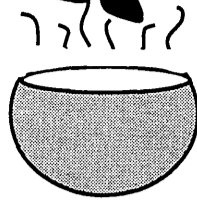


UNITY

News: African American Alliance promotes diversity during Black History Month. Page 4

SOUP'S UP

Features: The Inn serves Bellingham's homeless. Page 6



Hawkin' the howls

Sports: Ken Behring gets bashed for flying Seahawks south.



Page 8

The Western Front

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY — FEBRUARY 6, 1996

VOLUME 95, ISSUE 7

Western planning for expansion

By Michael H. Olson
Front reporter

Continuously crowded conditions, along with a projected influx of 2,000 additional students by 2005, caused Western officials to gather last week and brainstorm solutions to the problems.

Questions at the informal session included: can Western better utilize its existing space? If not, should Western ask the state for a new academic building? If Western asks and receives the go-ahead for a new building, which department(s) will it serve? And how can Western solve the ensuing parking problem?

The informal group, consisting of College of Arts and Sciences Dean Peter Elich, Vice Provost Jerry Boles and College of Business and Economics Dean Dennis Murphy, said it is devoted to determining individual department spatial needs. The group is in the process of creating a detailed space analysis to determine which department has the most pressing need.

At this point the state Legislature doesn't even know Western administrators are thinking of a new building.

"The reason we're giving this attention at this particular time, is because we are anticipating we are going to be in a period of rapid growth," Elich said. "We don't have enough room for all of our current

faculty and staff and graduate students in existing buildings. So if we grow by a couple thousand students, 100 faculty and 20 staffers ... we aren't going to have any place to put (them).

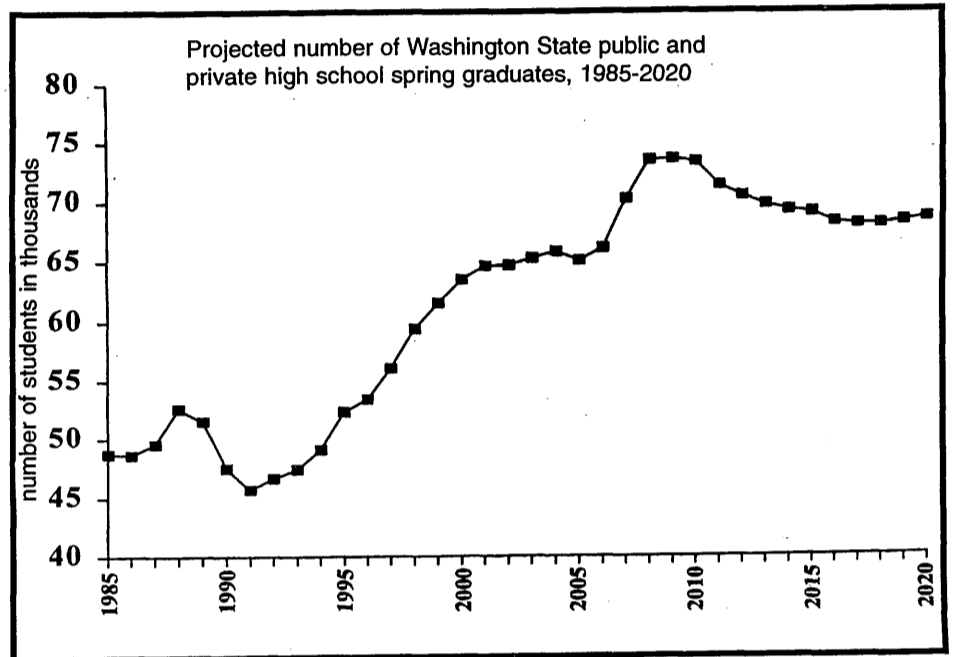
"What makes us think we are going to grow is data like this," he said, producing a graph showing the number of Washington high school graduates. "This essentially shows what the increased demand would be on higher education as well. We're anticipating (Western) will be growing by a couple thousand students (by 2005)."

Elich said the most critical problem involves the Humanities Building and Bond Hall, which houses the math department.

"We have two or three people per office in some places," said John Purdy, acting chair of the English department. "The most energetic proposal (for a new building) is six years. If another 2,000 students or so become a reality, then we're in deep trouble. They will be here before the building."

Purdy said temporary solutions may include Saturday classes, expansion of the summer program and more night classes. But Elich also mentioned the possibility of rearranging the departments and/or remodeling.

"One or more departments may have to move out of the Humanities Building," Elich said. "It becomes a kind of musical-chairs arrangement. If you free this space,



source: Office of Financial Management

then you can move those people here and other people into that space. It becomes a fairly complicated mess."

Math professor Donna Rochon said, "The math classes are spread across campus. It would be very nice to have everyone in one building."

She said the math classrooms currently average 35 students.

"We would certainly not want more (per room)," she said. "(But) a larger class-

room, I think, is not the key. What I would like to see is fewer students per faculty member."

Since Western has recently built three buildings, she said she's not sure if the current space is being used efficiently.

She also said she is worried about where the money comes from.

"If the money is there, and it cannot be

See Building, page 3

Men's Resource Center closure angers some

By Bobbie Egan
Front reporter

The termination of the Men's Resource Center will be among the issues the Associated Students Board of Directors will address in an overhaul of the Human Resource Programs that will begin with a student survey focusing on students' needs and concerns.

The overhaul was determined last Thursday by Vice President for Activities Jennifer Boespflug, HRP coordinator Tanya Acode and Administrator of Student Affairs Kevin Majkut.

The group met to address rumors spreading within the AS about the termination of the Men's Resource Center and the need for other HRP-sponsored programs that help students.

Boespflug said space is limited and some programs are increasing while others lie dormant or even duplicate other programs. The Veterans Outreach Center

was set up for Vietnam veterans at Western, similar to The Veterans Education Outreach Program.

"There's a lot of inside politics floating around. I don't want the decisions made based on a bunch of AS politics," Boespflug said.

"Some programs just keep drifting in the bureaucracy. What we're trying to do is weed through student concerns to better serve student needs."

Students pay \$96 in student fees every quarter, and the AS gets about \$35.

The MRC was terminated spring quarter after a review committee determined that "the main emphasis of the MRC, the 'men's movement,' is not constituted as a significant issue by a large population of Western students." The review committee consisted of four people and was led by last year's

Vice President for Activities Linda Pierce.

Cost-benefit analysis and lack of successful programming were additional reasons given by the review committee for the termination of the MRC. The final recommendation was to reassess stu-

"People (at the termination forum) were comparing women's issues and men's issues to being as similar as a hang nail is to a hernia."

— Paul Schneider
coordinator for Men Against Rape

dent need for the center within two years of the termination.

Boespflug said she intends to assess student needs through an on-campus survey in the residence halls and to offer forums on gender issues on campus to allow for student input. The survey will address the students' need for a

men's center, as well as other HRP organizations.

"By taking away the MRC, they effectively said that men's issues aren't worth \$5,000 and 10 square feet of office space. The Women's Resource Center is an excellent facility, and I would like

to see that opportunity extended to the other half of our students," Boespflug said.

Robin Sponseller, coordinator for the Legal Information Center, was among the original review committee and said she believes that although Western has gender issues the MRC

never had a definite issue.

"The MRC was formed to make social change. If we have an African American Alliance, should we have a Ku Klux Klan Alliance? Resources are limited, we must evaluate the programs we have. Time and space are limited," Sponseller said. "Is it

worth it to have an office that was never used, just to make a political statement?"

Paul Schneider, coordinator for Men Against Rape, said he believes the committee acted hastily last year and reviewed the MRC with "anti-male sentiments" instead of assessing student needs.

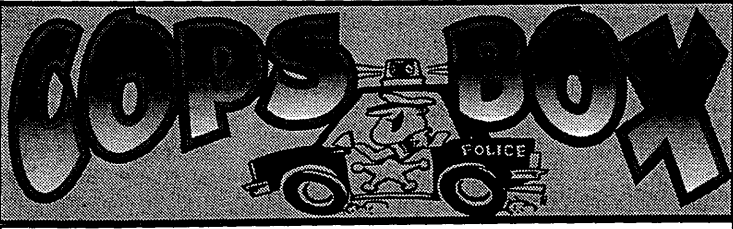
"People (at the termination forum) were comparing women's issues and men's issues to being as similar as a hang nail is to a hernia," Schneider said.

Schneider said Men Against Rape is the only group on campus to address specific issues concerning men. The group discusses sexual assault behavior and tries to change the behaviors in men.

The Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Alliance and the African American Alliance also deal with men's issues, but are more specifically focused.

Schneider said men's issues at

See MRC, page 3



Campus Police

Feb. 3, 2:00 a.m.: A woman in Ridgeway Beta reported someone kicked in the door to her room. She was visiting a suitemate when it occurred, but they did not hear any noise. The woman said nothing appeared to have been taken. The initial damage estimate was \$100.

Bellingham Police

Feb. 2, 8:10 a.m.: A male was found in possession of what appeared to be a "roll your own" marijuana cigarette on Mount Baker Highway. He said it was marijuana and was expelled from school.

Feb. 2, 9:19 p.m.: After a man pumped a tank of gas on the 2500 block of Kendall Road, he said he forgot his wallet and promised to return and pay the cashier. He signed a promissory note after the cashier told him she didn't think he'd pay for the gas and left his phone number. When the cashier called the number, she discovered it wasn't his.

Feb. 2, 10:50 p.m.: An intoxicated female requested information on alcohol abuse from the sheriff's office.

Feb. 3, 2:10 a.m.: A vehicle was left abandoned upside down in a ditch on the 8200 block of Valley View Road. The owner, who was seen leaving the scene with another vehicle, could not be contacted later. The vehicle was impounded.

Feb. 3, 12:23 p.m.: A woman discovered her window was broken on the 2200 block of Little Big Horn Road. She said her coffee maker was stolen. Police have no suspects.

Feb. 3, 2:46 p.m.: Roommates got into a verbal disagreement over their rent payment on the 1300 block of Lowe Avenue. Both roommates indicated they would settle differences more calmly in the future.

Feb. 3, 7:43 p.m.: Police contacted a man and woman after receiving a report of a 911 hang-up call. They said they did have a verbal argument earlier, but neither had intentionally dialed 911. The woman said 911 is programmed on her telephone and the button was hit accidentally when she was calling her friend.

Cops Box, which is selected from recent incident reports, was compiled by Front reporter Chris Butterfield.

Advisory

The Western Front is not currently doing any surveys regarding sex. Please report anyone who calls saying they are conducting such a survey on our behalf to campus police.

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Western Briefs

Childless couple speaks out about their choice

"Childless by Choice," the first presentation in the Women's Health Workshop series, will take place at 7 p.m. on Feb. 6 in Fraser Hall 4.

Jay and Carin Bender of Leavenworth, who head the Childless by Choice Organization, will speak about their choice to not have children and the social repercussions that have accompanied their choice.

The event is free and open to the public.

Sociology department trying to fill positions

The sociology department has two faculty positions open and is looking to fill those positions.

Sociology 364 and 368 will be canceled spring quarter because of sociology professor Karen Bradley's maternity leave.

Two new classes, Sociology 332 (Sociology of Human Relationships), and Sociology 497 (Social Movement), will be offered spring quarter.

Music dept. presents Valentine's Day concert

Western's music department presents The Pacific String Quartet, featuring Peter Marsh and Ella Gray, violins, Melissa Proffitt, viola and Walter Gray, cello. They will perform at a Valentine's Day concert at 8 p.m. Feb. 14 in the Performing Arts

Center Concert Hall. Haydn's Quartet in C Major (Opus 74, No. 1), Borodin's Quartet No. 2 in D Major and Ravel's Quartet in F Major are among the musical pieces that will be performed.

The event is free and open to the public.

Mass extinctions topic of geology dept. lecture

Geology professor Thor Hansen, presents "Dinosaurs and Dodos: The Effect of Mass Extinctions on the History of Life" at 5:30 on Feb. 13 in Western's Old Main Theatre.

The third in the "Turning Points" lecture series, Hansen discusses that more than 99 percent of all animals and plants to ever live have become extinct, and most of these extinctions have occurred during relatively brief episodes. By examining the causes and effects of previous extinctions, he will shed light on one of the largest extinctions in history, which he says is happening right now.

Parking for the event is available in lots 17G and 31G just off East College Parkway. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, call University Cultural Affairs at 650-2829.

Carlos Reyes reads his Irish-American poetry

Irish-American poet Carlos Reyes will read his poetry at 4 p.m. on Feb. 12 in the Library

Presentation Room.

Reyes' is the author of various books of poetry such as "The Shingle Weaver's Journal" and "A Suitcase Full of Crows."

The presentation is free and open to the public.

Peace Corps sets up information table in VU

Western's Peace Corps office is sponsoring an information table from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 6-7 in the VU. In addition, a video presentation, titled "Completely Alive" will be shown Feb. 6 and a slide show by volunteers is planned for Feb. 7.

For more information, call 650-3017.

Counseling services still being offered

Openings are still available for free counseling services offered through the Department of Psychology's graduate mental health and schools counseling programs.

For more information, contact Meredith Jacobson at 650-3184.

Economic meeting to take place this week

The Economic Association will meet at 4:15 p.m. on Feb. 8 in Parks Hall 104. Sam Petite, a customs broker from PBB USA Inc., will speak at 4:30 p.m.

Refreshments will be served. For more information, call 650-4826 or go to Parks Hall 230.

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

LAST DAY FOR HALF REFUND ON WITHDRAWAL is Friday, Feb. 9.

ALL STUDENTS WHO EXPECT TO GRADUATE AT THE CLOSE OF SPRING QUARTER must have a senior evaluation on file in the Registrar's Office by March 15. Degree applications are available in OM 230.

ALL STUDENT TEACHER APPLICANTS FOR FALL 1996 THROUGH SPRING 1997 should have their senior/certification evaluation on file in the Registrar's Office at least two quarters before they student teach. Pick up a packet in the Registrar's Office, OM 230, for more information and specific deadlines.

THE JWE WILL BE OFFERED in FH 4 at 3 p.m. Jan. 31 and Feb. 7. Preregistration is not required. Students can only take the JWE once per quarter; admittance is first-come, first-served. Picture ID is required; students must bring a pen and 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.

SEVERAL SPRING AND SUMMER BIOLOGY COURSES REQUIRE ADD CODES for any student wishing to take the class. Forms, available outside BI 315, must be returned to the instructor's mailbox by Feb. 9. Add codes must be picked up Feb. 21-23. Codes not picked up by Feb. 23 will be destroyed. For specific courses that require add codes, check at BI 315.

THE MATH PLACEMENT TEST will be given in OM 120 at 9 a.m. on **Mondays**, Feb. 12, 26, March 4 and 11 and **Thursdays**, Feb. 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.

THE TEST FOR ENTRANCE INTO TEACHER EDUCATION (TETEP) will be given at 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 12, in FH 4. A fee of \$20 must be paid in the exact amount at time of preregistration in OM 120. TETEP is not administered individually. Allow 2½ hours.

DEADLINE TO APPLY TO THE NATIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM has been extended to Feb. 26 for conference placement. All applications received after that date may be held for a post-conference placement. For more information, contact International Programs & Exchanges, OM 530B, X/3298, or send e-mail to pbrufand@henson.cc.wvu.edu

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEST will be on Feb. 21. Preregister in OM 120 by Wednesday, Feb. 14.

SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE TO CBE majors who will be juniors and seniors during the 1996-97 academic year. In addition to regular scholarships, five U.S. Bank minority scholarships are available. Applications, available in PH 419, are due by March 15.

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.

• **Four Winds Camps**, Thursday, Feb. 8. Submit a camp application, available in the signup folder.

• **Holland-America Line**, Thursday, Feb. 8. Positions on company's day boats out of Alaska. Additional information is available in signup folder and in the company file under summer jobs. Submit company application or CIF.

• **Hertz Equipment Rentals**, Thursday, Feb. 8. See information in company files in Career Services library, OM 280. Submit CIF when you sign up to interview.

• **NHRMA Mock Interviews**, Friday, Feb. 9 and 16. See CSC, OM 280, for more information.

• **Safeco Corp.**, Tuesday, Feb. 13. Full-time and internship opportunities available for associate program analyst and associate quality assurance

A little news here, a little news there

Regional

Man reported missing; found stabbed to death in Seattle

SEATTLE — Twenty-four-year-old Rigel Jones from Juanita was found stabbed to death in his pickup truck on a Seattle street after being reported missing early Saturday morning.

Police Spokesperson Sean O'Donnell said Jessica Green, a female acquaintance of Jones, was also reported missing, but has since contacted authorities.

O'Donnell said Jones and Green were with friends enjoying the night life on Friday in Pioneer Square and got separated from their friends.

She also said Green became separated from Jones and returned alone to a Kirkland hotel.

O'Donnell said Green did not know of Jones' fate, and called authorities to inquire if he was reported as a missing person.

Teen could face life in prison if convicted and tried as adult

EPHRATA, Wash. — At a preliminary hearing, Grant County Court Commissioner James Brown set bail at \$500,000 for 14-year-old Barry Loukaitis.

Loukaitis has been charged with three counts of aggravated first-degree murder and one count of first-degree assault for allegedly shooting a teacher and three students in Moses Lake, Wash., leaving three people dead and one person injured and three people dead.

Brown said he will schedule another hearing in two weeks to determine whether Loukaitis will be tried as an adult.

If convicted in adult court, Loukaitis will face life in prison without parole.

If he is convicted in juvenile court, he will be sent to a detention center until he turns 21.

Attorney for the Loukaitis family, Garth Gand, said they have received multiple death threats and will not post bail for their son because of his safety.

National

Jury selection begins for man accused in abortion clinic attacks

DEDHAM, Mass. — The first phase of jury selection is underway in the murder trial of accused abortion clinic shooter John Salvi.

Salvi is accused of killing two receptionists in attacks on two Boston-area abortion clinics 13 months ago. Jury selection is expected to last a week.

Healthier menu will no longer be found under the golden arches

OAK BROOK, Ill. — The attempt at a healthier menu has failed for McDonalds. A McDonalds spokeswoman said the fast food giant is phasing out the low-fat and low-selling McLean Deluxe and the chef and side salads.

The McLean, has only nine grams of fat

and contains 310 calories, including condiments. Only 29 percent of the calories are from fat.

International

Aftershocks rumble through China, leave citizens reeling

BEIJING, China — Powerful aftershocks continue to rock southwestern China. The latest tremor measured 6.0 on the Richter scale. The death toll from Saturday's quake is now approximately 238 people, with 3,700 seriously injured.

The Red Cross society of China is appealing for international humanitarian aid following Saturday's deadly earthquake.

Briefs compiled from AP Wire service by Front reporter Dana Templeton.

Building, from page 1

used elsewhere, then that is fine," she said. "But if the money has to come from elsewhere to put in the building, then I would have a problem with that because there are so many needs in other places for that money."

Elich said the state funds the buildings through bonds.

"It floats bonds which investors buy," he said, "and those bonds generate interest. Then the investors' money is used to build buildings."

He said the state is limited in the

number of bonds it can have out.

"The problem we are encountering at the present time is that the state is fairly close to the limit. We've just gone through and are in the midst of an expensive building program (at Western) of well over \$50 million: the Chemistry building, Biology building, Science Three Facility, Haggard Hall renovation and the library renovation," Elich said.

This might put a damper on Western's chances for another new building, especially if other

schools have already been put off.

"In the master plan, which has already been developed for the university, one of the sites that has been identified is actually right over that parking lot," Elich said, pointing over the parking lot adjacent to the east side of the Environmental Studies building.

"The next step (in Western's process)," he added, "will be to decide at the senior administrative level — the president, the provost, and the Board of Trustees — that, yes, we are going to the Legislature of 1997 and make our case for their providing funding for another academic building."

MRC, from page 1

Western are sexual assault and changing attitudes and behaviors among men. Another is to break the "macho-stud" attitude that is encouraged in our society.

"The (review committee) seemed very reluctant to consider alternatives to the termination, although there was very obvious support for the center, we just were not heard," Schneider said.

Schneider said he believes it was the responsibility of the AS to ensure the quality of the programs and should have replaced unqualified coordinators rather than terminate the center.

"I feel there is a definite need for a men's center," said Emily Barber, co-coordinator for the Women's Center.

"Men need to face the issue of their rigid gender roles. It is all right for women to be androgynous, but for a man to walk down the street in a skirt is impossible, and to cry is considered unmasculine."

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We are confident that humans are of the same evolutionary process as all other organisms.

We are optimistic that human nature can best achieve fulfillment when individual freedom of conscience and pursuit of knowledge is based on human - not mythical - experience.

We conclude that innovative, responsible concepts work best in an atmosphere of equality and free exchange of ideas.

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Students participate in community committees

By Craig Scott
Front reporter

Poorly staffed and little-known, student committees quietly affect the day-to-day life of Western students.

Ivan Grantham, a senior English major who is the lone Associated Students representative to Whatcom Transportation Authority, said he wants to update the bus routes.

"We make suggestions and proposals on how (WTA) could make the bus system run more efficiently," Grantham said of the WTA Citizens Advisory Panel.

Grantham submitted a proposal to add a new bus route going from Western to Fred Meyer, then over to Bill McDonald Parkway.

Although this is an idea that could benefit a large number of Western students, Grantham gets little input from students.

"A lot of people don't take (my position) very seriously," he said, blaming the lack of credits or monetary tradeoff.

"I feel maybe, possibly, a little bit of credit (would be nice)," Grantham said. "I represent the students ... I'm not doing this for myself."

Linda Pierce, a graduate stu-

dent in English Literature, is one of three graduate students on the Graduate Council. She has a say in how many credits are required to major in a certain field.

Pierce votes on behalf of graduate students in matters such as the allocation of teaching assistant positions and departmental reviews. She also reviews catalog copies — and so helps to determine just how many credits a student needs to major in a given field.

The Graduate Council has more than 20 members, only three of whom are graduate students, Pierce said. The remainder are professors and faculty who work with graduate students.

Members of AS committees receive no tangible rewards, but Jo Ann Anderson, AS vice president of academic affairs, said she thinks being on a committee is useful in itself.

"You get to learn a lot about student government," Anderson said. "I think just going and getting experience is valuable."

"I think it's important for students to have a voice in what's (being) said," Pierce agreed.

Pierce said working on the

council can sometimes be "pretty boring" because many of the non-student members have been on it for a while, so they intimately know procedures.

"There's really not much for us to say," Pierce said, though she said she wouldn't suggest remov-

"I feel maybe, possibly, a little bit of credit (would be nice). I represent the students ... I'm not doing this for myself."

— Ivan Grantham
Associated Students representative

ing the students from the council.

Without the students to keep the other members in check, there's potential to lose teacher assistant positions or worse, she added.

"It wouldn't happen here," Pierce said, mentioning that the Western faculty is "pretty cool."

Grantham, however, said he finds his panel interesting because it ties into his economics major. Transportation ties into business development, Grantham said. It was his interest in economics that led him to serve on the panel; he and Anderson

shared an economics class where they discussed the transportation-business connection. Anderson plugged for the panel, and Grantham took the bait.

"It's interesting for sure," Grantham said. "(The panel) deals with things that actually affect the community."

Anderson said most committees require a minimal time commitment, usually one to two hours a week, four to five times a quarter.

The Graduate Council meets one hour a week, and attendance isn't mandatory, Pierce said.

"They don't shoot us or anything if we don't show up," she said, laughing. "(It's) better if we show up because (then) we know what's going on."

Students wishing to join a committee should drop by Viking Union 227 and grab the list of student appointments to committees, a list in dire need of updating, Anderson said.

After seeing which positions they are qualified for, students can fill out the application and return it to Anderson. She evaluates the application and, if she approves, submits it to the AS

Board of Directors for ratification.

The only requirement for applicants is that they be enrolled at Western, Anderson said.

"Any student on campus is encouraged to join a committee," she said. "There (are) always committees searching for students."

She listed a few of them to prove her point; the International Programs Advisory Committee, the Advisory Committee on Sale of Alcoholic Beverages, the University Services Council and the University Judicial Appeal Board.

Both Pierce and Grantham said they think working on their committees is worthwhile. The experience is giving Grantham the opportunity to pursue his bus route proposal.

"I've got some great support," Grantham said, mentioning AS President Lauren Russell (to whom he directly reports) and Ann Wallace, the manager parking services.

Grantham said he will draw up plans for his proposed bus route soon.

"If any changes are to be made, they have to be taken seriously now," he said.

ESC to host events for Black History Month

By Jennifer Schwantes
Front reporter

February is Black History Month. The African American Alliance, part of the Ethnic Student Center, has several events planned to celebrate black history and promote campus unity throughout the month.

Kathie Harris, president of the African American Alliance, said the theme for the celebrations is unity, which was made into an acronym. The definition of U.N.I.T.Y. is Uniqueness, Necessary for bringing diversity to Western's campus, Individualism, Togetherness and Year-end goal to bring unity and diversity to the campus.

"Black History Month is a time to recognize black leaders and the goals they've accomplished to allow us to be where we are today," Harris, a junior law and diversity major at Fairhaven, said. "At Western, students can learn to be more alert to other cultures and diversify the campus through Black History Month."

Events for the month include a "unity" dinner, a discussion with Shirley Chisholm, a Sister to Sister roundtable discussion and the movie "Panther."

Admission is free for all events except the dinner and the film.

The dinner will be at 5 p.m. Feb. 10 in the Viking Union Main Lounge. Keynote speaker Mark

Robertson will discuss hate crimes and unity. The musical group "Second Nature" will perform. Admission is \$10 for students and \$15 for general admission. For reservations call 650-7277.

Shirley Chisholm will speak at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 15 in the Performing Arts Center.

Chisholm is a civil rights leader and was the first black woman elected to Congress. She will discuss "Unity through Diversity." An awards reception for the African-American faculty and staff will be at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 20 in the Viking Addition.

A "Sister to Sister" roundtable discussion will be at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 23 in the Viking Addition. It will include several guest speakers and refreshments.

Associated Students films will show "Panther" at 9 p.m. Feb. 23 and 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. Feb. 25 in Arntzen Hall 100. The film is based on the Black Panther movement and the real-life experiences of its members. Admission is \$2.

Speaker Maury Jenkins will discuss anti-violence and racial unity at the closing event at 7 p.m. Feb. 29 in the Viking Union Main Lounge. Other highlights of the evening include African music and singing.

Black History Month was first locally recognized in 1988 by former mayor Tim Douglas.

VIDEO MUSIC & DANCING

Black Angus

BELLINGHAM ANGUS PARTY CALENDAR

Wednesday Party Night
\$1.25 Well Drinks, Wine, and Domestic Draft Beer
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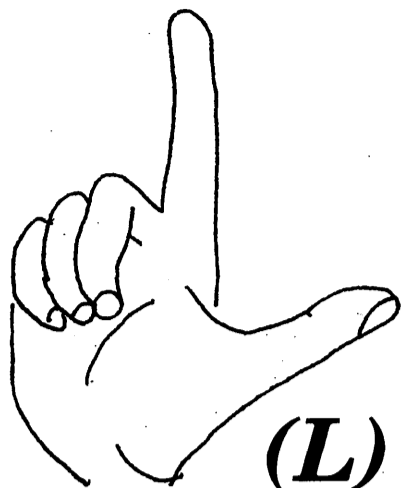
Thursday College Night
\$1.00 16 Oz. Bud Draft from 9 to 11 p.m.

Friday Zoo
\$2.00 Micros and Margaritas from 9 to 11 p.m.

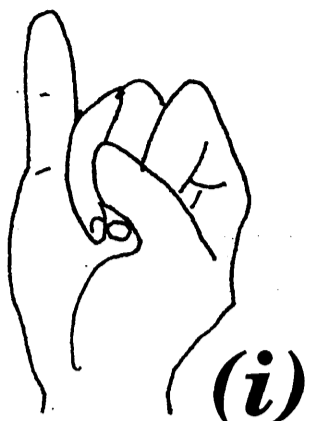
Saturday Singled Out
\$1.75 Bud Draft and Ice Teas from 9 to 11 p.m.

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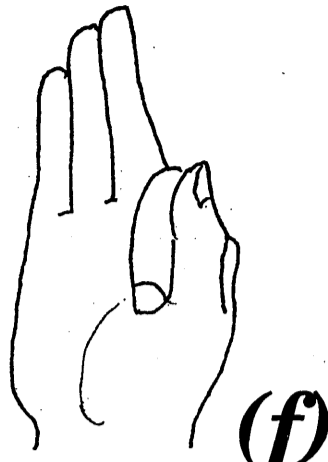




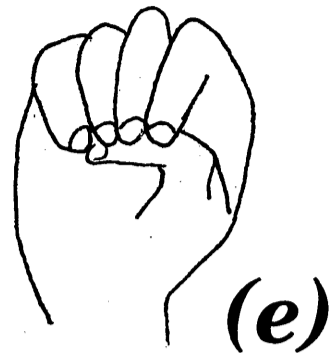
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as a deaf Western student

By Amy Scribner

Front reporter

In many respects, Suzanne Weatherford is a typical Western student. She stands in line at Miller Hall with the rest of the student body to get her daily coffee.

She's an education major, as just about everyone here seems to be. She, too, has to worry about tests and assignments.

But unlike the typical student, Weatherford doesn't hear the chaos of Miller's Coffee House during the rush between classes. Nor does she hear her professor's lectures. Weatherford is one of two deaf students at Western.

It was 10 years ago that Weatherford completely lost her hearing. "Even as a child, I was hard of hearing," she said. "It just degenerated as I grew. I don't know why; it's just one of those things."

While most could hardly imagine shrugging their shoulders in this situation, Weatherford says she simply refuses to let her disability interfere with her life.

"I pretty much do what hearing people do," she said. This already includes receiving her Associate of Arts degree from Skagit Valley College and taking education classes to become a teacher of English as a Second Language. She is determined to work with deaf children in some way.

"Deaf children need to have deaf teachers — to have that role model," she said. "That's really important."

In addition to the hectic routine of a college student, Weatherford teaches Sunday school classes in sign language. She is the mother of five boys and a grandmother of one. While all of her

sons have normal hearing, they have learned to sign in order to communicate with their mom. The youngest, a 2-year-old, is still learning.

"They worry about me," Weatherford said of her children, "because their mom is in a community where deaf people often get pushed aside."

Weatherford explained that Western is not as accessible to the deaf community as it could be.

"Sometimes there are absolutely no phones available on campus," she said. "If I need to call and check on my baby, then there is often no way for me to do that."

Weatherford encounters other problems that would never even occur to a hearing person. "I've almost been hit by a car twice here," she said. "I can't hear approaching cars, or even horns and (drivers don't) realize this."

Another worry is the possibility of a fire. "The University should have flashing lights to indicate danger," Weatherford said, "since we can't hear an alarm."

Weatherford has had to adapt in other ways as well. Since she can't read lips in large lectures, Weatherford uses an interpreter in her classes. She knows Signed Exact English, which, as the name suggests, articulates every word through signing, even articles such as "the" and "an". This is the form used in public schools.

"Teachers tend to use this to provide a language continuum, so that students learn real English," Weatherford explained.

Another form, American Sign Language, is now the third most common language in the United States, said Cecelia Smith, an inter-

preter at Western. It focuses less on grammar and structure and more on concepts and ideas. It is also the more accepted form in deaf culture, which Smith described as "people who have a strong affiliation with their language and who support deaf issues and deaf rights."

Weatherford still feels uncomfortable about labeling herself a part of this group. "I'm in between worlds right now," she said.

"I can't hear, but I'm not deaf-cultured yet. I'm oral and rely on lip-reading if there are no interpreters around."

Weatherford would like to bridge the gap between hearing and deaf people.

"It would be so wonderful if more people would make an effort to learn to sign," she said.

"The more who can think in sign language, the easier it would be for me to com-

municate."

As it is now, Weatherford spends a lot of time writing notes to hearing people. "I just try to be patient with them," she said.

Weatherford has other ideas about how a hearing person can understand the deaf.

"Be clear in your thoughts," she said, "and try thinking like a deaf person. Just try walking in our shoes."



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Information Session
Monday, February 12, 7:00 p.m.
Old Main, Room 280

Or, if you cannot attend, please stop by the Career Services Center prior to the Information Session to sign up for an interview taking place on Tuesday, February 13.

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The power of Soup

By Gabriel Winkler
Front reporter

For many of Bellingham's poor and homeless, the usual difficulties of finding adequate food are compounded by the need to stay warm.

In order to address the issue of food, the Inn Ministries, an Associated Students club, operates a student-run soup kitchen on Tuesdays and Fridays from 2 to 4 p.m. in a new facility at 902 N. State St.

"Our goal for the soup kitchen is to give respect and love to people who have been abandoned by society," Western student Collin Rutherford said. Rutherford has run the soup kitchen for the last two years.

The soup kitchen serves 35 to 70 people hot meals twice a week. The soup kitchen has operated for the last five years and moved just recently.

The ministry received the new kitchen from the Whatcom County Christian Youth Center, and continues to receive donations from the Trillium Corporation and businesspeople in the community.

All the food the soup kitchen works with is donated from people in the community and is collected by students. The staff preparing, cooking and serving the meals are mostly students from Western.

Because the food is donated, Rutherford said that sometimes they don't know if there will be food to serve.

"On Friday we didn't have any bread to serve until right before we opened," he said.

Collin said he hopes in the future to coordinate with the Whatcom County Food Bank.

"We'd like to expand in the future and possibly work with the business community," Collin said.

Currently, the Inn office is collecting used clothing and hopes to set up a job board and a list of shelters in the Bellingham area where people can get help.

Rutherford has kept the ministry away from relying on government support, so government agencies can't attach conditions to how the ministry operates.

"I've seen the way government runs," Rutherford said. "We want to move away from charity and give people compassion. Government can't do everything and they can't pay people to be kind and love — that comes from the heart."

For the students that donate their time, working at the soup kitchen gives them unique opportunities.

"At school we can talk about problems and how homelessness and hunger is so bad, but there is no practical application there," Rutherford said.

"Working at the soup kitchen, it really opens your eyes to the community's needs and gets you out of your little world."

"Working at the soup kitchen made me realize that anyone, someday, could be homeless. It made me really appreciate my family more and give compassion to people who have nothing," said senior recreation major Jeremy Isbell.

Rutherford said that most of the people who come into the soup kitchen are good people, but they don't have any support or contacts in the community. For these people, the soup kitchen is a resource where they receive food and a place where they know they are loved and respected.

"If the people here see that you're genuine, they'll really open," Rutherford said.

"What I really enjoyed about the soup kitchen is building relationships with people I would otherwise have never met," said Rebecca Huzy, a senior education major.

"This one guy I really got to know, but suddenly he stopped coming to the soup kitchen," Huzy said. "Later on, I saw him at Fred Meyer and he came up and gave me a big hug and told me how he had gotten a job. That experience really touched me."

Rutherford said he's frustrated because many of the homeless people do not get real sleep when they sleep out in the cold.

Because he takes a personal interest in the homeless, Rutherford said he is happy when he sees people who are no longer living on the streets and who now have jobs.

He said he hopes the soup kitchen will continue to receive food and support from students.

"Before the break comes, or at anytime, we'd appreciate any food or perishables. We can use anything; even (Top) Ramen," Rutherford said.

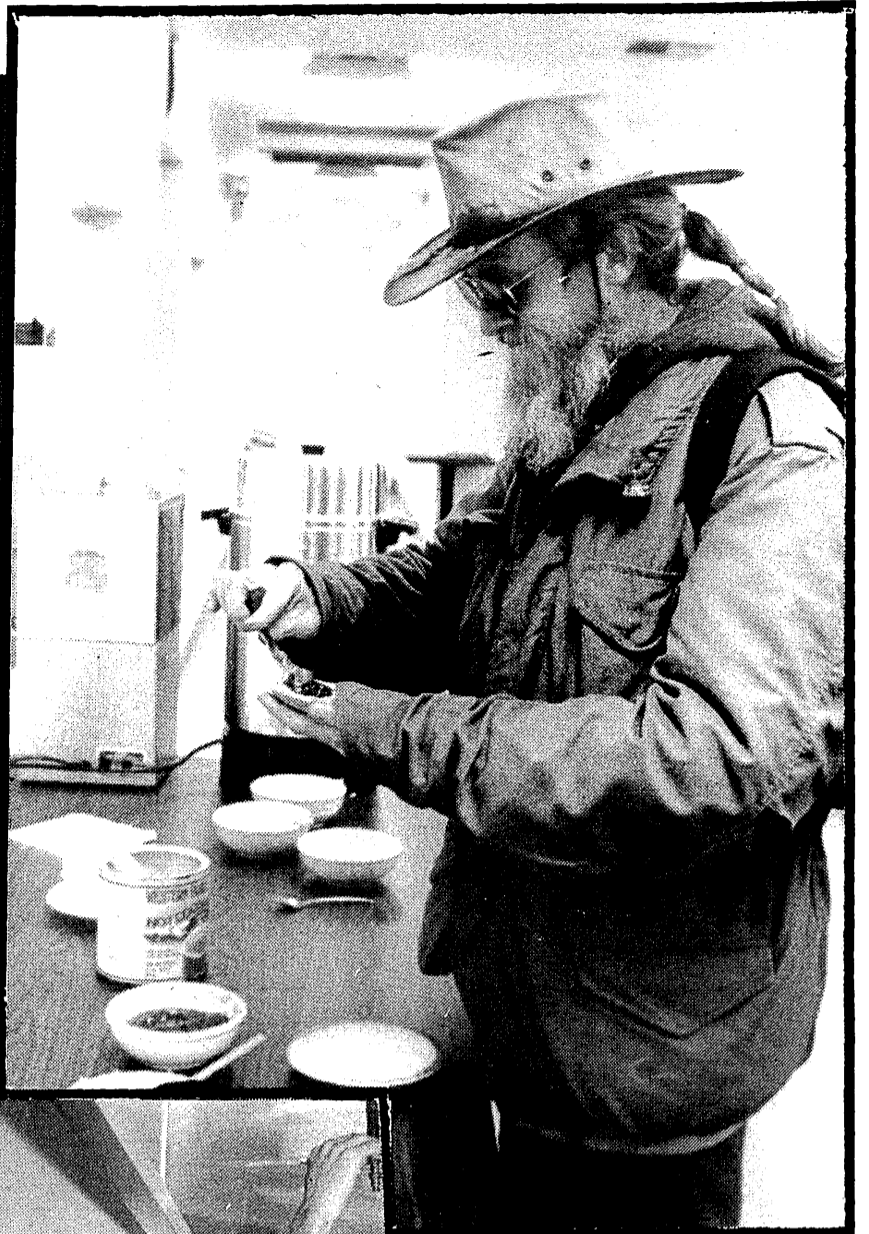
In addition to the soup kitchen, the Inn also operates the Upper Room in the same building. The Upper Room is a ministry directed at helping at-risk youth in Bellingham.

Over one-quarter of Bellingham's homeless population is under the age of 18.

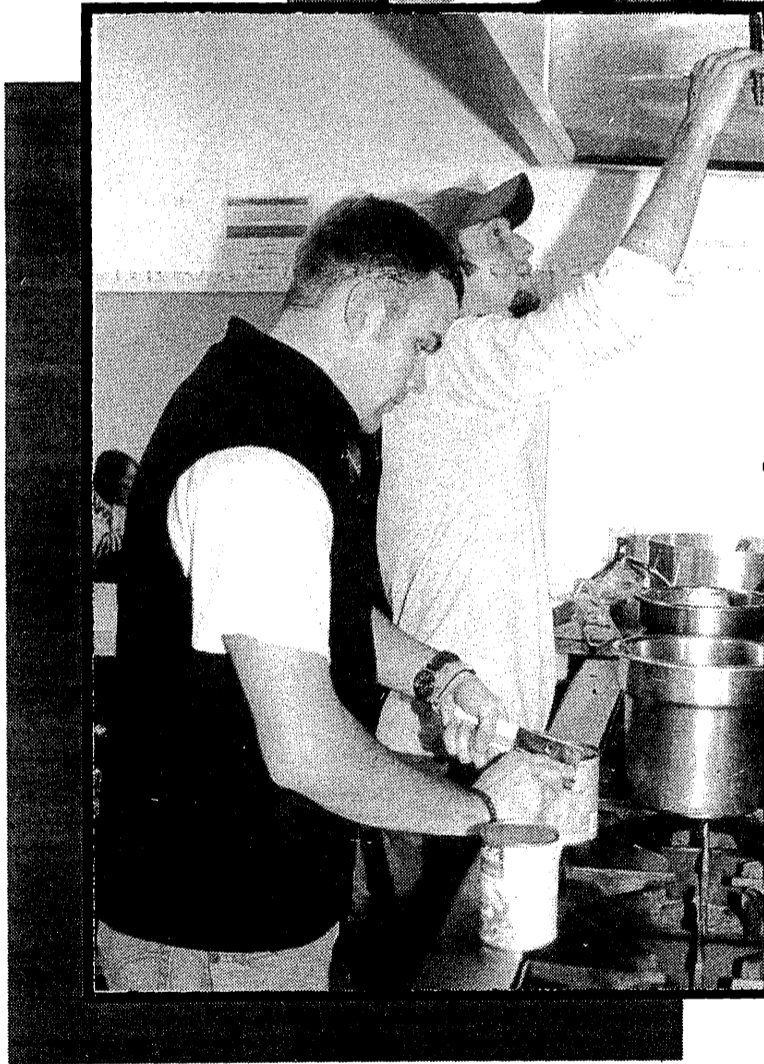
Most of the kids are runaways and fall into a downward spiral of sex, drug and alcohol abuse. The Upper Room operates as a place of safety where the kids can feel secure and receive help.

While the soup kitchen continues to cater to the physical needs of the low-income and homeless people in Bellingham, Rutherford hopes to play a part in helping touch people's lives.

"All we're doing is trying to treat people as Christ would treat them," Rutherford said.



Gary Patterson puts jam on a muffin during a visit to the soup kitchen (above).



Chris Kaiser (l) and Collin Rutherford (r) prepare the soup of the day (left).

Photos by Jesse Nolte

College nutrition: A balancing act

Dana D. Templeton
front reporter

There you stand, gazing vacantly into the vending machine, trying desperately to make the "right" choice.

Maintaining a balanced diet could be one of the biggest challenges students face while at school. The lifestyle of a typical student is not conducive to eating three square meals a day.

"Making the right choices is a key to eating a balanced diet," said Annie Mance, a counselor at Western's Prevention and Wellness Services.

"It's important to know what's in the food you eat and knowing how to read the labels," she said.

Students eating on the run have enough to worry about without trying to memorize the food pyramid at every meal. If they make healthy choices along the way, eventually it becomes easier to recognize those foods that have higher nutritional value.

Mance said that skipping breakfast can set

students up for over-eating later in the day.

As for the three square meals, "It's better to have healthy snacks between meals than stuff yourself at one," Mance said.

Students should consider their individual needs rather than hard and fast rules when planning a healthy diet. Many students are not responding to their body's needs.

They should learn to recognize the early warning signs that their body needs nourishment. Mance pointed out these early warning signs could include headache, fatigue, feeling shaky or spacy, lack of concentration and irritability.

"Also, drink plenty of water," Mance said with a grin. "A lot of people don't consider water to be a part of good nutrition, and coffee doesn't count."

There has been much said recently about the health benefits of a low fat diet. However, just because a product claims to be "low" or "non-fat" doesn't mean it's good for you.

Mance advises, "Be aware of what goes in them. Many non-fat products tend to be very

high in sugar and/or salt."

The American Cancer Society also warns shoppers in its literature to "Be aware of so-called 'healthy' or 'lite' foods." They urge shoppers to, "Read the labels carefully for fat, fiber and vitamin content. Remember you don't need to buy any special foods to improve your diet."

"If people don't know how to read a label, they may be mistaking something that says non-fat as a healthy product. If you are just thinking 'non-fat' you could be taking in something that is very carcinogenic," Mance said.

Products that go through hydrogenated or partially hydrogenated process are just one example that may be unhealthy. The chemicals used in the hydrogenating process may actually be worse for the body than the fat people try to avoid, Mance said.

"Be aware of what is in a food, look for less chemical content," she said.

Mance also reminds students that reducing saturated fat does not necessarily mean go crazy with unsaturated fat. "Although it

is coming from a better source, fat is still fat when it comes to what it's doing in the body."

According to an American Cancer Society pamphlet, students shouldn't try to change their eating and shopping habits overnight.

"Think of it as an ongoing process of good health for life. It's just not possible to learn everything about a healthier lifestyle at once, so don't set an impossible goal for yourself," the pamphlet read.

Planning out healthier snacks is one tip Mance suggests for students who want to begin eating better.

Some other tips to remember when looking for a quick snack at school: choose juice instead of soda, crackers instead of chips, non-fat instead of whole milk or half and half in your coffee. Other healthy snacks include low-fat yogurt, low-fat pretzels, fresh fruits and vegetables.

Students are less likely to find themselves gazing into the vending window if they plan ahead and bring healthy snacks from home.

Eating disorders can be solved by self-esteem, awareness

College academic, social pressures create environment for disordered eating patterns

By Kelley Stupfel
front reporter

Eating disorders and disordered eating have become an epidemic on college campuses.

It is estimated that between two and five percent of college women suffer from anorexia or bulimia and 70 percent experience some type of disordered eating patterns. Ten percent of all those with eating disorders are men.

The highest percentage of people with anorexia and bulimia is found in environments that stress achievement, such as college campuses.

Candice Wiggum specializes in eating disorders and is a counselor in Western's Counseling Center. Some of the reasons eating disorders are growing among college students, especially freshmen, are that during college years, a person's life is changing, they have left home and have high expectations, Wiggum explained.

With dramatic change, people often feel a lack of control, Wiggum said.

Kim Mow, a Lifestyle Advisor who specializes in eating disorders, said that common reasons eating disorders begin are "feelings of loss of control, a lowered self-esteem and a warped body image."

During people's twenties, there is often a search for identity. People questioning who they are and how they fit into society can lead to a lot of anxiety. This anxiety may foster perfectionist

desires and lead to depression, a beginning for an eating disorder.

When there is a group of people in the same area, all experiencing the same changes, eating disorders flourish.

Besides influences from mainstream media, one reason eating disorders prevail on college campuses is because a campus is a fairly homogenous group.

Students with lowered self-esteem and feelings of lack of control easily compare themselves to roommates, friends and fellow students.

It is this comparison that can easily transfer insecurities about relationships, sexuality, appearance and intelligence to body image.

Wiggum said that in group living, "insecurities bounce off each other."

The environment, living situation and groups of friends can lead to "silent competitions" involving eating disorders, Wiggum said.

Control is a major focus of eating disorders. Someone may begin exercising control in his or her life by controlling food intake; but eating disorders "end up controlling their life and mind," Mow said.

Someone with an eating disorder may spend time and energy focusing on not eating, or if they eat, how to lose the calories. They "think of food as the enemy," Mow said, "not as nourishment."

"Instead of using food for nourishment reasons, (people with eat-

ing disorders) use it (food) for punishment reasons," Wiggum explained.

Many people with eating disorders don't consider themselves anorexic or bulimic, but eating disorders have many levels.

In a group of 20 people, (mostly women) one person is likely to be anorexic or bulimic. In that same group, 14 probably have some kind of disordered eating habits which include severe dieting and feeling poorly about weight and size.

Common among college students, especially women, is a low-fat or no-fat diet. This form of eating is mainly comprised of foods such as rice and popcorn. Even items such as cheese, meats and salad dressings are only eaten if marked by the 'no-fat' seal of approval.

Mow said that this no-fat diet is often labeled as "eating a healthy diet." However, people's bodies

need fat to maintain themselves.

Wiggum said that the "no-fat" diet is an "absolute academic. Fat is not bad. The original idea was to lower the fat in people's diets."

Someone obsessed with eating the least amount of fat ends up striving to "win the fat contest," Wiggum said.

However, she added, "if you win this contest, you could die."

Excuses flourish with people who have eating disorders.

Anorexics say they have already eaten, aren't hungry or don't have the money, and they avoid social situations where food could be present.

Bulemics may hide out to binge and purge in private.

People exercising control of the food know "how to get out of eating without anyone noticing," Mow said.

Also common among those with eating disorders is high attention to exercise, driven by a

fear of gaining weight. Often, "exercise replaces eating," Mow said.

Men, although in much smaller numbers than women, are also affected by eating disorders. Wiggum said that some men may "feel they can't talk about it because it is a women's disease."

Men with an eating disorder may become compulsive about body building, sometimes through the use of anabolic steroids. Others display the more classic eating disorder symptoms.

Wiggum stressed that people's lifestyles do not have to revolve around food and weight.

"We need to ask, why are we doing this to ourselves?" Wiggum said.

"A lot of people say, 'I know I have a problem. I want to take care of it myself.' It's much easier if you have support," Wiggum said. "Your health is the number one primary concern."

National Eating Disorders Awareness and Prevention Week events

Western's Women's Center, the Counseling Center and the Student Health Assessment and Information Center are sponsoring information tables, panel discussions, screening projects and hosting various speakers.

Today

• 4 to 5:30 p.m., Wilson Library Presentation Room: A panel of students and alumni will share their stories of recovery from eating disorders.

• 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., S.H.A.I.C. (located next to the Student Health Center): An opportunity to explore relationships with food, body and exercise anonymously.

Thursday

• 4 to 5 p.m., Wilson Library Presentation Room: A certified nutritionist will talk about the connection between food, mood, behavior and energy levels.

• 7 to 8:30 p.m., Viking Union Main Lounge: Nomy Lamm, a fat-oppression activist, will speak on "Understanding the Politics of Fat."

Friday

• Celebrate the diversity of beauty. Friday is a day of no dieting. End the obsession with calories, fat grams and hours of exercise and enjoy balanced meals with friends.

Women destroy Loggers

Vikings nearly reach century mark in lopsided hoops victory

Christine Troyke
Front reporter

Western's women's basketball team put on a defensive and fast-break clinic that destroyed the University of Puget Sound 95-61 Saturday night in Carver Gym.

Western, 18-6 on the season and 7-1 in the Pacific Northwest Athletic Conference, led by as many as 42 points and shooting 55.7 percent from the field.

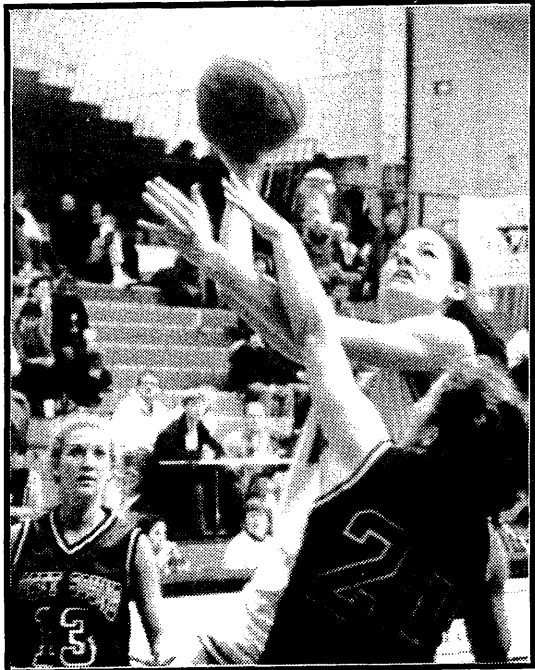
"Not one (player) can hit the floor like (center) Gina (Sampson) can, and that's why it's fun for me," guard Kristy Eggen said.

"My favorite thing about this team, besides our defense, is the fast break.

"It's incredible when we can light it up like that, when Gina can get down that court and do it for us."

UPS (6-12, 1-7) was unable to end Western's 14-game home court winning streak. Sampson led the team with 20 points.

K.C. Mattingly added 15, including three 3-pointers. Freshman guard Nicole Krell contributed three more 3-pointers and finished with 11. Western leads the PNWAC with 39.9 percent 3-point shooting.



Front/Jesse Nolte

April Saunders shoots in traffic Saturday.

"We really just try to come out and use those things we've been working on to crush them," Eggen said. "And crush them is the right word."

"One of the great things about our team is that it's not one person they (opponents) can capitalize on," Head Coach Carmen Dolfo said. "Whatever they give us, someone really wants to step up."

Western dominated the game from the tip-off. The defense never let up and UPS basically got out-hustled.

Halfway through the first half, Western led 29-9. Their lead just kept growing; the score at half-

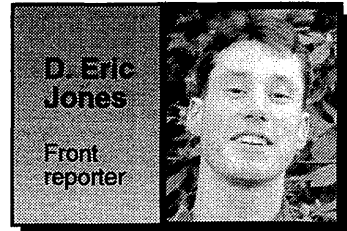
time was an impressive 48-26.

"They were able to maintain a real high level of play. Everybody contributed," assistant coach Lori deKubber said. "I think one of the things that really got us going was the fast break.

"Kristy Eggen did a great job of getting the ball up the court and getting the open person early on. That opened things up for everybody else."

Western plays next on Feb. 15 at No. 8 Simon Fraser University (21-3, 3-1).

Behring: Fly the coop, but leave the Seahawks



D. Eric Jones
Front reporter

When did Ken Behring get his judgeship?

The man who has owned the Seattle Seahawks since 1988 is so sure of the law that now he believes he decides it.

In a statement issued Feb. 2, Behring stated that he is "under no further legal obligation to play games in the Kingdome," he says seismic and other problems with the facility give him the right to leave.

His logic has more faults than Los Angeles, the city to which he plans to move the team. Behring still has 10 years on his lease, and King County will not let its team go without first collecting the rent. If Behring thought he could just waltz out of Dodge hassle-free, it is a small wonder the Los Angeles Times said he has "the physical and mental makeup of a jelly doughnut."

In eight years Behring engaged in multiple violations of principle to single-handedly destroy a winning team.

After running coach Chuck Knox and quarterback Dave Krieg out of town, Behring's meddling wasted a first-round pick on the inept Dan McGwire and exiled a proven coach to one of the worst records in the NFL. Tom Flores, with two Super Bowl victories to his name, could not overcome Behring's monkey-wrenching. But this owner was not done tearing down his team with his dishonesty.

Behring signed promising to not move his franchise. He is going anyway. Truth and honor mean nothing to Behring. The Pacific Northwest now knows as it watches the seachickens fly their coop.

Behring thinks leaving the name, logo and uniforms of the Seahawks is a consolation to the town. It is not. Whatever significance these trinkets may have had moved out with the Nordstrom ownership in 1988. After Behring, people will only remember the "Seasquawks."

With a move to L.A., Behring's squad will be at home with the hookers on Sunset Strip. The team will fit nicely when its players wear bathing suits and rabbit furs while Behring parades them. Disney can get down with Behring's \$165 million whore.

Behring is simply a fool. Any idiot could have learned from the lessons the Cleveland fiasco is currently teaching. But the Cleveland catastrophe did not deter Behring's action.

Seattle never welcomed their Bay Area imposter. So do not be deceived by the false apologies. Behring is not sorry to leave a town that never liked him.

Though he may think so, Behring does not make the law. He breaks the law. Just like he breaks his word. Just like he broke up a winning football club.

King County will continue to battle the indigestible human pastry. Ultimately, Seattle will not win. Until the NFL has the guts to harness its renegade owners, teams will always be potential prostitutes. Seattle will probably lose its franchise and will have precious little chance of wooing another.

But, given the sorry state to which the NFL is descending, perhaps the Emerald City will be better for it. Surely, the air in Seattle will improve the moment Ken Behring jets out.

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Tuesday, February 6th

Information Table - Viking Union Lobby

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Slide Presentation - Wilson Library Presentation Room

11:00 am - 12:00 noon

Wednesday, February 7th

Information Table - Viking Union Lobby

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Peace Corps Film - Wilson Library Presentation Room

12:00 noon - 1:00 pm

Interviews - Monday & Tuesday, February 26th & 27th



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Ice men slip, slide and fall to Canadians

Christine Troyke
Front reporter

Western's ice hockey team took its lumps in an exhibition game against Columbia Bible College of Canada, losing 10-4 Friday night.

"Well, we played a much better team tonight," Western's right wing Marty Brueggemann said. "But we're pretty happy with the way we played overall."

Western kept it close early, trailing 1-0 at the end of the first 20 minutes of play.

Goalie Todd Carlson came up with quality saves on several point-blank shots, while CBC outshot the Vikings' 19-10.

Western, however, was having problems getting the puck out of the zone. They let CBC set up play after play. But Carlson came up with the saves that kept the score 1-0 for the first period.

"Todd (Carlson) did an excellent job. I know he got 10 goals on, but he's the only reason it was that close," Brueggemann said.

CBC's first goal was scored at 8:55 by captain Kevin Laskowski, who grew up in Czechoslovakia and played hockey there.

Western came back to life in the second period outshooting CBC 6-2 in the first five minutes of the period.

CBC struck again at 16:57, demonstrating sharp passing abilities that were right where they needed to be.

"Obviously you could tell they practice three times a week," Brueggemann said. "The only time we all play together as a team is at our games here. Other than that, we all play on different teams. And it's not the same, you get used to a way of playing."

"Every time they passed the puck there was someone there."

"When we have the puck, we have to look around and



Front/Jesse Nolte

Western's Sean Cassidy shoots during Friday's loss.

find out where our wing is," he continued. "We don't know when you're going to zig and when you're going to zag. We just kind of have to fly by the seat of our pants."

Western's Sean Cassidy tallied first for the Vikings, beating the goalie on the glove side. Western was able to set up the play in front of the crease and put the puck into the net to make it a 2-1 game at 13:06 of the second. Cassidy was assisted by Brueggemann and Carlson.

This is where the game started getting away from the Vikings.

CBC scored twice before the resurfacing break. Then CBC got called for interference and still scored a short-handed goal to make it 5-1.

In a brief comeback attempt, Western's Paul Good scored on the power play at 7:01. Good was parked in front of the net and fired the centering pass in, beating the

goalie and bringing the Vikings as close as they would get, trailing by three. Brueggemann and Cassidy assisted.

CBC scored less than 30 seconds later, with a top-shelf slap-shot, beating Carlson on his glove side.

Five minutes later, with just 1:56 to go in the second period and despite being shorthanded because of a roughing penalty, CBC slid the puck past Carlson to take the score to 7-2.

"They (CBC) play their positions so well it makes you look bad," Brueggemann said. "You challenge someone and (end up) leaving someone else open."

Western scored its third goal of the night with 10:58 to go in the final period. Ronnie "Rocket" Mullin buried it in the back of the net when the goalie couldn't get his glove up on time after committing to his stick side.

After CBC racked up its ninth goal of the evening, Mullin finished off Western's scoring, latching on to a cross-pass in front of the net and making the score

9-4. CBC wrapped up the scoring in the final minutes with a rebound goal to close out the period.

Western was missing several players, including Dave Warner with a leg injury and Paul Hough, who was out because of back problems.

Next weekend Western will travel to Eugene, Ore. to play the Ducks. The next home game will be at 10 p.m. Feb. 16 against Washington State University at the Whatcom County Sports Arena.

"That will be a huge, huge game," Brueggemann said of the WSU game. "Our former captain from last year is going there for graduate school, so there is quite a rivalry with these guys."

"We're looking for a fun game and will match up a little better (than against CBC)."

Men's hoops team sinks Loggers

The Western men's basketball team moved to 13-9 after defeating the University of Puget Sound 73-68 in Tacoma Saturday.

Forward Todd Engblom-Stryker led the Vikings with 17 points. Forward DeForrest Phelps and center Matt Lowell each had double-doubles.

"Our defense really put us back in the game," Engblom-Stryker said.

UPS led 29-28 at halftime

after completing a 13-2 run with five minutes left.

The Vikings held UPS to 36.4 percent shooting in the second half and led 71-65 with 15 seconds left. But the Loggers answered with a 3-pointer to stay in the game.

Going to the line, Phelps made two of his 13 to seal the win for the Vikings.

Western travels Thursday to Honolulu to battle No. 2 Hawaii Pacific University.

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Frontline

College not just for grades

Senioritis does funny things to people. A normally studious friend, who will graduate this spring, spent three hours playing a video game earlier this quarter so she could clear a classmate's name from the top-scorers' list. Senioritis also makes students wonder what they're going to do after the graduation confetti has been swept away and the real world stares them in the face.

A college degree is a definite asset when hitting the streets to apply for that long-desired job. Academic education, however, isn't the only asset college can offer. Grade point average is important; let it dip too low, and kiss that mortarboard goodbye.

GPA isn't the axis around which the world revolves, though. Many of the nonacademic lessons college students learn will be more valuable 10 years down the road than any 4.0.

Communication skills are one of the first things college students have to learn. Sooner or later, Awful Roommate is certain to come along. Learning now how to talk through frustrations now can save some later grief in a future marriage or roommate situation.

Real World Economics 101 teaches students how to live with roofs over their heads, three meals a day and occasional entertainment on a few hundred dollars a month. Creative shopping teaches them how to detect consignment shops and shop nutritiously on a budget without subsisting on Top Ramen.

College students usually have to juggle both a work and a school schedule. Socializing has to fit, too. Cramming these activities into seven 24-hour packages each week takes the ability to prioritize responsibilities and plan strategically. After scheduling a life as busy as a student's, planning a work schedule should be quite a bit easier.

Students also develop ways to deal with the stress so prevalent in college. If they're healthy methods, such as working out, jogging, walking, going out with friends or writing in a journal, they can prevent heart attacks 20 or 30 years down the road.

College students also develop a sense of their own limits. The challenge that assignments provide teaches students they can accomplish tasks that seem daunting, such as a 20-page thesis on modern literature theory. This creates or nourishes the self-confidence one needs to apply for professional positions after school.

Whether a student is just entering or just completing an academic career, he or she has many lessons to learn that are more important than the academic lessons he or she learns while in college. Academic skills aren't as important; life skills and practical knowledge are.

—Marlese Webb, Copy editor

The Western Front

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Signed commentaries and cartoons reflect the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Front.

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KEN BEHRING:
VOTED LEAST VALUABLE COMMUNITY PLAYER
OF THE YEAR
BY SEAHAWK FANS STATEWIDE



Sexual orientation should not play a factor in custody cases

Who would be the better parent: someone who has been convicted of murder or someone whose only stigma in this world is being a lesbian and a mother?

If the choice is the lesbian parent as the better one it's wrong a judge in Florida said.

The judge recently awarded custody of a 11-year-old girl to her father John A. Ward, who was convicted of killing his first wife, instead of to her mother because the mother is a lesbian.

The judge said he wanted to give the girl a chance to live in a "non-lesbian world."

The daughter is forced to live with her murdering father instead of with her mother, whom she has been living with since the divorce in 1990.

Who is to say that this type of person would not kill again or lash out in anger at the daughter with physical or verbal abuse?

Did the judge use any legal ramifications to come to this decision, or did he let his own opinion shape his decision?

One would suspect his opinions played a big part because of no other indication of anything else being the reason, according to a Feb. 3 article in The Bellingham Herald.

In the article, Shannon Minter, a lawyer for the Lesbian Rights Center in Florida said, "It presents a very stark example of how irrational it is to take a child away from a stable, committed parent because of sexual orientation. The fact that the father in this case has demonstrated history of



violent and abusive behavior is outrageous."

According to Washington state law, any mention of either parents sexual orientation is prohibited in a custody battle, which is fair because this shows a person's sexual orientation is no basis for receiving or not receiving custody of a child.

This law does not exist in all states; Florida is one of these without the law.

Each state is allowed to make to make its own decision about whether this type of information is admissible in court.

According to Florida law, in order to change a custody order, evidence showing a child has been harmed must exist.

It is sad that this type of hatred can and does exist throughout our country.

What does sexual orientation have to do with the ability to be a good parent?

It doesn't impair a person in any way, shape or form. A gay person can parent the same as a straight person.

The judge is setting the girl up for emotional trauma by having her live with her father.

He is taking her out of a world in which she has been living

comfortably. She now has to deal with living with a convicted murderer. It's hard to understand why some people label others just because of their sexual orientation.

If anything about a person is out of the normal structure of society, many people automatically put up barriers against that person.

People have already formed opinions before getting to really know the person.

So much prejudice exists against people who have come "out of the closet" about their sexual orientation.

This world would be a better place to live if people were more understanding and willing to get to know people before making snap decisions.

A mentality exists that everyone has to conform to society and all be the same.

If someone is a little different, he or she is chastised and considered abnormal, but who is to say what is normal?

Instead of pointing out the differences between people, we should be celebrating these differences for they are what make us all unique and special.

Our courts, along with our society, need to wake up and see all people as special and unique, regardless of their sexual orientation.

All people want to be treated equally and fairly.

Everyone deserves a chance to be the best parent he or she can be.

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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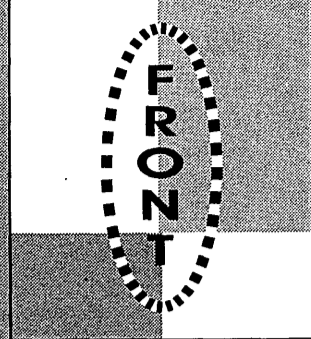
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