



**News:** Cornwall Park's trail widened to improve accessibility.

Page 3

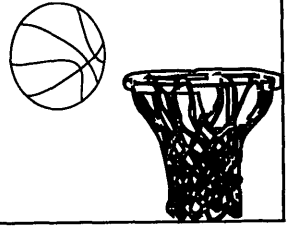
## THINGS THAT GO BUM IN THE NIGHT

**Features:** A look at Western after hours.  
Pages 6-7

## Wildcats declawed

**Sports:** Vikings women crush rival Central Washington.

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# The Western Front

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY — JANUARY 23, 1996

VOLUME 95, ISSUE 3

### Western gets frosty visitor



Front/Jesse Nolte

Many students showed off their artistic talents by constructing complex snow sculptures, like this one on Arntzen Field.

## Western men tame Wildcats

**By Allison Gregg**  
Front reporter

Western guard Dan Legard hit a 15-foot jumper with six seconds remaining in Saturday's game against Central Washington University to give the Vikings their first Pacific Northwest Athletic Conference win of the season.

The 72-70 victory puts an end to the Vikings' three-game losing streak.

"We came together as a team and played how we should and know we could have been playing all season," sophomore Todd Engblom-Stryker said.

"We stepped up a notch," senior Chris Morrison said of the win. "But, we're not yet at the level we want to be." Morrison scored two points Saturday.

At the end of the first half, Central led 42-32.

Coach Brad Jackson said in the

two games against St. Martin's and Simon Fraser, the team made errors in the second half that they were unable to deal with.

"We had better rebounding and our defense was better," Jackson said.

"Playing against our long-time rival Central was great for the team, and coming home with a victory was great," Jackson added. "Playing in Ellensburg at Nicholson Pavilion is real hard, but it gives an added meaning to the victory.

"With two rival teams, you throw the records out the window," he added.

Central is 0-2 in league play and 9-7 overall. The Vikings are 1-3 in league play and 10-7 overall.

Forward DeForrest Phelps said the defense turned up the concentration.

See Vikings, page 8

## Jury selection begins for Newstand trial

**By David Lynch**  
Front reporter

Jury selection began Monday morning in the criminal trial of Ira Stohl and Kristina Hjelsand in the so-called Answer Me! trial.

The trial is taking place at the Whatcom County Courthouse.

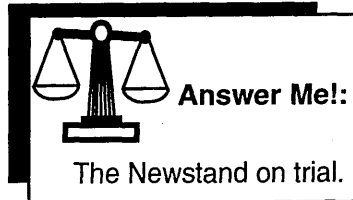
A jury pool of 100 people was summoned to the Whatcom County Courthouse at 9 a.m. Monday to fill out a 19-page questionnaire.

The purpose of the questionnaire was to try and find out what predisposed attitudes or possible prejudices the members of the jury pool might have.

The attorneys for both sides of the case will use the questionnaires to help select the 12 jurors and two alternates who will eventually sit on the jury.

The jury pool spent the morning filling out the questionnaire and, after a lunch break, returned to the courtroom at 1:30 p.m., to listen to Judge Michael Rickert's instructions.

After reading the jurors the charges that Whatcom County Prosecutor David McEachran has leveled against Stohl and Hjelsand, Rickert admonished the



prospective jurors about reading anything in the press, listening to the radio, or watching anything on television that is related to the trial.

Rickert also forbade the jury pool from speaking with anyone concerning the trial. He also said the jurors will not be sequestered during the trial.

Rickert informed the jury pool the trial was expected to last about two weeks.

After his admonitions, Rickert asked the potential jurors whether or not they would be able to sit on the jury for the duration of the trial.

Nearly 25 of the individuals present requested to be excused from jury duty because of health, financial or business-related reasons.

Rickert then asked the jury pool three questions related to the trial: "How many people have followed the coverage of the case and already formed an opinion?"

"Has anyone had a personal experience, or known a personal relative who has been raped or sexually molested?" "Does anyone want to discuss any of the questions in private chambers?"

After recording the responses to the last questions, Rickert asked all the people who had responded with an affirmative answer to meet with him in private chambers with the lawyers for both sides present to determine who would be excused from jury duty.

The remaining members of the jury pool were excused until today at 9 a.m., when jury selection is set to resume. Jury selection is expected to last two more days.

Stohl, owner of The Newstand International, and Hjelsand, the manager, have been charged with the sale and promotion of pornography by selling Answer Me!, an alternative magazine that confronts problems in society.

It is the fourth issue of the magazine that is allegedly pornographic. It examines stereotypical responses to rape, incest and violent sexual assault.

Opening statements are expected to begin Wednesday.

## Tech fee committee to meet

Funding proposals will be made in March

**By Steve Mohundro**  
Features co-editor

The Student Technology Fee Committee will meet for the first time Thursday to decide how to spend money coming from the new fee.

The committee was formed last year after the Associated Students Board of Directors submitted the fee proposal to Western's Board of Trustees. The fee was approved in June.

Nearly 95 percent of Western students—those who take six or more credits per quarter—pay the \$10 quarterly fee.

The calculated fee revenue, \$300,000 annually, will be added to \$200,000 in commitments

from both the Western Foundation and the president's office.

Members of the committee include Jerry Boles, vice provost for information/telecommunications services, A.S. Vice President for Academic Affairs and committee chair Jo Ann Anderson, A.S. Vice President for Student Life Cameron Wong, two student representatives and two faculty members.

After earlier delays involving the selection process for student representatives, the committee will now meet from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday in Viking Addition 455, Anderson said.

Anderson said the committee must first develop a procedure to

rank the importance of possible technology purchased with fee revenue.

In March the committee will call for funding proposals.

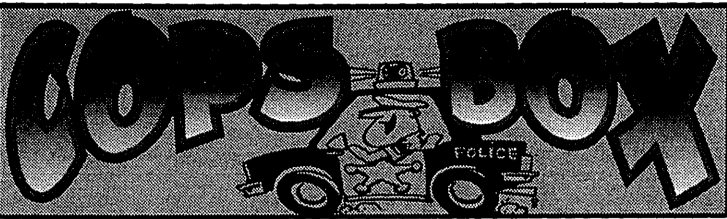
The committee is scheduled to discuss the proposals and make final funding decisions in June.

Possible purchases outlined in the original fee proposal include new computer labs, lab monitors and a new file server for student use only.

Despite having problems with the formation of the committee, Anderson said she believes the process will be much quicker in the future.

"Once the procedure is in (place), it'll work like clock-work," she said.

# Western Briefs



## Campus Police

**Jan. 20, 11:50 a.m.:** A fire extinguisher was thrown through a door window on the second floor of Ridgeway Alpha. The women's bathroom was vandalized as well. Usable fingerprints were found at the scene.

**Jan. 20, 4:55 p.m.:** Officers discovered 40 grams of marijuana on a man while they were at an unrelated incident on the 2900 block of Bill McDonald Parkway. The man was cited and released on his promise to appear in court.

**Jan. 20, 1:50 p.m.:** A vending machine was overturned and damaged in the North Edens TV lounge. A fire extinguisher was also discharged then taken from the scene.

**Jan. 22, 1:20 a.m.:** A woman in Higginson Hall reported four males woke her by banging on her door and yelling. One male entered the unlocked room and threw an object at her. He verbally harassed her while the other three males looked on from the doorway. They left but returned later to bang on her door and yell threats.

## Bellingham Police

**Jan. 20, 7:36 p.m.:** A woman reported her vehicle stolen on Cedarwood Avenue. She told police she left her vehicle unlocked with the keys inside while visiting a friend for a brief time.

**Jan. 21, 8:16 a.m.:** A woman reported receiving a threat by telephone from her former roommate. The incident was referred to the prosecutor's office.

**Jan. 21, 2:17 p.m.:** Police responded to a dispute between a landlord and tenant. Officers contacted the tenant who was having problems with a clogged sink. The landlord told the tenant it was not an urgent problem and would not be fixed that day since it was his day off. The tenant agreed to fill out a work request form and wait until Monday to settle the problem.

**Jan. 21, 3:02 p.m.:** A person reported a juvenile missing on the 2100 block of Electric Avenue. He was found at work and was unable to make it home because of bad weather and road conditions.

**Jan. 21, 4:42 p.m.:** A man was escorted from a hotel room on the 100 block of North Samish Way after failing to pay for one night's room rental. He agreed to return later and pay for his room, but said he would not stay at the establishment in the future. He left without incident.

**Jan. 21, 8:36 p.m.:** Police responded to a juvenile problem at Railroad Avenue and Magnolia Street when a man reported several youths throwing hard snowballs at his vehicle. No damage was done to his car. Officers conducted a search but were unable to locate the juveniles.

**Jan. 21, 11:26 a.m.:** A store clerk reported finding a plastic baggy on a mirror ledge in the store's public restroom. It contained what looked and smelled like four rolled marijuana cigarettes. The items were impounded by the Bellingham Police Department for disposal.

*Cops Box, which is selected from recent incident reports, was compiled by Front reporter Chelsie Nelson.*

## Tennis meeting to take place in Carver Gym

An informational tennis meeting will take place at 7 p.m. Jan. 25 in Carver Gym 110.

Anyone with questions should contact Kelly Gregory at 650-2771.

## Exempt Staff meeting scheduled for Jan. 23

The next general meeting of the Exempt Professional Staff Organization will take place at 4 p.m. Jan. 24 in Biology Building, 212.

Included in the agenda will be the consideration of final revisions to the exempt professional staff handbook, negotiated after review by the Western administration.

Anyone wanting to submit additional agenda items or with questions should contact Jack Smith at 650-3450.

## High speed rail system-topical of Jan. 23 workshop

The Washington Dept. of Transportation will give a workshop titled, "Rail Connection" to find out how communities feel about a high speed railway system. The workshop will take place from 5-8 p.m. Jan. 23 at Fairhaven Station. For more information, call 1-800-822-2015.

## Chinese Empress Tree will be replaced, not re-sited

Based on a report from the consulting arborist, Western officials have decided not to re-site the Chinese Empress Tree on Western's campus. Instead, they will plant a new, nursery-grown specimen to maintain Western's Empress tree tradition.

The tree must be removed to allow a planned renovation of the plaza between Haggard Hall and

Wilson Library to expand library facilities and provide handicapped access from High Street to the campus core.

## Theatre Arts and Music Depts. present musical

The Theatre Arts and Music Depts. present original music and dance in "New Music, New Movement, New Silences" at 8 p.m. Jan. 25-27 in the Performing Arts Center Concert Hall. Tickets cost \$10 general, \$8 seniors and \$5 for students. For more ticket information, call 650-6146.

## Correction

The Jan. 12 issue of The Western Front listed the date of the SHAIAC open house as Jan. 23. It will actually take place Jan. 25.

# AP news off the wire

## Bombings prompt police protection for Pope's visit

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Nicaraguan police are mobilizing to protect Pope John Paul II during his nine-hour visit Feb. 7 to Managua.

At least 18 Nicaraguan Catholic churches have been bombed since April, the latest occurring Jan. 1. A Vatican envoy said the threat of bombings will not affect the Pope's visit. Bombings began when the Catholic church began dispute mediations.

## Two fishermen missing from Columbia River

KELSO, Wash. — A search is under way for two fishermen missing from the Columbia River. Larry Mansur, 70, and Dennis Svoboda, 48, both of Longview, went fishing Sunday, but failed to return. Cowlitz County Sheriff Sgt. Glen Hiltz said officials are searching for their boat.

## Roe v. Wade anniversary marked by protestors

WASHINGTON D.C. — Anti-abortion protestors marched to the Supreme Court Monday to commemorate the 23rd anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, the high court ruling that legalized most abortions.

U.S. Park Police estimated 60,000 demonstrators were present.

*News briefs compiled from Associated Press Wire Service by Front reporter Craig Scott.*

## 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

**FRIDAY, JAN. 26, IS TUITION PAYMENT DEADLINE.** Failure to pay by that date will result in having your registration canceled.

**THE JUNIOR WRITING EXAM WILL BE OFFERED** in Fraser Hall 4 at 2 p.m. on Jan. 30, Feb. 1 and Feb. 6 and at 3 p.m. on Jan. 24, 29, 31 and Feb. 7. Retest examinees only may take the test at 2 p.m. on Jan. 25 or at 3 p.m. on Feb. 5. Preregistration is not required. Students can only take the JWE once per quarter and admittance is first-come, first-served. Picture ID is required and students should bring a pen and a No. 2 pencil. Allow two hours. • **JWE PREPARATION.** The Writing Center offers summary writing workshops and a grammar workshop series. Sign up in the Writing Center, WL 342, or call X/3219.

**THE MATH PLACEMENT TEST** will be given in OM 120 at 9 a.m. on the following dates: **Mondays**, Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 12, 26, March 4 and 11 and **Thursdays**, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, 15, 22, 29, March 7 and 14. Preregistration is not required. Students must bring picture ID and a No. 2 pencil. Allow 90 minutes. A \$10 fee is payable in the exact amount at time of testing.

**WILSON LIBRARY HOURS FOR WINTER QUARTER** are 7:45 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 7:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays and 1 to 10 p.m. on Sunday. On President's Day weekend the library will be closed Saturday, Feb. 17, and open from 1 to 10 p.m. on Sunday and Monday, Feb. 18-19.

**DEADLINE FOR CREDIT BY EXAMINATION APPLICATIONS** to challenge a class during winter quarter is Feb. 3. Applications can be obtained at the Testing Center, OM 120.

**EXCHANGE WITHIN THE U.S.** There will be two informational meetings for those interested in learning about the National Student Exchange Program. Sessions will be 4-5 p.m. Jan. 23 and 24 in OM 435. All are welcome at either session.

**GRADUATE SCHOOL OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEST** will be administered on Feb. 21. Register in OM 120 by Feb. 14.

**INTERNATIONALIZE YOURSELF.** Students from around the world are studying English at Western. Learn about a different culture, share about your culture and language and gain experience for teaching English abroad while helping an intensive English Program student practice conversational English. • **Become a conversation partner** and meet one hour a week for informal conversation at a mutually convenient time. • **Or join a conversation lab** at 3 or 4 p.m. for organized activities and free conversation. To sign up, call Gerre Jech-Galvin or Rita Miller at X/3755.

**WHEN IT'S STORMY OUTSIDE AND YOU WANT TO KNOW IF WESTERN IS OPEN** call the Stormline at 650-6500 after 6:15 a.m. or tune to KGMI (790 AM), KBFW (930 AM), KPUG (1170 AM), KISM (92.9 FM), or KAFÉ (104.3 FM). Stormline cards for posting in the office or at home are available through the Public Information Office, X/3350.

**WINTER QUARTER GROUP OFFERINGS** through the Counseling Center include **Overcoming Math Anxiety**, 2-4 p.m. Wednesdays starting Jan. 24; **Eliminating Self-Defeating Behaviors**, 3-5 p.m. Mondays; and **Working Through Depression**, 3-5 p.m. Tuesdays beginning Jan. 23. To register, stop by MH 262 or call X/3164.

**SEVERAL JOB SEARCH WORKSHOPS** are offered by Career Services Center throughout winter quarter. For detailed information, stop by OM 280 or call X/3240.

### Recruiting activities

To participate in on-campus interviews graduating seniors and alumni must be registered for career services. Registration packets are available at the front desk in OM 280. Establishing a placement file is optional for all but education candidates. There is no charge for 1995-96 graduates; alumni must pay a \$20 fee, which makes them eligible for services through September, 1996.

- **Airborne Express**, Thursday, Jan. 25. Must graduate by June, 1996. Submit CIF when you sign up to interview.
- **Howard Johnson**, Thursday, Feb. 1. Submit CIF when you sign up to interview.

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# Cornwall Park trail system to be improved

By Craig Scott  
Front reporter

Park enthusiasts will soon have a new reason to enjoy Cornwall Park, thanks to a grant from the Department of Transportation and matching funds from the Bellingham City Council.

Upgrades to the park's existing trail system will allow easier access for bicyclists, pedestrians, wheelchair users and horses.

The construction will make the trails a uniform width of 10 feet, allowing enough space for the park's various user groups to co-exist.

The trails will be covered with crushed rock, and some trailheads will be paved, said Leslie Bryson, a Design and Development Department manager.

New trails will connect Birchwood Avenue and Peabody and Indiana streets to the existing trails.

This is to encourage use by bicycle commuters hoping to side-step traffic on Meridian Street and around St. Joseph's Hospital, said Tim Wahl, the Greenway Project coordinator for Bellingham Parks and Recreation.

"It's a way for people to access

the park and travel through the park," Wahl said. "(The project) allows them to miss some major headaches."

Improvements on Cornwall Park began in mid-December 1995 and should be completed by mid-March of this year.

The city hired Wilder Construction Co. to resurface, widen and connect the Cornwall Park trails for \$147,000.

The federal grant is supplied by the Intermodal Surface Transport Efficiency Act, which puts tax revenue from the sale of gasoline toward non-motorized transportation.

ISTEA funds are competitive; the processing of the Cornwall Park application against other claims nationwide slowed the project.

Once the ISTEA funds were granted, the City Council used matching money from Street Funds to double the DOT grant, said Rory Routhe, a project engineer for the Bellingham Public Works Department.

The Cornwall Park trails qualify for the funds because they can be used by bicycle commuters or anyone wanting to get around without having to navigate through the increasing amount of

traffic in Bellingham.

Originally slated for a summer 1995 overhaul, Cornwall Park is getting its facelift this winter.

Problems in reviewing the project, processing the ISTEA application and getting a permit from the Department of Fisheries all added to the delay, Bryson said.

A permit from the Department of Fisheries is required whenever work is performed in or around fish-bearing streams, Routhe said.

In the Cornwall Park instance, the permit is needed for work along Squalicum Creek, which will soon have a multi-user bridge spanning it.

Wahl said he sees the project as affecting more than just Cornwall Park.

While some of the trails may look mysterious to non-distance runners and non-cyclists, Wahl explained that these connect with other trails to Squalicum Harbor or to the Bay-to-Baker Trail.

Over time, links to other trails and streets will be added.

"You do (this project) like a street project," Wahl said. "One piece at a time."

Wahl said he envisions new entrances to the park will be installed over the next 10 years. A



Front/Shane Wolters

Mary Varco and Feilly walk down a Cornwall Park trail.

connector between Squalicum Parkway and the railroad trail on Alabama Street and a pedestrian underpass of Meridian Street, will allow non-motorized transportation users to avoid what he calls

"a macho traffic environment." "You'll be able to avoid hills, Meridian Street and Sunset (Drive) by using the Peabody Street entrance to the park," Wahl said.




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650-3161

# New club battles racism with education

By Craig Scott  
Front reporter

While the onslaught of hate crimes may have diminished in the public eye, one Western student won't put down his sword.

Robert Brower II, president of the recently-formed Associated Students club, Students To Abolish Racism, said he wants to educate students, staff and the public about the dangers of racism and hate.

"It's not something you (can) turn a blind eye to and it will go away," Brower warned.

Brower said he is disturbed by what he sees as the view of most Western students. He said getting students to see the daily occurrences of racism and hate has been the hardest part of forming his club.

"They don't think there's a problem," Brower said. "They all think you go away to college, (to) some safe haven. If you look at the facts, many women don't experience their first rape-type situation until college."

Thomas Phiel III, STAR's vice president of external affairs, said he agrees that getting people to recognize the problem has been difficult.

"A lot of people ... don't want to acknowledge that (racism) exists," Phiel said.

Phiel met Brower while working in the theater department. Their beliefs are similar, but Phiel said his reasons for being involved in STAR are more personal than Brower's.

"My father, actually, is a bigot ... he's anti-Semitic," Phiel said. "I've let it be known that I disapprove of his behavior. (STAR) is an opportunity to say how I feel."

Brower's involvement in combating racism goes back several years. He formed a non-profit organization to combat racism while he was a student at Clover Park High School in Tacoma. Inspiration struck him while he was eating with a friend at a Denny's.

An alleged associate of skinheads passed by Brower's table and handed them a pamphlet from a reputed neo-Nazi organization.

"Our tempers were really hot," Brower explained. He said he wanted to fight back, but he chose to do so peacefully. Thus he created Students To Abolish Racism, known then as STAR Foundation.

"I decided I'd do it in a way that'd show (racists) that that

kind of stuff wouldn't be tolerated," Brower said.

Brower said he found no organization that mirrored STAR Foundation when he came to Western. Increasing media attention on hate crimes in Whatcom County led Brower to seek out other similar-minded individuals

"My father, actually, is a bigot ... he's anti-Semitic. I've let it be known that I disapprove of his behavior. (STAR) is an opportunity to say how I feel."

versity for more events," Brower said.

The recent York neighborhood hate crimes temporarily swelled ranks in the club. Since then the club's meetings have an average attendance of five or six persons. Many of the more than 20 members have disappeared into limbo.

— Thomas Phiel III

STAR vice president of external affairs

to create a new organization with an old name: Students To Abolish Racism.

Brower's second group became a recognized AS club in early November 1995. While the AS club bears part of the name of the STAR Foundation, the clubs are linked only in ideologies and in being Brower's brainchildren.

STAR Foundation is now extinct because Brower's business license expired.

Brower said he knows STAR won't make him rich, but he expects no monetary rewards.

"(Money) goes back to the uni-

"The only good thing about the skinhead thing is (that) it made students aware of what is going on in the community," said Vernon Johnson of Western's political science department. He is co-chair of Whatcom Human Rights Task Force.

WHRTF was formed on Aug. 19, 1994 in response to a cross-burning at a migrant farmers' apartment in Lynden. WHRTF organizes "unified, non-violent action in response to those who condone human rights abuses," according to its mission statement.

WHRTF now has a liaison to STAR: Western student Heidi Stirling. Stirling, who was originally the WHRTF liaison to Western, had been trying to publicize WHRTF efforts and events by herself.

"Originally it was too overwhelming," Stirling said, "so I began looking for groups with similar interests."

Enter Brower's organization — exactly what Stirling needed. Now she attends STAR's weekly meetings and reports on what WHRTF is doing.

STAR often works in conjunction with similar organizations in sponsoring events such as Rock Against Bigotry, a multi-band fundraising concert coming to Whatcom County in March.

STAR will co-sponsor the event with the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment.

"It's all in the early formation process," Stirling said.

STAR is also trying to gain support by getting into the residence halls with an upcoming series of discussion programs centered around the movie "Higher Learning."

"We're still trying to increase our numbers," Brower said.

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# Where's that electric bill and rubber penis?

## Local lost-and-found accumulates some of the strangest things

By Michael H. Olson  
Front reporter

What do a leather wallet, a rubber penis, an orange stocking cap with a fuzzy ball on it, a sports mug, a bicycle and a watch have in common?

They were items turned in to "lost and found" centers on and off campus.

Carrie Byrum, a psychology/sociology major who works at the Carver Gym information desk, said jewelry and clothes are the most commonly lost items. She told the story of a student who left a ski jacket on the football field. The jacket belonged to a friend of his. In the pocket he had left his watch. Luckily, a coach or advisor spotted it and turned it in to the lost and found. The student returned the next day to retrieve the items.

"He got lucky," Byrum said. "A lot of students show up and ask for something we don't have."

Heather Haren, a student who works at the library check-out desk, said plastic mugs with handles are the most common thing left at the library.

Craig Burgess, another worker at the check-out desk, said the most unusual items are not turned in to the front desk; they are found on the shelves by workers.

"A lunch bucket after two months is incredibly rank smelling, and sometimes a Thermos explodes."

— Paul Woodcock  
Operations supervisor, Whatcom Transportation Authority

"We get money used as bookmarks," Mendenhall said in her basement office while standing next to the book return. As she spoke, three more books clanked down the trail of metal rollers

from above, unceremoniously dropping into the containment center where a dozen others lay.

"We get wallets, passports, IDs and gloves down the chute," she added. "We've had an envelope with someone's Puget Power bill and money (payment) in it."

She said the book return receives a lot of books with Post-It notes left in them.

With concern, she added, "Don't put Post-It notes in books. The adhesive deteriorates the book and it is time consuming to take them out."

The book return isn't the only source of forgotten items, she said.

On the shelves, the staff has found petrified apple cores, identification cards that were lost for years, stashes of library materials that people set aside for later



Christy Gibson, who has worked at the Carver Gym information desk for 3 years, shows a belt, unfortunately misplaced by someone.

retrieval, poems and sexual objects, including a battery-operated dildo.

She said, "Once, someone attached a rubber penis to the side of a bookshelf and watched to see what people's reaction would be."

"We didn't know if we had some perverse person out there, so we went up and confiscated the item. We called security and they came and took it away.

the year. Last year, she said the college gave 75 pairs of lost eyeglasses to the Lion's Club.

"I've had people walk by and see something in here and say, 'Oh, that's mine.'"

"(But) I have to be really careful; it's important to me to get the right stuff back to the right people," Anderson said.

The stories are not limited to campus.

"People have left whole loads of wash in our washers or dryers," Lori Chapman, the manager of Fairhaven Laundry, said. "We let the clothes sit in there for a few days thinking they'll come back for them. But they usually don't."

"It's incredible what is left (on buses)," Paul Woodcock, operations supervisor at Whatcom Transportation Authority.

Bikes are left on racks on the front of WTA buses and frequently, no one comes back to claim them, Woodcock said.

The variety often depends on the season, he added. In the summer, the WTA receives a pile of clothing and, occasionally, someone's underwear.

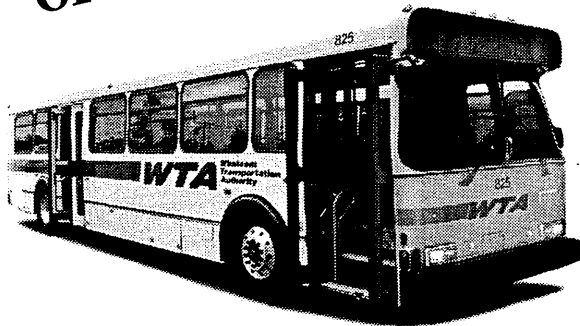
Woodcock said he has learned by prior experience to look inside bags and lunch buckets before storing them at the WTA lost and found.

"A lunch bucket after two months is incredibly rank smelling, and sometimes a Thermos explodes."

The WTA is required by state law to keep items for 60 days even though the vast majority are never claimed, he said.

After 60 days, WTA donates the items to local charities.

What's 35 feet long,  
costs 35¢ to ride,  
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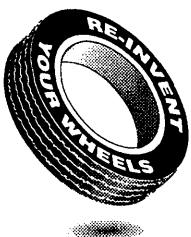
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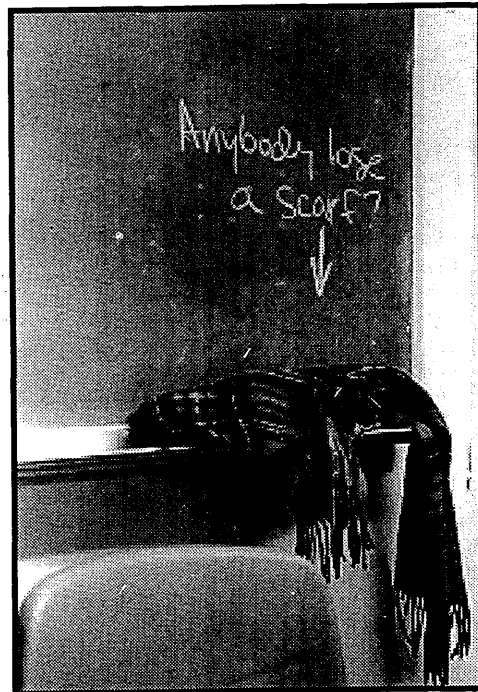
The **nightline** is our evening bus that runs every 45 minutes...  
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**WTA** Whatcom Transportation Authority



Front/Craig Stephens

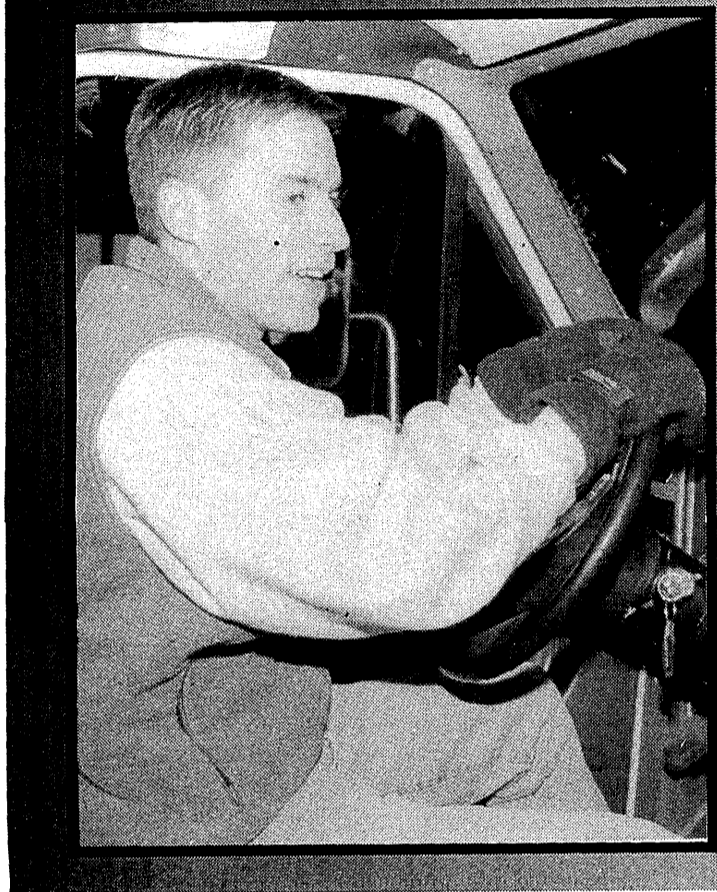
Someone called later and said he was doing a sociology experiment at Whatcom (Community College) and wanted it back since it wasn't his. I told him he had to go to security to pick it up."

The library usually keeps items for a while, but they eventually end up at the campus lost and found office, which is located in the Viking Union building, next to the art museum.

Melissa Anderson, a student who works there, said she receives a lot of mugs, IDs and dorm keys. Unusual items, like condoms and dirty underwear, are usually found inside a backpack or bag. Items are kept for two quarters then sold at the end of

# While the university sleeps, cre

## Shuttle driver provides safe transportation for residents with nightly campus circuits



**L**ance Winecka, driver for Western Evening Student Transit, greets riders as they board the shuttle bus.

*Below: Winecka scrapes ice and snow off the windshield Sunday evening before starting on the loop around campus.*

*Photos by Jesse Nolte*

**By Allison Gregg**  
Front reporter

Lance Winecka drives 70 miles in four-and-a-half hours. Many would consider that a slow pace, but his leisurely driving is justified.

Winecka is a shuttle driver for Western and drives from Viking Union to Sehome Village 13 times a night.

At 6:50 p.m., he takes his position behind the wheel of a Western Evening Student Transit (WEST) shuttle. Then, he leaves the physical plant and drives to the VU. The first seven of the night's passengers board the shuttle.

With the radio tuned to 92.9 FM, another evening of driving begins. This is Winecka's eighth quarter driving the shuttle.

"I do the circuit so many times, I could do it with my eyes closed," Winecka said.

As he makes his way around the circuit, people shuffle in and out.

Back at the VU, Lance Whitaker, a Western senior, boarded the shuttle. He said he rides the shuttle a few times a week because the fare is only 10 cents.

"I'm surprised more people don't use [WEST]," Winecka said. According to Winecka, Residence Life set up the transit to provide quick and affordable transportation alternatives.

University Residences rent the shuttles from the motorpool. Tara

Main, Winecka's supervisor, says the shuttle fare is used to rent the shuttles.

Winecka, a senior majoring in Environmental Policy and Assessment, explained the benefits of the job.

"I get to do a lot of thinking," Winecka said. "I meet a lot of people, mostly sophomores."

Winecka earns \$6.50 per hour. He said he uses that money to pay for his tuition.

Back at the VU, freshmen Kami Cane and Marisa Bender boarded the shuttle to go to Hagggen to get food for breakfast. Cane and Bender say they ride WEST at least once a week.

"This bus is much cozier than the other," they said. "With the music playing, it makes you feel more at home."

Tasha Wortham, also a freshman, rides WEST on nights she has meetings — from the VU to Fairhaven, where she lives.

Before he transferred to Western from Green River Community College in Auburn, Winecka drove at SeaTac Airport for Doug Fox Travel and Parking. He has his commercial driver's license.

People come and go so quickly, but Winecka remembers where to let them off.

"As far as a campus job goes, this one's pretty cool," he says. "But it's boring."

He says the most unusual thing that has happened while he was driving was when someone got on the shuttle drunk and vomited.

But Winecka said he's never been hijacked. He said nobody's ever tried to steal the money either.

Winecka explained all the ins and outs of WEST. He said people try to show him their WTA passes or student ID cards that can be used on the Campus Express.

"It's a completely different system," he said.

Winecka is required to stop at all WTA stops if he sees people waiting or people ask him to let them off.

At the VU, once again, Winecka stood and stretched his legs and arms. A woman boarded

the shuttle and dug through the bottom of her purse to find her change. "Get it next time," Winecka told her when she came up a few pennies short.

She explained where she needed to get off, and Winecka assured her he would stop.

Western senior Niki Bruner said she takes WEST to get home to Birnam Wood. She said she doesn't feel comfortable walking in the dark.

At Sehome Village, Cane and Bender get back on WEST so they can get back to their room in Mathes.

"We have one more thing to add," Cane said as she got comfortable in the black seat. "Lance is a superb driver."

All of the nights passengers agreed.

Winecka made a special stop to let them off.

As he pulled up to the VU, there was a student jumping up and down waving WEST down.

"Ziemer," Lance chuckled as he went on to explain that Jason Ziemer

is the highlight of his night. "I ride the shuttle two times a week, just to see Lance," the Western senior begins. "We've got this platonic male bonding thing going too."

"We have deep intellectual talks: girl problems and sking."

was raised in Buckley, and I never got to ride a school bus, so this is a new wonderful experience," Ziemer said.

Ziemer and Lance have classes together and they began to talk about their plans for an upcoming ski trip.

"I always want to pull that wire and hear the ding, but it's not there," Ziemer said.

"If we put one on, it would be cool. That way, people won't miss their stops and Lance wouldn't have to slam on the brakes. Safety is his first concern, and the dinger might help."

Ziemer goes on to explain that a cost/benefit analysis might be helpful, but it would probably show that the dinger isn't worth it.

At Buchanan Towers, two students who missed their rides got on WEST to get to the VU in order to transfer on to the W T A Nightline.

"We're on a mission," the man said.

"What church are you from?," Ziemer said

as he turned around, missing the first half of the conversation.

The missionaries got off and hurried to catch the Nightline.

"I hate it when they do that," Winecka said as the WTA bus cut

**"I do the circuit so many times, I could do it with my eyes closed."**

**— Lance Winecka**



# Features of the night come out

**INTERVIEW  
WITH A  
JANITOR**

A hush spreads across campus. Lights illuminate the empty walkways. Dry leaves shuffle across the wet grass. Most people are turning in as his day is just beginning.

"Okay ..." the janitor said helpfully. He put the chalk-filled erasers on his buggy and pushed it off into the closet. Dressed in a state-issued, blue uniform, he cleans the mess left behind by the day's occupants of College Hall.

Roger Sprague, 58, has worked as a janitor at Western for 11 years. A retired Air Force Flight Engineer, he flew C-141 jets during his 27 years of service. He was born

in Princeton, Maine.

During his tour in the Air Force, he visited his brother who was stationed in Blaine. He liked the region and decided he would move to the Northwest when he retired.

Because he retired from the Air Force, Sprague is able to camp on military bases.

Cliffside on Whidbey Naval Base is his favorite camping spot, where he likes to hike on the beach front.

Kayaking and running are two of his other hobbies.

Sprague lives in Sudden Valley, a developed community on Lake Whatcom.

Every other October, he goes back to Maine to visit his parents and make sure they are doing fine.

Sprague has three sons who are scattered across the United States.

He spent this

past Christmas with his son in Tupelo, Miss. — Elvis's hometown.

Sprague said the town is filled with "Elvis's firsts" signs in the doorways of local shops and stores.

The hardware store has a sign that reads: "This is where Elvis bought his first wrench." Sprague did go and see Elvis's house and school once.

Western's janitors work swing shift, or 5 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. The hours do not bother him, but he said they were hard to get used to at first.

When asked about the strangest things he has found, he described two white, sealed business-length envelopes with words in Japanese on the outside.

Through the envelope, he could see a stack of money.

Sprague said he thinks most people must be in some kind of hurry to get out of class, because he is amazed at all the things that get left behind.

Everything he has found — ranging from purses and wallets to a vile of cocaine — gets turned in.

"If we are the first to find things, we can guarantee that the owner recovers them," he said.

Sprague says the best thing about being a janitor is the lack of stress.

"There are no people to listen to, no phones to answer," Sprague said.

He does have one complaint regarding the Western Front newsroom: "It's such a mess, paper everywhere."

**STORY BY  
ALLISON  
GREGG**



Front/Craig Stephens

## Not a 9 to 5 job: an RA's day never ends

**By Craig Scott  
and Shelby Benny**  
Front reporters

The life of a resident advisor can be described by four letters: B-U-S-Y.

A typical day may look like this: get up, go to class, do some homework, attend a staff meeting, facilitate a program, study, do rounds, go to bed and start all over.

The hours RAs put in vary. Some weeks may only require 13 hours while others may take 30 hours or more. Staff meetings and individual meetings with the Resident Director and Hall Council eat up at least five hours a week.

RAs maintain sanity by getting off campus, engaging in a hobby, or by sometimes being unorthodox. After a haunted house Joe Yamada, a junior RA in Kappa, once did rounds dressed as the grim reaper.

"It was difficult trying to be serious while dressed like that," Yamada said.

One room of wide-eyed residents ended up pouring out their cans of beer as Yamada, complete with scythe, looked on. He described their reactions as if the students were "dreaming or maybe had a little

too much to drink ... It was humorous."

Rounds are a routine patrolling of a residence hall or set of halls, checking for safety hazards, non-functional lights or excessively noisy gatherings.

RAs don't know what will be encountered on rounds until a door opens. This gives the RAs a "nervous rush," Yamada said.

Sophomore Sabre Hansen, an RA in Higginson, has encountered many interesting scenarios in her job, including a naked resident and a man in a bra.

That night, Hansen stopped at a noisy room to ask the residents to quiet down. The door was slammed in her face. A few minutes later, someone opened the door enough to look out, but wouldn't let Hansen in.

"OK, OK, you can let her in now," said someone behind the door.

Inside, among other residents was a man kneeled over on a bed, naked. Hansen had no idea what he was doing or why he wasn't dressed.

"It's not like I saw anything but his butt," Hansen said.

The man soon got dressed and "then they dumped (out) a whole bunch of alcohol."

On another night she knocked on a door of a rather noisy room. The door opened to show a male resident being fitted into a strapless black lace push-up bra, complete with a red rose set between the cups.

The six-foot-tall man proceeded to talk to Hansen. "He was sticking out his chest, making a (big) deal out of it."

The moderately-built resident turned down his stereo after a brief argument with her.

The ability to deal with different people appeals to sophomore Seth Jennings, who is applying to be an RA. But, he doesn't like the prospect of having to write people up for "stupid infractions" such as being too loud on the weekends.

"(Writing people up) is not a comfortable feeling ... (especially) if they get ticked off," Yamada said. Fortunately, most people cooperate with the RAs by pouring out their alcohol or lowering the volume of the music.

Escaping the job is difficult. Even when RAs are in their rooms, they're on the job.

"(Being an RA) really keeps me around Kappa," Yamada said of his job. "The cool thing about staying in the building... is I really build good friendships. It's like I'm paid to work with friends."

A down side to living in the residence halls can be having residents knock on the door at 2 a.m.

An RA's job ranges from referring students to the proper resources on campus for help with eating disorders, sexual harassment, self-confidence and alcohol assessment.

RAs are also required to provide educational and social programs for their residents and to enrich the collegiate experience of the students. Few guidelines exist for program structure.

Putting on simple programs is easy, Quackenbush said, but making attractive programs is another matter.

"It's easy to fill the requirements," Quackenbush said, "(but) it's more difficult to fulfill the residents."

Residents often don't want to come to the educational programs, favoring instead the socially-oriented programs. RAs must search for creative ways and catchy titles to advertise events.

"Anything with sex in it (will get people to attend)," Quackenbush said.

The time put into planning and executing a program can pay off.

"If I've helped one person...that's the best thing I can get," Yamada said. "That makes me feel like I'm doing my job."

RAs also have "duty nights," in which they are chained

to their areas by pagers. The RAs are on-call for residents with such problems as being locked out of their rooms or break-ins. The assignment of duty nights varies from staff to staff, as does the time involved in duty nights; including rounds.

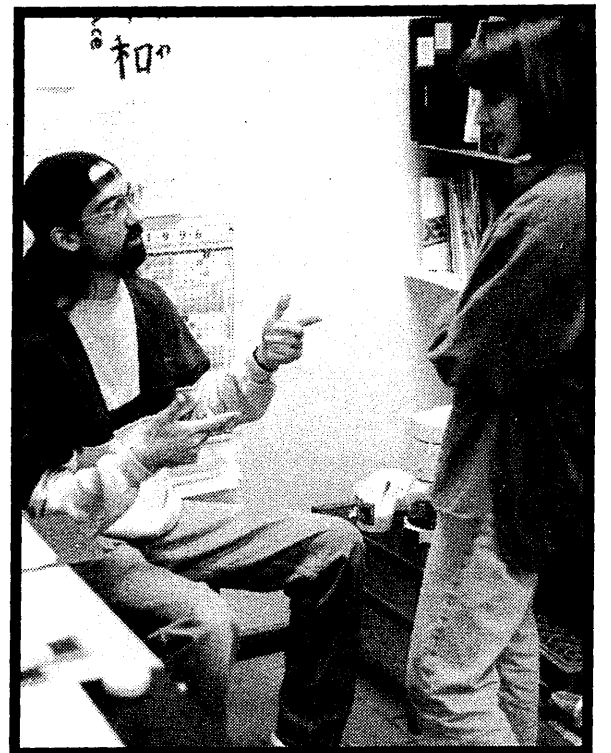
An RA is on-call in every residence hall on campus between the hours of 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. Monday through Thursday and from Friday at 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. Monday.

RAs are undergraduate students who play many roles for their residents; on any given day RAs can be counselors, mediators or best friends.

According to the Resident Advisor Employment Agreement, RAs must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or above, be full-time students, give their job priority over everything but schoolwork, attend nearly two weeks of training in the fall before the quarter starts and work an average of at least 19 hours a week.

As compensation, RAs receive free room and board, and a biweekly stipend of \$36.08 for the first year, with a raise to \$36.88 biweekly for their second year of service.

RAs at some other schools don't get a stipend, or perhaps get free room, but not board, Quackenbush said.



Front/Shane Wolters

Joe Yamada, a resident advisor in Kappa Hall, spends some time with Rebecca Ballasiotes, one of his residents.

## Vikings, from page 1

"The defensive intensity was the key that helped us win the game. It feels good," he said.

Phelps said the win gives the team confidence that will help them win more games.

During the second half, Phelps made a three-point play with 26 seconds remaining to put the Vikings in front, 70-68.

Wildcats forward Jason James tied the score at 70 with 14 seconds left before Legard's shot won the game for Western.

Central's last-ditch effort came up short when James was called for a charging foul.

Guard Mike Blankenship led scoring for Central with 19 points. Center Jeff Foster

chipped in 18.

Western's top scorers were forward Ryan Gerrits with 14 points and forward Engblom-Stryker with 12 points. Matt Lowell, a center who made his first start of the season, had 11 points. Gerrits had a game-high 10 rebounds.

"I think our team is mentally tough. We used all-around combined team effort. Heart and desire were used throughout the whole game," said David McNicol, who did not play on Saturday.

The Vikings travel to Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston, Idaho Wednesday for their next PNWAC game.

## Gerrits shows talent, leadership

After two college transfers, forward finds home at Western

By Danny Hiestand  
Front reporter

The road for Ryan Gerrits has been long and winding. Like every road, it has had its occasional detours, potholes and green lights. And like every road, it must and has come to an end.

The 6-foot-7 Gerrits, in his third season as a Vikings forward, is playing at the top of his game on the court.

The road first started with Gerrits' love for Washington State University. "My family was a Cougar family," Gerrits said.

This love eventually led him to attend WSU in 1990, where he tried out for the WSU basketball team and was cut. But his disappointment wouldn't last long. After being spotted by the basketball coaching staff of St. Martin's College, Gerrits was given another chance to prove himself.

Gerrits made the St. Martin's team and helped them to a 22-12 record during the 1991-92 season and an appearance in the finals of the NAIA District I playoffs. During the year, Gerrits averaged 9.5 points per game on 50.1 percent shooting for the Saints, including a career-high 23-point scoring performance against Western.

Despite his success at St. Martin's and the return to his hometown of Olympia, Gerrits still yearned to play for his beloved WSU. So Gerrits returned and tried out for the basketball team.

This time he made the team, but was forced to redshirt due to transfer requirements.

Gerrits was excited to be a

Cougar, but disappointed at his limited role on the team. And so, after much soul searching, Gerrits decided to hang up his basketball shoes.

His career on the court was over, he thought, until the phone call from the other side of the mountains.

Vikings' Head Coach Brad Jackson contacted Gerrits and

have increased.

"I hope that my teammates respect me and have confidence in what I have to say (as a team captain). I think they do," Gerrits said.

"(Ryan) is not afraid to encourage his teammates. But at the same time, he's not afraid to constructively criticize them either. He's doing a very good job being team captain," Jackson said.

"I think I have a pretty good head for the game. All you gotta do is see the court and do it," Gerrits said.

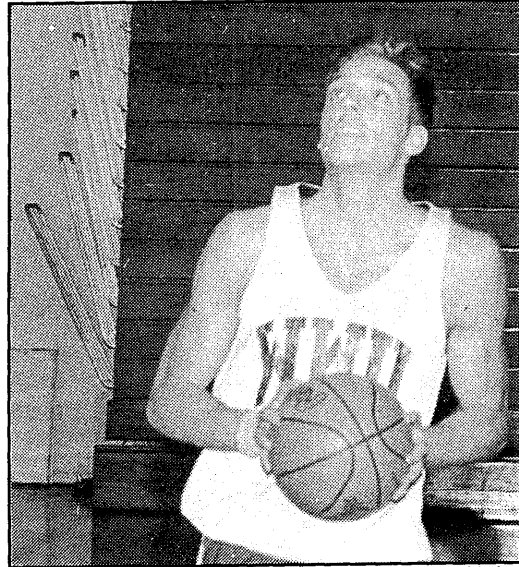
In addition to his leadership qualities, Jackson likes the versatility Gerrits gives him on the court. Gerrits' size allows Jackson to play him in three different roles. In addition to his normal forward position, Gerrits is a good enough ball handler to play guard, and is big enough to give the Vikings an added inside presence.

Gerrits was always one of the tallest kids wherever he attended school. He started playing basketball in seventh grade.

"I have always been real fortunate," Gerrits said. "Basketball has always been good to me. It was always my therapy. If I was feeling bad, I could always go play ball."

Gerrits, who is involved with elementary education, wants to become a high school basketball coach and a junior high teacher. He already has a degree in psychology, and hopes to earn his teaching degree this year.

Gerrits' basketball career most likely will come to an end after this season with the Vikings. But the season is still young.



Front/Jesse Nolte

Ryan Gerrits shoots in practice Monday.

told him he was interested in having him play for the Vikings.

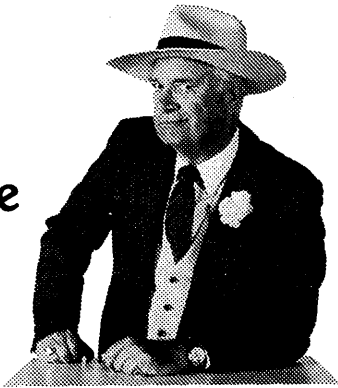
"Ryan is very much the emotional leader on the team," Jackson said. "He's really looked up to (by his teammates). He's the kind of athlete a coach likes to coach."

Gerrits is now averaging 11.4 points, 5.2 rebounds and 2.6 assists each game.

During the 1993-94 season, his first at Western, Gerrits averaged 9.1 points and 6.4 rebounds in 31 games for the Vikings.

His numbers decreased last season due to a nagging foot injury, which kept him out of the lineup for nine games. This year, Gerrits' numbers and confidence

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\* Formerly History 361. Check with IL office before enrolling.

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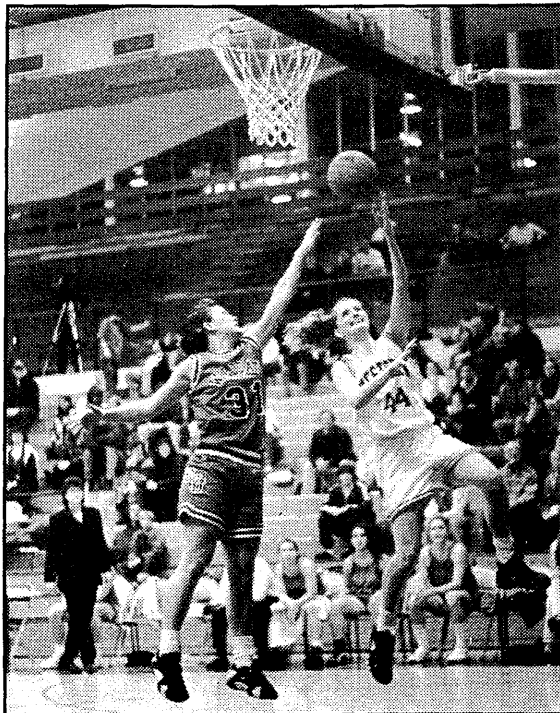
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# Vikings shred 'Cats, 4-0 in PNWAC



Front/Craig Stephens  
Gina Sampson shoots for two in Saturday's win.

By Jason Stoner  
Front reporter

The Western women's basketball team shellacked the Central Washington University Wildcats 87-63 Saturday at Carver Gym.

The Vikings are now 4-0 in the Pacific Northwest Athletic Conference and No. 21 in this week's NAIA Division I poll.

The women are 6-0 at Carver Gym this season, and have won 14 straight at home. "I think at times we played good defense and good offense," Head Coach Carmen Dolfo said. "What we've built off is doing it as a team and not as individuals."

Gina Sampson, who tops the league in points, led the Vikings in scoring with 22. Guard K.C. Mattingly finished with 21.

Central was led by Carrie Gosselin with 14 and Nicole Trammell with 12.

"I think we've really improved since we've learned what players strengths and weaknesses are, and we've learned how to use them," Sampson said. "I think we need

to learn to be more excited on the court. We need more enthusiasm. We had to struggle with it tonight. Defensively we also have to pick it up."

The Vikings jumped to an early lead with the scoring of Sampson, Mattingly and April Saunders, who had seven of her nine points before halftime. An 18-2 run helped the Vikings to a 43-26 halftime lead.

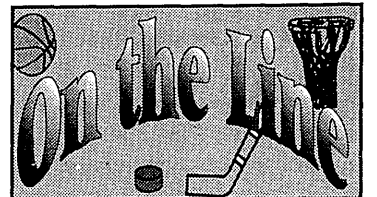
During the second half, Western proceeded to stretch the lead even further. Central cut the lead to 11 points twice in the first six minutes, but failed to rally further.

Western increased its lead to 75-47 during a 20-4 run with 7:40 remaining on the clock.

During that run, Mattingly scored 11, including three 3-pointers. She is one short of Western's season record of 56.

Saunders had a game-high 13 rebounds and Sampson added 12.

The Vikings travel to Lewiston, Idaho Wednesday to battle No. 13 Lewis-Clark State. The teams are tied for first place in the PNWAC.



## Men's Basketball

Jan. 24: 8 p.m. at Lewis-Clark State College

## Women's Basketball

Jan. 24: 6 p.m. at Lewis-Clark State College

# 'Superpuck' belongs in penalty box

I remember about four years ago when my dad and I sat down to watch the NHL All-Star Game.

Love of hockey was something we had in common at a time when most parents are sure their kids have lost the ability to speak. With few things in common, those we had meant even more.

So I flipped on the television Saturday with a growing sense of nostalgia to watch this year's All-Star Game. After a minute or two, I realized that something was different. Something was terribly, terribly wrong.

The puck was surrounded by a blue halo. And every single shot that was taken had a glowing red comet-trail.

"AAAHHH!!! They've ruined hockey," I screamed. Desperately



Chris Troyke  
Front reporter

needing a sympathetic ear, I called my dad. I had seen a few ads about a new million-dollar technology that would make it easier for some fans to see the puck. But it never occurred to me that I would actually ever see it, or that it would be quite that irritating.

The specialized pucks with a computer chip in them cost about \$400. An average of 40 pucks are used in a hockey game.

One goalie got his first NHL shutout and they wouldn't let him keep a \$400 puck.

I remember scrambling to get a puck after it left the ice when I was little. Can you imagine the onslaught of security guards descending on an ecstatic eight-year-old and ripping the frozen

puck from his or her hands?

My mom picked up the phone. I asked for Dad. Laughing at my abruptness, she wanted to know why. I told her that I had to talk to someone who would understand how I felt. She is one of the people who will actually like the new high-tech additions.

She handed the phone over to Dad. The shock I had when I first turned on the game was nothing compared to the feeling of amazement when he said that he didn't really care one way or the other.

"Hey, anything that turns your mom into a hockey fan," he said.

"But," I said, "I feel like I'm watching a freakin' video game."

He laughed. I hung up.

The blue halo I can understand. I know many people have a hard time following the puck. I cannot, however see any reason to use that ultra-annoying red comet-trail, except possibly to irritate me.

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# Frontline

## Lay off the cologne

Standing in line to buy my textbooks, I was attacked by the overwhelming aroma of a heavy-scented cologne. Nausea gradually settled to the pit of my stomach as my head began to pound. The rest of the day was spent on the edge of vomiting. Whoever felt the need to douse him or herself in a fragrance so strong ruined my entire day.

There is no problem with perfume, just with people who feel the need to use half a bottle on themselves everyday. When the strong aroma approaches me, my head begins to hurt and the want to throw up on the person who was responsible for my discomfort is intense. It hit three times in one day, one time being at dinner. The last thing needed to accompany my meal is a blanket of CK1 over my arroz con pollo.

The overuse of cologne is not only my personal problem, but is increasingly becoming a national one as various television programs have made the topic the focal point of at least one of their episodes. Some people are fed up and no longer tolerate it. Instead of taking a quick whiff and making a comment to whether or not the fragrance is pleasant, I just hold my breath and try to block the nauseating fumes that plague my nostrils.

Recently, "20/20" did a story on people who are fed up with perfume—entirely. They profiled a group of people protesting a department store to stop selling perfume. This is extreme, but their feeling is understood. But pouncing on Nordstrom is not the answer. Sympathy can also be for those who don't realize they're spritzing the scent on too strongly.

It's an excellent sign that you've sprayed too much on when you can smell it on yourself. Do yourself a favor as well as the innocent bystanders that must endure ravaging nausea as a result of your overindulgence and start over. Take another shower if you must, but please get rid of the overbearing stench that slowly kills one's sense of smell.

Bottom line, take care when spraying on the cologne. Not only will the air be clearer, the world would have a few less nauseated people. Then there would be no need to storm Nordstrom.

—Renée Pedranti, Assistant News editor and Rachel Morrow, Opinions editor

## The Western Front

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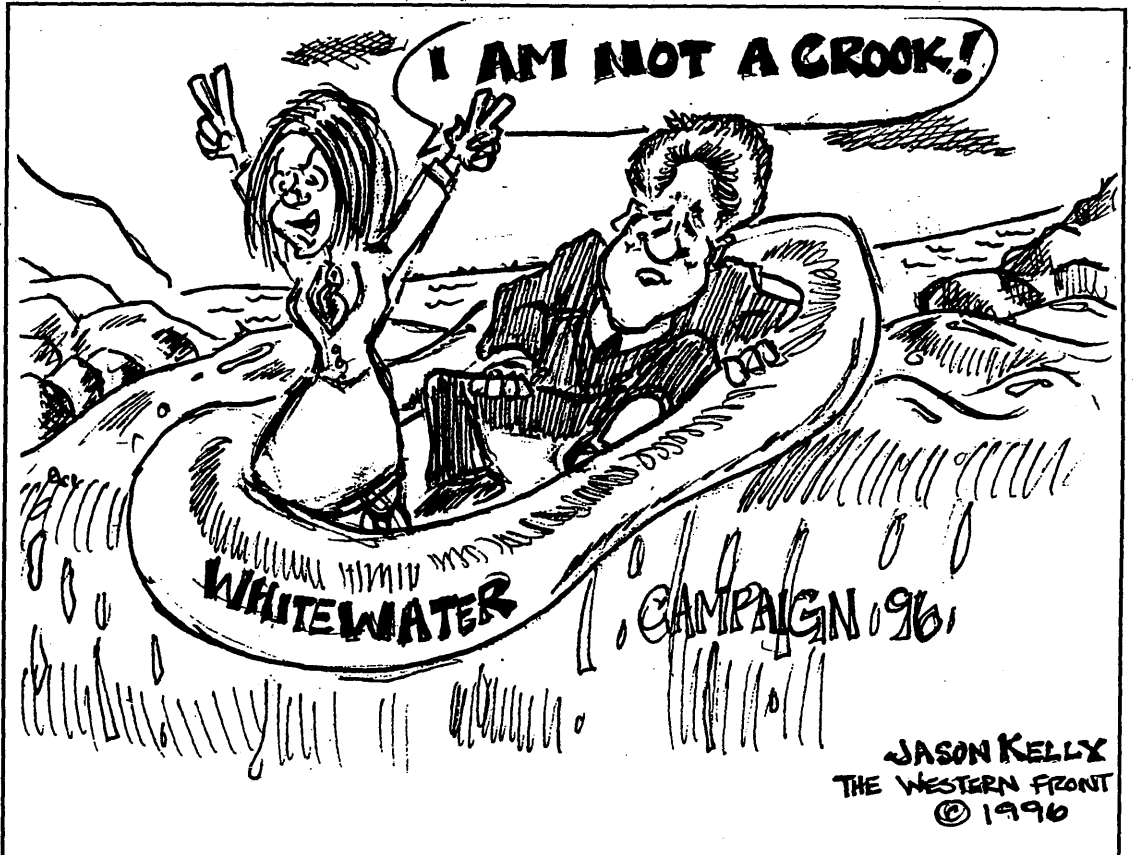
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## Don't sign on this dotted line; say no to apathetic petitioners

At an ungodly hour in the morning, I make my daily trek to class across Red Square. I keep my head down and pretend to be invisible, lest anyone make eye contact and expect me to actually smile back.

Sometimes my plan backfires. It did the other day, when my anti-social behavior led to a near-collision with a man gathering signatures for a petition. I was caught in his web.

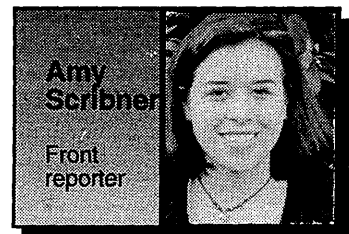
A warning went off right away in my half-awake mind. I have a little problem with these guys; I immediately turn into a total mouse and sign my life away, no matter what the reason for the petition. Petitioners seem to want your John Hancock with as little verbal interaction as possible.

This guy didn't seem like any exception to my perception of petitioners. Clutching his clipboard, he made his case that signing this particular petition would be the best decision I'd make all day. Then he thrust the paper at me expectantly.

"Listen, buddy," I said. "I may be sluggish and sleep-deprived, but I'm not signing anything until I know exactly what it's all about."

OK, so that's not exactly how things unfolded. That's what I wish I'd said. I think what I actually managed to squeak out was more along the lines of "What is it?" or something as equally forceful. This was followed by an immediate sense of shame for wasting this busy man's time.

My feeling of shame was reinforced when he sighed impatiently. He explained the petition was to get a Democratic presidential candidate on the ballot and shoved the petition at me again.



Because I was getting sick of the clipboard in my face, I signed. Later I thought about it. What right did that guy have to make me feel like an idiot for asking a few questions? Isn't his mission to get me to sign? He should be doing everything short of batting his eyelashes, rather than rolling his eyes, to get those signatures.

Later, I took a look at the literature I'd managed to wrestle away from him. The first publication didn't say too much of anything. I think the most interesting fact it had to offer was that Lyndon LaRouche claims to have pioneered that half-hour television format we know and love: the infomercial.

Yes, this is the man we have to thank for endless late night television ads featuring get-rich-quick schemes and hyperactive fitness gurus. And this is somehow supposed to entice me to vote for him?

The second pamphlet, titled "Break the Congressional Cover-up!" was a little scarier. A four-page article outlined a governmental "Get LaRouche" task force "designed to defame and vilify LaRouche." Among other things, the story talked about a 1973 plot by the FBI and the Communist Party U.S.A. to assassinate LaRouche.

It had information about some raid on "several offices of companies that published ... literature associated with then-presidential

candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche Jr."

According to the story, government agents "descended" upon the offices and took away documents about "a secret military installation."

Is it just me, or does this sound like a bad Van Damme movie? Incidentally, the pamphlet never mentioned exactly why the government thought this "descending" was necessary.

What bothers me is that the petition-pusher, like others I've encountered, was either extremely uninformed (he told me LaRouche was from somewhere in the New York-Virginia area) or totally dishonest.

When I asked him what his candidate stood for, he mumbled something about economic growth. LaRouche is an economist, but that's certainly not what his pamphlet chose to emphasize.

If people are standing in Red Square asking you to sign something, it's not too much to ask that they have a vague idea of what they're pushing.

It doesn't matter if the FBI really is out to "get LaRouche," what's important is that I was led to believe he was just another politician. I don't think I'd knowingly sign a petition to put someone on the ballot who thinks that at any given moment he could be the target of a massive governmental attack.

I'm not questioning the petitioner's right to print this stuff or even their right to disturb my morning crawl to class to distribute it, but I shouldn't be made to feel like some nosy neighbor for wanting to know what I'm signing and expecting the petitioners to know as well.

### Letters Policy

The Western Front accepts articles and opinions of up to 350 words on any topic. We reserve the right to edit articles and letters to the editor for style, grammar, punctuation, spelling, length and libel. Letters must be typed and signed with a phone number for verification purposes. Please send all materials to The Western Front, College Hall 09, Bellingham, Wash., 98225 or e-mail to wfront@cc.wvu.edu.



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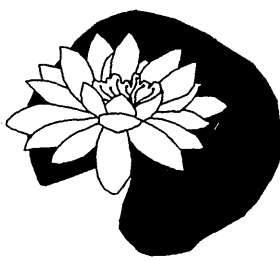
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