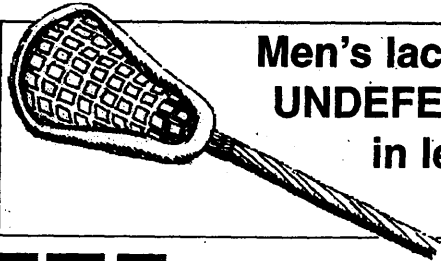


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**Men's lacrosse
UNDEFEATED
in league**

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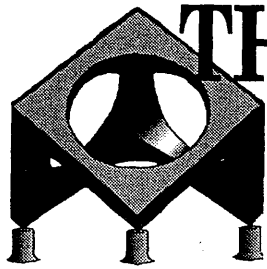


**Giving you the
WILLIES**

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April 12, 1996**

**Volume 96
Issue 2**

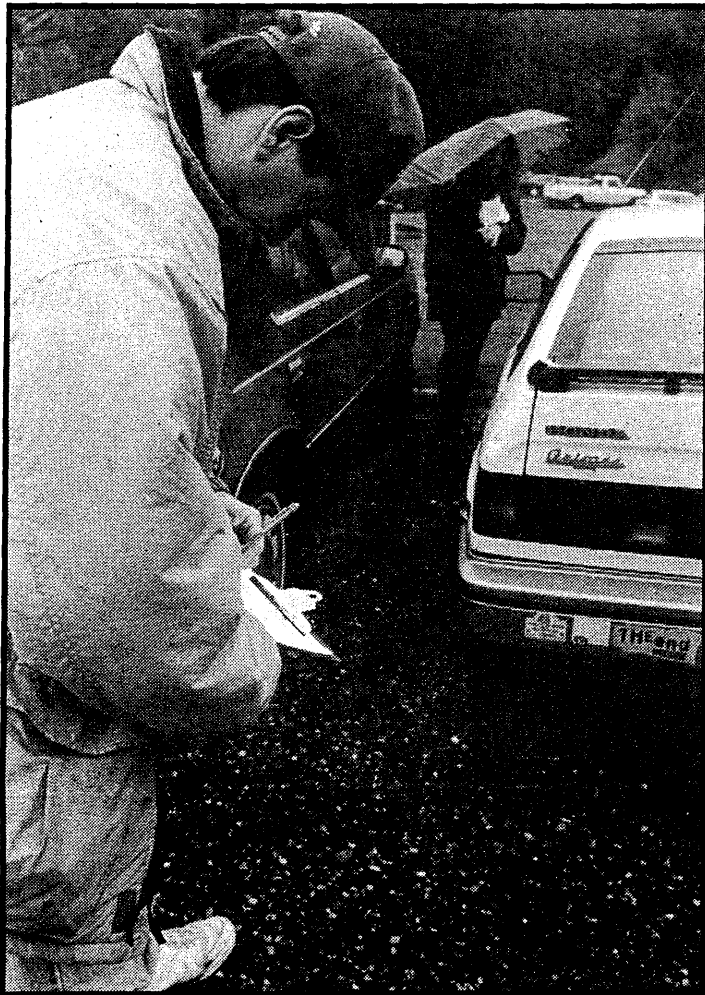


THE WESTERN FRONT

Western Washington University

Bellingham, Washington

State finds flaws with parking services



Front/Danny Hiestand

A parking enforcement officer tickets an alleged violator.

By Bryan Woodward
The Western Front

When senior political science major Phuc Vu returned to his car in lot 19G after taking a Tuesday final last quarter, he expected to have a ticket because he failed to display a parking pass on his light-blue 1985 Honda Accord.

What he did not expect was a ticket and the startling image of a clamp locked to his wheels, which kept him from driving home.

"All my other tickets were paid," said Vu after the wheel-lock incident, an infraction usually assessed to violators after two tickets and accompanied by an additional \$50 dollar fine. "I went over to the ticket office and they said there was a mistake due to some computer error."

Vu's is not alone.

The Washington State Auditor's annual report of Western was released on March 22 and the auditors found "weak internal controls over parking services' cash receipts and citations, which could result in errors or more serious irregularities."

According to the report, the

auditors recommended that parking services "segregate the receipting, recording and reconciliation functions; put in place procedures which will allow the university to determine if all revenues which should have been received were actually received; note the cash/check composition on each cash receipt; keep all daily receipts and deposits intact and perform/complete all reconciliation's necessary to verify all cash is received as required."

"We look to identify the problems," Deputy State Auditor Jerry Pugnetti said of the audit, which covered a time span from July 1994 through June 1995 and covered most of Western's accounting practices in most departments. "Some of their (parking services) problems were with recording."

Western student Melanie Hellwig experienced another "irregularity" when she recently went to pay three outstanding tickets at the parking service's office.

Hellwig said the office's records showed she had four outstanding tickets, but it could provide no record of when the fourth ticket was cited or for what infraction.

"It made me feel weird that I wrote a check for an extra \$10 and I had no idea what it was for," Hellwig said. "There's no way to win — you can't argue."

Parking Manager Ann Wallace refused to be quoted on information concerning the recently published audit, but senior communications major Brei Abercrombie, a former two-year employee with Parking Services, said incorrect recordings were common.

"That stuff happened," Abercrombie said. "There have been cases when payments haven't been plugged into the system. The payment would get entered into the computer and the number would get transposed incorrectly."

Pugnetti said those potential inconsistencies may happen because of a lack of checks and balances in the department.

"That's an outcome of not having the proper controls in place," Pugnetti said. "Some think recording procedures can be cumbersome, but they're there for a reason."

Abercrombie said another reason students parking records were

See Audit, page 3

Western hosts Buckley speech

By Erica Christensen
The Western Front

Renowned conservative commentator William F. Buckley is expected to draw a huge audience when he addresses the Bellingham community at Western's Performing Arts Center Mainstage on Monday.

Buckley, founder of "National Review," will give the Intalco Lecture sponsored by the College of Business and Economics at 7:30 p.m.



Buckley

Dennis Murphy, dean of the College of Business and Economics, said he is very pleased to help bring Buckley to the campus.

"He is one of the intellectual founders of an entire movement in this country," Murphy said. In 1962, Buckley began his syndicated column, "On the Right."

He has also been hosting the Emmy Award-winning television show, "Firing Line," since 1966.

Murphy said Buckley is a neo-conservative who has remains on the right when it is popular and unpopular to be there.

No tickets are left for the Mainstage, but Concert Hall tickets are still available at the Plaza Cashier.

'Pedestrian campus' proposed

By Bobbie Egan
The Western Front

Bicyclists adorned in helmets and biking gloves took the stage on Tuesday in an effort to encourage responsible bicycle riding across campus and ask the Central Health and Safety Committee for more time for students to consider alternatives to a proposal that would restrict bikes in hopes of maintaining Western as a "primarily pedestrian campus."

Students, faculty and staff filled Fraser Hall 2, to respond to the CHSC proposal that would restrict bicycles to the outer areas of campus away from pedestrian crowded areas, and ban skateboards and in-line skating from Western's campus.

The safety committee called for an additional public forum Tuesday in response to the low level of student representation at the March 5 forum.

"I felt disappointed, because the first public forum was attended primarily by faculty and staff, and the second was mostly attended by students, it's too bad that the two sides couldn't hear each other," said Helen Moran, employee representative to the safety committee.

Moran stressed the issue of safety on a pedestrian campus is what prompted the committee to review the ongoing complaints by faculty, staff and visitors of

"near accidents" with speeding bicyclists.

"On a personal level, I feel threatened when a bicycle is behind me. Older staff and disabled students are not as sure-



Front/Tom Degan

A skateboarder races by a pedestrian.

footed as some students and should not have to dodge bicyclists who try to weave in-between pedestrians," Moran said.

The issue of personal safety at night was also a concern for the opponents.

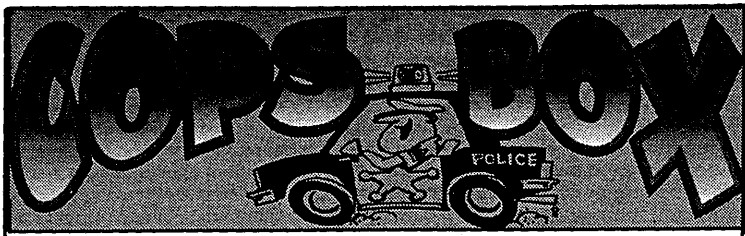
Bob Langan, a commuter and a member of the bicycle advisory committee, said bikers should acknowledge the fear pedestrians have when a speeding bike is weaving in and out of crowds. Langan suggested the committee respond to irresponsible bicyclists in the same way the skiing industry responded to reckless skiers, by adopting a responsibility code for bikers that would establish general rules concerning pedestrian right-of-way.

Caleb Smith, student and commuter disagreed with assertions that skateboards and in-line skates cause brick damage. The committee proposed banning in-line skates and skateboards to cut back on the damage incurred by the forceful impact of a skate on the corners of the bricks.

"Wear and tear on the bricks is ridiculous, I see the Pepsi trucks and physical plant trucks on bricks, how can (the safety committee) say a skateboard has more impact than a truck?" Smith said.

Ken Herman suggested the school stick to the current 10-minute dismount zone and work to fill in the discrepancies so that students not following

See Forum, page 3



Campus Police

April 9, 2:15 p.m.: A female parked her car in Lot 21C while attending class. Later, she drove home and was parked there for a time. She drove back to campus, then noticed two black smudge marks on the hood of the vehicle. She reported this to University Police, who inspected the marks. The marks were about one inch by two inches and may have been caused by something set on the hood. The marks appear to only be on the surface and will wash off, police determined.

April 9, 2:20 a.m.: A Birnam Wood resident notified campus police that two individuals were trying to break into her apartment. The suspects, one male and one female, were gone when police arrived. The area was secured and Birnam Wood Staff was notified.

Bellingham Police

April 9, 8 a.m.: A citizen brought to the downtown station a VHS tape he had found on the Interurban Trail just over Interstate 5 before Orleans Street. He reported that he watched some of the tape and that it is a homemade video of child porn. The officer also viewed the tape and determined that it was a copy of a commercially-made adult tape that does not contain any child pornography. Police said the tape will be impounded and destroyed.

April 9, 1 p.m.: A man in the 3600 block of Rusley Drive reported that his son took various items from his home while he was living there and pawned them at various pawn shops in and out of Bellingham. The father said he will attempt to locate the property and advise police when he finds it. He also reported that his son moved to an unknown location in California.

April 9, 5:07 p.m.: A person reported that a dog tied to a line in the 1400 block of Cowgill Avenue was barking for an hour. Police found no one home at 5:07 p.m. Later, at 10:10 p.m., the officer contacted the dog's owner. She said the dog has a bark collar on. The officer determined that it was possible that police found the wrong dog.

April 10, 5:05 p.m.: Someone reported receiving a hang-up call from another individual. The complainant had called the other individual and hung up. The second individual called the first and became "belligerent." Officers contacted both and advised them not to call each other or go to each other's residences. Both agreed.

April 10, 6:02 p.m.: A person reported that two individuals were allowed into a residence in the 2800 block of W. Maplewood Avenue and, while there, took an exterior door key and candy without permission. Due to recent burglary attempts at this residence and the fact that the suspects have a key to the apartment, the person requested extra police patrols.

April 11, 1:37 a.m.: Driving by the 1200 block of N. State Street, an officer was flagged down by a citizen who said a man was in a nearby business with a knife on his person. The officer contacted the man, who had two knives in sheaths on him. The officer was unable to find a witness who saw the man draw the knives. He was asked to leave the business by the officer, and he complied.

Cops Box is taken from recent incident reports and was compiled by Front reporter Steve Mohundro

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Western Briefs

Western to feature acclaimed pianist

Pianist Mia Chung, whose performances have been labeled as "technically dazzling" by *The New York Times*, is featured tomorrow evening in Western's Performing Arts Center at 8 p.m.

Her performance will include Beethoven's Sonata No. 23 in F minor, Opus 57 "Appassionata" and Shostakovich's Preludes, Opus 34.

Educated at Harvard and Yale, Chung has earned considerable distinction by winning such prizes as the U.S. Trust Artist Award, the Channel Classics Prize and the IIT Corporation prize. Chung is also the first pianist since 1988 to win first prize at the Concert Artists Guild New York competition in 1993.

Tickets for this event are \$18 for general public, \$16 for seniors, staff and faculty, and \$8 for students. They can be purchased at the Plaza Cashier or charged to Visa or Mastercard by calling (360) 650-6146. Seating is reserved.

Tickle Toon Typhoon "A Family Concert"

Bring the whole family for an hour's worth of live music, dramatic dance, and costumed characters at the Tickle Toon Typhoon at noon Saturday, April 13, in the new Whatcom Community

College Pavilion.

Tickets are \$6 at the door but may be purchased in advance at Academy Supplies, Children's Company, Village Books, WCC's Student Information Center on Cordata, or the Child Development Center on Northwest Avenue for only \$5.

The concert is sponsored by the WCC's Child Development Center, which serves children of WCC students, faculty and staff.

Western offers Weight Watchers meetings

Western now offers those concerned about weight gain a means of getting help and advice with a ten-week long series of meetings called "Weight Watchers at Work." Starting today at noon, this program will include meetings every Friday afternoon in Miller Hall 164.

Those interested in attending must pay \$120 in advance but the price will be prorated for those starting after the fifth week — VISA and Mastercard are accepted. For more information call Cathie Patrick at 650-3517.

Give 'em a pint at Western's Blood Drive

"There is no substitute for human blood," Catherine Vader, the organizer of Western's blood drive, said.

"Every three minutes some-

body, somewhere in the Puget Sound region, needs blood."

Western's quarterly blood drives have consistently been the most successful in Whatcom County. Spring quarter's drive will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 16, 17 and 18.

Vader notes that only sterile, disposable equipment is used throughout the donation process, making it virtually impossible to contract a disease. For more information call 650-2961.

Political Science dept. announces internships

Western's political science department is selecting interns for next winter's session of the Washington State Legislature.

The interns will be selected this quarter. Information is available in Arntzen Hall 415. Undergraduates in all fields with at least junior status and a minimum GPA of 2.75 are eligible.

Vendors needed for Kappa Karnival

Western's Kappa Karnival is looking for vendors interested in selling their wares.

A \$25 vendor's fee includes an eight-foot display table and access to parking. For information call 650-3846.

Briefs compiled by Front reporter Scott Menghini

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 Commisary 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

THE MATH PLACEMENT TEST will be in OM 120 at 9 a.m. Mondays on April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13, 20 and June 3. Thursday test dates will be April 18, 25, May 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30. 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. Allow 90 minutes.

THE JUNIOR WRITING EXAM will be offered to first-time examinees in FR 4 at 2 p.m. April 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23 and 24. Retest examinees only may take the JWE in FR 4 at 2 p.m. April 25 or 26. Preregistration is not required but admittance is first-come, first-served. Students can take the JWE only once per quarter. Photo identification is required and exam takers need to bring a pen and No. 2 pencil. Allow two hours.

WWU RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION OFFERS ONE \$500 SCHOLARSHIP to a Western student who is returning to complete an undergraduate degree after a minimum of five years away from Western or any other institution of higher education. Application deadline is April 15. For more information or to apply, contact the Scholarship Center, OM 260, X/3471.

LOT RESERVATIONS: • Lots 10G, 17G and 31G will be reserved beginning at 7 a.m. Saturday, April 13, for those attending Western Preview. • Beginning at 5 p.m. that day, Lots 7G, 11G, 14G and 25G will be reserved for those attending the Mia Chung concert. • Lots 7G, 11G, 14G and 25G will be reserved starting at 5 p.m. Monday, April 15, for the William F. Buckley lecture. Two shuttles will run from lot 21C. • Also starting at 5 p.m. April 15, lots 6G and 9V will be reserved for those attending the Jean Kilbourne presentation. Drivers who park in reserved lots prior to the attendant's arrival and who remain parked during the reservation period without authorization will be considered illegally parked. Except for lots 10G and 8V Monday through Thursday, any G, V or C lot other than those listed may be used.

ADMISSIONS IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS for summer admissions staff from students enthusiastic students who desire to share their university experiences with Western visitors. To apply, submit a cover letter, résumé and the names of three professional references to OM 200 by 5 p.m. May 19. For more information, call Meesha, X/6139.

A VU EATERIES COFFEESHOP CANDIDATE FAIR will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 17 in the fifth floor coffeeshop. • **A Red Square Candidate's Forum** will be held from noon to 3 p.m. on Thursday, April 18. Candidates will have an opportunity to give speeches and speak on issues of concern to students.

BECOME A CONVERSATION PARTNER. Meet one hour a week for informal conversation at a mutually convenient time. Or participate in conversation labs and listening and speaking classes. Sign up in OM 530 or call Gerre Jech-Galvin, X/4899, or Rita Miller, X/3755.

FRESHMEN AND SOPHOMORES WILL RECEIVE PRIORITY when enrolling in first-year Spanish (101, 102, 103) beginning fall quarter 1996. Juniors and seniors will only be allowed to enroll if space permits and therefore should consider taking intensive Spanish 101, 102, 103 during Summer Session. Students with previous Spanish are encouraged to enroll in Spanish 104 before taking second-year courses.

CAMPUS DIRECTORY AD SALESPERSON needed. Duties include ad sales/layout, production, office support. Working knowledge of Access preferred; Excel, PageMaker and Word or WordPerfect a plus. Must have transportation and be available through October 1, including summer break. Salary \$6-\$8/hour plus mileage. Contact Margaret Loudon, X/3914, by April 8 for appointment.

A SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS ON CAMPUS SUPPORT GROUP is planned for spring quarter. There is no fee for the group, which will be facilitated by Rape Relief. Those interested may sign up through the Counseling Center, X/3164, MH 262.

On-campus Recruiting

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.

Camp Fire Camp Kirby, Tuesday, April 16. Interviewing for summer camp staff positions. Submit a camp application if available in signup folder or a CIF.

Norwest Financial, Wednesday, April 17.

U.S. Army, Thursday, April 17 and 18. Information table will be in VU lobby April 17; interviews April 18. Brochures available in CSC career library, OM 280.

Tosco Northwest, application deadline April Thursday, April 18. Openings for two summer lab technician interns. Interview date not yet determined. Applications available from CSC, OM 280, X/2944.

Marysville School District, Friday, April 19. Sign up in OM 280.

AP news from around the globe

Regional

Convicted murderer turned fugitive wants to die free

SHELTON — Longtime fugitive James Ostrander said he doesn't want to die in prison. Ostrander went before Washington's parole board Wednesday. He wept as he asked to be allowed to live out his days as a free man.

Ostrander was convicted in the 1953 murder of a Seattle grocer. He wasn't the gunman, but was armed and present at the crime scene. He served about four years of his 30-year term before escaping.

Authorities caught up with him in Oregon in 1964, but then-Governor Mark Hatfield refused to extradite him. He was arrested in Arizona last year, and turned himself in last month.

Oregon senator's old-growth proposal is made public Friday

SALEM, Ore. — U.S. Sen. Mark Hatfield's proposal to preserve old growth in the Opal Creek drainage gets a public airing today.

Hatfield is proposing to set aside 12,800 acres as the Opal Creek Wilderness Area. Another 13,000 acres would become a national scenic recreation area.

The Opal Creek area contains trees 200 to 1,000 years old. The area is off-limits to logging under the Clinton forest plan. The hearing will be conducted at Willamette University Law School in Salem.

Woman arrested once again for dismemberment slaying

REDMOND — A convicted killer's girlfriend has been arrested at Lakeview on a murder charge. This is the second time 29-year-old Shawna Marie Davis has been accused in the 1992 dismemberment slaying of Steven Novakowski near Redmond.

Last fall, prosecutors dismissed a murder

charge against Davis after she pleaded guilty to hindering prosecution. Her boyfriend, Travis Peterson, is serving a life sentence without possibility of parole for the killing.

Eugene schools to begin giving condoms to students

EUGENE, Ore. — The Eugene school board has lifted the ban on handing out condoms at high school health clinics. Condoms will be offered only to students who test positively for a sexually transmitted disease.

Parents of those eligible will have the final word on whether their children should receive condoms. Opponents of lifting the ban said the action would undermine the message of abstinence. Backers argued that any protection is better than none.

National

Unabomb suspect fired by brother year of first attack

WASHINGTON D.C. — The investigation of Unabomber suspect Theodore Kaczynski is covering everything from typewriters to trusts, as authorities try to cement their case.

A source said Kaczynski's brother, who was the first to alert authorities that his brother might be the serial bomber, had to fire Kaczynski from a job in 1978. That was the year of the first Unabomber attack.

A source said Kaczynski was fired after being accused of harassing a female supervisor after their personal relationship ended.

In another development, *The New York Times* reports a third typewriter has been found in Kaczynski's Montana cabin. The paper said tests on two others did not indicate a match with the Unabomber manifesto.

NBC said a live bomb found in Kaczynski's cabin had been wrapped for

mailing and given a phony return address.

Search for new commerce secretary now underway

WHITE HOUSE — After a week of mourning, the White House said it's time to start looking for a replacement for Commerce Secretary Ron Brown.

Brown died in a plane crash last week in Croatia. He was buried Wednesday.

Spokesman Mike McCurry said the White House is now starting to work on finding a successor.

The White House is not discussing any names, but one of those often mentioned is former White House Chief of Staff Mack McLarty, a longtime Clinton friend.

7-year-old girl dies in crash trying to fly across America

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — A 7-year-old girl who wanted to be the youngest person ever to fly across America has died trying.

A plane flown by Jessica Dubroff crashed Thursday morning in a rainstorm in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

The United Medical Center in Cheyenne said Jessica, her father and a flight instructor were killed.

Local radio station KING-FM said the four-seat Cessna narrowly missed a house, crashing into a driveway. The plane's wings were crumpled.

Jessica's instructor was not supposed to touch the controls except in an emergency.

The ill-fated journey began Wednesday in California.

The Guinness Book of World Records no longer has a "youngest pilot" category for fear of encouraging unsafe flights.

International

Urban warfare, looting in Liberia delays UN efforts

MONROVIA, Liberia — The situation in the West African nation of Liberia is one of

chaos.

West African peacekeepers are reported to have joined in "very heavy" looting in the capital of Monrovia, virtually paralyzing the U.N. food distribution system.

U.N. spokeswoman Sylvana Foa said communications with the U.N. headquarters in Liberia's capital were cut off after mobs broke down the gates Thursday morning.

She said all staff are reported safe and are at the U.S. Embassy compound.

The U.S. military suspended evacuations from Monrovia until Thursday night. It said the urban warfare raging in the city has become too dangerous for daytime operations.

A total of 620 people have been evacuated from Monrovia since Tuesday, 156 of those Americans.

Israel counters Muslim guerilla attacks in Lebanon

WASHINGTON D.C. — The White House is urging restraint as the conflict between Israel and Muslim guerrillas in Lebanon escalates.

Israeli helicopters attacked guerrilla positions Thursday morning in Beirut in response to guerrilla rocket attacks on Israeli positions along the Lebanese border. It was Israel's first attack on the Lebanese capital since 1982.

At least two people were killed and 12 wounded.

White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry also indicated that Syria, the dominant power in Lebanon, was being urged to use its influence to minimize the tension.

Meanwhile, Lebanon's Foreign Minister said Israel is undermining the faltering peace process with its military actions.

France also deplored the violence, which came a few days after President Jacques Chirac made a state visit to Lebanon. French officials urged restraint and called for negotiations.

Compiled from Associated Press wire reports by Front reporter Josie Stroud

Audit, from page 1

sometimes inaccurate was because payments were not always entered promptly.

Currently, students' registrations for the subsequent quarter can be put on hold if outstanding tickets have been left unpaid by the end of the current quarter. But when students pay for those fines at Student Accounts or at the Plaza Cashier, it may take a while before those payments are put on record in the Parking Services office, making it unaware of a student's payment and current status.

"There is a lack of communication between Parking Services and Student Accounts," Abercrombie said. "Sometimes it would take a month to get word that a fine had been paid for by a student."

Pugnetti said controlling the receipts cannot be left to one person in the Parking Services who

has several other responsibilities.

"This is an area the university needs to improve, so problems like that won't occur," Pugnetti said. "When you have money being collected, one person can't handle it all; it needs to be divided. The university is taking steps to correct it, so it's a positive outcome from our point of view."

According to the Auditor's report, Western agreed with the recommendations for improved internal controls and vowed to make the necessary changes.

Since the audit, Parking Services hired a full-time cashier and plans are underway to install a database system which would keep track of parking status.

"They've changed a lot of things," Abercrombie said. "They're also working on the relationship between the Plaza Cashier and the parking services."

Forum, from page 1

the rule could be ticketed fairly.

The current dismount zone, established during winter quarter 1992, requires students to dismount in pedestrian-dense areas 10 minutes before each hour between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. during regular class days, however, University Police are unable to enforce the rule consistently.

University Police Chief Doug Gill said this type of policy allows for no discrepancy and is more easily enforced.

The existing Washington Administrative Code states that bicycles are restricted from specifically designated dismount zones at designated times.

The current dismount zone is Red Square and the walkway outside of Carver Gymnasium.

Under the safety committee's proposed policy, bicycles would

be restricted from designated dismount zones, which would include the Old Main plaza, Red Square, the Viking Union plaza, the Performing Arts Center plaza and the San Juan area at south campus, at all times.

The current WAC states that a bicyclist who refuses to abide by the regulations will be asked to leave campus, and could be cited for criminal trespass if he or she refused to do so.

Under the proposed revisions of the WAC, students who refused to adhere to the rules, would be subject to the regulations under the student rights and responsibilities code, and could ultimately be expelled.

Students opposed to the proposal have formed an advisory committee, along with Carl Root, a transportation manage-

ment planner, that will meet weekly to study alternatives.

"We encourage rollerbladers and skateboarders to get involved," said Bob Baker, bicycle advisory committee member.

The advisory committee met Wednesday to write an alternative proposal, which they plan to give to the safety committee by the April 15 deadline.

The safety committee postponed its next meeting to May 6.

April Markiewicz, representative of the public employees association union, said the committee is trying to do what is right by both parties.

"I got the impression that most students think we are against them, but that's just not true. It is not our intention, at all, to restrict alternative transportation to campus," Markiewicz said.

Timber rally finds Western student support

Salvage rider bill target of concern

By Amity Smith
The Western Front

The work of the Western Endangered Species Alliance to repeal the salvage timber rider has attracted the attention of two nationally known, long-time forest activists.

Brock Evans, vice president of the National Audubon Society, and Jim Jontz, executive director of the Western Ancient Forest Campaign, came to Western Monday to deliver "The State of Our National Forests Address," and encourage students to continue the fight for the repeal of the rider.

WESA and other local groups such as the Northwest Ecosystem Alliance have been trying to repeal the rider, which applies to all federally owned land, because it allows the sale of old-growth forest and endangered species habitat. It also exempts the sales from existing environmental legislation.

"It is an unusual accomplishment of any group where, within the course of a year the group can ... win the respect of people who have been in the environmental movement for decades," Jontz said of WESA's efforts.

"This is the most important group I'm going to talk to in a long time," Jontz said.

"We really have to reach an agreement that we can't rest until all of the these forests are protected — forever."

Both Jontz and Evans, who received a standing ovation from the boisterous audience of more than 200, criticized the salvage rider and the method used to pass it.

"Industry couldn't find a way to get a bill on the floor (of the Congress) to gut the endangered species act, so they found a way to get in through the back door," Jontz said.

"I tell people, 'Forget about what you think about salvage logging ... If I were you, I would be upset about the destruction of the rule of law... If they got us, who are they going after next? Women's groups?'" Evans said.

The rider expires in December of this year, but a bill sponsored by Rep. Charles Taylor, R-N.C., could extend the rider.

Both Evans and Jontz criticized the new Republican Congress for its role in fighting environmental legislation.

"You've got to remember we're defending laws signed by Richard Nixon," Jontz said.

"But apparently there is no reverence in the new Congress for Mr. Nixon, or his laws, because they repealed everything they could get their hands on."

Evans also charged that eastern politicians were pushing to save the forests, while western politicians were pushing to open them up to min-

ing and logging.

"The western politicians get a lot more money from those who exploit the forest ... many of their constituents want to plunder it. The constituents in the East want to save it," Evans said in an interview after his speech.

After stressing the importance of individual efforts to protect the forest, Jontz called for volunteers to work during the summer for environmental protection.

Fourteen people walked on stage in an emotional moment.

"It was one of those times where people see the need for action — and they act on it," Environmental Center Coordinator Sean Cosgrove said.

"I was touched," area resident Bill Hinely said after the speech. "I have not been to a meeting in years that had the emotional tone of this one."

Timber rider affects local forest land



SALE NAME	DISTRICT	TOTAL ACRES	UNCUT ACRES	PRESCRIPTION	STAND AGE
Fish Story	Mt. Baker	166	27	clearcut	N/A
Old Grade	Mt. Baker	235	51	clearcut	70-140
Boyd Creek	Mt. Baker	72	16	clearcut	200+
Clear Creek	Darrington	34	29	clearcut	180+
Median Buysac	Darrington	139	139	clearcut	N/A
Stalwart	Darrington	23	23	clearcut	300+
Scraps	Darrington	141	81	clearcut	250+

Front/Jesse Hamilton

COME PLAY WITH US!!



You're invited to

THE GRAND OPENING of the Northwest's premier gaming venue.

Come help celebrate the opening weekend on April 13-14th,

OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT CENTER located in Renton, Washington.

Registration is from 9:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. on the day of the event.

April 13th: Magic Professional Tournament Qualifier \$1,500 in cash prizes.

April 14th: Japanese Magic Sealed-Deck Tournament. \$500 in cash prizes.

April 14th: Magic Type I Sanctioned Tournament \$500 in cash prizes.

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Preaching industry style

Ministry comes clean with *Filthpig*

By Collin Coyne
The Western Front

"Filthpig" comes at a strange time for Ministry, the pioneers of industrial music who helped bring mechanical synthesizer sounds to heavy-metal guitar lines in the late '80s.

The lines between the ever-ambiguous industrial style and its heavily stymied, unappreciated predecessor, heavy-metal, have been blurred by the master-band submersion into the mainstream.

On "Filthpig," Ministry takes the raw, aggressive anger and hostility from previous albums and applies them to more personal issues. The result is slow, guitar-driven gnashing of teeth into dust where, before, the same teeth were tearing into flesh relentlessly. The music is trance-like, while Ministry is known for its amphetamine tempos and lyrical motion to riot.

This 10-song LP was thrust out of Trax recording studio in Chicago last Halloween. This review is for those dirt-poor Ministry fans like myself who are always looking for work around the time of the industrial band upheaval when they all put albums at once.

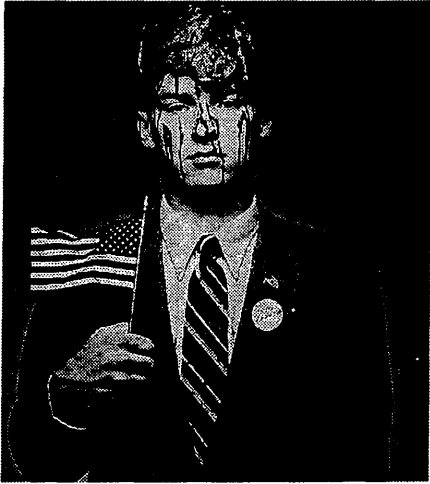
Anyone curious about what filth and pigs have to do with ministers may glean something from this as well. Lead singer Al Jourgensen, in the January/February *B-Side* magazine, said the lyrics on "Filthpig" were written from personal experience.

Lyrics on previous albums like "The Mind is a Terrible Thing to Taste" or "Psalm 69," Jourgensen said, confronted global issues and strictly avoided mater-

ial that was close to his own life.

"I had a lot of upheaval in my life, with the divorce and all this other shit, and the move, losing friends ... all of a sudden Bosnia didn't seem as important to me as not being able to see my daughter on a daily basis," Jourgensen said.

Despite reduced pace, this album is consistently arranged. The opening



number, "Reload," has the quickest tempo. Its staccato rhythm makes it powerful, but it's cut short.

The voice distortion is familiar Al Jourgensen, yet the vocals come across so you can actually decipher the lyrics.

Prior Ministry vocals have been a ground-up gargle that sends you sifting through lyric sheets to find meaning.

The title track winds and grinds, following its heavy-bass lead through a bitter incantation. Alice In Chains could pull this one off if Layne Staley would agree to play the catchy acid-harmonica solo after the chorus.

"Lava" is a moderately aggressive

tune where technology creates the overall sound. Anti-fundamentalist samples of some unnerving preacher trilling "be healed" round this one out. The vocal distortion is thick, giving the whole song a savory brutality.

On "Useless," Ministry uses a voice distortion that made so many industrial-rockers dig Skinny Puppy in the band's heyday.

This song will likely lend itself to an MTV video that youths of our society will gaze at while the audio blares, "braindead and useless!"

"Game Show" is distinct simply because it is reminiscent of Ian McKaye (Fugazi), creating a tortured sound.

"The Fall" starts out chaotic and becomes increasingly disjointed as it slowly progresses. A piano line comes in over the broken drum beat and lumbering guitar to leave this tune in ethereal anguish. It's like being depressed to the point of dizziness.

"Brick Windows" has you thinking the tempos are going to pick up from here on out, but the end of the song brings the end of the CD.

Regardless, Ministry didn't cut a "Just One Fix" or a "Stigmata" on this album. Part of their aggression is absent. "Filthpig" can be just the right collection of morose sound to deliver a depression fiend through a rough break-up or equivalent personal tragedy.

The question of the hour is: Can it carry disappointed fans to a day at the record store when we'll find out if the infuriated, snarling, nitrous-fueled Ministry will rear its repulsive head once more?

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Martin falls in tightroping act

By Courtney Bertsch
The Western Front

As the film's title suggests, there's "A Thin Line Between Love and Hate." Unfortunately, Martin Lawrence's slow-starting new comedy takes a full hour to find the right line.

This moderately entertaining film bills itself as the male variation of "Waiting to Exhale." It's another tale of lust and love among the high-class community, but from the male's view this time.

In the second half of this film, Lawrence finally gets more to the point when he says, "I'm trapped in my own 'Fatal Attraction.'"

That intense scandal of sexual obsession actually has more in common with this film than "Waiting to Exhale."

"A Thin Line Between Love and Hate" is Lawrence's debut as a writer and director. He stars as Darnell Wright, a 26-year-old nightclub manager and smooth-talking lothario, who resembles Eddie Murphy's character in "Boomerang."

Darnell holds down many girlfriends at the same time. The only one he possibly has a future with is Mia (Regina King). She is a childhood friend who has matured into a humble, attractive woman before his eyes.

But Darnell is distracted by the charms of the beautiful, rich Brandy (Lynn Whitfield). Brandy tempts Darnell's sex drive with her stunning looks and strong attitude. Darnell faces his come-uppance when he romances this sexy psycho.

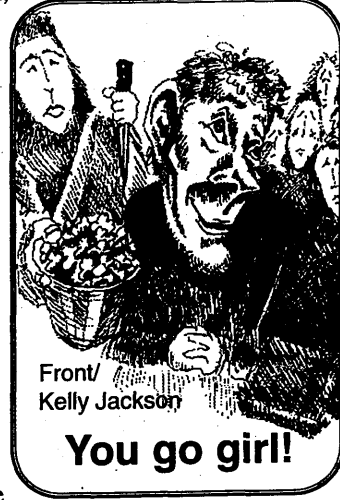
Brandy, who has had bad luck with men in the past, fights back. She killed her last husband and threatens to do the same to Darnell unless he stays

true to her.

In the heat of the moment Darnell tells Brandy he loves her. For Darnell it's only part of the strategy to score and be "the man." For Brandy, it's a lifetime commitment.

Della Reese adds spice to the film as Darnell's wise and self-reliant mother.

Unfortunately, all of the action comes in the second half of the film. The first hour aimlessly wanders through Darnell's life at his night club and vaguely introduces many forgettable supporting characters.



Lawrence has a few decent ideas, but they're hardly original. This film presents the stereotypical, arrogant guy pursuing the bad girl, falling in love with the good girl and love conquering all in the end.

As a director he doesn't attract or arouse the audience. He almost challenges his viewers to pay attention in the first half, and attempts to wake them up by squeezing in most of the story-telling and character development in the last hour.

You could be an hour late to this movie and hardly miss a thing.

As one would expect, Lawrence's performance is at its best when he goes for laughs, which is most of the time, but his humor in this film is dry compared to his past stand-up comedy acts. His character definitely proves to be a legend in his own mind.

If you've seen "Waiting to Exhale," "Fatal Attraction" and "Boomerang," just fuse them all together and use your imagination.

This film is not worth wasting your time or money at the theater, so save your time and cash and see it as a late-night rental.

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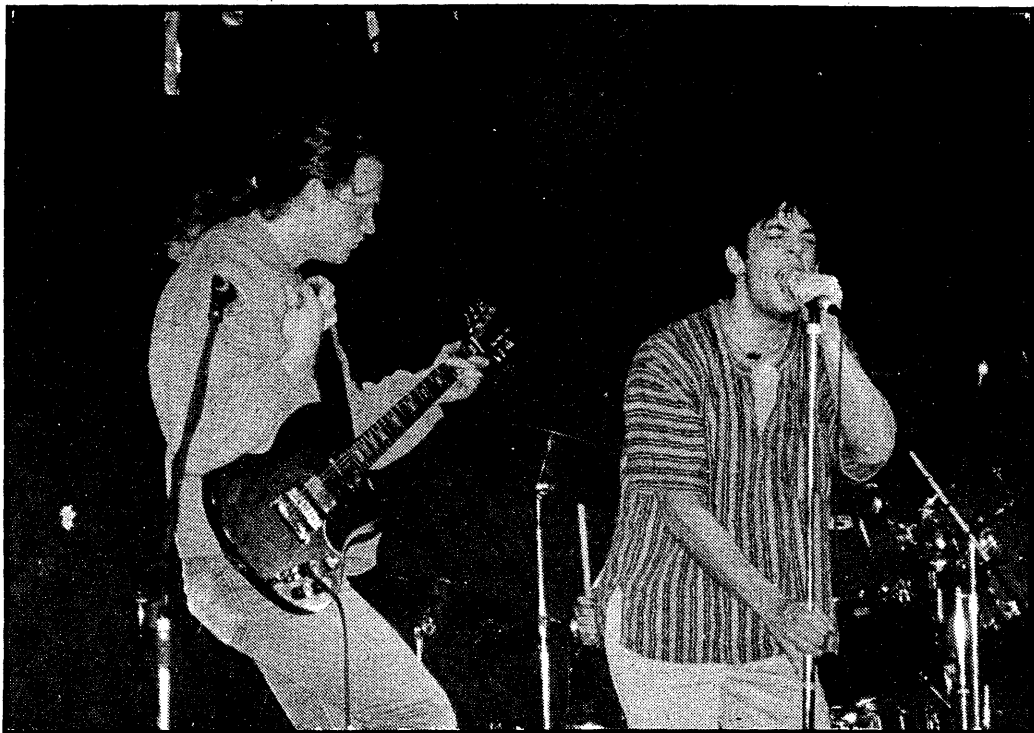
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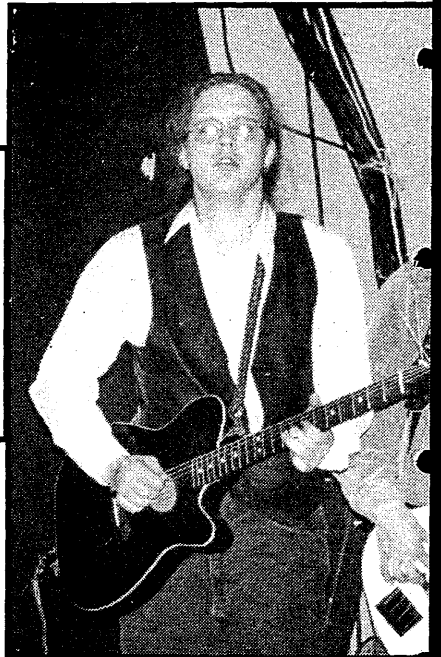
western students and alum give bellingham, th



scott (left) and ryan

the blind willies

reuben (left) and glen



Most successful bands have a dream of making it to the top when they start out. First they buy that used guitar and Yamaha drum set they hope will someday be placed in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

After countless hours of practicing together they record their first demo, which leaves nice little holes in their pockets. Then they wait for success to fill those pockets.

The Blind Willies, a local five-man band featuring four current or former Western students, is no different. They currently are in the waiting stage. With their first compact disc, "Black Coffee and Rust," due out on May 18, the self-described blues/folk rock band is dreaming of better days when the income is a little higher.

"I would much rather be in Guatemala practicing my Spanish," said lead singer and Western alum Ryan DeLange, while breaking into laughter.

"It's kind of like being married or having a girlfriend. You know, always in the back of your mind you wish you had freedom, but you stick around because it just feels right."

The five members of the band are now funding themselves through occasional gigs in the Bellingham area, and their individual day jobs. These range from a landscaping business which DeLange (who also has a



ryan wails during a recent gig at jimmy zs in everett.

fishing job) and rhythm guitarist Reuben Snyder run, to lead guitarist Scott Browning's job of maintenance work for a hotel.

"I'm about a thousand dollars in debt from recording," Browning said. "I'm waiting for my Visa Gold card to pay Ryan off for my phone bill."

Despite the bleak financial situation, the core of the band (DeLange, Browning and Snyder) have managed to stay together for a little more than three years. The band also includes bass player Glen McCallister and new drummer Scotty Munkrese, the third drummer in the band's history.

"We have a lot of different personalities in the band," DeLange said. "I mean extremists. I kind of lose it physically, kind of a jitterbug. I think that people can tell if you're having a good time.

"But it's also cool because other members of the band are interesting in kind of the opposite way. Like so much so that when they do start bouncing their head and moving around or something like that, you know that things are really developing, really moving.

"My greatest joy is when things are going real well, like when I'm playing real well, and I look over at Glen and he smiles at me (laughing). Because when Glen smiles on stage you know something's really cooking."

The Blind Willies originated in an odd way when Browning and DeLange got together in January 1993.

"Scott came over and used my room (for auditioning vocalists), and he didn't really like me," DeLange said. "He'll attest to that, too. He was having so much trouble, and every day I'd hassle him and kind of say, 'you know, I could play for you.' He'd blow me off and then finally one day he was real frustrated and he said, 'sit down.' We played a tune that he was working on; he showed me the words, and after that we just gelled from there.

"He is kind of a visionary, I guess. He will make sure that everything works at all costs. We're just musicians and we have a good time, but when it comes down to getting it done, it's Scott."

Other members of the band actually find it hard to do anything involved with the band besides performing their songs.

"When I listen to the stuff we do I can't just sit back and listen to it at all," DeLange said. "I mean I can't sit back and comfortably listen to a song. All my muscles will be tense."

"It just drives me crazy to listen to it ... Just because it's so personal. You can't really get away from it: (After) our first little demo tape that we did, I went over to Glen's house and I saw his copy on the table, and it was still in the wrapper."

DeLange's singing voice is comparable to that of Living Colour's Corey Glover, and the band is a little

reminiscent of Blues Traveler. The band members say their music is based on Jimi Hendrix and Tom Petty's work.

"We started out just total blues, which is a good place to start because we really can explore our grooves that way," DeLange said. "But we're starting to get a little bit more of a rock and roll edge.

"Anyone who plugs in our music would have to list Jimi Hendrix (as an influence). I hitched up skiing today, and it was sunny. It was beautiful. I was listening to Hendrix on my headphones, and I just had a pasted smile — it was incredible ... I like his rhythms; not necessarily his rhythms, but the way that he goes



scott and ryan jam acoustic with their friend rick on harp.

between rhythms. It's kind of hard to explain."

The band plays the majority of its gigs in the Bellingham area, but has performed elsewhere, including Seattle last January. The band had been hosting an open-mike show where bands could go and flaunt their stuff at Pogo's Pub, but the shows were discontinued last Wednesday.

"They bring a good-time crowd — people who dance," said Bill Cantrell, a two-year follower of the band. "I think they're great. They've got charisma and style, and they're out there putting in 100 percent."

"That's what we're trying to do, and that's what we like to do — is have a good night show," DeLange said. "And I think that's definitely one of our strong points."

When starting out, the Willies sometimes found themselves a secondary attraction to a pitcher of cold beer and a game of pool for nightclub patrons. But this is not unusual. It's something most bands go through as they struggle to gain a fan base that recognizes their songs.

"Sometimes they try to beat us up," DeLange said sarcastically. "They want to hear White Zombie. (But

photo by jeremy stiles

people dance shout an enc

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D release party will be at the 3-B
so catch the Willies on KISM 92.9
Pick of the Week" soon. This inter-
nd's songs among normally sched-
tempts to get air-play for the band,
and attract the attentions of major

the Willies will be tonight at the 3-
n for the Zydeco Flames. They play
ix in Seattle.

Weapon of Choice fires up 3-B

Story and photos by Dennis Pasco

Funkdafied, groovin' sounds flowed from the 3-B Thursday night as Weapon of Choice played its set to the hot, sweaty crowd.

The eight-piece band from Los Angeles came to Bellingham last night, between its Seattle and Vancouver shows with the Red Hot Chili Peppers, to play a two-hour set.

"We had a day off in between Chili Peppers dates and we wanted to keep busy," said vocalist Mark Cross.

"We wanted to play long sets," guitarist Finn Hammer said. "We only play a half hour with Chili Peppers."

The band pumped the crowd up to a nut-funked frenzy, and for a while the whole room was jumping in unison to the spiced-up music.

Their music was born from bassist/singer Lonnie "Meganut" Marshall's jams with Parliament-Funkadelic. His exposure to funk as a kid and a creative family environment led to the outrageous manipulation of the English language in his lyrics as well as the sounds of his bass.

The P-Funk influence comes through on all of their songs in the groovin' bass lines, soulful back-up singing, bombastic tromboning, rhythmic guitar playing, funky bass lines and Nutmeg's front-line singing.

So far they have played three shows with the Peppers. They aren't burned out yet, "Not unless you're sick like Jellybeen," Hammer said. "The weather's got to her I guess."

Weapon Of Choice refers to its music as "nutmeg music." Nutmeg music is just music where everyone in the band can let loose and just be themselves, Meganut said.

"When you least expect it," Cross says, "expect the unexpected."

They started playing clubs in Los Angeles with bands like Fishbone. And playing with Chili Peppers hasn't changed how they feel about playing.

"(It's) just a little different vibe," said Jellybeen. "But, it's, it's still the same. Just playing for people — a lot of people."

"Well for me I feel like I can get in touch with a big crowd or a small crowd," Mary said.

The band slowly formed in 1992 after Meganut's previous band, Marshall Law, dissolved when his brother Arik went off to play for the Chili Peppers.

Meganut recorded a few solo demos then eventually hooked up with keyboardist Keefus Ciancia. The two were-joined by Hammer and trombone player Tom-Bone Rails as the band continued to jam and form their nut-rageous sound.



(Above) Meganut (with sunglasses) spices up the show with help from Mark Cross, and Tom-Bone Rails waits on the trombone. (Lower left) Audra Cunningham gives the boistrous 3-B crowd direction and vocal harmony.



Excuse me while I kiss this guy?

Rock and roll has provided us with some of our most eloquent writers and singers for the last half century. Unfortunately, some aren't as clear in singing their lines as they are brilliant in writing them. The following list, compiled from actual misunderstandings by Western students, are some of the funnier results:

From Nirvana's **Smells Like Teen Spirit**: "With the lights down, I'm less contagious"

From The Beatles' **Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds**: "The girl with Colitis goes by"

From Led Zeppelin's **Whole Lotta Love**: "You need Kool-Aid baby"

Another Zeppelin classic, **Stairway to Heaven**: "And there's a wino on the road"

David Bowie's **Space Oddity** gives us: "Ground control to Mao Tse-tung"

Manfred Mann's **Blinded by the Light**: "Wrapped up like a douche in a river in the night"

Steve Miller Band's **Jet Airliner**: "Big old Jed had a light on"

Men's golf in first; women in second after first round

After Thursday's first round of the Western Invitational Golf Tournament at the Bellingham Golf and Country Club, the Vikings hold a commanding 14-stroke lead in the men's division and trail by two strokes in the women's division.

Junior Todd Waltmire, the defending tournament medalist, and junior Ryan Yurina led the 10-team men's field with even par 72s.

Two other Western players placed in the top 10. Junior Steve Jackson was fifth with a 74, and senior Mark Leibold shot a 75 to tie for sixth.

The University of Puget Sound shot a 307 total to give the Vikings (293) their closest competition.

J.D. Ruston of Green River Community College and UPS' A.P. Parks tied for third at 73.

In the five-team women's division, Lower Valley Community College holds a 276 to 278 advantage over Western.

Freshman Anna Hiffman led the way for the Vikings, carding a 90, good for fifth. Junior Sherri Lockner tied for sixth at 91.

Green River's Stefanie Coleman was the individual leader at 81, four strokes ahead of Spokane Falls Community College's Megan Field, who shot an 85.

Friday's final round is at the Sudden Valley Golf and Country Club.

Fastpitch plays well, loses to Ducks

By Erica Christensen
The Western Front

Rainy weather and a loss to the University of Oregon did not soak the spirit of the Western women's fastpitch softball team during its doubleheader at Frank Geri Field Thursday.

The Vikings women, who are now 12-14 overall and 2-2 in the Pacific Northwest Athletic

Conference, lost to Oregon 7-3 in the opener and 2-1 in the nightcap, which was called after five innings because of rain.

Pitcher Jenny Cook, 7-5, won both games for the Ducks. She allowed five hits in four innings in the first game and provided two innings of relief in the second.

Head Coach Art Phinney said he was proud of his team's per-

formance against NCAA Division I Oregon, whose conference is ranked No. 1 in the nation.

"The entire team played well," Phinney said.

Oregon, which has won seven of its last nine games, improved to 15-17.

The Ducks pounded out six runs in the fourth inning of the opener to secure a comfortable lead. Outfielder Lisa Preston

provided the big hit for the Ducks — a three-run double.

"They were all good hits," Phinney said. "There was nothing we could do about it."

Oregon won the second contest with an unearned run in the fifth.

Phinney praised senior Brenda Blancas, who provided a key RBI in the top of the first inning of the opener, which brought shortstop Kerri Hook home.

He also credited freshman catcher

Kati Claborn for reading the hitters and calling both games.

Hook, who led Western with three hits in the two games, had a run-scoring single in the second contest.

Freshman outfielder Jamie Gillies had two singles in the nightcap and scored the Vikings only run.

Senior pitcher Diana Joy said the team played "awesome." She commended freshman Jen Brandolini for a great catch in center field.

"She saves my butt all the time."

Joy went all five innings of the nightcap, allowing five hits and one earned run.

Shortstop Jamie Hlebechuk leads the Vikings in batting. Before the doubleheader her average was .328.

She said the team hit well and she feels confident about Saturday's 1 p.m. doubleheader against NCAA Division II Portland State University.

"I've seen Portland play," Hlebechuk said. "I think we'll do well."

Western returns to Pacific Northwest Athletic Conference action at 2 p.m. on April 16 against St. Martin's College.



Front/Tom Degan

Senior Diana Joy winds up in the second game Thursday.

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Unity helps men to 7-0 in league

By Jesse Nolte
The Western Front

In the Western men's lacrosse team's eyes, its undefeated league record comes not only from hard work, practice and skill, but also from the fraternal quality of the 28-man team.

"We're like the closest thing to a fraternity you can get," co-captain Ian Tomlinson said. "We're just a really tight bunch of guys, and we like to hang-out together."

"It's a great team," first-year player Anthony Braxton said. "It's a great bunch of guys. This is home for me."

That unity contributed to both the team's 9-4 victory over its rival team, Whitman College, April 6 and its 7-0 league record. The team's only loss was against the University of California at Berkeley, whose team is ranked in the top five on the West Coast.

"Our biggest challenge was Cal-Berkeley," co-captain Neal McCulloch said. "We played a really strong game against them. We were ahead at times in the game, and then in the fourth quarter we just ran out of legs;



File photo
Men's Lacrosse play against alumni team last fall.

they had a lot more players than us." The team's strongest attribute is its ability to play together as a group rather than as individuals, Tomlinson said. "This year we have a lot more unity," Tomlinson said, "We're a close bunch of

guys that like to play together. Last year we were a bunch of individuals that weren't very tight and cohesive, and now we're a lot more cohesive."

The team lost three strong players from last year's team, but they were replaced quite well by rookies, McCulloch said.

"Last year we lost a lot of key players, and then our rookie team that came in this year was really, really strong," McCulloch said.

"They came in and really picked things up for us, and they've played a big part in how we're doing this season."

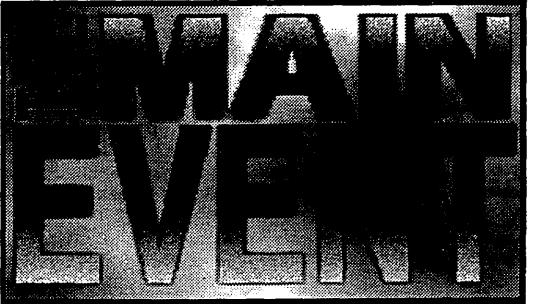
"We've got a lot of key players," Tomlinson said. "We're more of a team than a bunch of key players. I don't think that there's one person on our team that makes things 100 percent better."

The team has 10 games left in the season, six of which are at home.

"This season we'd like to take the league championship," Tomlinson said.

On Sunday, the team will put itself up against the only other undefeated club in the league, Lewis-Clark State College.

"It should be tough, but we'll win," Tomlinson said confidently. "Because



Crew

April 13, at Gonzaga Invitational, Spokane River

Track and Field

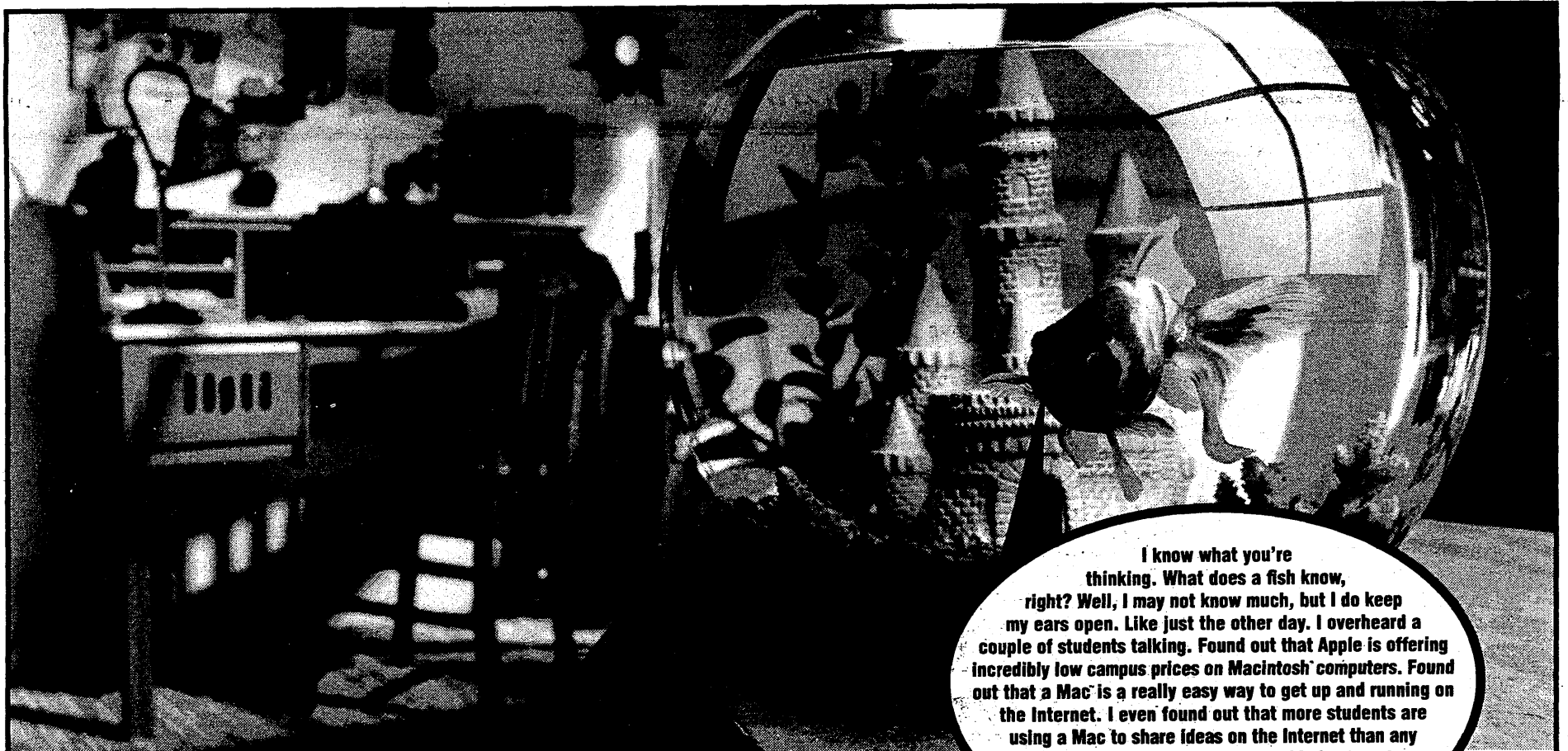
April 13, 12 p.m. Spike Arlt Invitational at Tomlinson Field in Ellensburg

Fastpitch Softball

April 13, 1 p.m. vs. Portland State at Frank Geri Field

Men's Lacrosse

April 14, 12 p.m. at Lewis-Clark State College



I know what you're thinking. What does a fish know, right? Well, I may not know much, but I do keep my ears open. Like just the other day. I overheard a couple of students talking. Found out that Apple is offering incredibly low campus prices on Macintosh computers. Found out that a Mac is a really easy way to get up and running on the Internet. I even found out that more students are using a Mac to share ideas on the Internet than any other computer. Boy, what I would give to get out of this stupid castle and start surfing the Net.

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Frontline

Not quite Una-nimity

It's high time we retired the antiquated court system in this country. We so obviously have a much more efficient facility at our disposal — the media.

Our compatriots at Newsweek have seen fit to throw Ted Kaczynski across the cover of their latest issue with "The Mind of the Unabomber" sprawled across his chest in large scarlet, er white, letters. After all, Kaczynski wasn't seen driving his Bronco away from the shack. Maybe a little restraint might be applicable in this case.

After all, he's just been charged with possession of bomb components. The court case won't begin in earnest until Kaczynski's lawyer has gotten the venue changed to Gil Garcetti's district and gotten 12 Obi Wan Kenobi clones on the jury. Then we can all be surprised when the K-man walks.

Branding Kaczynski the Unabomber for possessing a manual typewriter — antiquated as that may seem — and a partially assembled bomb is like pinning multiple counts of murder and rape on a law school student for possessing a knife and a few nudie magazines.

Furthermore, just because he's from Montana and has a strong distaste for technology doesn't mean Kaczynski is a criminal. If that were true, the journalism department would have to look for two new faculty members.

It's easy to condemn this guy for a couple of reasons. First, he doesn't seem very likable. Scruffy guys who live alone in shacks don't exactly do well in auditions for "Friends" or get endorsement deals with Nike and McDonald's. People Weekly magazine can do a theoretical makeover on this guy that would put Marcia Clark's overanalyzed hairdo to shame.

If Kaczynski had partially built bombs strewn in a pile next to his abacus, why did it take them five days to find them in the shack? It takes 30 minutes to search a small room.

One has to be a little suspicious of the FBI at this time. After the Ruby Ridge incident, Waco disaster and the fact that taxes are due in three days, the FBI is in more dire need of good publicity than Dennis Rodman and Nick Van Exel combined.

Still, we can't expect too much of the FBI. These are the same guys who can't get 20 hicks out of thatched huts on the other side of the state.

—Eric Francis, *Accent editor*
and Jeremy Stiles, *Editor*

The Western Front

Editor, Jeremy Stiles; **Managing editor,** Jesse Hamilton; **News editors,** Mike Brennand and Nina Boswell; **Features editors,** Rachel Morrow and Lisa Diaz; **Accent editors,** Eric Francis and Grant Clark; **Sports editor,** Darrin Wellentin; **Opinions editor,** Christopher Ames; **Copy editor,** Jason Hickman; **Photo editors,** Aaron Dahl and Tom Degan; **Political Cartoonist,** Jason Kelly; **Illustrator,** Kelly Jackson; **Adviser,** Pete Steffens; **Business Manager,** Teari Brown; **Custodian,** Roger Sprague; **Custodian emeritus,** Conrad Schuyler.

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

Send all submissions to: The Western Front, College Hall 09, Western Washington University, Bellingham, Wash. 98225. For advertising concerns, please contact the business office in College Hall 07 or call (360) 650-3161.

Many Americans want third parties; few actually need them

Every time you turn on the television or open up a publication these days, you will be confronted with another story about the growing clamor for a new political party in this country.

We are inundated with polls that show an increasing number of Americans who supposedly yearn for an alternative to the Democratic and Republican parties. Who are these people, and what do they want?

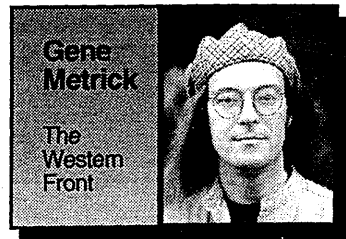
For a while, they seemed to want Colin Powell, despite the fact that no one knew where he stood on the litmus-test issues that tend to fit politicians into neat, marketable packages.

Maybe that helped to explain why he was so popular — the less you know about someone's views, the less likely you are to disagree with them.

But the general's refusal to subject himself and his family to the feeding frenzy that we Americans proudly call a presidential campaign has only helped to build the yearning for some great leader to step forward and deliver us to some political promised land.

What about Ross Perot? It's becoming more evident that this whiny little autocrat is indeed going to run again. His self-created "grass-roots movement" is well-funded and trying to secure a place on each state's ballot for his Reform Party.

The idea of another Perot candidacy has members of the pundocracy turning cartwheels, for little else could inject more zaniness into the already ludicrous sport of election analysis than having ol' Ross to make fun of



Gene Metrick

The Western Front

again.

OK, so the guy's a paranoid kook who can't lay claim to any semblance of becoming a great leader. But if he is actually elected, can you imagine the comic possibilities of the kindergarten-style bickering in which he and Newt Gingrich could engage? Besides, it would be worthwhile to have him in the race again just to help resuscitate Dana Carvey's career.

Maybe the other prospective candidates, whose names have been bandied around like media chew toys by the talking heads, deserve consideration. The visibility of some real political heavyweights couldn't even be raised by a guest-shot on "Friends." How about Bill Bradley? He was a better basketball player than Ronald Reagan was an actor. That should count for something.

Ralph Nader is the candidate of the Green Party in California and might actually get on the ballot in several other states, but chances of him winning fall into the slim-to-none category. His main function will amount to giving ulcers to the Clinton campaign team.

Are more choices actually needed? A number of minor parties exist to satisfy those unfulfilled by the anemic choices offered to us by corporate

America.

How about the Libertarian Party? They're kind of fun folks — at least they'd like to legalize drugs, which would give us all something to do after they eliminate every form of college aid. Or the Taxpayer's Party, is it a viable party? They're talking about drafting Pat Buchanan if he turns down the American Nazi Party's nomination. What about the New Party? Can it legally call itself that after being in existence for more than 10 years?

My favorite is the Natural Law Party. Not only is its presidential candidate, John Hagelin, an over-boiling vat of unchecked personal charisma, but their party platform manages to strike a delicate balance between innovative and viable policy proposals and goofy assertions that seem devoid of any basis in reality. If it wasn't for the former set of proposals, they'd probably be practically indistinguishable from the Republicans.

At first glance, it appears that this call for some glimmering third-party savior is simply out of touch with reality; it is a desire for someone or something that can't exist in our present political and media environment.

At best, it can probably be viewed as a yearning for someone who can make sense of the current social and economic conditions that scare many people.

At worst, it is just another example of the tendency of some people to whine for more of everything while they complain that nothing is good enough, and everybody is against them.

Letters

'Bad karma' is as inaccurate as it is insensitive

Dear Editor,

I have been reading your feature articles lately. I used to skip over these sections, but the articles about the teacher's fashions, the murder mystery dinner, and the martial arts instructor have drawn my interest.

However, the article entitled "Could it just be bad karma?" caught my attention, and I really wish it hadn't.

Even if I was a constant fiction reader, I would have to skip over the book "Karma" by Mitchell Smith. Whether Smith displays "rich descriptive style" or not, to me he is just another person who abuses Sanskrit terminology for the sake of cheap advertising.

The Sanskrit word "karma" means action. It also refers to the

effects of our actions on our present and future conditions. The law of karma, which scientists call the law of cause and effect, teaches that our present situation is the direct result of our past actions. As the article, "Could it just be bad karma?" indicated, Smith's book has nothing to do with karma. Instead, it involves the struggles of a man trying to uncover the plot of a Hindu mob of murderers. If these murderers really believed, they probably would not be killing people.

Smith's choice of title is simply one event in the systematic degradation of Eastern spiritual traditions. From the Dharma Juice Company, to misnamed rock groups and the New Age movement, the sacrilege continues.

Few people see it as sacrilege because it does not harm the image of Christianity. The Christian community remains apathetic until someone slaughters its sacred cows.

If people want to know what Hinduism is really about, they will have to look beyond the secular, evangelical and New Age misrepresentation of it. These warped perceptions reflect poorly on the subcultures that create them and have virtually nothing to do with Hindu practices.

I applaud your acknowledgment that the book "Karma," "never develops what its title suggests," but the title of your article was equally inappropriate.

Christopher Benum

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.

Graffiti writers evolve beyond 'For a good time'

Restroom walls serve as forum for ruminations on life and inebriation

"The writing is on the wall," the old saying goes. It sure is.

Whether or not you enjoy looking at it, reading it or writing it is another story.

Bathroom graffiti is all over the walls in buildings, portable toilets and bars throughout much of the world.

Tacky? Disgusting to look at? Just a form of self-expression and preservation?

At the World Famous Up & Up Tavern in Bellingham, the faded green walls in the men's and women's restrooms are covered with sayings, names, phone numbers, quotes and inspirational drinking themes scribbled in blue, green and black ink.

No longer do the "For a good time, call ..." jokes ring true.

Women's bathrooms are covered with people's names and their states of being: "Lori, Cindy and Dawn are almost gone," "Julie is neat, she skis with Bud"; inspirational sayings: "Karma



Allison Gregg

The Western Front

says what goes around comes around"; sayings written by drunks: "Catherine, you're a drinking machine, like a pro, what ever you do ... we do and we love you more" and "Fighting for peace is like fucking for virginity."

The women's restroom sayings differ from the men's.

Men's restrooms also had saying about drinking: "On my 21st b-day, God gave me the Up & Up"; "I am graduating in three weeks, WWU Rocks, I'm 21, havin' fun. The party's just begun."

My favorite was: "The evil genius lives at the Shelton Prison." Someone else wrote in

reply: "So does my brother."

Why do people write all over the walls? In high school and junior high, it was common for girls to write "I love Alex FOREVER" on the bathroom walls.

Was it done in order that no other girl would love Alex?

Now, in college, at a college bar, library and other bathrooms visited by college students, writing the dates, graduation and drinking sayings have replaced professions of undying love for Alex.

Is it so some other person can come in moments or years later and see our names and thoughts as they use the toilet or sink?

Is it a way of hoping our legacy will live on?

Do people return after scribbling on the walls later to see if their names are still there?

The ruminations of long departed students are interesting.

Staring up at the sayings and enjoying what others have left behind gives the reader a feeling of relief.

Or is that from something else? Bathroom graffiti has made its place throughout the bars and libraries.

Staring up at the sayings and enjoying what others have left behind gives the reader a feeling of relief. Or is that from something else?

It is a way of expressing your thoughts without anyone really knowing who you are? One saying: commit some crimes and you'll be gone.

Restrooms visitors compose a captive audience, the prospect of which sends an anonymous writers' imagination flying.

People will read your writings,

names, thoughts and poetry and never be able to put a face on the author.

The bathroom is a place for time alone.

Alone with your thoughts and the thoughts of those who have gone before you (in more ways than one).

Being able to read what has been left behind gives the other anonymous authors inspiration.

In some way, your thoughts may have influenced another to think, laugh, smile, act or simply to drink some more.

It can also leave your thoughts for posterity.

All it takes is a bare wall, a permanent ink pen, some imagination and sitting time.

Go ahead, write on the bathroom wall — who's going know it was you?

Who wouldn't love the opportunity to have their writings read by all those who come after you and before the janitor?

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