



Tending to the tunnels

Maintenance workers reveal hidden world under students' feet.
See Story, Page 8.

Kidding around

Junior competition kicks off
Ski to Sea
See Story, Page 10.



TUESDAY, May 20, 2003

The Western Front

Western Washington University

Volume 125 Issue 14

Bellingham, Washington

Gov. Locke approves gas tax hike



By Porfirio Pena
THE WESTERN FRONT

Starting July 1, Whatcom County residents will pay a nickel more per gallon at the pump to fund future road repairs.

The transportation budget package signed Monday by Gov. Gary Locke includes a 5 cent gas-tax increase, 0.3 percent automotive sales-tax increase and 15 percent truck-weight fee increase, said Rep. Doug Ericksen, R-Ferndale. The gas tax will increase 23 to 28 cents per gallon.

"The welcome benefit will be the tax dollars that will come back for transportation issues in Whatcom County," he said.

The transportation package will generate approximately \$4 billion for an estimated 165 statewide projects, Ericksen said. Whatcom County currently plans to spend \$133 million on six new road construction projects.

The Washington state Department of Transportation will widen the Guide Meridian to five lanes north of Bellingham by 2013, said Gordon Rogers, planning director for the Whatcom County Council of Governments. The Guide Meridian is listed as the one of the roads with the highest volume of traffic in the county, he said.

According to the Washington state 2003 transportation project list, \$89,050 will be used in the Guide Meridian construction.

Road construction helps businesses by providing easier road access as well as providing new construction jobs in the area, said Pat Rowe, development director, Bellingham/Whatcom Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Opinions are split within Whatcom County business and government agencies about the new transportation tax increase.

Some Whatcom County businesses will welcome the money generated from the new Washington state transportation budget package, Rowe said. But not everyone

See TAX, Page 3

Sudden Valley residents seek city-hood

Community could raise sales tax revenue

By Cailin Long
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Bellingham City Council is attempting to prevent the Sudden Valley community from becoming a city because of the effect further development will have on the cleanliness of the Lake Whatcom watershed.

In a 5-2 vote during the May 12 meeting, the council decided to file a legal brief detailing its concerns about creating a city within the watershed.

Bellingham City Councilwoman Barbara Ryan said she thinks Sudden Valley as a city would increase commercial development to raise

sales tax revenue needed to support services for the valley such as roads, police protection and the sewer system.

Residential, commercial or industrial development in the watershed would cause waste run-off into Lake Whatcom, Ryan said.

"Since we are a private community, we pay yearly community fees for upkeep of roads and other general

needs," Sudden Valley resident J.B. Lacki said. "Paying taxes would be the same as paying fees, so being a city wouldn't be much different."

Lacki said he does not think becoming a city would affect the Lake Whatcom watershed negatively because Sudden Valley residents already use the watershed.

"I'm an advocate of drinking
See CITY-HOOD, Page 4

Lowriders bounce in Red Square

By Rachel Thomas
THE WESTERN FRONT

Sunny weather and souped-up cars brought people from across Western Washington to Red Square to look at more than 50 lowrider cars in the third annual lowrider show, "Ridin' Low in the 3-6-0," sponsored by MEChA.

The outlook for the show was questionable due to the bleak weather report, said Western senior Javier Ojeda, Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan lowrider committee member.

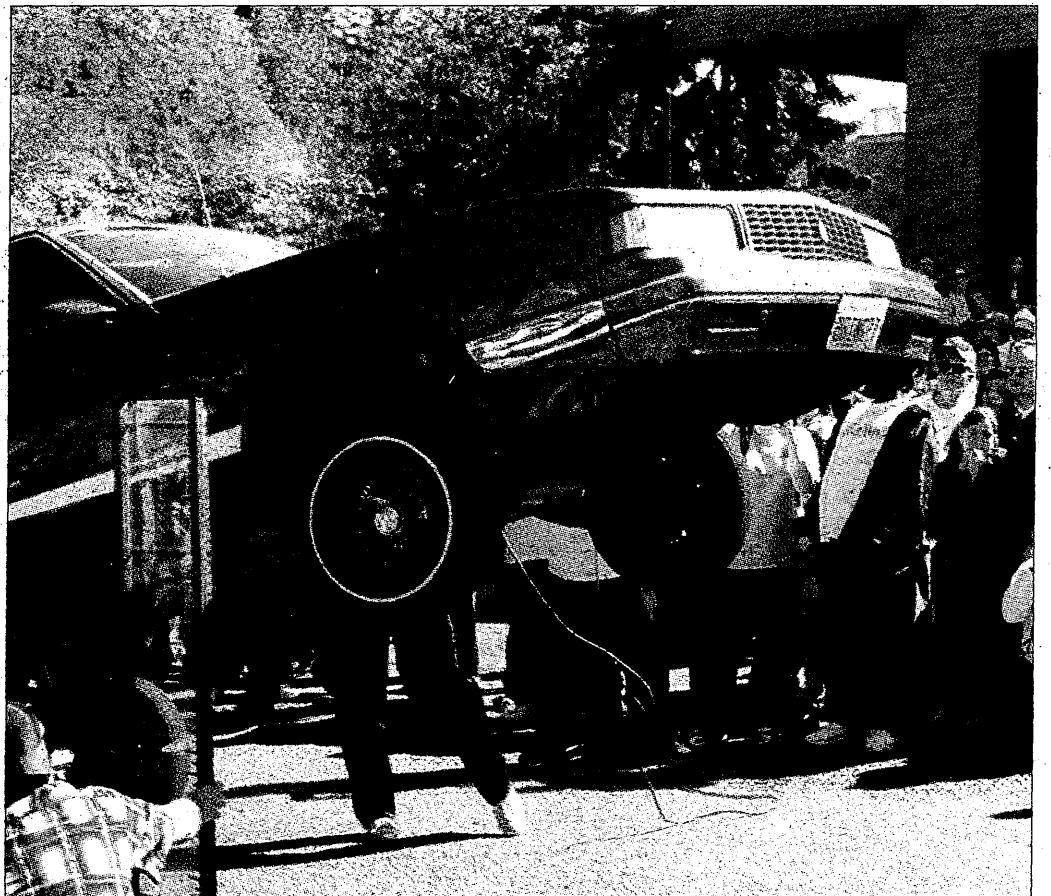
The lowrider show began at noon Sunday, and by 1 p.m. the sun was shining and people swarmed into Red Square and High Street looking at cars and talking with the owners.

Ferndale resident Andy Ochoa showed his 1955 Chevy Bel Air.

Ochoa said it took him approximately two years to restore the Bel Air, which is average restoration time for him.

Ochoa said he has entered approximately 30 car shows from Canada to Reno, but he said Sunday was his first appearance at Western's lowrider show.

"(I enter) partly for the nice weather, the top down, the atmosphere and the location,"



Keith Bolling/The Western Front

Adam Carlson of Custom Auto Specialties in Everett jumps his '87 Monte Carlo 48 inches to win a hop contest at the "Ridin' Low in the 3-6-0" lowrider show.

Ochoa said. "I like to participate in stuff like this."

Auburn resident Charles Torres, whose car Mo' Money won the Best in Show award, said he started restoring and working on cars and lowrider

bikes with his three sons to keep them out of trouble.

"I let them show and express themselves through their bikes, and then I got the itch," Torres said. "My wife said it's time for us to get

involved now."

Torres said his car club "Royal Image" chooses to express itself through its members' cars and takes much pride in the outcome.

See LOWRIDER, Page 3

Council approves funding for homeless treatment

Carly Wyatt/The Western Front
The Rainbow Center members, Jack Elliott, Marcia Benoit, John Depoppe, Reynaldo Sierra and Jackie Elliott volunteer at the front desk of the center.



By Carly Wyatt
THE WESTERN FRONT

Local homeless woman Christine Hart has been a regular member of the Rainbow Center, a facility for those suffering from mental illness and substance abuse problems, for the past year. She said she relies on peer support programs and friends at the center to help her find stability in her life.

After a unanimous decision

May 6, the Whatcom County Council decided to assist the Whatcom Counseling and Psychiatric Clinic in treating homeless people in Whatcom County, so others like Hart will benefit from mental health and substance abuse prevention services.

"The purpose of this project is to engage homeless people with co-occurring disorders in mental health and substance abuse treatment and to assist

them in overcoming barriers for housing," said Andy Byrne, Whatcom County Health Department service manager.

The proposal entails allotting \$42,122 from the Whatcom County Health Department budget to the Whatcom Counseling and Psychiatric Clinic to offer assistance and resources to the homeless with a dual diagnosis of a mental illness and substance abuse problems.

See HOMELESS, Page 3

Viking Voices

Do you trust the accuracy of the news media after learning about the actions of New York Times reporter Jayson Blair?

Compiled by Matt McDonald.



Allison Pirret
Undeclared, sophomore

For the most part, I do trust the media. But there are a lot of biases that you can't always believe and this adds to the lack of trust.



Lisa Elliot
English, senior

I am disappointed with the New York Times because they are supposed to have the best reporters and demonstrate the truth.



Josh Sidell
Business, junior

This is an example of what newspapers are already doing, and that is embellishing information and slanting articles, and this is where they got caught.



Leslie Granger
Sociology, junior

I think they can trust it more because people will pay more attention to where (reporters) get their resources from.

Online Poll Results: 65 percent of voters said yes. 5 percent said no. 30 percent said they never trusted in the first place.
www.westernfrontonline.com

The Latest In Iraq

Marines killed in Iraq helicopter crash

Four Marines were killed Monday when their CH-46 "Sea Knight" helicopter crashed into a waterway.

Pentagon officials would not give further details about the crash, saying only that the troop transporter was missing and was presumed to have plummeted near the city of Kerbala, approximately 68 miles southwest of Baghdad.

Iraqis protest United States' presence in Iraq

Thousands of Shiite Muslims protested the United States' presence in Iraq, demanding that the U.S.-led coalition turn over control of the country to Iraq.

Oil workers also protested the decision to allow members of Saddam Hussein's Baath Party to remain in office. Employees of the Oil Ministry demanded the removal of the officials during protests Monday in Baghdad.

AP WIRE NEWS BRIEFS

STATE NEWS

Fiance goes airborne over proposal

A Davenport farmer found a novel way to propose to another farmer's daughter. Kyle Zellmer took his girlfriend on an aerial tour of the Columbia River basin.

The pilot then flew the couple over a wheat field where Zellmer had spelled out "Will you marry me Kristin?" in 100-foot-tall letters.

His girlfriend, Kristin Alme, replied a surprised, yes.

NATIONAL NEWS

Peterson's ex-girlfriend says she's ready to testify

The massage therapist who revealed that she had a relationship with Scott Peterson said Monday that she is prepared to testify at his trial on charges of killing his pregnant wife and their unborn child.

Police arrested Peterson last month after the bodies of his wife

and baby washed ashore on the Richmond shoreline of San Francisco Bay, a few miles from where he said he was fishing when his wife disappeared from their Modesto home in December. He pleaded innocent and is being held without bail.

During a news conference Monday, Amber Frey, 28, declined to answer questions and said she would refer all inquiries to her lawyer. She said she would not discuss her testimony before being called to the witness stand.

"Until that time, I just want to lead a normal life and regain my privacy," she said.

Humans no longer monkeying around

Morris Goodman, a researcher from Wayne State University School of Medicine, said Monday that humans are more closely related to chimps than previously thought.

Morris' study showed that humans and chimps share more than 99 percent of their

DNA. If the study is true, it would then determine that human DNA has a greater similarity to chimp DNA than with other human DNA.

Goodman concluded that chimps should be included in the same genus as humans.

WorldCom agrees to court settlement

New York attorneys and federal officials announced Monday the terms of a settlement to determine civil fraud charges with WorldCom, a bankrupt telecommunications agency.

Under the terms of the settlement, WorldCom agreed to pay \$500 million to settle charges stemming from a multi-billion-dollar accounting scandal involving the falsifying of balance sheets to hide expenses and inflate earnings.

The fine would be the largest ever imposed by the Securities and Exchange Commission on a company outside of the brokerage industry.

A judge is not expected to

officially rule on the settlement until after June 11.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Pope John Paul II considers his mortality

Pope John Paul II, fresh off celebrating his 83rd birthday, said Monday that the end of his life is "drawing near."

The pontiff, who doctors recently diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, discussed his fate with thousands of Polish countrymen in St. Peter's Square in Vatican City.

"I am increasingly aware that the day is drawing near when I will have to present myself to God and make an accounting of my whole life," the Pope said.

The Vatican said the ailing pope has spoken often recently about his mortality, but he fails to acknowledge any suggestion of stepping down.

Compiled by Eric Berto.
AP Wire courtesy KUGS 89.3-FM

COPS BOX

University Police

May 18, 9:35 p.m.: UP responded to a medical aid report after a female dislocated her knee in the Fairhaven Residence Hall. Emergency assistance was on the way, but the woman's friends transported her to the hospital.

May 18, 1:43 p.m.: UP cited and released an 18-year-old female on south campus for allowing an unauthorized person to drive her car.

May 18, 2:20 a.m.: UP responded to a malicious mischief report of a rock thrown through an apartment room window at Birnam Wood Apartments.

Bellingham Police

May 19, 3:07 p.m.: Officers responded to a report of a vehicle prowl in the 1400 block of G Street.

May 19, 2:38 p.m.: Officers responded to a report of a bicycle theft in the 2500 block of Elizabeth Street. Officers did not find a suspect in the case.

May 19, 10:59 a.m.: Officers responded to the report made by a young woman stating that the occupants of a passing pickup truck threw water at her while she waited at a bus stop.

May 18, 3:24 p.m.: Officers responded to reports of a theft in the 3100 block of Ferry Avenue. Officers documented the complaint as a dispute between the tenants of the apartment.

Compiled by Justin McCaughan.

WWU Official Announcements

Deadline for announcements in this space is noon Friday for the Tuesday edition and noon Wednesday for the Friday edition. Announcements should be limited to 50 words, typewritten or legibly printed, and sent through campus mail to "Official Announcements," MS-9117, via fax to X/4343, or brought in person to Commissary 111. DO NOT SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS DIRECTLY TO THE WESTERN FRONT. Phoned announcements will not be accepted. All announcements should be signed by originator.

PLEASE POST

ART CONTEST. Western's Writing Center seeks two-dimensional art submissions in paint, photography, drawing and mixed media. Grand prize is \$100, first prize is \$50. Winning entries will be displayed in Wilson Library. For entry forms, call X/3219, stop by WL 389, or see www.wvu.edu/~writepro.

THE MATH PLACEMENT TEST is offered in OM 120 at 3 p.m. May 2 and 9, and at 9 a.m. on May 22, 29, June 5 and 12. Registration is not required. Students must bring photo identification, student number, Social Security number, and a No. 2 pencil. A \$15 is payable in exact amount at test time. Allow 90 minutes.

THE S&A FEE COMMITTEE WILL HOLD AN OPEN HEARING at 5 p.m. today, May 20, in VU 462. The committee will present information on initial 2003-04 budget requests submitted by the Associated Students' housing and dining, athletic, campus recreation, and department-related activities committees.

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

SUMMER QUARTER DEGREE APPLICANTS: Students who plan to graduate fall quarter must have an application on file by June 6. Applications and instructions are available in OM 230.

THE MATH PLACEMENT (MAT) schedule and sample problems may be found at www.ac.wvu.edu/~assess/tc.htm.

THE MILLER ANALOGIES TEST (MAT) is offered in OM 120 at 2 p.m. June 3. Registration is required in OM 120 or by calling X/3080. The MAT is not administered individually. A \$42 fee is payable at test time. Registration is limited to 16. The test takes about 1 1/2 hours.

WEST-B TEST. Applicants to state-approved educator preparation programs and those from other states applying for a Washington residency teaching certificate must have a minimum passing score on basic skills assessment. Residency teaching certificate applicants who completed an educator preparation program outside Washington and have not passed WEST-B may be granted additional time. Test date is July 19. Western is a test site, however, registration is required through www.west.nesinc.com.

INFORMATION REGARDING NATIONAL TESTING is available at the Testing Center, OM 120.

Lowrider: MEChA event draws vehicles from throughout Northwest

Continued from Page 1

Western senior Aaron Leavitt said he comes to the lowrider show each year because the cars are better and to support MEChA and his friends, who organize the show.

Five cars entered the crowd-pleasing "hop" contest which gave owners a chance to show off their expensive hydraulics.

Hop contest winner and Everett resident Adam Carlson works for Custom Auto Specialties and said he has

spent approximately \$10,000 on his car to give it the ability to jump 48 inches off the ground.

MEChA sponsors and organizes the lowrider show to get more of the Latino community on campus and to show them that college is possible, MEChA member Cris Sanchez said.

"As a Chicano student movement, our goal is to get people on campus that don't think they belong here," he said.

Homeless: Council's proposal will fund mental illness, abuse treatment

Continued from Page 1

Byrne said nearly 2,000 homeless people live in Whatcom County, depending on the season, with 220 people suffering from chronic homelessness. The chronically homeless, or street people, remain on the streets without a source of stability, and more than 80 percent have a mental illness or substance abuse problem that cripples their ability to get help.

After nearly a year of planning, the council vote will be the final step toward enacting the Outreach Services Coordination, a program designed to help the homeless with mental illnesses and substance abuse problems, Byrne said.

Jane Relin, executive director of the Whatcom Counseling and Psychiatric Clinic, said as many as 50 percent of the homeless have problems with mental health, from schizophrenia to manic depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. Homeless people may have problems regulating emotions, drugs and alcohol, which makes their mental state worse, she said.

"Most people who are willing to get help will stop being

homeless because we can help them find housing," Relin said. "But some are paranoid and anxious to come and get help because they think we're going to make them stop drinking or put them in jail."

Lyle Stork, director of the Rainbow Center, said that because many homeless people are wary of clinical settings, his facility offers access to mental health and substance abuse treatment without the clinical setting.

"We are here as a drop-in center for people who are recovering from a mental illness," said Sharon Matthews, a psychiatric nurse at the Rainbow Center. "The only requirement is the person is accepting of their mental illness."

The Rainbow Center advocates social and vocational skills, enabling the members to socialize with people they can relate to and learn responsibility to find work, Stork said.

The Rainbow Center has an average of 85 people coming in and out daily to eat lunch, use the laundry facilities, talk to a peer counselor or simply play pool and listen to music.

"Although we don't do clinical therapy, we do very important therapy," Stork said.

Tax: Budget to generate \$4 billion for road projects

Continued from Page 1

is optimistic about the plan.

Ericksen said he was disappointed that the legislature opted to raise taxes instead of reforming the existing transportation plan.

Many business leaders involved directly with the automobile industry or gas sales said they do not see or expect to see much change in business.

"Customers are asking more about gas mileage," said Mike Zatine, sales manager at Chambers Chevrolet. "But so far there has not been a whole lot of

differences in sales."

Customers have not reacted to the change in the gas tax yet, said Wayne Howard, owner of Lakeway Chevron.

"Once the price starts going up it will have an impact," he said. "Most people aren't happy when they see the taxes go up."

Western sophomore Bryan Roberts said the gas tax is better than other forms of taxation because only drivers pay the tax.

"I don't like the taxes," Roberts said. "But if you're going to drive you should pay for the roads."

Customers will adjust to paying the taxes and continue with their normal driving habits, Rowe said.

Washington state does not allow money from the transportation budget to be used for other purposes. Therefore, all the money the state earns from the tax increases will be used strictly for transportation, he said.

If necessary, the state could reduce costs by limiting the amount of time the projects take to complete and evaluating whether to contract projects to private companies, Rowe said.

AS organizations struggle to receive adequate funding

By Sarah A. Freeman
THE WESTERN FRONT

Associated Students clubs, organizations and programs are requesting budget increases totaling \$130,000 for 2003 and 2004, but with the expanding growth of programs and lack of funds, many will have to make due with what they have.

"I feel bad for the people in the future who hold this position," said Brian Howells Jr., Veteran Outreach Center coordinator. "I want to plan some events for the veterans, but I can't because we don't have the resources."

The VOC exhausted its entire budget of \$1,900 at the annual Veterans Day event. Howells said he must now request more money from the AS Activities Council to plan future events, such as Memorial Day.

Ben Carroll, AS Activities Council director, said more than 160 different AS clubs and organizations exist on campus. Each club and organization is allotted a sum of \$50. Seventeen programs on campus encompass large groups of people, drawing more money from the budget.

The program budget is determined by the AS budget committee every spring. Carroll said in comparison to clubs and organizations, programs receive a larger budget because they are more established and reach more people. The 2002-2003 AS activities budget is \$1.7 million.

Laramie Smith, AS Resource and Outreach program director, said programs are allotted funds based on the scope of their target audience, past yearly budgets and how many events they planned in the past year.

"For example, the Women's Center gets more money because they reach 60 percent of Western's population," Smith said.

Tony Russo, AS vice president for business and operations, said if all the organizations received their budget requests for next year, the student activities fee per student would increase from \$381 to \$457 per year.

Michael Vendiola, Ethnic Student Center coordinator and activities adviser, said the ESC is requesting a \$2,000 budget increase for programming. Vendiola said he understands that many other programs are

seeking a larger budget and not all will receive their requests.

"Programs are growing so fast," Vendiola said. "But we need to deal with an (AS) budget that may not even increase."

Carroll said a campus radio station, KVIK, was a club this year, but it is requesting to be considered as an organization next year, which requires more funding.

"They have used their own equipment and time," Carroll said. "Should that not be looked at seriously, too? It is a really hard decision trying to divide the funds to each program that is so deserving."

After the total AS budget is determined for 2003 and 2004, the committee then awards the exact budget to each program.

This year, approximately \$40,000 was at the discretion of the AS Activity Council for clubs and organizations or programs that request more funds. Carroll said the activity council budget is typically reserved for first-time or non-established campus events. Dawe said traditional change in each program from year-to-year is why the activity council committee is given flexibility.

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City-hood: Bellingham community bids for city

Continued from Page 1

water — that's my real concern," Ryan said. "I'm always concerned when I see threats down the road."

So far, Ryan said Sudden Valley residents are conscious and aware of protecting the watershed, which is a source of drinking water for more than 85,700 people in and around Bellingham.

"My concern is that down the road, different Sudden Valley leaders will have the power to undo that good work," Ryan said.

Councilmen Grant Deger and Bob Ryan said they opposed filing the legal brief.

"I take water safety as an important issue, but the particular event of entering into a lawsuit over something we have not participated in until now is frivolous," Deger said.

Precautions such as the Transfer of Development Rights, which pays contractors to build higher density buildings

north of Bellingham as opposed to on the watershed, will keep the watershed protected, Deger said.

The Whatcom County Council designated Sudden Valley as an urban growth area in 2001, giving the lake-side community five years to become a city. Under the State Growth Management Act, an urban growth area has high densities of residents which enables it to become a city. As of right now, Sudden Valley has urban level densities, three or more houses per acre, to become a city, said Whatcom County Council Chairman Dan McShane.

The Sudden Valley Association is not interested in developing the 3,000 existing lots available to them, McShane said. The association agreed to reduce the number of homes built by 1,800 after down-zoning in order to become a city,

McShane said.

"It's a situation where Sudden Valley wants tax money to repair its roads, which are privately owned," McShane said.

The residents of Sudden Valley contribute to the county's general and road funds, but feel they are not getting their money's worth because their private roads do not receive any of that funding, McShane said.

"I don't think Sudden Valley will ever become a city," McShane said. "They don't have the tax base. They have to create a police force. They have to fix their private roads and that is a great amount of work."

If Sudden Valley still wants to become a city in 2006, McShane said Bellingham would have a large say in whether or not that happens.

"It could be flat out opposed," McShane said.

County health officials report new SARS case

By Cailin Long
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Whatcom County Health Department identified a second case of severe acute respiratory syndrome in an unidentified child in Whatcom County May 15. The child was exposed during travel to an affected area in Asia but is not seriously ill. The child will remain isolated at home until May 25, Whatcom County Health Official Greg Stern said.

The WCHD identified the first case of suspected SARS more than 10 days ago. The first patient is out of isolation and feeling better, Stern said.

"It's being contained in that we haven't seen secondary spread," Stern said. "If we found community spread, the Center for Disease Control may change its recommendations on quarantine."

The quarantine would involve

the isolation of travelers returning from affected areas who do not have symptoms.

The CDC is not recommending quarantine for travelers returning from affected areas in Asia due to the negative impact that missing work or school could have on travelers' jobs and education, Stern said.

"You really need to weigh the cost to the patient with the benefit to society," Stern said.

According to the Washington state Department of Health, medical officials have identified 29 cases of SARS in Washington state as of May 16. Two of the cases are considered probable, meaning evidence of pneumonia or acute respiratory distress syndrome is present. None of the cases are confirmed.

According to the CDC, the number of SARS cases reported worldwide totals 7,864, with 643 deaths.

Lawmakers end dispute over \$2.6 billion shortfall

By Abiah Weaver
THE WESTERN FRONT

Washington lawmakers set aside their differences Thursday afternoon and decided to share the burden of solving the state's revenue crisis.

Budget negotiators ended the dispute between the Democrat-

controlled House and the Republican-controlled Senate in a special session when talks failed during the official legislative session that ended last month.

Both chambers backed down from their original proposals and agreed to a \$23 billion spending cap for the next two years, increasing state spending by

approximately 2 percent.

The House abandoned its original request for cost-of-living raises for teachers and state employees to free \$325 million for other projects. The Senate withdrew its request for more business tax exemptions and agreed to increase spending by \$250 million for health

care programs.

Despite their original request for a variety of small tax increases, House Democrats conceded to reduce the \$2.6 billion shortfall created after Sept. 11. The "sin tax" on alcohol, tobacco and candy did not survive negotiations, but Democrats still hope to raise \$14

million by increasing the state's liquor-store markups.

With the most difficult decision behind them, negotiators will re-evaluate their proposals and reconvene later this month to determine exactly what programs and projects will receive money for the budget term beginning July 1.

Saturday Nights:
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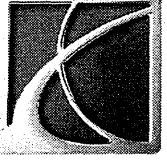
KISM Presents:
An AC/DC Tribute
PROBLEM CHILD
(FORMERLY "ROCKEN' HORSE")
PARTY STARTS @ 9 P.M.

Live Upstairs Friday, May 23
games, giveaways, prizes!

Hosted by KISM DJs
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\$5 Cover — \$3 B-52's All Night

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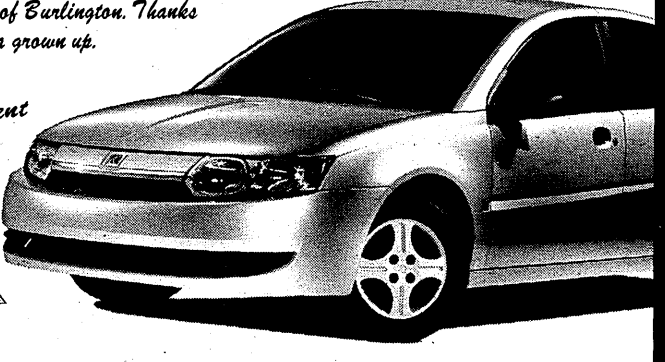
When I went down to Burlington to test drive a 2003 Saturn ION, I didn't know what to expect.

We zoomed down Chuckanut Drive and the ION easily handled every curve of the road. As I cruised down Interstate 5 with my 6ft 1in boyfriend, who fit in the car comfortably, and one of his roommates, the boys played corners. It was pretty funny!

I would describe the Ion in four words: quiet, sleek, smooth and roomy. I am very impressed.

I am telling everyone about my awesome experience at Saturn of Burlington. Thanks for treating me like a grown up.

- Mariko
Western Student



Standard ION•1 features include: 2.2-liter, DOHC, 140-horsepower engine
14.7 cubic feet of trunk space • Anti-theft system

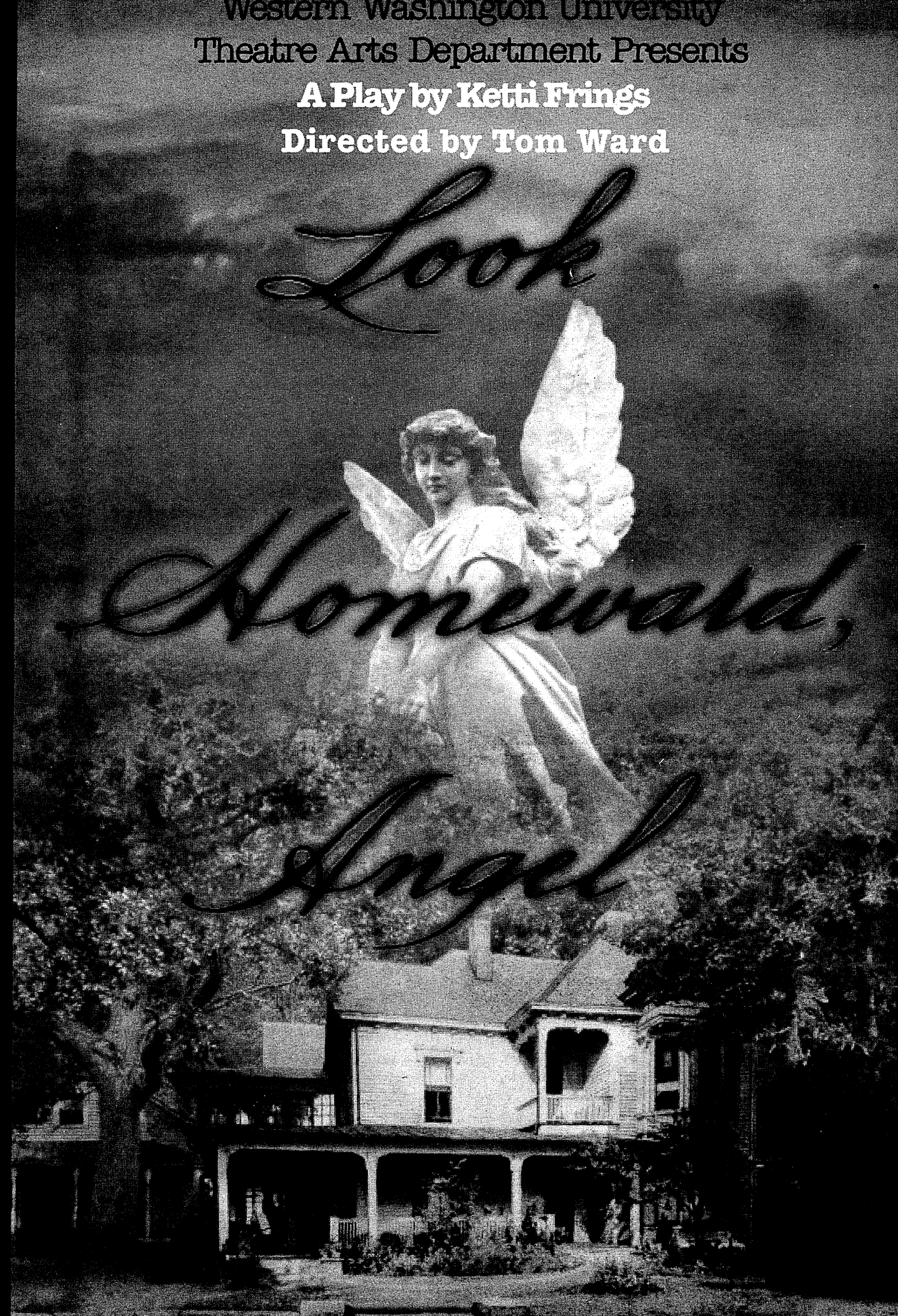
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Directed by Tom Ward



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June 1 at 2pm

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Technology fee could finance tutorials in computer labs

By Jennifer Segadelli
THE WESTERN FRONT

While applying for jobs after graduation, Associated Students President Allison Smith said she discovered that she lacks knowledge about several computer programs required in the business world.

"I am a graduating business major, and my applications for jobs are expecting me to know programs like Microsoft Project and Microsoft Visio, but I have no experience with them," Smith said.

A proposed Student Technology Center would provide services to train students through workshops and peer training and give students access to advanced equipment and software, said Larry Gilbert, director of academic technology and user services.

Several students are entering school and work unprepared because of their lack of technical knowledge, said Julie Krom, AS vice president for academic affairs.

"With the increasing dependence on technology and a lot of students coming out of high school or on the job force,

some new students don't have the knowledge that a lot of current students do," Krom said. "The center would serve as an equalizer for fitting technology needs of people at Western."

The AS estimated that the project will cost \$75,000 per year for the next two years, with no additional cost to students. Money collected through the Student Technology Fee is approximately \$740,000 per year. Funding for the technology center would only be a small amount of the total budget received each year, Krom said.

At the request of the STF Committee, a Web-based survey of 256 random students was conducted April 23 to April 29 to gather opinions about the proposed Student Technology Center.

The survey asked students about the importance of support services to help students use technology for learning. More than 145 students rated support as being 'extremely' or 'very' important Gilbert said.

"It would be helpful if there was somebody knowledgeable about computer programs to help us if we

don't know how to," Western freshman Courtney Carpenter said.

Western's computer labs do not currently include staff tutorials in program operation. Academic technology and user services provides support primarily for faculty and staff, but not for students, Gilbert said.

"ATUS and other campus technology services are mostly targeted at faculty and staff, but the only services on campus targeted at students are limited help desk services," Gilbert said. "Computer labs are just facilities where students can use computers, but they have little dedicated support for students. The Student Technology Center would concentrate on concerted training and ongoing support of students."

The Student Technology Center would offer services that students cannot receive in classes, Gilbert said.

The proposed location for the Student Technology Center is Haggard Hall. It would fill a vacant room after the existing computer science laboratory moves to the Communications Facility, under construction, located south of the Environmental Studies building, Krom said.

Plan commences to construct Haggard Hall covered bus shelter

By Leslie Sugiura
THE WESTERN FRONT

After two years of attempting to obtain funding, construction on the northbound bus shelter west of Haggard Hall will begin on June 10, said Barbara Alten, architect and project manager for the bus shelter.

The first plan was too expensive, Alten said. The second time, the bus shelter plan was tied into another project, the construction of a bike trail, which fell through, she said.

Since it is a heavily used bus stop on campus, the Whatcom Transit Authority and Western are splitting the cost of the project which is undetermined at this time, said Rick Nicholson, the transportation service specialist for WTA. The WTA board of directors has already contributed \$40,000 toward building the new shelter.

"We have felt for a very long time that it was a safety issue with people, bicycles, buses and service vehicles using the street," Nicholson said. "The main problem with the Viking Union stop going north is that the street narrows. We want to make Haggard Hall the main stop for northbound buses in hopes of relieving congestion on High Street."

Western junior Carissa Mosiman said she sees High Street as a current problem for bus routes.

"I can see the problem bus drivers have because people are crossing the street near the VU and the drivers always have

to stop for them," Mosiman said. "Anything to get rid of the problem is OK with me."

The main stop for southbound buses will remain at the Viking Union, Nicholson said. The possibility of eliminating the northbound Viking Union stop altogether is also being considered, he said.

Western junior Chad Walker, who said he often uses the Viking Union northbound shelter, said he thinks Haggard Hall will be a good location for the new shelter.

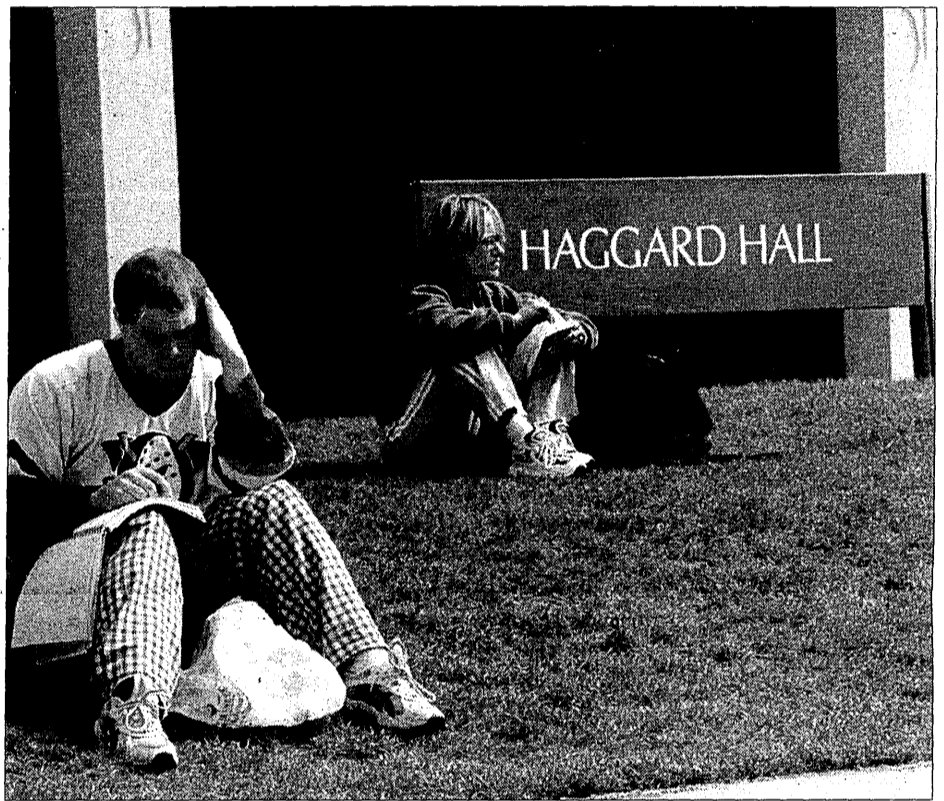
"It makes sense to build it there," Walker said. "It will probably be faster."

The design for the shelter is the same as the northbound shelter across from the Viking Union, Alten said. The main structural difference is that the shelter is not going to be as confined as the existing shelter in front of the Viking Union. During the design phase, space and light were considered, she said.

"I've noticed that people tend to sit on the outside of the shelter across from the VU," Alten said. "The new shelter will be safe at night because the sides are made of glass. The inside of the shelter will be visible to the bus driver and the people outside of it."

Three walkways will divide the structure in order to alleviate congestion from people exiting the buses, Alten said. Each area between the walkways will have a bench, made out of recycled plastic, and areas for wheelchairs and standing room, she said.

"We tried to get as much coverage as we could, which ended up being 500



Justin McCaughan/The Western Front
Western seniors Henry Valz and Cindy Vrieling sit on the ground west of Haggard Hall while they wait to catch their bus. Whatcom Transit Authority and Western will build a bus shelter near this site.

square feet of coverage for the shelter," Alten said. "The patrons will be covered and won't have to stand out in the rain."

The roof will be constructed out of copper similar to some of the roofs in Red

Square, such as Miller Hall's, Alten said. Since the roof will be exposed to evaporated saltwater, the process the copper goes through will create patina, a turquoise green color, she said.

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FEATURES

Campus & Community

May 20, 2003

The Western Front • 7



STRANGE DAYS

Unbelievable news from around the world

Plan to start mafia ring leads to arrest of eighth-grade students

Two eighth-grade students from Nordonia Middle School, near Akron, Ohio, were arrested after a note was found detailing one student's plan to start a mafia. After researching mafia crime families on the Internet, he charged \$100 entrance fees to 12 other students in order to join his gang.

Authorities said the note outlined a plan to make money through computer hacking, robbery, theft, candy sales and prostitution.

The note also discussed the boss' desire to take over the school by assign-

ing money-making ventures to each member of the group. The boss would then require a 25 percent share of all money generated.

High school vandals screw around with camel mascot

High school students in Wyoming have resolved any questions of Humphrey the Camel's gender. Humphrey is the mascot of the north campus of Campbell County High School.

Police said students screwed a prosthesis to the sculpture to make

Humphrey obviously male.

They also said students planned to steal a camel sculpture from the high school's south campus in an attempt to weld the two camels together.

Authorities estimated the damage at \$500, and they turned over the anatomical evidence to police.

Witchy woman barred from court

Officials partially banned Catherine Tarver from the Macon County Courthouse in Georgia, where her son is being tried for murder, after someone accused her of performing voodoo in the

courthouse bathroom. She is only allowed to enter the building when her son is in court.

A courthouse employee saw Tarver in the bathroom the day her son appeared for pre-trial hearings. The employee alleged that Tarver was breaking eggs and spreading "voodoo powder" and chicken feathers on the floor in order to hinder the prosecution's case.

The Washington County sheriff's office said broken eggs were found on four previous occasions along with chicken wings and blood, all on days when Tarver's son was in court.

Compiled by Ian Alexander.



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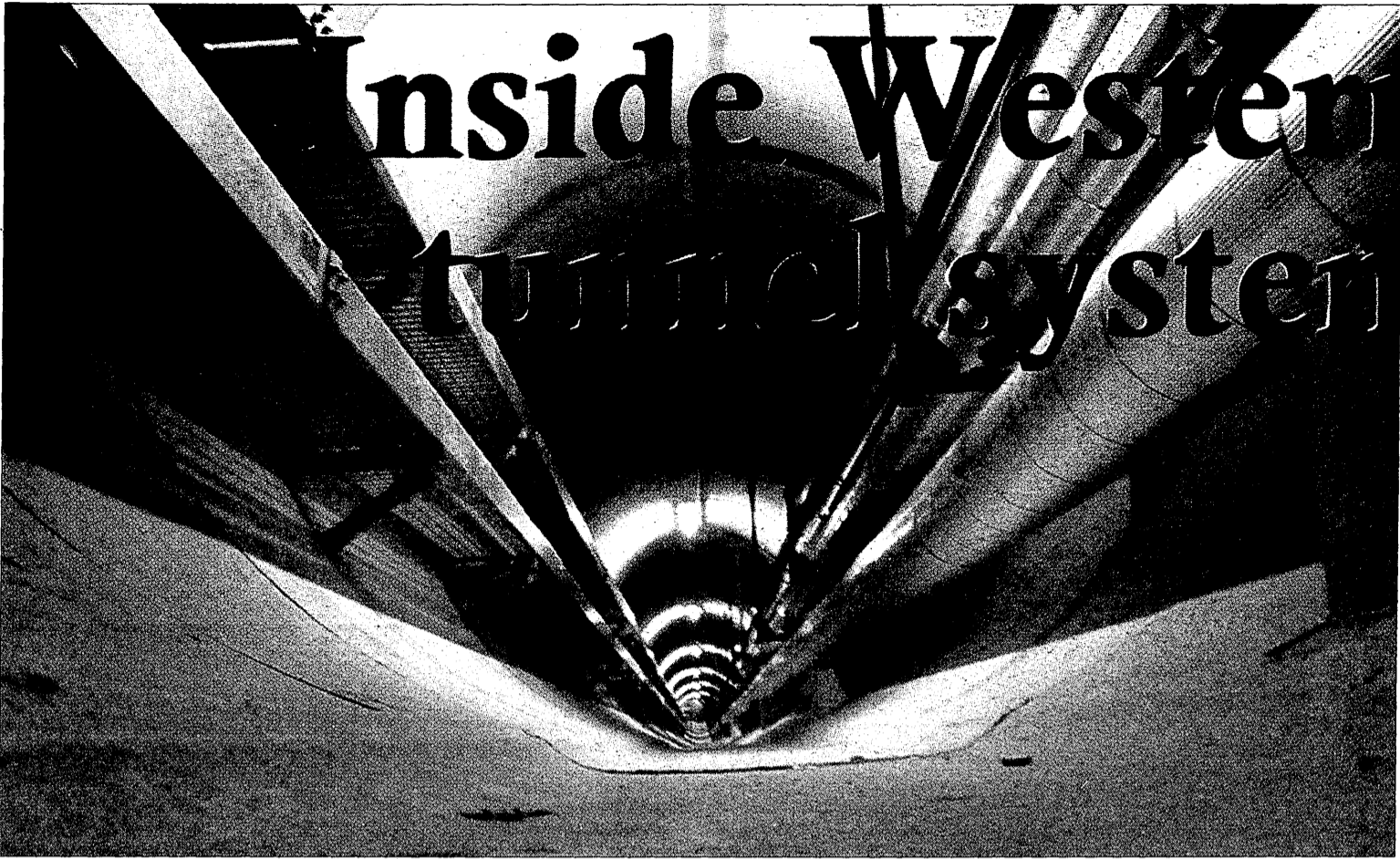
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Inside Western's tunnel system

Fluorescent lights illuminate one of the tunnels under Western's campus. The 16,080-foot-tunnel system contains power cables, steam pipes and Internet cables. Engineers constructed most of the tunnel system in the '40s in response to the growing demand for maintaining and replacing aging utilities.

Mike Alton/The Western Front

By Mike Alton

The Western Front

Just under Western's campus lies a world of extreme temperatures, abrupt metal clangings and claustrophobia-inducing corridors.

Opening the door to this subterranean complex releases a blast of 90-degree air, and droning machinery whirs from all directions. The forbidding darkness hides hazards such as electrical boxes, sloping ceilings and pipes crossing at knee-high level.

Despite the dangers of the tunnels, the atmosphere is relatively undisturbed except for the occasional rat or maintenance worker.

"It's usually pretty quiet down here — most of the time," plumbing supervisor Guy Watson said.

At the flick of a switch, lights flash one at a time, down hundreds of feet of tunnel, similar to those on an airport runway.

This is Western's tunnel system.

The 16,080 feet of cement tunnels contain power cables, steam pipes and Internet cables. Approximately 27,230 feet of steam pipes snake through three miles of tunnel, bringing heat from the Steam Plant to facilities, classrooms and residence halls.

Civil engineers created most of the tunnel system in the '40s in response to the growing need for maintenance of the steam pipes, Watson said.

The original tunnels were approximately the width of a garbage can, with 10-inch steam pipes in the middle, making them inaccessible. To fix the pipes, workers had to break the cement or whatever lay above ground to reach the defective pipe, Watson said. Today, maintenance workers can walk in the tunnel and remove the damaged pieces of the pipe. A golf cart could comfortably drive through most of the tunnels, if it were not for the occasional pipes that cross the path.

The tunnels extend as far south as Fairhaven College, north past Old Main and Edens Hall and west to the Western Associated Students

Bookstore. Fifteen hundred feet of new tunnel link the future Campus Recreation Center with Western's main campus and an entrance off East College Road by the Manus sculpture near the Fairhaven Complex. One of the deepest points is under the Environmental Studies building, where the tunnel runs approximately 25 feet underground, Watson said.

During the Cold War, the tunnels had a second use.

"In the '60s when Kennedy was president, (facility operators) stored barrels of water down here, medical supplies and such," Watson said.

Although facility operators believed that the tunnels could withstand the fallout if a nuclear bomb destroyed Seattle, today the tunnels would not withstand a direct hit from a bunker-busting bomb, he said.

Since the '60s, tunnels on campus have been built efficiently and structurally stronger, Watson said. The new tunnels are pre-cast cylindrical sections of cement approximately 7 feet in diameter, with steel bands traveling the circumference for welding and proper fitting.

Civil engineers recently placed 1,500 feet of tunnel, connecting Tunnel 4, near the Manus sculpture, to the future Campus Recreation Center and then to a narrow tunnel just inside the fence at the construction area along South College Drive. This tunnel links the future Campus Recreation Center with the future Communications Building.

Below the west corner of Bond Hall lie three tunnel entrances. A person can see hundreds of feet down each section before darkness and distance swallow sight.

In the early 1900s, narrow utility tunnels extended from building to building, and they contained steam pipes from the original steam plant behind Old Main, where a parking lot now exists, Watson said. An original boiler is still in use at the current steam plant.

Along the wall in little nooks lay possum-sized mousetraps baited with peanut butter to exterminate invading rats. The rats enter the tunnels from holes in the walls, or they chew through obstacles blocking entrances.

An ascending staircase and elevated walkway cover approximately 200 feet of partially submerged tunnel next to the bike station between

“It's just not safe being down there alone.”

Tim Wynn

Director of Facilities Management



Photo courtesy of John McLaughlin.

Carnivore researchers photographed this marten in the North Cascades National Park. Huxley professor John McLaughlin is involved with the group.

Huxley professor t

By Justin McCaughan

The Western Front

Many people would cringe at the thought of hiking in the piercing cold of the North Cascades during winter. For Huxley College associate professor John McLaughlin, winter is not a time to worry about the cold. It is a time to study carnivores.

McLaughlin is involved in a two-year North Cascades National Park survey of the abundance of large carnivores within the park. Studied species include wolverines, lynx, cougars, martens, fishers and many others.

"These species are really hard to find," McLaughlin said. "They aren't very abundant even at their greatest abundance. It's like looking for a needle in a haystack where the needle is trying to avoid you."

Roger Christophersen, principle investigator for the study and wildlife biologist for North Cascades National Park, said advances in technology have increased the amount of data that can be gathered.

"Technology has developed a system with remotely

triggered cameras that allows us to document these species," Christophersen said. "This technology has only been available since the 1990s."

Starting in the beginning of February and lasting into early May, McLaughlin, Christophersen and others routinely hike miles into the often snow-blanketed woods of the North Cascades with cameras and bait in their backpacks.

They do this type of study in the winter because that's when bears hibernate. Bears often cause trouble during other seasons by eating bait and destroying camera equipment, McLaughlin said. Also, it is likely that the carnivores being studied will be hungrier and more attracted to bait in the winter, he said.

In the study, they attach bait to a tree, and a motion-sensitive camera mounted to an opposite tree takes a picture and documents the animal when it climbs the tree, McLaughlin said.

Christophersen said he hopes this study will benefit the large-carnivore populations in the park.

"We're trying to develop some long-term strategies for sustainability," Christophersen said. "We need more information

Carver Gym Technology. Enter the side space, or pull wall. Watson relatively unno

Throughout found their wa ers have found in the form of g

Director of some people for near Fairhaven

"We know tunnels) because get fingerprints

The concern with people enter safety issues, Wynn said. He said ing open manholes or any other

Along the tunnel wall, a cable 3-inch, 4,160-volt power cables. occurs at 2,300 volts.

"It's just not safe being down More than 20 entrances are o ments, street caps, hidden under walls and in the rose garden at O

One steam vent located under a steam in the morning to comple 1998, a 10-year-old wearing sand feet after knocking a rock off a s agement shut down the steam

Today tunnel entrances have e the system are required to radio

"That's something we adhere to Few people outside of mainten the tunnels because of the risks through the pipes at 350 degrees the pipes creates a dangerous

"There's one part down by the s Fahrenheit in the summertime," Tunnel workers wear pants an radios and flashlights in case th floors and hot pipes are two type Watson said that when the tun parked above the tunnel blows

In the steam plant, five boilers, natural gas to produce 400,000 campus buildings. Condensation prevent corrosion in the system, exchangers in the steam system steam pipes and return to the ste

"For every pound of steam yo back," Smith said.

One hundred pounds per squa the boilers in the steam plant like speed of sound. In a disastrous s to regular atmospheric pressure, steam, Stationary Engineer II St

"If a boiler's water was to fla this building," Lacher said.

In the last 10 years, forces of r 2001 earthquake near Olympia, resulted in a seven-foot crack ru tunnel near Old Main, Watson sa

during heavy rainstorms, he said, and water hammers pound in the steam bubbles enter a cool pipe abrupt pressure change. The wat sounding like a madman whackin

But no madmen work here — patrol on a daily basis to ensure t and efficiently and that students

"We make steam to keep you g

the Science, Mathematics and Technology Building. Rats find spots where pipes tunnel and crawl along the excess corners away from vents on the roof. The rat population is small and goes

years, more than just rodents have used the tunnels. Maintenance workers find signs of human trespassers, graffiti, vandalism and party leftovers. Facilities Management Tim Wynn said he found an open entrance earlier this year and explored the tunnels. Some of the kids know (about the tunnels) but we couldn't find beer cans, (but) we couldn't find them," Wynn said.

The pipes are not trespassing, but students should refrain from entering the utility tunnels.

The pipes are 5-inch-thick, 13,500-volt and carry 100 amperage, electrocution

alone," Wynn said. The tunnels are located throughout the campus: in basements, near art sculptures, along cement sidewalks.

A sculpture on campus used to blow wind through the sculpture as a visual effect. In 1998, a student received second-degree burns to his hand when he touched a pipe, Wynn said. Facilities management is investigating the incident.

Smoke detectors, fire alarms, and workers entering and exiting the tunnels most religiously," Wynn said.

Fire crews have been allowed to enter the tunnels, Watson said. Steam travels through the tunnels, and heat radiation from the tunnels is a concern.

The steam plant that gets about 130 degrees Fahrenheit, Watson said.

Wet sleeve shirts and carry two-way radios, Watson said. Wet conditions that tunnel workers face. It gets too hot for workers, a truck driver used a snorkel into a manhole.

Bigger than a garbage truck, burns from steam per day, which heats water, is recycled and chemically treated to remove minerals, Engineer Gary Smith said. Heat is used for condensation to drain from the tunnels.

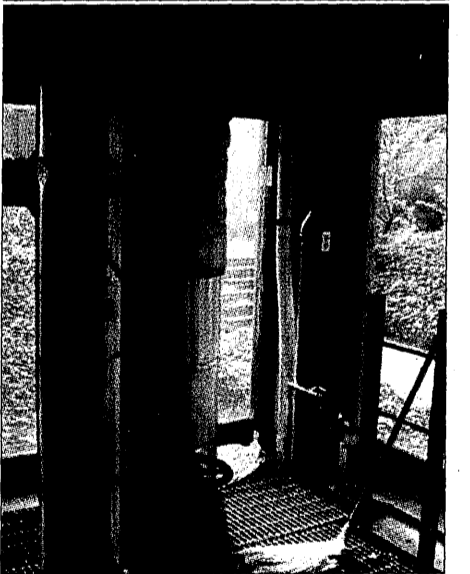
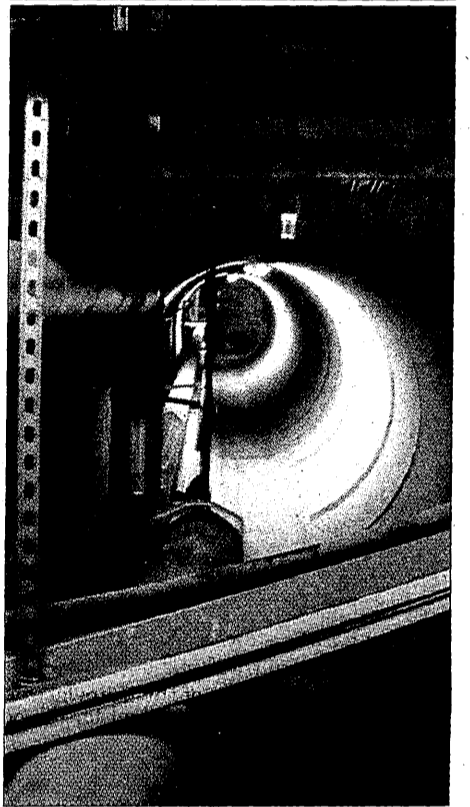
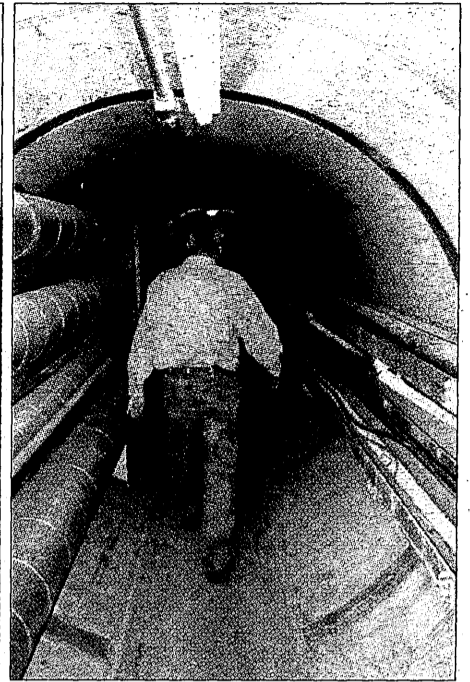
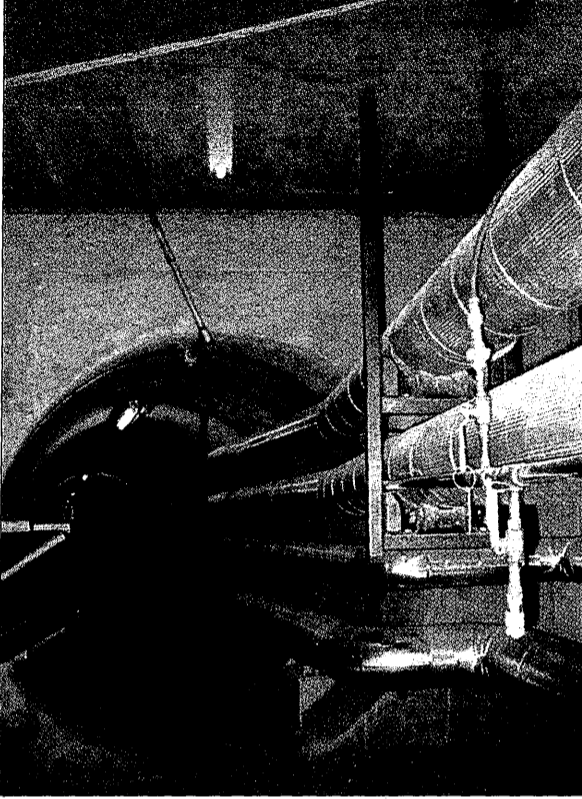
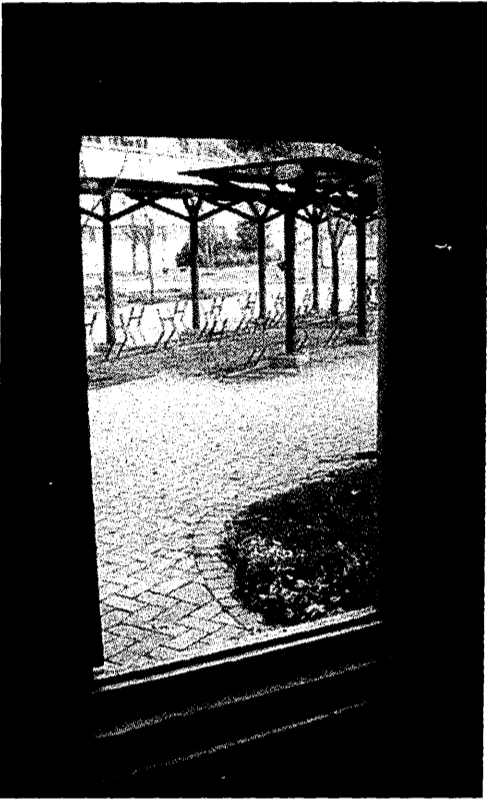
There, you get a pound of water per hour. The pressure forces steam to exit through a pound bowling ball at nearly the same rate. If a boiler's pressure dropped below 212 degrees would flash to steam, Lacher said.

When the steam, it would blow out the side of the tunnel.

The tunnels have damaged the tunnels. The earthquake measuring 6.8 on the Richter Scale, caused water to pour from the ceiling to the floor in a water now pours through the crack. Condensation leaks from steam pipes, Lacher said.

A water hammer occurs when water is trapped and results in an impact against the walls of the pipe, Lacher said. Watson and fellow engineers, who work on the campus' utilities run smoothly in a comfortable atmosphere.

"I'm calm and happy," Smith said.



Mike Alton/The Western Front

Clockwise from bottom left: Looking out an entrance near the Science, Mathematics and Technology Building, one can see a bike station and Carver Gym. This section of tunnel is one of few located above ground.

Next to the same bike station, the darkness of the tunnel entrance gapes in contrast with the lightness of its cement wall. This tunnel entrance has a steel door and is protected with an electronic alarm.

In this photo illustration, Western sophomore Sean Baird walks above a tunnel stemming from Bond Hall on his way to the Viking Commons. Baird said he was surprised to learn about the existence of the tunnels.

Plumbing supervisor Guy Watson walks down the tunnel under High Street in the direction of the Western Associated Students Bookstore. Watson has worked in these tunnels for 27 years.

Two red fiber-optic cables travel over a steam pipe to North Campus. The cable tray above them holds power lines, each containing 12,470 volts. Depending on amperage, electrocution for a human takes 2,300 volts.

The vertical silver pipes of the Steam Plant are one tunnel's destination. The pipes connect to five boilers, each larger than a garbage truck, which burn natural gas and produce 400,000 pounds of steam per day.

Travels in search of carnivores

to preserve and protect the habitats of large carnivores." "It may be too late to preserve some species, he said. "Many of the species have not been identified for 40 years, and we fear that they may be gone," Christophersen said. McLaughlin said he is involved in the study because he wants to determine ecologically where these species are and what they need. "Some of these species are declining because of what we've done to them or their habitats," McLaughlin said. "If we want to have a world that we can share with these species, we need to figure out what they need. That will tell us how we need to limit our activities." Huxley senior Kris Hartin, a volunteer for the study, heard about McLaughlin's involvement and wanted to help with the research. Hartin said he believes the study is important from a management standpoint to determine the presence of these species. "The park needs to be managed in a way that supports these habitats," Hartin said. "The human interaction in the park is going to make a huge difference in whether these animals are there or not." Christophersen said the studied species face threats such

as habitat loss, isolation of remnant populations and long-standing effects of the historical fur trade harvests. He said McLaughlin brings significant expertise and assistance to the study. "He's had a vested interest in carnivores in the past," Christophersen said. "He knows what questions to ask (about these species) and how to best answer them. He also has a pool of readily available volunteers." McLaughlin said he is surprised with how much data they gathered in the first year of the study. "Usually when you do this type of thing, your photos are unrecognizable," McLaughlin said. "Here we've had overwhelmingly high quality photos of carnivores. We've had a phenomenal crew that works really hard." Christophersen said although they did not document all of the species they were looking for, they found a lot more Pine Martens and other carnivores than they thought they would. "(Carnivores are) a fascinating part of our world, and I encourage people to look out for them," McLaughlin said. "The next time someone sees a big hollow log, don't see it as old rotten wood; it might be a home for a carnivore."



Photo courtesy of John McLaughlin. **North Cascades National Park biologist Roger Christophersen and volunteers place cameras to document carnivore activity in the park.**

Little athletes race in Junior Ski to Sea

By Leslie White
THE WESTERN FRONT

A downpour of spring rain at the Junior Ski to Sea Race did not stop hundreds of racers from competing in the mud-covered five-course relay Saturday at Lake Padden.

The race was divided into three parts: elementary third- to fifth-grade, middle school sixth- to eighth-grade and community for all ages. Athletes from six-person teams competed in one leg of the race, which includes a 1.5-mile run, three-legged race, 2.7-mile bike, 0.5-mile soccer dribble and an obstacle course.

In the elementary division, the Silver Pineapple Kings from Silver Beach Elementary captured the first-place title. They have competed for three years, placing 9th in 2001 and second in 2002.

Keith Stackhouse, 11, started the race with the 1.5-mile run, giving the team a commanding lead. In every event, the Silver Pineapple Kings remained in the lead and finished the race with a record-breaking elementary division time of 28 minutes, 37 seconds.

"We've got pure talent, I tell ya," Stackhouse said.

All junior participants received a T-shirt, and the winners in each division received a medal. Some of the racers received added bonuses.

"We are going to get milkshakes from our parents," Stackhouse said.

In the middle school division, Arsenal, a first-time team, took home first-place honors. Another first-time team, the Couch Potatoes, took first in the community division.

Tyler Fiksovsky, 10, of the Couch Potatoes, who competed in the three-legged race, said he studied the course before it began.

"We went around the field because we didn't know what the course was," Fiksovsky said.

Dick Henrie, recreation manager for the City of Bellingham, said despite the rain, the children enjoyed the race.

"That (elementary division) was a fun race this morning," Henrie said. "Pouring down rain, but all kinds of enthusiasm."

The Junior Ski to Sea race began 16 years ago because several community members suggested that children should be involved with the adult event, said Pat Rowe, Bellingham Chamber of Commerce development director.

"We started the big race (adult Ski to Sea), and like anything, people said 'Why don't we have a kids race? Why don't we have a kids race?' So we had a kids race," Rowe said.

Every year the elementary division fills to its maximum capacity of 60 teams, Rowe said.

Bellingham Parks and Recreation and the Bellingham Chamber of Commerce co-sponsor the junior Ski to Sea event, and 60 people volunteer, Henrie said.



Ben Arnold/The Western Front

Two members of the Blue Monkeys team run the three-legged section of the Ski to Sea Junior Race at Lake Padden Saturday. The Blue Monkeys competed in the elementary race which began at 8 a.m., followed by the middle school race at noon and then the community race later in the day.

Sorenstam qualified to compete with men on PGA tour



Bryan Sharick

COMMENTARY

Annika Sorenstam deserves a chance to play on the Professional Golfers Association tour and at the Colonial Country Club in Fort Worth, Texas.

Sorenstam, who is the Tiger Woods of the Ladies Professional Golfers Association tour, is qualified to play with the men. She won 13 times in 25 starts last season, the best season in women's golf in nearly 40 years.

Not even Woods has done this in the men's category. Two years ago she also became the first woman to shoot 59.

Sorenstam can compete with the men in two key categories: scoring and hitting greens. In these categories, if Sorenstam was playing with the men, she would be ranked No. 3 and No. 1 respectively. In scoring, she averages 69.22 per round, which puts her among the elite of the men's players. The only men who have better scoring averages are Woods at 67.91 and Mike Weir at 68.56. She deserves a shot based on these credentials alone.

The fact that Sorenstam will play from a tee farther from the

green than she is used to will have some effect on her play. She averages 275.4 yards per drive and this would put her at No. 159 among the men. Hank Kuehne, the No. 1 men's driving leader, averages 312.6 yards per drive. She will make up her inability to drive, however, with her ability to hit the greens. Sorenstam hits greens in regulation 73.3 percent of the time. This percentage is No. 1 among both men and women.

Some people, however, think Sorenstam has no place in the PGA tour. Vijay Singh, two-time major champion and the No. 7 player in the world, said in an Associated Press article, "What is

she going to prove by playing? It's ridiculous ... We have our tour for men and they have their tour."

What Singh and others have to remember is that back in 1947 Jackie Robinson, a black man, took the field for the first time and broke the color barriers in baseball. People back then also said Robinson should stay in the Negro Leagues. Singh should know better because he is black. If it was not for people like Robinson and Sorenstam breaking barriers then people like Singh would not have a chance to play.

Singh has argued that Sorenstam is stealing a spot from the men because she is

not normally on the PGA tour, and she is instead getting a sponsor's exemption. This happens every week when a sponsor's exemption is given to someone who does not have a spot in the field.

Sorenstam, in her own way, is doing the same thing Robinson did. She is trying to break into a sport that is widely dominated by men because she wants the challenge and a piece of the prize money.

Whether Sorenstam wins or not does not matter. The fact that she gets the chance to compete on an equal level with the best players in the world is what is important.

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Women's crew optimistic about bid to nationals

By Cailin Long
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Western women's varsity crew team placed second in the NCAA Division II West Region finals Saturday at the Pacific Coast Rowing Championships on Lake Natoma in Rancho Cordova, Calif.

Western's varsity eight and four shells placed second behind the University of California, Davis.

"We don't feel that we did our best this weekend, but we are not dwelling on that," Western sophomore and rower Gail Lumsden said. "We just know we have to step it up for nationals."

Western will find out today if it will get the at-large berth to the NCAA Division II National Championships. The at-large berth is determined by a NCAA selection committee that chooses a team based on its season results, finishing times and results against other teams. The NCAA National Championships will take place May 29 to May 31

at Eagle Creek Reservoir in Indianapolis, Ind.

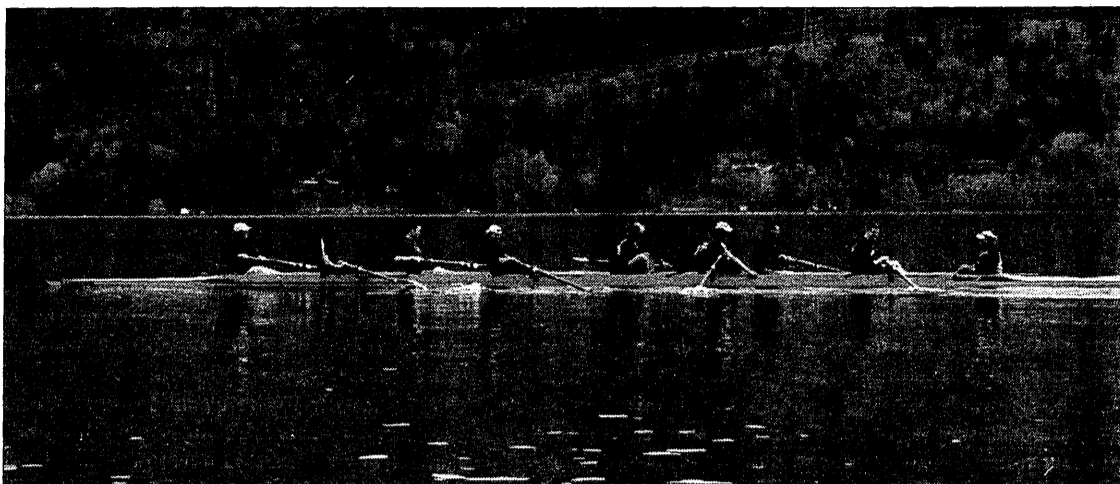
Since Western beat UC Davis' team May 4 at the Western Intercollegiate Rowing Association Championships, the team is likely to receive the one at-large berth, Western senior rower Katie Miller said.

"I really think that last weekend's performance stepped us up for a good chance to go to nationals," Miller said. "If that does happen, it's going to be the race of the season — the finish we've always been hoping for."

Western's varsity eight completed the 2,000-meter course in 6 minutes 59.1 seconds, nearly 5 seconds behind UC Davis.

"We need to pick up some speed," Western coach John Fuchs said. "You can always go faster, so the object of the game is to get faster as the season goes on."

Seated in the Vikings' eight-shell were coxswain Emily Davis, Julia Gamache, Katie Miller, Kailyn McGrath, Katrina Anderson, Laura Hancock, Gail Lumsden, Krystal



Ben Arnold/The Western Front

Western women's eight shell practices in Lake Whatcom early in the season. The women's varsity eight and four shells and the novice four boat competed in the NCAA Division II West Region finals Saturday on Lake Natoma in Rancho Cordova, Calif.

Daugherty and Laurel Kaminski.

The varsity four, who also placed second with a time of 7:58.8, did well, Fuchs said. Manning the Vikings' four-shell were coxswain Krissy Whaley, Alison Upsahl, Alicia Marrs, Brittany Kruger and Katrina Van Winkle.

Western's novice four placed fifth of six boats in its PCRC final with a time of 8:22. Rowing the novice four boat were coxswain Corey Naslund, Maria Herrera-Demarris, Breanna Forni, Jenn McGrath and Stefanie Boyer.

"We got one more competition

and that's nationals," Fuchs said. "We've got one week to prepare, and then we're off."

Lumsden said she is optimistic about nationals.

"We know we're a good crew in that our best can beat Davis," she said.

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Secrets revealed in book will not hamper Beane's success



Mugs Scherer

COMMENTARY

Napoleon Bonaparte never allowed an author to write a book exposing his methods for winning battles when he was in the middle of his career and still fighting.

Yet that is exactly what Billy Beane, the general manager of the Oakland Athletics, has done. He not only allowed Michael Lewis to write the book, "Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game," but he apparently gave Lewis unlimited access to his entire operation.

Lewis describes Beane's strategy for the amateur draft, Beane's trading-deadline strategy and Beane's overall philosophy in building a baseball team. The insider information contained in "Moneyball," however, will not make it any more difficult for Beane's success to continue.

Beane has been as successful in overseeing a baseball team as Napoleon was at fighting wars. In the past three years, Oakland has won 296 games, all with a budget that compares to the New York Yankees' the same way a person selling muffins on vendor's row compares to Sodexo.

Ray Ratto of the San Francisco Chronicle echoed many fans' sentiment that Beane's desire for publicity gave away too many secrets. "It is always best to be modest early, and save the

preening for later," he wrote.

In the book, Lewis details Beane's reliance on "sabermetrics," a system of using numbers and statistics to objectively analyze baseball. It tells Beane, for example, that hitters who work deep into the count and draw walks are more valuable than other general managers believe. Beane also avoids drafting high-school pitchers and trusts a player's statistical record over more traditional views, such as how the player looks while playing.

Although Lewis outlines all of these theories in the book, it is unlikely that other established general managers will copy them. General managers are slow to copy new ideas — in fact, they make the Flat Earth Society look positively progressive.

Jackie Robinson broke the invisible line barring black players from baseball in 1947. By 1954, the Yankees and the Red Sox still had no black players, and other teams merely had a token player.

Even if a team wanted to mimic the Athletics' success, reading a book would not be the best way. All a team would have to do is hire someone who understands sabermetrics. The Toronto Blue Jays did that when they hired Beane's former assistant, J.P. Ricciardi. Another team wishing to mimic Beane's success could hire his other assistant, Paul DePodesta. Such people exist, and they would bring more knowledge to the dugout than what is contained in a 288-page book.

Reading a book would not turn a poor general manager

into a Billy Beane anyway. Lewis' book portrays Beane as someone with a natural talent for being a general manager — reading a book could not recreate that. To put it another way, what Beane has done from the general manager's office is comparable to what Pedro Martinez has done on the mound. Martinez himself has demonstrated how he holds his pitches for an ESPN camera several times. This does not mean everyone with a television can pitch like Martinez.

Another criticism of Beane and "Moneyball" is that Beane allows Lewis to show how little he respects some general managers. Athletics fans fear that some general managers will be reluctant to make trades with Beane now. While it is true that Beane appears arrogant and condescending at times in the book, it is also true that general managers make trades for one reason: They think the trade will improve their team. Not many general managers would pass on an offer if it was attractive to them, whether they liked the other general manager or not. Maybe one or two general managers will hold a grudge. That still leaves 27 or 28 other options for Beane.

Athletics fans and Beane fans need to realize that "Moneyball" is in no way some sort of catalyst for disaster. Instead, they need to enjoy the book for what it is — a comprehensive, inside look at a success story written by a talented writer.

White finishes 10th at championships, earns second-team All-American honors

By Jenny Maag

THE WESTERN FRONT

Western junior golfer Kelly White climbed from 22nd place after Wednesday's first round of the NCAA Division II National Championships to finish 10th overall Saturday in Howey-in-the-Hills, Fla.

After a first round of 83, White improved her score each day, shooting 80, 78 and 77 on the following days. White also earned second-team All-American honors.

She finished with a 72-hole total of 318, 19 strokes behind first place Charlotte Cambell from

Rollins College and 15 strokes behind second place Pamela Feggans from Florida Southern College.

"The third and fourth day I got rid of those big holes and made a couple of birdies to even out," White said. "What really helped me the most was my putting and second shots."

Rollins College golfers shot 1,237 in the four-day, four-round tournament, and finished with a 39-stroke lead over second place Florida Southern College.

West Region champion Northeastern State University finished eighth, and runner-up Saint Mary's University finished sixth.

Viking Sports Briefs

Western women's basketball head coach Carmen Dolfo announced Friday that starting forward Susan Rodgers is transferring to Central Washington University for academic reasons.

Rodgers, at 6 feet 6 inches, is the tallest player ever to compete for Western. She averaged 14.2 points and 6.3 rebounds per game and helped the Vikings to a 22-6 record.

Forward Krystal Robinson and point guard Devin Dykstra have both signed national letters of intent to play women's basketball at Western in the 2004 season.

The 6-foot-1-inch Robinson averaged 17 points and 9 rebounds per game at Kentridge High School. She set school records for rebounds (225) and blocked shots (111) during her time at Kentridge.

Dykstra, the cousin of Western men's basketball freshman guard Grant Dykstra and Vikings' football senior wide receiver Greg Dykstra, averaged 15.1 points and 8.2 rebounds per game for Nooksack Valley High School.

Information courtesy of the athletic department.

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May 20, 2003.

China's SARS policy is too harsh



**Porfirio
Pena**

COMMENTARY

The Chinese government's policy of executing people who knowingly spread severe acute respiratory syndrome is completely inhumane.

Chinese law requires immediate public disclosure of any health risk, and the penalty for knowingly spreading SARS ranges from 10 years in prison to execution, according to a May 16 New York Times article.

The burden of proof for the SARS patient is difficult. Because of China's authoritarian control over its accused people, they would not be able to defend themselves against the government's charges.

Since the symptoms of SARS resemble the common cold, it would be virtually impossible to determine whether a person is aware that they are carrying the

disease. In some SARS cases, people do not show symptoms early on. The government would only need to prove that the person in question has SARS, regardless of whether the person is aware of it. To execute a person for spreading a disease is completely unreasonable because the circumstances would be out of the person's control.

Eventually, the Chinese government could abuse the policy and use the execution of SARS patients as a means to control the disease. The Chinese government says the policy ensures SARS patients are isolated, but killing more people would not be the best solution. China could then use the same interpretation of the law for any other disease that might arise and execute people in the same manner.

China should have taken action when the outbreak first occurred. Instead of reporting the crisis accurately when it first happened, Chinese officials instituted a news blackout. Now, facing a greater crisis, the leadership has resorted to unwarranted threats. According to CNN,

the current situation is due to China's means of "damage control." China has now taken steps to contain and maintain the disease.

The Chinese government said it instituted the plan to punish SARS carriers to ensure that the disease does not spread to rural areas, where medical facilities are not equipped to deal with the disease, according to the Times article. By punishing those who avoid disclosing their condition, Chinese officials believe that they will help curb the spread of SARS.

Regardless of the penalties China imposes on carriers, the likelihood of the disease spreading to rural areas is still high. Since the disease's symptoms are not always evident, a carrier without symptoms could easily infect a rural village.

Instead of threatening to execute victims of SARS, the Chinese officials should focus on preparing medical facilities in rural areas to treat patients. It would be a travesty if China's new policies go beyond threats and execute people.

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2111 Knox Ave- Very spacious townhouse style 2 BD starting at \$610 and 3 BD starting at \$710, w/ garage, near WWU

918/926 20th Street- 2 BD units in quiet 4-plex starting at \$695, close to WWU, sunny exposure, W/D, private decks

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Frontline

Morning-after pill must not be 'over the counter'

Women seeking oral contraceptives as a form of birth control usually have to visit a doctor in order to receive a prescription. The Women's Capital Corporation, the makers of the morning-after pill, however, applied for government permission May 19 to make the pill available over the counter.

The morning-after pill, also referred to as Plan B or Emergency Contraceptive Pill, which is already available over the counter in Washington, should not become another over-the-counter drug.

If taken within 72 hours of unprotected sex, the pill prevents ovulation and fertilization. Although the pill may help prevent pregnancy, according to CNN, the pill has severe health side effects, including possible breast cancer, blood clots in the lungs, stroke and heart attacks. According to the American Medical Association, it may also cause unexpected menstruation if combined with certain antibiotics. Not only can the morning-after pill affect the woman, but if she waits too long after unprotected sex to take the pill, it can cause birth defects to the fetus, said Dr. Stephen Waszak of the Women's Clinic of Seattle.

If emergency contraception is available over the counter, it could eliminate doctors from the process of prescribing that type of birth control. When women visit doctors to obtain the morning-after pill, the doctors can also prescribe regular birth control, Waszak said. By taking doctors out of the equation, doctors will be unable to use proactive methods to prevent the need for the morning-after pill. It should not be used as the only method of birth control. Also, the counseling women receive on the drug from the doctors is imperative because of the potential risks; eliminating doctors may force women to seek medical guidance on the Internet or from another, unreliable source, Waszak said.

Several medical and women's groups have petitioned the Food and Drug Administration to allow the pills to be sold over the counter to prevent pregnancy following rape, contraceptive failure or just simply forgetting to take birth control.

By allowing morning-after pills to be available over the counter, women will not receive the proper medical attention and will just go to a local store for the drug. Rape victims are an exception to the rule because they cannot prevent the sexual act. If a woman's birth control does not work, however, due to a medical issue, taking morning-after pills may not work either. Finally, morning-after pills will not remind women to take their birth control. It will become a quick fix for one irresponsible night of fun, promoting reliance on the pill in the future.

Women should talk to their doctors before using any type of birth control, so the doctor can examine and determine whether the pill or the morning-after pill is the right form of birth control for them.

Relying on a tiny pill to help prevent pregnancy without first consulting a doctor will only create problems and could possibly complicate pregnancy in the future. This pill is not going to help prevent unwanted pregnancy, but promote unprotected sex and frivolous use.

Frontlines are the opinion of The Western Front editorial board: Paul Nicholas Carlson, Brienne Holte, Peter Louras, Brandon Rosage, Josh Dumond, Kellyn Ballard, Katie James, Jeremy Edwards, Shauna Bakkensen, Michele Girard, Meagan McFadden and Joshua Fejeran.

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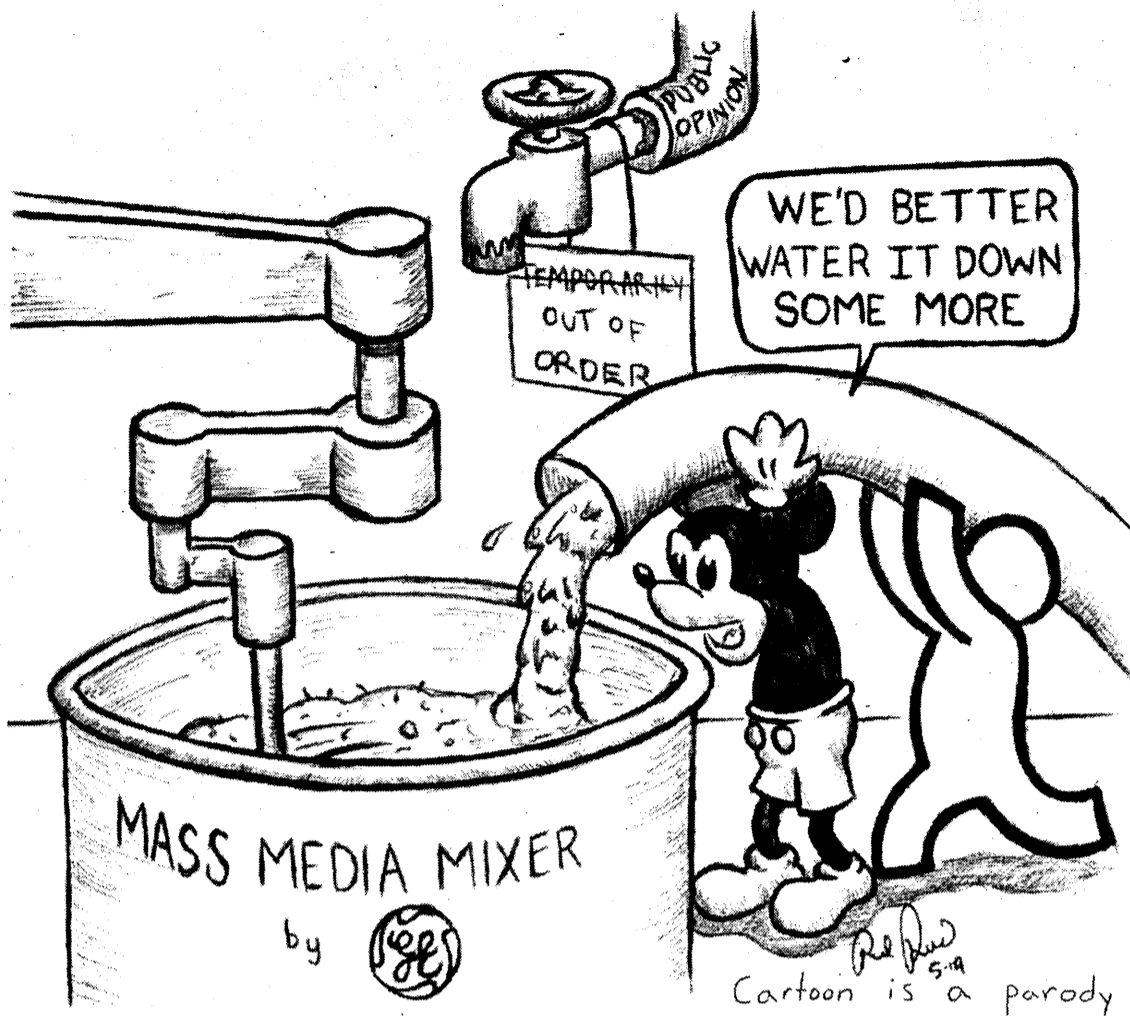
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FCC should not deregulate media



Jennifer Segadelli

COMMENTARY

The media conglomerates that keep Americans fully entertained and permanently half-informed are always growing here and shrinking there, but the 'Big 10' media companies, including AOL Time Warner, Disney, Viacom and General Electric remain. Loosening controls on media ownership will only lead to a feeding frenzy for monopolization and should not be approved.

Media executives proposed Tuesday May 13 the most significant change of media monopoly controls in more than 25 years.

The Federal Communications Commission will vote June 2 on a

resolution that would allow media companies to own more outlets in one broadcast region than the law currently allows. The FCC is considering allowing a single company to own television stations that reach 45 percent of the viewing audience instead of the current 35 percent.

The FCC created media ownership rules to foster diversity of voices and competition among journalists. It is difficult to see how a change promoting consolidation of media companies maintains and enhances these original rules. Changing the regulations will prompt mergers and will consolidate the number of companies that control what people see, hear and read. If Disney Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Michael Eisner was caught snorting cocaine, ABC would not be able to report the story because Disney owns ABC.

The limited amount of information that consumers receive will lead to a brainwashing of the American public.

The proposal would also eliminate restrictions that prohibit companies from owning newspapers, television and radio stations in the same city.

This would permit the largest media conglomerates to expand their markets and own even more information outlets. Small broadcasting stations will eventually have to face the facts and sell out to larger companies in order to keep their stations on the air. Small, independent stations have just cause to fear a massive overhaul by companies such as Viacom, which is already seeking to expand its monopoly.

By homogenizing the news culture, local broadcast stations will be unable to deliver independent

See MEDIA, Page 15

Pool ads will benefit facilities, companies



Leslie Suguira

COMMENTARY

Because of recent budget cuts, King County Parks and Recreation had to shut down two of its eight public pools, including Auburn pool and Si View pool in North Bend. With no further funding in sight and only six King County pools still open, Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center officials in Federal Way are considering allowing advertisements on the bottom of the pool.

The aquatic center should allow advertisements because it would create needed income for King County Parks, help local businesses and increase recognition of swimming as a sport.

The aquatic center is home to

national and international swimming and diving events. It was the site of the 1990 Goodwill Games, two Olympic trials and plays host to more than 60 events each year.

With the economy in a slump, many programs have received less funding than usual. Creative ideas are needed to retain funding if a facility wants to remain open to the public. Selling ad space on the bottom of a swimming pool is a creative way to gain income.

According to the aquatic center Web site, businesses could place a maximum of four logos along the bottom of its pool, costing \$125,000 per year for a pair or \$200,000 per year for all four. The income could be put directly back into the King County Parks to help re-open other facilities or provide funding to maintain the pools.

Allowing ads on the bottom of a pool would not only benefit the

facility by bringing in funding, it would also benefit the companies that purchase the advertisements. The advertisements could be offered to local businesses, giving the companies a chance to be some of the first companies advertised on the bottom of a pool.

With more than 60 events per year and seating for 2,500, more than 150,000 people could see the ads. The number could be even higher because it does not include the athletes who practice at the facility or the people that use the pool for other purposes, such as swimming lessons and water aerobics.

Not only would the ads benefit the companies, but they would increase recognition of swimming as a competitive sport. Companies that want to place ads on the bottom of a pool would make sure that their company's product or service is reaching

See POOL, Page 15

Media: The public's interest stands no chance

Continued from Page 14

programming.

Arguably the most dangerous consequence is the erosion of journalism. AOL Time Warner, General Electric, Viacom and other media companies will simply turn hard news into another form of entertainment they can vend non-stop. Disney will be able to market a movie on ABC while posting biased reviews in a newspaper and magazine, all within one city's limits. The truth will become buried beneath a hoopla of cheap entertainment and soft news.

Loosening controls will also end a 28-year ban on media cross-ownership.

Ownership of newspapers and television stations decreased from approximately 1,500 to 600 owners since 1970, according to a recent article in the Seattle Times. If FCC Chairman Michael Powell pushes the overhaul of conventional rules, that number could fall to a mere 300 owners. Every major paper in every major city will try to buy or be bought out by a television station.

Powell and other media executives claim that changes in technology and viewing habits, along with a changing market-

place, prompts the necessity for change. They say it makes no sense to preserve the rules of an era that no longer exists. Powell claims that new procedures would eliminate rules in the marketplace that prevent expanding ownership and benefit the public.

Despite an alleged necessity to change, the public interest does not stand a

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The press should inform the nation, not act as a vehicle for stale information from a limited number of sources.

chance when bombarded by all the king's horses and all the king's men. In short, the media will work against the public interest and for their parent companies and advertisers. The press should inform the nation, not act as a vehicle for stale information from a limited

number of sources.

The public will not realize the value of independent news until it is gone. Passing a new rule that would allow even more mass media monopolization would consolidate America's news sources even more. As citizens of a democratic nation, Americans have not only the right, but also the obligation to know about the nation and the world. One can only hope Disney is not the only one telling the story.

Pool: Ads will help keep facilities open

Continued from Page 14

the right target market, which includes people associated with swimming. Companies would also begin to recognize the athletic abilities of swimmers and may begin to sponsor them more often. Sponsorship is also good for talented new swimmers because it gives them more motivation to be the best swimmer they can be. Sponsors will also provide them the funding they need to continue their swimming career.

Some argue that allowing advertising on the bottom of a pool would distract athletes who use the facility. Swimmers use lane lines for guidance, and interference with those lines could distract swimmers and possibly hurt swimming times. Logos on the bottom of the pool could also unfairly help some athletes determine their position during a race.

Other sports facilities, such as professional baseball fields, allow advertising. Ads are found in the outfield

and on any other free spaces inside baseball fields. Some advertisements even flash. Flashing signs seem like more of a distraction for athletes than ads placed on the bottom of a pool. Competitive swimmers should be able to focus enough not to let ads get in the way of the race. Athletes compete in different types of facilities all of the time. Since no two pools are the same, a different pool bottom should not bother swimmers.

If swimmers want to continue to swim in nice facilities, they need to realize that advertising will be the main contributor to keeping a pool open, especially when funding is low. Both the pool and the companies advertising will see many benefits from allowing ads along the bottom of the pool, such as increased funding and more awareness of a product or service offered. Having a pool with ads on the bottom is better than having no pool at all.

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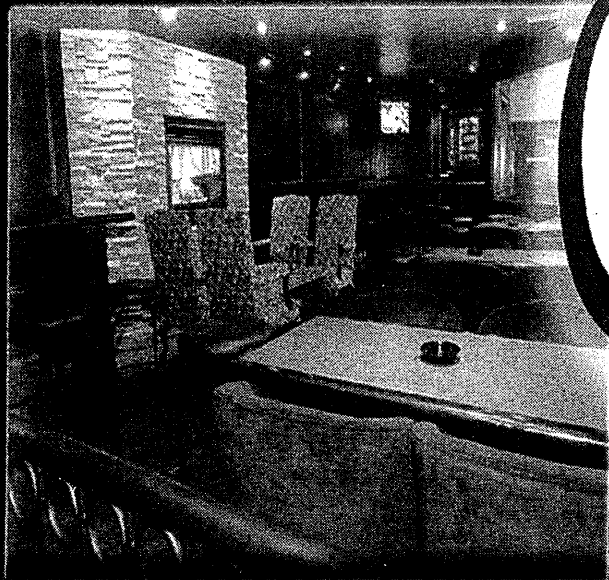
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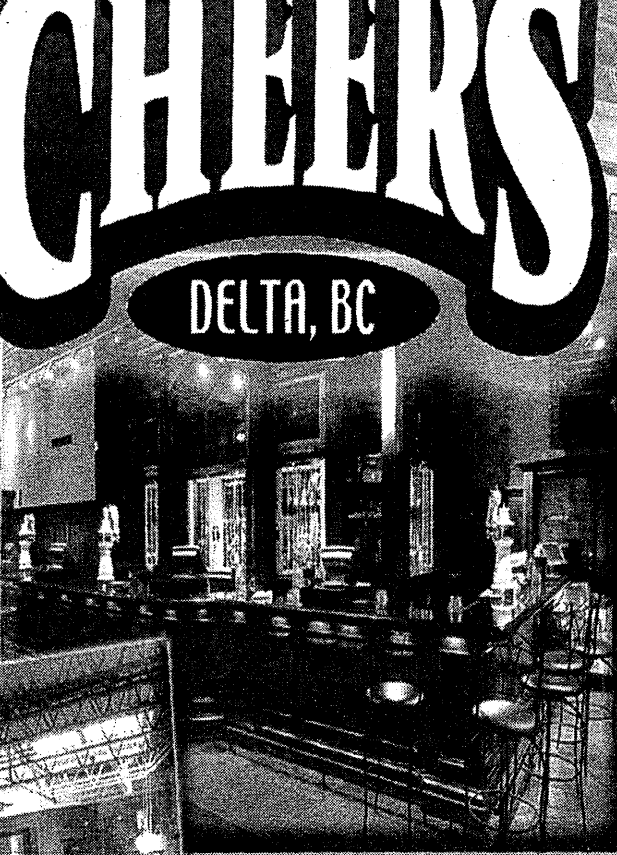
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