

Oh, for 'Kids' Sake!
Big Brothers Big Sisters organizes bowling tourneys to prevent cuts
See Story, Page 9.

Conquering the classic
Western's track and field teams shine at Vernaccia Team Classic.
See Story, Page 10.



TUESDAY, April 8, 2003

The Western Front

Western Washington University

Volume 125 Issue 2

Bellingham, Washington

Michigan school cases question admission ethics

By Cailin Long
THE WESTERN FRONT

On April 1, the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments for the Grutter v. Bollinger and Gratz v. Bollinger cases, which attempt to ban affirmative action at the University of Michigan. Barbara Grutter, Jennifer Gratz and Patrick Hamacher are white applicants to the undergraduate and law schools of U of M, who said they were rejected due to reverse discrimination — a problem Western students do not face.

Using affirmative action for admissions criteria in Washington is illegal under Initiative 201. Director of admissions Karen Copetas said an affirmative action policy is not necessary to achieve diversity at Western.

"Students of color can compete very well on their own in admissions processes," Copetas said. "In college admissions, people are a whole lot more than a number."

Although race is not considered during the admissions process at Western, multicultural experience is taken into account, Copetas said. These multicultural experiences include interaction with different cultures through speech, such as bilingualism, or through time spent in a migrant community or foreign country, she said.

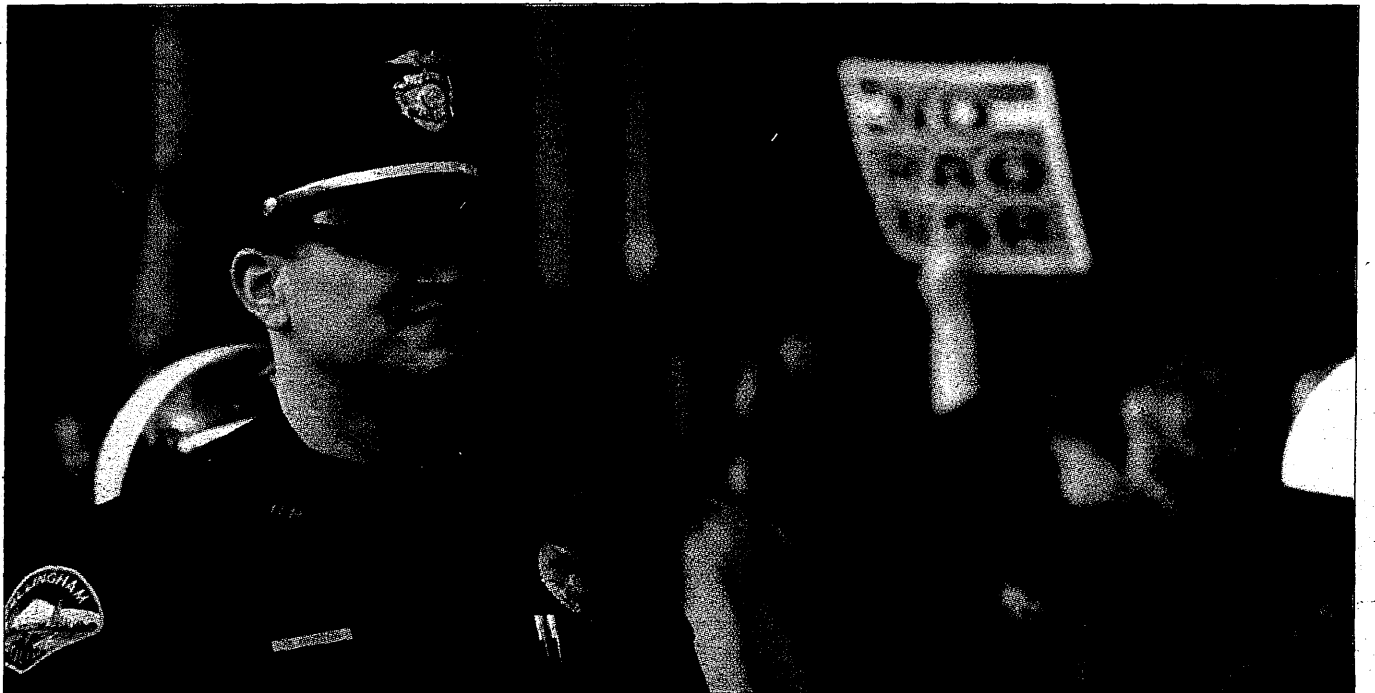
Michigan's admissions processes give special consideration to black, Latino and American Indian applicants by allotting 20 points on a 150-point scale for belonging to minority races. The goal is to create a "critical mass" of minority students on Michigan's campus, which would admit enough minority students in a university community so individuals do not feel as if they are token students who must represent every member of their race.

Justices Sandra Day O'Conner and Anthony Kennedy questioned the definition of a "critical mass" last Tuesday, fearing that the policy is a quota system in disguise. The court outlawed quotas for minority college applicants in 1978 with the Regents of the University of California v. Bakke decision.

President Bush filed a brief with the U.S. Supreme Court opposing affirmative action policies at the U of M. His administration has called on the court to replace race-based affirmative action in the nation's colleges and universities with race-neutral approaches that offer admission to a percentage of top students

See **ADMISSION**, Page 3

Phone threat raises security during student-led walkout



Keith Bolling/The Western Front

As part of heightened security at a student rally Friday, Bellingham Police Officer Henry Ortega stands guard.

Public march continues despite warnings

By Leslie Sugiura
THE WESTERN FRONT

Despite death threats called in to the Bellingham Police Department, the University Police and Western, protesters still participated in a walkout, a

rally and a march to the Bellingham Federal Building on Friday afternoon.

Approximately 750 anti-war protesters, including students from Western and surrounding high schools as well as Bellingham residents, filled Red Square to show their disapproval of the

war in Iraq.

An anonymous caller threatened to shoot one male and one female protester at the rally or march, Bellingham Police Lt. Craig Ambrose said.

"We got the information just before our scheduled meeting," Ambrose said. "We decided to disseminate the information

See **WALKOUT**, Page 3

County fends off contagious respiratory disease

By Matt DeVeau
THE WESTERN FRONT

Whatcom County residents are at a very low risk for acquiring Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome unless they have recently traveled to specific areas of Asia or have come in close contact with someone who has, said Regina Delahunt, Whatcom County Public Health Director. "(SARS) is not in our community," Delahunt said. "We haven't identified any suspected cases yet."

SARS is a respiratory illness that has recently been reported in Asia, North America and Europe according to the Centers for Disease Control and

Defining SARS

Warning signs

- A fever of 100.4 degrees or more.
- Coughing, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.
- A recent trip to Hong Kong, mainland China, Singapore or Hanoi, Vietnam.
- Close contact with people suffering from respiratory illness who have traveled to any high-risk locations.

Prevention. As of Thursday, 2,601 cases of SARS had been identified worldwide, and 98 people have died from the illness,

according to the World Health Organization.

Seven cases of suspected SARS have been identified in Washington, none of which are in Whatcom County.

Catherine Barnhart, Western special assistant to the provost for International Studies, said some students have expressed concern about SARS, but she does not see a high risk at Western. The most prevalent incidences of SARS have been in Hong Kong, the Guangdong province of China, Singapore and Hanoi, Vietnam, according to the CDC.

"We do not have many students in any case who are from the affected countries,"

See **SARS**, Page 4

Medical centers prepare for war emergency

By Shanna Green
THE WESTERN FRONT

As many people worry about the possibility of a terrorist attack in the coming months, Western political science professor Adam Resnick offers some different advice for staying safe.

"If you want to live through the summer don't go to

Whatcom Falls," Resnick said.

Resnick said the odds of being killed in a terrorist attack in Bellingham is far lower than drowning at Whatcom Falls.

Despite Resnick's logic, local medical centers are preparing in case of a war emergency. As a member of America's Blood Centers,

Puget Sound Blood Center has agreed to help the U.S. Army by supplying blood to the military in case its supply is exhausted, said Steve McLean, the center's director of Public Information.

McLean said the biggest concern would be an over-donation of blood.

"People can only donate every 56 days," McLean said.

"So if people rush the blood banks right now and then there is a crisis, we're out of blood for the next 56 days."

He said another problem with over-donating is that blood only has a shelf life of 42 days and must be thrown away after that time, usually through incineration.

"After Sept. 11, we had the

See **SUPPLY**, Page 6

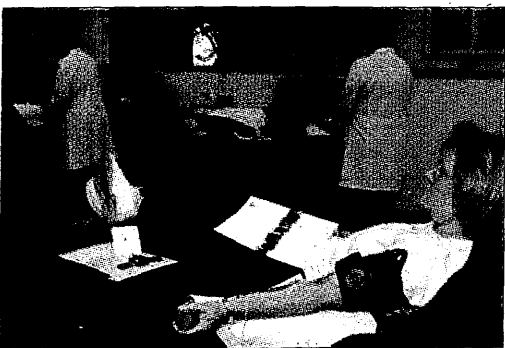


Photo courtesy of St. Joseph Hospital Nurses at a Seattle Puget Sound Blood Center drive collect donations.

Viking Voices

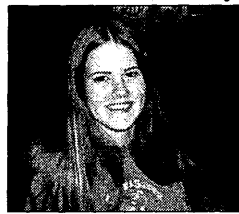
Do you feel surveillance cameras downtown are necessary?

Compiled by Jennifer Segadelli.



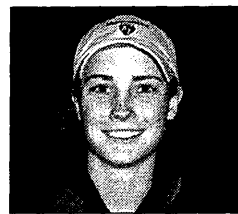
Christina Blesi
Undecided, freshman

'Yes, for the safety of not only the protesters, but the general public down there because they can get involved without knowing.'



Megan Blaney
Undecided, freshman

'That's cool if they want to keep an eye on safety. I don't have a problem as long as they do not discriminate against the protesters.'



Emily Balch
History, sophomore

'I feel it is a good expense and will keep the protesters accountable for their actions.'



David Ryan
Computer Science, junior

'The camera is not utilized to black-ball protesters. I personally feel it's more for protection and safety because there are fanatics on both ends.'

Online Poll Results: 35.7 percent said no, 40.5 percent said yes, and 23.8 percent said it did not affect them.

www.westernfrontonline.com

The Latest In Iraq

U.S. forces believe to have bombed Saddam, leadership

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — The U.S. bombing of an upscale neighborhood where Saddam Hussein and top aides were believed to be meeting blasted a 60-foot-deep crater and left a heap of concrete, mangled iron rods and shredded furniture and clothes.

Troops destroyed at least three buildings in Monday's 2 p.m. attack on the western Baghdad district of al-Mansour, which broke windows and doors as far as 300 yards from the site.

Rescue workers looking in the rubble for victims said they recovered two bodies, and the death toll could be as high as 14. They did not release names.

A single B-1 Bomber dropped four "bunker-busting" bombs on the district after U.S. military intelligence was tipped that Saddam, his sons Odai and Qusai and other Iraqi leaders might be meeting there, U.S. officials said.

AP WIRE NEWS BRIEFS

STATE NEWS

Closing arguments intensify murder trial

A jury in Everett might begin deliberating the Barbara Opel murder trial after Monday's closing arguments.

Opel is accused of arranging for a group of teens, including her daughter, to kill her employer. If convicted, Opel will become the first woman in Washington to face the death penalty.

After two days of testimony last week, Opel said she intended for five teens to beat Jerry Heimann in April 2001, but not to kill him. Opel and her three children lived in Heimann's home where she worked as a caretaker for Heimann's 89-year-old mother.

Prosecutors said she killed Heimann to gain access to \$40,000 in his bank account. Three of the teens involved testified against Opel, saying she promised to pay them or buy them things for committing the murder.

NATIONAL NEWS

Tributes planned for woman soldier killed in combat

Navajo Nation flags will fly at half-staff through Tuesday to honor Army Private First Class Lori Piestewa.

The Hopi woman was the first American Indian woman known to have lost her life in the U.S. military as a result of combat. She was one of the members of the 507th Maintenance Company killed during a March 23 ambush near Nasiriyah.

Piestewa was a 23-year-old single mother of a 4-year-old son and 3-year-old daughter living in Tuba City, Ariz.

Hundreds show support for jailed Arab-American

Approximately 200 people gathered on the steps of the Portland federal courthouse Monday to show support for an Arab-American who is in prison without notice of charges filed.

Friends and family of Mager "Mike" Hawash rallied in protest after the FBI detained him more than two weeks ago.

The 38-year-old father of three is a software engineer and former Intel employee who now works for the company as a contractor.

The federal government has refused to comment why Hawash is in prison and when he will be released.

The American Civil Liberties Union and the American Bar Association have criticized the detention and said such action is an abuse of a federal material witness law.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Cuban dissidents sentenced in government crackdown

Cuban officials arrested the first of dozens of Cuban dissidents accused of collaborating with American diplomats and sentenced them to up to 25 years in prison as part of the Cuban government's crackdown on approximately 80 members of

Cuba's opposition.

Officials sentenced the dissidents Monday for working with U.S. diplomats in Cuba to undermine the socialist state. One dissident told reporters the sentence is an injustice.

The dissidents on trial include independent journalists, leaders of independent labor unions and opposition political parties.

Israeli troops kill Palestinian near Gaza

Israeli soldiers shot and killed a Palestinian man who approached the fence of a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip.

The soldiers said they fired at two men they described as suspicious and later found the body of one of the men, who allegedly had a knife on him.

Rock-throwing protesters clashed with police in a Palestinian neighborhood in Jerusalem. Police retaliated with tear gas and stun grenades.

Compiled by Jordan Lindstrom.
AP Wire courtesy KUGS 89.3-FM

COPS BOX

University Police

April 6, 10:46 p.m.: UP responded to a report of an intoxicated male talking loudly and approaching students in Haggard Hall. Officers contacted the man and issued a trespass notice.

April 5, 10:16 p.m.: UP stopped a vehicle on Bill McDonald Parkway and South College Drive for speeding. UP issued the driver a verbal warning.

April 5, 12:08 a.m.: UP responded to a medical call of an intoxicated female locked in a bathroom in Ridgeway Beta. No transport was made.

April 4, 1:14 a.m.: UP responded to a report of suspicious behavior on north campus. Officers contacted and identified three individuals hiding in the bushes.

Bellingham Police

April 7, 12:40 a.m.: Officers responded to a report of an intoxicated person lying on the sidewalk in the 1300 block of Bay Street. Officers transported the man to the hospital and placed him in alcohol protective custody.

April 6, 3:12 a.m.: Officers responded to reports of a possible vehicle prowl in the 1100 block of N. State Street. Officers cited and arrested a 25-year-old male.

April 6, 12:59 a.m.: Officers responded to reports of a noise disturbance in the 2600 block of Michigan Street where a neighbor made complaints of loud noise and heavy traffic coming from the address.

Compiled by Torhil Dunham.

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

THE MATH PLACEMENT TEST is offered in OM 120 at 3 p.m. April 14, 21, 28, May 5, 12, 19, June 2 and 9, and at 9 a.m. on April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 8, 15, 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 SCHEDULE AND SAMPLE PROBLEMS FOR THE MATH PLACEMENT TEST may be found at www.ac.wwu.edu/~assess/tc.htm.

TEACHING ENGLISH TO SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (TESOL): Learn more about this program by attending an information session at 6 p.m. April 15 in MH 110. For more information, call Holly Carr at X/4949.

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.wwu.edu/~assess/tc.htm.

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 dates are May 17 and July 19. Western is a test site, however, registration is required through www.west.nesinc.com.

THE WRITING CENTER IS RECRUITING staff for the 2003 academic year. If you have such a passion for words that you write even when you don't have to, you're encouraged to pick up an application in WL 389 or online at www.wwu.edu/~writepro/staff.htm.

STUDENTS WHO INTERRUPT THEIR STUDIES AT WESTERN, other than for a summer quarter, must complete an application for readmission by the appropriate priority deadline. Applications are available in OM 200. Priority deadline is April 1 for summer continuing into fall quarter and for fall quarter.

THE MILLER ANALOGIES TEST (MAT) is offered in OM 120 at 2 p.m. April 15, May 13, and 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 hour.

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

Admission: State colleges remain indiscriminate

Continued from Page 1

in each high school.

California, Texas and Florida implemented new plans, but studies by Harvard University's Civil Rights Project show that each state has struggled to achieve racial diversity.

The University of California, Berkeley, for example, went from having 6.7 percent black freshman in 1995 to 3.9 percent in 2001 with affirmative action used last in 1997. Western, on the other hand, has never had an affirmative action policy, yet the percentage of black students has increased from 4 to 13 percent in the past nine years, according to the Western Office of Admissions.

Western's tactic, though not race-neutral, is merely proper marketing, Copetas said. She said Western purchases a list of minority high school sophomores who took the PSAT and contacts them through mail or during Western's visits to varying high schools. Minority students who are already attending Western and having a positive experience will share that experience with others, she said.

Rand Jack, professor for the Law and Diversity Program at Fairhaven College, said Western would be a more diverse campus if affirmative action was in place.

"I strongly support affirmative action," Jack said. "Ultimately, we have a long history of discrimination against people based on race, and these patterns are deeply etched in society. You don't reverse them by simply stopping discrimination; you have to take affirmative action to reverse those patterns."

As a minority, Western senior Sita Symonette feels affirmative action is necessary, but she also understands that affirmative action is not all a black person needs to get into college.

"I think we should have affirmative action, but I also think that it doesn't do as much for people of color that they think it does," Symonette said. "You pretty much have to be in the middle class already, and even then affirmative action has helped poor white women more than it has ever helped colored people."

Walkout: University and Bellingham police notify student leaders of threat

Continued from Page 1

to all of the affected parties to let them make an informed choice on what they wanted to do."

The death threats changed the focus of the event because the officers had to worry about watching the crowd to see if anyone would act out, Ambrose said.

In addition to uniformed officers, police deployed officers in plain clothes monitoring the event, he said.

Western President Karen Morse called an emergency meeting as soon as she received the information, said Bob Edie, Western's vice president of external affairs.

"We have a specific plan of action for a situation like this," Edie said. "Our first concern was to contact the students and leaders of the rally."

Nate Johnson, Associated Students Peace Resource Center coordinator, said the threat was an illegal attempt to silence protesters. Activists handled the circumstances well, he said.

Edie said Western staff and students sent notices about the threats via campus e-mail and created fliers to hand out at the campus rally before the march. Speakers at the rally also alerted the crowd of the possible threats, he said.

"I didn't really feel threatened," said Western sophomore and protester Erin Baldner. "I don't think that they were serious. It is our right to be here."

Many protesters said they agreed with Baldner's view, but others said the threats offended them.

"It was deeply sad to me that there was a death threat made," Western freshman Anna Louise Hochhalter said. "It proved that there is great resentment and that we need to connect, to have dialogues and listen to people. I am sorry that there is so much anger."

Some protesters said they were more cautious about being in Red Square for the rally.

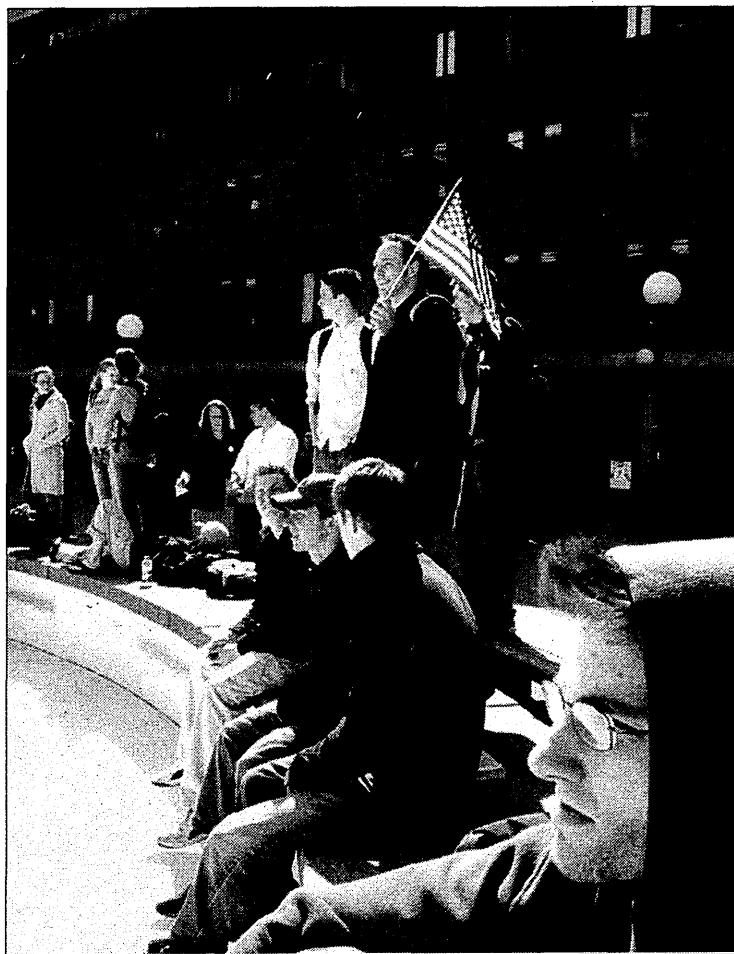
"I caught myself, as well as other people, staring at the roofs around us," Bellingham resident Dean Brant said. "But this is something that I believe in, and I want my voice to be heard regardless of the consequences."

In response to the protest, supporters of the war gathered in the outskirts of the crowd holding American flags, with little concern about the death threats. Mike Swanson, president of Western's College Republicans, said, despite the misfortune of the threats, the rally amused pro-war activists.

"I am actually here to go to school today," said Mike Swanson, president of Western's College Republicans. "This (walk-out) is probably the funniest thing I've seen since I've been here at Western."

Swanson said the College Republicans will do something to respond to the protest in the future, but this was the protesters' day to speak out.

"There are some things in this world that are worth fighting for, and this is one of them," said Travis Brunner, a Western freshman and war supporter. "I do support what these people



Katie Grimes/The Western Front

A group of war supporters stand on the outskirts of the anti-war rally in Red Square. Students waved flags to show their support for President Bush and U.S. troops.



Katie Grimes/The Western Front

A view from Bond Hall shows a crowd of more than 750 people gathered in Red Square minutes before the walk-out Friday afternoon. Students listen as anti-war speakers discuss the conflict in Iraq and American foreign policy.

are doing, but a lot of them, I believe, are naïve. They just don't know where these rights come from."

Students began marching to the Bellingham Federal Building at 1 p.m. carrying signs and playing drums. Leading the march was a banner that read "War IS Terrorism."

When protesters arrived at the federal building, they rallied again. Some students took part in a more dramatic demonstration against the war with a "die-in."

Protesters laid in the streets, re-enacting the devastating bombing of a market in Baghdad to display a side of the war that America does not see, Johnson said.

"We are doing this 'die-in' to honor the innocent victims of this war," he said.

Across the street, war supporters held signs and flags, saying they wanted to give balance to the anti-war protest.

"I agree with their constitutional right to peacefully assemble," Bellingham resident Darrin Cranford said. "I have no problems with them doing this. But as

a person that served in the first Persian Gulf War as a marine, we view these anti-war protests as a slap in the face. To say that you support the troops but are against the war is a contradiction. You can't have your cake and eat it too."

Despite the opposition and death threats, many agreed that the protest was a success, Johnson said.

"We already had a lot of resources committed to this event to bring it safely from Western to here," Ambrose said. "We had to be aware that there may have been someone with a specific agenda to hurt someone, and fortunately that was not the case."

Edie said the most important outcome of the day was the communication and trust the Student Affairs staff establishment with student leaders, which led to a peaceful demonstration.

"They knew who to contact, and so did we," Edie said. "That was critical. We were very pleased that it turned out without an incident. It was a team effort."

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Senate bill could release state's nonviolent offenders

By Tara Nelson
THE WESTERN FRONT

Some nonviolent inmates in Washington jails and prisons could be released early if a bill that the Senate passed 41-8 becomes a law.

Senate Bill 5990, an alternate to Gov. Gary Locke's original budget proposal, would increase the possibility of early release for nonviolent offenders with good behavior. A nonviolent offender could include anyone who does not have a prior sex offense, violent offense, a conviction for methamphetamines, distributing a controlled substance to a minor or be under a court ordered drug treatment.

Thad Allen, state Department of Corrections Risk Management Specialist, said the idea of releasing low-risk offenders is nothing new.

"The government has been

throwing around ways to save money, and one of them is to release nonviolent inmates," Allen said. "I think it is consistent with their focus because it saves money. It costs almost \$30,000 a year to house one inmate."

The bill would also eliminate police monitoring of some released inmates who are considered to be a low-risk to the public, disconcerting some corrections officials.

"There's a lot of concern by letting criminals out of jail," said Sen. Tom Milke, ranking minority member of the state Criminal Justice and Corrections Committee, R-Clark, Cowlitz counties. "If we're going to enforce the law, then we need to step up and pay that bill. We don't want to start a revolving door."

Current state law allows inmates to receive earned release time of up to 33 percent of their sentence. Senate Bill 5990 would

allow inmates to receive a maximum earned released time of up to 50 percent of their sentence.

For example, an inmate serving a 10-year sentence could potentially be released after serving five years if he or she earned good behavior.

The bill would also reduce the possibility of early release for a violent or sex offender who had earned good behavior by five percent.

Current state law allows violent and sex offenders a possible 15 percent reduction in sentences for good behavior. The bill would reduce the possible reduction an offender could earn to 10 percent.

For example, an offender who is sentenced to 10 years in jail could be released after 8.5 years.

The state Office of Financial Management estimates the bill would save as much as \$45 million a year with approximately 1,300 low-risk inmates being released two to three months early for good behavior.

Some opponents are worried, however, that the bill would shift costs onto local governments and send the wrong message to repeat offenders.

Sen. Jim Hargrove, the bill's author, R-Hoquiam, said that the risks to the public would be minimal.

"The vast majority of sentences are going to be reduced by only two to three months," Hargrove said. "We are going to have offenders who re-offend anyway. I don't see how two to three months will make a difference."

In addition, the bill asks for \$11 million to be directed towards treatment and prevention programs.

"We will use part of that savings to keep serious offenders in jail," Hargrove said. "And some of it will be put into prevention and treatment programs. You are improving public safety in the long-run."

Hargrove said people are forgetting this is time inmates have earned for good behavior.

"This is good time," Hargrove said. "People who are misbehaving are not going to get good time."

"We are going to have offenders who re-offend anyway. I don't see how two to three months will make a difference."

Jim Hargrove
Washington state senator,
R-Hoquiam

House mandate keeps tuition past fourth year affordable

By Mugs Scherer
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Higher Education Committee of the Washington House of Representatives amended Bill 5135 on April 4 so that it no longer imposes a surcharge on public college students who have credits exceeding what they need to graduate.

The bill, originally passed by the Washington state Senate and now in front of the Rules Committee, still maintains the

same purpose — to help ensure that students graduate in a timely manner. The initial way of accomplishing this involved a mandatory tuition increase for all undergraduate students with more than 120 percent of the credits needed to graduate; appeals would have gone to the state Higher Education Coordinating Board.

"Now it is up to the individual institution whether to increase tuition or not," said Judy McNickle, assistant to Western's

President Morse.

Each four-year college, community college and technical college must develop and handle its own policy regarding students with more than 125 percent of the credits needed to graduate, a number that varies between departments.

Sen. Don Carlson, R-Vancouver, said he supports the changed bill because it will give incoming students greater access to classes by helping others to graduate.

"I hope Western doesn't require

more tuition," said Western junior Kelly Walker, who has earned more credits than some departments require for a degree.

"It is basically impossible for someone like me, who is trying to get into classes in two different departments, to graduate in less than five years," Walker said.

McNickle said she did not think any colleges knew what its policy would be because of how recent the decision was, but she did not sense any enthusiasm toward a tuition increase.

Fairhaven community park nears completion

By Brianne Cross
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Village Green, a new park in Fairhaven, will be dedicated April 26 with an all-day Dedication Day featuring booths by local businesses, music from local bands and music groups, and an unveiling of a full-size bronze statue of Bellingham's founder, Dan Harris.

The small park directly behind Village Books and the Colophon Café on the corner of 10th and Mill streets in Fairhaven was constructed with funds granted by the City of Bellingham and from private donations.

"Our goal was to develop an European market square where people could meet, converse, eat or work," said Bob Griffin, a member of the Fairhaven Village Green Committee.

Two years ago, a handful of Fairhaven residents conceived the idea for the park when they saw the plot of land the city of Bellingham purchased a few years prior sitting untouched.

Various sources funded the park with a grant of \$350,000 including the City of Bellingham, the Greenway Levy, and private donations of \$300,000. In addition, local residents and businesses purchased 1,580 engraved bricks that lie in the walkway of the park.

In addition to the statue, the park features other more obscure pieces of art such as a granite dog-drinking hydrant, solid bronze



Photo courtesy of www.fairhaven.com

(Blue-stone engraved signs) that will be attached to the walls at the entrance stairways rest before the Fairhaven Village Green, which opens April 26.

ballards— posts often used as traffic dividers — and a green, antique drinking fountain shaped like a tulip.

Griffin said he hopes the construction will be appealing to organizations for a variety of events such as the outdoor cinema, farmer's market and art exhibitions.

Alaine Borgias, events and publications coordinator for Village Books, said they are

"certainly delighted" about the Village Green. "It's more about supporting an existing community and making something that was better," Borgias said.

The Village Green's all-day Dedication Day begins at 10 a.m. April 26 at the park.

"As long as ice cream's nearby, everything's great," Fairhaven resident Michael Taylor said.

SARS: Few cases uncovered in state

Continued from Page 1

Barnhart said. "Out of those few, a number of them have already been in this country for a while."

Despite the precautions taken, SARS concerns are delaying travel for some. Barnhart said she and Dean of Huxley College Brad Smith expected to travel in China this week to plan a study tour but changed their plans due to the risk of possible quarantines or other delays for travelers.

Delahunt said people are suspected of having SARS when they have a fever higher than 100.4 degrees, respiratory difficulty, and have recently traveled to or been in contact with someone who has recently been in an infected area.

Dr. Emily Gibson, medical director for the Student Health Center, said all of Western's health staff has been trained and is properly equipped to handle SARS.

"We see about 120 students a day, and about 10 percent of those students come in with a fever and cough," Gibson said. "We are aware of SARS and don't assume that (we are dealing) with something else until we've screened (the patient) for potential exposure history."

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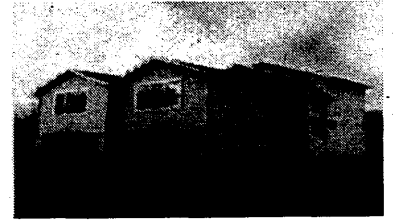
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Supply: Northwest hospitals assist in war effort

Continued from Page 1

public demonstrating enormous acts of generosity and were donating a lot of blood," McLean said.

Since few people survived, not all the blood could be used, he said.

"We can't stockpile on something that has an expiration date," McLean said. "We don't want to see any blood wasted."

St. Joseph Hospital is also prepared for the possibility of chemical or biological attacks. Nicci Noteboom, a public relations spe-

cialist for the hospital, said in the case of an emergency, the hospital has specific plans of response and conducts frequent meetings to ensure the plans run smoothly.

Resnick said because of Bellingham's low profile, it is probably a safe place to be in the case of a terrorist attack.

"Bellingham doesn't even have its own news channel," Resnick said. "The farther you get from network television, the safer you get."

Connie Copeland, the special assistant to the vice president of

Western's Student Affairs, agreed that the university was not in danger. In the event of an emergency, Western would probably react with plans that are already in place, Copeland said.

"We have not changed our system because we feel good about the protocol already in place," Copeland said.

She added that Western's medical department was working to keep all emergency plans up to date to remain most effective in whatever situation could arise.

Huxley professor says Iraqi oil fires do not compare to Gulf War

By Amanda Peckham
THE WESTERN FRONT

John Hardy, Western professor and chair of the environmental sciences department, said he knows first hand the vulnerable feeling of being surrounded by burning oil fields and massive oil slicks after studying such problems in the aftermath of the first Gulf War.

Although the current Iraqi conflict has led to similar conditions for troops, Hardy said he did not think the Iraqi oil fires would cause the kind of damage he saw in Kuwait with the amount of soot in the air or the amount of oil spilt.

In a March 21 CNN.com article, the British Chief of Staff Admiral Michael Boyce said Iraqi soldiers set fire to seven oil wells. Trained firefighters traveling with the Marines were working to put them out.

"I think right now what we have is a much smaller scale," Hardy said. "I don't think there's enough to have a major impact — maybe local impacts."

Dennis Murphy, dean of the college of business and economics, said he felt the effects were small in the short term and that there were few long-term effects because the fires had been put out quickly.

"You wouldn't want to lose those (oil wells) for the Iraqi people," Murphy said. "It's unfortunate, but it's not to be compared to the scope of the fires that were set in Kuwait in 1991."

Over six million barrels of crude oil spilled into the Persian Gulf in 1991, making it the world's largest oil spill, according to the study Hardy's team filed.

CNN.com reported that the cost of cleanup was more than \$700 million.

Hardy was a member of a team contracted and funded by the International Oceanographic Committee, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, which is now known as the World Conservation Unit, and the Kuwait Department of Environment to study the oil spill in the Persian Gulf at the end of the first Gulf War in 1991. The Saudi Arabia

Meteorological and Environmental Protection Agency also backed the project.

"We were funded to examine the effects of the oil spill along the coast of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia," he said.

Because oil is organic, Hardy said the environment will eventually recover although it usually takes more than 10 years.

The various environmental groups contacted Hardy in 1991 because of his previous research of the Persian Gulf while living in Beirut in the 1970s. This research led to the co-authorship of "Biotopes of the Western Arabian Gulf," a book on the Persian Gulf ecology that was published in 1977.

Hardy began teaching at Western in 1989. He took leave of his teaching post at Western and arrived in Kuwait four months after the Gulf War ended.

"Oil fires were still burning in Kuwait," Hardy said. "About every half a mile, you had to get out and wash the windshield."

The team noticed oil slicks on the beach as well as soot slicks on top of the oil from the ash of the 700 burning oil fires in the small country of Kuwait.

"People were actually wearing masks a lot, even when they went to work," Hardy said. "There were a lot of oil fires burning. They were close to Kuwait city."

Hardy said one thing about the soot from the oil fires is that it is carcinogenic, meaning that prolonged breathing of the smoke increases a person's risk for developing cancer.

"During the first Gulf War there was so many fires the smoke darkened the sky," Hardy said. "It changed the regional weather for several months."

“Oil fires were still burning in Kuwait. About every half a mile you had to get out and wash the windshield.”

John Hardy
Western environmental sciences professor

Pickford Cinema film festival addresses human rights issues

By Ian Alexander
THE WESTERN FRONT

Documentaries and featured speakers highlighted the beginning of the third year of the Bellingham Human Rights Festival Friday at Pickford Cinema.

Filmgoers had the chance to see films and hear invited guest speakers addressing issues from globalization to homelessness.

In addition to the larger festival, the Pickford screened local human rights films throughout the weekend. After the film showings, the filmmakers led a discussion for interested audience members.

"It's a good way to raise the issue of human rights with people who might not know much about it," said Nate Johnson, Western senior and Peace Resource Center coordinator.

During the festival's six-day run, organizers addressed one issue each night through the screening of one to three documentaries, as well as special guest presentations.

The theme for the festival's first night, "Palestine Is Still the Issue," included two films and guest speaker Judith Kolokoff, a peace activist for 60 years.

While attending Friday's peace rally in downtown Bellingham, Kolokoff said that witnessing young people protesting and making connections encouraged her.

"My hope is in the young people," she said. "I'm impressed with the potential."

"Palestine is Still the Issue," directed by Anthony Stark, is an in-depth look at the 36-year Israeli occupation of the West Bank. Throughout the film, journalist John Pilgrim interviews the families of Palestinian suicide bombers and their Israeli victims.

The Israeli state was established in 1947 and the new government drove out refugee Palestinian landowners. U.N. Resolution 194, passed in 1948, granted refugees the right to



Nikki Russo/The Western Front

Judith Kolokoff, a 73-year-old Secular Jew, speaks to a capacity crowd at the Pickford Cinema on Friday night.

return to their homes and receive compensation for damaged property. According to the resolution, Palestinians have not been granted full access to their homes, causing tension between Israelis and Palestinians.

Kolokoff, a secular Jew raised in Chicago, works as a consultant for American Friends Service Committee, a Quaker organization for peace and social justice. She said that her activism for peace between Israelis and Palestinians started partly because of her work and partly after she visited the region.

Kolokoff said she felt it was important to keep the issue in the forefront given the war coverage dominating the news.

"In the name of fighting terror, all sorts of atrocities are happening," she said. "It's going to get worse."

She said she is neither pro-Israeli, nor pro-Palestinian, but pro-justice, which she feels is fundamental to Judaism.

During her discussion at the Pickford, Kolokoff addressed Palestinian home demolition and what she said was the demonization of Arabs. She said after Sept. 11, America has validated Israeli actions against Palestinians.

At the end of the presentation,

audience members discussed their views with each other as well as with Kolokoff.

"The film festival was really educational," said Megan Erickson, a Western graduate and Pickford regular. "I was kind of ignorant of the issue, and I wanted to educate myself."

Johnson said the festival is a forum to educate the community and has supported since he helped found the festival with the managers of the Pickford in 2000.

A committee of seven local residents, working in association with the Whatcom Film Association, chooses the issues and films shown each year. Johnson said this year the issues focused more on foreign policy than political issues.

On the festival's first night, 195 people came to see the films, and many attended Kolokoff's speech as well.

"It's a huge turnout," Pickford assistant manager Carey Ross said. "I think a lot more people are coming out because of the topic."

The festival will feature the remaining issues, "Echoes From the Vietnam War," "Voices in Exile" and "Globalization: For Profit or For People," at 3:30 p.m., 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. for the next three nights respectively.

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STRANGE DAYS

Unbelievable news from around the world

Man arrested for faking foot travel, begging for food

Police detained a man in Australia for allegedly hitchhiking into towns and begging for food and other goods while pretending to be running around the world.

Police turned Sylvain Quenel over to the Immigration Department and is now facing deportation on suspicion of faking his travel on foot. Residents report Quenel covered more than 40 miles in three hours.

New York restaurants serve tobacco in response to new law

New York restaurants recently added tobacco to their food menus in response to the city's new anti-tobacco law.

Serafina Sandro, an Italian restaurant, offers such menu items as Filet Mignon with tobacco-wine sauce and tobacco-infused grappa to drink. It even garnishes food with dried tobacco. The World Bar in Trump World Tower is beginning to serve Manhattan cocktails made to taste like a cigarette, while other bars are handing out pieces of nicotine gum.

The new tobacco law bans smoking cigarettes and cigars in bars and restaurants in the city in order to protect workers' health. The city's health department, in an attempt to help smokers quit, is giving away nicotine patches to the first 35,000 people who call their telephone service.

Fishermen catch rare colossal squid

Fishermen in Antarctica caught a rare female *Mesonychoteuthis hamiltoni*, also known as the colossal squid, in the Ross Sea.

The young squid was 330 pounds and 16 feet long. Researchers said this type of squid has large eyes and razor-sharp hooks on its tentacles. Only one other colossal squid has ever been caught.

Researchers said the colossal squid makes up a large portion of the diet of sperm whales, which suggests that this squid came from a larger population in the waters surrounding Antarctica.

'Spiderman' climber protests Iraq war

A French climber, dressed in a "No War" shirt and calling himself

Spiderman, scaled the 47-story headquarters of the oil giant TotalFinaElf near Paris in protest against the war with Iraq last Tuesday.

Police arrested Alain Robert, 40, for his climb. Robert is known for climbing the Eiffel Tower and more than 30 skyscrapers.

Doctor stabs eight in Madrid hospital

A hospital doctor stabbed a coworker and a patient to death and injured six others at a Madrid hospital.

The 31-year-old woman stabbed her victims with a 5-inch blade while they talked in groups along a hallway of the hospital. Staff are treating the six injured.

Hospital security detained the attacker and took her to the psychiatric unit. Hospital staff said she had just returned to work after taking sick leave for depression.

Former flight attendant drugs baby

A former Northwest Airlines flight attendant is charged with slipping a

mickey to a 19-month-old baby.

Daniel Reed Cunningham allegedly drugged the apple juice of the overly active child during a 2002 flight.

The child's mother became suspicious of the juice after taking a sip. She saved some of the juice, and testing later revealed that a small amount of the drug Xanax had been added to sedate the baby.

U.S. troops utilize land and sea animals in war with Iraq

Animals are assisting U.S. troops in the Iraq war.

U.S. soldiers recruited chickens, dolphins, dogs and other animals to help in the war effort. Soldiers placed chickens on Humvees to detect a possible Iraqi chemical attack, but when most of the chickens died, the soldiers replaced the chickens with pigeons. U.S. troops trained dolphins to detect sea mines without setting off the explosives. Dogs serve in such roles as trackers, attackers and mine detectors.

Soldiers are currently testing sea lions for the ability to capture enemy divers and recover military goods in the ocean.

Compiled by Erin McGourty.



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Watching the time tick by

Insomnia at Western: understanding and beating it

By Heather Reynolds

The Western Front

In her junior year of high school, Western junior Natalie Waid started to have trouble sleeping. She lay in bed at night, staring at the ceiling and worrying about her classes. She watched television or read boring books — anything to make her sleepy. Nothing worked.

"I would sit up in bed wanting to fall asleep," Waid said, "but my mind was constantly going with an insane amount of pointless information."

Waid is an insomniac and periodically suffers sleepless nights.

The American Insomnia Association classifies insomnia as the difficulty of falling or staying asleep.

Dr. John Jordy, a mental health counselor at Western, said insomnia is one of the most common sleep disorders among students because of their stressful lifestyles. He said late night studying or partying, a poor diet and sports-related muscle pain all have an effect on a student's sleep pattern.

"The body is a creature of habit," Jordy said. "It likes rhythm, and the stressful lifestyles of many students can wreck the body's rhythm."

Contrary to what many have heard, people should judge sleep quality by how they feel during the day, not how many hours of sleep they get at night, Jordy said.

Waid said that when she was sleeping only two hours per night, she was constantly fatigued and could not focus in class. She became frustrated with her inability to sleep and bored at night with no one to tell her frustrations.

Jordy said the first way many people try to treat their insomnia is to drink alcohol. Drinking is the worst thing someone can do because alcohol causes an imbalance to the body's natural cycles, as well as dehydrates the body and therefore ruins the quality of sleep.

"The first line of defense (against insomnia) is to take

care of the body," he said.

To treat a patient with insomnia, Jordy first determines if the patient has any underlying problems in his or her body, including an unhealthy diet or muscle pain. He said these are the easiest causes to identify and treat because the patient must merely change his or her daily habits.

If the patient has no apparent problems with diet or muscle pain, Jordy said he often suggests that the patient undergo a medical exam to check for thyroid problems, chronic infection, depression and anxiety.

Waid said she researched her sleeplessness, found sleep studies and attempted relaxation techniques. When these techniques did not work after five weeks, she decided to see a doctor.

Jordy said if the patient's insomnia does not subside after trying relaxation techniques, he or she should try sleeping pills or sleep-enhancing supplements or foods. These include Melatonin, an over-the-counter drug; chamomile, an herb, and foods high in the amino acid tryptophan, such as meat or peanut butter.

"I would suggest Melatonin for situational insomnia, like from jet lag and students pulling all-nighters," Hagen pharmacist Steve Aubert said.

Aubert and Jim Krell, a pharmacist at North Campus Pharmacy, said, in their experience, Ambien is the most prescribed drug for insomnia. Aubert and Krell said although Ambien is pricey — approximately \$160 for 30 pills — it is dispensed more than any

other insomnia drug.

Jordy said insomnia varies in degree and can be divided into three types: transient, intermittent and chronic.

Transient insomnia is short-term, only lasting a few nights; intermittent insomnia occurs sporadically; and chronic insomnia is the most serious, occurring most nights and lasting a month or longer.

Chronic insomnia usually results from more complicated problems, which often include physical or mental disorders. Other causes of chronic insomnia can be asthma, Parkinson's disease, chronic stress, depression or the abuse of caffeine or alcohol.

Jordy said transient and intermittent insomnia are the most common among the students he sees.

These types of insomnia often come from stress, environmental noise, extreme temperature changes in their surrounding environment, medication side effects or from sleep schedule problems from circumstances such as jet lag, he said.

Jordy said these problems are easily identifiable and people can remedy them simply by recognizing the problem and self-treating it. The counseling center at Western provides some self-help books on sleeping and relaxation tapes, he said.

The counseling center also offers a free relaxation training session from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. every Tuesday. At the session, participants explore techniques such as self-hypnosis, visualization, breathing exercises and imagery.

"Good sleep is absolutely foundational to good health," Jordy said.



Photo illustration by Keith Bolling

Western junior Natalie Waid, who suffers from insomnia, dreads the nights when she is unable to sleep.

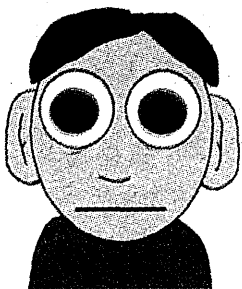
"I would sit up in bed wanting to fall asleep, but my mind was constantly going with an insane amount of pointless information."

Natalie Waid

Western junior with insomnia

The three different types of insomnia

Transitive

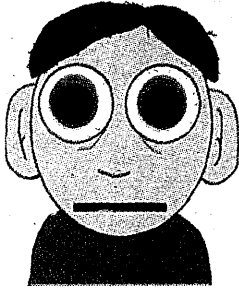


Short-term, only lasts a few nights

Possible causes: stress, environmental noise, extreme temperature changes in their surrounding environment, medication side effects, jet lag

Possible treatment: self-hypnosis; visualization; breathing exercises; imagery; Ambien, Melatonin; foods high in tryptophan, such as meat or peanut butter; the herb chamomile

Intermittent

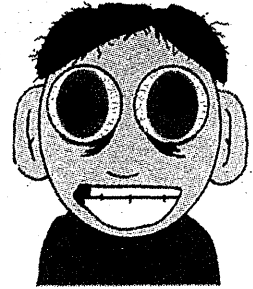


Occurs sporadically

Possible causes: stress, environmental noise, extreme temperature changes in their surrounding environment, medication side effects, jet lag

Possible treatment: self-hypnosis; visualization; breathing exercises; imagery; Ambien; Melatonin; foods high in tryptophan; such as meat or peanut butter; the herb chamomile

Chronic



Almost nightly, lasts at least a month

Possible causes: physical or mental disorders, asthma, Parkinson's disease, chronic stress, depression, abuse of caffeine or alcohol

Possible treatment: professional help; Ambien; foods high in tryptophan, such as meat or peanut butter.

Information courtesy of Dr. John Jordy.

COIN\$ for Kids

Big Brothers Big Sisters works to earn money or faces cuts

By Jenny Maag
The Western Front

Employees of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Skagit, Whatcom and Island counties have six chances to convince their board of directors that they can raise enough money in 2003 to cover their \$50,000 budget deficit. Between April 13 and May 3, five "Bowl for Kids' Sake" tournaments are scheduled and BBBS estimates each fundraiser must generate more than \$22,500.

On April 13, the "Bowl for Kids' Sake" retail tournament will take place at Century Bowling lanes in Bellingham. Campus Buddies coordinator Amanda Fisher said the retail bowl is two teams short of their 20-team goal, but she said she is optimistic.

"We have had a lot of great support from retail companies like the Bon Marché and Mervyns," Fisher said. "You never know."

BBBS, which has an annual budget of \$350,000, receives

\$100,000 from private and government grants, approximately \$90 from direct mail campaigns and other fundraising and \$110,000 at "Bowl for Kids' Sake" tournaments.

For the past six years, BBBS's bingo hall supplied the remaining \$50,000. After three years of losing money, however, the bingo hall closed in June of 2001.

Executive Director Jim Boyle said BBBS used the last of the bingo hall reserve money in 2002.

"We can no longer operate on a deficit," Boyle said. "We have to balance our budget."

If BBBS does not raise enough money to convince the board that they will be able to cover the deficit through fundraising, the board will cut programs to balance the budget. The board may cut funding to each program by 20 percent, or it may completely cut the community-based program or the site-based school program. Boyle said in order to raise the confidence of



Jenny Maag/The Western Front

Amber Caldwell, Western sophomore and assistant case manager for Big Brothers Big Sisters, stands in front of Polaroids of successful matches, some of which she helped to make.

the board and prevent them from cutting staff, BBBS must raise more money than average through "Bowl for Kids' Sake."

"People have worked really hard up to this point, and if we continue to work hard, we'll end up where we want to be," Boyle said. "No event coming up can make up for 'Bowl for Kids' Sake' tournaments not doing well."

Fisher said she was thrilled that profits from the March 15 "Bowl for Kids' Sake" college tournament were \$12,000, \$4,000 more than BBBS expected. The college bowl is usually the least profitable of all the tournaments.

"Facing budget cuts and layoffs is pretty scary," Fisher said. "We are still hoping for the best."

Three other bowls will take place in Whatcom County, and two more will take place in Skagit County. Some tournaments will be for college students, like the March 15 event was, some will be for retail businesses and some will be for community members.

Campus Buddies coordinator Amanda Fisher estimates that if each "Bowl for Kids' Sake" registers at least 90 teams who raise an average of \$250 each, the board will be convinced it does not need to cut staff or programs.

Each team has five members who collect donations in the name of BBBS. Using Fisher's estimate, the six tournaments will raise \$25,000 of the \$50,000

deficit.

If fundraising does not meet expectations and the BBBS board votes to cut programs, Boyle will have to layoff staff members. BBBS case managers would not be able to maintain their current level of program matches, which is approximately 400, and more children would go without matches.

To save money, BBBS uses Americorps and juveniles assigned community service to support office staff. BBBS averages two or three community service students every couple of days and has a full-time Americorps employee whose salary is just \$3,000 per year. Fisher said the help is important, but students could never replace office staff.

"They stuff envelopes or make fliers and copies," Fisher said. "There's only so much they can do."

Case manager Nicole Arnold said staff cuts are something she is not ready to think about because the office is a close group.

"We all work together to bounce ideas off each other," Arnold said. "If anyone has a difficult situation they need help with, we all work together as a team. I don't think of us as separate departments."

Arnold said if BBBS faces staff cutbacks, the hardest part would be explaining to parents why their child could not be matched with a Big Brother or Big Sister.

"We would be disappointing a

lot of people," Arnold said. "I hope it doesn't come to that."

Currently BBBS has a wait list of approximately 100 kids. Each boy waits an average of two years for a match and girls wait about six months. Because of the uncertain future, the Campus Buddies program is not allowed to find matches for new children and buddies.

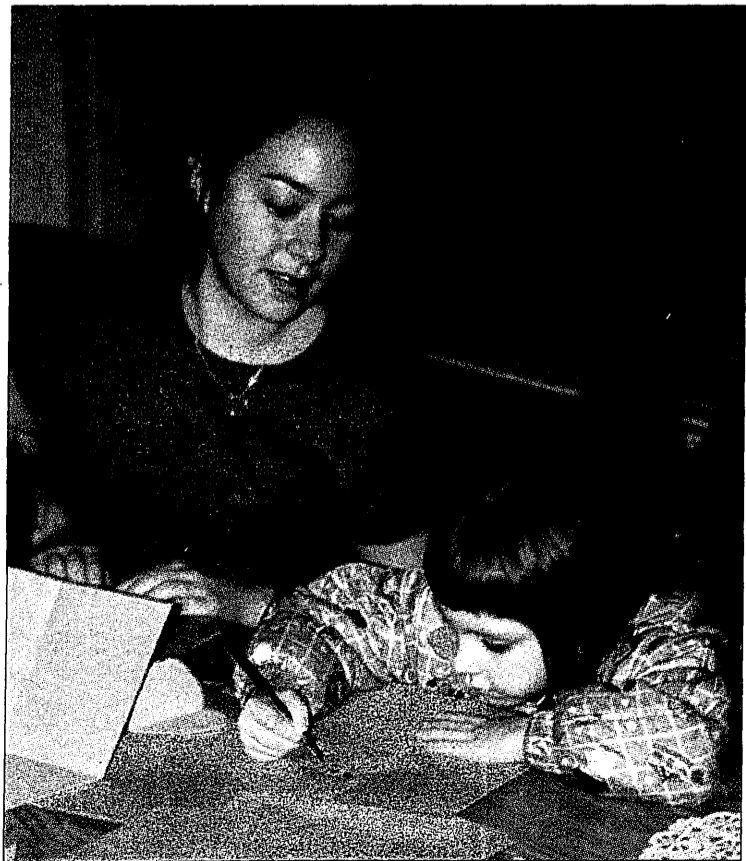
The last U.S. Census approximated that nearly 5,000 kids in the Bellingham area need the help of a program like BBBS. Whatcom County has a higher poverty rate than the state average, and the federal government has designated Whatcom county a high drug traffic area.

BBBS requires parents of matched children to fill out evaluations every six months regarding their child's school performance, attitude and drug use. Fisher said the evaluations are always positive.

"We have never had a negative response from a parent," Fisher said. "One parent told me the only time her daughter smiled was when she was on the phone with her 'big.'"

Big Sister and Western junior Rachel Ballard said her "little" was not the only one who has benefited from the relationship.

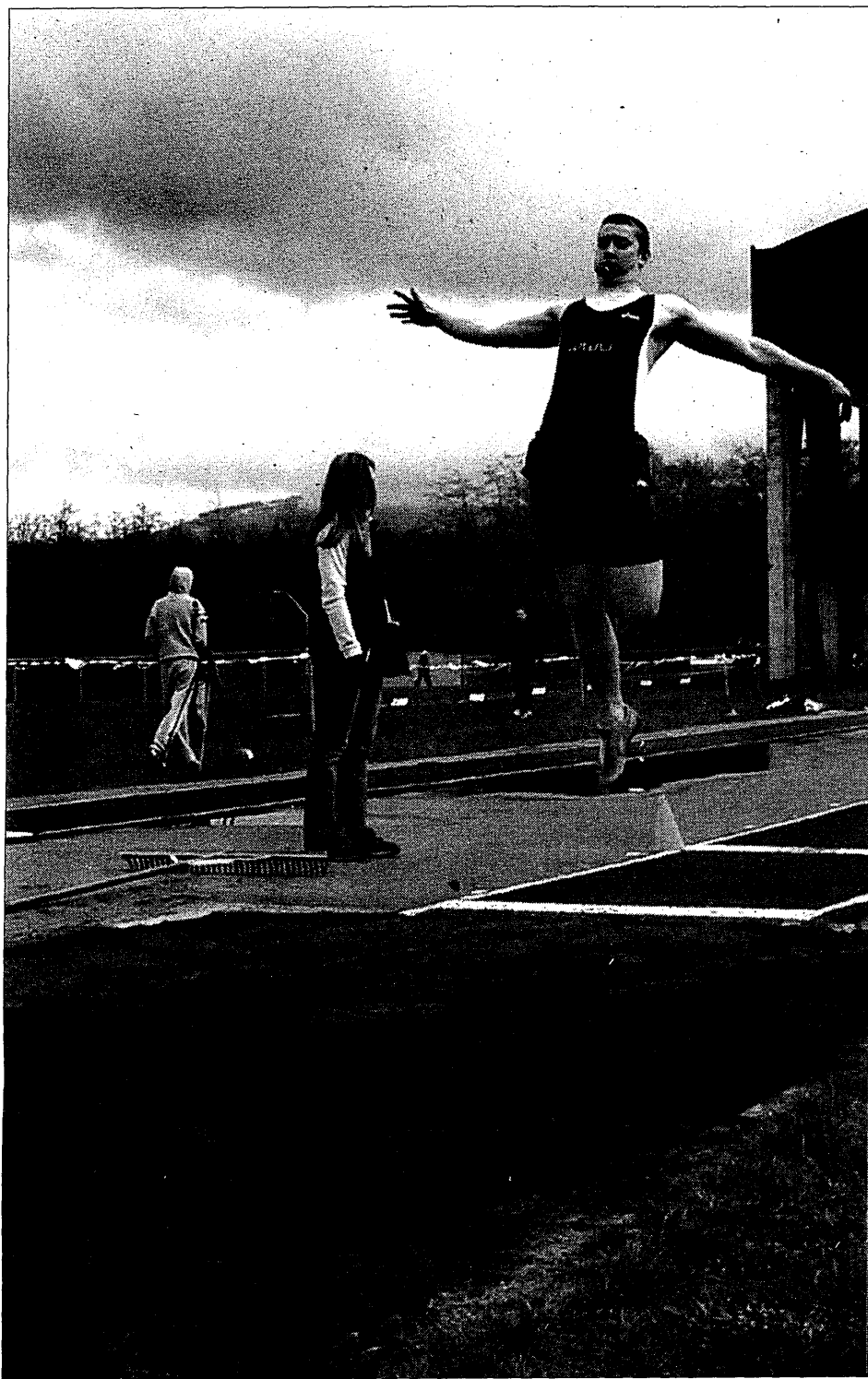
"This opportunity has given me a chance to connect with the community," Ballard said. "I feel a greater connection to the Bellingham community, and I think only spending time with people my age is limiting."



Jenny Maag/The Western Front

Western sophomore Lauren Smith watches her "little," Melissa Schedlin, decorate greeting cards they made together.

Vikings dominate to finish first, second



Mike Alton/The Western Front

Western freshman Zach Ernst leaps for third place in the long jump at the 23rd annual Ralph Vernacchia Team Classic track meet. The Western men's team earned first place, while the women received second-place honors.

By Leslie White

THE WESTERN FRONT

Despite the rain, wind and bitter cold, Western's track and field teams captured the men's title and women's second place honors at the 23rd annual Ralph Vernacchia Team Classic Saturday at Civic Field.

Pacific Lutheran University, Central Washington University, Simon Frazier University, Seattle Pacific University and Seattle University competed.

Coach Kelvin "Pee Wee" Halsell said he was eager to showcase his competitive team in front of a home crowd.

"Everyone was fresh off of spring break and really excited for their first home meet," Halsell said.

The title was the Western men's sixth straight in the Vernacchia Classic.

The women trailed Seattle Pacific, who captured its fourth straight title at the meet, by a mere eight points for a second-place finish.

Halsell said despite losing many graduating, the men's team is still favored to place first in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference this season.

Western senior Zach Boteilho, one of the men's top distance runners, received Outstanding Male Athlete of the Meet honors for his performance the Vernacchia Classic. He finished first in the 5,000-meter event.

"I ran a conservative race, and some runners were gutsy enough to run all out in the beginning, so I had an edge at the end of the race to win," Boteilho said.

Boteilho was also honored as the GNAC Player of the Week for March 31 through April 4.

"It is really great to get (Player of the Week), but it isn't my primary goal," Boteilho said. "How I do at the end of the season is what will count."

Boteilho posted a qualifying provisional national time of 31 minutes, 3.55 seconds in the 10,000-meter event at the Stanford Invitational over spring break. This was the second fastest time posted by a Northwest Division II small-college athlete since 1999.

Despite the challenging conditions, the team did surprisingly well, Boteilho said.

"Weather is a huge factor when you are competing, but the team was posting times that were by no means slow," Boteilho said. "We are really deep this year in events, and this is the best track team of my five years at Western."

Western started the year off on a high note, sweeping both the men's and women's events at the 31st annual Pacific Lutheran University Salzman Invitational Track and Field meet March 15.

Western runners' overall effort put the team up 31.5 points over its rival Seattle Pacific.

Halsell credited the win to scoring in every event — a first but welcomed experience for the team.

"We are very balanced this year, and that is key for winning meets," Halsell said. "The combination of work ethic, experienced returnees and talented freshmen could very well give us the opportunity to take first place overall in the men and women's events this season."

Halsell said key returnees on the women's team are posting promising numbers, which could put the team in the running for the GNAC title this season.

Western sophomore distance runner Ashlee Vincent earned a third-place victory Saturday at the Classic in the

800-meter event.

Vincent said she wanted to compete in only one shorter race and was pleased with her outcome.

"The race was really exciting," Vincent said. "I gave a good effort. I was just out there to have fun."

Western junior Dania Swosinski, one of the top female sprinters and team co-captain, ran on the winning 4-by-100 relay team. Swosinski said she credits the team's success on teamwork and focus.

"It's really unique that we compete in an individual sport and then see that everyone can come together and compete as a team," Swosinski said.

Western will travel to Tacoma to compete in the University of Puget Sound Shotwell Invitational on Saturday.

“*We are really deep this year in events, and this is the best track team of my five years at Western.***”**

Zach Boteilho

Western senior and runner

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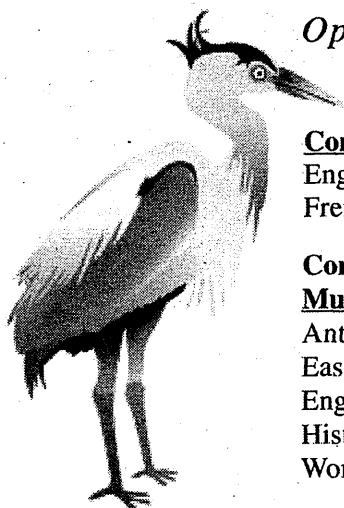
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Regionals challenge men's volleyball club

By Jenny Maag
THE WESTERN FRONT

After placing third in tournament pool play and losing a middle-blocker to a soccer game, the Western men's volleyball club placed fifth at the Pacific Intercollegiate Volleyball Association regional tournament Saturday at the University of Washington.

Western senior Bryan Frost, who is the co-coach and co-captain of the team, said he felt his team competed well in a tough tournament.

"This was the most competitive regional championship I've ever been to," Frost said. "Our league gets tougher and tougher every year."

Western emerged from pool play ranked third with a 3-3 record.

Western senior and middle-blocker Justin Scholze left for a soccer game he had previously committed to before tournament play began.

Western faced the University of Oregon, the University of Idaho and UW as it competed in the loser's bracket and finished the tournament at 4-4.

Western junior and outside hitter Paul Berube shifted to middle-blocker, a position he only played a few times, to replace Scholze.

"It was difficult to adjust," Berube said. "We had trouble

setting the block and running quick hits from the middle."

Frost said he thought the best game Western played was against Washington State University in pool play. The club rallied from 18-23 to win the game 27-25.

Western's participation on Saturday qualified the club for the National Intramural Recreational Sports Association National Championships April 10 through April 12 in Columbus, Ohio.

Frost, who was named to the six person all-tournament team Saturday, said the Division II 64-team bracket

will be the toughest competition Western's young team has faced.

"Our team works hard, and we are athletic, but some guys are fairly new to the game," Frost said. "We have only been playing as a team since January. The guys at nationals have been playing together for years."

Western has three returning members from last year's club and two returning players from the 2001 season. Six of the club's nine players are new for the 2003 season. Western placed fifth at Nationals in 2000 and 2002.

Frost and Western senior Jeff McDonald, co-coach and co-captain, said they used practice time, open gym and intramural games to ready their players for nationals, and McDonald said he thinks the club is as ready as possible.

"I have been very happy with how hard a lot of our guys have worked to get better," McDonald said. "Our team has

a lot of desire and players have worked hard to improve, and we are hoping to do well."

Frost said he is not expecting anything out of the club at nationals

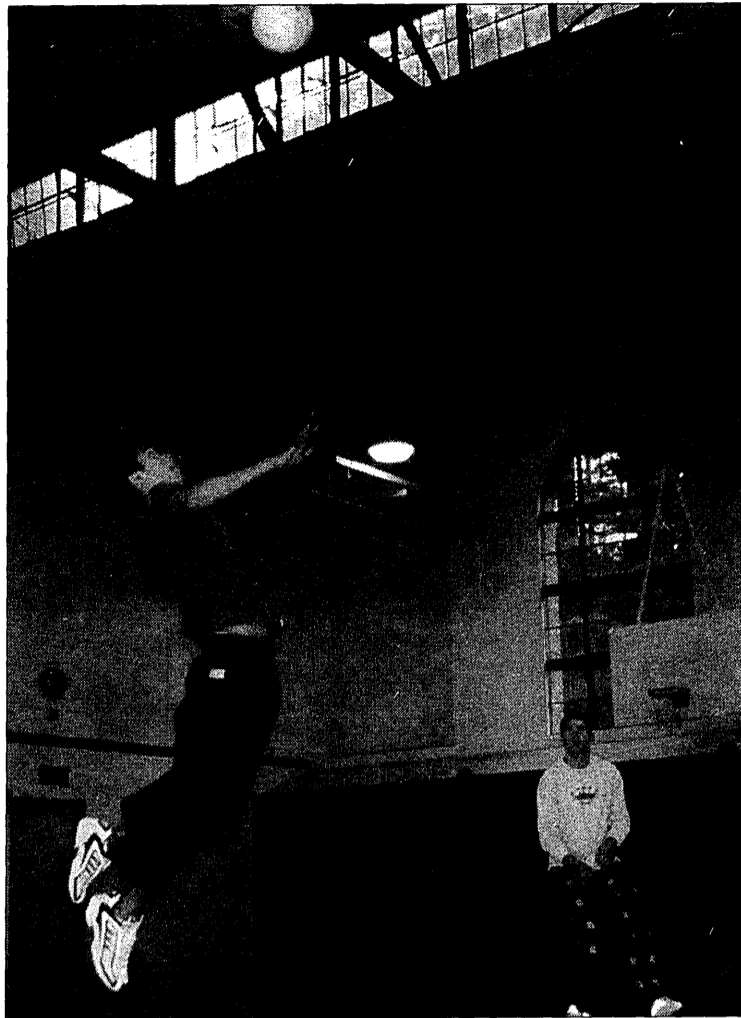
other than the opportunity to have fun and to become better volleyball players.

The national tournament is the end of Western's official season, but Frost and McDonald are working to schedule matches with Canadian and alumni teams later this quarter.

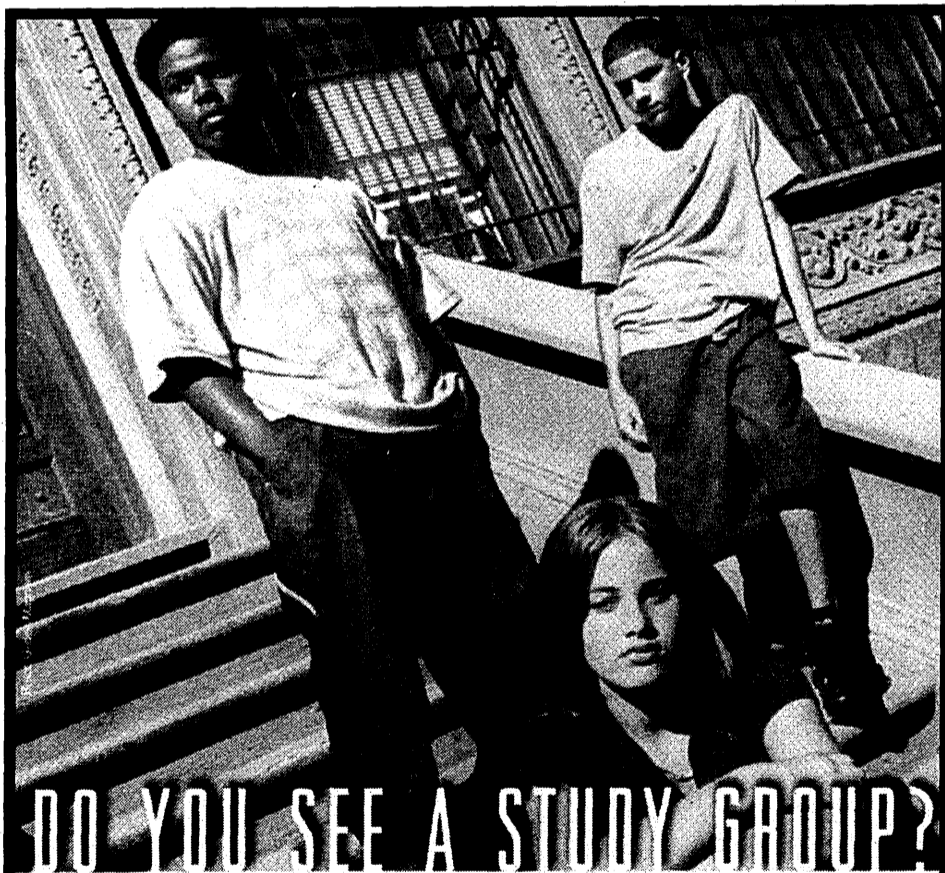
The Vikings also play host to the Western Open, a 70-team outdoor volleyball tournament in mid-May. Approximately \$1,000 in profits is generated from the Western Open for the team, which pays for equipment and travel.

“Our team has had a lot of desire and players have worked hard to improve...”

Jeff McDonald
Co-coach and co-captain



Jenny Maag/The Western Front
Western junior Richard Garin attacks from the back row as junior Paul Barube watches Sunday at Carver Gym. The Western men's volleyball club placed fifth Saturday at regional championships.



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Western crew teams face tough competition in Seattle, San Diego

By Matt Haver
THE WESTERN FRONT

While the Western varsity men's crew team pursued a Cal Cup victory in the 30th annual San Diego Crew Classic last weekend, the women's team rowed to four top-three finishes in the 22nd annual Husky Invitational at the University of Washington.

Despite a lack of practice time in the previous week and troublesome water conditions, Western's varsity women edged out Oregon State University by 17 seconds to obtain a second-place finish behind UW, ranked No. 1 in the nation.

"It was great keeping up with a UW boat like we did," said Western senior team captain and No. 6 seat varsity member Alicia Marrs. "We got our heads back in the boat; it was a great race."

Western's team completed the 2,000-meter course on the Montlake Cut with a time of 7 minutes, 7 seconds — a mere five seconds behind the UW boat. It was just one of three second-place finishes the team earned in a competition dominated by the UW teams, who won nine out of 10 races.

"We accomplished what we set out to accomplish," Western women's head coach John Fuchs said. "(Women's varsity) had a really good run, and we stayed with the UW boat as long as we could."

Because the men's varsity team was competing out of state, crew members from the novice level stepped in for the Husky Invitational's varsity men's races, bringing home a fourth-place finish in both the eight- and four-man events.

Western's varsity men qualified for the Cal Cup final Saturday, placing first in their qualifying heat against teams from Orange Coast College, the University of San Diego, the University of Texas, the University of California Santa Barbara, Savannah and the University of Colorado.

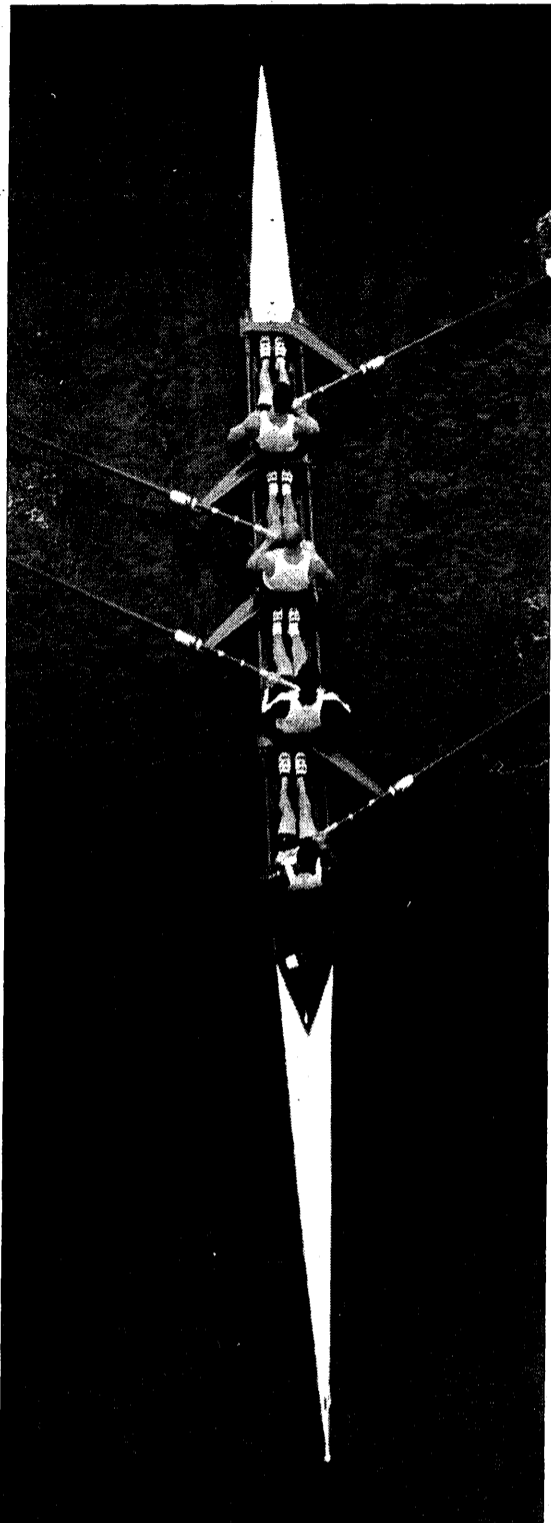
Overtaking Orange Coast in the last 500 meters for the win, Western's varsity eight were catapulted into Sunday's final competition when they placed last with a time of 6:23.06 in what Western men's head coach Marty Sauvage said would be a "dog-fight" of a competition.

Teams from Gonzaga University (6:17.67), University of Massachusetts (6:18.99), University of Minnesota (6:20.36) and Orange Coast College (6:21.74) finished ahead of the men's team. The University of Southern California is disqualified.

"It was a real tight finish among the other four crews and we were about eight seats back," Sauvage said in a press release. "We just didn't settle into a good working situation to move the boat. So we weren't working efficiently, and the other crews just pretty much rowed away from us in the last 1,000 meters."

The San Diego Crew Classic and the Husky Invitational were the third stop for each Western team in a racing season that began last November and will continue into spring quarter, concluding in late May when the men will compete in the Intercollegiate Rowing Association National Championships while the women compete in the NCAA National Championships.

Results in the first two events this season encouraged Western crews after an impressive showing at both the season opener, the Head of the



Jenny Maag/The Western Front

Western's four-man boat travels under the Montlake Bridge at the University of Washington's Husky Invitational on Saturday.

Lake Rowing Regatta, and the following week's Daffodil Regatta. At the conclusion of The Head of the Lake Rowing Regatta on Lake Union, Western crews walked away with fifth and tenth place finishes for the men's and women's varsity eight-person events, respectively, and eleventh place finishes for both teams in the four-person events. At the following competition on American Lake in Tacoma, Western teams took either first or second in six of the eight-man races as part of the Daffodil Regatta.

After completing the past weekend competitions, both teams will take a week off from racing and prepare to play host to Gonzaga Saturday, April 19 on Lake Stevens.

"It's going to be a dirt-fight with a bitter east-west rival," Fuchs said.

"We accomplished what we set out to accomplish. (Women's varsity) had a really good run..."

John Fuchs
Women's crew head coach

'God Bless America' will risk integrity of baseball

Mugs Scherer

COMMENTARY



"God Bless America" does not belong in the seventh inning stretch of Major League Baseball games.

Commissioner of Baseball Bud Selig said "God Bless America" will replace "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" as the song played during the seventh inning stretch of all games on opening days, Sundays and national holidays.

Several problems exist with MLB playing this patriotic song at its games. First of all, baseball

games already feature a patriotic song — every game starts off with a rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner." If Selig feels baseball needs to make a patriotic statement, it makes it right there.

Also, people play baseball all over the world, and players come from many different countries. Because MLB players come from so many different countries, the phrase "international flavor" has become a cliché.

As a show of respect to their host country, these players from other countries stand and remove their hats during America's national anthem. This custom is fine; the problem with "God Bless America" is that it is not a national anthem. It is a song that urges support for the United States with lines like, "stand beside her, and guide her." The message here is not one of respect for the host country; it is one of support for a country during a time of war. Making foreign players a part of this message is wrong.

In addition, baseball games do

not only take place in the United States — Toronto and Montreal have teams as well.

Selig also ordered the teams to play "God Bless America," but Canada is not the 51st state. It is unfair to impose U.S. patriotism on them. The Toronto Star ran a headline that read, "This isn't America, Bud." The writer of the piece, Garth Woolsey, had no problem with "The Star-Spangled Banner," but he said "God Bless America" was inappropriate.

Supporters of Selig believe that one more patriotic song is OK, even appropriate, during a time of war. It shows the U.S. troops that they aren't forgotten. The

problem with this is, not everyone in the United States supports the war.

If individual players want to vocally support the war, it is their

right. If Selig wants to speak in support of the war, that is fine too. Playing the song in a crowded stadium, however, forces baseball to indirectly impose support on people who might not wish to be a part of this support.

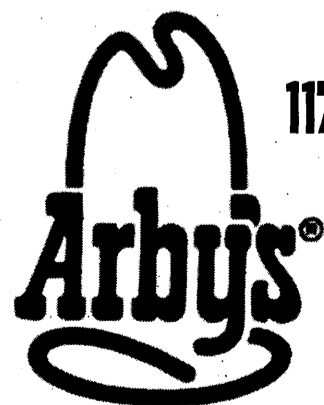
Baseball should not continue as if nothing is happening in the outside world. A good solution would be a moment of silence. It would allow baseball fans and players an opportunity to show respect and sorrow for those who have died. A fan or player could do this whether he or she was for the war or against it. A foreign fan or player could do this regardless of his or her feelings toward the United States.

After the moment of silence, there needs to be a rendition of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" to remind everyone that they are present to enjoy themselves and to watch a game featuring players from around the world.

"God Bless America" is inappropriate during MLB games. Selig needs to institute a more appropriate alternative to preserve the integrity and international aspects of baseball.

"Playing the song ... makes baseball include people who might (oppose war)."

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In Depth: Should race be a factor in college admissions?

Race allows proper representation



Jordan Lindstrom

COMMENTARY

Despite a dominant political sentiment — chiefly the Bush administration — against the practice of giving racial minorities a boost in the education arena, those who voiced their support for affirmative action outside the U.S. Supreme Court last week rightfully defended the diversity of culture in America's educational institutions.

Last Tuesday, the U.S. Supreme Court began hearing arguments in cases challenging racial considerations in the admission policies at the University of Michigan and its law school. This is the first time since the 1978 California v. Bakke decision that the nation's top court has seriously examined the use of race in admissions in higher education. It was then decided that, although setting specific racial quotas was inappropriate, using race as a consideration was an acceptable method to bring balance to a student body.

The late Justice Lewis Powell wrote, "The goal of achieving a diverse student body is sufficiently compelling to justify consideration of race."

Advocates for the elimination of affirmative action should heed this advice and be thankful that America has a system in

place that allows for proportional representation in circumstances that would otherwise be biased against minorities.

If a college was to simply look at the top 10 percent of applicants grade-wise, then a state such as Michigan, with a primarily white population and with most of its minorities clustered in second-rate, inner-city high schools, would produce an almost entirely white slate of qualified students. Campuses containing a wide-ranging student body lend themselves to a greater cross-cultural understanding and variety of thought. Universities admitting primarily the over-privileged children of the white, upper-class elite promotes a dull, homogenized college atmosphere.

As it stands now, the University of Michigan's admission process includes a point system that gives an extra point to people of racial and ethnic minority groups. This also includes members from underrepresented geographic areas, those with socio-economic disadvantages and children of alumni. The U of M gives minorities, who have traditionally had a difficult time gaining access to higher education, a break.

It therefore stands to reason that, if the court were to rule Michigan's racial consideration unconstitutional, the U of M will have to stop giving special consideration to the poor and disadvantaged. This is an unacceptable option because it would further limit college to the rich. In contrast, Western's admission policy is

See CULTURE, Page 15

Affirmative Action not logical



Jay Spengler

COMMENTARY

In what could be the most important civil rights case in the last quarter century, the U.S. Supreme Court will decide whether or not students were unfairly rejected from the University of Michigan because of a preference for minority applicants.

The court should now take the opportunity to resolve the problem of racial quotas in admissions and abolish the use of affirmative action.

Lowering acceptance standards will not improve learning environments. A straight "C" student who is accepted to a university because of his or her race is not going to do as well in school as a student accepted based on his or her academic merit.

In columnist Linda Chavez's article, "Promoting Racial Harmony," she cites graduation rates at University of California Los Angeles, a school that uses much lower standards for blacks and Hispanics. Black students have a 50 percent graduation rate; Hispanic students, 62 percent. White and Asian students, with no admissions handicap, graduate at the rate of 80 percent for whites and 77 percent for Asians.

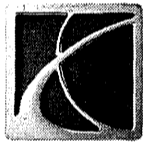
Pressure to attend a four year college has encouraged countless minority students to fail at more competitive schools instead of obtaining a degree from a community college

Race-conscious admissions do not help the students who really need it. Many applicants come from suburbs and attend integrated high schools. The idea rests on the trickle-down theory that if someone helps those in the middle work their way to the top, those at the bottom will be inspired. It simply doesn't work that way. Offering a women's studies class will not get single mothers better jobs, and skewing admissions requirements will not get poor inner-city youths an education.

The most damaging aspect of the lowered standards are the effects that cannot be measured. The lowered standard demeans the entire ethnicity of applicants it is supposed to help. The standard suggests that they are inferior, sending the message that everyone knows they cannot perform as well as other students. After all, they aren't white. The only solution is to make it easier so they can still participate.

Minority students who have achieved their goals and earned their place in which ever university or company, will still know that they were judged on a lower scale. The prestige of acceptance to an esteemed university is destroyed because they did not really have to

See STANDARDS, Page 15



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Frontline

North Korea deserves more attention from U.S. government, citizens and media

As the war with Iraq enters the third week of combat, the disproportionate amount of U.S. government, public and media attention overshadows a greater immediate threat to the United States: North Korea. The Bush administration needs to prioritize the North Korean nuclear threat above the uncertain danger Iraq represents.

North Korean government officials said they would rely on a "tremendous military deterrent force" to prevent the United States from attacking their country, according to an April 6 Washington Post article. This ominous threat implies that the North Korean government is planning to continue developing nuclear weapons.

The North Korean Foreign Ministry stated it would not be affected by the United Nation's resolutions concerning its weapons development program, according to an April 7 Washington Post article. Furthermore, the ministry said any U.N. sanctions brought against North Korea would be considered a declaration of war.

If North Korea was a country gearing up for war without posing any danger to the United States, that would be one thing. The country, however, is advancing with its nuclear facilities program and is a genuine, physical threat to America.

Vice Admiral Lowell Jacoby, director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, and CIA Director George J. Tenet told Congress that North Korea probably has two nuclear weapons capable of reaching places on the West Coast of the United States, including Washington, according to a Feb. 12 Associated Press article.

"We need to ... make sure the federal agencies, the president and Congress are taking the issue and the threats posed by North Korea very, very seriously," Gov. Gary Locke said.

The Bush administration needs to actively deal with the North Korean threat. Ostensibly, the Iraqi conflict is intended to disarm Iraq, which may not even have weapons of mass destruction.

Iraq complied with United Nation's weapons inspectors and still was attacked. North Korea not only kicked out weapons inspectors, but continues to defy the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and is within missile range of Washington state.

Some argue that Iraq deserves the complete focus of the U.S. military because Saddam Hussein's regime may have weapons of mass destruction and is a greater threat than North Korea. But the truth is, U.S. armed forces have not found such weapons yet and did not confirm the existence of weapons within Iraqi borders before the conflict.

Because North Korea poses a greater threat than Iraq, the Bush administration must change its focus. Also, the media must not continue handling the nuclear threat in Asia as a secondary concern. The North Korean government remains intent on starting a war by pushing ahead with plans to begin a nuclear program and is positioned perfectly to launch nuclear arms onto U.S. soil.

Americans must redirect their attention to the rogue country that can fire a nuclear warhead literally with the push of a button.

Frontlines are the opinion of The Western Front editorial board: Paul Nicholas Carlson, Brianna 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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Democracy will not work in Iraq



Brad Nehring

COMMENTARY

Now that the United States is officially at war with Iraq, many Americans are wondering what will happen to the troubled nation once the conflict is over. President Bush is determined to overthrow the crumbling Iraqi dictatorial regime and install a finely crafted democratic system. If Bush thinks this plan will succeed, then he is being ignorant.

The contrast between Western and Middle Eastern cultures is undeniable. In the United States, and most other Western democracies, a separation of church and state exists; religion and politics rarely interfere with each other. Most Muslim countries are just the opposite. The Quran not only provides the fundamentals of the Islamic faith, but also establishes the foundation for

national and cultural institutions. Think of the Bible and the Constitution rolled into one.

That having been said, the Quran is not democratic. The Quran, which forms the backdrop for virtually every facet of Muslim life, revolves around the idea of a patriarchal society. Men are placed in the forefront, given the duty of caring for their wives and children, protecting them and keeping them in line. As a result, women in Muslim nations live a subservient lifestyle. The Quran's text also condemns groups such as Christians and homosexuals. It is not feasible to think that a democracy could exist in a society governed by a religion that promotes such inequality.

Another factor diminishing the democracy plan is geography. Iraq is located in the heart of the Middle East, and of the six countries that border the nation, only Turkey is democratic. Even if a democracy could be installed, it would be impractical in a nation nestled between Iran and Syria, two of

the largest fundamentalist Muslim powers in the world. The Middle East is not in any way a democratic region, and a democratic government in Iraq would clash with the nations that share its borders.

Finally, the United States does not have a very good track record with this sort of ordeal. Past presidents have attempted to install governments and otherwise interfere with other war-torn nations. Examples include Iran in the '50s, Vietnam in the '70s, Grenada in the '80s and Panama throughout the 20th century, to name a few — all instances of the U.S. government trying to involve itself in the affairs of another country. Not a single one of these efforts succeeded. Each of them left the nations in as much, if not more, turmoil than they were in before the involvement of the United States.

Many Americans will say that a democratic government in Iraq will be the ideal solution to Iraq's problems. Saddam Hussein's corrupt regime must

See IRAQ, Page 16

Bush's SARS policy protects citizens



Meaghan Ord

COMMENTARY

President Bush's most recent executive order, which allows the federal government to involuntarily quarantine people who have the mysterious disease Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, protects American citizens from the contagious illness.

The quarantine order is necessary to assist U.S. officials in controlling SARS, which is known to spread quickly and is increasingly becoming an issue in America.

The federal government should be able to quarantine people with SARS whether or not it is voluntary because it prevents the spread of the infection. Coughing or sneezing spreads the contagious virus, which requires standing 3 to 6 feet from an infected person, said Dr. James Hughes, director of the National Center for

Infectious Disease at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Researchers have not yet found a cure for SARS, although they have now developed a diagnostic test to determine the presence of the SARS virus. Since the research for the illness is in the beginning stages, professionals must have access to people who are infected in order to obtain information on the infection to seek a cure. Health officials in Hong Kong are using ribiviron, recently called the most reliable drug in improving SARS symptoms.

While holding a person involuntarily can seem like harsh treatment, people who are quarantined should cooperate with the government in order to improve the health of citizens within the nation.

While the government cannot control the spread of the disease, if infected, it can control whether or not the disease is spread to other people as Quarantining an infected person manages the disease and will therefore help diminish it.

See SARS, Page 16

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A coffeehouse church?

BELLINGHAM – In today's culture, cafés have become friendly gathering places for meeting and discussing things with others. "So, why not consider 'church' a friendly place to gather and discuss our faith journey?" asks David Korsen, pastor of Fourth Corner Community Church. "And what better place to do that than in a café-style setting?"

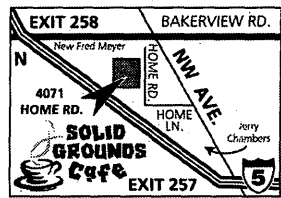
Beginning Sunday, April 13, Fourth Corner is "re-visioning" their Sunday AM worship gathering as a coffeehouse they are calling the **SOLID GROUNDS CAFÉ**. Worshipers will have the option of sitting at coffeehouse-style tables or "traditional seating."

"Some may think this sounds 'sacriligious,'" says Korsen. "But from a scriptural standpoint, 'table fellowship' has always been central to Christian gatherings. In fact, in the

early years of Christianity, churches met in the informal setting of homes."

Also, in order to bring a missions focus to **SOLID GROUNDS**, Fourth Corner will be serving **Pura Vida Coffee** whose net profits benefit at-risk children in coffee growing regions of the world.

Fourth Corner is located at **4071 Home Road**, near the intersection of Bakerview and Northwest. Worship is at 10:00 AM Sundays. For more information, call **647-LIFE** or visit www.fourthcorner.net.



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Standards: Race is grounds for bias in admissions

Continued from Page 13

accomplish much to be admitted.

Advocates of affirmative action argue that decades of treatment as sub-human and second-class citizens warrant to provide minorities with compensation. After all, if it were discovered at half-time that the referees at a basketball game were biased and gave one team an extra 20 points, the referees would be thrown out, and the disadvantaged team would be given an automatic 20 points. That same team, however, would not be awarded a free 20 points at the half time of every game they played. It would be equally ridiculous to give the children of those players 20 points in their playground games.

In the same spirit, any injustice should be treated case by case. Slavery was horrible, and segregation was not better, but these situations came to an end. These victims are no longer disadvantaged and their children (and grandchildren) have not suffered these injustices and do

not need the help. Giving a black student a free spot in a university will not make up for past discrimination. Specific action should be taken for specific violations. Punishing those who have earned their position but are not a minority is not the answer.

Luckily, it is illegal for any university in Washington state to use race as a factor for university admissions. Western uses the idea of multi-racial actions which means promotion or involvement with minority clubs instead of appearance as a factor. Prospective students get recognition for being a member of Brown Pride instead of being black. Nevertheless, the U.S. Supreme Court needs to take this opportunity to stop racial preferences and make a move to end affirmative action. The idea of a society oblivious to race may be an idealistic dream, but the hope of a world in which someone is not denied recognition because of the color of their skin could be a reality.

Culture: Race needed to ensure equal opportunity

Continued from Page 13

based more on a person's cultural experience than their race. One of Western's goals is to recruit students with diverse experiences rather than diverse skin color, Western's director of admissions Karen Copetas said.

This policy leaves itself vulnerable to admitting mostly white students who have different cultural experiences coming from east and west suburbia and leaving out minorities whose ancestry and upbringing, not location, contribute most to diversity.

Opponents of the U of M's entry policy argue that it weakens the institution and its reputation by admitting racial minorities rather than more qual-

ified applicants.

If a school had to revise its admission policy and accept only the top percentage of all students in a predominantly white state, then its reputation would be severely tarnished. The school would become highly regarded among the Ku Klux Klan but not much elsewhere.

In a country that prides itself on its diversity and multicultural background, it is important to maintain that status not just in employment, but in the workplace and areas of higher education. If the court rules against the U of M, it will be a step backward in this country's fight for equal opportunity.

Deadlines

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Friday paper: previous Wednesday, 3 p.m.
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Iraq: U.S. will not be able to separate church and state

Continued from Page 14

be torn down, and a U.S.-governed democracy would be an easily-controlled puppet government for the United States to maintain.

Iraq is indeed a broken empire with a crooked government that must be replaced. Many factors go against the idea of democracy, however, and it seems ludicrous to even consider it as an alternative government.

If the U.S. government wants to be successful in Iraq, it should examine the recent history of Pakistan. In 2001, after a decade of civil war and conflict with India, the Pakistani military appointed army chief Pervez Musharraf to the

position of Chief Executive of Pakistan. Since then, Pakistan and its people have experienced economic prosperity under Musharraf's reformist rule. If Bush was to install the same system of military-appointed rule in Iraq, perhaps the nation would experience the same economic success as Pakistan did.

When the war in Iraq is over, Bush will have a ruined nation to rebuild. He has stated before that his intention is to install a democracy in the war-torn nation. If this takes place, the Iraqi people will certainly face a new set of problems dealing with their culture, religion and way of life.

SARS: containment of patients vital to prevent spreading of disease

Continued from Page 14

Bush's executive order protects American citizens from the mysterious disease. SARS is highly contagious and this order is a necessary measure to control and prevent the spread of the illness; it also

gives researchers access to the infection. Quarantining people infected with SARS allows health officials to control the people with the disease as well as to control the disease itself from being contracted to other people.

"SARS is highly contagious and this order is a necessary measure to control ... the illness"

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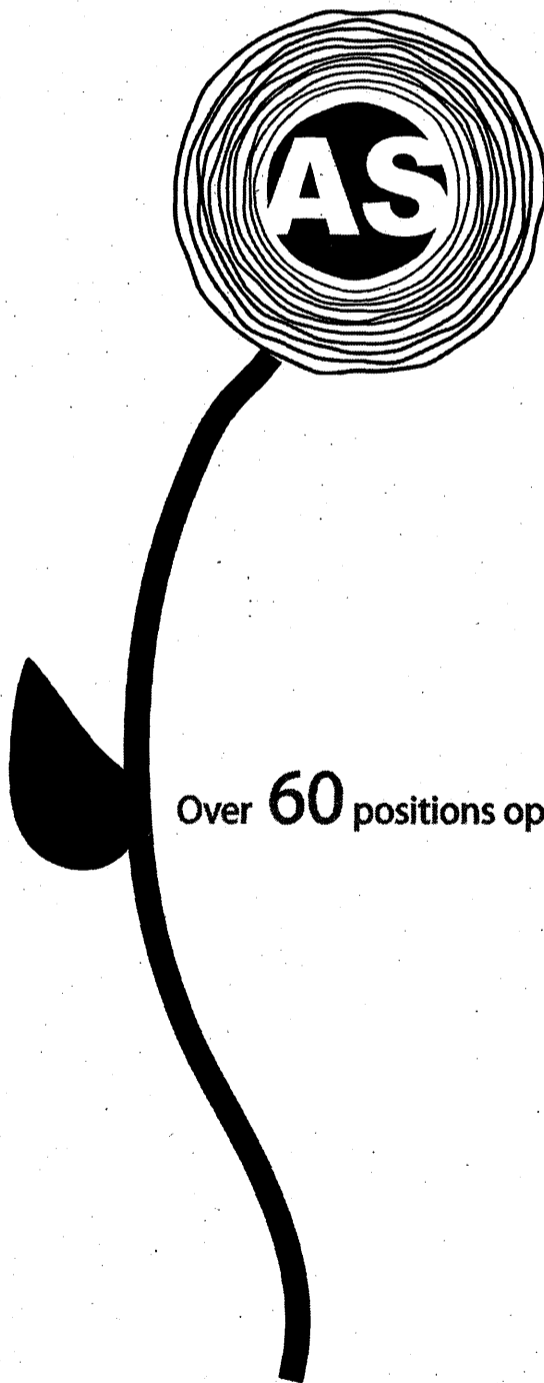
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