to a Nov. 17 Seattle Times article, Edmond, Okla., resident Tasha Henderson made her 14-year-old daughter Coretha Henderson stand at the town's

busiest street corner holding a sign that read, "I don't do my homework and I act up in school, so my parents are preparing me for my future. Will work for food."

Passing motorists called the police, claiming the girl's mother inflicted psychological abuse on her child. Callers to radio stations also ridiculed Tasha Henderson's mother on the air, according to a Nov. 16 Washington Post article.

Tasha Henderson's actions clearly were not abuse. She stood beside her daughter during the incident, according to the Washington Post article. The high school freshman was only there for one hour.

If Tasha Henderson was truly going to abuse her child, she could have left her to sleep on the street with that sign. That action would have constituted child endangerment and abandonment.

That would have been abuse.

Coretha Henderson was con-

sistently tardy to class, received Cs and Ds and talked back to her teachers, according to the article.

Prior to the incident, Tasha Henderson forced her daughter to quit the school's track and basketball teams until her grades improved, according to the Washington Post article. That could serve as punishment enough. Coretha Henderson's mother warned her that she'd be living on the street if her behavior continued, most 14-year-olds would disregard such a threat because most parents wouldn't follow through with such extreme measures.

Fifteen minutes of media fame should be an exciting adventure for most teens. Henderson should be grateful to have such widespread media attention. Her story made it into The Washington Post. Not many slackers can say that.

Some witnesses found Tasha

see ABUSE, page 15

Iran lacks nuclear threat



BY KYRA LOW
The Western Front

Speaking of egregious double standards — the United States said Iran owes U.N. inspectors an explanation for its possession of black-market documents that could be related to making an atomic bomb, according to a Nov. 18 Agence France-Presse article.

The United States needs to fess up to its own actions before pointing a finger at other countries.

Look closely at the United States' record, including the war in Iraq, its stash of nuclear weapons and its history of ill-advised political interferences. It speaks for itself as to the United States' hypocritical at-

tempt to condemn Iran for asserting its right to understand all aspects of nuclear technology.

The Bush administration insisted before the war in Iraq began that the country possessed weapons of mass destruction. To hear them tell it, Iraq illegally forged these weapons in a secret world of espionage — but as time passed, it became clear that this was a blatant lie Bush and his cronies concocted.

Now, thousands of U.S. citizens are dying in a war Bush began on a false premise. The fact is the United States pushed for an unnecessary war, shoving its nose where it did not belong.

The United States always causes more harm than good when it tries to involve itself in other countries' business. In the 1980s the United States called Osama Bin Laden a freedom fighter. It funneled millions of dollars into Afghanistan, which aided the creation of the Taliban.

The United States initially fund-

ed Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq as a way to combat the Soviets. Terrorists, who the United States trained and armed, killed 30,000 Nicaraguans in the 1980s. Countless other examples throughout the world, from South America to the Middle East, are testaments to the United States' poor choices.

Regardless of Iran's nuclear capabilities, the United States should not get involved by threatening to implement sanctions on Iran similar to those the United Nations placed upon Iraq. At this point, Iran does not pose a threat to the United States. The Cold War is over and the unjustified fear of nuclear warfare should be also.

The United States is in no position to complain about another country's arsenal. This country has a vast supply of weapons, including nuclear capabilities, which it employed in Japan. Plus, the U.S. gov-

see EXPLAIN, page 15

Abuse: Humiliating a child is wrong; allowing a child to make poor life-changing decisions is worse

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Henderson's actions unwarranted and said encouragement was the proper way to help the teen get her life back on track, according to the Washington Post article.

Critics of Tasha Henderson argue the incident will result in lasting effects of insecurity and low self-esteem. Emotional and psycho-

logical abuse can be extremely damaging, especially for a child who recently entered high school and faces the daily peer and academic pressure from school. Such actions could send the teen further into apathy, especially since Coretha Henderson is a student at Edmond Memorial High, one of the top schools in the state, according to the Seattle Times article. The teen hung her head when

she told The Oklahoman, an Oklahoma City newspaper, that she felt humiliated.

Humiliating a child is wrong. Letting a child throw away his or her life is worse. Tasha Henderson's actions were in her child's best interest and, according to the Seattle Times article, since the incident Coretha Henderson's grades and behavior have improved dramatically, and she has

had perfect attendance at school.

Parents do enough work just trying to raise children. For Coretha Henderson's mother, encouraging her daughter, who consistently ignored her and continued down a destructive path, was not working. In the end, improving a child's life by employing successful parenting tactics does not constitute child abuse.

Explain: United States has no right to complain about Iran's interest in any nuclear capabilities

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

ernment spends billions of dollars on defense — so complaining about another country attempting to create a weapon the United States has had for decades is absurd.

Iran said the knowledge of uranium it al-

legedly obtained on the black market details nuclear power plants, not atomic bombs, according to the Agence France-Presse article.

Albert Einstein once said, "I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones."

Allowing a trigger-happy dictator such as Kim Jong Il of North Korea the ability to create a nuclear weapon is a crazy idea. But, Iran is a country — not a crazed terrorist. No country that has nuclear capabilities will actually use them, due to fear of retaliation. Using a nuclear weapon against another country

— especially one as powerful as the United States — would start World War III and most likely, Armageddon.

The United States needs to stop its bullying tactics and allow Iran to pursue its interest in a weapon half a century old that no one sane can logically do anything with anyway.

Letters to the editor

To whom it may concern:

In the Frontline printed on Nov. 22, the editors state their belief that Washington State University was discriminating against Mr. Swan because of his political beliefs. In most cases I would agree that political opinions shouldn't limit one's academic freedoms, but in this case I think the education faculty at WSU was justified. The issue is not whether Mr. Swan has a right to attend the university — he most certainly does. The issue is whether the education faculty can recommend him for a teaching certificate in good conscience. In order for the faculty to do this, it must believe Mr. Swan can teach all students, not just those lucky enough to be white males.

James M. Fegel
Western senior

To the editor of The Western Front:

I'm writing about the Nov. 22 article titled "Former police chief advocates legal drugs." I'd like to add that many judges and prison wardens have said that 70 to 80 percent of all property crime and violent crime is drug related. Actually, almost 100 percent of all so-called drug-related crime is caused by drug-prohibition policies — not drugs. When Coca-Cola contained cocaine instead of caffeine and sold for 5 cents a bottle, the term drug-related crime didn't exist. Neither did drug lords, cartels or dealers as we know them today.

Many law-enforcement professionals are op-

posed to the idea of re-legalizing any drugs. That's because if drugs were re-legalized, we would need far fewer law-enforcement personnel, fewer prison guards and no prison builders. Therefore, they and the prison industry would be looking for jobs or washing cars for a living.

Of course, those opposed to re-legalizing drugs because it would affect their livelihood will not say so. Instead they cite noble reasons, such as protecting children. As if the current policies do this.

Kirk Muse
Mesa, Ariz., retired business owner and drug-policy-reform activist

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