

The Western Front

January 29, 1993/Volume 85, Number 24

Western Washington University

please recycle

Gay ban forum raises no debate

By Margret Graham
staff reporter

A forum regarding gays and lesbians in the U.S. military attracted more than 60 people to the Fairhaven Main Lounge, Jan. 27. Panelists and audience members, including several Vietnam War veterans, peacefully discussed the subject for nearly two hours.

"We should get rid of the double standard, make everyone follow the same rules and remember that people are created and (should be) treated equally, and that regardless of color, creed, sex or sexual preference, people are people are people are people -- end of story," said Reid, a Vietnam vet and the director of information services for Whatcom County.

The meeting, sponsored by Residence Life and the Fairhaven dorm, was free of argument, personal attack or other conflict.

"I thought it was fairly balanced and aired the issues," said panelist Judy O'Donohoe, coordinator of Western's Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Alliance (LGBA), adding that she had felt apprehensive about controversy. "I was very nervous about it."

Coordinator Geoff Case of the Veteran's Outreach Center, another of the four panelists, said he "thought the discussion went quite well -- nobody threw anything. This is the type of discussion that universities are all about."

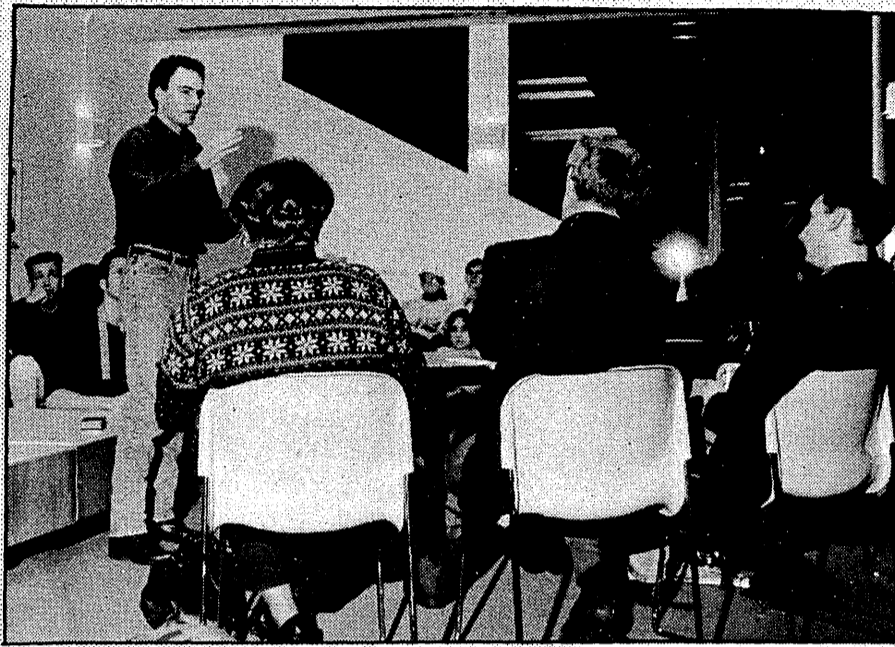


Photo by John Lindblom

Michael Schindler questions the panel on the issue of gays in the military.

But other people attending the forum expressed concern. Only one of those who attended spoke out against the integration of gays and lesbians in the military, saying that his perspective was a Christian one.

"It was so weighted on one side - there was even some laughter when Christianity was brought up," said Mark Ellis, 41, a graduate biology student and Vietnam vet who had made several points during the forum. "I was hoping for more interchange. I

wanted to hear the real details of the opposition's point of view."

Case said afterward that he still feels "the logistics are a whole lot harder than people think. I think people heard me, but didn't necessarily understand me (because they haven't been in the military.)"

He said his concern was behavior instead of orientation, and that sexual mis-

See FORUM, page 5

Western looks for better way to diversify faculty

By Chris Geer
staff reporter

In response to the small growth of tenured minority faculty at Western since 1990, the university has proposed the adoption of a more aggressive recruitment process, said Larry Estrada, vice-provost for diversity and director of American Cultural Studies. According to statistics from Estrada's office, two tenured faculty positions have been filled by minority applicants since 1990.

Maurice Bryan, director of the Center for Equal Opportunity, said there are many reasons for the small increase in minority-faculty hiring at Western compared to the growth in minority student enrollment.

"Part of it is availability. We have been more successful with students because they are out there," Bryan said. He said finding faculty is not always as easy within the current recruitment process.

"The (faculty) have to be qualified or moving towards being qualified. In some fields, the numbers are just much smaller," Bryan said.

Another hindrance to recruiting minority faculty is the lack of a strong and established minority community in the Bellingham area, a problem that can be resolved by a more aggressive approach, he said.

"Those people who don't need to be in a big city or urban center - those are the folks we need to find," Bryan said.

Estrada said Western has a number of strategies to bring in more faculty diversity. The first involves developing relationships with specific departments on campus as well as at other institutions. This would give Western a much needed rapport with prospective minority candidates and would enable departments to fill specific vacancies

See DIVERSITY, page 4

WSL goal: more education for the money

By John Pressentin
campus government editor

If the Washington Student Lobby has its way during this year's legislative session, students of public higher education should see a reasonable line between tuition increases and financial aid, educational quality maintained despite proposals to lift enrollment lids, and student representation on university governance boards in the next year.

Despite financial problems, WSL has high hopes for this year's session. Keith Boyd, Western's legislative liaison, said its overriding concern is the proposed tuition hikes. He said a hike is inevitable with the state's recent budget shortfall, but is hopeful the percentage will be lower than former Gov. Gardner's proposed 14-percent increase.

"We'd like to see something below 10 percent," he said. "Whatever the amount, we want it to be intrinsically linked to

increased financial aid."

Boyd said he thinks Gov. Mike Lowry won't sting students with high tuition increase. It's not likely any firm proposals will be made until next spring.

"We're hopeful Lowry will stick to the promises of his campaign, as a strong supporter of higher education," he said.

As legislative liaison, Boyd is a member of the State Board of Directors for

See LOBBY, page 5

Low income families get homes with 'sweat equity'

By Troy Schauls
staff reporter

Whatcom Self Help Homes (WSHH) has been slated to receive \$150,000 in state loan money from the Washington Housing Trust Fund to help 15 low-income families build and purchase their own homes.

The organization is a non-profit agency that orchestrates the construction and low-interest financing of quality housing for families in Whatcom County making less than 80 percent of the county's median income. But an unusual catch exists. Families who qualify must contribute an average of \$23,000 to the finished value of the home in the form of construction labor. Michael More, executive director of the WSHH, calls this

time and labor contribution "sweat equity."

More says this equity gives low-income families a chance that they would not otherwise have.

"They get to pocket that [equity]," More said, "so you're talking about a very low-income family that can barely afford rent all of a sudden owning a house and having equity to the extent of \$23,000. It gives them a real feeling of economic security."

The newly appropriated state money will serve to extend the limited resources that WSHH receives from the federal government in two ways. It will allow the 15 borrowing families to take out a mortgage from the federal sources for \$10,000 less than the total cost of the house. The difference will be made up by the state-loaned dollars allowing

federal dollars to be spread to more families.

Secondly, it serves to make the houses even more affordable because payment of the 2 percent annual interest rate is deferred until the owner sells the home.

The homes built under the supervision of contractors organized through the agency have an average monthly mortgage payment of \$200. Those who qualify for the program must be in the lowest income categories. For example, 40 percent of the families Whatcom Self Help Homes serves each year are considered "very low income," meaning that a family of four can make no more than \$17,200 a year to be eligible—only 50 percent of the county's median income. The other 60 percent are in the "low income" category, where a family of four can make no more

than \$27,500 per year—80 percent of the county's median.

Sally Higgins, accounts manager for the agency, listed additional considerations for program qualification. "You have to make enough money to afford home ownership as well as meet a credit requirement. So aside from being low-income you have to be able to pay for upkeep, property taxes, sewer and garbage," Higgins said.

Since Whatcom Self Help Homes began in 1978, they have helped build 250 homes in the county and they now average 20-25 homes every year. That figure is becoming more difficult to maintain because land close to Bellingham is becoming expensive and

See WSHH, page 3

WHAT'S INSIDE? ACCENT, pg. 7: Hammerbox rocks the Viking Union tonight.
SPORTS, pg. 9: Men's basketball stuffs Simon Fraser, 104-90.

Campus & Bellingham Cops Box

Campus Police

Jan. 26

At 10:25 p.m., a woman at Ridgeway Kappa reported a compact disc player taken from her room. Nothing else was missing.

At 12:05 p.m., a man parked his vehicle in Lot 26 C and left the driver-side door unlocked. He returned to find his parking permit missing. No damage was done to the vehicle and nothing else was stolen.

Bellingham Police

Jan. 26

At 1:12 a.m., a person was drunk and passed out at the 1200 block North State Street. After being awakened, he chose to be transported home rather than to detoxification.

At 6:38 p.m., the police received an alarm call from the 2900 block of Squalicum Parkway. Upon arrival the police learned an employee hit the alarm by mistake.

At 5:37 p.m., a man riding a bicycle was hit by a vehicle at the intersection of Elm and Jefferson streets. The vehicle left the scene without stopping. The man was not injured and the man's bike

remained undamaged.

At 1:21 p.m., a man at the 1100 block of State Street reported that employees are occasionally finding discarded hypodermic needles and penknife-sized razor blades in a receptacle. The man turned over four needles with dried blood on them.

At 2:07 p.m., two suspects ate breakfast and had six bar drinks then left without paying the check at the 100 block of Telegraph Road.

At 5:14 p.m., a citizen reported someone smoking marijuana at the 300 block of Champion Street.

Jan. 27

At 9:39 a.m., a man was intoxicated and sleeping in bushes at the 900 block of Lakeway Drive. He said he just needed to take a nap and that he was alright. The man decided to leave the area and walk home.

At 1:18 p.m., a man at Holly street and Railroad avenue was upset about being kicked out of the mission and other shelters. He stated he wished to go to jail. He said he wanted shelter and would threaten to commit a crime to obtain it. He voluntarily committed himself into the hospital for mental evaluation.

Western Briefs

Alumna's lecture to focus on minority women in society

Pam Gant, admissions counselor at Seattle University and a graduate of Western, will discuss her experience as a professional woman of color at 4 p.m., Feb. 9 in Viking Addition 461. Gant also will discuss issues concerning the role of women of color in today's society. Admission is free.

Malcom X forum to honor Black History Month

The Black Student Network will sponsor the forum "X Marks Your Thoughts, What Do You Think About Malcolm?" at noon, Feb. 11 in the Viking Union Lounge. The forum is in recognition of Black History Month and in accordance with the Black Student's Network theme, "Celebrating the Past to Empower the Future." Admission is free.

Exempt tax status changes due Feb. 8

Western employees who wish to claim exempt from Federal Withholding Tax deductions or want to continue with current exempt status for 1993 must submit new W-4 forms by Feb. 8.

A new W-4 form can be submitted at any time to effect future paydays, but an income tax deduction cannot be refunded once it has been withheld.

Send the forms through campus mail, MS 9017, or deliver to Old Main 330A.

AIGC offers graduate fellowships for natives

The American Indian Graduate Center is now accepting applications requests from Native American and Alaska Natives who are planning to go to graduate school in 1993. AIGC, a national nonprofit program, has been awarding graduate fellowships to indian students since 1969. According to a AIGC press release, applicants must also be an enrolled member of a federally-recognized tribe, a full-time student in a graduate program at an accredited college; and in need of financial aid. The deadline to submit the AIGC application is April 30. Eligible students can receive an application packet by contacting: American Indian Graduate Center, 4520 Montgomery Blvd. NE, Suite 1-B, Albuquerque, NM 87109, (505) 881-4584.

Columbian Quincentennial series continues with native contemporary art lecture

The Columbian Quincentennial Series will present Jaune Quick-To-See-Smith, "Contemporary Native Art," at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 4 at Skagit Valley College. Admission is free.

Across the country and around the world

Clinton to name homosexual to HUD

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) - Government sources say President Clinton is planning to name a homosexual San Francisco supervisor as his assistant secretary in the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). If confirmed to the post, Roberta Achtenberg would be the highest ranking openly homosexual official in the history of the executive branch. She would oversee HUD's fair housing and equal opportunity programs and be responsible for developing affirmative action programs for the department.

As a San Francisco supervisor, Achtenberg championed the city's local law recognizing homosexual marriages and introduced a bill to make public meetings and records more accessible and open.

Tacoma man commits suicide after police chase on Eastbound I-5

TACOMA, Wash. (AP) - A 32-year-old man who refused to pull over for a minor traffic violation killed himself after a chase from I-5 East to Tacoma the night of Jan. 27. After he finally stopped, the man shot himself in the head with a shotgun. Tacoma Police Spokesman Wally Mason identified the man as Leo Jacob Getz of Tacoma. Authorities said they had no idea why he killed himself.



Publisher's under investigation for possible deceptive sweepstakes

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) - New York Attorney General Robert Abrams said Publisher's Clearing House is under investigation for what he calls possible illegal and deceptive practices in its sweepstakes. The company announces tonight who won its \$10 million prize, but Abram's said some mailings deceptively imply there's a better chance of winning if the contestant buys magazines.

Toll of victims in food poisoning from Jack in the Box reaches 250

SEATTLE, Wash. (AP) - State health officials said they expect to hear of more people poisoned by con-

taminated hamburger from Jack in the Box restaurants. The state epidemiologist said at least 250 cases of the food poisoning have been identified, and almost 94 percent of those people ate at a Jack in the Box.

Officials also said some victims may also have been exposed to hepatitis A infection. A worker at a Mercer Island Jack in the Box has been found to have the infection. Officials say the hepatitis concern is not related to the bacterial infection.

Bubble-Gum Bandit caught pink handed

ATLANTA, Ga. (AP) - A 9-year-old boy, who Atlanta Police had dubbed "The Bubble-Gum Bandit," was arrested while breaking into a house Tuesday.

Police Spokesman Lee New said the boy has been charged with burglarizing six homes. New said in one incident, all the boy took was bubble gum. In other burglaries, he allegedly stole bubble gum, candy, and a roll of pennies.

Police said the boy told them he wanted to be just like his father. Police said the father was killed in a burglary.

Israel may face sanctions from United Nations for ousting Palestinians

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) - The United Nations Security Council is threatening to punish Israel for expelling more than 400 Palestinians, and Arabs have threatened to pull out of peace talks in protest of Israel's deportations, which were upheld Jan. 28 by Israel's Supreme Court.

White House Spokesman George Stephanopoulos said the administration is doing everything it can to

find some agreement between Israel and the U.N. Security Council. When asked about possible U.N. punishment, Stephanopoulos called a U.S. veto hypothetical, but he wouldn't rule it out either.

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

- **SPRING QTR. DEGREE & INITIAL CERTIFICATE CANDIDATES.** All students expecting to graduate and/or receive a teaching certificate at close of spring, 1993, must have senior/certification evaluation on file in the Registrar's Office, OM 230, by March 12. Degree applications must be returned by March 12. To pick up an application, go to OM 230. Deadline for summer graduates is June 4. It is strongly advised that fall graduates have their major evaluations before summer. Many advisers/departments will be unavailable due to vacations and closures.
- **LOT RESERVATIONS.** Lots 11G, 13G, 14G, 25G, 2C and 7G will be reserved beginning at 5 p.m. January 29 for the Royal Winnipeg Ballet. Lots 12G and 19G will be reserved beginning at 5 p.m. January 28 and 30 for basketball. The cooperation of the University community is requested. Drivers who park vehicles in a reserved lot prior to the attendant's arrival and who then leave their vehicle parked during the lot reservation period without authorization from the attendant will be considered illegally parked. Except for lot 10G Monday through Thursday, any G, V or C lot other than those listed may be used. Permit holders in reserved lots may remain parked for work-related purposes.
- **LIFESTYLE ADVISERS WANTED.** Students are encouraged to apply now for the 1993 Lifestyle Adviser class. Lifestyle advisers gain personal and professional skills by volunteering to present vital health information to their peers. Accepted applicants enroll in HE2 250 (Health and the College Student) for credit during spring quarter. For more information, contact the Wellness Center, X/3074, MH 271, by Feb. 1.
- **THE MATH PLACEMENT TEST** will be given at 9 a.m. on Feb. 16, 17, 24, and 25 and at 2 p.m. on Feb. 23. A fee of \$10 must be paid in the exact amount at time of registration in OM 120. The test takes about one and one-half hours.
- **TETEP (TEST FOR ENTRANCE INTO TEACHER EDUCATION)** will be given at 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 5, in LH 4. A \$20 registration fee must be paid in the exact amount at time of registration in OM 120. One large group administration of the test is scheduled for this quarter. Anyone who cannot take the test at this time and date may have it administered individually for a fee of \$30.
- **INTERNATIONAL LIVING GROUP ADVISERS.** The Institute of English Language Programs has live-in advisor positions to work with Asia University students from Tokyo from March through August, 1993, or from September, 1993, through February, 1994. Five-month salary is \$2,650. Applications, available in OM 530, are due Feb. 1. For more information, call Cyndy Wright, X/3297.
- **SEVERAL JOB SEARCH WORKSHOPS** are scheduled throughout winter quarter by the Career Services Center. These include Job Search Strategies; Résumé Writing; Cover Letters; Interview Techniques; Mock Interviews, workshops for educators on preparing effective résumés, cover letters and applications; and career planning workshops for liberal arts majors. For more information, contact Career Services Center, OM 280, X/3240.

On-campus interviews

- **Wash. State Dept. of Transport.,** Thurs.-Fri., Feb. 4-5. Computer analyst/programmers. Sign up in OM280. State applications due by Feb. 3.
- **Microsoft Corp.,** Thurs., Feb. 4. Software test engineer. Submit CIF & sign up in OM280.
- **Enterprise Rent-A-Car,** Tues., Feb. 9. Mgmt trainee. Submit CIF & sign up in OM280. Info session: 7 p.m. Feb. 8.
- **YMCA Camp Orkila,** Tues., Feb. 9. Summer camp counselors. Rep available 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., VU Lobby.
- **Camp Easterseal,** Wed., Feb. 10. Summer only. Submit application & sign up in OM280.
- **Holland America Line/Westours,** Wednesday, Feb. 17. Submit CIF or company application when you sign up in OM 280. Review company information in career library.
- **Equitable Associates,** Wednesday, Feb. 17. Submit CIF at sign up in OM 280 and review information in career library.

Presidential search begins

Adam Leask
staff reporter

Western's Presidential Search Committee conducted its first meeting Jan. 27.

Its job is to help the Board of Trustees in selecting a replacement for former Western President Kenneth Mortimer. The search committee will conduct its future meetings in closed executive sessions.

During the next several months, the committee will be conducting a nationwide search, reviewing many applications for the job. As part of the committee's requirements, members are not to publicize any information learned in the interviews.

"Our work will be in confidence and that's permitted under state law," said Craig Cole, committee chair and university trustee. "We literally have people's careers at stake. We will receive applications from people whose careers will be ruined if it's known that they've

See COMMITTEE, page 4

WSHH: Program 'fosters initiative,' homebuilders say

Continued from page 1

very scarce. Frequently, the agency runs into what More calls "NIMBY Syndrome" when trying to purchase land for their projects.

NIMBY stands for the Not-In-My-Back-Yard attitude that is occasionally expressed by nearby residents of the agency's houses. "Our housing is often viewed unkindly by the communities we build in because our clients are perceived as being low income," More said. "You deal with a lot of social prejudice. We are viewed as the black sheep of the builders' [industry]. It is perceived by most people in construction and real estate that our homes will devalue the surrounding houses."

The net effect of this attitude is that the builders who build houses that are nicer than the ones More helps build, are sending a message that low income families don't have the right to own property, he said.

But despite these obstacles,

More and Higgins feel they are making a difference in the community and in the county's tight housing situation.

"I applied for this position after I finished building a Self Help Home," Higgins said, "so I can say [from personal experience] that this program certainly affects the housing situation. I feel it is a worthwhile contribution to the community."

More said in addition to the many personal rewards he experiences as a non-profit agency's director, "We get to have a very tangible work product that makes a significant, material, quantifiable difference in peoples' lives. It is a federal program that fosters initiative and responsibility that also validates people for working and I like that."

For more information regarding Whatcom Self Help Homes, contact More or Higgins at 734-4560.

Professor active in education issues

By Robyn Johnson
staff reporter

William Demmert, visiting professor of anthropology at Western, recently served in Washington, D.C. on President Clinton's education transition team.

"The transition team attempted to describe what was wrong with the education department and made some recommendations on how it could be changed," Demmert said.

Demmert provided advice on programs that affect Native Americans and Alaska natives in addition to drafting recommendations for the incoming Secretary of Education Richard Riley.

Demmert said he believes the climate has already improved under Clinton. "I was very impressed with the cultural mix of people that were brought in for the education transition team," Demmert said. "For the first time, there was more than one Indian."

Demmert is an Alaska native from the Tlingit tribe of Southeastern Alaska in addition to being part Oglalla Sioux of South Dakota. He has served in most of the top positions in the area of Native American education, including director of education for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. He also served on the Council of

Advisers for Education, a transition organization that examined education and developed policy recommendations for Clinton.

"The transition team attempted to describe what was wrong with the education department and made some recommendations on how it could be changed," Demmert said.

"I believe Clinton will appoint people in education who will be inclined to work with educators across the country as partners to improve the school systems," he said. "This is opposed to under the Reagan years when Bill Bennett was just an education-basher. He didn't do anything but tear things apart and I think we will see some changes in four years."

Demmert was particularly excited about the people who spoke about bilingual education. He said research shows a person who is part of a language minority should continue using the original language base for learning and learn English as a second language.

He went on to say research shows that if the original language base is taken away, a student's ability to learn English is limited.

Demmert was an Alaska commissioner of education and was invited to Stanford as a visiting professor of education to work on a national report titled "Indian



Photo by Will Young
Professor William Demmert

Nations At Risk: An Educational Strategy for Action." After its publication, he spent the next year trying to promote it and develop support for the recommendations it contained for the Department of Education.

Demmert also works for the National Indian Policy Center out of George Washington University where he focuses on policy and legislative issues. He recently was awarded a \$16,865 grant by the policy center to continue providing advice on national education issues for Native Americans.

Demmert arrived at Western in September and will be a visiting professor until Sept. 1993. He is currently teaching a class on contemporary issues and Indian affairs and will teach multicultural education spring quarter.

Make A Difference

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BC rabies cases concern local health officials

By Crina Hoyer
staff reporter

Boundary health officials in Vancouver, B.C. are investigating three cases of rabies in cats within 10 miles of Whatcom County's northern border. Whatcom County health officials are urging people to make sure their pet is vaccinated.

Doddie Homrud, director of community services for the Bellingham/Whatcom County Humane Society, said because of the low risk of infection, people usually

ignore the problem of rabies.

Animals can be vaccinated at any veterinarians office. Most vaccines are effective for at least two years.

"We're concerned that these cases of rabies are so close to Whatcom County," said Tom Kunish, environmental health specialist for Whatcom County Health Department. "Wild animals know no boundaries."

Rabies is a fatal viral disease transmitted by the exchange of bodily fluids. It is most often transferred through a bite or

scratch.

According to a press release, bats and other wild animals have been the primary source of the disease in Washington since 1960. Cases of rabies in domestic animals are very rare.

"Before the rabies vaccination there were 30-40 reported cases each year. Now we're seeing one case every five to 10 years," Kunish said.

Symptoms of the disease include aggressive behavior, delusions and loss of muscle control which leads to paralysis or

a catatonic state.

"People should avoid contact with all wild animals, strays or animals exhibiting any of the symptoms of the disease," Kunish said.

If you are bitten, it is important to be able to identify the animal, Homrud said. Animal bites should be reported to the local humane society office or the Whatcom County Health Department. "We officials know the right questions to ask to determine the severity of the case," Homrud said.

COMMITTEE: Official says president selected by June

Continued from page 3

applied. And some of those people will not make the cut. So it's very, very important that confidentiality be maintained."

Cole said he expects the committee to select a new president by May or June and have him or her start fall quarter, 1993. To maintain that time frame, the committee's job has to be completed by late April.

"The board of trustees selects (the candidate), the presidential search committee reviews and screens (them), but everybody recruits. Everybody is encouraged to solicit candidates," Cole said.

Mary Kay Becker, committee member, told the committee what qualities she believed the new president should have.

"I really see that the president of the university needs to be not only someone who embodies all the high academic quality that we now associate with Western, but who's also a top-notch administrator to keep the wheels of the institution rolling," she said.

The committee includes a cross-section of members drawn from faculty, administration, staff, alumni and the local community.

DIVERSITY: Minority profs 'role models'

Continued from page 1

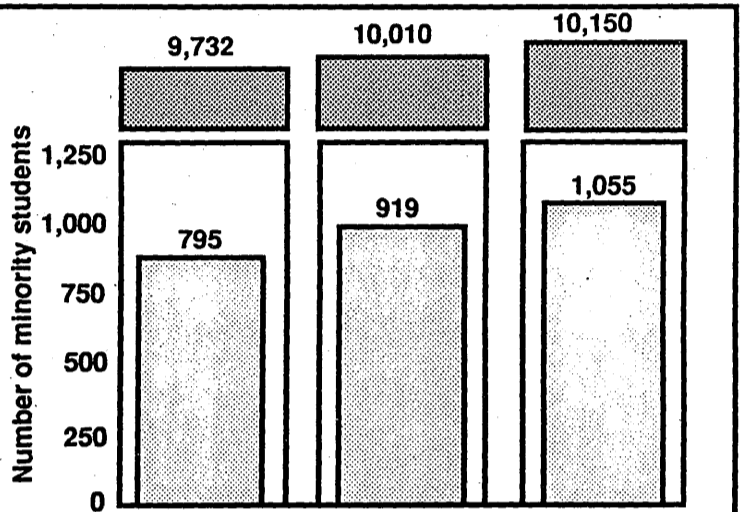
more easily.

The second proposal involves bringing in young minority scholars who may still be working towards their doctorates in the hope that they would continue to contribute to Western after completing their degrees.

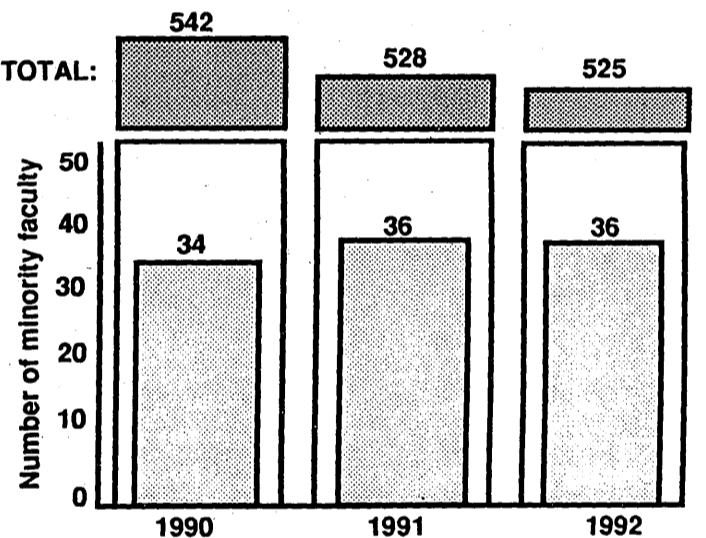
"One thing that is absolutely imperative is the increasing need for role models who would augment debate and discourse in the context of the current curriculum," Estrada said.

Bryan agrees in developing the "grow your own" approach. Although Western doesn't have a doctorate program, Bryan said it could implement an ABD program (All But Dissertation) that could be done in conjunction with doctorate programs at other universities.

The current process for filling faculty vacancies is more passive than the new proposals. A vacancy is usually created by retirement or curriculum changes. The department then announces the opening in discipline journals such as "The Chronicle of Higher Education" in addition to sending out letters to organizations and other schools. A review date is then set to go over all applications. After a few cuts, the selection is made.



STATISTICS FROM FALL QUARTERS



*Faculty statistics come from the office of the provost.
*Statistics for minority students come from the Admissions and Registrar's Office.

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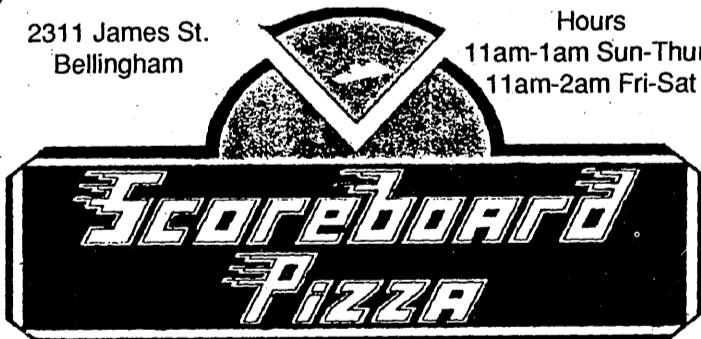
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LOBBY: Western is the lowest financial contributor of state to WSL

Continued from page 1

WSL, which meets once a month in Olympia. Each of the state's higher-education institutions gets three votes on the board. Western A.S. President Erin Middlewood and Vice President for External Affairs Coll-Peter Thrush also serve on the board.

Thrush said WSL has an opportunity to get a lot accomplished this year in Olympia because of the newly-elected Democratic House, Senate and governor. A lot of higher-education bills got killed in the Republican Senate last year.

"It's a good prognosis," Thrush said. "They seem to be willing to listen. It looks like a good formula to get things done."

Legislators will probably pass the Student Regents Bill, which will make a student representative a voting member of Western's Board of Trustees, said Boyd, who recently testified on the bill. Currently, the voting members come from different backgrounds and have little connection with students. They are appointed by the governor from around the state for six-year terms. The A.S. will nominate individuals for this position.

"We've got tremendous support in the House," said Boyd. "I really don't think anybody is going to vote against it."

Boyd said WSL is paying special attention to the impacts of rising enrollment lids. He said Western and the UW can't take many more students given the

current demand for classes and housing.

"Right now it takes about four years and two quarters to graduate," he said. But in the state legislature there's a lot of pressure to increase access to more students. We think a creative way to increase access is to have people graduate on time, opening another space that much sooner."

Kairina Stobbe, Western's WSL representative, said Western's contract lobbyist, Steve Lindstrom, is working to make sure increased enrollments don't depreciate the quality of education offered at Western. "We need to look at the scope of education at this university, and see that it is maintained," she said.

Boyd said a major problem with WSL at Western is that students either don't know about, or feel detached from, the organization's activities in Olympia. Western has the lowest percentage of donations of any school in the state. He said a lot of students choose not to pay the dollar that goes towards WSL because they don't know how it impacts them.

"That dollar does a lot of good," he said. "Last year WSL saved an average of \$100 in tuition per student. And so far they've been really receptive to us this year."

For information on the WSL, legislative process or a particular bill, call the office of the AS Vice President for External Affairs at 650-2941 or the WSL office at 650-6124.

WSL debt caused mainly by UW

By John Pressentin
campus government editor

The Washington Student Lobby (WSL) group is currently in financial trouble, primarily because of problems at WSL's University of Washington's chapter.

The UW's administration has refused to release more than \$6,500 contributed by UW students to the WSL chapter because the chapter's leaders failed to fulfill the requirements of their contract with the UW, said Keith Boyd, Western's legislative liaison.

At the UW, WSL is required to hold an election each year for its officers. To do that, they must run two full-page advertisements in the UW's campus newspaper, *The Daily*, a requirement that costs WSL \$500. Once new officers are elected they must fill out new contracts with the administration and WSL, Boyd said.

"If we don't fulfill the terms of that contract even down to the last letter, they can withhold those funds," he said.

Boyd said WSL ran into trouble last spring when it appointed Chris Putnam,

ASUW vice president for finance and budget, as its chapter chair without advertising or holding an election.

Because the chapter failed to fulfill its obligations, the administration said they had no legal way to distribute those funds, Boyd said.

The UW did hold elections for its WSL officers on Jan. 28. "WSL should be back on its feet again and we should get that money the UW owes us by mid-February," he said. "But this has taken a lot of time."

"Right now WSL is completely flat broke, until we get this influx of cash," Boyd said. "Our phone service has been cancelled. We've got a stack of bills the size of this office just waiting for money to come in. We have a professional contract lobbyist who has been working for us on good faith because we haven't paid him since last summer."

Western does not require an election for its WSL officers.

Funding for WSL comes from the \$1 grant students can choose to check off on their registration cards. All the money goes to a general fund that finances WSL activity in Olympia.

FORUM: Integration meeting stays calm

Continued from page 1

conduct is an issue even though it is a rule throughout the military that there be no sexual activity hile on duty.

O'Donohoe suggested that the problem in the military is not one of homosexuality, but of sexuality in general, citing the recent Tailhook scandal and the widespread sexual harrassment and rape charges being brought by American servicewomen.

The "process of enculturation is the only way (to combat sex crimes)," she said. "If you know me, it's harder to hate me...harder to hurt me."

• Weekly legislative update •

This is the first in a series of weekly updates on what is happening with higher education throughout the legislative session.

Financial Aid. The Higher Education Coordinating Board is examining a plan to raise the eligibility ceiling on state grants from its current \$16,00 to \$30,000 per family.

The College Promise Act. This would cover families of four with incomes of up to \$49,000. It would also guarantee a spot in one of the four year institutions if certain criteria are met.

The Student Regents Bill. Currently, one student,

the A.S. President, sits on Western's Board of Trustees. The position is ex officio, however: no vote, and no real voice. The Student Regents Bill will give this position a vote.

The Four-Year Graduation Guarantee. This is an interesting new piece of legislation that will conditionally guarantee students all the classes they need in order to graduate within four years. The bill sorely needs ideas for implementation and may not pass this year, but the legislature is aware that it takes up to six years for the average student to graduate.

A.S. Vice President for External Affairs Coll-Peter Thrush gathered the information for this report.



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'Mother Hicks' a serious play with humorous relief

By Kris Alexander
staff reporter

The bonds formed between an eccentric old woman, a homeless deaf man and a 13-year-old orphan girl are the plot for Western's drama, "Mother Hicks." Suzan Zeder's award-winning play will be performed 7:30 p.m., Feb. 3-6, in the Old Main Theatre.

"It is about how these three characters come together," said Trish Davies, publicity intern for the theater department. "They sort of form a family bond."

The play is serious, with humorous relief.

The story takes place during the Great Depression in a little Illinois town called Ware. The townspeople, in an attempt to rationalize the poverty and misfortune that has befallen them, accuse Mother Hicks, played by graduate student Kitty King, of being a witch. When a young, nameless orphan, played by Western student Amber Pohlman, accepts a dare to approach the old woman, she decides to become a witch herself. Her actions form the tie between Mother Hicks and the deaf-mute narrator, Tuc. First-time actor David Olszewski of Bellingham plays the role.

"Tuc is hearing impaired, but he speaks not just through sign language, but through the use of a chorus through poetry," Davies explained. "It's very moving and very touching."

Other cast members include James Cowan, Ward Fay, Will Lasky, Will Lesh, Sunshine Mink, Cory Jess Nealy, Robert Orr, Melanie Russell and Rain Van Den Berg.

"The need to belong is the central theme of the play," said Director Douglas Vander Yacht. "But belonging doesn't mean you have to have your blood kin in order to get nurturing to be family."

Vander Yacht said he feels it is an important idea for today's younger people.

"Your best buddy's father can be a father to you in lots of ways. (He) can be a role model for you and provide a nurturing environment for you to grow and learn. You can achieve a healthy personality without having both parents at home," he said.

"The other powerful theme is the cautionary idea that scapegoating is very destructive to individuals and to society," Vander Yacht said. "(Mother Hicks) is the one who is victimized by the scapegoating and

damaged and made crazy by isolation. When we think, prove in fact, that an infant shrivels up and dies if it's not touched, what happens to an adult when she's excommunicated or kicked out of the social structure in which we all thrive and need to belong?"

"Mother Hicks has shut herself off," King said. "She's been hurt badly, ostracized and blamed for everything that has gone wrong in the town for the last 10 years, so she's become a bit of a character herself."

King empathizes with her character and said that's why she felt she could handle the role even after not performing for 20 years.

"She can't get through certain material without crying," Vander Yacht said. "When she talks about (a certain scene), she can't get through that without the tears that are appropriate for the moment."

The fact that Olszewski, like his character, is deaf makes the play more realistic, Vander Yacht said. However, he and the other cast members have had to work around the communication barrier.

"The deaf-mute character is conveying an important story to us, but his expression, (which is) visual to us and is voiced by others in the play, is heightened

speech, lyric and poetry. Somehow there's an idea that we need to appreciate others' means of communication and the value of communication by many means," he said.

The theater department was unable to afford a professional interpreter for every rehearsal so they had to rely on other means of communication. Cast member Rain Van Den Berg has aided with simple interpretation and other ideas are pantomimed. King was also tutored in American Sign Language.

"He (Olszewski) is very willing to initiate communication, in spite of the fact that we run into black walls sometimes or neither of us knows what the other is trying to say," King said. "He has a great sense of humor. He teases me all the time about being a witch."

Vander Yacht chose to direct "Mother Hicks" because of its "timeless coming-of-age" story and his familiarity with Zeder's writing.

"She and I have met and socialized and worked on drama initiatives at various conferences around the country. She's at the top of her field in terms of educational theater. She's the best children's theater playwright I

have ever encountered and I've done some of her other material with glorious results. I'm very enthusiastic about anything she does," he said.

Vander Yacht also related strongly to the story.

"When I read it, I was very, very moved by the problem because 1935 is the year of my birth," he said. "I am a child of the Depression. I'm from a broken home and I think the play says something very important to people who don't have both their parents to nurture them."

Tickets are available at the Plaza Cashier and are \$8 general, \$6 seniors, and \$3 for students and children.



Ballet Folclórico Nacional De Mexico

Photo courtesy of Mount Baker Theatre

Cultural ambassadors of Mexico to visit the Mount Baker Theatre

Erik Petterson
staff reporter

The Ballet Folclórico de Mexico will perform at 8 p.m., Jan. 30 at the Mount Baker Theatre. The evening promises to be educational and even a little spicy as the performers and dancers reflect the cultural diversity of Mexico's many and varied regions.

Entertainment from a dozen areas in Mexico will be performed by more than 30 different dancers and nearly 20 musicians. Three soloists will also perform during the ballet. Other performances will include dance and the mariachi.

The ballet will depict unusual myths in an exhilarating, exotic manner.

The Ballet Folclórico Nacional is anything but monotonous. The diverse ballet is made up of folk songs, foot stomping folk dances, intricate costumes (employing plumes of feathers and lacquered gourdes), European-cut flamenco outfits, beastial make-up and twirling machetes.

The ballet's general director and choreographer, Silvia Lozano, founded the ballet in 1960. Elia Baillet serves as the ballet's artistic director. Together their imaginations have guided and instructed this well-traveled and worldly troupe to excellence.

The Ballet Folclórico has

been officially chosen by the government of Mexico as the first and foremost cultural ambassador of Mexico. The troupe has performed at inaugural celebrations, international festivals and for heads of state. They have performed in both North and South America as well as Europe and Asia.

The National Folk Ballet will perform for one night only. Tickets may be purchased at the door prior to the performance. You may also purchase tickets by telephone by calling 734-6080.

Tickets are priced according to the location of the seating.

Grub & Chug restaurant review

By Dan Licari
staff reporter

This week the Grub & Chug got up early to give breakfast a try. Having heard rumors about how good the food was, I had to eat at the Little Cheerful Cafe, 133 E. Holly, right off Railroad in downtown Bellingham.

If you are from Seattle, this name might sound familiar because the owners of the Little Cheerful previously owned a cafe by the same name in the U-District before moving it to Bellingham.

Without knowing the location, you might never have the opportunity of running into this place. The cafe is very small. More than two people and you might be sitting in laps, but if you and a friend are looking for a good place to grub, write the address down.

My friend Chris and I were both eager to chow and it only took a quick glance at the menu to figure out what we both wanted. An inside source told me that this place had the best hashbrowns in town, so I went with the Denver Hashbrowns. Chris, also a bronco fan, went with the Denver om-

lette.

The service was very prompt and friendly (as the name suggests) and before we could suck down a cup of coffee, the food was in front of us.

My source did not steer me wrong. The food was excellent, and more importantly very filling. The prices were between \$4-\$6, a fair price for the size of these meals. With all this in mind, the Little Cheerful is definitely no less than a one Tum joint.

Dan's Rating System:

No Tums: A *must* grub

One Tums: Good food, easy to grub too much.

Two Tums: Food is O.K., maybe a little hard on the funds.

Three Tums: Food was only grubbable, didn't load me up.

Four Tums: Save your money and go to Taco Bell.

CORRECTION

The title of Alyssa Burrows' book mentioned in the "We're Not Your Mother" article, which ran in the January 22 issue, should have been "Light Blue is a Sissy Color," not "Life is a Sissy Color." We apologize for our error.

Bar Briefs

Friday:

Up & Up: Monks of Doom, Dirt Fisherman, Egin Kid
3B: Greg William Jazz,
Speedy's: Bhramins

Saturday:

Up & Up: Stink, Maxi Badd
3B: Chemistry Set, Lawn Dart
Speedy's: Scooby, Forbidden Pigs

Native American performers

Troop celebrates various tribal dances

By Erik Petterson
staff reporter

Traditional indigenous performance artists will escort willing audience members into the past at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 1 in the Mount Baker Theatre. The American Indian Dance Theatre will feature

performances representing 15 different tribes from the Dakotas, the Great Plains, Canada and the Southwest.

All the steps and lyrics to the performances are passed down through the generations in the oral tradition.

An older dancer must have hundreds of songs and dances memorized perfectly. It takes many years to become a master dancer.

Unlike a student dancer, masters cannot refer back to their original teacher. In true form with the oral tradition, the masters' teachers are often deceased.

Representatives from such renowned tribes as the Apache, Cherokee, Navajo and Sioux will perform as well as dancers from

lesser known tribes. Each dancer, or group of dancers, will depict their respective regional renditions of ceremonial, social, spiritual and seasonal dances.

The American Indian Dance Theatre was established in 1987. In the five years since its start it has toured the United States, Canada, the Persian Gulf and much of western Europe. This spring they will appear for the second time on television.

Those who wish to see the Earth celebrated, a fire dance or a dance with a shield and lance, should take advantage of this "Explorer" series performance put on by the Mount Baker Theatre Center.

Tickets can be purchased by phoning 734-6080. Tickets will be for sale the night of the performance but only as seating allows.



Photo courtesy of the Mount Baker Theatre
The American Native Dance Theatre group will perform Feb. 1 at the Mount Baker Theatre.

AS welcomes Hammerbox to the VU tonight

By Jonathan
Burton
staff reporter

Three years ago four musicians met through contacts at *The Rocket* and formed a band called Hammerbox. Barbara Dollarhide of C/Z records in Seattle managed the band in the beginning and watched them grow.

"They are one of those bands that had to pay their dues," Dollarhide said.

The band's popularity in the Seattle music scene has never been in question she

said. Their first album, a seven-inch vinyl, sold all 1,000 copies in the first month.

Hammerbox also participated in a compilation album. The self-titled "debut" album was a big break for the band. Released by C/Z records, the cds sold 10,000 copies.

"They are one of the biggest draws today in Seattle," Dollarhide said. Based on past sales of albums and their new two record contracts with A&M Records, it is not far fetched to say Hammerbox is taking off. Numb, the band's next album recorded under a major label, is a real break for a band such as Hammerbox, said Dollarhide who no longer manages the band because

of their size.

Sudden tempo changes, tactful pauses followed by explosive synchronicity and dynamic ranges in song variety make Hammerbox a unusual band. All four members of the band write the lyrics which is something unusual, Dollarhide said.

Lead vocalist Carrie Akre also gives a unique sound that sets them apart from most other bands. Her only experience before joining the band was singing in choir. Although the music is predominantly fast guitar, blazing percussion and an agreeable base, Akre breaks up the tempo with her charming voice.

Its melodic lows and powerful highs will get to the soul of any power music lover while enticing a more mellow audience.

This band is likely to follow the path of success many other Seattle bands have taken in past years. Unlike the grunge bands that came out of Seattle, Hammerbox is a clear favorite for similar success as a non-grunge outfit.

A.S. Productions will feature Hammerbox at 8 pm. tonight in the Viking Union Main Lounge. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$6 general admission. Flop, CrackerBash, Wicker biscuit and Dunebuggy will open the show.

Walking on a sea of feathers

By Matt Hulbert
staff reporter

Art is something you are supposed to experience, not just look at.

Margery Amdur has made sure you experience her art in the Viking Union Gallery. An installation titled, "Purses, Pods, Pumps, Boats on Feathers or Sometimes Things Pop in My Head and I Get Distracted," will be on display until Feb. 5.

When you first approach the gallery one of the first things you notice is the sign on the door telling you to take off your shoes before entering.

The second thing you will probably notice are the dark feathers covering the ground like a dark sea on which a paper maché boat floats.

Pods, purses and flowers hang from the ceiling, surrounding you in Amdur's world.

When Amdur accepted the position of assistant professor in the art department, she moved to Bellingham from Philadelphia. Her awareness of nature height-

ened and that changed her art.

"I started doing some drawings, trying to pick up where I left off in Philadelphia, and it just wasn't working. Finally, after I was here several months, I decided to surrender to being here and let this whole vegetative nature and landscape come into my work," she said.

Amdur started drawing and sketching as a way of expressing her feelings. Her work in an environment was a direct influence of these early drawings.

One day when Amdur was in a hardware store, she came across a hummingbird feeder. She had never seen one before and the shape interested her.

"I wanted to do an installation and I wanted to create a forest. Then the hummingbird feeders came in and it was apparent that I was going to make a forest, but I was going to use my own shapes.

When Amdur was in another store she saw another product, a breast pump. The shape was similar to the hummingbird feeder

which led to a conceptual link in the installation. The feeders are for nourishing the birds and the breast pumps are an indirect method for feeding a child.

The boats symbolize the body and the void. The void is a dark, ominous empty space that is waiting to be filled, Amdur said. In her research she found that boats were used for burial, which starts the layering of concepts.

Purses hang from the ceiling as an expression of femininity to go along with the breast pumps.

"I knew people were going to say, 'what in the hell is she doing with the boats and purses?', but for me it was very clear. The purses are a symbol of the void and female identity and I thought it would couple them together."

Amdur has created an environment with intertwining layers of symbols and thoughts.

"This piece has become much more symbolic and it is obviously a woman's statement, [but] its not just that a woman can appreciate it. I don't want to be that narrow."



Photo by Matt Hulbert

Feathers, hummingbird feeders, boats, purses and breast pumps come together in Margery Amdur's installation currently on display in the Viking Union Gallery.

Superbowl maniacs pick their favorite teams

By Lisa Naylor
staff reporter

"The Cowboys are going Buffalo hunting," said senior Bob Haghight of the upcoming Superbowl.

For you football fans, kickoff is at 3:30 p.m., Jan. 31, in Pasadena. The Dallas Cowboys meet the Buffalo Bills.

Rooting for the Buffalo Bills this weekend are junior Ira Siebert and senior Shane Evans. "I'm for the Bills because I don't want Dallas to win," Siebert said. "Picking the Bills is like choosing the lesser of two evils."

Siebert is upset because his favorite team, the Miami Dolphins, did not make it to the Superbowl.

"I either want Dallas and Buffalo to play to a scoreless tie for 14 days, or I want all the members of each team to suddenly die before the game so Miami and San Francisco can play," he said.

"I don't like the Cowboys. I never have," said Evans, a Steeler fan.

Sophomore Greg Sheehan, a Cowboys fan, follows the football scores weekly. "Dallas will win. They're much better than Buffalo," he said.

Dallas fans had other reasons for

liking the team. John Nelson, a junior majoring in marketing, said, "I'm for the Cowboys. They are my favorite team by far because they're young, new and hip."

"They're a young team (Dallas) with certain glamour appeal to them," said Gerald Benton, a junior majoring in psychology.

"I watch the games when I can, but it depends on who is playing. I like to follow the Seahawks," he added, "but I always end up turning the game off because they're losing."

Although betting on the game is common, the majority of students interviewed did not make

wagers. Evans said he still might place a bet, but he doubts it. "I don't have the money to lose," he said.

Benton gave up gambling after losing \$100 on the Seahawks in 1988, but Nelson has \$10 riding on the Dallas Cowboys.

"\$10 is cheap," said the marketing major.

Millions of advertising dollars will be spent during the event. One of the most popular ads is the famous "Bud Bowl."

Benton said he didn't care which beer won this year. "I don't drink and I think the whole thing is stupid. They're exploiting people

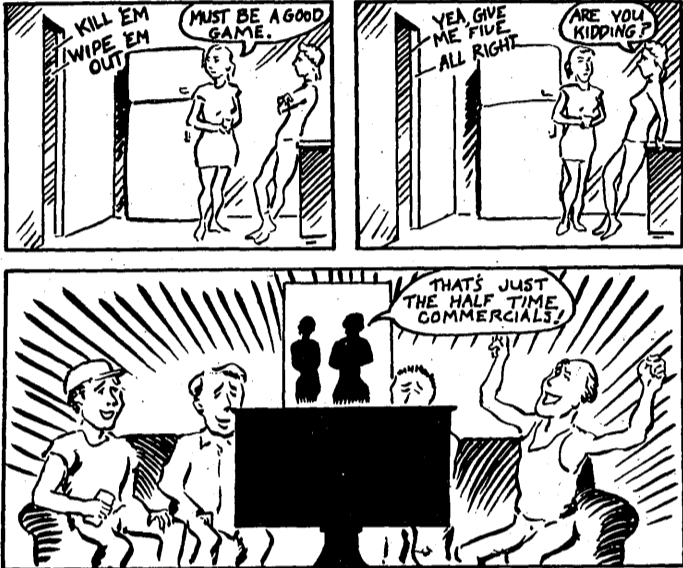
to do something bad healthwise, and it just causes problems," he said.

Nelson said he thought advertising was a form of capitalism and that was good. "I hope Bud Light wins, I'm getting fat," the marketing major said.

Siebert said he hadn't been following the Bud Bowl too closely, but chose Bud Light as his pick to win.

"I think it's funny. They (the commercials) don't persuade me, but they wouldn't spend the money if they didn't think they'd persuade someone. So somebody out there must be an idiot!" he said.

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY



Western women defeated by Saints

Andrew Pendll
staff reporter

The Western women's basketball team lost a physical game to St. Martin's College, 63-71, last night in Carver Gym.

The two teams combined for 50 fouls, with the Vikings committing a season-high 29.

The Vikings have lost three of their last four games, including a 58-71 loss to Simon Fraser Tuesday. Their record is 11-10 overall, 4-5 in district play.

Western held a two-point

lead early, but the Saints went on a four-minute 10-0 run and led 16-8 with 12:02 left. The first half ended with the Vikings down eight points, 33-41.

The Saints were led by Ronald Dunn, who scored a game-high 30 points, including four 3-pointers.

Viking forward Gina Estep said the team was unable to synchronize its offensive and defensive play, often making the play on one end of the court only to give it up on the other end.

"We have to learn to stop and start out again at the same tempo," she said.

Western, after being down by 13 points, cut the Saints' lead to five with 7:42 to play. Dunn hit a 3-pointer, sparking a Saints 15-6 run, and the Vikings were unable to close the gap again.

"We missed a lot of easy shots inside," Vikings' coach Carmen Dolfo said.

Allison Hull led Western with 13 points while Gina Estep and Gina Sampson had 12 apiece.

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Viking men win game of streaks against SFU

By Mark Scholten
staff reporter

The Western men's basketball team was able to get the upper-hand in a game of streaks and defeat Simon Fraser University, 104-90, last night at Carver Gym.

The victory upped the Vikings record to 3-2 in district play and 12-7 overall. The Clansmen fell to 3-3 and 10-12.

Western jumped to a quick 12-4 advantage and got the lead as high as 14 points, 36-22, with 8:28 to play in the first half. But SFU scored on their next seven possessions while holding Western scoreless to pull into a 36-36 tie 3 1/2 minutes later. The Vikings held a 50-49 lead at the half.

"Overall it was a good effort tonight, but we kind of eased up in the first half," said forward Brian Jones. "We knew they were tough - they battled."

The second-half began with the teams exchanging streaks. Simon Fraser scored 11 of the first 14 points after the intermission to take a seven-point lead with 17:09 left.

The Clansmen were led by sharp-shooting forward Craig Preece, who had 10 points during the run. Preece's 28 points with 15

minutes to play sent some members of press row scurrying to find the Carver Gym single-game record, but the 6-foot-4-inch senior managed just two points the rest of the game.

Simon Fraser's lead got as high as 65-57 before Western responded with a run of their own. The Vikings went on a 13-0 blitz to take a five-point lead and never trailed again. The lead gradually increased and got a high as 17 in the final minute.

Western reached the 100-point mark on a slam-dunk by Derrick Thomas with 1:11 to play.

The Vikings got a good all-around effort from junior guard Dwayne Kirkley, whose 15 points, 11 rebounds and 9 assists left him just one assist shy of the first "triple-double" in Western's history.

"Everyone played hard tonight. We just kept giving 110%, even when we got behind," Kirkley said.

Guard Joel Duchesne led six Vikings in double figures with 21 points. Kirkley and Jay Shinnick were next with 15, Jeff Dick and Jason Schmidt had 14 apiece while Harold Doyal added 12.

Preece finished with game-high totals of 30 points and 12 rebounds for the Clansmen. Virgil Hill had 26 points and David Munro chipped in with 16 for SFU.

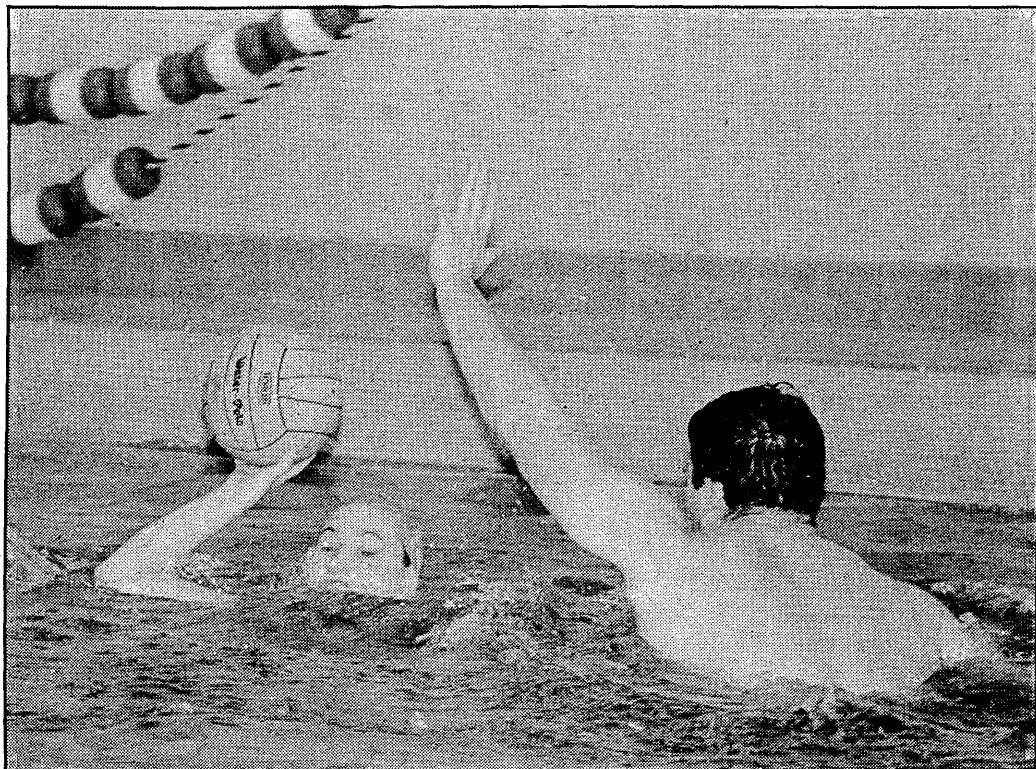


Photo by Adam Leask
Feeling like a fish-out-of-water? Play water polo. Lorin Jouag defends Tanya Everts as they practice Wednesday night in the Western Pool.

Sports Briefs

--Basketball Doubleheader Tomorrow in Carver Gym
Women vs. Lewis-Clark- 6 p.m.
Men vs. Puget Sound - 8p.m.

--Hockey Action Tomorrow, 8 p.m. at the Bellingham Coliseum
Western vs. University of Idaho

Men's and women's ski teams place eighth at White Pass Invitational

The Western men's and women's ski teams finished eighth overall at the White Pass Invitational Jan. 23 and 24.

The men placed 11th in the Grand Slalom and sixth in the Slalom. The women placed a consistent eighth in both events.

Ana Echter finished second overall after placing second in both events. Both teams compete again Jan. 30 and 31 in Canada.

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For further information contact the Chair, Student Publications Council, CH111.

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Frontline

Environment deserves an option

What if there were an untapped fuel source which could end U.S. dependence on foreign oil? Put a sizeable dent in the world hunger problem? Slow down the depletion of our forests? Lessen the carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere?

Both Republicans and Democrats who are concerned about our constant meddling in the Middle East because of oil interests, who dream of all the children in the world going to bed with full stomachs, who love to visit our great forests, who worry about global warming and the greenhouse effect would greet such a fuel source with open arms.

According to some activists, such a source exists and awaits our exploitation. Amazingly enough it is a source our own government banned 55 years ago. It is renewable. It can grow 10 feet or more in less than three months. It produces four times the pulp of forested acreage. In fact, the advocates of this source calculate that if 6 percent of the United States were planted with this source, enough oil could be produced to meet the nation's energy needs.

Sounds like a fantasy or maybe science fiction, doesn't it? Nope, it's just *Cannibis sativa*, marijuana, pot, hemp. It's the moment of truth. Are the problems we face in the world today important enough to allow us to cast aside pre-conceived notions and examine an option?

In 1916, the U.S. Department of Agriculture published Bulletin No. 404 examining hemp as a paper-making material. Even at that early date, the investigators concluded forests were in danger. They wrote that a knowledge of other available raw materials may be imperative.

In the 1930s, the federal government banned the growth of hemp only to rescind the order during World War II when the Japanese cut off our supply. American farmers were called upon to cultivate hemp until the crisis was over.

Now we are in a crisis again. The American people have elected a president who wants to increase miles per gallon requirements on vehicles and convert to alternative fuel sources. We have a vice president who wrote his own book on the environment. They need to examine hemp publicly as the possible answer to our dilemma.

The opposition says it is too expensive and it promotes drug use. The advocates say we are running out of our non-renewable fuel sources and the hemp grown for fuel purposes can't get anyone high.

The destruction of our environment is far too great a price to take a chance on. If people want to smoke some weak buds, let them. It can't be any worse than booze and cigarettes. Hell, tax it and solve the nation's deficit problem.

Clinton needs to discuss the issue in a public forum. Let's examine the pros and cons of hemp scientifically, inform the public and vote on the issue just as if we lived in a democracy. It's time to get back to our roots and call out the farmers.

---Sam Kitchell, editor-in-chief

The Western Front

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MEANWHILE IN BOSNIA



Balkan atrocities must be dealt with by Clinton administration



By Kevin Perron
issues/
opinions editor

Racial cleansing—Genocide—Concentration camps—Torture, rape and brutal murder. At first glance, these terms might bring to mind the types of atrocities committed against millions of innocents in Nazi Germany during World War II. They are also terms that depict the horrific situation in Eastern Europe today.

The people of Bosnia and

Herzegovina have witnessed human rights violations unparalleled in the last 48 years. If America, as the sole superpower in the world today, is to act in the capacity of world police, then it has sorely missed the mark in its utter disregard of the situation in Bosnia.

According to *The New York Times*, a global human rights report issued by the Bush administration (just one day prior to President Clinton's inauguration) described Serbian terror tactics as a mockery of the Geneva Convention.

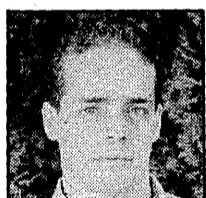
The report stated non-Serbs

have been subjected to "almost every form of torture, humiliation and killing," including the deliberate disfigurement and the excision of body parts of prisoners in Serbian camps.

Since the inception of this bloody war, over 70,000 Bosnians have been imprisoned, most of them Muslims. Tens of thousands of civilians have been murdered and over 15 million displaced, including an estimated one-half

See Balkans, page 11

U.S. indecision allows Saddam to gain strength; oppression continues



By Chris Geer
staff reporter

Countries with poor records should be pressured into change.

Human rights conditions should be the yardstick by which the legitimacy of governments are measured. If the West were to not recognize or trade with countries that have histories of human rights violations, transgressions would inevitably decrease.

During the Gulf War a report was issued detailing the human rights status of many Middle Eastern countries. The report was completed by the U. S. military in cooperation with human rights monitoring agencies. The results showed the region was far behind Western countries in guaranteeing basic human rights.

Not surprisingly, Iraq was targeted as one of the worst violators due to their use of extra-legal means such as torture and execution to suppress anti-regime activity, even against children.

It is important to remember

that the U.S. supported Saddam Hussein financially and militarily even after he used chemical weapons against Kurdish rebels. The blatant disregard for human life displayed by Saddam wasn't enough, however, to warrant any type of effective sanctions in the eyes of U.S. officials.

Sanctions were not implemented until Saddam threatened the West economically in Kuwait. The United States needs to take a stronger stance on human rights when dealing with other countries, regardless of economic circumstances.

The recent air-strikes against Iraq have once again focused world attention on the Middle East. The fact that Saddam Hussein remains in power is puzzling to many Americans.

Democratic forces within Iraq have said the recent air strikes have helped Saddam strengthen his control over the country. That does not bode well for any increase in human rights guarantees.

In this respect, the U. S. has failed the oppressed people of Iraq. The important question to ask is whether intervention has improved human rights conditions in Iraq or only worsened them.

The problem lies in America's unwillingness to depose Saddam for fear of who might replace him.

The existence of the fundamentalist sleeping giant in Iran has scared the U. S. away from backing Southern Iraqi Shiites, for fear they will join forces with the Iranians and spread militant Islamic revolution in the Middle East.

The United States has not actively helped the drive for Kurdish autonomy in Northern Iraq because of their threat to one of the West's closest allies in the region, Turkey, which has a large Kurdish minority.

American indecision has given Saddam the breathing room needed to hang onto power and has allowed him the ability to maintain it by any means he deems necessary. That's unfortunate for those factions in Iraq who wish to depose Saddam. History has proven they will receive little help from the West.

The time for action on human rights issues has arrived. Iraq, and any other country that does not conform to Western standards, should be forced to face harsh economic and political sanctions.



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