

## Hiking in the hills

AS Hiking and Backpacking Club explores the Northwest. See Story, Page 13.

## Ante up

Western students gamble in style at the 26th annual Casino Night. See Story, Page 10.



FRIDAY, May 24, 2002

# The Western Front

Western Washington University

Volume 121 Issue 15

Bellingham, Washington

## Sex offenders struggle to fit into society

### State law requires police to track sexual offenders

By P. Nicholas Carlson  
THE WESTERN FRONT

State law regulates sexual offenders, not individual communities. Cities like Bellingham, Ferndale, Marysville and many other cities in Washington manage and track registered sexual offenders.

According to Washington state law, people convicted of sexual crimes must register with the sheriff of the county where they want to reside. The offender must register within 24 hours of their release from incarceration. The law applies to people convicted in other states as well and failing to register is a felony.

"Law enforcement monitors where the offender lives and their address," Ferndale Detective Mike Wetsch said. "The Department of Corrections is responsible for monitoring their treatment."

Wetsch said sexual offenders do not migrate specifically to the Bellingham area.

"I don't think they do," Wetsch said. "No area in Whatcom County is favored more than any other. They return back to an area they're familiar with."

Even so, the threat of sex offenders converging on an area where registration laws are lax still exist, Marysville Police Department Sgt. Goldman said.

"These sex offenders do talk," Goldman said. "If they find out

there's a place that doesn't check on them, where do you think they're going to go?"

Whatcom County is home to 368 sex offenders, said Thad Allen, Department of Corrections officer.

Registered offenders are ranked by the likelihood they will reoffend.

"A person convicted of a sexual crime is ranked according to their crimes," Goldman said.

One-time offenders are typically ranked a Level I risk, Goldman said. He added they were unlikely to reoffend. Information for Level I offenders is released to a limited number of people.

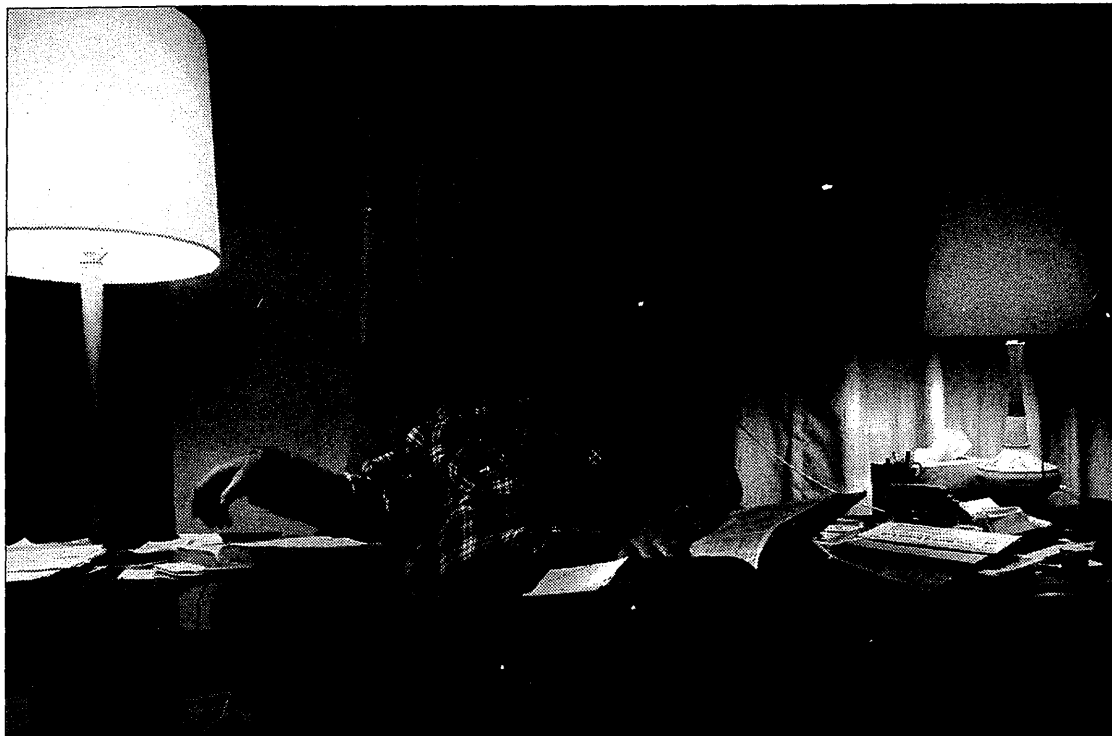
"The information is on a need to know basis," Goldman said. "For the protection of neighbors and their families, then they need to know."

Level II offenders are moderately likely to offend again, Goldman said. Marysville police release the pictures of these offenders to local newspapers. Wetsch said officers also release a photo and description of the crime to schools.

Level III offenders are high-risk, Wetsch said. In addition to sending out the same information for Level II offenders, the offender's name, address and description are also sent.

Whatcom County publishes a list of registered offenders on its

See LAW, Page 4



Evan Parker/The Western Front

"I had to be locked up to be set free," says Whatcom County level III registered sex offender Fredrick Bryan as he reads through the Bible. Bryan, a born-again Christian, who served time for incest, is one of the 368 registered sex offenders who live throughout the county.

### Sex offenders adjust to life on the outside

By Andrea Jasinek  
THE WESTERN FRONT

As a level III sex offender and Bellingham resident, Steve Rode was convicted of raping a 4-year-old girl and a 9-year-old boy.

Sex offenders in Whatcom County have felt increased pressure from the public recently because of heightened media coverage of their presence.

The first conviction, for the

rape of the girl, came when Rode was 10, he said. He was placed in the OK Boys' Ranch, a halfway house for troubled youth, where he was sexually and physically tormented.

"The big guys would pick on the little guys," Rode said. "They would take you out and sodomize you in the woods."

At age 15, he was convicted of raping a 9-year-old boy and sent to jail for 132 days.

According to the Bellingham Police Department's Web site,

Rode was labeled a Level III sex offender because he alluded to fantasizing about reoffending.

Rode, now 24 years old, adamantly denied the prospect of re-offending.

"Why would they (the public) treat me like I'm likely to re-offend after 10 years?" he said. "If they think I'm going to re-offend, they have another thing coming."

The possibility that level III sex offenders could reoffend is

See OFFENDER, Page 4

## Riggins settles on dean position

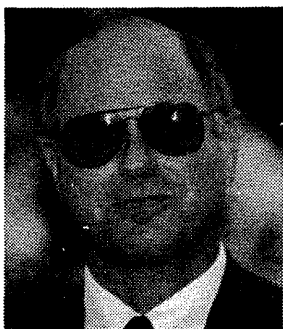
By Megan Lewis  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Ronald Riggins has had a restless career at Western, going from dean position to dean position, but he was recently named the permanent dean of Fairhaven College.

Riggins was the interim dean of fine and performing arts and acting chairman of modern and classical languages. Both of which he knew nothing about, he said. He has been interim dean of Fairhaven since 2001.

"I've proven that you don't need to know anything about anything to manage," Riggins said. "My only acquaintance with the arts was listening to country music. Somebody once asked me, 'Like Hungarian folk music?' And I said 'no, Garth Brooks.' After they all fell out of their chairs, we got along just fine."

After a nationwide search,



Ronald Riggins

Provost Andrew Bodman announced the new permanent dean on Tuesday.

"During the lengthy search process, Riggins once again demonstrated his strong commitment to the mission of Fairhaven College, and to student and faculty collaboration in interdisciplinary study with an emphasis on diversity and pluralism," Bodman said in a press release.

Riggins said he wants to create a meaningful and supportive environment for faculty so they will look forward to coming to work. For the students, he hopes to encourage them to take risks and support their dreams for the future.

"I like the style of learning in Fairhaven and I like the reverence of the students and the way they challenge and test things," Riggins said.

While working at Fairhaven, Riggins gained overwhelming support from the staff, faculty and students, Fairhaven professor Kathryn Anderson said.

"(He earned support) from many who often disagree with each other and I think that's evidence of a masterful administrator who can somehow bring order to chaos," Anderson said.

Western senior Katie Davidson said Riggins has a

See DEAN, Page 4

## Environmental group sues chocolate makers

By Derek Sheppard  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Some of the world's largest chocolate companies are under pressure from an environmental group because of the levels of lead and cadmium present in chocolate products.

American Environmental Safety Institute, a California-based non-profit group, is suing chocolate companies for allegedly breaking a California law. Proposition 65, states products such as foods containing hazardous materials, must have warning labels.

Roger Carrick, an outside legal counsel for AESI, said chocolate companies, including Hershey Foods Corporation, Mars Incorporated, Nestle USA, Inc. and Kraft Foods North

America, Inc., all sell products that contain dangerous levels of lead and cadmium.

"About 68 percent of all the products we tested exceeded California Proposition 65 standards," he said.

Michele Korash, a partner in Morrison & Forester, which is representing the chocolate companies, said AESI's claims have no merit and have no connection to Proposition 65.

"It's very distressing to these companies that claims about the safety of products that children eat would be made without scientific basis," she said.

She said the Food and Drug Administration specifically looked at the safety of chocolate last year and found no serious health risks.

See CHOCOLATE, Page 4

## COPS BOX

**University Police**

**May 21, 7:49 p.m.:** UP responded to a report of a Volkswagon Scirocco stolen from parking lot 21 C. UP has no suspects.

**May 20, 6:30 a.m.:** UP responded to a vehicle prowling call. The car's window was broken out and several items inside were in disarray, but nothing was reported missing.

**May 17, 10:53 p.m.:** UP responded to a report of harassment and threats by a man in Buchanan Towers. The suspect was arrested and booked into Whatcom County Jail for felony phone harassment and trespassing.

## Bellingham Police

**May 21, 6:06 p.m.:** Officers responded to a report of malicious mischief in the 900 block of Lakeway Drive. Officers arrested one suspect.

**May 21, 3:13 p.m.:** Officers arrested a suspect in the 1200 block of East Sunset Drive for third-degree theft and possession of methamphetamines.

**May 21, 12:00 p.m.:** Officers responded to a report of drugs present in the 2000 block of Cornwall Avenue. The drugs and paraphernalia were impounded for destruction.

**May 20, 11:40 p.m.:** Officers responded to a complaint in the 3400 block of Plymouth Drive. An unknown man was running through a backyard. No suspects were caught.

*Compiled by Matt Dornan*

# Viking Voices

What do you think about the proposed 25 percent to 30 percent increase in parking fees to help fund the future parking garage?

*Compiled by Jaclyn Ruckle*

**Online poll results: 92.9 percent of 14 voters said the increase would be absurd. 7.1 percent said they would not mind.**

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



**Sabrina Hursh**  
International business major



**Esther Coston**  
English major



**Peter Sowell**  
History major

**“No way, it's not fair to have (students) pay for it now when they won't be able to use it (later).”**

**“I think they should increase fees as long as students can park for free once it is built.”**

**“It's a good idea. We need the money from somewhere.”**

# AP WIRE NEWS BRIEFS

## STATE NEWS

**Jury selection begins in child rape case**

Jury selection is taking place in Montesano, Wash., for the trial of a female bowling alley owner accused of having sex with a 14-year-old boy.

Dewanna Granberg, 35, has been charged with third-degree child rape.

Mark McCauley, Grays Harbor Superior Court judge, ordered Granberg to submit nude photos to the court to match the boy's description of her physical characteristics.

Granberg and her husband own the Viking Bowl in Westport, Wash. The boy was a former employee.

**Jury will hear Seattle tourist murder case**

Jury members will hear the trial of a Seattle man accused of killing a Minnesota tourist.

Defense lawyers for Grin

Arkanit said in closing arguments that police arrested the wrong man.

Prosecutors said no evidence is available to suggest anyone else was responsible.

Mark Acaley, 25, was a passenger in a car stopped at an intersection in Seattle's International District. Police said Arkanit fired into the car in April 2001, killing Acaley.

## NATIONAL NEWS

**Gunman surrenders after freeing hostages**

A gunman inside a Texas credit union freed two female hostages and surrendered after an eight-hour standoff.

Police said the gunman fired into the San Antonio Federal Credit Union on Tuesday in an apparent robbery attempt.

Officers said the women hid in a utility closet after they heard the shots and alerted police.

An FBI representative said

the suspect fired at tactical officers surrounding the building on Tuesday afternoon, but no one was injured.

**New FBI warning tightens security in New York**

Security is tighter around New York City landmarks after a new FBI warning issued Tuesday.

The bureau has unconfirmed information that landmarks such as the Statue of Liberty might be targeted by terrorists.

Security zones are in place to keep vessels from operating within 150 feet of Ellis or Liberty Islands.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Europe will house men who held civilians hostage**

A final agreement was reached on what will happen to the Palestinians who took more than 200 civilians hostage at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem for more than a

month.

On Tuesday, members of the European Union gave their approval to a plan to distribute the 13 men to various European countries.

**Countries still divided on whale hunting**

Icelanders walked out of the five-day International Whaling Commission meeting after the country's bid for full membership was turned down for the second straight year. Iceland is threatening to resume whale hunts without the commission's approval.

Divisions exist within the commission on whether the 1986 global ban imposed on commercial whaling should be lifted.

Delegates said whale populations are large enough to sustain limited catches. However, Japan faces strong opposition from countries such as the United States and Australia.

*Compiled by Romeelah Payofelin AP Wire courtesy KUGS 89.3-FM*

## Coming in the Next Issue:

**News:** Neighbors react to sex offenders in Whatcom County.  
**Accent:** Local spas offer relaxation and pampering.  
**Sports:** Ski-to-Sea takes place on Memorial Weekend.

## Corrections and Clarifications

In the May 21 issue of The Front, the Sheriff's detective did not say the Bellingham Police Department has been negligent in keeping track of sex offenders in Whatcom County.

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

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Advertising inquiries should be directed to the business office in College Hall 07, or by phone to (360) 650-3161.

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

## WWU Official Announcements

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/7287, or brought in person to Commissary 113A. DO NOT SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS DIRECTLY TO THE WESTERN FRONT. Phoned announcements will not be accepted. All announcements should be signed by originator.

PLEASE POST

- FALL QUARTER DEGREE APPLICANTS must have applications on file in the registrar's office, OM 230, by June 7.
- THE ACADEMIC COORDINATING COMMISSION meets May 28 for its final session of the year.
- SUMMER SESSION REGISTRATION: Pick up a bulletin and start planning for the six-week session (June 25-Aug. 2) or nine-week session (June 25-Aug. 23). Call Dave Plakos at 650-2841 for more information or visit <http://www.acadweb.wvu.edu/eesp/>
- THE MILLER ANALOGIES TEST (MAT) will be given in OM 120 at 2 p.m. June 5. Registration is required in OM 120 or by calling X/3080. \$35 fee is payable at time of test. Not administered individually. Test takes about 1 1/2 hours. Limit: 16 students.
- THE MATH PLACEMENT TEST is offered in OM 120 at 3 p.m. June 3 and 10, and at 9 a.m. May 30 and June 6 and 13. Registration not required. Students must bring photo identification, student number, Social Security number and No. 2 pencil. \$15 fee is payable in exact amount at time of testing. Allow 90 minutes. Schedule and sample problems may be found at [www.ac.wvu.edu/~assess/tc.htm](http://www.ac.wvu.edu/~assess/tc.htm).
- THE TEST FOR ENTRANCE INTO TEACHER EDUCATION (TETEP) will be given in OM 120 at 2 p.m. June 4. Registration is required in OM 120 or by calling X/3080. A \$25 fee is payable in the exact amount at test time. Not administered individually. Allow 2 1/2 hours.
- "DIGITAL SALON," AN EXHIBITION SHOWCASING DIGITAL ART created by undergraduates throughout the state, runs through May 31 at the VU Gallery, VU 507.
- THE CENTER FOR SERVICE LEARNING IS RECRUITING applicants for the 2002-03 academic year. Do you want to make a difference in your community and have work study or subsidized loans? Applications are available online at [www.ac.wvu.edu/~csl](http://www.ac.wvu.edu/~csl) or in WL 481. Questions may be addressed to Lisa Moulds, X/6515.
- CAN'T FIT THOSE LAST COUPLE OF CREDITS in your schedule this summer? Take an online course through Extended Education and Summer Programs. No specific class time to meet. Fit your education around your schedule. For information, call X/3308 or X/3717.
- INFORMATION ABOUT NATIONAL TESTING is available at the Testing Center, OM 120.
- SEVERAL JOB SEARCH AND CAREER WORKSHOPS are offered through the Career Services Center. Signup is required. For detailed workshop information or to sign up, see [www.careers.wvu.edu](http://www.careers.wvu.edu), stop by OM 280, or call X/3240.

# Housing renewals high, no room problems anticipated

**Juli Robinson**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Willy Hart, associate director of facilities for university residences, said housing contract renewals are the highest they have been since 1998.

He said 1,088 housing contracts were renewed this year compared to 958 last spring.

Although more students will be returning, he said incoming students have no need to worry.

"I don't anticipate any drastic situations that we might get into," he said. "We're still anticipating at this point that we will have enough room."

In addition, Hart said the total number of students on campus this spring is the second largest occupancy in the last 10 years. The current occupancy falls only behind the incoming class of 2000, which had the largest occupancy in Western's history.

The number of students currently on campus is 3,317 compared to approximately 3,400 in 2000.

In 1999, the number of returning residents dropped by 4 percent and has gradually increased each year since.

Hart said the total number of on-campus residents for next year will be more accurate as they get closer to July, when they assign the first set of housing assignments.

"It looks like at this point we'd open up with 60 more beds in use than we did last year," he said.

Hart said housing reviews the number of Whatcom Community College residents and super-single rooms when assigning rooms for incoming residents in the fall.

*"I don't think you can ever underestimate the benefits of living in a place whose goals are to build community."*

**Aubrae Vanderpool**  
Assistant Resident Director

They are the first to be cut when rooms for incoming students are needed and he said they have 200 spaces to work with if necessary for the fall.

Next year Hart said housing has designated 22 rooms for triple occupancy and the university plans to add 10 to 12 more each year until they reach a desired goal of 90.

Hart said he thinks several factors contributed to the increase in renewals this year, including the positive response from the quality of

life surveys and this year's housing exposition.

"It would indicate to us that students are pleased with the services," he said.

Western sophomore and Buchanan Towers Resident Adviser Erin Wehmeyer said she also thought the housing exposition went well.

The expo, which was modified this year, is an event that gives returning students a chance to tour residence halls when deciding where to live.

In past years each residence hall set up a booth in the multi-purpose room.

Aubrae Vanderpool, assistant resident director in Beta Gamma said living on campus is an advantage since students are near the buildings and services the campus has to offer.

"I don't think you can ever underestimate the benefits of living at a place whose goals are to build community and provide resources and services to students," Vanderpool said.

Hart and Wehmeyer said it is hard to find the main cause for the increase in housing renewals, but said it is likely because of positive experiences students had while living on campus.

"I think it's a personal decision," Wehmeyer said. "There's no one single easy answer as to why."

# Book requests needed Professors must give bookstores requests or buyback will suffer

**Christina Tercero**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Many students greet the end of the school year with relief. Projects are completed, finals are over and grades no longer matter — at least not for several weeks.

But one last item remains on the checklist: Selling back old textbooks.

"Once I had to sell my books back because I needed money to go home," Western senior Shelly Baynes said. "Sometimes you depend on the money from selling your books back and sometimes you don't get it."

Book buyback has always frustrated students, said Dave MacAuley, the Associated Student Bookstore manager.

He said he believes students are frustrated because they do not fully understand the buyback procedure. A bookstore is able to buy back textbooks when teachers turn in their book orders for the next quarter.

Bookstore employees are then able to buy the textbooks from students because they know the books will be re-used the following quarter.

"The sooner teachers know their information and get it to the bookstore, the more it's going to help their students," said Tom Van Sant, manager of the College Bookstore in Sehome Village. "They'll be able to save money."

Van Sant said when a bookstore does not know if a book is needed for the next quarter, the leftover books are packed up and sent back to the publisher.

Also, none of those books are bought back from students. He said it can be frustrating to discover after buyback that teach-

ers needed those books.

Van Sant said he understands that before summer quarter many professors do not know what they will be teaching in the fall.

However, Van Sant said he encourages professors to get their book orders in as soon as possible.

He said his goal is to have at least half of the professors' course adoptions or book orders in by June 1 for the following school year.

As of now, Van Sant said, approximately 15 course adoptions have been submitted for the fall out of almost 2,000 courses that will be taught.

He said the deadline for professors to submit their book orders for fall quarter is June 1.

If they have not, they can still get them in before buyback.

If professors wait too much longer, though, many students will not be able to sell their books back and others will be forced to buy those same textbooks new, next year.

"Everybody wins in buyback — the students, the teachers and the bookstore," Van Sant said.

Robert Perks, the textbook manager at the AS Bookstore, said students will get a larger percentage of their money back if they sell their books as early as possible, before bookstores reach their limit for used textbooks.

He said it is also a good idea for students to sell their books back every quarter, so students have less of a chance getting stuck with useless textbooks.

Perks said he knows Bellingham has other options for students to sell their books back, and he encourages students to use them.

## Top Three Residence Renewals

2002	2000	1998
Biram Wood — 191	Biram Wood — 132	Biram Wood — 244
Fairhaven — 147	Buchanan Towers — 108	Ridgeway Beta — 167
Buchanan Towers — 139	Edens Hall — 105	Buchanan Towers — 165
<b>Total Renewals</b>		
2002 — 1,088	2000 — 825	1998 — 1,113

## NEW Online from Continuing & Independent Learning

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## Chocolate: Few foods free from metal contaminants

Continued from Page 1

Marc Steifelman, an environmental toxicologist with the Environmental Protection Agency, said lead exposure causes subtle behavioral defects such as small declines in IQ.

According to a report by Occupational Disease Panel, long-term, low-level cadmium exposure can lead to rare cases of kidney failure and the prevalence of kidney stones.

Korash said the candies tested contained lead and cadmium levels at one part per million.

"(The levels) are so small so the numbers don't matter much," she said. "It's going to vary from product to product, day to day."

Carrick said AESI research tells a much different story.

Consuming two cups of cocoa powder would expose a child to the same amount of lead as would licking three square inches of dry, leaded paint, he said.

Different types of chocolate products contain varying levels of lead contamination, he said.

"Hard chocolate candy has 27

times the lead as broccoli," Carrick said. "By comparison, there's a significant amount of lead in these products."

Steifelman said the chocolate figures do not appear to be alarming.

A person would have to eat large quantities of chocolate to see any negative health effects because of lead, but Steifelman said he did not know exactly how much.

"If you ate that much chocolate, you'd probably have other health problems," he said.

When children play outside, they are exposed to soil that contains lead, but there is no short-term danger, he said.

"Kids are likely to eat a tenth of a gram of soil," Steifelman said. "That would likely have 100 times the lead as chocolate."

In addition, Korash said heavy metals such as lead and cadmium naturally occur in many harvested foods such as cocoa beans in small, harmless amounts.

Lead and cadmium are not introduced during the manufac-

turing process, as AESI claims, she said.

"There are no other potential sources of the lead," Korash said.

Western senior Katie Boyes said if metals are present in low quantities it will not affect her consumption of chocolate.

"I love chocolate," she said. "Probably too much, so it probably won't stop me (from eating chocolate)."

Jen Warwick, a Western senior, said a significant problem with chocolate would have been fixed long ago by the companies.

"I've been eating chocolate all my life and I've had no problem with it," she said. "I still love chocolate."

Both sides disagree upon the reasoning behind the lawsuit.

The AESI lawsuit is an "alarmist movement to extract a settlement," Korash said.

AESI had an opportunity to collect a monetary settlement from the companies, but a settlement was not made, Carrick said.

"If that were the case, we wouldn't be suing them," he said.

## Offender: Rode says he is not accepted by public

Continued from Page 1

always in the back of the public's mind. Rode said he faces discrimination at every turn.

"Colleges won't accept me — (Whatcom Community College's Board of Directors) said I was too dangerous and that they didn't want to take chances," he said. "I feel like I've been raped of my education. I'm too scared to go to Western because I heard the students carry weapons."

Even if Rode overcame his fear of an encounter with a gun-toting Western student, Western's admissions department probably would not accept him, said Michael Barr, assistant director of the Admissions Office.

"My instinct is that if we know (that they're a sex offender), we certainly wouldn't admit them," Barr said. "A student would have to self-disclose their status and we would take the case to the state. If the state decided it wasn't a safe situation, then obviously they wouldn't be admitted."

He said Western has never dealt with a prospective student who has disclosed his status as a sex offender.

"If they don't self-disclose,

then it's entirely possible that they could slip through (admissions)," Barr said.

Rode said he faces enough discrimination in everyday life to scare him away from applying to Western.

"People recognize me in a store and call 911," he said. "I get recognized all the time. The name-calling is really scary."

Rode said some stores, like the Bergsma Gallery and Café, refuse to serve him based on his sex offender status.

Tara McKee, manager of the Bergsma Gallery and Café, said the only reason she would ask a patron to leave would be if he or she was bothering the customers.

"We've had people come in and drink in the bathroom and disrupt the customers, and of course we ask them to leave," McKee said.

Rode said since he does not feel welcome at many places in town, he spends much of his time at home.

He lived with his parents for the first two years after his release.

Rode said after signs with his picture were plastered around

his neighborhood, he faced the stigma of being the neighborhood sex offender.

"The tenants reacted harshly," he said. "They put gun shells on their windowsills so I would see them as I walked by."

Right after Rode turned 18, he moved into his own place where he lived for two years.

Now Rode lives on Fraser Street, rarely leaving except to visit his private counselor, who the court ordered Rode to see.

Rick Ackerman, a Bellingham certified sex offender treatment provider, said his goal with offenders is to confront and change their abusive patterns.

"You need to confront their abusive patterns," Ackerman said. "Basically, what you have to do is hold them responsible using the law or counseling."

Rode said he has been trying to take responsibility for his actions using both the law and counseling and now he just wants to get on with his life.

"I did my time, and I've had a hard time getting through counseling, but I'm doing it," he said.

"People don't want to listen to my side of the story."

## Law: Sex offenders left unchecked

Continued from Page 1

Web site.

"The rating level of a sex offender determines how the offender is dealt with," Wetsch said. "A hearing is needed to either increase or decrease an offender's rating level."

Bellingham Police Department Sgt. Colin Emmett said approximately 120 registered sex offenders live in the Bellingham area. He said a majority of them have a Level I ranking. Emmett works on the Family Crimes Unit.

"We can arrest unregistered offenders and do," Goldman said.

Recently, Marysville police arrested a man for panhandling, Goldman said. The police did a background check, which revealed the panhandler was a sex offender registered in another city.

"Registered sex offenders cannot travel into another jurisdiction without a travel pass," Goldman said.

Marysville police discovered the panhandler left his registered jurisdiction without a pass and he was sent back.

After California passed "Megan's Law" in 1996, releasing offender's information to the

public became the standard. In the California case, a known child molester moved into the neighborhood of 7-year-old Megan Kanka, then raped and murdered her.

According to the Office of the Californian Attorney General, the Kankas pushed for law enforcement agencies to warn communities when high-risk sex offenders move into their neighborhoods.

Washington and California are the only two states that produced written evaluations of their registration laws, according to the Washington State Institute for Public Policy.

As of the last evaluation, in July 1996, 81 percent of convicted sex offenders living in Washington were registered.

"Ultimately, the jurisdiction where the offender is registered and lives has responsibility for them," Emmett said.

Emmett said no formal protocol for finding unregistered offenders exists.

"In all honesty, if they're unregistered, we won't be able to find them until they do something," Goldman said. "You can't go door to door trying to find them. There's just no method."

## Dean: Riggins commits to serve a diverse Fairhaven College community

Continued from Page 1

strong commitment to working with students and he takes action to make things happen.

"He works one-on-one with students to be at their level and he also sees his job to empower other people," Davidson said.

Riggins described himself as the glass containing really fine wine, Davidson said. No one notices the glass, but the glass is needed to drink the wine.

Fairhaven assistant professor John Bower said Riggins has tremendous commitment to how Fairhaven can serve a more diverse community.

"I hope the faculty will look at building something into our program that encourages and supports and expects that each student have an educational experience in a second culture," Riggins said.

Riggins joined the Western faculty in 1977 as an assistant pro-

fessor of physical education, health and recreation. In 1991 he became full professor, and department chair from 1988 to 1992.

*"I've proven that you don't have to know anything about anything to manage."*

Ronald Riggins  
Fairhaven College dean

As the faculty athletic representative he coordinated new policies and oversight systems when Western moved into the Division II National Collegiate Athletic Association.

While attending Indiana University, Riggins received his master's and doctorate in recreation and park administration with a concentration in higher education.

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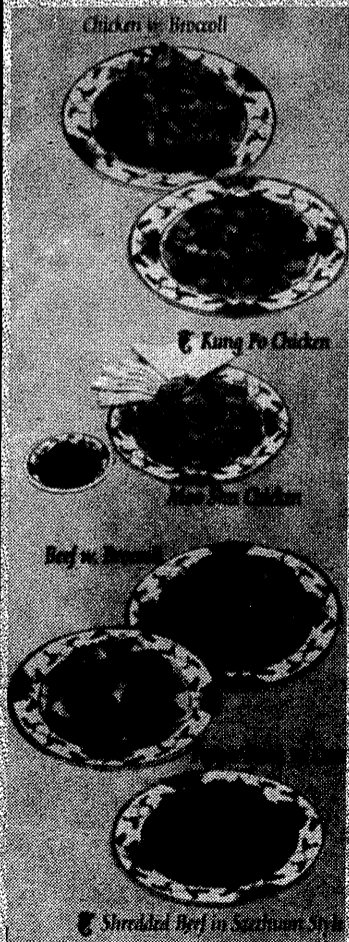
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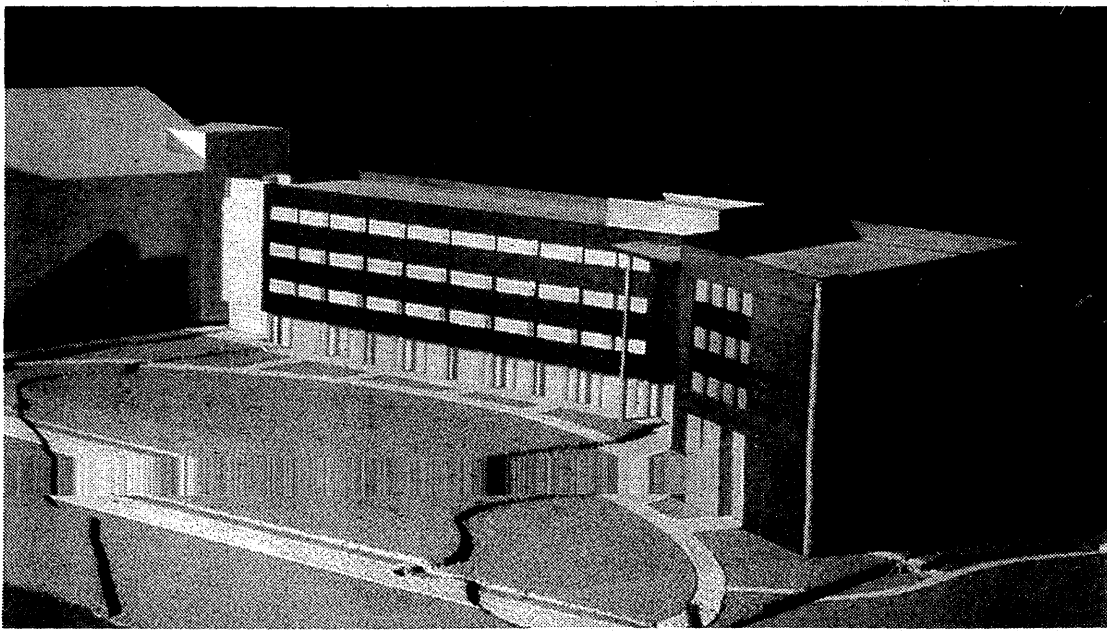


Image courtesy of Ed Simpson

The new Communications Building, scheduled to be completed in December 2003, will be located south of the Environmental Studies building.

## New Communications Building relieves cramped departments with new classrooms, technology

By Leah Hadfield  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western students and faculty face increasing limits on space availability in classrooms and labs. The new Communications Building will provide substantial relief to this problem, said Ed Simpson, the planning manager for Facilities Management.

The building will provide 1,400 classroom and lab seats, he said. The ground level has five lecture halls laid out much like the Science, Mathematics and Technology Education building, Simpson said.

"It really relieves the stress of confined spaces on the departments that are moving into it," Simpson said.

The Communications Building will house the journalism, communication, physics and computer sciences.

"I think originally, when the building was envisioned, they wanted to bring together departments that in some way could do cross work between the disciplines," Simpson said.

These departments will not be the only ones to have access to the new building.

Ron Kleinknecht, the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said the new classrooms will be available to all classes. The Communications Building will benefit all students at Western, he said.

The building will also give students access to new technologies, as well as hard-wired ports. The wireless communication will be used most for computers, but as technology advances it will have other uses, Simpson said.

The Communications Building will be located on the practice field south of the Environmental Studies building. Rick Sparks, the building's project manager, said the groundbreaking should take place in late August. He said the project should be substantially finished by December 2003.

To minimize the effects of construction on the campus, Simpson said a sound-isolation wall would be constructed between the site and the ground floor classrooms of the Environmental Studies building.

ing. He said, however, that construction noise will still happen. The current utility project should be near completion when the construction begins, Simpson said.

"It should not affect (traffic) near as much as the utility project that's been going on currently," he said. Planning for the Communications Building has been in the works for several years. Kleinknecht said projects like this require long-term planning. Sparks said the building will have an estimated \$26.5 million price tag. The money is coming from the state and is legislature-approved, he said. Although the capital budget made cuts in the state, Simpson said the Washington Legislature recognized Western's crunch for space. "This was a high-priority project in the state," Simpson said. "They like to see students not have to take class sitting in the aisle." Students and faculty are not the only people to benefit from the new building. The Communications Building will also offer free space for other programs, Simpson said.

## New police campaign enforces seatbelt laws

By Megan Lewis  
THE WESTERN FRONT

At 5:30 in the morning, Western junior Kristin Abbott fell asleep while driving home. She swerved into a semitrailer, her truck went airborne and landed on its passenger side.

Abbott said the next thing she remembered was waking up trapped in her truck. She was hanging by her seatbelt with medics surrounding her. The rescuers had to cut the cab open and use the Jaws of Life to pry the steering wheel and dashboard off her chest, Abbott said. An hour later, Abbott went to the emergency room.

Abbott walked away with a few cuts, bruises and some dental work.

To have more survival stories like Abbott's, a new seatbelt law will take effect on June 13. The seatbelt law will change from a secondary offense to a primary offense. Police officers will be able to pull over drivers for not wearing their seatbelts and give them an \$86 ticket, said Mark Medalen of the Washington Traffic Safety Commission.

Since 1986, the secondary law stated that police officers could only ticket seatbelt offenders if they were pulled over for another infraction, Bellingham Police Officer Paul Tillman said.

Under the new policy, a driver can be ticketed for every passenger younger than 16 years old without a seatbelt. A passenger older than 16 without a seatbelt can receive a ticket.

To inform the public of the new law, the Washington Traffic Safety Commission started the Click It or Ticket enforcement campaign on May 20. The campaign is nationally funded to put more law enforcement on the roads.

"We've been out looking for seatbelt violations, and they have substantially been tougher to find since they have started the Click It or Ticket campaign," Tillman said.

Although the secondary seatbelt law is still in effect, police officers are looking for violators to warn them about the new law and to possibly give them a ticket, if they are pulled over for another infraction.

"They are writing all kinds of people tickets in the next couple weeks leading up to June 13," Medalen said. "We want to let people know that this law is in the books, and we're serious about it, and it is time to make a change."

According to the Click It or Ticket enforcement campaign, research has shown a seatbelt can increase a person's chance of surviving a collision by 70 percent. Each year, approximately 630 people die on Washington roads.

"It's like one guy said, I've never unbuckled a dead person," Tillman said.

Tax dollars pay 30 percent of the medical costs from collisions. That amounts to about \$276 million a year in Washington. The average medical costs for unbelted drivers are \$11,000 more than those wearing their seatbelt.

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# Educators warn against UV rays

## Sun, tanning beds equally contribute to skin cancer

By Abiah Weaver  
THE WESTERN FRONT

On a sunny day, hundreds of students wearing tank tops and shorts flock to Red Square to soak up some rays. Most sun bathers do not think about sun block, skin cancer or wrinkles, but they should, health education professor Evelyn Ames said.

Every year, one million Americans learn they have skin cancer, according to the National Cancer Institute.

As part of this month's National Skin Cancer Awareness campaign, Ames said she stressed the methods of preventing skin cancer to her students.

"Many people have misconceptions about the sun, and they often overexpose themselves to harmful UV rays," she said.

Western freshman Brooke Ginn said she tries to spend as much time tanning in the sun as possible. Ginn said she also uses an artificial sun tanning bed once a week.

"I'm fair-skinned, and if I'm out in the sun, I'll fry within five minutes," she said. "But if I can expose myself first in the tanning bed, I don't burn as easily."

Ames said it is a misconception that people can prepare their skin for sun exposure by

using artificial sun tanning beds.

"People believe that tanned skin looks better than white skin, so they go tanning," Ames said. "What they don't realize is that they are still damaging their skin."

Ames said everyone should apply sun block with a sun protection factor of 15 to 30 at least 20 minutes before heading out into the sun, and reapply after a few hours, after swimming or after sweating to prevent skin cancer.

Avoiding direct sun exposure from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., when the sun's rays are the most intense, also prevents overexposure, she said.

Everyone is at risk for skin cancer, Ames said. People with fair skin, light hair and those that burn easily should avoid direct exposure to the sun because their skin lacks melanin, the dark pigment that protects the skin.

Ames said people who work for long periods out in the sun or have a family history of skin cancer are at greater risk for developing the disease.

"Kids our age are out in the sun all day, and we don't see the effects right away," Ginn said.

Western freshman Erin Haertel said she believes she



Evan Parker/ The Western Front

Ryan Driscoll, right, and Christian Wilson act as UV sponges in the yard of their High Street home.

will not see the effects of the hours she spends tanning until she is much older.

According to the National Cancer Institute, skin cancer can develop at any age and after only one deep sunburn.

A new growth that does not

heal in a reasonable amount of time can indicate skin cancer and should be examined by a doctor. Skin cancer, the most common type of cancer among Americans, can occur anywhere on the body, including the surface of the eye, according to

National Cancer Institute survey results.

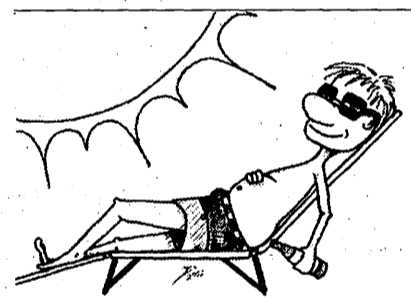
"The number (of skin cancer cases) is on the increase," she said. "People don't realize getting a sunburn, although it peels, doesn't protect them from getting cancer later."

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Men and women at least 15 years of age who have suffered from persistent asthma for at least 6 months are needed to participate in a clinical research study involving an investigational use of marketed drugs.

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Bellingham Asthma, Allergy & Immunology Clinic  
(360) 733-5733 or email: rlsapp@hinet.org

## Don't Get Burned



80 percent of skin cancer can be prevented

To prevent skin cancer:

- Wear sunblock SPF 15 to 30 every day.
- Wear sunglasses that protect against harmful UV rays.
- Avoid the sun from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. when the sun's rays are strongest.
- Avoid tanning booths and sunlamps; artificial light also causes cancer.

Skin cancer is 100 percent curable if detected early  
Skin cancer can be treated with surgery, chemotherapy and radiation therapy.

A mole might be cancerous if:

- One side does not match the other.
- The edges are irregular, ragged, notched or blurred.
- The color is irregular with patches of blue, red and/or white
- It is bigger than the size of a pencil eraser.

Information courtesy of the American Cancer Society

## Mondays

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## Faculty, staff collection postponed until next fall

By Betsy Anderson  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western's Special Collection event was postponed until fall because it was scheduled for the same time as the reorganization hearing, which faculty were already attending.

Despite the delay, Western's Special Collections Manager Tamara Belts said fall will be a prime time to grasp the interests of university newcomers.

"Fall is a time when everyone is excited," Belts said. "New students and professors are on campus and can hear about the event in the start of their career. It's a great time to showcase the collection."

Western's Collection, located in Wilson Library 279, includes professional research, scholarly books, journal articles, creative art, music pieces and reflective bibliographies produced by Western's staff, faculty, alumni and students.

Librarian Bela Foltin said the collection is a good way to showcase ideas and work by faculty members.

Professor of chemistry Gary Lampman said he contributed some materials to the collection as a unified student-teacher project.

All the contributions graduate and undergraduate chemistry students are making to the collection will attract attention, Lampman said. The collection will also create awareness of the things faculty members are doing, he said.

Belts came up with the idea to start hosting collection receptions two years ago when she first started working at Wilson Library.

"We want everyone to come," she said.

Many pieces in the collection are copies of art and written research materials and bibliographies although some materials include original pieces.

Two years ago the collection, called Faculty Publications, was smaller and was not supported with active solicitation.

Belts said collection staff was not out getting materials like they are now.

Foltin said Western has compiled 300 to 400 pieces.

"We keep adding articles and publications. The numbers change day by day," he said.

# Author unlocks secret to pleasure

By Romeelah Payofelin  
THE WESTERN FRONT

In a male-dominated society, a child's inborn ability to love freely is squashed, girls are not allowed to speak freely and boys are expected to suppress their emotions. This affects love, Carol Gilligan said.

Gilligan, a professor at New York University, came to Western May 16 to speak about her new book, "The Birth of Pleasure." The book, released earlier this month, was a personal journey, Gilligan said.

"After I wrote my book, 'In a Different Voice,' I remember thinking that there was a conversation under the conversation, and it had to do with love," she said. "All those concepts — self, morality, development — the ground they were standing on was love."

Gilligan's presentation coincided with this year's Scholars Week, May 13-17. Dana Jack, Fairhaven professor, helped arrange the visit. Gilligan was Jack's mentor while working on her doctorate degree at Harvard.

"A mentor-student relationship is critical, as a student can

learn a lot from a mentor," Jack said. "It was a coincidence she came to speak about her book during Scholars Week."

"The Birth of Pleasure" traces love's path using the myth of Psyche and Cupid. In this myth, Psyche was a princess whose beauty was compared to Venus. Venus, the goddess of love and beauty, asked her son, Cupid, to aim his bow and arrow at Psyche so she may be sacrificed to a dragon.

*"I think this is one reason why many people are unhappy in love because what is said to be love often feels like constraint."*

Carol Gilligan  
"The Birth of Pleasure" author

The myth comes from Apuleius' novel, *Metamorphoses*. In the novel, it is presented as an 'old wives' tale to a young woman who was kidnapped and taken to the forest on the eve of her seemingly perfect marriage.

Gilligan uses this story to show why love leads to the loss of one's self. However, she also showed how love can lead to happiness rather than tragedy.

She also examined the notion of why Western culture assumes love leads to loss. She found the reason for this assumption is because in order to love, vulnerability must be shown.

"Love means opening yourself to another and taking the other into yourself," Gilligan said.

"You'd have to be crazy in a hierarchy, such as patriarchy, to leave yourself open in this way," she said. "This is why in many relationships where people are struggling to open themselves to one another or be vulnerable to one another, invariably they can't."

She found in her research that men hide their emotions. She also found women were afraid to express themselves honestly.

"I remember asking one of the men I was working with when I was doing my research what his greatest fear was," Gilligan said. "He told me he feared seeing his wife in the arms of another man. There was something deeper than that, though. After working with him more,

he admitted he feared not being able to love his wife."

Gilligan said she is grateful to a woman in one of her early studies who asked, "Do you want to know what I think, or do you want to know what I really think?" She said that when people do not express what they are truly feeling or thinking, they do not form a true connection in a relationship.

"I think this is one reason why many people are unhappy in love because what is said to be love often feels like constraint," Gilligan said.

After writing the book, Gilligan said she sees the beginning of a new story — that love does not lead to tragedy.

"I think we are currently witnessing the end (of male dominated society), which makes this a very volatile time and also one that calls for creativity," she said.

Graduate student Whitney Garrison said she could not miss the opportunity to see Gilligan after she found out she would be speaking on campus.

"I've read about her, and in the context of feminist political theory, she's important," Garrison said.

## Hump Day Club helps students reduce stress Wednesdays mean movies and dip in school fountain

By Megan Lewis  
THE WESTERN FRONT

"Happy Humping" Western freshman Caroline Chapman said to fellow club members as they walked by between classes Wednesday morning.

Chapman, club president, started the Hump Day Club to take a break from school and to engage in activities every Wednesday evening with her friends.

"It is in the middle of the week, so it is like you are getting over the hump," Chapman said.

The club members participate in activities ranging from watching movies to swimming in the school fountain.

"We just get a bunch of people together to hang out and kick back as a stress reliever from

homework," Western freshman Jamie Clark said. "We have different activities every week."

*"It is in the middle of the week so it is like you are getting over the hump."*

Caroline Chapman  
Hump Day Club president

They enjoy intertwining their arms and legs in a giant game of twister with more than 20 students in Ridgeway Kappa and rolling pumpkins down a small hill for pumpkin bowling on Halloween, Western freshman Angie Cram said.

Chapman turned their activities

into a club to help pay for their expenses. The Associated Students gave \$50 to the club, which they used for T-shirts.

Each member now has a shirt with the saying "happy humping" across the front and a picture of a camel.

"The camel is our mascot because camels have humps," Cram said.

Chapman got the idea for the club from some friends at Central Washington University.

The Central students never officially made a hump day club, but they gave Wednesday the nickname and wished each other a happy hump day, Cram said.

AS clubs must submit applications to the Activities Coordinator Program adviser for approval.

### Associated Students Approval Process:

-Decide whether the club meets the requirements of a religious club or a limited membership organization (groups based on national chapters).

-Meet with the Activities Coordinator Program adviser to review the recognition process.

-Complete the club recognition request form and submit a copy of the club charter, including club by-laws and by-laws of sponsoring organizations.

-Attend an Activities Council meeting and be prepared to explain purpose of organization and how funding will be utilized.

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Weekly events calendar

## In the spotlight

May 24

-Spike and Mike's Sick and Twisted Festival of Animation is showing at the Pickford Cinema May 24-30. Tickets are \$4 to \$6.

-Dr. Andrew Vindich offers guidance on developing a plan to incorporate meditation and spirituality into everyday life 7:30 p.m. at Village Books. For more information call 671-2626 or 371-5560.

-Western's art department will display student artwork from the

2001-2002 school year at "The First Annual Spring Showcase."

An opening reception is scheduled from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on May 24. The exhibit is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday in the B-Gallery in Fine Arts 118. The event is free. For more information call 650-2119.

-Four bands play for \$4 each night, May 24-27 at The Factory. Bands include Reeks and the Wrecks, Year of No Lords, Tiger Uppercut and Kill Critic. For more information call 714-8154.

May 25

-Local plant experts teach about edible and medicinal qualities of native plants 11 a.m. at Ferndale's Tennant Lake Interpretive Center. Tickets are \$10 per person. For more information call 384-3064.

-More than 30 artists and craftspeople show pottery, photography and garden and herbal products at the Lummi Island Artist's Studio Tour. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. May 25 and 26. Call 758-7121 for more information.

May 26

-The Ski to Sea Race is 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. It begins at Mount Baker and ends at Marine Park at Bellingham Bay. The event ends in Fairhaven with food, crafts and entertainment from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The beer garden opens at noon. Musicians include Davis, All-American Playboys, Mellow Green and The Barbed Wire Cutters. For more information call the Bellingham/Whatcom Chamber of Commerce & Industry at 734-1330.

May 29

-Local author Clara Olink Kelly reads from her novel about her family's struggles at a Japanese internment camp 7 p.m. at Barnes and Noble Book-sellers. For more information call 647-7018.

May 30

-The Associated Students present "Pulp Fiction" 8 p.m. in Fraser Hall 3. The event is free. Call 650-6130 for information.

-Compiled by Leah Hadfield



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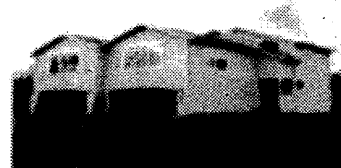
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Local musician Serene Peterson performs for captivated onlookers May 17 at Western B-Gallery's art auction in the Break Espresso coffee shop.

Carl Weiseth/ The Western Front

# Ent

Art, music and fresh coffee  
Espresso on May 17 for the clo  
silent art auction. Students and  
coffee house from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
Your Heart Breaks and Robin C  
artwork on display.

"I just thought this would be a  
help raise more money," said Sa  
major.

Although the final tally is not y  
ly matching the success of the a  
year.

Money raised through the auc  
created the pieces, and fund  
opened in fall to showcase stud  
and coordinate the art auction, s  
to display student art to the pub

"We've had auctions there be  
because people are coming in an  
"There is so much space right al  
face, but it's right there where

Local musician and filma  
guitar during the auction's rece

The sole member of You  
her music with short v  
vision she broug

was follo

# A medieval

By Abiah Weaver  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Students gathered in Carver Gym on Saturday with corsages on their wrists and crowns on their heads, complimented by long flowing evening gowns and three-piece suits. With big money on their minds and the jingle of poker chips in their pockets, students entered the gym, which was draped in streamers for a night of gambling.

Although the makeshift dance floor was virtually empty, Carver Gym resembled a typical high school dance, complete with a refreshment table and professional pictures. Students who gathered in the gym, for the most part, weren't interested in dancing — rather they came to play cards, roll dice and bet on the fastest horse.

With poker and Black Jack tables lining the room and horse racing bookies in the corner, students attending Casino Night 2002 were betting on winning, but most did not.

Playing for prizes instead of cash made losing less devastating for those who weren't very lucky, Western senior Denise Mickelsen said.

"I've been gambling in Las Vegas before and that's real money," she said. "It's kind of fun to play with fake money for a change."

Western sophomore Jessi Gable said she practiced at home on a miniature roulette table before coming to the event to increase her odds of winning. But halfway through the night Gable said she was losing more often than winning.

Western sophomore Christel Martin said she had trouble holding onto her winnings.

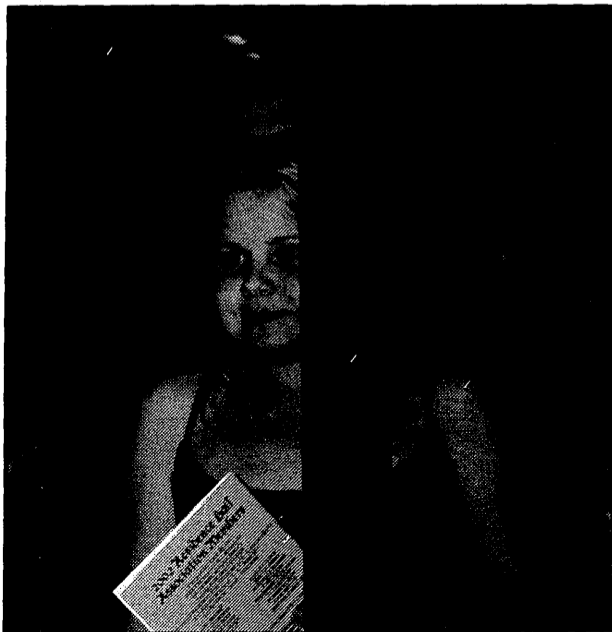
"I didn't win," Martin said, "but that's not why I came. I like the socializing and I love getting dressed up."

Some dressed in capes and crowns to fit this year's theme of "Midnight in the Medieval Garden."

The gym was decorated to look like a garden in a Medieval setting with painted crests lining the walls, plants scattered throughout the gym and a light resembling the moon hung above the dance floor.

At the door, players grabbed a plastic cup filled with \$500 in chips and started gambling. To get a raffle ticket from the loan sharks, players had to double their money; every \$1,000 in chips earned them another chance to win prizes.

Each hour players with the winning tickets won gift certificates and other prizes, including a Mariner's Family Fun Pack for four, a night's stay at the Westin Hotel in Seattle, gift certificates to Ticket Master and passes to World's Gym.



Western sophomore Kelly Colgan waits behind the wooden gates at the bookie station constructed in Carver Gym to place a bet on the next horse race projected on a screen for gamblers to watch.

Abiah Weaver/ The Western Front

Some of the prizes were donated from Bellingham area businesses, but the Residence Hall Association had to purchase the trips and gift certificates. Only a few participants won prizes from the raffle, but everyone walked away with something, said Adeline Strauss, RHA vice president and Western junior.

Everyone who attended the 26th annual, RHA sponsored Casino Night received a 20 percent off coupon for Bellis Fair Mall and discount coupons for Christo's Restaurant and Casino, Strauss said.

Western sophomore Amanda Bevan said besides the prizes, Casino Night gave students an excuse to pull their best dresses out of the closet and relive their high school prom.

Bevan said she talked her boyfriend David Wilson into driving to Bellingham from his home in Kent to come to the event. They didn't originally come to Casino Night to gamble, but ended up betting on the winning horse, she said.

"I just wanted to use my (prom) dress again," she said. "We needed an excuse to go out, and I actually won more than I lost."

For the most part, the stakes were low and little skill was required at the event. Many

students at Casino Night and card counters.

Western freshman and f track bookie behind wood recorded horse race was p their favorite horse.

"I wanted to do this bec said.

Professional dealers fro their time to deal at the Bl roulette and craps tables,

"We've never had profess "They gave up their fra players."

Across the gym, student cated poker games, Let It little as they wanted or ris

Upstairs, removed from experienced players conce Students bet upwards of \$ win big.

"I wanted to bet all of m senior and volunteer poke

Although approximate paying an admission char their ticket, Casino Night

"Rarely do we actually r come close to breaking eve pretty good and I would sa

Besides the students a younger siblings placed b People under 21 are not Strauss said. Casino Nigh games without the pressu said.

Black said after she fini she wanted to watch some said she had never gamble

"It was easier than I the both sides of the games (a

# entertained by art

By Carl Weiseth

THE WESTERN FRONT

ew Bellingham residents to Break night of the Western B-Gallery's community members gathered at the enjoy live musical performances by , as well as to bid for the student

lly fun way to display our art and atha Ring, Western senior and art

n, Ring hopes to total \$1,500, near-thon in raising \$1,700 earlier this

was split between the artists who the student-run B-Gallery, which network. Ring, who helped organize Break Espresso was a perfect spot

and it's just a really great venue out all during the day," Ring said. the tables, it's not like it is in your e "We having their coffee."

Serene Peterson sang and played in May 17.

art Breaks, Peterson accompanied os played on a small portable tele- the event. Peterson's performance by friend and fellow musician n Cutler, who also performed gui- tar and vocals.

"It was sort of a given to have music at the reception for the auction," Ring said. "I work with Serene, and so I asked her if she might be able to play, and then I ran into Robin the next day, so we had both of them booked really early."

The auction itself featured many types of art, including photography, sketches, paintings and sculpture. Ring said the pieces ranged in bidding price, and even students on a budget would be able to find something they could afford.

"We've been asking just like \$5 for a photograph on some mountboard," Ring said. "Things that are more intricate, that people put a little bit more time into, we've been asking around \$40 for starting bids."

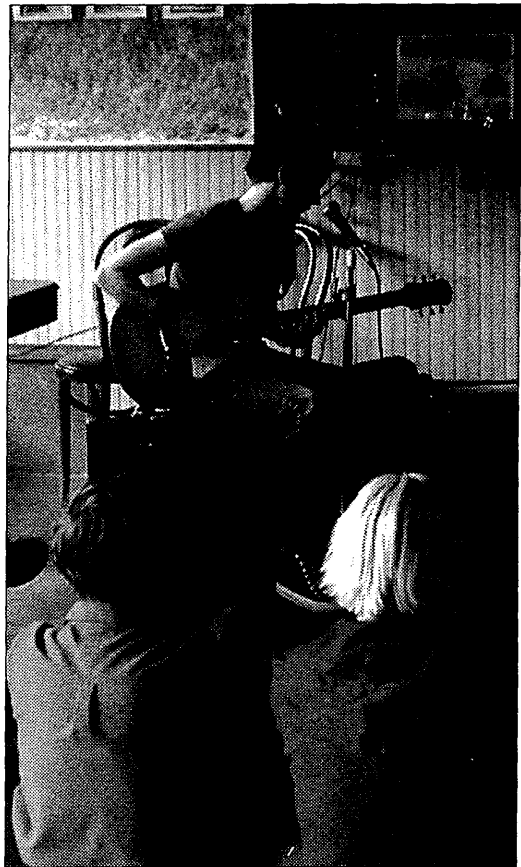
Break Espresso employee Amy Chase said the pieces up for auction had been displayed on the café walls for approximately a week. Chase said although people were intrigued by the art, the overall response was slightly less energetic than it was for a similar Western art auction at the coffee house last year.

"People have mostly just been curious, but I don't think there have been a lot of bids, unfortunately," Chase said. "Last year the art was more bright and colorful and had lots of oils. People seemed to respond more to that than to some of the sketches and photography that are here this year."

Despite Chase's observations, Ring said the auction totaled somewhere in the ballpark of \$500 on its closing night. Ring said this amount likely indicates less than half of the total amount of money raised by the auction since many bids have yet to be collected.

Portland resident Grant Hedman was in Bellingham visiting a friend in the art program. Hedman said he liked the art and appreciated the reasonable prices.

"Some of (the art) looks really good," Hedman said. "I am thinking of checking out some more of the prices. It looks like some of it would be affordable for me."



Carl Weiseth/ The Western Front  
Robin Cutler sings and strums guitar, entertaining students and community members gathered at the art auction.

# casino knight

re first-time dice throwers, wheel spinners

time bookie Leshawn Black posed as a race gates and took students' bets. Later a pre- fected on a screen and students cheered for

e I was afraid I'd mess up the cards," Black

Christo's Restaurant and Casino donated Jack tables and collect bets at the crowded uss said.

al dealers at Casino Night before," she said.

ed helped explain the games to the new

unteers attempted to deal the less compli- e and Five Card Stud. Players could bet as heir whole jackpot on one hand of cards.

big band and hip-hop music playing below, ated in silence at the high-stakes tables.

00 in fake money hoping to get lucky and

hips and I won," said Kim Houkal, Western aler.

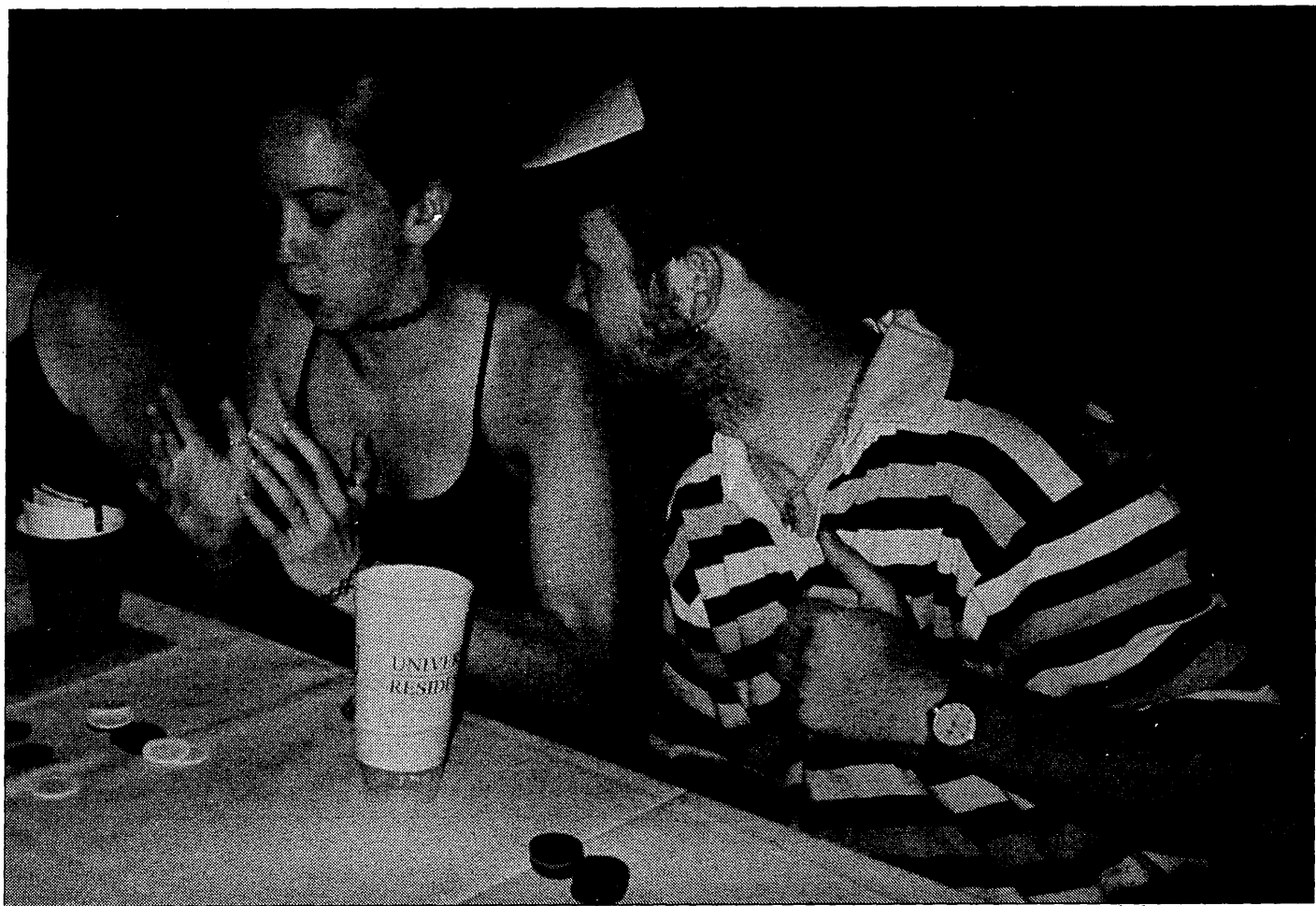
00 students gathered in Carver Gym after f \$5 or \$7 depending on when they bought not make a profit.

any money," Strauss said. "We might have nd that's never happened. The turnout was was a huge success."

Casino Night, parents, grandparents and and shuffled cards throughout the night. e to gamble at most mainstream casinos, ers people of all ages a chance to learn the f experienced players and high stakes, she

d taking bets at the makeshift horse track, er games before sitting down to play. Black before Saturday's event.

nt," she said. "It's been a lot of fun being on ookie and a player)."



Abiah Weaver/ The Western Front  
Western senior Kim Houkal breathes a sigh of relief after winning a game of poker at the 26th annual Casino Night in Carver Gym on Saturday. Freshman Skylar Billgates coaches Houkal as she places her next bet.

# Screenwriters in the making

*In the midst of a sweltering Montana evening, Western junior Vienna Frykholm sprawled on her mattress, ignoring the rhythmic throb of her injured shoulder, damaged during a boxing match.*

*Training as a boxer and learning to jab, hook and uppercut with other girls had introduced Frykholm to a new and immensely rewarding world. As she remembered the vivid events of the past months, she realized the only way to recapture the camaraderie and affection of her boxing team was to commit them to paper. She grabbed a notebook and a pen and began writing a screenplay.*

*"I don't think I slept that night," Frykholm said. "Writing about my experiences and my friends made me feel like we were all still together somewhere."*

Frykholm has been working on her script for two years, and it is nearing completion.

She began by writing scenes, descriptions and orphan lines of dialogue on notecards. She accumulated nearly 350 ideas, and taped them to her closet door in the order she wanted them in her movie.

What she came up with was a story about a female boxer aiming for the Golden Gloves award. She hasn't written the ending yet, but she has decided to let her protagonist win the award. The recent success of the film "Girlfight," is evidence that a market for women-in-boxing films exists.

"Who wouldn't want to go see some chicks fight?" Frykholm said. "It would be bad-ass."

For people like Frykholm, aspiring filmmaker and anyone else who is interested in writing films, the Independent Film Group is offering a free screenwriting seminar at Western on June 8. Former English teacher David Adams, a screenwriter and the director of the seminar, said it is important to break the assumptions some aspiring screenwriters make.

"Don't think you're going to make a million dollars off the bat," Adams said.

Screenwriting takes a lot of discipline, Adams said, and students have to be ready for a grueling, time-consuming process.

"It's like writing a novel," Adams said. "It's really hard work."

The most troublesome obstacle is coming up with a good idea, Adams said. Once the concept and the characters have been developed in the writer's head, the writing comes naturally.

"Putting words on paper, that ain't hard," Adams said. "If you know the characters, they talk for you."

Frykholm said the writing has been the hardest part. She has two 120-page notebooks full of notes and finished pages, but has yet to type anything.

"I try to imagine the scene in my mind's eye exactly how it would smell, how the air would taste and what people would say to each other," Frykholm said.

Regardless of what the most difficult part is, the process as a whole is worth it to get a script to the screen, Adams said.

"There's great power in being the guy to

bring everything together," Adams said. "You're moving 200 people at a time with the way you tell a story. You're reaching these people."

Western freshman Annie Flansburg, who is majoring in theater, said films can convey a story to any audience, and something intriguing is almost always found in movies.

"It's a really good way to get something across," Flansburg said. "Anybody can watch (a movie) and get some sort of message out of it."

Flansburg said films show viewers a wide range of experiences that are outside of their scope.

"Part of the entertainment is seeing someplace you wouldn't get to see otherwise," she said. "You can, in a sense, go somewhere you've never been."

Adams said films, even at their worst, can enlighten an audience.

"Anybody who says they go to the movies to empty their minds is wrong," he said. "Their minds are being filled."

Frykholm said film is the only medium in which her story could be told.

"The fight scenes are so emotional that I don't think a theater could slow it down enough for people to see that look in someone's eyes," she said. "Film can capture more of those little moments that I hope to integrate into my script."

Western theater professor Tom Ward said film is better than the stage for telling certain stories, and that must be taken into account during the writing process.

"When writing a film, you aim for the eye," Ward said. "When writing for theater, you aim for the ear."

Adams said writers have more control when writing for the stage. Many screenwriters think they will have control over the final film but find themselves discarded after a studio buys their script.

"The role of the writer (in Hollywood) is, 'thanks for your story, now get the hell out,'" Adams said.

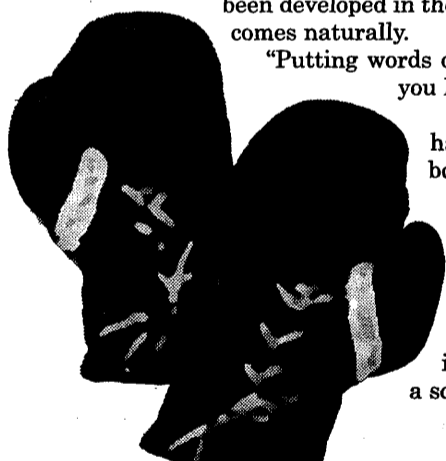
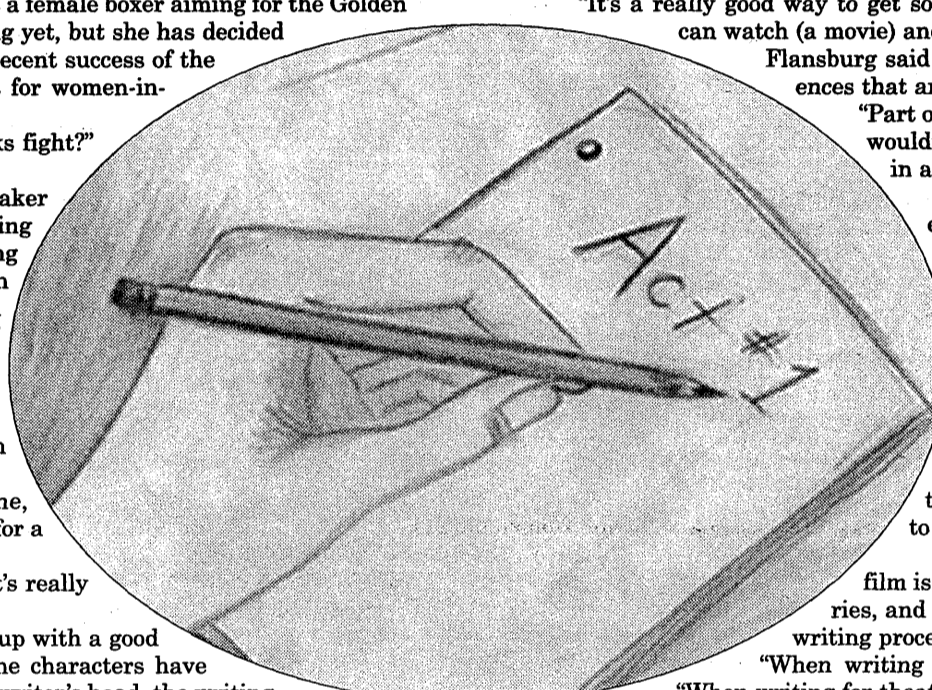
Frykholm said she would be angry if her work were stripped from her and changed without her knowledge.

"I think the writer knows best how the story should play out, and they should be involved in the filmmaking process," Frykholm said.

Frykholm said her script will be completed this summer.

"I think I will probably cry, and then open a damn big bottle of champagne," Frykholm said.

**Story by Mike Baab  
Drawing by Christina Tercero**



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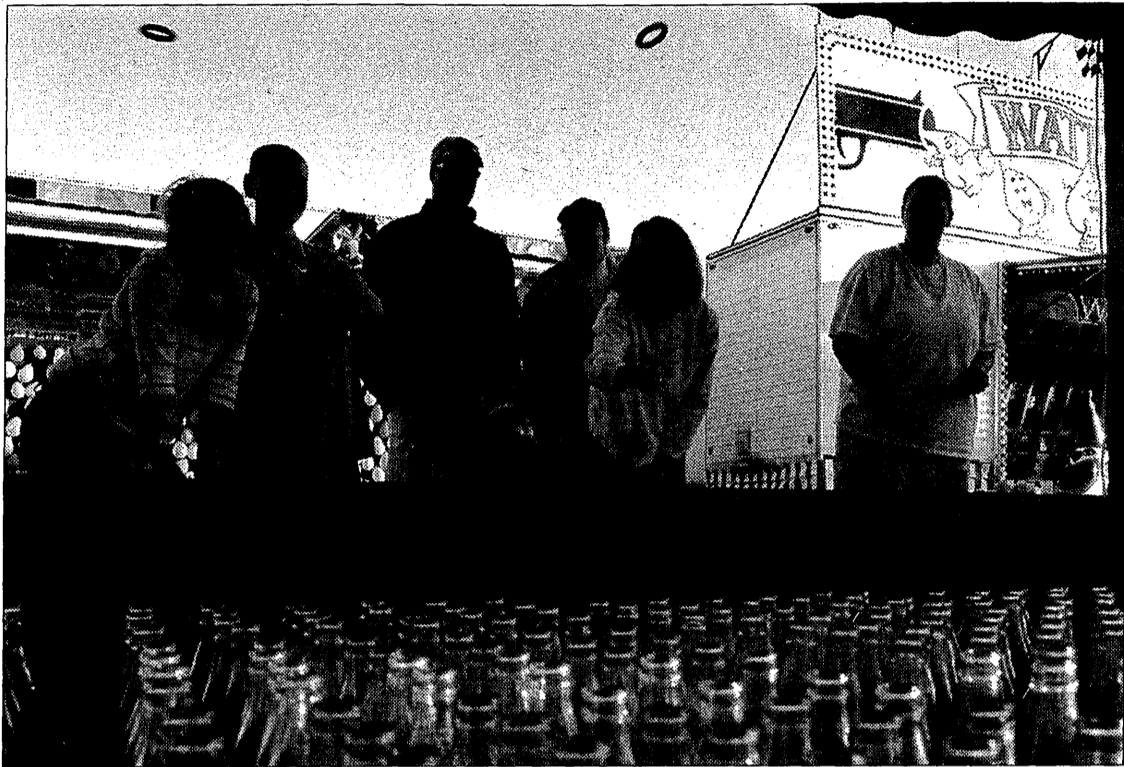
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Deadline for resumes: May 24, 2002 by noon.  
Deliver resumes to College Hall, room 110 or MS 9100  
Interviews will be held Friday, May 31 at 4pm in CH 131



# Ski to Sea 2002



Stephanie Kosonen/ The Western Front

Rylee Pruett, 3 (center), tosses rings over Coke bottle necks beside his mom, Jeannie Pruett, and friend Jennifer Lair (right) Thursday at the Bellis Fair Ski to Sea Carnival.

## Parking lot transforms into Ski to Sea Carnival

By Matt Dornan  
THE WESTERN FRONT

It's time for all Bellingham thrill-seekers to come out of the woodwork and join the fun of the annual Ski to Sea Carnival.

The carnival, located in the Sears parking lot of the Bellis Fair Mall, is part of the annual festivities for the popular Ski to Sea race.

The carnival offers 19 different rides for all age groups.

"It's a fun time," Western senior Nick Dire said. "I came down with a couple of friends for something to do."

For those who are not big fans of rides, the carnival still offers plenty to do. Traditional carnival games test participants luck and skill.

"It's nice the lines aren't long," Dire said. "I hate going to a carnival with long lines. Even the

food lines weren't long."

Food vendors offer carnival favorites such as cotton candy and snow cones along with hot dogs, curly fries and hamburgers.

"I never thought I would go to this carnival, but one of my friends asked me to go, so I came." Western senior Katie Hudson said. "It's been a fun time. Bellis Fair is a good place to have a carnival."

"Hosting the carnival gives Bellis Fair a great opportunity to participate in a celebrated event," said Bellis Fair general manager Bob Buchanan.

The carnival will run through Sunday.

It opens at 11 a.m. Saturday and noon on Sunday. Wristbands are available for unlimited rides. Hours for closing depend on the weather.

## Women on Top converts two men to compete in annual race

By Cailin Long  
THE WESTERN FRONT

At 8:30 a.m. Saturday, participants of the annual Ski to Sea race will embark on an 85-mile journey starting at Mount Baker and ending at Bellingham's Post Point Marine Park.

The Bellingham Chamber of Commerce calls Ski to Sea the "grand daddy" of all races because it attracts participants from all over the world.

Participants risk injury and face grueling physical activity as they race over rugged natural terrain. Eight of those participants, seven Western students, call themselves Women on Top.

What was meant to be an all women's team turned into six women and two drag queens.

### Ski to Sea 2002 Festivities

**Ski to Sea race**  
8:30 a.m. — Mount Baker to Marine Park  
**It All Ends in Fairhaven**  
10 a.m. to 8 p.m. — Fairhaven District  
**Antique Auto Show**  
10 a.m. to 6 p.m. — Boulevard Park

"After much deliberation, we conjured up the missing pieces of our Ski to Sea team," said Western senior and road biker Laura Thoreson. "After much chanting and ritualistic dance, they emerged as gender-defying creatures — two athletic males dressed in drag who were adept in the ways of the canoe and looked cute in short skirts!"

Originally, Western senior Amanda Frederick was going to be the runner in the race, but she injured her calf muscles.

Western senior Habiba Sial

also dropped out of the race because of her lack of swimming and canoeing capabilities.

Instead, Chris "Chrissie" Kloehn and Tyler "Tyra" Donnelly will be the canoeists for Women on Top.

Kloehn said he looks forward to a good time on Saturday.

"I've lived here all my life and never seen Ski to Sea, so I figured I owed it to myself to make it interesting," Kloehn said.

The other members of Women on Top are Western senior Jennifer Jacquet as the cross-country skier, senior Tara Johnson as the downhill skier, senior Dana Bierman as the runner, senior Marissa Rosatti as the mountain biker and senior Megan Gill as the kayaker.

"Most of us are seniors, so it will be our last chance to

participate in the Ski to Sea race (together)," Thoreson said. "We're all looking forward to it. It will be a lot of fun especially because we got guys in dresses."

Jacquet will start the race with a four-mile cross-country ski beginning at Seven Hill's Valley Day Lodge on Mount Baker.

"I've never raced before, so I'm pretty anxious," Jacquet said. "I'm just out there to have fun, but I don't expect to win."

Winning the race will be a difficult task because of its complexity and length. The four-mile ski is just the beginning.

Once Jacquet finishes her leg of the relay, Johnson will begin her two-and-a-half-mile downhill ski.

"I went today to try out the run and realized that it was going to be a lot more difficult than I thought," Johnson said. "I'm going to practice again on Thursday to make sure I'm ready for the race."

At the base of Mount Baker, Bierman will begin running eight miles along Mount Baker highway. During the downhill run, the elevation drops 2,000 feet. At the end of the run, Bierman will turn the

race over to Thoreson for the road biking portion.

The road biking course is approximately 36 miles long and the biker is responsible for knowing the route. The biker must obey all traffic laws, such as stopping at stop signs.

Thoreson will meet "Chrissie" and "Tyra" at Everson Park where they will launch the canoe for an 18-mile trip.

Their course contains log jam hazards, submerged logs, undercut trees and other obstructions.

Once at the canoeing finish, "Chrissie" and "Tyra" will have to drag in the canoe along with the paddles and lifejackets in order for Rosatti to take off.

Rosatti will travel on her mountain bike from Hovander Park to Squaticum Harbor, a distance of nine miles. From Squaticum Harbor, Gill will travel the last five miles of the race in a kayak to Post Point Marine Park.

For spectators, the race may be viewed from Pete Zuanich Park, the Alaska Ferry Terminal, Boulevard Park or Marine Park.

An awards ceremony will take place at 6 p.m. for winning teams and top racers.

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# Trekking in the mountains with Hiking and Backpacking Club

By Christina Tercero  
THE WESTERN FRONT

For Western junior Meagan Masten, being leader of the Associated Students Hiking and Backpacking Club lets her get out, enjoy the outdoors and share her love for the environment with others.

As an environmental studies major, Masten said wildlife preservation is her main interest. She said she hopes by sharing what she loves and why she loves it, others will begin to have an invested interest in environmental preservation.

"My theory is the more people we get out there to see how beautiful it is, the more will become involved and help protect it," Masten said.

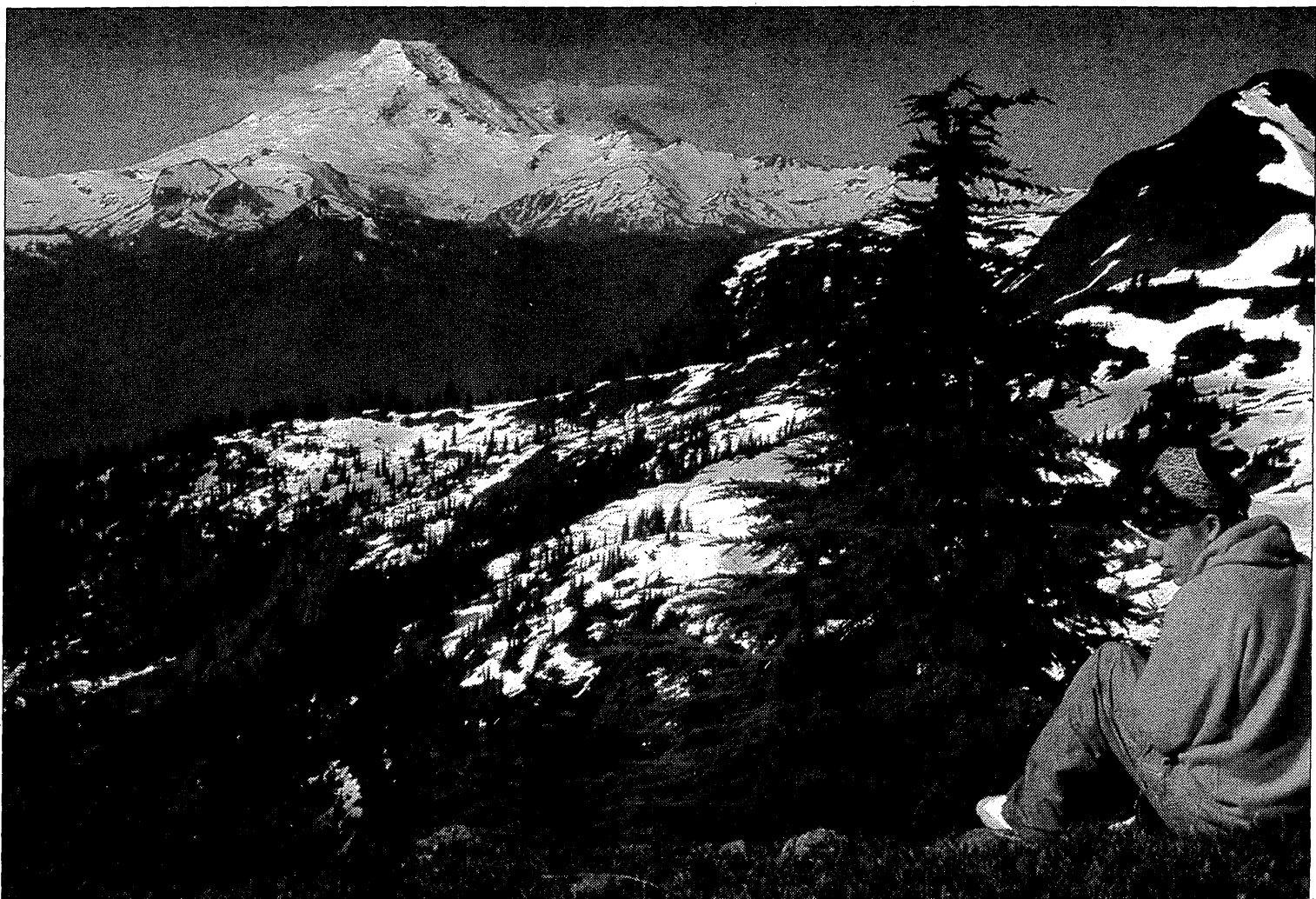
The Hiking and Backpacking Club takes four to six hikes a quarter. The hikes range from day hikes to overnight backpack trips. The club might also take several spontaneous weekend hikes when schedules allow.

"It is open to anyone," Masten said. "That's why we try to offer different levels of hikes — for people who really want to get out into the back country to people who don't have much time or experience."

Western senior Ryan Wilson, who led the club for a year-and-a-half, said his goal while heading up the trips was to expose as many people as possible to the outdoors, the beauty of the Pacific Northwest and great hiking places.

Wilson said the natural geography of the Bellingham area offers a variety of settings in which to hike, from seaside and bluff hiking to mountain and snow hiking.

Early in the quarter, the club sends out fliers with the hiking dates and has a meeting to discuss what people can expect and what they should bring on the hikes.



photograph courtesy of Matt Laughter of the Hiking and Backpacking Club

David Laughter, brother of club member Matt Laughter, on the Yellow Aster Butte trail off Mt. Baker Highway after a club hike.

"A couple of the girls like to go to the hot springs, so we always try to throw a hot springs trip in there somewhere," Masten said.

She said during winter quarter the club tries to do more snow oriented activities, such as snow shoeing, cross-country skiing or snow hiking.

Events in the spring might consist of a trip to the San Juan Islands, Orcas Island or the foothills of Mount Baker.

"We live in such an amazing

area, and this is one of the best ways to appreciate where we live," said Western sophomore Jessica Shepard, a member of the Hiking and Backpacking Club.

She said getting involved in such a club is a great way to get to know people and spend time with those who have similar interests.

"Last year was my first year here and in the club I got to know a good group of people and some awesome places," Shepard said.

Wilson said through the club he

has found great climbing partners and some of his best friends. He also said hiking and backpacking are inexpensive ways to have fun.

During her first year at Western, Masten said she did not have a car or know the area that well. She said she joined the club to be able to get out, have fun and meet people.

"There are no sign-up sheets, lists or financial claims to be in the club," Masten said. "You just

call if you want to go and come if you can."

"I think it works out well for a lot of people because it's not a big huge commitment. You can come to it if you can, and if you can't, it's not a big deal," she said.

A few members of the Hiking and Backpacking Club will compete in this weekend's Ski to Sea.

Western students interested in the Hiking and Backpacking Club can e-mail Masten at meaganisagt@hotmail.com.

## Western students catch 'steelhead fever' with Fly Fishing Club

By Leanne Josephson  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Steelhead fever is what compels Western fly fishers to skip classes and homework and head for the water. They go to Squalicum Lake and Pass Lake — on the northern tip of Whidbey Island — looking for another catch to feed their addiction.

Western Associated Students Fly Fishing Club co-president and freshman Barrett Mattison caught the fever last March.

"Once you get the first fish, you get bent on getting the second and the third and (you) spend all your time out there," he said.

The fever drove Mattison to fish with other club members two or three times a week.

"I was sacrificing a lot of my schoolwork ... It was cutting into my studying, but it got kind of addictive," he said.

It didn't help that the steel-

head fishing was really good this season, Mattison said.

"We'd get at least one or two fish every time we went," he said.

Mattison said it's the extra challenge of steelheading that makes it so addictive.

"Steelheading is kind of the hard-core version of fly fishing. The fish are about 10 times bigger," he said. "There's fewer of them, and unlike resident trout, the only reason they come into the freshwater is to spawn. (They) don't open their mouths as much."

Michael Stilwell, who grew up in Montana and is now an adviser at Guides Fly Shop in Bellingham, said he also is addicted to steelheading.

"(Steelhead) come out of the water five feet in the air then dive down and take 100 feet of line off you in a split second," Stilwell said. "It's incredible."

"When a fish latches onto a fly pole it feels like a freight train hit

your pole," he said. "You and the fish are going back and forth. You aren't reeling him in really fast because you have to fight him. You have to let line out and bring it in until you tire him out."

Stilwell said the fish has a 50 percent chance of getting away. If the steelhead doesn't escape on its own, however, it isn't necessarily destined for a bread crumb coating and the frying pan. By law, most steelhead must be released, Mattison said.

While steelhead might be the preferred fish for expert anglers, trout and bass are also species fly fishers commonly catch. And unlike steelhead, they often have fewer restrictions.

H & H Anglers and Outfitters owner Brady Martin suggests novices begin trout fishing because there are more trout and they are easier to catch.

Trout fishers also have another advantage, at least for late-risers: The best fishing is during

midday, when the insects are hatching, Mattison said.

Catching any kind of fish requires some basic equipment: A fly pole, fly reel, fly line and leaders. It also requires a fly: A single hook and string, thread or feathers tied to imitate the shape of a bug. Flies, though they have a reputation of being hard to tie, just take practice, Mattison said.

"Once you learn the basic technique you can pretty much tie any fly," he said. "The uglier you tie your fly, the more fish it will catch. I think an ugly fly looks buggier. The fancy, neat flies appeal more to the fishermen than the fish."

Even more important than the fly is the casting, Mattison said.

"If you can't cast, then you can't fish," he said. "It takes coordination and rhythm and makes it a lot more interesting and challenging. It's more elegant than throwing a hunk of lead out."

Western junior Fly Fishing Club co-president Calvin Fuller said casting is difficult to master.

"Women and kids can learn faster than men. They are more patient than men and use less muscle," he said.

Stilwell said fly fishers don't have the advantage of bait, which draws the fish in because of its smell.

"The fly actually has to imitate the bug that they eat," he said. "Anyone can throw a worm out there and catch a fish. But when you throw a fly out there you have to know how to do it."

Like every angler, Mattison has a number of stories tucked away from his various trips.

"One time I hooked a fish right up the anal," he said. "I have no idea how that happened. Instead of being in its mouth, it was in its ass."

Western students interested in the Fly Fishing Club can e-mail Mattison at mattisb@cc.wvu.edu.

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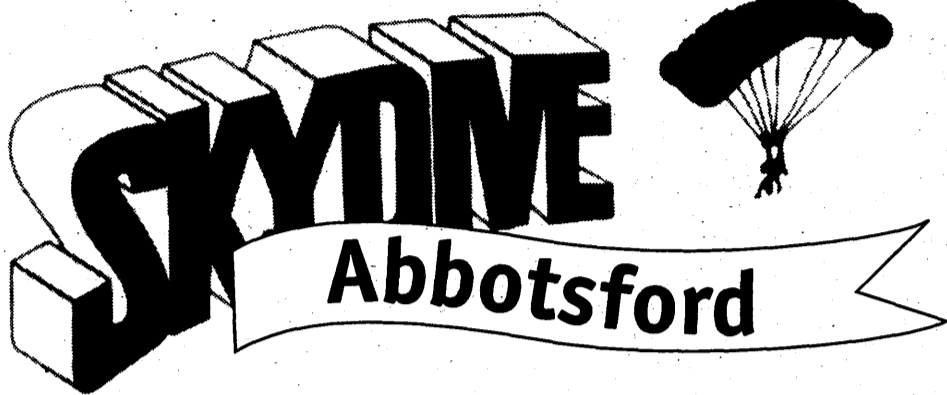
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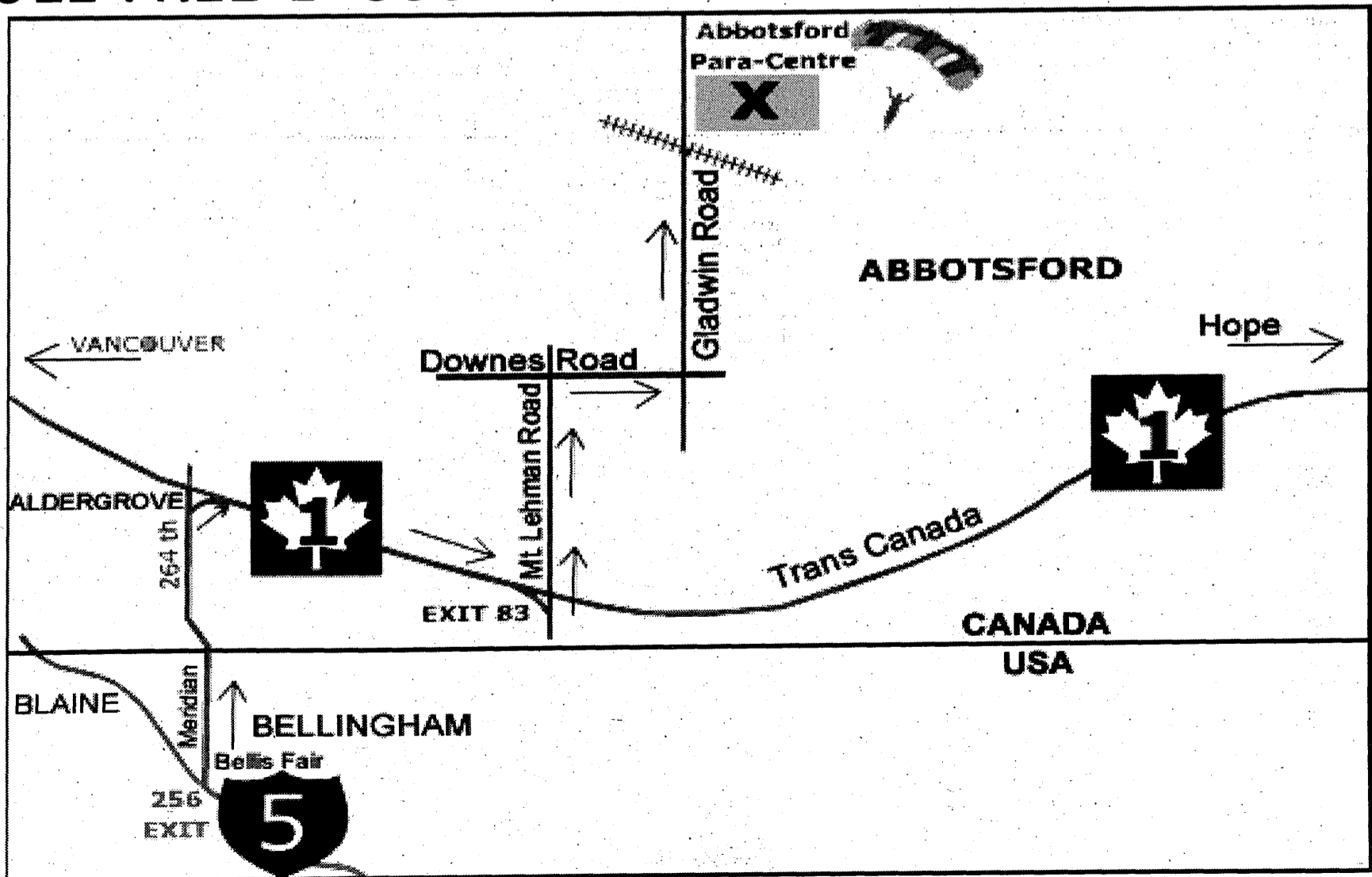
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# Head-to-head: Gays in athletics

## Should gay athletes come out of the closet?

### Revealing sexuality would disrupt team atmosphere



**P. Nicholas Carlson**

SPORTS COMMENTARY

Even in the face of rumors or suspicions, athletes should not feel obligated to reveal their sexual orientation. Making a public event of disclosing one's sexuality is not productive to the player or his or her team.

Athletes should be recognized for their achievements, not for their sexual preference. Players who step out and proclaim their sexuality will face one daunting certainty: Their sexuality will overshadow not only their own accomplishments but their teammates' as well.

Once an athlete reveals his or her homosexuality, the media will converge on both player and team. The attention of sports reporters would not be on who hit the game-winning homerun or intercepted the ball in the red zone; it would be on how players feel about their newly outed homosexual teammate.

*'Subjecting the entire team to such intense scrutiny for one player's personal life is unfair to the team.'*

Teams are families — they eat, sleep, travel, train and play together.

Even if the team accepts a homosexual teammate, the subsequent media circus would shadow the team for quite some time.

Also, the athlete would be labeled the "gay one", unfair to the homosexual player and homosexuals everywhere.

One of the ideals coaches impart on young athletes growing up is "there is no "I" in team". The details of one person's personal life must be

weighed against the team's well-being.

Subjecting the entire team to such intense scrutiny for one player's personal life is unfair to the team.

Heterosexual athletes do not have an athletic advantage over homosexual athletes. They do not have some extra tendon that makes them jump higher or run faster. Thus, any athlete who goes on the record about their sexuality is not earning a victory for the cause, they are just being pre-tentious about an inconsequential characteristic.

Why start a pointless media circus over such an irrelevant aspect? To become the poster-boy for homosexual athletes the world over?

Making a public spectacle of being a homosexual is not heroic, it trivializes the athlete's successes or accomplishments.

Whoever becomes the Jackie Robinson for the homosexual community will face a different battle than Robinson did.

Black athletes were discriminated against because of the obvious difference of skin color; homosexual athletes do not wear their sexual orientation on their sleeves.

If they did, they would already be pulled out of the closet and thrust into the media spotlight.

Nobody uses the terms "straight athlete" or "heterosexual player," they are simply called "athletes."

The "don't ask, don't tell" policy is ideal for this situation. In the long-run, player statistics speak volumes more about an athlete than their sexuality ever can.

Despite all of the progress against homophobia on a societal level, not everybody is 100 percent at ease with homosexuals. In a perfect world, whether an athlete reveals their sexuality or not would be irrelevant.

There will be a day when gay athletes will be able to be as open as they want, but that day has not come.

### Sexual orientation does not affect ability



**Mike Baab**

SPORTS COMMENTARY

New York Mets player Mike Piazza does not like to be called homosexual.

"I'm heterosexual and I date women," Piazza said. "That's it. End of story."

The densely packed .244-hitter was responding to rumors in the New York Post and "Out" magazine that one of the Mets' star players was a closeted homosexual.

Piazza's comments perfectly demonstrate the paranoid, homophobic attitude of many professional athletes.

Homosexual sports players should admit their sexuality to their teammates and the public. Remaining silent only subverts their identity and allows their teammates to keep living out the idealistic fantasy that all the men and women who play sports for a living are heterosexual.

Jim Litke, a columnist for the Associated Press, responded to Piazza's comments by

saying that any ballplayer who didn't make such a declaration of woman-loving manliness "would be committing professional suicide."

Not only is Litke's point ridiculous, but so is the entire debate over whether professional sports figures should come out of the closet.

*'Professional sports is simply the next arena in which homosexuals will become more visible.'*

Like it or not, homosexual men and women will be sharing the turf, team bus and locker room with their heterosexual teammates.

Keeping homosexual players from being honest is not going to make them heterosexual.

Those who want the clamoring of homosexual players to be muffled behind the closet door say an openly homosexual member of a professional sports team would make other players uncomfortable.

So what? In 1947, Brooklyn

Dodgers players weren't pleased at the prospect of playing on the same field as a young infielder from the Negro Leagues named Jackie Robinson.

More than half a century later, Americans realize how ignorant and stubborn those players were and the idea of treating a player differently for any reason other than his skill seems silly.

Most people do not exactly burst into song when they hear a gay-rights parade pass by their window.

Regardless of having begun the process of transcending the arcane stereotypes of earlier decades, homosexuals have still not gained mainstream acceptance.

Despite the obstacles, homosexuals, for the most part, have been accepted — and embraced — as actors, musicians and politicians. Professional sports is simply the next arena in which homosexuals will become more visible.

For a shift in public opinion to gain momentum, it needs a monumental shove. Professional sports stars coming out of the closet and into the light is just the push the public needs.

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# Sodexo best choice for hungry Western students



Allison Smith

A.S. VOICE

In May 2001, the Dining Contract Advisory Committee began meetings regarding the food service provider on campus. Sodexo's current contract would end in September of 2001, and the proposal process was about to begin.

The committee included representatives from Residence Life, the Viking Union, staff and faculty, the Associated Students and two at-large student members. As the newly elected vice president for Student Life at the time I was asked to sit on the committee and I hungrily agreed.

I heard the numerous complaints regarding Sodexo in the dining halls and in campus eateries and I was ready to make a change. I was ready to demand quality, friendly service, more options and lower prices. Little did I know that every other member of the Dining Contract Advisory Committee was ready to demand the same.

Throughout bi-weekly meet-

ings fall quarter, weekly meetings winter quarter and four visits to other college campuses, I learned more than I ever wanted to know about food service providers. The process was more complex than I had first imagined and at times more lengthy than desired.

The needs of students, staff, faculty and administration were all considered in this decision. Two other students and myself sat on the committee and we consulted not only each other's opinion but also the opinions of our peers.

The Associated Students ran an AS Question of the Week asking, "What would you like to see in a dining service provider?" The responses were limited, but echoed similar wants — quality and selection.

Each of the three companies who bid for the contract were thoroughly inspected in regards to their services and finances. In the end, the committee came up with this conclusion: In comparison with other food service providers, Sodexo is the company that will provide quality, friendly service, more options and lower prices for the students of Western.

The future of the dining contract is positive for Western. Negotiations between Western

and Sodexo will include topics such as non-exclusive catering for student groups, faculty, staff, and off-campus student meal plan and discussions regarding the \$25,000 granted by Sodexo for scholarships.

Because Sodexo is currently working on Western's campus, the transition between contracts will be relatively smooth. Be prepared next fall for some positive changes.

At this point Western students might be wondering, "Where do I go from here?" or "Can I still have a say in what I eat?" The answer is a resounding yes. Though 10 years feels like an eternity, the contract is renegotiated between Western and Sodexo yearly.

Sodexo managers and employees are constantly looking for input regarding their service and quality. Each dining hall and eatery has comment cards for students to fill out.

The managers and employees of Sodexo are very approachable for feedback — whether positive or negative — and will be realistically responsive to students' needs and wants. For more information on the dining service contract process or the future of dining at Western, please feel free to contact me.

# Microsoft lawsuit contradicts free capitalist system



Matthew DeLong

COMMENTARY

In the latest news in the ongoing court battle between Microsoft and the Justice Department, lawyers for the software giant said the company would comply with all Justice Department decisions.

While this is a wise move for the company, the entire case against Microsoft is groundless, as it has not violated any law in the packaging of its software.

The government should stop pursuing legal action against Microsoft and let the U.S. capitalist market continue to be a free market. The government already destroyed the utilities and phone companies with regulation. More government regulations are not the answer to controlling the growing software industry.

Microsoft has designed an operating system that works and Bill Gates should not be forced to change his product because his competition has no idea how to market their product.

Many argue Microsoft does not make the best operating system. While this may be true, it is essentially an irrelevant point.

In a capitalist economy it is not necessarily the best product that makes the most money, rather the best-advertised product. Though most Americans would agree they could make a better hamburger than McDonalds, they lack the resources to market as successfully as the global burger joint. Microsoft, like McDonalds, has mastered the art of advertising — a perfectly legal business practice.

The U.S. economy is built on the concept of capitalism, a system that allows people to start a business out of their garage and build an empire worth billions.

The appeal of capitalism lies in the fact that all citizens can design and sell a product for profit, but consumers control the price of goods and services through spending habits.

Gates designed and marketed a product the public is willing to buy. While Microsoft has the majority of the home computer market, it does not have the entirety. Therefore, it is not

a monopoly.

The Windows operating system is designed and sold as a package including the Web browser Internet Explorer and several other features. The Justice Department and more than 20 states filed the case against Microsoft because of the way these features were packaged together.

They demand the operating system be sold separately from the Internet browser and the several other features contained within the software package.

Microsoft claims removing portions of the operating system, such as Internet Explorer, would cause compatibility issues with the rest of the operating system.

The Windows operating system is user-friendly, and the government has no right to force Microsoft to change its product.

The majority of federal and state government computers run on the Windows operating system. It seems that at the same time the government is crucifying Gates in court, it is feeding his so-called monopoly.

If the government is serious about combating the Microsoft cash cow, it should consider other alternatives such as the Linux operating system for use on its own computers.

The Linux operating system, developed in 1991, has captured some of the operating system market. Linux is available as a free download and as a boxed package in retail stores.

Computer users can purchase or download Linux and avoid using Microsoft products altogether. Any computer, including all Apple platforms, can run the Linux operating system.

Intel, the largest computer chip manufacturer in the United States, has cornered the personal computer market for years, out-marketing its competitor AMD, another computer chip manufacturer. It has only been in the past six months that major computer manufacturers have offered computers with AMD chips.

No litigation is pending by the government against Intel for having a monopoly on the home computer market.

However, they continue to destroy Microsoft for simply designing a user-friendly operating system.

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## Frontline

### Western faculty well worth tuition hike

Amid the frenzy and political maneuvering of this quarter's tuition increase, it is easy for students to forget what their precious funds are paying for. Certainly for those students in a tight financial situation, the one percent faculty salary increase might seem excessive. The truth, however, is that Western is one of the few "hidden gem" colleges left on the West coast, and faculty play a large role in that.

In just the past quarter, two faculty members were honored for achievements in their fields of study. One of a handful of national experts on workplace bullying, professor Gary Namie will teach what he says is the nation's first-ever college course on the topic this summer.

Larry Estrada, a Fairhaven College associate professor, was elected president of the National Association for Ethnic Studies at its convention in April. And most recently, Nancy Johnson was one of 15 people in the nation selected by the American Library Association to be on the committee that will choose this year's Newbery Medal winning book.

While these achievements are impressive independently, they are indicative of the quality of Western. Not only are most faculty willing to work with students, they are also willing to teach lower-division classes. While many research school relegate these basic courses to graduate assistants, very few Western classes are taught by teaching assistants.

For the fifth year in a row, Western was ranked second among public universities in the West in the U.S. News & World Report college ratings. The ranking places Western among the top universities in its category nationally. Undoubtedly, faculty are to be thanked in part for this distinction.

Western also ranked in the "top tier" of all master's-granting universities in the West - public or private - at 19th. It was one of only two public schools to be ranked in the top 20 master's-granting universities in the West, a region that stretches from Texas to California.

Additionally, in the latest Yahoo! "100 most wired colleges" nationwide ranking Western rose from 86th in 1999 to 59th. Among comprehensive institutions (those with master's programs, but without Ph.D. programs) Western ranked seventh in the U.S.

So what does this mean? It means Western students are getting their money's worth, tuition increase or not.

Not that Western's administration is flawless. The sheer amount of paperwork involved in day-to-day interactions is staggering. Problems with inaccurate tuition bills, address changes, financial aid, international student programs, housing changes and graduation are some of the many events that take more than a simple phone call to resolve.

Granted, some of this is because of government regulations, as Western is a state school. Administrative policies sensitive to student needs need to be implemented, allowing students to focus on academic work.

Though tuition bills will be heftier next year, the inconvenience of a tuition hike must be endured in order to keep Western's consistently high quality of education and faculty.

*Frontlines are the opinion of The Western Front editorial board: Paul Olund, Sonja L. Cohen, Brendan C. Manning, Alaina C. Dunn, Candace Nelson, Dian McClurg, Courtney L. Howard and Heather June Olah*

## The Western Front

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### And we quote:

"This whole bunch (of witnesses) lied all the way through this thing. I told the truth. I don't know why I'm going to jail for nothing."

*Former Ku Klux Klansman Bobby Frank Cherry after being found guilty of first-degree murder in Birmingham, Ala. Thursday, for the bombing of a Baptist church that killed four black girls 39 years ago.*



## American flag is exploited for profit, should be honored



Sarah Loehndorf

COMMENTARY

On May 27, millions of Americans will observe Memorial Day. Some will celebrate by sleeping in or taking a vacation. Others will visit cemeteries where heroes and relatives are buried. Memorial Day is one of the few days set aside to remember America's heroes, but it should not be the only day to display flags.

American flags are becoming a controversial issue. Since Sept. 11, flags have appeared everywhere - from front yards to stickers posted on cars. Some Americans call the sudden resurgence of American flags a merchandising ploy that exploits a tragedy.

Manufacturers should respect the meaning of the flag by not exploiting it.

The flag, however, is a strong symbol and when used with integrity can remind people of its importance. By simply posting the flag in a car or in public,

Americans are reviving the purpose of the flag.

The flag remains the only symbol that Americans can see and feel a sense of unity. The symbol began as the emblem of independence and democracy, but later became an icon for the remembrance of service men and women who died protecting that independence.

Today the flag stands as a reminder of the 500,000 service men who died in World War II, the 2,200 who perished in Pearl Harbor and the 58,000 who died in Vietnam. Americans were also reminded of the power of the flag in post-Sept. 11 America.

It should not take an act of war to create patriotism in the hearts of America, but on Sept. 11 it did. Flag sales increased dramatically in the days following Sept. 11. Wal-Mart reported selling more than 100,000 flags in a single day.

While buying flags is not the only way to show patriotism, it remains a strong but simple gesture that Americans everywhere can do to show support for the country.

In September, Americans realized the fatalities of war go

beyond those who enlist.

The increase in flag sales has also brought about the increased sale of flag merchandise. In some cases this merchandising goes too far.

Companies like Ralph Lauren have taken the spirit of patriotism to absurd heights by plastering the flag on everything from underwear and clothing to jewelry.

A gaudy two-inch flag medalion or rhinestone-studded flag ring hardly shows the spirit of patriotism. It is highly doubtful that merchandise like that is worn in remembrance of America's war heroes. The flag, above all, is to be respected.

Beyond the fact that stores will be closed and classes canceled, Memorial Day should be a day of remembrance. Flags will be flown over buildings and in front of houses. Americans will have a chance to pause for a day of thanksgiving and reminiscence.

The day commemorates the millions of sailors, pilots and soldiers who have risked their lives and continue to risk their lives to protect the meaning of the flag, which citizens should admire and respect.

## Risks too high in Republican proposal to arm airline pilots



Abiah Weaver

COMMENTARY

Glamorous gun play as seen in Hollywood blockbusters such as "Air Force One," does not depict the risk involved with giving airline pilots lethal weapons to use in terrorist situations.

Pilots should not be permitted to carry guns on commercial flights because their lack of experience and emotional vulnerability will only aggravate

the situation. Pilots need to fly, not fight. Instead, sky marshals should be used as a form of defense.

After Sept. 11, the Federal Aviation Administration proposed a number of improvements to make commercial flights more responsive in terrorist situations, including reinforced cockpit doors and surveillance cameras in the cabin to warn pilots of an impending attack.

On Tuesday, Transportation Security Chief John McGraw denied airline pilots' request to carry loaded guns on commercial flights, saying pilots need

to remain in control of the aircraft in the event of a hijack.

Republicans lobbying for the pilots are angry with the Bush administration's decision and vowed to continue developing legislation that would permit pilots to carry lethal weapons in the cockpit.

As an alternative, the administration is investigating non-lethal forms of defense including self-defense training, stun guns and assigning federal sky marshals to protect commercial flights.

Granting pilots permission to carry lethal weapons on com-

See AIRLINES, Page 20

# Specialized Web site legislation will help protect kids from pornography



**Andrea Jasineck**

COMMENTARY

Sixth-grader Christina Long was strangled last Saturday by a 25-year-old man she met on the Internet.

Long's tragic death is one of more than 1,500 Internet crimes committed in the last year, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Web site. Legislators have worked tirelessly to address Internet predators while grappling with issues of privacy and censorship.

But members of the U.S. House of Representative approved a measure Tuesday that just might work.

In response to the Long case, lawmakers drafted a measure calling for the federal government to oversee a ".kids.us" domain that would be chat room-free and only contain material appropriate for kids under the age of 13.

The measure is a perfect compromise between all-out censorship and the apathetic inaction the American Civil Liberties Union condones.

It does not affect the billions of dot-com Web sites, meaning raunchy porn sites won't need to tame their pictorials of "explosive anal fun" and "High Times Online" won't have to recommend a hot cup of tea over a "phat spliff."

All Web sites that choose to subscribe to the domain will do so on a voluntary basis.

Furthermore, parents must

choose to order the program, shifting the responsibility to parents instead of the faceless, gaping hole of the Internet.

As for the parents who do subscribe, the ".kids.us" domain would be extremely effective in blocking pornography and chat room encounters for their children.

Web sites with the domain would be displayed; anything else would not. It is a relatively simple system. Plus, it eliminates chat rooms, where many molesters converge and prey.

Again, the measure will do nothing to protect or restrict those who don't subscribe.

Even if the measure becomes a reality, undoubtedly many children and pre-teens will still be drawn to the unrestrained cyberworld of four-letter words and one-handed typing.

Unrestrained is exactly how opponents to the measure would like to keep the Internet.

*Even if the measure becomes a reality, undoubtedly many children and pre-teens will still be drawn to the unrestrained cyberworld of four-letter words and one-handed typing.*

The ACLU argues it is a form of governmental censorship because the content of the ".kids.us" domain will be monitored by the government.

The ACLU is right. The Commerce Department's National Telecommunications

and Information Administration sector would, in fact, oversee the domain's content.

But this form of censorship is paid for. It affects only those who choose to be affected by it through subscribing.

Moreover, children younger than 13 are always subject to censorship: School libraries censor the books they carry and parents restrict their selection of movies.

The ACLU needs to pick its battles. If it drags its feet on such a mild, yet effective measure, it will find itself being ignored as it kicks and screams about more clear-cut censorship issues.

The measure might not be perfect, but it can actually achieve what it sets out to do — a seemingly simple goal that eludes most governmental measures.

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# Letters to the Editor

## Article on home birth misses the point

This is in response to the Mother's Day feature on birth and birth options (Accent 5/14/02).

I am a midwife in the community and was quoted in the article. While the author touched on several important points, I would like to emphasize some that were missed.

The main point that was missed is the midwives in this community who do home birth only accept "low risk" clients. "Low risk" means the woman and baby are healthy and normal — that included the vast majority of women.

It excludes women with twins, women who develop high blood pressure, women who have epilepsy, women who have diabetes, breech deliveries, and several other conditions that could compromise the safety of a home birth.

Midwives frequently screen their clients to ensure they remain in this "low-risk" category. They consult with, or refer to, an obstetrician when a condition develops that is outside the range of "normal."

I work collaboratively with various doctors in this community and find this enjoyable. These distinctions are what make home birth a safe option for pregnant women.

Midwives are the experts in normal birth and are good at preventing complications by keeping a close eye on how things are going and intervening when necessary. One of the ways they do this is by being with the laboring woman throughout her labor.

Midwives are trained to monitor for and recognize the early signs of complications and can distinguish between urgent and non-urgent complications. When the hospital is needed, we transfer to St. Joseph Hospital and get the care that is needed there.

This is infrequent and most often not an emergency. In the case of an emergency, a municipal aid car (911) is called and the transport happens very quickly.

The studies that have been done on planned out-of-hospital birth (not including the ones where the people don't make it to the hospital in time and have the baby in the car!) invariably show that home birth is safe for mothers and babies.

It is safe and there is much less intervention. Insurance companies in Washington state (including DSHS) recognize this and reimburse midwives for home births.

Catriona Munro, LM  
Gentle Hands Midwifery

## Intramural rules encourage women to participate

Your recent sports commentary ("Co-ed intramurals make for sexist environment," May 17) complains that rules designed to encourage female participation in mixed-sex teams are creating a sexist atmosphere on the field.

The article goes on to conclude that "eliminating these kinds of rules might make some people happy because they would not have to worry about having to include women at certain times during the game." Isn't that the whole point of these rules?

Intramural sports should be fun, and they should also allow everyone to participate. Including a few rules that encourage women to participate instead of being left on the sidelines, as they doubtlessly would, can't hurt.

Tim Schultz

## Airlines: Stun guns, sky marshals better way to subdue terrorist situations, protect passengers, crew

Continued from Page 18

Commercial flights gives a false sense of security. Locked behind reinforced cockpit doors, guns would not protect passengers in the cabin in the event of a hijack.

If pilots leave the cockpit to play cops and robbers, terrorists can gain access to the aircraft's controls, leaving the flight vulnerable to a takeover.

If the pilot leaves the cockpit and a small amount of turbulence caused the aircraft to jerk, the pilot may miss his target and risk hitting a passenger with a stray bullet. Similarly, if the aircraft's hull was damaged by a bullet, decompression could occur, and the pilot could lose control of the aircraft and crash.

Pilots need to remain in the cockpit and focus on landing the aircraft quickly and safely in a terrorist situation. Protected by impenetrable doors, the pilot can maintain control of the flight without the interference of terrorists.

Pilots asked Congress for the guns because they want more control over a terrorist situation on their flights. Lethal weapons, however, carry insurmountable risks to everyone on the flight.

Relying on trained sky marshals to detain hijackers avoids needless risk and allows pilots

to remain in control of the aircraft. Sky marshals would work as a team to subdue terrorists without gun play and would rely on nonlethal forms of defense.

Placing nonlethal alternatives like stun guns on commercial flights would give pilots, flight attendants and sky marshals more control in the event of an unruly passenger or terrorist situation. Stun guns do not carry the same risks as a loaded gun in the hands of a pilot with limited firearms training.

The number of federal sky marshals is unknown, and Republicans claim the government does not have the resources to post a marshal on every commercial flight.

Limiting current sky marshals to high-risk flights and training more federal air police would adequately protect most commercial flights.

By permitting pilots to carry guns on their flights, Congress would be risking the lives of every passenger on board.

Granting guns to bus drivers and subway operators seems absurd now, but if Republicans manage to pass this bill it would be no better. It would set a precedent for federally funded methods of transportation to seek the same false security.

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