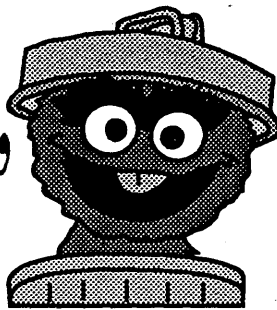


Mapping out the barriers

Students and staff are working together to create maps of Western for the disabled — Page 6.

'I love trash'



Western assistant professor Arunas Oslapas hopes to open the first landfill theme park — Page 12.

Vikings ice Huskies

With a 4-2 win over the University of Washington, Western's ice hockey team improved their rivalry record with the Huskies to 2-1 — Page 14.

The Western Front

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY — FEBRUARY 7, 1995

VOLUME 91, ISSUE 8

City wouldn't keep quake at bay

By Dave Henken
Front reporter

The recent earthquakes in Kobe, Japan, and near Seattle have again raised concerns about the impact of a local quake. Western geology professor Dave Engebretson has no doubt Bellingham will soon suffer a quake large enough to destroy parts of town.

"We are due," Engebretson said.

Engebretson said even a relatively small or distant quake could cause serious damage because much of the land surrounding Bellingham Bay is artificial fill.

"Artificial fill is a bowl of jelly," Engebretson said. "Shake it and you get all sorts of effects — constructive and destructive interference. (Georgia Pacific) could sink right beneath the ground."

Technically, this phenomenon

is known as liquefaction. Bellingham's landfills are unconsolidated, meaning there are spaces between the soil particles. These spaces fill with water.

When agitated, the mixture will become a liquefied "quicksand," unable to support any load. Empty submerged tanks may bob to the surface, and buildings can quickly sink or slide.

Much of the damage in the recent Kobe quake was in the city's harbor and due to liquefaction. Engebretson said that in Kobe's case, the landfill was laid down naturally by glaciers but was still unconsolidated. Bellingham has duplicated conditions for a disaster by lining its bay with fill.

Engebretson said that a sizable quake — 6 or 7 on the Richter scale — with an epicenter as far away as Seattle or Vancouver could cause liquefaction in Bellingham.

Such quakes have been reported roughly every 10 to 30

years, with the last in 1965.

A more locally centered quake measuring as low as 3 or 4 could also cause the fill to liquefy, Engebretson said. Seismic waves from such a quake would only be a thousandth as strong as those from the Kobe quake.

As Bellingham's senior environmental planner, Chris Spens is familiar with the variety of ground surfaces surrounding the bay.

Bluffs visible from lower Holly Street and the Squalicum Parkway mark the approximate boundary of the original shore, Spens said.

The fills are of many different kinds and ages, including five garbage waste landfills. One of these is beneath the Shrimp Shack restaurant on Holly Street and another beneath the old Bellingham Sash and Door

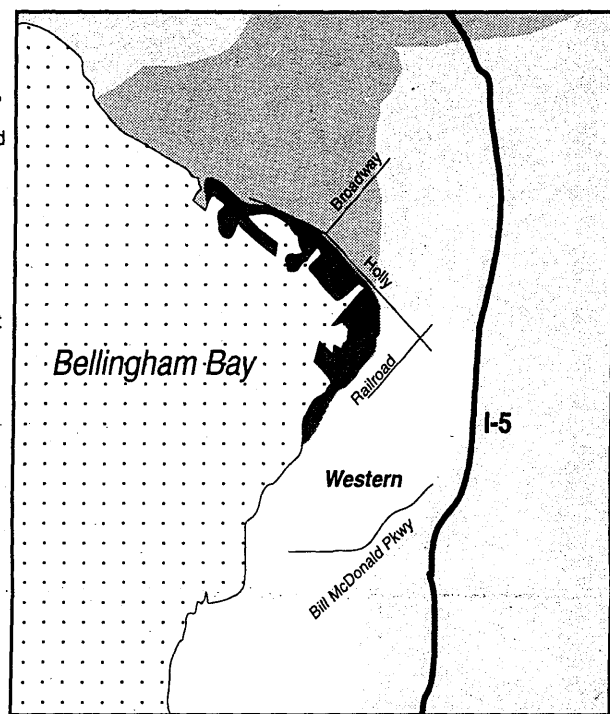
See Slide, page 4

Seismic hazard areas

If an earthquake were to hit Bellingham, the harbor area around Bellingham Bay has been classified by the Bellingham Planning Department as being highly susceptible to danger.

Key:

Very high
High
Moderate
Low



source: Bellingham Planning Department

Front/Ryan McMenamin

Unity dinner celebrates soul of Black history

By Marlese Webb
Front reporter

A crowd of about 100 people gathered Sunday night in the Viking Union Main Lounge to celebrate African-American culture in a fundraiser for Western's African American Alliance.

The event was also sponsored by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Persons and the Whatcom Hispanic Association.

"Celebration of Soul" was this year's

theme for the evening of a dinner, speech and choir music, which has been a part of Black History Month for at least six years, said LaShawn Morgan, alliance president and a senior majoring in law and diversity at Fairhaven.

"The meaning of Black History Month is how we all come together in celebration of African-American culture, African-American heritage," she said, adding part of the celebration is in recognition of those who helped African-Americans get where they are today.

Stacia Neal, a sophomore and alliance vice president, opened the evening by offering her definition the term "soul."

"Soul is eternal; it cannot be traced to its point of origin, nor does it reach a point of exhaustion," Neal said.

"It's the spark that pushes you and drives you to succeed, despite all the forces that try to send you back to start.

"For African-Americans, our soul is our legacy. Soul is not learned; it is personal. It is in our hearts, our minds. It's something that we live everyday and, therefore, it

needs to be celebrated."

Dinner was served by members of other campus ethnic clubs.

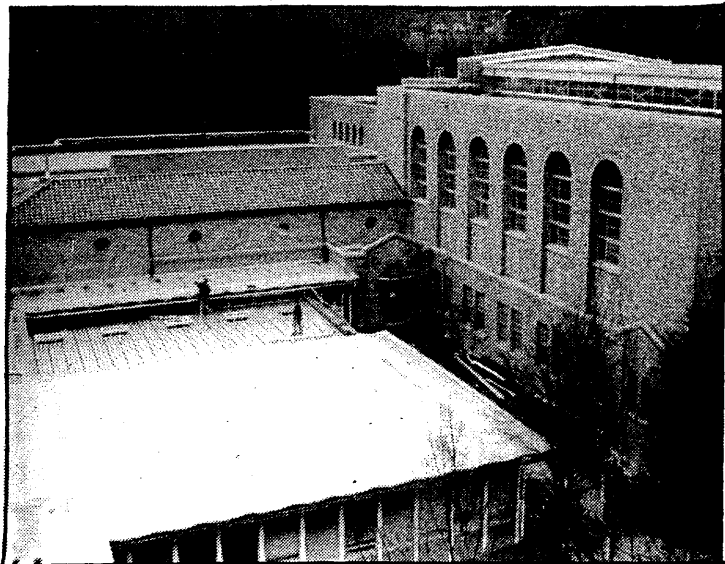
The meal included rice and beans, cornbread, seasoned turnip greens with Cajun sausage and baked chicken.

A dessert of strawberry cheesecake — the only non-traditional soul food — finished the meal.

After dinner, the gathering moved to the Performing Arts Center for

See Soul, page 4

Carver construction bogs down, gets back on track



Front/Collin Coyne

The Carver Gym addition is scheduled to be done in July.

Building on 'Jell-O' support isn't easy

By Tim Farley
Front reporter

Although problems have come up delaying the effort, construction to expand Carver Gym's athletic offices should be finished on time in July.

The project was delayed for three weeks after drills hit an unknown concrete sewer line and foundation pilings. The pipe has been replaced and construction continued.

The gym rests on a giant peat bog on top of solid bedrock.

"It's terrible for supporting

anything," said Sherrie White, senior architect of Western's Physical Plant. "It's like Jell-O."

Remodeling also had been difficult because workers are trying to match gym construction to previous additions.

"There are so many different disparate elements from different eras, which is always tricky," White said.

Despite the setbacks, the \$325,000 project continues. Five existing offices are being remodeled, and five new offices are being created.

A hallway will also be created to connect offices.

The addition will be located near Bond Hall.

It will cover some of the patio

area on the gym's north side.

Smaller windows will take the place of the previous large window facing the old courtyard.

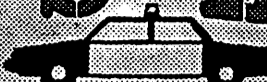
Also, small skylights will be put in each office to take full advantage of natural light, White said.

Walls around the gym's entrance will get insulation where none was previously.

"It will be much more energy efficient. We're increasing the insulation value of the whole area. It used to be lousy," White said.

Construction began early in November, sending the varsity athletic office to Haggard Hall 207 and the campus recreation office to High Street Hall 44, 45 and 46.

COPS • BOY



Campus Police

Feb. 2, 10:20 a.m.: An unknown person or persons damaged the high-capacity paper trays on a copy machine in Parks Hall.

Feb. 2, 3:45 p.m.: A student in Gamma Hall said she has been receiving harassing phone calls for about a month. She's had about 10 calls with either music or a computer voice on the phone line.

Bellingham Police

Feb. 4, 9:25 a.m.: A door was reported missing from the corner of 12th Street and Harris Avenue. The door was delivered at 3:30 p.m. Feb. 3. It was placed in a closet area to be hung and was discovered missing when someone went to hang it Saturday.

Feb. 4, 3:02 p.m.: An anonymous call was received about a barking dog in the 2000 block of H Street. When an officer arrived he could hear the dog barking, but only when someone went by the house. He tried contacting the residents but no one was home.

Feb. 4, 3:17 p.m.: An unidentified man was seen urinating at the transit station downtown. He was booked on two warrants and urinating in public. Bail was set at \$365.

Feb. 5, 12:49 a.m.: A complaint was made about a loud party in the 2100 block of Douglas Avenue. Several people were outside the apartment doors smoking and talking loudly. Noise could be heard over 100 feet away. The hosts of the party were contacted and the disorderly person law was explained. They were told to either quiet down or break up the party.

Feb. 5, 3:20 a.m.: A woman reported a possible burglary in progress in the 1300 block of Birch Street. She said she was awakened by unfamiliar noises coming from the garage area. Police found the garage secure, but showing signs of forced entry. The area around the house was searched by a K-9 unit, but no suspect was found.

Cops Box compiled by Front reporter Nina Boswell.

Western Briefs

Whatcom Crisis Services seeks more volunteers

Whatcom County Crisis Services will be having a reception for prospective volunteers at 7 p.m., Thursday in the Crisis Services Conference Room (lower level) at 1407 Commercial St.

Qualifications needed to volunteer include good communication skills, interest in people, ability to attend training and dependability, according to a press release.

Volunteers are needed to work in crisis intervention (which includes the Crisis Line and Teen Line), domestic violence and sexual assault.

The reception will introduce people to the crisis services and the volunteer opportunities available. It will include a chance to meet current volunteers, take a tour and learn about the agency and its mission.

Everyone is welcome. For more information or to receive an application packet, contact Caytie Cunniff at 671-5714.

Choir concert shows off students' musical talent

Five student choirs will perform at 8 tonight in the Performing Arts Center Concert Hall.

The evening will feature Robert Overman directing the Vocal Jazz Choir in "Goodbye, Love" and "Alice in Wonderland," and the vocal jazz ensemble, Anacrusis, performing "Simple Gifts" and "Green Dolphin Street."

Also, the University Choir will perform "April is in my Mistress' Face," "The Silver Swan," "Tanzen und Springen," and "Il Bianco e Dolce Cigno."

The Early Music Vocal Ensemble, directed by Carol Reed-Jones, will perform "Mass [sine nomine]: Kyrie" and "Non noblis, domine."

The Opera Workshop, directed by Jack Morris, will perform the quartet from "Rigoletto."

The concert is free. For more information call 650-3130.

Visiting biologist-sculptor cultivates garden, psyche

Noted Chicago-based sculptor John Pakosta will discuss his work at 6 p.m., today in Fine Arts 238.

Pakosta has described himself as a "biologist-turned-sculptor." In his works, he uses a garden as a metaphor for the human psyche, combining the logical and the intuitive.

Sponsored by the art department, the presentation is free and open to the public.

Brazilian guitarist, singer stops at Western on tour

Brazilian guitarist and singer Badi Assad will perform an unusual blend of classical, jazz and folk music at 8 p.m., Wednesday in the Performing Arts Center Concert Hall.

Described as sounding "like an orchestra" by David Feingold of the department of music,

Assad's style combines traditional, folk and jazz music through song, vocal clicking sounds, and guitar strumming and slapping.

Donations will benefit the Northwest Classical Guitar Society. The suggested donation is \$7 for general admission.

For more information contact Judy Korski at 650-3132.

Choir and orchestra from Hungary visits Western

The Albert Schweitzer Choir and Orchestra of Budapest, Hungary, will return to Western for a performance at 8 p.m., Thursday in the Performing Arts Center Concert Hall.

A combination of students, amateurs and professionals, the group will present a varied program including Baroque and classical compositions, as well as contemporary Hungarian pieces.

The performance is part of an exchange program between Western and the Aelia Sabina Music School in Budapest, home to the Albert Schweitzer Choir and Orchestra in place since 1989.

The concert is free. For more information call 650-3130.

Clarification

The Western Front incorrectly reported in the Feb. 3 issue that Neely Stratton, candidate for AS vice president for internal affairs, was serving on the AS Efficiency Assessment Task Force.

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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.

PLEASE POST

BIOLOGY ADD CODES for students who have completed course request forms must be picked up by Feb. 8 in HH 351.

SPRING QUARTER DEGREE APPLICANTS: All students who expect to graduate at the close of spring quarter must have a senior evaluation on file in the Registrar's Office, OM 230, by March 10. To pick up a degree application, go to OM 230.

ALL STUDENT TEACHER CANDIDATES must have their senior/certification evaluation on file in the Registrar's Office, OM 230, by May 1.

HIRING FOR SUMMERSTART AND FALL ORIENTATION. The Academic Advising Center seeks 15 Academic Student Advisers for new freshmen advising programs. Job descriptions/applications are available in OM 380. Application deadline is Friday, March 10.

AUAP WILL HOLD A MOVING SALE from 10 a.m. to noon on Friday, Feb. 10 in the Fairhaven Main Lounge. An **AUAP Goodbye Party** will take place from 7-9 p.m. on the same date in the Fairhaven Main Lounge.

FINANCIAL AID PRIORITY DEADLINE FOR 1995-96. The deadline for mailing the 1995-96 FAFSA application to the federal processor to be considered for priority financial aid funding is Feb. 15. Contact Student Financial Resources, OM 240, for forms and assistance.

MATH PLACEMENT TEST DATES ARE Mondays: Feb. 13, 27 and March 7; Thursdays: Feb. 9, 16, 23 and March 2 and 9. All tests are at 9 a.m. in OM 120.

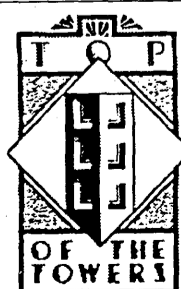
STRESS MANAGEMENT AND BIOFEEDBACK TRAINING. Openings are available for training in stress management and biofeedback. Services provide instruction and support for developing specific skills in stress reduction and relaxation. Either individual or group training is available. For more information, contact Counseling, Health and Wellness Services, MH 262, X/3164.

SEVERAL CAREER WORKSHOPS ARE OFFERED THROUGHOUT WINTER QUARTER by the Career Services Center, OM 280, including career connection strategies, résumé writing, cover letters, interview strategies and mock interviews, developing an internship. Workshops for educators include effective résumés for educators, effective cover letters and applications for educators, and effective interview skills for educators. For more information, contact CSC, OM 280, X/3240.

On-Campus Interviews

To participate in on-campus interviews, graduating seniors and alumni must be registered for career services. Ask for a registration packet at the front desk in OM 280. Establishing a placement file is optional for all but education candidates. There is no charge for current seniors (1994-95 graduates); alumni must pay a \$15 fee. For more information about interview procedures, contact CSC, OM 280.

- **Olde Discount Stockbrokers**, Wednesday, March 1. Submit résumé and CIF by Wednesday, Feb. 15.
- **Dictaphone Corp.**, Tuesday, Feb. 14. Submit CIF when you sign up for interview.
- **Fund for Public Interest Research**, Wednesday, Feb. 15. Submit CIF when you sign up for interview.
- **Four Winds Westward Ho Camp**, Thursday, Feb. 16. Signup required. Turn in a campus interview form when you sign up.
- **YMCA Camp Orkila**, Thursday and Friday, Feb. 16-17. VU Lobby only, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. Representatives will provide information and application procedures for a variety of summer camp positions.
- **The Prudential**, Thursday, Feb. 23. Submit CIF when you sign up for interview, beginning Feb. 9.



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Local to global headlines of the day

Regional

Canadian dollar's loss of value has effect in county

BELLINGHAM — The decline in value in the Canadian dollar is being felt throughout Whatcom County.

B.C. shoppers aren't filling the parking lot at Bellis Fair Mall and other shopping areas as they once did. The Canadian dollar is now worth about 71 U.S. cents.

The Whatcom County Chamber of Commerce said Canadian shoppers once represented as much as 40 percent of the local retail base. They now represent about 25 percent.

Lowry denies harassment charge by former aide

OLYMPIA — Gov. Mike Lowry denied he sexually harassed an aide. He said he was stunned when he learned that Deputy Press Secretary Susanne Albright left her job last year because of unwanted physical contact with Lowry.

A Seattle lawyer not connected with state government has been

retained to investigate the case.

Local businesses react to China-U.S. trade war

SEATTLE — The trade war with China is not expected to immediately affect Boeing. China is not expected to impose tariffs on U.S. jetliners.

China has put tariffs on many U.S. products in retaliation for U.S. tariffs in an effort to force the Chinese to stop illegal copying of movies, music and computer software.

Nintendo and Microsoft support the action to protect property rights.

National

Republicans say budget 'falls short' on deficit

WASHINGTON — A leading Senate Republican said the Clinton budget is not "dead on arrival," but New Mexico's Pete Domenici said it is on life support.

The Senate Budget Committee Chairman accused the President of falling short in the battle against

the deficit.

Clinton proposed a \$1.6 trillion spending plan yesterday. He said it pays for a tax cut and still brings down the deficit.

But Domenici said it's not nearly enough. He said Clinton has harmed the nation's children in failing to propose a way to balance the budget by the turn of the century.

Currently, it's estimated that every man, woman and child in America carries an \$18,000 piece of the federal debt burden. Under the Clinton plan, Domenici said, that could climb to \$26,000.

Russia, U.S. wave to each other through space

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — The Space Shuttle Discovery has completed its close approach to the Russian "Mir" Space Station.

Shuttle Commander Jim Wetherbee steered to exactly 37 feet from the Mir.

The crews got close enough to see each other and wave through the windows. They even laughed at times over the radio link.

The close-up approach took place despite a leaky shuttle thruster.

The mission was a dress rehearsal for a shuttle-Mir docking mission in June.

Inductees to Basketball Hall of Fame announced

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — The Basketball Hall of Fame has voted in seven newcomers, including the National Basketball Association's all-time leading scorer, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.

The 1995 inductees also include Minneapolis Lakers' coach John Kundla, Laker forward Vern Mikkelsen, female stars Cheryl Miller and Anne Donovan, NBA referee Earl Strom and Soviet coach Aleksandr Gomelsky.

International

Strong earthquake hits off coast of New Zealand

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — A powerful quake rattled a mountainous, sparsely populated area of New Zealand over the weekend.

The quake registered 7.5 and was centered in the Pacific Ocean, more than 75 miles off the coast

of the country's north island.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in Honolulu said the quake did not generate a destructive Pacific-wide tsunami, or tidal wave, which was possible, although some areas could experience small changes in sea levels.

Extent of flood damage in Netherlands assessed

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — Dutch authorities are assessing flood damage after floods last week forced 250,000 people from their homes, the largest evacuation in Dutch history.

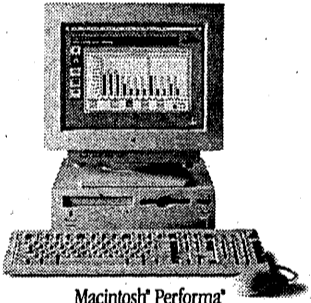
The flooding last week threatened hundreds of miles of medieval dikes and the vast lowlands they protect.

The dikes were soaked and weakened with flood and storm waters that streamed down the Maas and Waal rivers from Germany, Belgium and France.

Various estimates have put the cost of dike repair alone at hundreds of millions of dollars.

News briefs compiled from the Associated Press by Front reporter Greg Garrity.

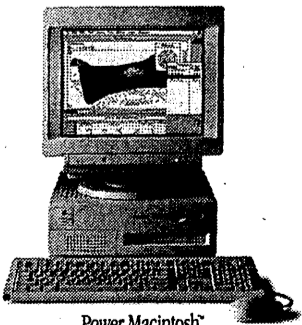
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Youthful gospel singers bring audience to its feet, speaker offers reality check on future



Front/Loc Nguyen

The Washington State Mass Children's Choir fills the PAC with energetic gospel music.

Soul, continued from page 1

entertainment.

The keynote speech was given by Paul Delaney, chairman of the journalism department at the

University of Alabama and former reporter and editor for *The New York Times*.

Delaney encouraged cooperation between all races.

"The problems of the 21st century will not be solved by one

race," he said. "It will take everyone."

He encouraged students to take full advantage of their college years, which he described as "the freest period of your life."

"You can make mistakes and

recover when you're young," he said.

He also admonished students to prepare for the reality of working in a multicultural world, where they could be working with a colleague or supervisor whose skin is a different shade.

"Deal with racial issues now and maybe, just maybe, you'll be a better generation than we were," Delaney said.

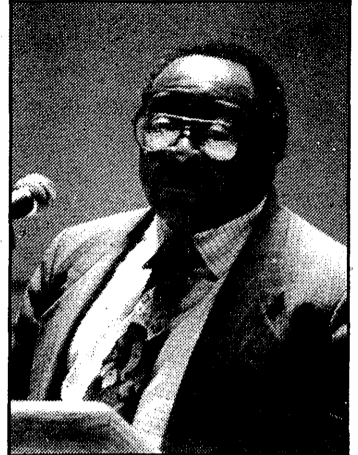
After Delaney's speech, the Washington State Mass Children's Choir got the crowd clapping and swaying with the beat of its energetic gospel music.

The 35-member group sang several selections, from variations on classics such as "Jesus Loves Me" to modern rap songs.

The choir, which is about a year and a half old, has members who range in age from toddlers to adolescents.

Choir Director Troy Wright said the choir hopes to convey the gospel message and to show people an example of youth who have a positive message, in contrast to the negative view of youth that he said is popular in modern media.

Neal said the African



Front/Loc Nguyen

Paul Delaney

American Alliance tries to get gospel choirs to perform because music and faith have always been important bulwarks of African culture.

Morgan said she wishes black history was given more than a month-long celebration.

"It should be celebrated everyday ... more than one month," she said.

Neal agreed. "Our culture doesn't come and go in a month ... we're black all year round," she said.

Quake: all downhill from here

Slide, continued from page 1

building downtown.

Spens said some of the fills are up to 140 years old — and the older fills are the least stable.

"They were built by exporting waste material from further inland," Spens said. "Old buildings, concrete, asphalt, junk, topsoil, what have you. The method of yore was to build up a perimeter and contain the toe of the fill, and then throw out your dead and build up a big bulk mass and then maybe finish it off with a structural top.

"It's better than total randomness, but not by much. Those things are kind of waiting time bombs," he said.

Squalicum Harbor and other newer landfills have been constructed by a method known as dewatering, Spens said.

Sediment from the bay is sucked over a barrier and allowed to settle. Water will eventually seep out of the layer. After one or two years, the fill has "cured" and the land can be used.

These fills are more stable than the older sites, but still very susceptible to liquefaction, Spens said.

Spens explained sinking pilings into the fill until they hit bedrock is the best solution when building on a landfill. This has been done for many GP facilities.

More than a thousand pilings were driven, for example, to support the new natural gas cogeneration facility. The pilings were sunk to depths of 80 to 130

feet and rest on Chuckanut sandstone.

Spens said this method is effective but expensive. He noted it isn't a workable solution for more northern and western areas of fill, such as Squalicum Harbor. In these areas bedrock is too deep.

Other strategies are available for building stable structures on landfill, but are of no benefit during an earthquake, Spens said.

"There's a lot of structure out there that's threatened by any kind of mild earthquake — something

"We feel like we would just be in hazard soup along with everybody else."

— Orman Darby
GP public relations director

around a 6.0," Spens said.

Western's campus is rated as low risk for earthquake damage, according to city documents. But Spens said events around the bay would be impressive during a quake.

"What's sort of exciting about the situation, if you like mass disaster, is that as you head out 300 to 1,000 feet, all of a sudden you start to get to the deep end of the pool.

"The bottom native material is already contoured with a natural slope, and it's just waiting to roll out or slide out if something gets shaken. And the place it will slide out to is the middle of the bay," he said.

Spens echoed Engebretson's concern about Georgia Pacific,

whose Bellingham facility is built entirely on landfill. A particular worry is chlorine gas, which the mill produces in large quantities.

GP Public Relations Director Orman Darby said that the plant's chlorine facility is among those structures built on pilings driven to bedrock. He also noted the containment vessels are constructed of inch-thick armoured plate.

"They could tumble end-over-end down Cornwall and not have a problem," Darby said.

Darby said piping in the chlorine facility features ball check valves designed to stop leaks if a line should rupture. The plant has an on-site emergency response team, and thorough disaster plans for all employees, with daily and weekly drills.

Darby admitted GP's location is a dangerous one in the event of a quake, but he noted a large quake would cause hazardous situations throughout the city.

"A fire in any building that has an asphalt roof can be putting off very dangerous odors — frankly, gasses that are just as bad or worse than chlorine," Darby said.

"Chlorine is not exceptionally worse than, say, burning plastics. You can get cyanide and other gasses," he said.

"If the wind is coming out of the east, and blowing the smoke from downtown onto us, we'll be very distressed with the town. We will not expect to be held harmless here. We feel like we would just be in hazard soup along with everybody else."

Thomas E. Boenig, M.D. Obstetrics and Gynecology

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Program crosses physical, cultural borders

Canadian-American studies' symposium, exchanges address multi-national issues

By Michael H. Olson
Front reporter

Western has one of only two Canadian-American studies centers in the United States designated by the federal government as resource centers for the study of Canada, according to the January 1995 *Business Pulse Magazine*.

"The point of the program is to educate American students about Canada and its political system," said Donald Alper, director of Canadian studies and professor of political science at Western.

"We offer a major and minor in Canadian studies. We also have courses in just about every department," Alper said.

Alper said a \$6,000 grant from the Canadian government will help the Canadian American Studies Center co-sponsor Border Demographics and Regional Interdependency: A Tri-national Symposium Feb. 16-18 at Western.

The symposium will attempt to establish links between Canada, the United States and Mexico and will include professor exchanges, collaborative programs, internships and student exchanges.

"This is a very important topic because it deals with things that are very current (such as) immigration issues," Alper said.

"After the last election, and what's happened in California with immigration as a political issue, obviously immigration is a big issue today in American politics."

James Loucky, interim director of Western's Center for International Studies and Programs, said the CISP is co-sponsoring the symposium along with the Canadian American Studies Center.

Loucky said the school and faculty will benefit from the international exchanges. Western students returning from Canada or Mexico can provide expertise and encouragement to other students in the form of talks, speeches and panel discussions.

"The benefit to students will be tremendous," Loucky said. "Not only will they get travel-abroad experience, but it will be in the context of developing professional skills in a work situation in a foreign country."

Alper said the Canadian Studies program should try to expand its goals to include Mexico's perspective in light of the North American Free Trade Agreement. It would establish ties for students and faculty with Mexican and Canadian institutions

and would create a tri-national program.

"It wasn't adding Mexico (to the symposium) so much as it was recognizing that Mexico has always been an integral part of North America. (The U.S.) has had some cultural blinders to that," Loucky said.

"Trade has increased greatly in recent years," he said. "For example, Mexico has become Washington state's second major trade partner, after Canada, (and has moved) in front of Japan."

In addition to Loucky's insight on foreign affairs, Alper said, "There's the

"Trade has increased greatly in recent years. For example, Mexico has become Washington state's second major trade partner, after Canada, (and has moved) in front of Japan."

— James Loucky
Interim director,
Western's Center for International Studies and Programs

possibility of building a stronger North American studies program on (Western's) campus, where we'll be able to offer courses — existing courses as well as new courses — with greater North American content, maybe courses on cross-cultural relations. It's a way of strengthening the curriculum here at Western."

NAFTA will also affect the possibility of future internship exchange, Alper said.

"It's easier to do now because of NAFTA," Alper said. "It's the university's

effort to internationalize the curriculum."

Alper said recent grants have helped to support and establish programs such as the Tri-national Symposium. The U.S. Department of Education and the Canadian government have provided the program with grants totaling close to \$100,000.

Alper said the university setting allows a variety of activities.

"You want a place where there's a lot of experimentation, there's a lot of trial and error, a lot of innovation in terms of new ideas and programs," he said. "Grants are often the only way you can do that."

The Canadian Studies program usually has a total of 15 majors and minors. Hundreds of other students take at least one course in the field

Katharine Cornfield, is a research and course assistant and Canadian exchange student from Trent University.

Cornfield wrote the bibliography for the symposium and is basing much of her thesis upon it. She said she thought it would be nice to get the American perspective of Canada and to give Western students her views on Canada.

"As a Canadian, I'm surprised that people don't know more about Canada, especially in Washington because it is a border state," Cornfield said.

Students and faculty are invited to attend the symposium and can register at the Canada House. The sessions are free.

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Dragons, dancing welcome new year

By Marlese Webb
Front reporter

Whatcom County's Vietnamese community celebrated the Year of the Boar Saturday night at the Church of the Assumption in Bellingham.

The celebration was a fundraiser sponsored by Western's Vietnamese Student Association and by the Vietnamese Association of Whatcom County.

About 800 people attended the event, said Pham Tinh, president of VAWC.

The Vietnamese New Year began on Jan. 31. The celebration continues for about two weeks.

The New Year is probably the most important holiday in Vietnam, comparable to the importance of Christmas in America, Tinh said.

He said the holiday is particularly important to Vietnamese young people raised in America because it's a way for their parents and grandparents to share their roots with them.

Quyen Pham, VSA president, said she was born in Vietnam, but has spent almost all of her life in the United States, where Western culture prevails. The junior education major said New Year is important to her because it's a way of celebrating her heritage.

"It's my culture," Quyen said.

The Vietnamese holiday is based on the Chinese calendar, which is a lunar



Front/Loc Nguyen
Dragon dancers greet the New Year.

calendar, rather than a solar one.

The date of the New Year corresponds with the lunar equinox, which is usually around the first part of February, Tinh said.

He said Vietnamese astrology has 12 animals, each of which represents a year in turn. The boar is the last animal in the cycle.

Children are thought to have the characteristics of the animal in whose year they were born.

Those born during the Year of the Boar tend to be lazy, but happy, he said.

Tinh said the New Year is also

significant because Vietnamese consider it the beginning of spring.

Yellow flowers similar to cherry blossoms are traditional at New Year celebrations because they are symbolic of spring.

Family is also an important part of the celebration. Candles were lighted and incense sticks burned at the beginning of the event.

Candles are traditional at important Vietnamese ceremonies, and incense is burned to invite the spirits of participants' ancestors to join the festivities.

Older members of the audience came to the front of the auditorium to take part in a popular familial New Year tradition.

Their grandchildren came and stood before them, wishing them blessings such as longevity, wealth and happiness for the coming year. In return, the grandparents gave the children red envelopes filled with small amounts of money.

The grandparents then gave red envelopes to any family with children who came up to get the gifts.

Tri Nguyen, a senior in the law and diversity program at Fairhaven, said red envelopes of lucky money are a common gift between friends and relatives at New Year.

Tinh added that children and grandchildren visit their parents and grandparents to exchange blessings and lucky money.

He said children are advised to put it in

their piggy banks and older children are advised to use it for college.

A community part of the celebration is the dragon dance. Firecrackers announced the arrival of two dragons made of cloth and wood, each one manned by two male dancers.

Their dance was accompanied by the beat of a large drum and the antics of a pot-bellied jester who wore a smiling mask and carried a fan, cavorting with the audience.

The dragons dance through the streets of towns during New Year, visiting each house and business in exchange for lucky money, Tinh said.

The dragons symbolize good luck and chase away bad luck, said Jennifer Tran, a law and diversity senior.

The evening also included a Vietnamese dinner, two traditional dances, music and a fashion show exhibiting traditional styles found in the north, south and central areas of Vietnam, as well as traditional school and wedding apparel.

After the formal festivities ended, participants danced to the tunes of Western pop music played by a live band.

In many parts of Asia, a person's surname precedes his or her given name. Pham Tinh uses the Asia name order, while Quyen Pham uses the Western name order. Because they share the common surname "Pham," their given names have been used to avoid confusion.

Students, staff contribute to new access maps

Outdated maps to be replaced with computer-drafted upgrades

By Renee Pedranti
Front reporter

Students with disabilities will soon have new campus maps to inform them of the locations of designated routes, bathrooms and gradients to access buildings.

Western's current maps are outdated, said David S. Brunner, coordinator of Disabled Student Services.

The Center for Equal Opportunity and the Disabled Student Services office had an open house Friday, at which students, administration and faculty were able to review and critique campus access maps from other schools.

Feedback reflected participants' preferences for designated routes and gradients and will be used to create access maps. Inclines and distances were also a large concern.

"A high gradient to a short distance is acceptable, but a high to medium gradient over a long distance becomes tiring," Brunner said.

Feedback also showed the

campus community wants everywhere that's wheelchair accessible to show types of gradients on the maps with coordinating colors.

Symbols will also be used to show recommended routes. Designated parking will be shown and bathroom symbols will be used to give people knowledge of bathroom locations and accessible entrances.

To make the creation of the access maps more personalized, disabled students are able to work on the maps. They designate areas themselves.

The new maps will be done with AutoCad, an IBM-compatible computer program taught on Western's campus.

Brunner said, to his knowledge, Western is the only university using this program.

The program is available to

"The students are doing actual AutoCad work, data entry and are determining access information needed."

—David S. Brunner
Coordinator of DSS

the general public.

"The students are doing actual AutoCad work, data entry and are determining access information needed," Brunner said.

The Center for Equal Opportunity and the Disabled

Student Services office are working together in support of the project.

Maps from other campuses were drafted, a process that requires much labor and is typically done by one person, Brunner said. Often, the designer is not available to contact when changes are needed. Drafting new maps is also a big expense.

"Doing maps on computers allows us to add needed changes much faster and at little cost," Brunner said.

Brunner said maps will probably be finished by the end of spring quarter, depending on computer access.



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Plan would limit street parking

By Neely Stratton
Front reporter

The Bellingham Police Department has drafted a proposal that would create residential parking zones throughout Bellingham to limit student parking in residential areas.

A draft of the proposal has been circulating for the last few years and was submitted to the Bellingham City Council, but never acted upon. The police department is resubmitting it in an attempt to get approval to limit street parking in residential neighborhoods, including Garden and Forest streets.

Western is working with the city of Bellingham and residents in the impacted areas to decrease the number of students parking on the streets. The decrease in parking is part of the Transportation Management Plan, the campus plan to restructure parking.

The first steps of the TMP will become effective for the 1995-96 academic year.

Carl Root, Western's TMP manager,

said the residential parking zones, if implemented, would include a two-hour parking limit on vehicles without a specific residential parking permit. Vehicles parked in excess could be impounded.

Root's information comes from a copy of the police department's draft, although the draft hasn't been shown to the City Council or the public.

According to the proposal, the permits would become available at \$20 per vehicle to residents in the affected areas, and the revenue would be used to enforce and sustain the program.

However, each household would be limited to two permanent permits and two guest permits. Root said as many as 3,000 permits may be needed.

Areas cited in the proposal include south of campus between 15th and 21st streets, extending to Knox Avenue, which is perpendicular to them. It would also include

A commuter's concern

TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT
Part two of a multi-part series



all of Forest Street to Chestnut, near downtown Bellingham. Also, the residential area behind Sehome Arboretum to the east and north of Western would border on the plan.

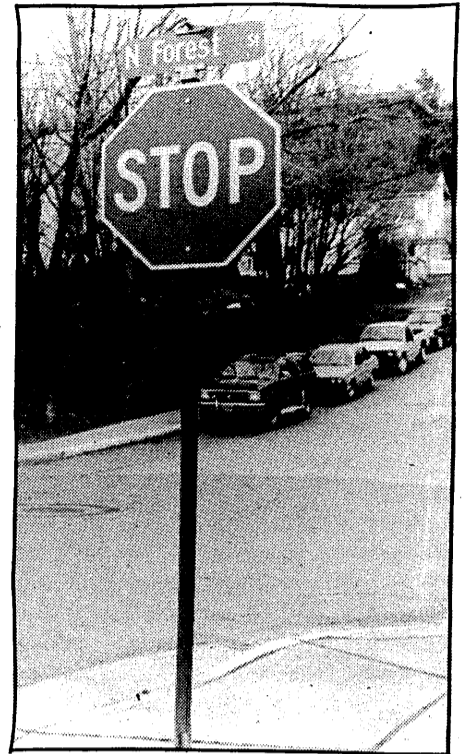
Public hearings will eventually take place after the current draft has been to the City Council and revised.

South Forest Street resident Nancy Davis said she's been pushing for controls on parking in her neighborhood during the time the proposal circulated.

"I'm glad they've expanded the radius beyond controls on just Forest and Garden streets. Otherwise, the traffic would just get pushed down into other single-family housing neighborhoods that need the parking," Davis said.

Root said Western will help with the planning process as much as possible.

"We're working with the city and the neighbors in looking at a proposal and implementing a program that will work for them," Root said.



Front/Loc Nguyen

Forest Street is in one of the areas surrounding campus that is impacted by student parking.

Earlier deadline meets more requests for financial aid

By Jesse Nolte
Front reporter

The priority deadline for mailing federal financial aid forms has been moved to Feb. 15, two weeks earlier than last year's deadline.

The earlier deadline is due to an increase in students applying for financial aid, said Student

Financial Resources Director Kathy Sahlhoff. The number of students awarded financial aid in 1994-95 increased by 68 percent from 1992-93.

Despite the increase, Sahlhoff's staff has stayed the same, resulting in a slower turnaround rate for financial aid applications, Sahlhoff said.

"We have no new staff and no

new resources," she said.

At the beginning of fall quarter 1992, 3,532 students were awarded financial aid.

At the beginning of fall quarter 1994, 5,930 students were recipients, Sahlhoff said.

The earlier deadline allows the center to finish awarding financial aid to the current batch of applicants before next year's

freshman applications are due May 1.

The center had trouble processing all the applications before May 1 last year, she said.

"I think people at the center are really stressed," Sahlhoff said.

The earlier deadline also stresses some students who are dealing with midterms and other college pressures.

"The deadline really puts a crunch on my time," said freshman Jeff Wilson.

"I've got a lot of stuff going on already."

Along with slowing down the turnaround rate for financial aid applications, the increase in applications also lessens the center's ability to counsel students, Sahlhoff said.

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Council to decide on critical areas ordinance

By Marlese Webb
Front reporter

The Whatcom County Council will consider the county's emergency critical areas ordinance at its regular meeting tonight at 7.

The council last considered the ordinance at its Jan. 24 meeting. It postponed making a decision on the ordinance so it could review information given by residents who spoke that night.

The CAO has been the subject of much revision, debate and legal action.

The emergency ordinance, enacted Dec. 13, 1994, is the third draft of a critical areas ordinance adopted by Whatcom County. It is effective until Feb. 13.

The 1990 Growth Management Act requires rapidly growing counties to adopt a CAO.

Such an ordinance protects environmentally vulnerable areas from development, said Dan Gibson, Whatcom County prosecuting attorney.

Critical areas include wetlands, flowing or standing bodies of water that contribute to groundwater resources, fish and wildlife conservation areas, frequently flooded areas and geologically hazardous areas, according to the ordinance.

Adopted July 8, 1992, the original ordinance met with disapproval from several residents during the final public hearing.

The council listened to their arguments, but did not change the ordinance because it did not feel the opinions expressed were reflective of the majority of Whatcom County residents, said Marlene Dawson, Whatcom County Council member-at-large.

David Schmalz, president of the North Cascades Audubon Society, said the council considered homeowners' and developers' concerns in drafting the ordinance.

He said the large number of opponents to the ordinance was orchestrated for the last meeting and did not reflect the majority view at earlier public hearings.

Three council members were subsequently elected out of office and replaced by three new members, Dawson being one of the new members.

These three new members tend to favor the referendum ordinance rather than the original, which the former three members favored.

A small group of the ordinance's opponents lined out several portions of the document, then gathered enough signatures supporting this revised version to put it to a vote as a referendum, Schmalz said.

According to the home rule charter, residents can block an unfavorable law by gathering enough signatures to put the ordinance to a referendum vote.

A referendum does not allow items to be added to the document voted upon; it only allows strikeouts to the document.

Skip Richards, a commercial real estate investor, said referendum backers opposed the original ordinance because it created a new, unnecessary bureaucracy to administer the ordinance.

He said they also thought several of the regulations only took property for public use, rather than protecting the environment.

Voters approved the referendum when shown the text of both versions.

Schmalz said the Audubon Society filed suit against the county with the Growth Planning Hearings Board.

He said neither the referendum process nor its content met

GMA mandates because it did not provide for acceptable public input.

"It was difficult for people to see how much the original had been changed," Schmalz said.

The board ruled against the referendum process for the ordinance, but did not rule on its content, Schmalz said.

The original County Council also filed suit against Steve Brisbane, a developer who was

instrumental in promoting the referendum.

The case went to the state Supreme

Court, which ruled critical areas ordinances are ineligible for referendum vote and remanded the ordinance to the County Council on Dec. 7, 1994.

Brisbane could not be reached to discuss the case.

The court said CAOs need extensive public input, including public hearings, legal review and technical review, Schmalz explained.

A referendum does not allow for discussion of ordinance terms; it requires a vote approving or disapproving referendum content.

The ordinance permits "emergency construction or activity necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, safety and welfare as determined by the county."

An emergency ordinance is effective for only 60 days.

The council adopted the emergency ordinance to protect homeowners who had built houses in areas not deemed critical by the referendum ordinance, but considered critical by the original ordinance, Dawson said.

The referendum ordinance was effective from Jan. 4, 1993,

until it was overturned by the Supreme Court in late 1994. Dawson said these homeowners faced the loss of their homes without such an ordinance.

Schmalz said his organization had concerns about the referendum's treatment of wetlands and wildlife. He said the referendum increases the threshold size of protected wetlands, so that the majority of these wetlands would be unprotected.

His group also protested the deletion of a goal statement in the referendum and emergency ordinances, Schmalz said.

In the original ordinance, this statement defined the goal of the ordinance as acknowledging and preserving the public interest in wildlife management.

Schmalz said the emergency ordinance shifted wildlife man-

agement to private interest rather than public interest.

Schmalz said he opposes the emergency ordinance because it is very similar to the referendum. He said his group plans to appeal if it is adopted as the county's critical areas ordinance.

Richards said he opposes the emergency ordinance as well. He said the language of this version is too broad and vague.

He said he also opposes the stricter provisions under which developers may build in a critical area only if they mitigate the harmful effects of development.

Richards said he plans to appeal to the hearing examiner and the County Council if the emergency version is adopted as the critical areas ordinance.

"No objective player (exists) in this game," he said.

"No objective player (exists) in this game."


— Skip Richards
campaign manager for the referendum critical areas ordinance

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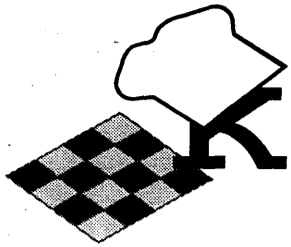


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1/4 cup grated parmesan cheese

3/4 lb fettucine pasta
1/2 lb button mushrooms
1/2 cup fresh lemon juice
6 cloves garlic
1 tablespoon flour

Chop mushrooms into thin slices and let soak in lemon juice for 15 minutes. Heat oil in frying pan and add three crushed garlic cloves. Let sauté, being careful not to burn garlic. Cut chicken into one-inch, bite-sized pieces and add to oil until cooked through.

Meanwhile, add pasta to boiling water. In a separate pan, add evaporated milk and slowly stir in flour. Let boil until sauce thickens.

Add mushrooms, milk and remaining crushed garlic to chicken.

Add the chicken mushroom sauce to pasta and mix thoroughly.

Place cooked pasta and sauce in a large bowl and sprinkle with parmesan cheese. Serve immediately with warm sourdough bread.

Makes four servings.

The privileges of pasta

By Kristine Donahoe
Front reporter

This recipe is like all Kristine's Cuisine recipes — it is low in fat, costs less than five dollars to make and is versatile for vegetarians and meat lovers.

Using evaporated milk rather than cream cuts down on the fat, but cream creates a richer dish.

Pasta offers a virtually fat-free, high-carbohydrate meal; the only fat is from added sauce. Many stores offer cholesterol-free, fresh pasta in the deli, but dry pasta works well and is less expensive.

The old debate over who created pasta, the Chinese or the Italians, has been argued for years. Marco Polo traveled to China and returned to Venice with noodles from the Imperial Court. Prior to Polo's trip, pasta was quite com-

mon in Southern Italy. The Southerner's had pasta for many years before Polo, the idea probably coming into Italy from the Arabs and, even later, the Greeks.

It may be easier to say the Chinese and Italians discovered pasta independently of each other.

One major difference between the Chinese and the Italians is what they do with the pasta. The Chinese make noodles from such foods as wheat, rice and yams. But everything is made into one form — the noodle.

The Italians on the other hand, use primarily wheat and turn it into hundreds of different shapes, everything from hats, ties and bows to nests, wheels and tubes.

The Italians don't see pasta as an entire meal, as do the Chinese. Sauces with vegetables and meat help to make the meal complete.



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Local UFO group offers support

Members discuss sightings and alien contact with humans

By Craig Stephens
Front reporter

The meeting began like any other club. Those who seemed to be veteran members gathered in groups and exchanged greetings and news. Others, new or unfamiliar with the group, sat quietly and waited for the meeting to begin.

The Bellingham UFO Group (BUFOG), meets the first Saturday of each month in the Bellingham Public Library main lecture room. Its main function is to bring people together who are interested in, or who have had contact with, UFOs.

"I'm just trying to get the word out that it's okay to talk about this stuff," said Matthew Thuney, president of BUFOG. "In fact, it's important to talk about it."

It all began four years ago when Thuney went to a UFO conference held at the Scottish Rite Temple on State street.



Thuney

The skeptical Thuney was surprised to find "ordinary folks looking for answers." He said he felt a drive to get something started so he called local people from a mailing list he got from the conference.

"I just wanted to find out if anyone else had gotten any answers to this enigma of UFOs and contact and things like that," Thuney said.

"I didn't know what to expect, but people were really open and they said, 'sure I'd like to join a group, how can I help?' and stuff like that. I was amazed."

Thuney said he has always been interested in UFOs.

"I remember as a kid in the '50s when other kids were drawing pictures of cars," he said. "Instead of drawing pictures of cars, I would draw pictures of flying saucers and spaceships."

The idea began to come together, and the first meeting was held at his old apartment. The meeting was sponsored in-part by UFO Contact Center International, and about a dozen people showed up.

The group's current mailing list has 207 names. About 30 show up at each meeting, including a core-group of regulars.

It's no longer affiliated with any other groups. Thuney described it as a "free-wheeling organization."

"We want to provide a forum where people can discuss the whole issue of UFOs and possible alien/human contact," Thuney said.

He began the meeting with a welcome to the new attendees, news and agendas for the future.

He set out photo copies of interesting reports, interviews, etc. Most of the copies were gone in a few minutes.

The atmosphere was open and casual, and the audience was attentive.

Ross Dedrickson, a veteran in the group, gave his report from the Worldwide UFO Conference he attended in Nevada during December. He relayed new theories, stories of UFO abductions and news to the other members of the group. The Eddy Page video followed.

"I hope you will listen with an open mind," Page said in the video-recorded account of his experiences with alien beings. He was visibly moved when he spoke of contact he'd had with the beings.

He began with his birth and continued to the present, including the abduction in which beings saved his life following a mortal wounding in the Vietnam War.

"People feel strange about having an interest in UFOs. They feel even a lot stranger about having had a nighttime visitation or abduction experience or whatever you want to call it."

— Matthew Thuney
President of BUFOG

An article in *The International UFO Library Magazine* called his story "either a landmark case in UFO history or one of the most imaginative frauds anyone could ever construct."

Page had a very detailed story, and included written documentation from the military and physicians corroborating his story. Thuney described Page as "very down to earth."

The group watched the video quietly. Members agreed this is what the group is for — learning about what's going on in the field and perhaps getting someone else's perspective of experiences.

"They are usually very hesitant to come forward because it's personally very traumatic," Thuney said of abductees.

"It's hard to deal with. It's not something you expect. It's not something we have any way of dealing with in our consciousness."

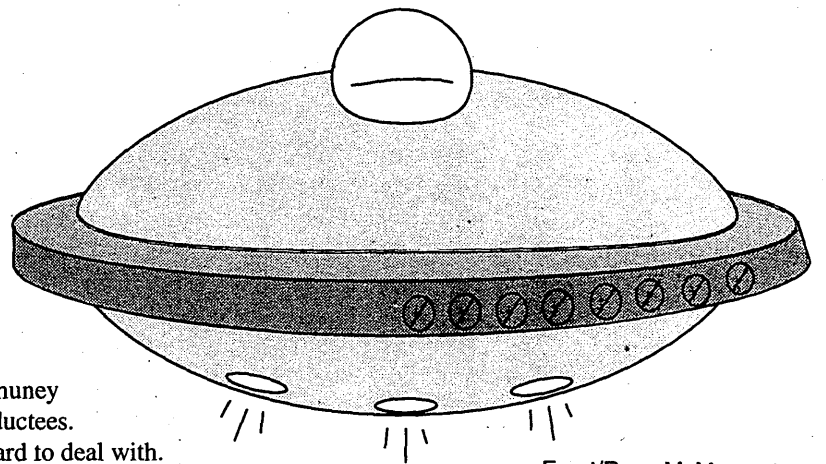
"There are categories for just about everything we can think of, but there are no categories for having a contact experience with beings from elsewhere," he said.

Aside from these meetings, an abductee support group meets once a month for those who need to share the experiences. The meetings are very private and confidential because of the traumatic nature of the experiences, Thuney said.

"People feel strange about having an interest in UFOs. They feel even a lot stranger about having had a nighttime visitation or abduction experience or whatever you want to call it," Thuney said.

"I've read estimates that approximately one in 40 people has had some kind of contact experience," he said, "which is a lot of people."

Susan Stiller, one of the original BUFOG members, is the founder and head



Front/Ryan McMnamin

of the support group of about 12. She said the purpose of the regular and support group meetings is to help contactees to feel comfortable in expressing what's happened to them.

"I used to be really hesitant personally about telling people about the group because of the ridicule factor," Thuney said.

"It's amazing just in the past three years or so just how much the acceptance level has grown," he said. "It's not the scoffing kind of attitude that used to prevail."

He cited Bellingham, and the West Coast in general, as a possible part of the equation.

"There is in this community, at least there was until the last election, an atmosphere of openness, and a willingness to look at different ideas, which doesn't exist in a lot of communities," Thuney said.

Jeannie Wedian comes simply because of the interest. She said she's there to get a perspective, and find out what she feels about UFOs.

"I'm 100 percent into spiritual healing," she said.

Debbie Vasilinda, a member of two and a half years, said she's been interested since she was a kid.

"I've always thought there was something out there other than just us," she said.

She said the meetings give a good outlook, since you can get a little bit of everything.

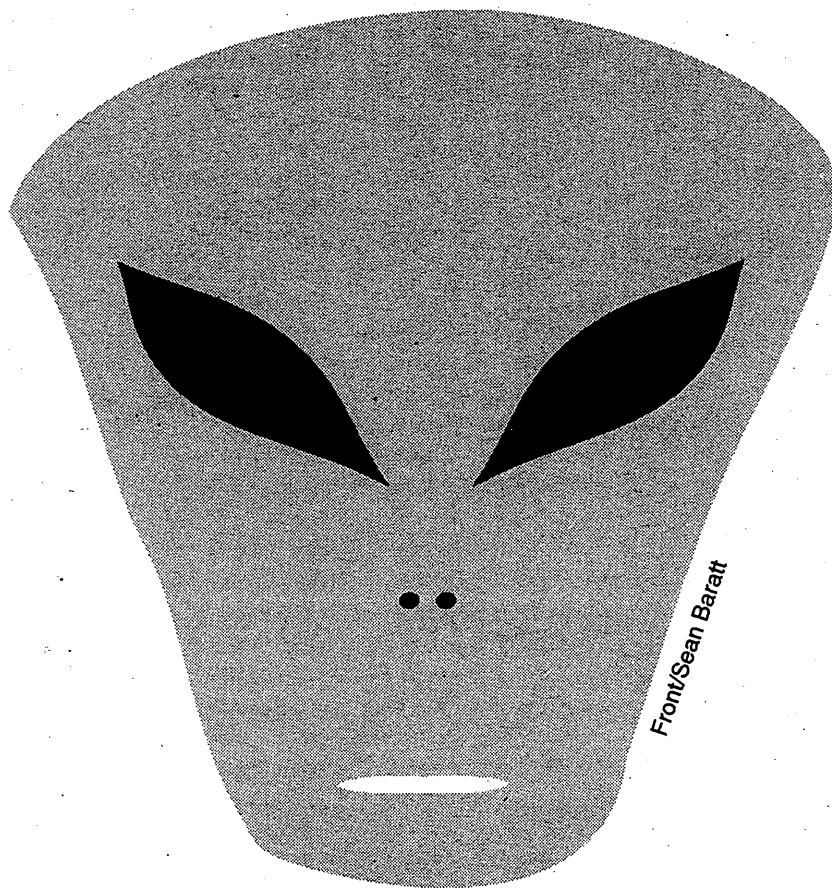
Thuney recognized the same mix. "We have a whole range of people," he said, talking about those he called the "nuts-and-bolts" type, who are ever in search of evidence or facts, and the "new age" type who are interested in other levels of consciousness. In between there's simply a range of curious people.

Thuney said the meetings go very smoothly.

"We haven't had anybody casting stones at us or anything, which I had expected. We haven't encountered a whole lot of resistance. It's been a really positive experience."

Beyond BUFOG, Thuney is a freelance writer, struggling for syndication. His column appears in *Our Town News* once a month. He is the president and founder of a local business, Northwest Rubber Stamps, which is also the center of operations for BUFOG.

The next meeting will be held from 3 to 6 p.m., March 4 in the Bellingham Public Library main lecture room at 210 Central Ave. Mike Strainic, the Canadian national director for the Mutual UFO Network will give a Canadian update and perspective on the UFO phenomenon.



Front/Sean Baratt

Environmental Studies exhibits ancient artifacts

By Dave Henken
Front reporter

Take a walk through Western's Environmental Studies building and you may mistake it for a museum. Hallways in the basement, first and second floors are lined with a kaleidoscope of rocks, mineral samples and ancient artifacts. Stop to investigate and you can trade a moment of your time for a glimpse into the world of geology.

Research technician George Mustoe has been creating the exhibits since 1986. He explained the department's reputation for interactive science goes back much further.

Much room was devoted to displays as early as the 1950s, when geology was housed in the basement of Haggard Hall. Pre-

paring for its move to the Environmental Studies building in 1972, people in the department requested display cases be built.

Early on, the display cases housed mainly student projects, Mustoe said. Most of these were not elaborate or intended for long-term display. In 1986, Mustoe decided to slowly work on permanent exhibits in his free time.

"We get a lot of school groups," he explained. "That was one of the things that started this. It was hard to figure out what to show them. If they visit the department and see a lot of people behind desks, there isn't much to distinguish the geology department from other departments."

After nine years, the displays cover a broad spectrum. One features local jade, another, Washington minerals. Among other topics are "Ancient Volcanoes of Skagit County," "The Asbestos Family" and "Our Changing Coast."

The geology department spends about \$200 per year maintaining and expanding the displays, Mustoe said. Most of the items on display were donated to the school by students, local rock hounds or organizations such as the Mount Baker Rock and Gem Club.

"I actually don't get a lot of material from faculty," Mustoe said.

"Geologists, by and large, are doing research

on stuff that's not that great to look at."

In another display, sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic rocks are labeled with hidden tags, so visitors can test identification skills.

Mustoe said, when possible, he emphasizes local geology in the exhibits. This reflects his own interests, but he said he feels the university has an obligation to make contact with the community by way of local geological issues.

"We are a publicly-funded institution, after all," he said.

The largest display, "Geology of the North Cascades," runs the length of the building on the first floor. With maps, diagrams and large samples, the exhibit reviews a variety of local geological features.

This display, like many, is hands-on. All of the samples are meant to be felt and handled, although care should be taken with the more fragile rocks. Many of the specimens throughout the building are on pedestals in the open, rather than behind glass, to encourage visitors to touch them.

Another interactive display is "Minerals and Polarized Light." Visitors can see colorful patterns by activating the lights and viewing samples through one of the

polarizing filters.

Some displays feature fossils — shark teeth, petrified and preserved wood and marine life.

"Something we get asked a lot is whether we have any dinosaur bones," Mustoe said.

The department has a small, but growing collection of dinosaur bones and tracks, including some actual fossils and plaster casts of others. Most of these items aren't yet on display.

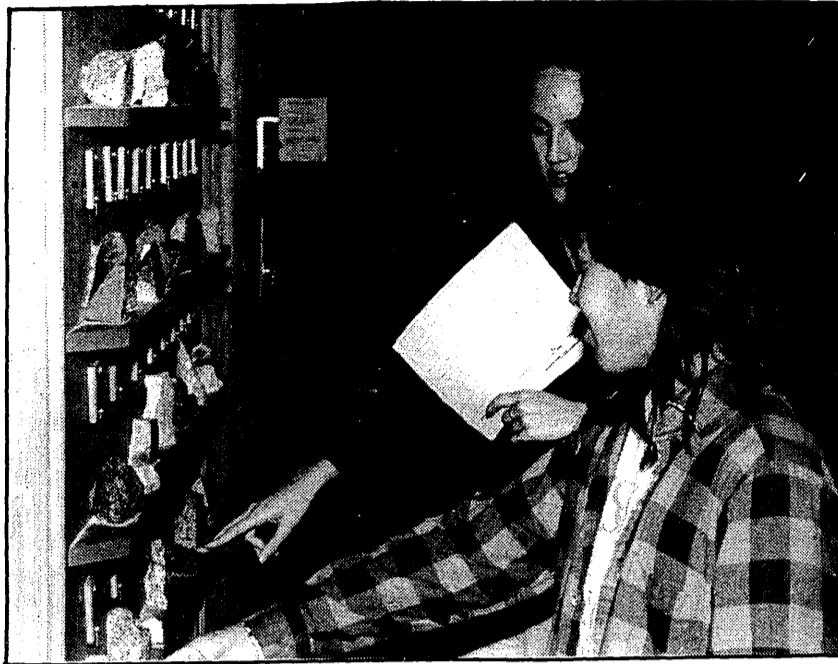
"One of the problems is that I'll sometimes get a few really interesting specimens," Mustoe said. "But I don't have enough to put them in a case and really have

them make sense by themselves."

Also growing is the collection of artifacts from the ice age. Mustoe said the woolly mammoth tusks now on display may soon be joined by an assortment of vertebrate fossils.

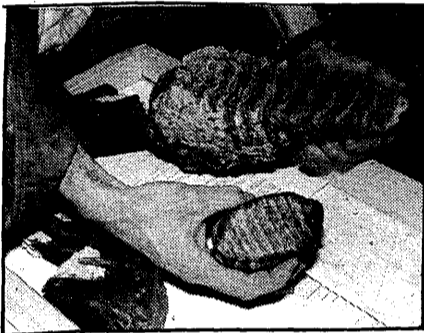
This exhibit may include two 25,000-year-old woolly mammoth teeth, discovered on Camano Island and recently donated to the university. Mustoe hopes to have the display ready before spring break.

The ES building is open weekdays 7 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Saturdays 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sundays 7:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.



Front/Dave Henken

Geology students Amy DeVera and Dean Toba quiz themselves on igneous rocks with one of the department's interactive displays.



Front/Dave Henken

These 25,000-year-old woolly mammoth teeth, found on Camano Island, are part of the geology department's growing collection of ice age artifacts which may go on display soon.

Western student takes volunteering seriously

By Angela Cassidy
Front reporter

While most Western students are studying or attending parties, one student is helping save lives.

Tom Walker, a junior majoring in physical education with a specialty in athletic training, is not your typical 22-year-old college student. When he's not in the classroom, he's volunteering as an emergency medical technician (EMT) for the city of Issaquah fire department or as an assistant athletic trainer at Newport High School in Bellevue.

His work as an EMT is bringing him fame in the form of television. He and his co-workers have been asked to reenact a rescue for the television show *Rescue 911*. The filming will take place February 17 and 18 at Tiger Mountain in Issaquah. No airing date has been set.

He recalled the incident nonchalantly.

"To me it was just another day that we happened to go a little farther away from the vehicle than normal," Walker said.

"The situation itself wasn't routine, but it was really just another day at work. The girl fell off a waterfall at Tiger Mountain and we ended up taking her out by helicopter. We hiked in and the helicopter came in about a half-hour later. We stabilized her and helped to get her up to the helicopter. She was looking over the edge and slipped.

"I think what happened is that she was with a friend and the friend was the one who called us for help. He's also the one that got

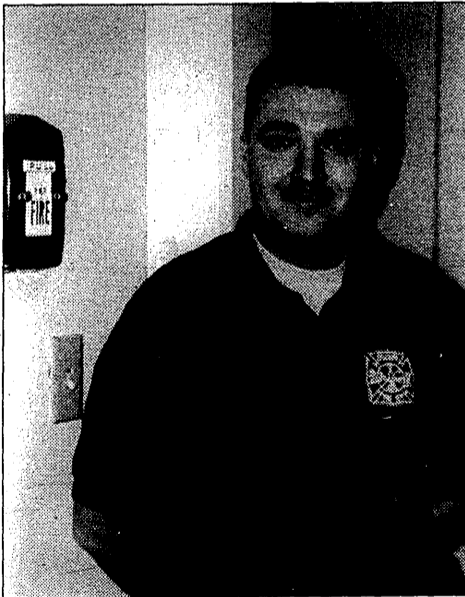
in contact with the *Rescue 911* show."

And just how does he manage to be a full-time student and volunteer in Issaquah?

"I sign up around my school schedule so I work mostly weekends," Walker said. "We (EMTs) have to sign up for at least three 12-hour shifts per month. I have time to do homework at the station. It's pretty quiet. (The station) averages just about three calls a day, and so some days we won't have anything, some days we'll have six or seven."

Walker's training for the EMT position lasted 13 weeks. He attended classes twice a week — a three-hour lecture class on Tuesdays and an eight-hour practical class on Saturdays. In addition to the 13 weeks, the position required 10 hours of emergency observation. He observed at Overlake Hospital in Bellevue. The final requirement was an eight-hour practical/hands-on exam and a 100-question written exam. He completed the requirements at age 19.

At Newport High School, Walker



Front/Loc Nguyen

Tom Walker volunteers as a firefighter and assistant athletic trainer.

works with the gymnastics team. In between his Monday, Wednesday and Friday classes at Western, he observes an athletic training class at Sammamish High School and works with the Newport team. His weekend, or at least 12 hours of it, is spent with the fire department.

"Being an EMT and being an athletic trainer are pretty similar," Walker said. "The big difference is that an athletic

trainer is specialized in athletic injuries ... an EMT is specialized in general injuries and illnesses.

"The other big difference is that an EMT usually doesn't have any previous knowledge of the person, so they get there and it's a lot easier to just treat the person as signs and symptoms. As an athletic trainer, most of the people you see you've known for awhile. You're dealing with specific people who've also come to know and trust you."

Walker said he doesn't get nervous on the job as an EMT.

"Usually, when you're actually there at the scene, you tend to just go on automatic," Walker said. "Most injuries, even illnesses, are pretty straightforward. Sometimes, something will not really make sense and you gotta think about it, but you're thinking about the injury, the symptoms and the signs. Not really who the person is, but what the person is."

Walker has his own way of dealing with the stress of his EMT work.

"I'm not bothered by too much. What I am bothered by, I usually talk over with the people at the station ... you take care of things right then."

Walker, who is an only child, said his parents are supportive of him.

"My mom understands. She'd rather see me do something I want to do than something I wouldn't want to do and get more money," he said. "The only thing she really worries about is all the hours in the car (commuting from Bellingham to Issaquah and Bellevue) — bad weather, stupid drivers."

Walker plans to graduate in the spring of 1996, and would like to continue volunteering even after he has a full-time job.

"I'd like to be an athletic trainer for a high school, and even after I become that I'd still like to continue doing volunteer work," he said. "I'd actually like to be a volunteer firefighter."

For now, however, he is content with what he is doing.

"For me, being an EMT is fun," he said. "I enjoy helping people."

Talkin' trash in Garbage Park

By Renee Pedranti
Front reporter

If a park featuring dinosaurs sounds fascinating, how about a park where garbage is glorified? Sound like a bunch of rubbish?

Arunas Oslapas, assistant professor of industrial design at Western, has an idea that would be just that.

The objective of Oslapas' Garbage Park proposal is to boost garbage recycling awareness through education and entertainment. Even though the park is only an idea, it would be built on full sanitary landfills or city dumps.

"It's an investigation at the moment, but it could become a working park where people process materials," Oslapas said.

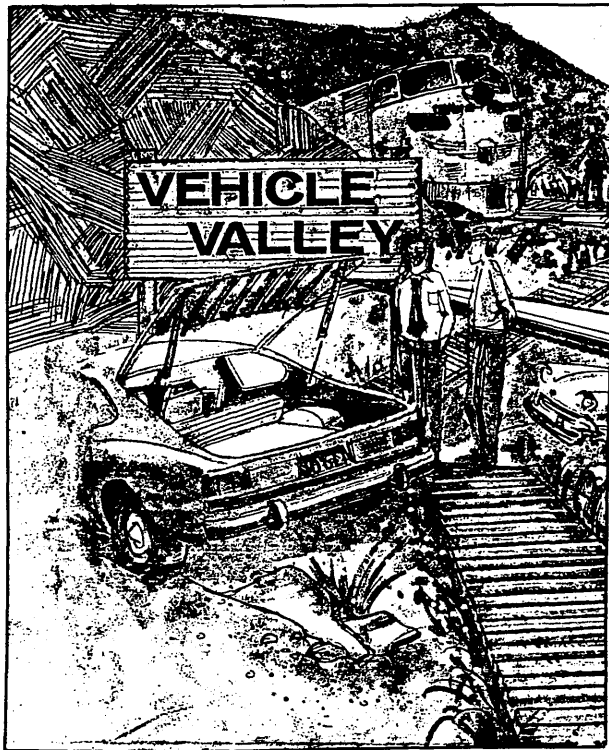
The fee to Garbage Park would be what Oslapas calls "trash or cash." Sorting bins would line the plastic wood walkway where a cash payment or garbage for future processing would be taken.

Visitors could venture to designated areas of the park with themes such as Vehicle Valley, featuring British double-decker buses, or old World War II fighter planes that visitors could sit in, letting their imaginations soar.

Michelin Maze would incorporate tires into mazes for adults and children to find their way through.

Spongy Jump, made out of old mattress fillers, foam rubber, old pillows and fabric scraps, would allow children all the jumping they are forbidden from doing on their parents' beds.

De-Comp provides visitors with a "blast from the past"



Courtesy of Arunas Oslapas

Vehicle Valley is one proposed section shown in this rendition of Oslapas' Garbage Park.

featuring glass-walled, cross sections of historical refuse visitors can analyze to speculate about past cultures, trends

and social habits.

Visitors can also participate in Glass Smash, a good stress-releaser which lets visitors break bottles and smash glass as they help to sort colors and initiate the glass crushing process.

Toy Town lets children exchange old toys, giving them the opportunity to participate in recycling.

"The feeling is like that of a carnival or theme park," Oslapas said. "Entertainment is a good way to educate."

Oslapas explained every concept has problems and liability clauses would help keep people away from sharp objects and diseases affiliated with garbage.

Speculation arose as to how a garbage park would appeal to the public. Oslapas said he thinks children would generally be curious as they could drop off a toy and get another in return.

Junkyards have interested Oslapas since he was a child, which forms the basis for his Garbage Park idea.

He has taught at Brigham Young University as well as the Kendall College of Arts and Design. Various students under his instruction have won awards in competitions for the Industrial Design program at Western.

Oslapas received an honorable mention in the first Design Resource Competition in the professional category for his Garbage Park concept.

The idea is only a seedling, he said, but with faith and integrity this idea could become reality.

"Maybe we can celebrate garbage," Oslapas said. "Maybe we can make something of what our paradigm today considers ugly."

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Viking nabs honors in judo match

By Tina Jo Koontz
Front reporter

The Western Judo Club hosted the 1995 Western Washington Judo Tournament Saturday in Carver Gym.

More than 150 competitors from around the state and Canada showed, compared with 120 entries last year.

Senior Jeff Foisy, a club member, took first place in the men's unlimited brown-belt division.

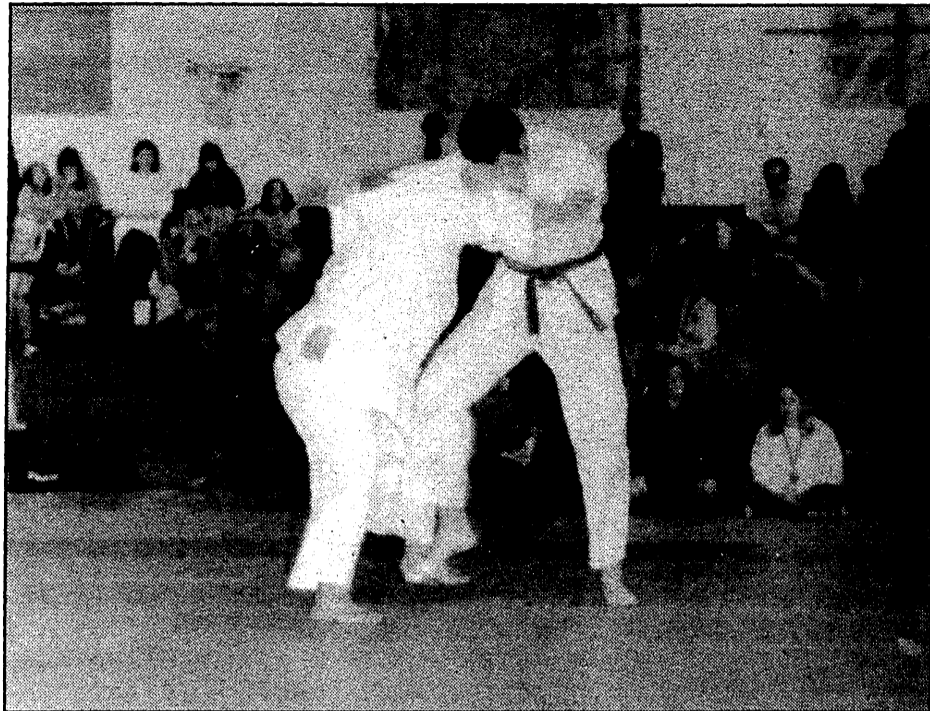
The club, which has about 15 members, is made up of students, alumni and community members.

"It's an unusual sport, and not too many people know about it," said Western instructor Mark Glaser.

Judo (or Jujitsu) means "the gentle way." It has some similarities to wrestling and includes throwing, turning, pushing, pulling and pinning.

"It is a defensive sport, which is meant for physical and mental well-being," Western senior Andrew Purvis said.

"Judo teaches a sense of awareness of one's own body. It teaches you how to go with the flow and not resist incorrectly. It teaches you how to use someone's weight and strength to your own advantage," Glaser said.



Front/Tina Jo Koontz
Western student Jeff Foisy took top honors in Saturday's judo competition.

Glaser took the gold in the men's 189-pound black-belt division and Western Alumnus Derek Yatsu took second in the men's 156 pound black-belt division at the Washington Athlete's Open Judo Tournament Jan. 14 in Kent.

Western's club meets throughout the year on Tuesdays and Thursdays for practice from 7 to 9 p.m., in the aerobic center above the track next to Gamma and Beta.

The next competition for Western's Judo Club is Feb. 18, in Stevenson, B.C.

Vikings stumble against Warriors

By Jason Hickman
Front reporter

The Western women's basketball team came back from a 27-point deficit to within two points, but suffered an 83-77 loss to Lewis and Clark State College Friday.

LCSC made use of 45 free throws, while Western only had 19 trips to the line.

LCSC cemented the win late in the game with free throws after Vikings Shannon Anderson, Gina Sampson and Amy Zinne fouled out.

Sampson watched most of the first half from the bench after being whistled for two of Western's school-record 35 fouls.

Anderson finished with 21 points and Sampson with 19 points and nine rebounds.

Debbie Drake hit a three-pointer from the corner to cut the lead to 79-77 with 17 seconds left, but four straight free throws sealed the win for LCSC.

Western, 16-6, visits UPS Tuesday, and hosts Simon Fraser in a showdown of conference leaders Friday night in Carver Gym.

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Vikings muzzle Huskies in grudge match

Western's hockey team rides momentum to beat University of Washington



Front/Ryan Burden

Ron Mullin scores Western's third goal to help the Vikings to a 4-2 win over the Huskies.

By Mike Stiles
Front reporter

Hockey forces its fans to utilize more senses than most other sports. The crowd is basically in a large refrigerator which echos their screams. With the din of the

crowd comes the sound of the game; the vibrations of bodies colliding against the boards and the smashing of sticks on the ice.

The players also add to the ambiance. From the team bench, they emit steady encouragement mixed with muddled profanity.

And, perhaps more noticeable, the players give off the smell of hard work and determination.

Last Saturday, Western's hockey team showed the University of Washington just how determined they were. The Vikings beat the Huskies 4-2 in front of

about 400 fans at the Whatcom County Sports Arena.

"The team played really well," said Paul Hough, co-captain of the Vikings' team. "This is about our sixth game together and we're playing .500 hockey."

Western split a two-game series at UW on Jan. 27 and 28, losing 3-5 and winning 5-3, respectively.

"We came off a win last week," said co-captain Paul Rogness. "We just carried the momentum through tonight."

Much of the first period was filled with crushing checks and flying bodies. UW started out fast, scoring its first goal at 1:18 into the game. Western got up to speed and came back with fury. Mike Campbell scored at 16:56 into the 20-minute period.

This was followed up with goals from Chris Wagner and Ron Mullin. The Vikings easily stole the lead with the three goals and were pumped-up for the second period.

Rogness said a key to winning the game was to hit the Huskies harder and intimidate them.

"We hit them more, and they were scared to hold onto the puck too much," Rogness said. "They

were scared to skate with it."

UW scored the lone goal in the second period. The only thing the Vikings picked up were penalties. Western had 20 minutes of penalties, while the Huskies spent six minutes in the penalty box during the entire period.

Despite the number of penalties, Western winger Marty Brueggemann felt the game was uncharacteristically calm.

"This is one of the calmest games we've had," he said. "No one wants to get kicked out of a close game."

Brueggemann, though, was involved in the only fight of the game. He was subsequently penalized, ejected and suspended for one game.

Wagner scored his second goal of the game in the third period to secure the win.

Western out-skated, out-hit and out-performed UW. The only obstacle the Vikings had to overcome was the Husky goalie.

"The game wasn't as close as the score showed," Rogness said. "Their goalie played really well."

The Vikings' next home game is at 7 p.m. on Feb. 18 against the University of Oregon at the Whatcom County Sports Arena.

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Western men win third straight to hold steady in fourth place

By Greg Garrity
Front reporter

In sports, teams generally don't like to "peak" too early in a season. Peaking at the end of the season is what most teams prefer to do.

The Western men's basketball team appears to be peaking at just the right time.

With only six games remaining on the regular-season slate, the Vikings have won three straight games, their longest winning streak since a five-game spurt very early in the season.

The latest victim was the University of Puget Sound on Saturday night at Carver Gym. Western defeated the Loggers, 83-68, to place a firm grip on fourth place in the Pacific Northwest Athletic Conference.

The win improved the Vikings' overall record to 13-9 and its conference record to 4-3.

The Vikings were led by guard Derric Croft, who scored a game-high 26 points on 10-of-13 shooting (77 percent) from the field, with 4-of-6 shooting (66 percent) from three-point range. He also added seven rebounds, six assists

and five steals.

"Derric is finally feeling pretty good. His back is feeling a lot better," Head Coach Brad Jackson said. "We've been very pleased with his play. Both he and Tim (Caviezel) have started shooting the ball well from the perimeter."

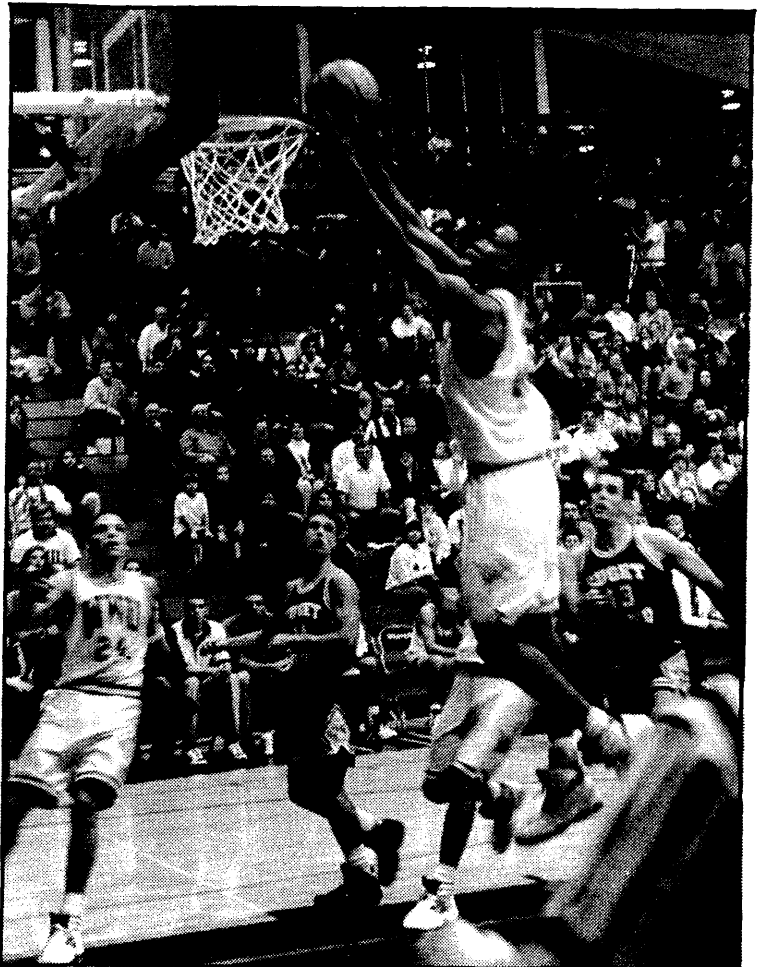
Croft hit two three-pointers and guards Caviezel and Dan Legard each added one as the Vikings built a 12-4 advantage less than four minutes into the game. Croft scored 20 of his 26 points in the first half, leading Western to a 38-25 halftime lead.

UPS came within three points with 6:47 remaining in the game, but the Vikings answered back with an 11-0 run.

Joining Croft in double figures were Harold Doyal (23) and Caviezel (11).

Doyal, who scored 15 of his 23 points in the second half and grabbed a team-high 11 rebounds, moved into second place on Western's all-time scoring list with 1,479 points. He needs 146 more points to break Manny Kimmie's (1986-1990) record.

Western is 2-0 against the Loggers this season with one game



Front/Simon Fishler

Harold Doyal adds two points, racking up 23 for the night and placing him in second place on Western's all-time scoring list.

remaining on Feb. 16 at Tacoma.

Western will try for its fourth straight win at 7 p.m. Thursday night when they host St. Martin's (8-14, 1-6) at Carver Gym

"St. Martin's has a very deceptive record," Jackson said. "They are a very good shooting, well-disciplined team. We anticipate a very tough game Thursday."

Stout
SPORTS

What's on Tap

Men's Basketball

- St. Martin's College — 7 p.m., Feb. 9, Carver Gym
- BYU - Hawaii — 7 p.m., Feb 18, Carver Gym

Women's Basketball

- Simon Fraser — 7 p.m., Feb. 10, Carver Gym

Dance for Heart

- Noon, Feb. 11, Carver Gym

Ice Hockey

- University of Oregon — 7 p.m., Feb. 18, Whatcom County Sports Arena

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Letters to the editor

Visiting Russian scholar clarifies, corrects points

Dear Editor,

I would like to clarify several things that appeared in *The Front* on Jan. 24.

It is true that I came for the first time to Bellingham and to Western in 1990, but not as the head of "a delegation of government officials and academics from Nahodka." I was a guest of WWU and the Sister City Committee. Unfortunately, there are no universities in Nahodka, Bellingham's sister city in Russia. There are 11 of them in Khabarovsk, a city of more than 650,000, not 120,000 as the article reported.

I cannot agree with the summary of my research, as it is presented in the paper. Relations between the government and the Natives in each of the countries were and are very different. In the Soviet Union, the indigenous

peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East had, and still have, free medical treatment and free education on all levels.

Native students at the universities even receive some money as a stipend and other kinds of financial support from the Federal and local budgets. During the '20s and '30s, 17 new alphabets were created for them. They have had media in their languages for at least 50 years.

The American experience is different. During the Soviet era, scholars in the Soviet Union had no real opportunity to analyze it without interference of the politics. Now we have that opportunity.

I am really glad to come to Western and to do my *research* here. I do not know beforehand what will be the result: maybe Russia can learn from the Ameri-

can experience, or maybe America can learn something from the Russian experience, too.

There is one comment in that article that I do not want my colleagues in Russia to read, for them not to blame me for, to put it mildly, exaggeration: "... just to have an office is a pleasure. Maybe in Russia I can only have the use of a table that I must share with several other professors. Doing research is extremely difficult. In Russia you have a piece of paper, a pen and one (!?) pencil." Yes, the conditions for the students and the professors in many, not all universities in Russia, are far from American ones.

But what I was trying to say that we managed to support the professors by sending them to Moscow and St. Petersburg libraries and leading universities for one- to three-month periods *every year* to conduct research. As a rule, home university pays all expenses. That part of the comment was not published and it changed the whole idea.

I understand that there is not much space in the newspaper and sometimes a reporter should cut off some portions of the interview. But, I am afraid, that is not the case; either you try to understand every-thing and make efforts to explain it to the readers, or drop

it out.

What is very true in that article is that I really had a choice of different schools with well known names, and I am grateful to those who have assisted in the accommodation of my family and for the opportunity to teach and to share my expertise with those who have an interest in it.

The context for my comments seems sometimes to have gotten lost. However, I am also sure that the inaccuracies in the article are partly the result of my not so "superb command of the English language."

Alexander V. Balitsky

Eaton supports expression, challenges choices

Dear Editor,

I was quoted in the Jan. 24 *Front* questioning the appropriateness of some posters advertising Associated Student events this quarter.

I was quoted accurately, and clearly Mike Bartosch and I share concerns about the choices the poster designers made. However, the juxtaposition of my comments with his proposal to censor or limit posters in the residence halls may have created the impression

that I share his point of view on this proposed solution. I do not.

The values of free speech are central to the academy and our democracy and must be protected. The Associated Students have the *right* to post any advertisement that meets their own criteria.

However, as a member of this community, I also have the *right* and *responsibility* to speak out when I find the choices offensive or potentially harmful.


I affirm the students' right to

express unpopular, irritating, demeaning, or even hateful points of view.

I also exert my right as a member of the institution to challenge them to re-think their choices.

We have the right to free speech; we have the responsibility to respect other members of our community and to live and address our conflicts in ways which do not cause injury.

Marie Eaton



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Center for Student Work Experience and Service Learning Open House February 9th 10-2pm Old Main 110

Please join the staff of the new *Center for Student Work Experience and Service Learning* in celebrating the formation and opening OM 110.

A formal ceremony will take place from 10-11am. Refreshments will be served.

The new center houses the Student Employment/Volunteer Community Service Center, (previously located in OM 260), with LEAD, AmeriCorps, the Campus compact office and several other on campus service learning Programs. All of these programs are now under the title of *Center For Student Work Experience and Service Learning*.

Resources Available in the Center include:

Off campus job postings
 On campus job postings
 Work Study information
 Summer Employment information
 Volunteer opportunities

Information on AmeriCorps,
 LEAD, LINK, Washington
 Serves, Campus Compact, the
 Highly Capable Program,
 Greenhouse Project, Native
 American Mentoring Program,
 B'Ham Middle School Service-
 Learning Program and
 Community Service Learning
 101 at Sehome High School

Is capital punishment a necessary evil?

Con Too many innocents die

Execution is the one right our government shouldn't have because too many are wrongly and unjustly condemned.

Jesse Dewayne Jacobs, 44, was executed in Texas for a murder he didn't commit. Although he confessed to the crime and was sentenced to die, seven months later he testified that his sister was the culprit. The prosecutor was convinced she was guilty, but Texas Attorney General Dan Morales wanted Jacobs to die.

He used a recent ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court limiting the number of times a death row inmate may challenge whether his sentence is constitutional, to move for Jacobs' execution. The Supreme Court agreed with Morales, with a 6-3 majority. The dissenting justices called the decision "fundamentally unfair."

Fundamentally unfair? How about unjust, unlawful, unconstitutional and inhuman? Punishment should be determined by facts and facts alone.

Jim Dwyer, in *Newsday*, said, "Texas executes people almost monthly and its cities are among the homicide capitals of the world. New York state, where the death penalty has not been used for three decades, does not have a single city among the top 25 in the nation for homicide." There goes the



Aaron Dahl
Front reporter

idea of lower crime rates in states that use capital punishment.

Clarence Brandley, a black high school janitor from Texas, was convicted of murdering a 16-year-old white girl.

"Since you're the nigger," the police told him, "you're elected."

After six years of appeals, an evidentiary hearing was finally ordered by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. The court ruled that Brandley's skin color "was a substantial factor which pervaded all aspects of the state's capital prosecution."

Brandley was finally cleared of all charges against him after nine years, five months and 23 days of unlawful incarceration. He told the *Houston Post*: "Every time you think you want the death penalty, remember that information in a case could be fabricated and that person could be innocent... and once you kill someone, you can't take it back."

Capital punishment obviously doesn't work. If it did, crime rates would be lower and innocent people such as Jacobs and Brandley would have been spared the ordeal (death, in Jacobs' case) caused by misinformation, bigotry and confusion within the court system.

Pro Murderers forfeit rights

Contrary to the thoughts of a bleeding heart liberal, the death penalty is not cruel and unusual punishment. It is not a deterrent to crime either; but it is a necessary punishment in our society.

The Eighth Amendment to the Constitution protects citizens against cruel and unusual punishment; however, the death penalty is neither cruel nor unusual punishment. According to the Supreme Court case, *Re Kemmler*, the Court ruled "Punishments are cruel when they involve ... a lingering death ... something more than the mere extinguishment of life." This decision clearly states hanging, lethal injection and electrocution are not cruel and unusual. All of these methods used today do not involve a lingering death.

Justice Brennan was completely correct when he wrote in *Furman v. Georgia*, "there is no method available that guarantees an immediate and painless death."

It is true no method which can constitute an immediate and painless death exists, but should a person who has taken the life of another be guaranteed an immediate and painless death?

It is true, the death penalty is not a deterrent to crime. We all know career criminals will continue to commit crimes



Suann Landis
Front reporter

whether or not the death penalty exists. The goal of life imprisonment is not to rehabilitate these people.

According to Justices Brennan and White, alternatives

such as life imprisonment do not serve as a deterrent. Life imprisonment is not going to rehabilitate these people. So, instead of taking up the prison space and wasting money, we should eliminate the problem.

Some people have classified capital punishment as morally unjust because the killing of an innocent person is always possible. Although these cases are true and do exist, the chances of them happening are few and far between. The criminal justice system in the United States is set up to prevent this from happening. This is the exact reason a person is "innocent until proven guilty" and must be found "guilty beyond a reasonable doubt."

Capital punishment is necessary in our society. It is not cruel and unusual punishment. Yes, it is expensive to execute criminals because of the appeals process, but if these criminals were actually treated as murderers, less money would be spent on trying to make their prison lives comfortable.

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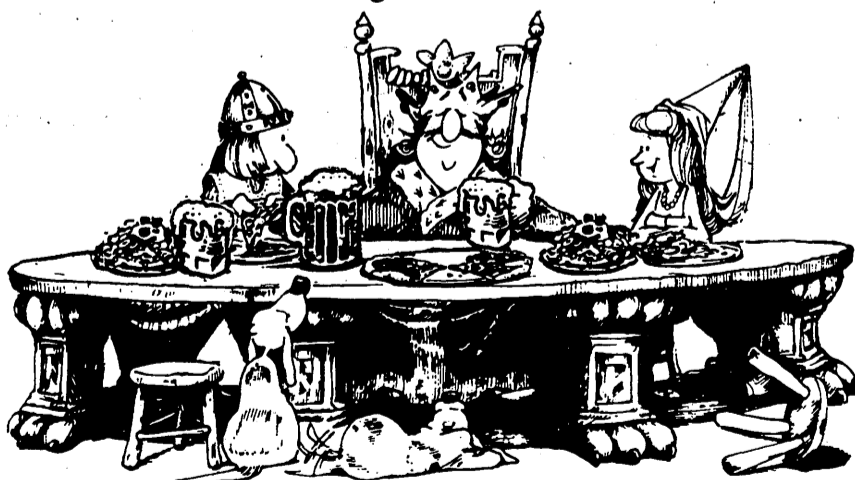
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FRONTLINE

Access improvements need higher priority

Last quarter, an administrator spent time in a wheelchair to find out how it feels; how difficult it is to get around this campus. He wasn't any more impressed than wheelchair-bound students are when they tour Western.

This quarter, *The Western Front* experienced first-hand what these students go through. One of our own recently had a major knee surgery. She thought it would be easier — and less painful — to use a wheelchair for the first few weeks after the operation.

She was wrong. College Hall, where most things journalistic occur, is the worst building on campus. Our staffer found that the sole entrance to the building is a heavy, outward-opening door leading through the newsroom. Because she's on the staff she had a key. But she could not open the door without help.

The Lecture Hall building is another problem. Between class periods the foyer fills with students. Someone in a wheelchair is likely to be trampled as if at a rock concert. Getting to one of the Lecture Hall rooms involves using the wheelchair lift. The noise emitted from the bells and whistles on this contraption are embarrassing to the point of being demeaning.

Our staffer gave up on the wheelchair after the second day, a luxury we only now fully realize the magnitude of. She took to crutches, but found more problems.

Wet weather makes crutches hazardous. Manholes are slippery for the rubber-tipped point of each crutch. Standing puddles around campus require Olympic pole-vaulting skills to negotiate when on crutches.

But the worst hazard is loose brick. A phenomenon that can be found all over campus. Most often the loosest bricks may be found in the middle of any number of steep hills — some of these hills must seem as ominous as Mount Rainier to someone with a disability.

A new map is currently being drawn to help people with disabilities get around more easily. While we are unsure how much it will help matters, we applaud the efforts of the Disabled Student Services Center. The staff at the center was courteous and helpful to our wounded staffer.

They seem to be doing a lot with very little. The obvious lack of money on campus makes it seem far-fetched for us to suggest investing money into improving access for disabled students to the campus. Elevators, ramps and parking spaces are expensive and the lack of money at the school isn't lost on us.

Nevertheless, more funds are what it will take to improve campus access for students. In this world of budgetary line items and a spend-it-or-lose-it mentality, we need to find the money and invest it.

— *The Frontline is a consensus of opinions of The Western Front editorial board, which consists of the editor, managing editor, news editor and associate/opinions editor.*

The Western Front

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Community Voice

Drugs R Us ... sort of

"The what...?"
"The Drug Information Center, part of the Associated Students Human Resources Program."

"Oh, like the guys who put on the concerts and movies."

"Well... yeah, mmm... kinda."

I can't begin to tell you how many times I've had that conversation or one similar to it since September. It gets so that I think the only way to let people know that the office exists is if I tell all of Western's students personally... even then it might not work. I understood, going into the position of Drug Info Coordinator, that a substantial portion of my job would be promoting the fact that there is such an office.

Yet, I found myself baffled by the level of ignorance in the general student population regarding the entire AS Human Resources Program, let alone Viking Union 213, that corner of the AS dungeon known as the D.I.C.

The reasons for this extraordinary level of ignorance, I have found during my tenure in the position, range from the political to the philosophical, the profound to the petty — well, maybe not, but it sure does sound good — and are probably more complicated than I will ever understand. Rather than elaborate on my personal perspective of the sordid underbelly of life in the AS, I'll focus on something with a semblance of productivity, like explaining who we are and what we do.

And, instead of turning this rant into an entirely promotional

Peter Wall
Guest Columnist



piece, which sounds tempting in light of some of my other attempts to attract attention, I will try to relate the human interest component of the position and the job, and may hap, the readers will find themselves compelled to pay us a visit.

What is the Drug Information Center?

Well for starters lets look at the name, which implies it is a center for information about drugs. Amazing, this language stuff, but what does it really mean?

Take the word "Drug," — well, what do we mean by it?... Just about anything you can think of that might remotely fall into that category, but mostly the more common 'recreational' drugs including alcohol, marijuana, tobacco, mushrooms, speed, steroids, acid, caffeine and "Wheel of Fortune."

As far as "Information" is concerned, what kind? We attempt to provide unbiased information about any and all drugs. Our office takes no stand on drug use, abuse or addiction, passes no judgement on one drug over another and does this all in an anonymous manner.

Now take "Center." We are not literally the "center" of any-

thing though it is my guess that the word center was used because someone wanted the letters "D" and "I" to be followed by the letter "C," forming a phonetically phallic acronym.

But a center we are where, from Monday through Friday, you can find out about drugs from one of our knowledgeable and courteous staff. (Well all right, they might not know how to answer your question off the top of their heads but they will help you find it — and they might be grumpy if they have a test that day, which is only fair.)

Part of the problem lies in the fact that, unlike some other AS Human Resource Program offices, those who can use the information provided by the D.I.C. are the last people who will seek us out.

I think it's an image thing. Most people using drugs or alcohol as a form of entertainment have come to associate any "Drug Information" as abstinence propaganda.

That's not to say that some people really should abstain — take waking up with strangers, in jail or on Sehome hill as a definite clue!!! But, the majority of people who party don't buy (nor should they) the "Just-Say-No" approach. Get real.

I have this weird idea that if people have information available to them, they can make intelligent choices on their own. Imagine that — college students might be capable of THINKING for themselves!

Column Policy

Community Voice was created to include ideas from the campus and surrounding community. Columnists are invited by *The Western Front* to write on an issue that has some impact on *Front* readers. Authors may choose their topic.

Columns should not exceed 650 words and may not be used for self- or business promotion. Articles will be edited for style, grammar, punctuation and potential libel.

Persons interested in writing for the column may contact *The Front* newsroom at 650-3162.



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