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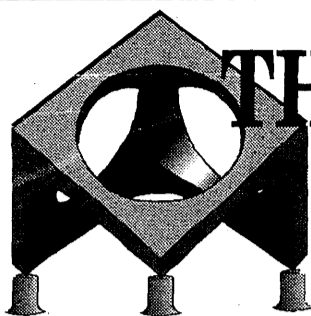
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WOMEN BURNED IN SALEM

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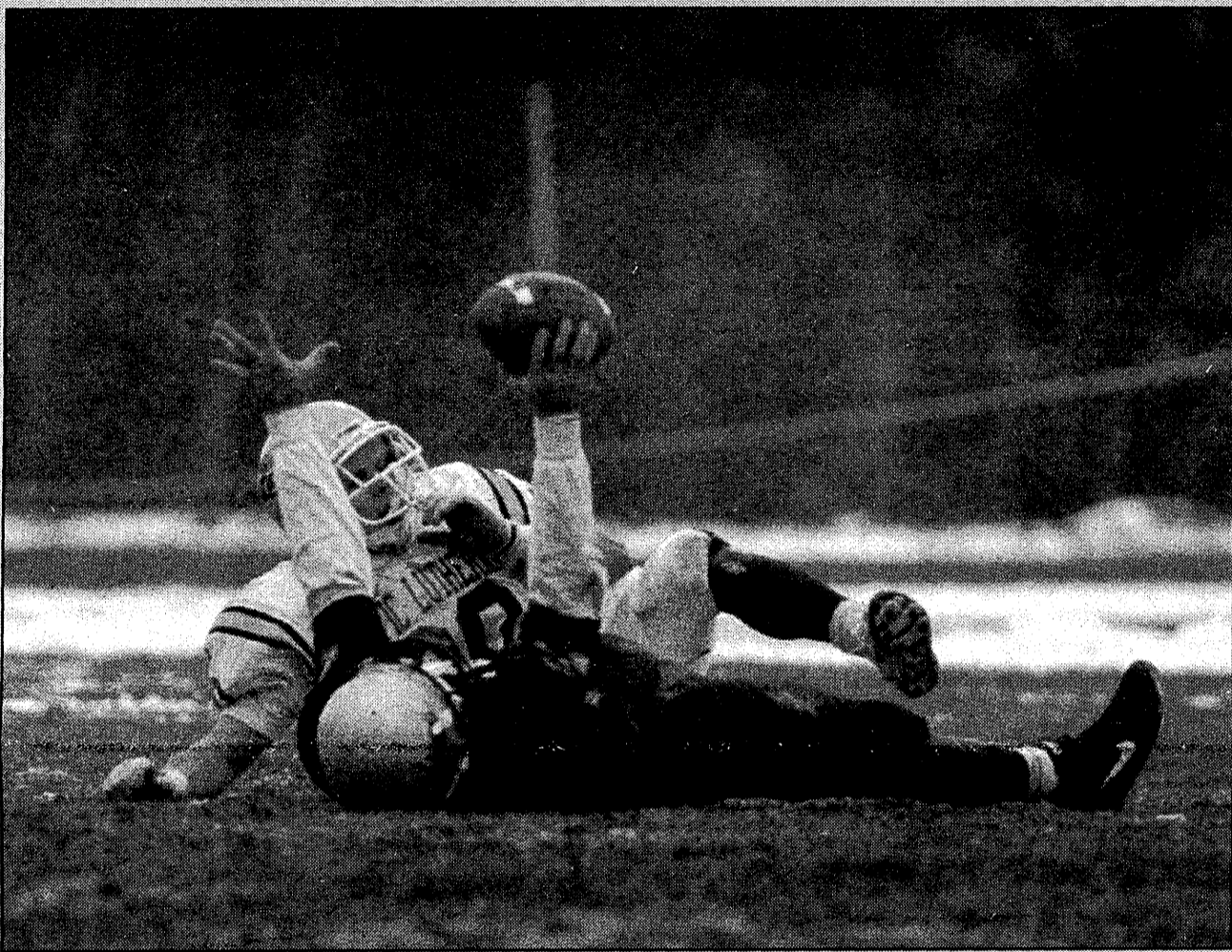
Photo contest DECIDED

Page 9

**Tuesday,
Nov. 26, 1996**Volume 98
Issue 17**THE WESTERN FRONT**

Western Washington University

Bellingham, Washington

Bring on Willamette!

Front/Tom Degan

Mario Casello catches a pass from Darren Erath for a two-point conversion, bringing Western within three points late in the third quarter. Western went on to win in overtime, 21-20. **See story on page 10.**

City fights hate crime toward Jews

By Jana Alexander
The Western Front

A swastika painted on a Jewish family's home in Bellingham Oct. 18 shook up more than just the family it was intended for.

Mayor Mark Asmundson has drafted a resolution to be proposed to the City Council.

The resolution stated the swastika painting was a heinous and reprehensible act against a valued segment of Bellingham's religious community and is a direct attack on the city's most binding values of decency, tolerance, neighborliness and respect.

The resolution also said the city of Bellingham encourages all citizens to take part in the "Join Hands Against Hate" campaign led by the Whatcom County Human Rights Task Force.

Asmundson urges all community members to condemn and denounce acts of hate.

The resolution also says perpetrators and all potential perpetrators of such crimes will face maximum possible penalties when apprehended and convicted.

The swastika was reported to Bellingham Police Oct. 18.

See Hate crime, page 4

Group hears forgotten voices

By Katherine Schiffner
The Western Front

Homeless youth presented a documentary, told personal stories of life on the street and answered questions from the audience at 7 p.m. Monday in the Wilson Library Presentation Room.

Members of the Seattle-based group Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets (PSKS) screened the documentary "Forgotten Voices," the story of the beginning of the group and the progression of the members from "street rats" to stable homes.

The documentary found its way to Western with the help of Jesse Saloman, a core member of PSKS, and a junior at Fairhaven College.

The group, ages 13 to 20, plus an adult who is a "kid at heart," originated from a 1995 summer-school program at the Orion Multi-Service Center, coordinated by Elaine Simons, a teacher at Meany Magnet Middle School. Simons said after she learned the youth in her group

would not receive academic credit for the summer program, she consulted the group and it brainstormed ideas on how to communicate the challenges of homelessness to the community.

All the core members of the group share equal power with Simons. Of the five remaining core members only one still lives on the street, Simons said.

The group believed they had qualified for a \$1,000 grant and wanted to plan a concert. Simons said the group found out days before the concert they had not qualified for the grant, but because of the community funds raised the group, the grant money was not necessary.

"There was a lot of resistance at first," Simons said. However, "by the time we had the concert we had the whole city behind us," she said.

Since the first concert, the group has put on two other benefit concerts and spoken at several schools and conferences. Another major project of the group was the production of their 45-minute documen-

tary.

The film was written, directed and produced by PSKS. Funding for the film came from the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, the Youth Anti-Violence Fund, King County Community Organization Program and Children's Alliance. A total of \$2,000 was donated.

The documentary details the lives of some of Seattle's homeless youth and how they ended up on the streets and pulled themselves off.

Z-Love Tutwiler, who asked he be identified by his street name, lived for two and a half years on the street. Now he has a job and tries to help other street kids.

"If they want help, I am there to help them," Tutwiler said.

The documentary also presents footage of the first concert organized by PSKS, and the presentation of a proclamation declaring Nov. 9 Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets Day.

The group is currently working on

See Homeless, page 6

PSKS's view of 'Becca Bill'

One of the major obstacles for homeless youth is the "Becca Bill," members of Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Street agreed.

The bill named after Rebecca Harding, who died on the streets, was initiated by Harding's parents and is intended to return runaway youths to their parents quickly.

PSKS said this presents problems for youths who have left their homes because of an abusive environment.

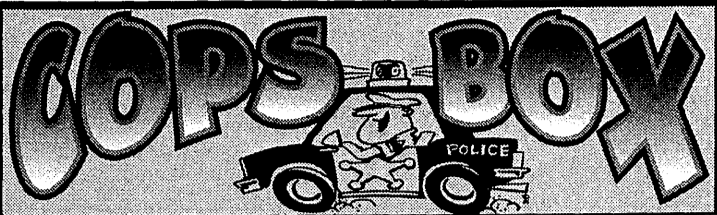
Elaine Simons, the group's adult coordinator, said the bill requires shelters to report runaways within seven hours. People helping homeless youths can be charged with harboring a fugitive. Schools are also required to report to police when a minor is missing from school for a day.

Simons said crisis intervention services are supposed to be available for kids, but they are often not available. Only seven days are allocated to investigate allegations of abuse, and during that time, the kids are detained by the police, Simons said.

"Now every homeless kid is scared to death," Harley said.

Harley said one of his friends, who was returned to his father because of the Becca Bill, had a Louisville Slugger cracked over his head as soon as the police left.

Kids think, "I can't go to school. If I go to school, they're going to call the cops," Simons said.



Campus Police

Nov. 21, 8:12 p.m.: A student left some of his stuff in the hallway of Carver Gym by the racquetball courts while he was playing racquetball. When he came to get it afterward, it was gone.

Bellingham Police

Nov. 23, 1:50 p.m.: An officer responded to an alarm in the 1900 block of Ellis Street. The alarm had been set off by an iguana who had gotten out of its cage. The officer put the iguana back in its cage and sent an alarm sheet to the owner.

Nov. 23, 6:03 p.m.: A woman and her son got into a fight when she accused him of not telling the truth about taking items from her bedroom closet. During the argument the son pulled out a closed-bladed knife from one of the pockets in his jeans, but didn't use it in a threatening way. The woman felt uncomfortable about him having the knife while he was angry. The son locked himself in his bedroom and cluttered the room with his belongings. Officers talked to him about his inappropriate behavior. He agreed to control his anger and clean his bedroom. The officers impounded and destroyed his two pocket knives.

Nov. 23, 9:39 p.m.: Officers responded to an argument between two people in the 1000 block of Otis Street. Both people were drunk and arguing over who was the most intoxicated. They were advised to go their separate ways until they could calm down.

Nov. 24, 6:36 a.m.: A woman reported her vehicle was moved from the carport to the alleyway in the 200 block of West Illinois Street. The vehicle was found in the drive gear and the emergency brake wasn't set. The woman said the car was unlocked and had no evidence anyone attempted to steal the car. Nothing was missing from the car and it wasn't damaged. It appeared the car had rolled from where it was parked to the new spot.

Nov. 24, 8:31 p.m.: A woman was driving her vehicle in the cross section of Alabama and Undine Streets when unknown suspect(s) threw several eggs at her vehicle. When the eggs struck the vehicle, damage was done to the hood.

Nov. 24, 10:10 p.m.: A pizza delivery person reported the theft of a pizza in the 2210 block of Woburn Street.

Nov. 25, 11:21 a.m.: A citizen reported vandalism to several trees in Barkley Boulevard. Several trees appeared to be missing and the other trees may have been damaged by vehicle's sliding off the roadway.

Cops Box compiled by Melissa Leslie

WESTERN BRIEFS

Listen to STORM-LINE for closures

For the latest information on open or closure decisions for Western, call the STORMLINE at 650-6500 after 6:15 a.m.

Up-to-the-minute announcements on Western's status will be available on the STORMLINE. On stormy mornings, Western will also broadcast its decision on the radio between 6:15 and 6:30 a.m. Tune to KGMI (790 AM), KBFW (930 AM), KPUG (1170 AM), KISM (92.9 FM) or KAFE (104.3 FM).

EIS for campus plan up for review

In compliance with the State Environmental Policy ACT, an Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Statement for Western's Draft Comprehensive Campus Master Plan has been prepared and is available for review.

The addendum provides additional information about the master plan as revised from an earlier version. The analysis of significant impacts and alternatives in the existing environmental documents has not been changed as a result of the review.

Copies of addendum and the

draft are available for review between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. weekdays in the Physical Plant Facilities and Master Planning Office. Call 650-3551 for more information.

Get a permit for those wheels

Quarterly parking permits may be renewed for winter quarter weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Nov. 25 through Dec. 6 at the Parking and Transportation Office.

Drivers who do not have a current permit and would like to purchase one for winter quarter may do so beginning Dec. 9.

The waiting list will be valid through August 1997. If you are already on the list, you don't need to be put on it again.

Holiday season brings stress

The Bellingham Asthma Support Group and Dr. Anthony Zold will present, "Coping with Stress During the Holiday Season," at 7 p.m. in the St. Joseph Hospital educational conference center.

For more information, contact Robyn Jacobson at Bellingham Asthma and Allergy Associates, 380-1856 or 733-5733.

Fundraiser teams Humane Society, local business

The Bellingham-Whatcom County Humane Society has decided to team up with PetsMart in a fundraising program called "Santa Claws '96."

Bellingham PetsMart, located at 4379 Guide Meridian, will be selling holiday pictures of Santa, your pet and the entire family on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, 7 and 8. Twenty percent of the proceeds will benefit the Humane Society.

A professional photographer will be taking the pictures, and a variety of photo packages are offered, including a mouse pad.

For more information, contact Lora Eckert at the Humane Society at 733-2080

Blood donors set new record

Western's quarterly blood drive set a new record during its fall campaign Oct. 22-24 with 466 donors. The number exceeded 410 donors last February, 363 last April and 380 last fall.

Western Briefs compiled by Joanne Fry

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 TO WITHDRAW FROM THE UNIVERSITY is Monday, December 2.

PHASE I REGISTRATION FOR WINTER QUARTER ends Dec. 6. You can continue to make schedule adjustments on RSVP through Phase II and III, December 9 to January 13. *Winter classes begin on Tuesday, Jan. 7.*

STUDENTS WHO INTERRUPT THEIR STUDIES AT WESTERN, other than for a summer quarter, must complete an application for readmission by the appropriate deadline. Applications are available from the Admissions office, OM 200, X/3440.

ALL STUDENTS WHO EXPECT TO GRADUATE AT THE CLOSE OF SPRING QUARTER must have an application on file by Jan. 31. Applications are available in OM 230.

ATTN: WOODRING EDUCATION STUDENTS. Deadline for spring, 1997, applications is Jan. 15. An extra TETEP test has been scheduled for 3 p.m. Wed., Dec. 4, in FR 4. Register in OM 120 for the TETEP. A fee of \$20 (exact amount) is payable at time of registration. Test takes approximately 2½ hours.

STUDENT TEACHER INTERNSHIPS. Those wishing to student teach during the 1997-98 academic year should plan to attend one of the following meetings: Tues., Dec. 3, 10 a.m.; Thurs., Dec. 5, 8 a.m.; or Fri., Dec. 6, 4 p.m. At that time you will be given information about the student teaching procedures and timeline.

SEALED BIDS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 1:30 P.M. DEC. 9 for auction items including Ethan Allen furniture, a Monarch trash burner, a pickup bed liner, research microscope, bedroom set, china/curio cabinet, outdoor patio furniture, air compressors, trucks and more. For bid forms and viewing information, contact Cheryl Karney, X/3566.

THE MATH PLACEMENT TEST will be given at 9 a.m. Mondays in OM 120 on Dec. 9 and 16. Thursday test dates are Dec. 5, 12 and 19. Allow 90 minutes. Registration is not required. Students must bring picture ID and a No. 2 pencil. A \$10 fee must be paid in the exact amount at time of testing.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS OFFICE IS LOOKING FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE APARTMENTS OR ROOMS TO RENT for winter or spring quarter. Send information to OM 530B or call X/3298.

THE TEACHER CURRICULA AND CERTIFICATION COUNCIL meets in MH 210 at 1 p.m. on Dec. 5. Submit materials to be considered at least one week prior.

MILLER ANALOGIES TEST will be administered at 3 p.m. Dec. 9. Registration is required in OM 120. A \$35 fee is payable at time of testing, which takes about 1½ hours.

THE WHATCOM COUNTY PHONE NUMBER FOR PACIFIC STORAGE is incorrect in its listing in the *Campus Directory*. The correct county number is 384-6929. The number is listed correctly in the Pacific Storage display advertisement on page 60 of the directory.

CAREER SERVICES CENTER, OM 280, offers a full spectrum of career development and job search workshops throughout the academic year. Stop by OM 280 or call X/3240 for current offerings and find out how the workshops can help with a job search.

Tune in to 89.3 FM

Listen to KUGS at 1 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays for in-depth interviews with Front reporters about their stories.

**** Get the story behind the story ****

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Task force gives bikes a break

By Jacob Henifin
The Western Front

Western's bicycle policy will enter a trial period with the task force attempting to steer a course for substance and fairness.

On Nov. 15, President Karen Morse adopted a bicycle policy making it law under the Washington Administrative Code. The means by which the policy addresses bicycle/pedestrian issues will be addressed by the yet-to-be-assembled task force.

The task force will be co-chaired by either Associated Students President Leslie Keller or Vice President for Student Life and board member J.P. Elliott, along with George Pierce, vice president for business and financial affairs.

The members will include Parking Director Carl Root; Director of Environmental Health and Safety Gayle Shipley; Chief of University Police, Doug Gill; Greg Quhn, student representative to the Health and Safety

Committee and liaison between the Student Bicycle Advisory Coalition and the committee and Erika French, student bicycle coalition coordinator.

The six-month trial period will begin Jan. 1 and, depending on how bicyclists conduct themselves in the dismount zones during the dismount times, the policy will take its definitive form.

"Right now what is being considered is 15 minutes before the hour and 15 minutes after the hour in the campus core (for restriction)," Root said. "We will look at the issue of enforcement and whether we can take a less restrictive policy and how it works," he said.

"The biggest reason to implement the policy is the liability issue," explains Keller. "Complaints required us to implement the bike policy."

The university received various

complaints filed under Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act, which is administered through the Department of Labor Industries.

These complaints caused Pierce to move forward on the

from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. during regular class day or at other times when so posted, or as designated by the Vice President of Business and Financial Affairs, or a designee."

"The idea of putting the (last part) in is to make it clear that the vice president (Pierce) can change the parameters of the policy," Bohlke said.

"My understanding is that the president (Morse) approved an 8-5 restriction and between those hours, the task force can work with it," French said.

She and Quhn think students will be able to generate a workable policy.

"I think it (bike policy) will be what the AS Board decides," Quhn said. "Students need to get concerns to the AS Board. Leslie Keller is on the task force, and she will make sure those concerns are recognized."

"The AS got the administration to sit down and work out a policy

to everyone's best interest. It is a win-win situation. The administration is willing to work with students," Keller said.

Responsibility can be seen as the crux of the issue.

"I would like to see people ride safely on campus. How we accomplish this is not as important as that goal," Shipley said.

"I'd like to see students given the responsibility to enforce and educate each other. If students don't take responsibility it is their own fault," Keller said.

Shipley applauded the SBAC for their work and wisdom on the Bicycle Responsibility Code.

"Whatever the ultimate outcome of the dismount zones and times, the (code) is a broader concept than simply making a rule," she said.

"We have been given another chance to determine what we want to do," French said. "We are going to have to try to work together to see if we can make the effort to enforce the 10-minute rule."

The AS got the administration to sit down and work out a policy to everyone's best interest. It is a win-win situation. The administration is willing to work with students.

— Leslie Keller
AS President

issue, Wendy Bohlke, assistant attorney general for Western, said.

The policy states, it is prohibited for bicycles to be ridden in areas designated as permanent and/or temporary dismount zones

AP news from around the globe

REGIONAL

New flu cases found in Western Washington

SEATTLE — Three new flu cases have been identified by state epidemiologists in Western Washington in recent weeks.

According to a report received by the American Lung Association of Washington from the State Department of Health, one of the influenzas has been found to be type A.

This strain was found in an 18-year-old male with onset of illness Oct. 31.

It is the same A/Wuhan subtype found earlier this fall in a 21-year-old student at the University of Washington.

The A/Wuhan strain has been targeted by U.S. health officials as one of the three strains most likely to strike this flu season.

This year's flu shots contain protection against the A/Wuhan and the other two strains, the A/Texas and the B/Beijing. It is not too late to get a flu shot.

Incidence of influenza in October is unusual for Washington state, although it has sporadically occurred in past years, according to state epidemiology surveys.

Most flu activity begins in December and peaks in February.

Man run over by empty van, twice

SEATTLE — A man who left his van running when he went into a convenience store was run over by the vehicle when it took off by itself.

It happened on Sunday night in the

Kenmore area, north of Seattle.

The 39-year-old Lynnwood man was actually hit twice as the van went around in circles.

'Train from hell' arrives, finally

SEATTLE — The Amtrak Empire Builder arrived in Seattle Sunday night from Chicago — nearly 12 hours late with passengers describing it as "the train from hell."

The train was delayed because of a drug bust in Wisconsin, the train hit an abandoned car in Minnesota, then was delayed by a blizzard and a derailed freight train in Idaho.

Then food ran out and the train had to wait for Kentucky Fried Chicken in Spokane.

Mariners expected to lease new ballpark

SEATTLE — The stadium board overseeing construction of a new ballpark in Seattle was expected to approve the lease with the Mariners Monday.

The King County Council wants to see the lease agreement before it issues bonds to finance construction.

NATIONAL

O.J. doesn't recall

SANTA MONICA, Calif. — O.J. Simpson says he can't explain why blood matching his and the two murder victims' turned up in his Bronco the day after the killings. He

also testified Monday that he can't explain why he had blood on his finger and kitchen counter the previous night.

Yet another Clinton administration member resigns

WASHINGTON — Sources say David Kessler is resigning as commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration.

Administration officials had asked Kessler to stay for Clinton's second term, but the sources say Kessler told them he's ready to leave after six years on the job.

The Dow surges again

NEW YORK — Wall Street is pushing the envelope again. The Dow Jones Industrial Average surged Monday, and it had a good possibility at closing above 6,500 for the first time. It's been just six weeks since the Dow had its first close above 6,000.

INTERNATIONAL

Hijackers may have died in crash

MORONI, Comoros Islands — Two men who survived an air disaster may not be hijackers after all.

The government of the Comoros Islands says it now appears the two were misidentified as hijackers of an Ethiopian airliner. The plane ran out of fuel and crashed in the Indian Ocean on Saturday, killing at least 127 people.

Two of the survivors were arrested at a hospital in the Comoros Islands, but a gov-

ernment spokesman said on Monday that the pair may have been innocent passengers. They could be released as early as today.

The development apparently means all three hijackers died in the crash.

Protesters march in Belgrade

BELGRADE, Croatia — Some 100,000 protesters chanting anti-Communist slogans spent much of Monday marching through Belgrade.

They were protesting court rulings that overturned an apparent election victory by the non-Communist opposition.

South Africa marks first Ebola death

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — South Africa reported its first death from the deadly disease, Ebola.

The victim was a nurse who contracted the disease after treating a doctor from the African nation of Gabon. The nurse died Sunday in a Johannesburg hospital, yet the doctor has recovered fully from the disease.

About 800 people have died from Ebola worldwide since the virus was identified in 1976. Most of the deaths have occurred in Africa.

Ebola can be transmitted through bodily fluids and secretions. Ebola causes massive internal bleeding, diarrhea and vomiting.

AP Wire compiled by Nancy Frazier

Education key to halt militia advance

By Joanne Fry
The Western Front

Approximately 30 students and community members attended a workshop titled, "What to do When the Militia Comes to Town," Friday.

Ken Toole, director of the Montana Human Rights Task Force, led the workshop, which focused on pragmatic approaches to fighting militias at the local level.

The workshop was the final event in a three-part series sponsored by Western's Social Issues Office. Using pamphlets, overheads and videos, Toole described the Task Force's increasing concern over militias and hate crimes in Montana.

"Setting aside the white supremacy issue, taking up arms to resolve government distrust should be of concern," Toole said.

Task force members refer to the militia phenomenon as a "social movement" because members of such groups are anti-government — especially against the federal government.

Law enforcement officials did not really pick up on the idea of militia involvements

until fairly recently.

"When Oklahoma blew up, everybody started to understand because of the media coverage," Toole said.

Although most people associate intimidation, racism and hate crime involvements with militias, the issue of white supremacy is just one aspect of the militia ideology.

"What it boils down to is that violence is an acceptable means of political change," Toole said. Allowing these individuals to continue to commit these disturbing acts of violence disrupts our communities in every aspect, he said.

"About one-third of our resources are devoted to reading the garbage these groups put out. These guys are prolific in their writings," Toole said.

Much of the concern about hate groups and militias comes as a result of these organizations reaching into the mainstream. Toole says their literature is on

magazines, books, newsletters and even the Internet.

To defend our communities from such harmful implications, Toole says, "You have to think about who your allies are."

Toole suggests turning to churches, labor unions, the educational community and peace groups. Gay and lesbian groups, as well as Women's organizations, are among the most motivated.

"Don't try and recruit their leaders for your cause," Toole said. "What you want from the leaders is someone else in their group who is interested." Toole said the leaders already have other involvements, and your cause is one of many for them. You are more likely to find someone other than a group leader to help your cause.

Toole also warns of some pitfalls in organizing an effort to fight against militias. "Don't think there is going to be some persuasions," Toole said, referring to the

possibility that militia members may change their views.

We should have a positive message to help to educate community members about the dangerous effects these people have on our communities, especially our children.

"Look at the legislature and the media to educate people and use them," Toole said.

Examples of past successful education attempts would be the "Not in Our Town" campaigns and the "Joining Hands Against Hate" window signs that were organized by the Whatcom Human Rights Task Force.

Toole insists community members assert their own free speech rights just as the militia members do, only community members have to be more involved as a whole.

Western senior and ASP Social Issues Office member Tara Havel agreed.

"The population of these events is discouraging. We would like to see more students involved," she said.

The workshop was also co-sponsored by Western's Shalom Center, Peace Resource Center, Catholic Student Coalition and the Associated Students of Whatcom Community College.

About one-third of our resources are devoted to reading the garbage these groups put out.
- Ken Toole
Director, Montana Human Rights Task Force

Hate crime, from page 1

The Whatcom Human Rights Task Force is in touch with the police. No new information on the incident was available as of Nov. 25, said Shirley Osterhaus of WHRTF.

The family did not wish to be named.

The police would like anyone who knows anything about the incident to come forward, Osterhaus said.

A silent candlelight vigil on the steps of Bellingham City Hall was intended to send the message of solidarity.

Vigil participants stood somberly on the city steps.

"If people would have joined together 50 years ago, maybe the Holocaust would not have hap-

pened," said Shawn Bryan.

Fred Fragner, a Holocaust survivor, said the swastika was not a shock to him.

"I am not surprised. There is too much hate, too much hate in this country right now," Fragner said.

People can do something about hate, Fragner said.

"Raise the children to respect each other no matter what their differences ... we don't have to love each other. We just have to respect each other, respect the differences," Fragner said.

"We're here in order to demonstrate to the community that there

are still people around who believe in respecting others," Marvin Miller said.

Dawn Prince-Hughes, a graduate student from Switzerland,

"I think it's incredibly important not to isolate causes, for anyone to come out to support a protest against things like that happening," she said.

Prince-Hughes recalled a poem about the Holocaust but couldn't remember the title.

"First they came for the Jews, and I didn't say anything," she said, trying to remember the author.

The poem's message is that everyone is in danger when one group is the target of hate, Prince-Hughes said.

Everyone is victimized by hate crimes, Prince-Hughes said.

"Whether it's calling somebody

a name, or painting a swastika, or not allowing people to get married — we're all in this together," Prince-Hughes said.

Osterhaus said the movie "Not in Our Town," available in the Shalom Center, provides a model of how communities should answer hate crimes.

The movie is based on an incident in Billings, Mont.

A Jewish boy's window, where he kept his menorah (the 8-pronged candle used during Hanukkah), was smashed with a cinder block.

The community joined together by placing paper menorahs in all of their windows.

No similar incidents have occurred there, Osterhaus said.

I am not surprised. There is too much hate, ... too much hate in this country right now.
- Fred Fragner
Holocaust survivor

heard about the swastika incident in The Bellingham Herald and decided to attend the vigil.

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"If it's not on school time, then no. I don't know why, I just don't think so. It wasn't affecting anyone else."

Jaime Holtz
Freshman, business



"Personally, I don't think anybody should be using drugs. If there is any chance of jeopardizing one's performance in the workplace, I don't think it's advisable."

Bob Allred
night student

Should English Professor Omar Castañeda be fired for admitting to using drugs off campus while on a paid leave of absence?

Interviews compiled by Kristin Darland
Photos by Tom Degan



"This is difficult. If he is on his own personal time, he shouldn't be fired. If he was doing work for the university, some disciplinary action should be taken, but he shouldn't be fired. Getting him help is the first priority. He needs to be rehabilitated."

Douglas Leek
Junior, English



"As long as he can do his job, that's all that matters."

Everett Ong
Junior, exercise science



"I think he should have been fired. Hard-core drugs like that are not good. I don't think he was setting a good example — whether he was on campus or not."

Ross Beckley
Junior, environmental policy



"No, I don't think he should have been fired if he was on leave of absence. He was being paid — I suppose that is a consideration. Being on sabbatical is a privilege. I don't know enough about the variables to say ultimately yes or no. I'm sure there are people that have done worse in our public school system. If he is using and not selling, he's not hurting anyone but himself."

Candice Styer-Furgesen
Professor, behavior management

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Homeless, from page 1

developing and presenting an advocacy training program for Martin Luther King Jr. Day and a petition with the War Resisters League.

"We love to see people who are not activists come and join the fight," Saloman said.

Saloman said his activism helped him after his rehabilitation from a drug problem.

Saloman was not homeless but "spent a lot of time on the street."

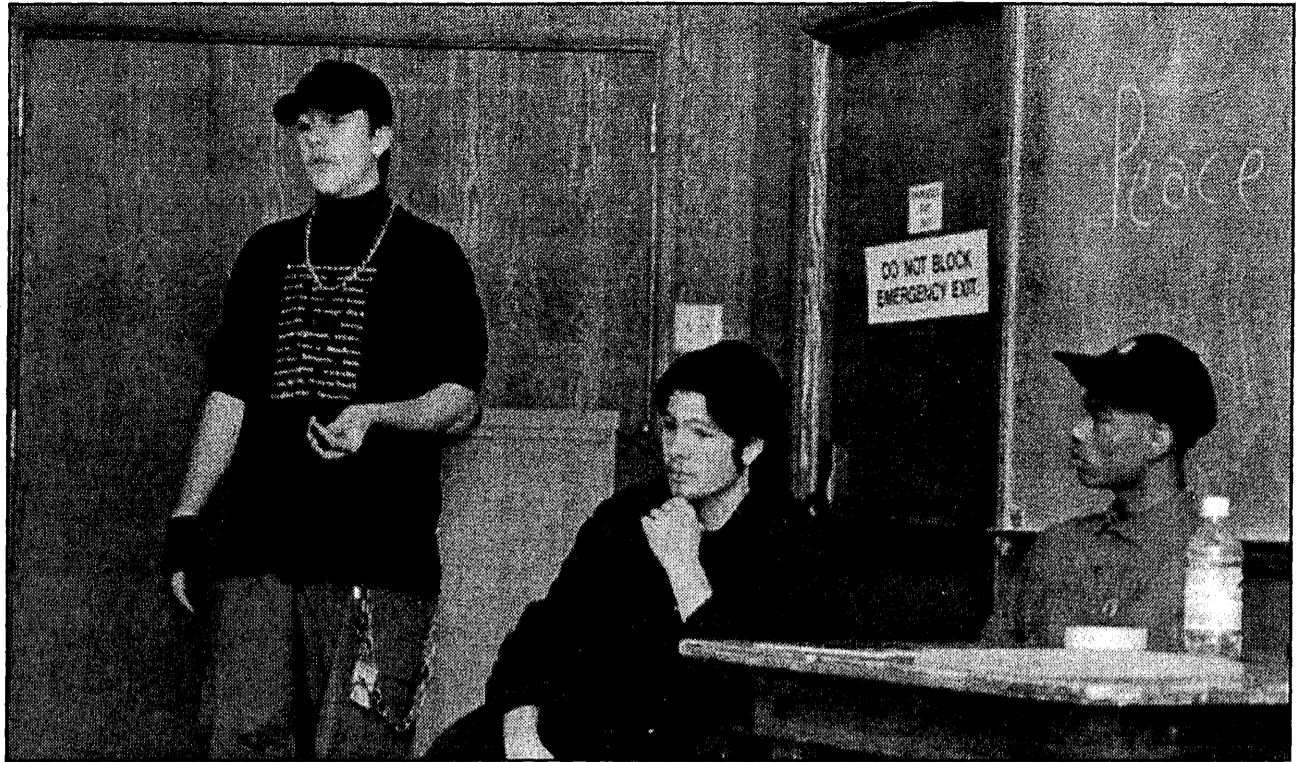
"I love my parents, and things are really better since I went to rehab," he said.

Saloman suggested students who want to help should educate themselves on how to help others.

Simons added some of the best ways to help are to "just listen" and, if people are uncomfortable giving the homeless spare change, then "pick them up and feed them." Also, she said "helping just to help" is a better idea than trying to assist the homeless for personal reasons.

The documentary reminds viewers the homeless youth "don't want to be forgotten" and "are part of this community."

The sound of Saloman's voice echoes across a black screen at the end of the film: "We need to increase the love in the world, unconditional love."



Front/Dennis Pasco

Gravity, a member of Peace for the Streets by Kids From the Streets, introduces the group Monday night.

Stories from the street: three youths share their lives

"This group has completely changed my life," Alexa Baehr said.

After she was booked into juvenile hall three times, and spent six to seven months on the street, Baehr became involved with Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets.

Baehr said the group has made many changes in her life. She has recently returned to school after two and a half years and is now considering being a doctor.

Baehr was kicked out by her mother for being "kind of a wild child."

Baehr said, while kids are on the street, "basically living is a whole challenge."

"The challenges are everyday life — living," she said. "A lot of kids out there are really depressed."

Women on the street can face different problems, Baehr said. When she was homeless at age 14 "all the guys watched out for me. They were really cool. They made sure nothing happened to me."

She adds, "A lot of times that doesn't happen. A lot of girls couch surf. They just stay at guys' houses — sleep with the guy just to stay there."

She is now living in a group home, which she says she does not like.

When she helped develop PSKS, Baehr said she "mellowed out a lot."

"When my mom's yelling at me, I don't yell back any more," she said.



Alexa Baehr

"The challenges I faced when I was on the street was finding friends, finding food and getting new clothes," said Gravity, who requested his street name be used.

When he heard where homeless kids were hanging out, such as Westlake Center in Seattle, Gravity found where he could find shelter and food.

A typical day on the street starts at 7:45 a.m., when homeless people are kicked out of the shelters and afterward are "harassed by cops and everybody else."

After becoming a member of Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets, Gravity became involved with his family again and moved in with his parents. After his parents separated, he lived with his father until he was kicked out. He now lives with his mother.

Gravity is the outreach person for PSKS.

Too many laws are made from a "top-down" perspective, Gravity said. He cites the "Becca Bill" and school truancy laws as examples of the legal consequences homeless youth have to face.

Gravity has attended Kent Meridian High School for the past eight months and proudly said he has maintained a 3.5 GPA and works at Planet Hollywood.

Gravity suggested mental and physical abuse can cause a young person to leave home.

"Homelessness is like a never-ending battle," Gravity said.



Gravity

"When you're on the streets, you can't sleep," said Harley, who asked to be identified only by his street name.

A typical week for Harley, who spent three and a half months on the street after being kicked out of home, would include eating every other day and finding a safe spot to get some sleep every three or four days.

"Safety is always the most difficult thing (to find)," Harley said.

Harley said he was into gangs, drugs and violence while he was at home, but he was "cool" while he was homeless.

Harley said Peace for the Street by Kids from the Streets provides a positive example for kids still on the street.

"Everybody knows us," Harley said. "We show them we're not on the streets. They see us and say a month ago you were dirty, you were hungry — just like me."

Now Harley is attending South Side Community College in a diesel marine engineering program and he said he will be able to get a job in the \$65,000 range after the two-year program.

"We can't get jobs on the street," Harley said, explaining kids have to be 16 years old and have nice clothes and an address in order to get employment, something no homeless kid has access to.

"The system sets us up to fail," he said.

However, he adds, "It's not that people don't care — they're ignorant about the problem."



Harley

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Wailing Georgia-Pacific siren 'keeps people on their toes'

By Katherine Schiffner
The Western Front

"Oh my God! What's happening?" Stephanie Bateman thought when she heard the noise for the first time.

"I was scared," Bateman said. "I thought it had something to do with a tidal wave or an earthquake."

The loud wailing, which can be heard across Bellingham every Friday at 11 a.m., is not to alert that death is imminent, just a Georgia-Pacific siren drill.

However loud the siren might be, the only purpose is to get the attention of G-P employees and not to alert the entire community. The siren warns workers who are outside to come into a building for an announcement over the company public address system, G-P Public Relations Director Orman Darby said.

"If we had any kind of chlorine leak or fire or injury, then you will hear the siren, it gets the employee's attention," Darby said.

When one of these events happens, such as a turned ankle, the siren goes off. The siren indicates the emergency response

team is on the way and employees should listen for any further information.

"We had a guy fall off a ladder last week," Darby said.

A lot of hazards are on the freeway and rail lines, Darby said. It is necessary to let workers know of potential problems as soon as possible.

Besides the Friday drill, other unannounced drills occur "to keep people on their toes," with emergency response teams practicing dealing with problems they may confront.

The siren was installed about six years ago, Darby said. G-P previously used the alarm as a public address system. Businesses were initially concerned, but now G-P only receives about one call per month. It was necessary to clarify to Bellingham residents the siren was used only for on-site purposes.

"Only one in 1,000 times will it be any interest to the community," Darby said.

In the event a serious problem arises at G-P, the Whatcom County Division of Emergency Management will be contacted to handle the effects off of the Georgia-Pacific site. G-P maintains constant contact

with this division.

Theories from Western students who heard the siren varied.

Senior Eric Sarte thought the siren would warn residents if a chlorine leak occurred.

"I'm glad that it works, because if it goes off I'm going to stay in my house, preferably on the third floor with some sort of gas mask," he said.

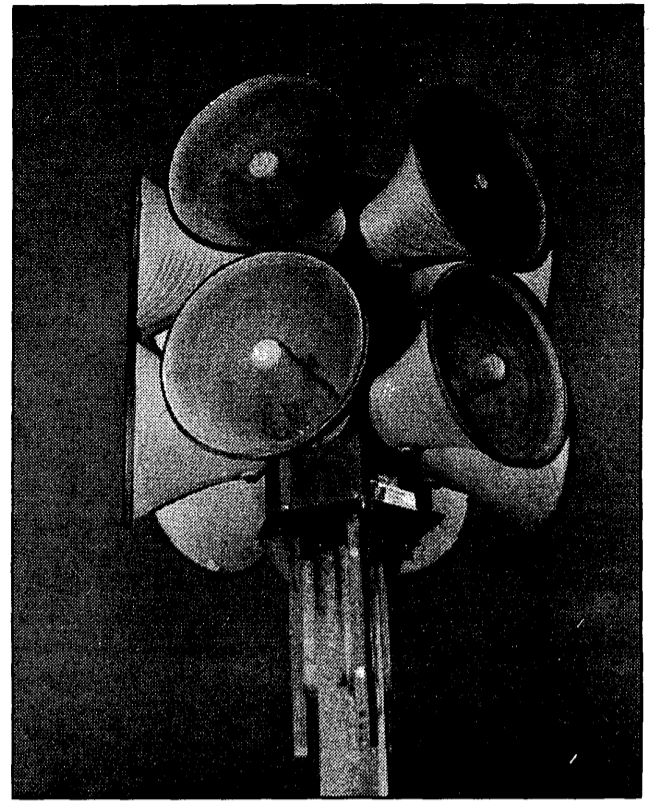
"Plus, in the event there actually is an air raid, it's nice to know somebody has a siren," Sarte said.

Senior Bryan Ovens agreed with the chlorine theory.

"I've lived in Bellingham my whole life, especially on the South side," Ovens said. "I've heard (the siren) periodically my entire life."

"I think it's terrifying," he said.

Darby conceded the siren is noisy. "It's unfortunate everyone on the waterfront needs to hear it," he said.



Front/Dennis Pasco
Georgia-Pacific's ear-piercing siren alerts its employees of possible disaster every Friday at 11 a.m.

Junior Alesha Muljat agreed. "I used to wake up to it every (Friday) morning at 11 when I lived on Forest Street. I think it's really annoying."

The volume of the siren needs to be loud, Darby said, to reach all G-P employees.

Before the Friday drill, an announcement is made telling workers the siren is only a test. Afterward, "This is only a drill" can be heard resonating throughout Bellingham.



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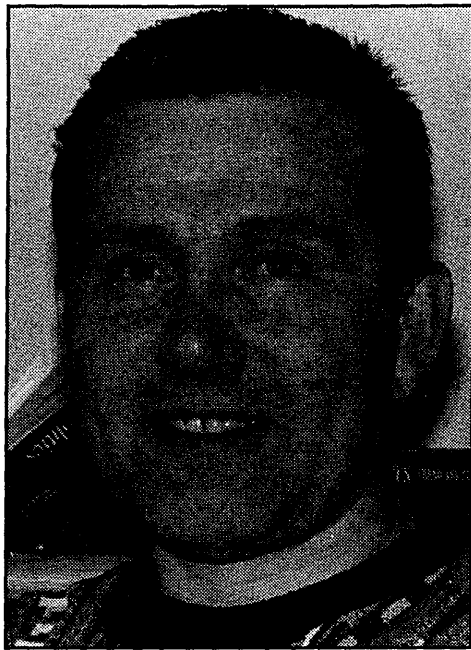
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File Photo

Alexander Balitsky

By Kristen Rockwell
The Western Front

He had not been to Moscow for three years or to St. Petersburg for 23. This summer, Alexander Balitsky of the history and political science departments traveled back to Russia and saw a lot of changes.

"The rich became richer, and the poor became poorer," Balitsky said.

In July, August and September of 1996, Balitsky, his wife and daughter visited their homeland. They spent the summer traveling between Moscow and St. Petersburg.

"In the last four, five years, people have at last realized there is no way back to the stores with cheap bread, cheap food," he said.

While in Russia, Balitsky visited with university students in his hometown of Khabarovsk. He observed students are just beginning to realize they are more than just students. They realize school is the first step in developing their own careers, he observed.

He also found the most popular subjects studied by these Russian students are business, law, foreign language and computer science.

From Red Square to Red Square ...

Russian professor visits home

Besides visiting with university students, Balitsky witnessed the second round of national elections between President Yeltsin and Zyuganov, a communist candidate.

Balitsky said while the people do not like Yeltsin, they dislike but also fear Zyuganov. Voters had to choose between two candidates they do not like.

Balitsky also went to the polling station to listen to the voters. He overheard them say, "If this is the choice, we have to choose Yeltsin."

An Internet article, "1996 Moscow Notes," written by Eric Fenster, observed the people's state of mind during this same election.

"Those voting Yeltsin were voting against a return to the previous Communist regime or against instability. Those voting Zyuganov were voting against Yeltsin and what the reforms had done to their personal life and to their concept of their country."

"This is the great change in their lives," Balitsky said.

The older generations remember the last 20 years when inflation did not exist and prices remained steady. But, Balitsky said, they forgot the long lines of people waiting for necessities and the "deficit of goods like a car."

With no real markets existing for buying cars, people often had to wait up to 10 years for a car that might not have been what they had originally ordered.

Another example of the forgotten past is the waiting list for apartments. A person could wait for years before getting an apartment, even having three generations of one family pass before receiving one. Now, apartments are available, but they are expensive. Balitsky called this availability an incentive; an incentive to work toward buying and owning an apartment. He said

working and waiting is not easy, but "they make a choice" to reach their goal of having their own home.

"Now they are struggling for their life, not waiting for someone to give it to them," he said.

He personally witnessed this struggle for life while in the former Soviet Union. "I haven't seen so many beggars in any other cities," he said.

Fenster also documented the sharp distinction among the citizens of Russia during a visit to Moscow in May and June of this year. During one outing, Fenster and a Russian friend came upon an old lady begging.

"Look," said my friend, "I can choose to give to her or not to give to her. That is my freedom. And she can choose to beg or not to beg. That is hers. It's their problem to take the initiative to act on their own behalf," Fenster wrote.

Balitsky attributes this distribution of wealth as a sign of change — a "sharp contrast between what it was five years ago," and now.

Those who are doing well, Balitsky said, spend thousands of dollars in casinos, and they pay as much as \$10 for a Big Mac.

Balitsky noted Moscow is now more European, more Westernized. The positive aspect of this change, Balitsky said, is it "shows we are not stagnating." On the negative side, the "Western subculture has come into Moscow."

This "subculture" is exemplified by the number of advertisements along the roadside selling products, such as Mercedes Benz automobiles.

"Majority of people are irritated with this. They don't need the signs," he said. "I wish Westernization and modernization will not ruin the feeling of Moscow as a Russian city." He wishes the same for St. Petersburg.

Balitsky experienced the Western world first-hand when he visited Western in 1990, for one month as a guest of the university. Western has played a "big role" in opening the eyes of Russians and Americans to the political and social changes that face his homeland. As a result, the Bellingham community has become more and more well-known in Russia.

Balitsky believes it is good to "build bridges across the Pacific Ocean." He returned to Bellingham as a research fellow in 1994.

"I decided to come back to the university and the people I had met," he said.

For the past three years, Balitsky has taught Russian history, politics, ethnic conflicts in the former Soviet Union and cross-cultural aspects.

One such class focuses on the lives and histories of Russians through both Russian and American films.

"I talk to students, and they open my eyes to American films. It's very interesting — a street with two-way movement," Balitsky said.

He feels students should get an inside perspective of a foreign country. Having been raised in the former Soviet Union, Balitsky offers experiences and knowledge more authentic than television or books.

He teaches with a creative "inside analysis" that only comes from life experiences.

"It's a combination of bookish knowledge and first-hand experience. I envy my students. I didn't have a slight chance to have a foreign professor," Balitsky said.

Balitsky is presently a visiting professor. He plans to stay as long as Western has an interest in his Russian courses.

"I will share my expertise as long as the university would like me to share it," he said.

"It's great to see these changes in your lifetime."

STUDENT BAGPIPER BELTS GAELIC TUNES IN CELTIC KILT

By Kristen Rockwell
The Western Front

His music conjures up images of Scotland with misty moors, rocky highlands and men in short skirts with thick Gaelic brogues, but his name conjures up images of someone who is Italian.

Mark Tomasetti, a history education major at Western, is a bagpiper. His bagpiping career began 11 years ago when he was a wee lad of 9. Desiring to follow his older brother, who was a bagpiper at the time, Tomasetti learned to play.

"Everyone wants to be like their older brother, so I wanted to play, too," Tomasetti said.

Tomasetti's mother is half

Scottish and from the clan McGregor. His sister started the family's interest in their ancestry by Highland dancing. The two siblings joined their mutual interests and performed together at her wedding.

"At the reception, she danced while I played," he said.

"A lot of people request the bagpipes for weddings now. Maybe 'Braveheart' contributed to that. I'm not sure," Tomasetti said.

Weddings are not the only functions at which Tomasetti performs. He is available for funerals and other engagements, and also plays in the Willamette Valley Pipe Band, which he helped create.

"I'm the pipe sergeant for that, like the second-in-charge or second-in-command," he said.

The band, consisting of 15 to 20 bagpipers and drummers, competes from California to British Columbia. The band has been together for seven years and performs in parades and festivals in addition to competitions.

Tomasetti also participates in individual contests.

Individuals compete in five different grades, starting at grade four, the lowest level, and moving up to grades three, two, one and professional. He is currently at grade one.

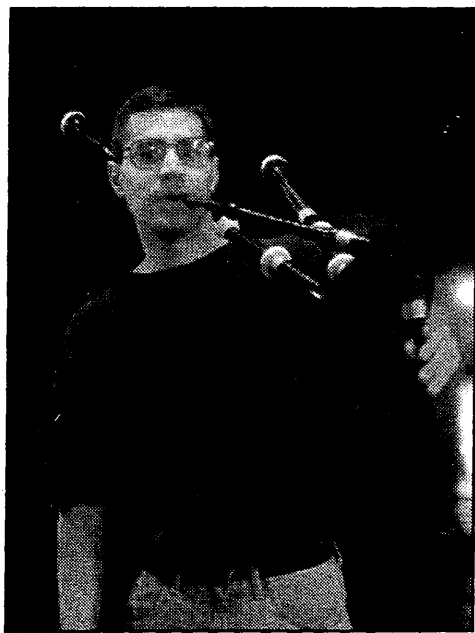
But success as a bagpiper doesn't come easily. The bagpipes take a lot of physical activity, and

one must continually play to keep the fingers limber. Tomasetti practices at least every other day for an hour to "keep going."

"Your fingers can always get faster, cleaner. You can make up your own music. There's always room for improvement," Tomasetti said.

Without continuous practice, lips lose their strength, and they must be built up again to withstand the pressure.

"It's hard to blow, but eventually your lips get stronger and your lung capacity gets bigger,"



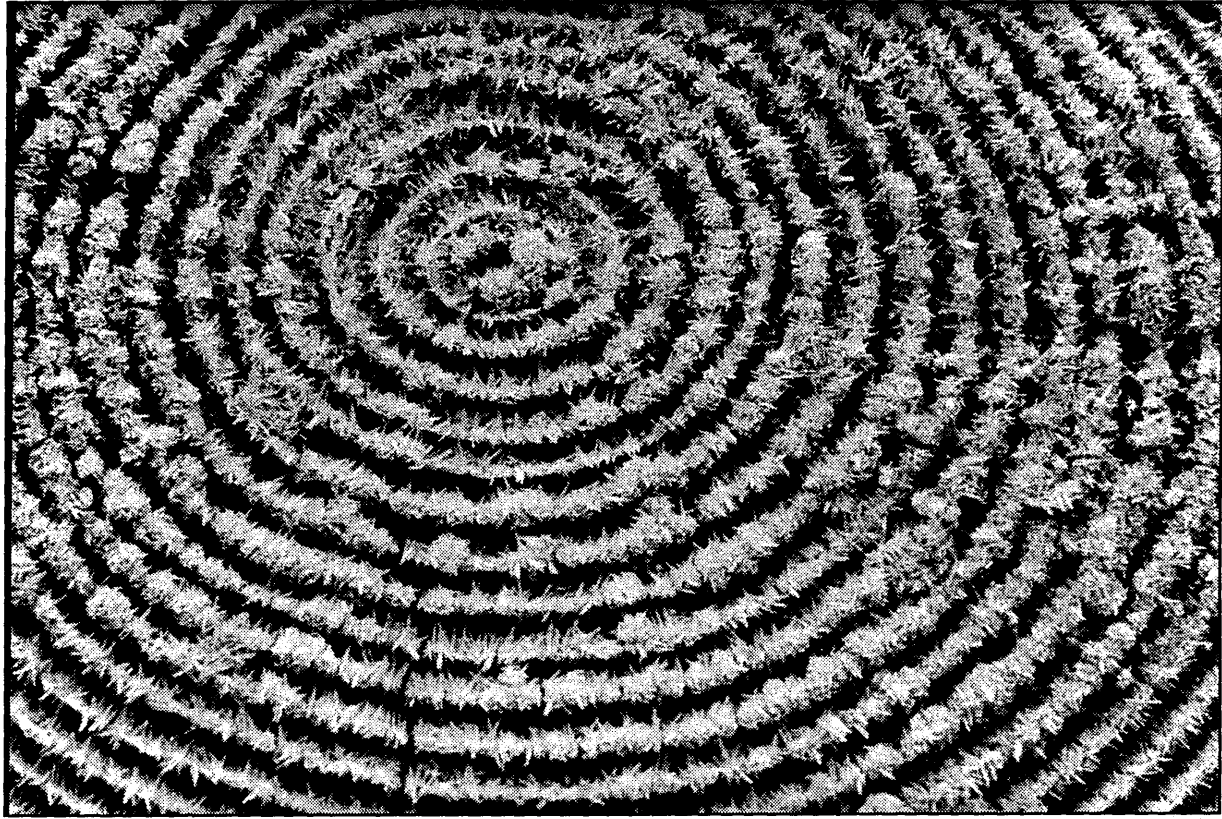
Front/Gunther Frank
Mark Tomasetti makes some beautiful music on his Highland Bagpipes.

Tomasetti explained.

And as the lung capacity gets bigger, so does the sound. The practice rooms in the Performing Arts Center work well for Tomasetti, until someone decides they've had enough of the bag-

WESTERN LIFE PHOTOS

1
First Place:
 Gunther Frank, junior, undeclared, magnifies the winter morning frost on a wooden bridge post in Acme.



2
Second Place:
 Joseph Peila, senior, graphic design, catches a crowd-surfing moment during Westfest



3
Third Place:
 Sarah Coffler, freshman, marine biologist, captures a summer sunset along the Carmel, Calif., coast.



THE FINAL DECISION:
 Judging took place Monday, Nov. 25, by former National Geographic photographer Ann Yow, Western Front Editor Jesse A. Hamilton, Managing Editor Darrin Wellentin, Photo Editor Dennis Pasco and Features Editors Bobbie Jo Egan and Jerry Weatherhogg. The identities of all photographers were concealed during judging. First-place winner Gunther Frank received a gift certificate to the Colophon Cafe in Fairhaven.

pipes.
 "I've been kicked out of the practice rooms for being so loud," he said.
 The bagpipe is a difficult instrument to pick up. A novice player doesn't start out on the bagpipes. Instead, he or she begins with the smaller, simpler practice chanter.
 The beginner is on the practice chanter for six months to a year, then he or she graduates to the bagpipes.
 "It's very time consuming, and it can get expensive buying bagpipes and all that," Tomasetti said.
 Bagpipes can cost anywhere from \$500 - \$2,000. Tomasetti listed the different selections,

including the Highland Bagpipes, which he plays, the Irish Pipes, the Scottish Small Pipes and the Uielen Pipes.
 The difference between the Highland Bagpipes and the Irish Pipes is that the Highland has three drones whereas the Irish Pipes has two.
 Drones are the pipes that go over the shoulder and provide the continuous drone sound.
 All bagpipes include reeds made from plastic or cane which affect the loudness, and they all include the bag.
 The bag is made out of elk hide or sheep skin. Tomasetti owned a bagpipe with a bag made out of

Gortex, but he doesn't recommend it because certain parts of his bag were not reinforced, and the shape was awkward.
 Historically, the bagpipe is one of the oldest instruments in existence. According to an Internet article on Scottish culture, the country of origin is unknown. But what is known is that it was one

A lot of people request the bagpipes for weddings now. Maybe 'Braveheart' contributed to that. I'm not sure.
 - Mark Tomasetti
 Bagpipe Player

of Nero's favorite instruments. And because they enjoyed outside activities, the Scots enjoyed the loud sound of the bagpipe.
 The Scots also wore skirts called tartans or kilts. Tomasetti has one.
 "I wear it when I compete or in the band or for an engagement like weddings, funerals or engagements or whatever," he said.
 Rumors abound about what is worn underneath. He said that some of the real traditional people don't wear anything, but it "depends on the person and the climate."
 Sometimes, though, just playing the bagpipes and wearing kilts

is not enough. Tomasetti began teaching pipes six years ago. Teaching students to play got him interested in education.
 "It's great to see a student come in not knowing anything about bagpipes and music and going off shortly and winning prizes. When they're in competition, I'm probably more nervous than they are," Tomasetti said.
 Back in his hometown of Vancouver, Wash., Tomasetti advertises his bagpipe classes for \$10 an hour. He will be advertising in this area sometime soon.
 Teaching and competing for money prizes may seem lucrative, but most bagpipers have a second job.
 "Most of us do it not for the

Football sacks Lutes' season

By Matt Finlinson
The Western Front

After three hours and 15 minutes of grueling, heart-stopping action, Western faced a simple situation.

Either the Vikings stop Pacific Lutheran University's two-point conversion attempt, or go home and prepare for next season.

Cornerback Michael Johnson and linebacker Jeremy Hader chose the first option, drilling PLU quarterback Dak Jordan one yard shy of the end zone to clinch Western's 21-20 overtime win Saturday on the icy gridiron of Civic Field.

The goal-line stand sent Western players, coaches and fans pouring onto the field in exultation. The finish was the most emotional moment of the 1996 season.

"For me, being a senior, that play on the goal line could have ended my career," Johnson said. "So I had to step up and make the play."

"I've never climbed Mount Everest, but I imagine that is what reaching the top feels like," nose tackle Mark Bone said.

It was not the first time the Vikings snatched victory from the Lutes Saturday.

The Lutes seemed poised to end Western's playoff run with two seconds to play in regulation, but PLU kicker Chris Maciejewski shanked the potential game-winning 24-yard field goal.

"We shot ourselves in the foot too many times," said PLU running back Peter Finsteun. "We tried hard, and I was happy with our effort ... but I thought we were going to win."

The Vikings struggled all day to overcome turnovers and a stingy PLU defense. Quarterback Darren Erath was intercepted four times and drives repeatedly stalled in the shadow of the end zone. The Vikings shook off these setbacks and a 14-3 half-time deficit to eventually tie the score at 14 heading into overtime.

The Vikings wasted no time scoring the go-ahead touchdown as Erath dove in from two yards out to put the Vikings in front 21-14.

"We decided to go for the sneak, and fortunately it worked out for us," Erath said.

Because of the new Kansas tiebreaker format, the Lutes got the ball at the 25-yard line for their crack at the end zone.

The Vikings seemed destined for victory until the Lutes silenced the crowd with a 12-yard touchdown on fourth-and-goal to star receiver Karl Lerum that pulled the Lutes to 21-20. Because PLU's kicking game was in shambles, they decided to go for the two-point conversion, and the win. PLU Head Coach Frosty Westering's decision set the stage for the goal-line showdown, and the celebratory on-field mayhem that followed.

"We could have tossed the game at any point," Head Coach Rob Smith said. "The 48 players in blue jerseys really showed what they're made of."

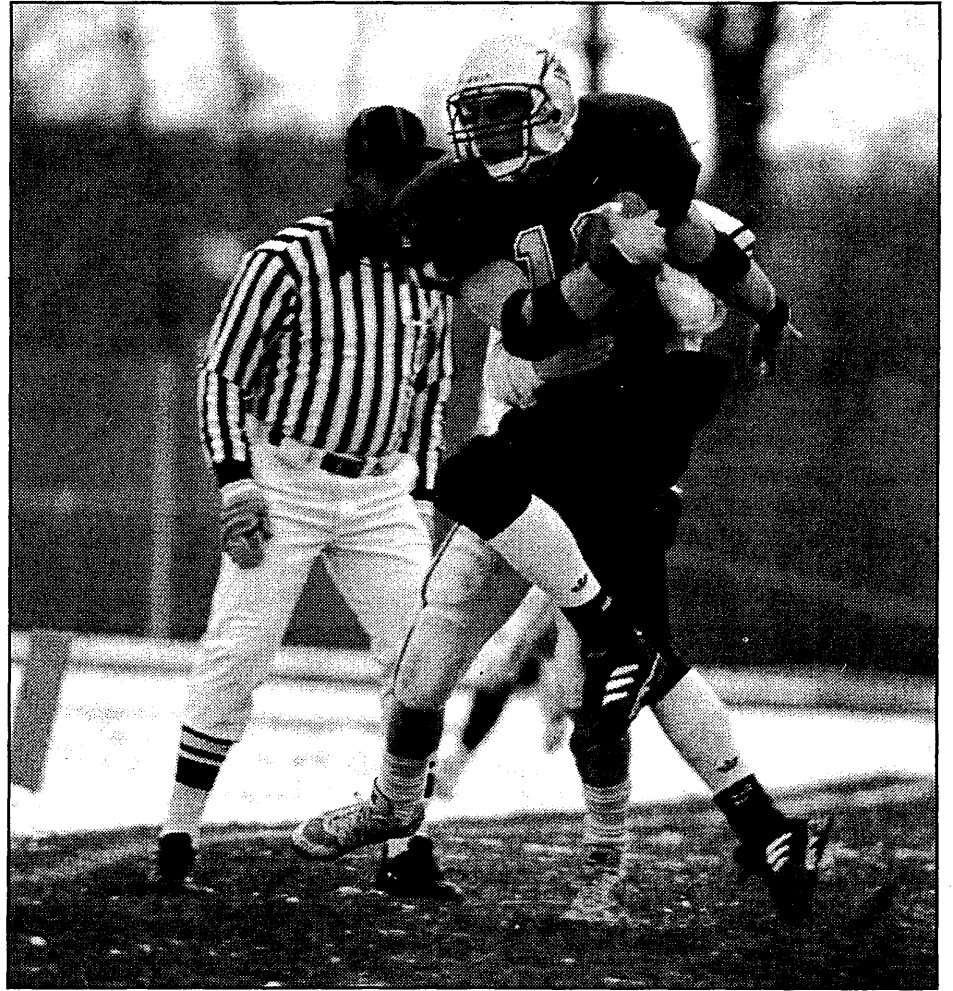
Even without the final stand, the Western defense dominated play in the bitter cold. Linebackers Tim Hanson and Mark Spencer terrorized PLU's ball carriers. Spencer ended the day with nine tackles, a sack and a fumble recovery. Hanson, who received Defensive Player of the Game honors, recorded an astounding 14 tackles and an interception.

Cornerback Paul Delaney also sparkled, making 10 unassisted tackles.

"They're a great defensive team. They're big, they're physical and I was impressed with their defense," Finsteun said.

"In a hard fought game like this, the defense had to step up," Johnson said. "To play the way we did under those conditions was great. This game would have made John Madden proud."

Western's offense received huge contributions from unsung players. Running



Front/Tom Degan

Junior tight end Erik Morin comes down with Western's first touchdown, a 12-yard reception with 20 seconds left in the third quarter.

back Scott Noteboom rumbled through the snow for 82 yards on 24 carries. Wide receiver Mario Casello contributed 61 yards on 5 receptions. Chris Nicholl, double-teamed all afternoon, managed to snare four Erath darts for 63 yards.

Tight end Erik Morin hauled in a team-high six balls for 57 yards.

Morin's 12-yard touchdown with 20 seconds remaining in the third quarter started the Vikings rally.

Smith could barely contain his excitement.

"For this team to still be playing in December with all the injuries is a real accomplishment," Smith said. "It's a tribute to the determination of this football team. Those people who missed this game missed something special."

The victory puts the Vikings in the quarterfinals. Western will face Willamette University Dec. 7 at Civic Field.

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Volleyball year ends NCAA bowls over playoffs

By Norah M. West
The Western Front

The Vikings' glimmer of hope for a wild-card berth to the national tournament was dashed at the NAIA Pacific Northwest Regional Women's Volleyball Tournament Saturday. The NAIA national tournament is Dec. 4-7 in San Diego.

"The wild card is usually used for one of the top 10 teams that doesn't get an automatic berth," Head Coach Michael DiMarco said.

Unfortunately for Western, the national tournament selections are not solely based on win-loss records or national ranking.

Despite the Vikings regular-season victory over No. 4 Lewis and Clark State College and 24-6 record, No. 12 Hawaii-Pacific University (16-11) was tapped for a wild-card berth.

In a regular-season tournament, Hawaii-Pacific was forced to a fifth and deciding game over unranked Central Washington University for a victory, DiMarco said.

The No. 19 Vikings were 3-0 against Central this season, never losing a game to the Wildcats.

Western finished fourth in the regional tournament after a weekend of sweeping victories and disappointing losses, bringing their record to 24-6 overall. But, also, leaving them just shy of a berth in nationals.

The Vikings came out strong in round one of the tourney, defeating host Willamette University in straight sets, 15-2, 15-10, 15-7. The Bearcats of Salem, Ore.,

ranked No. 25 in the NAIA, had not been swept prior to Friday's encounter with Western.

Senior outside hitter Jana Freeman led the attack with 17 kills, 16 digs and four service aces. Freeman was later named to the all-tournament team.

Senior Chrissy Sursely also showed power, adding 12 kills and 12 digs, while outside hitter Adele Rom got scrappy with 14 digs and seven kills. Junior Adrienne Sloboden set the Vikings up with 34 assists and added 10 digs of her own.

"It was a great win, just for the fact of beating the host team and a great way to start the tournament," said DiMarco. "We have won our biggest matches this season when we started off strong, and that's what we did."

The Vikings advanced to the semifinals for a meeting with No. 1 seed and No. 4-ranked LC State Friday evening.

Later, the tables turned and Western became the sweepies rather than the sweepers, losing the match 11-15, 5-15, 16-18.

Although LC State, winner of three of four meetings with Western this season, dominated much of the play, the Vikings remained competitive. They battled back in the first and third games and tied it up in both, showing their unwillingness to give up. Freeman led the pack again with 23 kills and 26 digs. Sursely contributed 11 kills and 25 digs, and sophomore middle blocker Tanya Price had nine blocks.

Western picked up again Saturday afternoon in the conso-

lation semifinal, where the women faced Frontier League champ Carroll College Mont. Brooms in hand, the Vikings swept Carroll 15-4, 15-10, 15-8. The victory advanced them to the final round to face Northwest Nazarene College Idaho and a chance at third place, which would ensure a national playoff berth; the team's first since 1990 and only the second in history.

Northwest Nazarene, 30-8 and ranked No. 9 in the final NAIA poll, had other plans. Western put up a tough fight, but ended up falling to the Crusaders in five games, 9-15, 15-7, 15-9, 11-15, 7-15.

Sursely had 24 kills and a school-record tying 33 digs. Setter Sloboden was busy with 72 assists.

"It was a really hard-fought match," DiMarco said.

"Northwest Nazarene is a great team, and they definitely played us better than the first time we met this season."

Western defeated Northwest Nazarene earlier in the year at the Western Oregon State College Invitational Tournament.

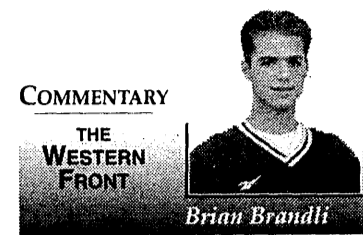
Also slighted by the NCAA pollsters was St. Mary's University of Texas.

No. 8 St. Mary's (32-2) was rated No. 2 until the final week of the national poll, DiMarco said.

With six seniors on the roster, the Vikings will lose half of its team to graduation in 1997.

"The team understood and took their share of responsibility," DiMarco said.

"This was kind of our year to establish ourselves."



COMMENTARY

THE WESTERN FRONT

Brian Brandt

NCAA football is one of the most popular modern-day forms of entertainment for our culture. With millions of consumer dollars flowing into these programs, it is no wonder why many people are concerned with the current bowl game selection process and how a national champion is crowned.

The money-generating bowl games, such as the Rose, Orange, Sugar, Fiesta, and Cotton Bowls, to name a few, have agreements with certain leagues. For instance, the Pac-10 champ and the Big-10 winner play in the Rose Bowl regardless of the record in comparison to other teams around the country. It is unfair because, consider a scenario whereby a team from a different division posts a better record than the division champ. The division champ is guaranteed a spot in the sought-after bowl game, and the team that has a better record is pushed into a low-budget bowl game.

By the same token, two undefeated teams can win separate bowl games, which creates a very ambiguous decision for the Associated Press to make as to who should have the higher rank-

ing. For example, in 1991 the University of Washington and the University of Miami both went undefeated and were crowned co-champions. No justice is served to the fans with co-champions.

Some discussion of constructing a new system has recently been conjured up. Bowl games would still be played, but the selection of teams to those games would be changed.

It's simple, teams would play one another based on the final regular season Associated Press ranking.

This system seems to be more logical because teams would play one another based on their performances and not on what leagues they came from. Another system, which would include a playoff for the top-ranked teams, is also being considered.

A new system would not only enforce equality concerning actual competition, but it would also cut some of the unnecessary business-style contracts leagues have with the bowl-game sponsors. Schools make millions of dollars from just one bowl game. The performance of the team would take the place of the fast-talking university public-relations agent who tries to get the university into leagues that have good bowl contracts.

Hopefully, we will see some sort of change in the near future. The issues have been raised, and the unfairness of the current system is clear-cut.

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High school hazing

COMMENTARY

THE WESTERN FRONT



Nathalie Oravetz

After football practice on Oct. 23, an 18-year-old Ferndale High School junior was allegedly thrown in the locker room shower and slipped. As he lay there, a teammate urinated on his back and face.

In the Oct. 31 issue of The Bellingham Herald, the parent of the player who urinated on the face of his fellow teammate faulted the school district for failing to monitor the locker rooms.

The article went on to say the district is looking at monitoring locker rooms and teaching kids more about appropriate behavior.

The mother's eagerness to displace her son's blame and force it on the shoulders of school officials is a prime example of the most degrading attitude in our society. The attitude of "it's somebody else's fault" hinders our progress as Generation X.

We are called apathetic and irresponsible. The reasoning

behind those accusations is that too many people are unwilling to own up to their actions. Perhaps the most important lesson for a young person to learn is to hold him or herself accountable for their responsibilities. It must be very difficult to do this when your own mother claims it is someone else's fault that you urinated on your teammate.

It is ludicrous for the school district to invest any time or energy to monitoring locker rooms. The players are old enough to vote, fight for their nation, defend their teams' honor on the field and graduate as contributing adults to society. They are most certainly old enough to monitor their own and each other's behavior in the locker room.

Which brings me to another point. Where was everyone else? This is not to put the blame on anyone other than those who committed the atrocious act, but one wonders what went through the minds of those who observed the incident in silence. These football players can defend themselves and their team on the field, why do the rules change in the locker room? Dante said, "the depths of hell are reserved for

those who in times of crisis chose to remain neutral."

Of course, that attitude would seem a bit harsh to someone who believed that her son urinating on the face of his teammate was "not mean-spirited at all." The mother added that "it's typical 'Animal House' antics in the locker room. It's ongoing. I think you'll find it's going on in locker rooms across the country."

Perhaps some parents should be educated about appropriate behavior as well as the students who took part in this incident.

To say that urinating on the face of any human being, much less a team member, is not mean-spirited makes me question the sanity of such a claim. In fact, it would be extremely rare to find such behavior going on in locker rooms across the country because it is sick, and normal people who function well in society just don't do sick things like that.

If someone urinated on the face of a rival player, the act would be called malicious, and the player would be banned from degrading his school further.

Is it different that he did it to his own teammate? Yes, it makes it even worse.

Women's b-ball dunks on No. 1

By Jonathan Vann
Western Front

Western women's basketball team sparked in its season opener as it destroyed NAIA Division II No. 1-ranked Western Oregon State College, 72-49, Saturday in Salem, Ore.

Junior guard Kristy Eggen came alive in the second half as she lead the Vikings with 16 points. Freshman center Celeste Hill powered in the post for 15 points while junior center Kari Gruendell grabbed a game-high 12 rebounds.

"She (Hill) did a great job coming off the bench and finding her shot," said Head Coach Carmen Dolfo.

The No. 5-ranked Vikings started the game with a quick 12-3 run on the Wolves, but saw the lead shrink to only four points, 29-25 at halftime.

The Vikings aggressively went into the second half on an explosive 13-4 run in the first three minutes to silence the Wolves.

"Our defense came out and put some pressure on them," said

senior forward Shannon Grandbois. "They made some turnovers, and they didn't handle our pressure."

In this stretch, Eggen caught fire from the outside, nailing three 3-pointers.

"She scored some key buckets for us and energized our team," Grandbois said.

Western put the game out of reach later in the period, going on a 15-2 run to lead by 25 points, 62-37, with 5:03 remaining.

Western outscored the Wolves 43-24 in the second half.

In historical terms, Grandbois became only the 14th player in school history to reach the 1,000 point milestone with a jumper in the second half.

The Vikings hope to continue their 12-game home-opener and 19-game home-court winning streak as they battle University of Puget Sound at 7 p.m. on Wednesday in Carver Gym.

"UPS has always been a strong team, and we need to come out to play strong defense," Dolfo said.

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Thanksgiving: a festive, family, food time

COMMENTARY

THE WESTERN FRONT



Nicky Loi

For a holiday based on the Christian doctrine of giving thanks to the Lord by praying and fasting, Thanksgiving has been overdosed with commercialism; football games, the three-day Thanksgiving sales at the malls and the surge in demand for antacids. It has become one of the great devices in American adver-

tising, changing a religious event into a great sales gimmick (also, look under "Christmas").

I'm not particularly upset about this matter, mind you. The days off from school are great. The shopping craze keeps the socially impaired off the streets by packing them into the malls; the amusement remains from seeing a 50-foot Spiderman hovering through town and we all have a legitimate excuse to practice gluttony in front of our loved ones.

What is upsetting is the slaughtering of turkeys. If the Creator had made them a little more of a handsome creature, rather than an awkward-looking fowl, I'm cer-

tain the turkey population wouldn't be messed around with as much.

The American culture tends to avoid the consumption of cuter-looking animals — thus explaining why Fido is waiting at the foot of the table for scraps, instead of being a scrap on the table.

A perfect panel for Gary Larson's "Far Side" cartoon series would be a picture of turkeys sitting about a table, proportionally gigantic to the little human on their dinner platter, with a caption below reading: "Turkeys who escaped the wrath of the Thanksgiving dinner cele-

brate their fortunate lives by feasting on Farmer Ernie's little cousin."

It would be even greater if we could recognize the holiday as a time to appreciate the company and presence of our family and friends.

In this age of the deconstructed family, we often forget how much our family needs one another, and how we forgivingly forget their love and concern.

For many families, the Thanksgiving dinner may be the first dinner in a long time that everyone is in attendance for. It may be the first dinner in a long time that everyone actually sits —

together — at the dinner table. Heck, you may even see someone in the family you didn't know existed.

True, we shouldn't specialize a day of the year just for taking the time to have an actual conversation with your mom or dad that doesn't have to do with how you've been eating or why you're not hitched yet, or giving them a big hug and catching up with what they've been doing. It should happen all the time.

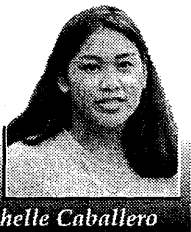
But these days, a day can mean so much.

Truck on home, have dinner with your family and have a happy Thanksgiving.

Pregnant women beware: FDA might legalize harmful drug

COMMENTARY

THE WESTERN FRONT



Michelle Caballero

Pregnant mothers should be aware of thalidomide, a drug proposed to the Federal Drug Administration to cure morning sickness. The drawback? Birth defect risks.

Imagine, after graduating from college, landing a great job with a successful career, deciding to get married and having children within a couple of years. This sounds logical, right?

Bearing children is a painful trying to endure. Once women become pregnant, they tend to have morning sickness that includes stomach pains, vomiting and frequent urination. Usually no painkiller can stop these problems.

In Germany, 1959, a pregnant woman took 10 thalidomide pills as a form of tranquilizer for morning sickness. She gave birth to a baby girl who had a deformed leg. At the age of 3, the child had her leg amputated because of thalidomide's effect. Today, the child is a middle-aged woman with health problems because of the drug.

Although the drug was never sold in the United States, thalidomide was banned world-wide in 1962 because of the deadly side-effects.

I can't believe pregnant women would take such a drug just so they could temporarily heal the pains of morning sickness. Don't these women know that they could be affecting the child's birth? It is only common sense that women who take in drugs (thalidomide and others), alcohol and tobacco are in greater risk of diminishing a healthy baby's life or having it suffer for the rest of its life.

Pregnant women have had morning sickness through the years. I don't see why they should try something controversial and risk the chance of having a child with birth defects. Thalidomide shouldn't be legalized at all.

What good will it do to take the drug? After taking the drug, women will then lose sleep over the possibilities of forsaking the baby.

It's extremely risky, worthless and dumb.

Other news regarding thalidomide is to administer it to AIDS patients. A PWA Health Group spokesperson claims the drug can heal AIDS patients' ulcer sores. Now, is thalidomide good or bad because it doesn't pertain to women with morning sickness?

Thalidomide should not be recommended for pregnant women because the results were obvious of serious birth deformation. However, if the drug seems to then why hasn't it been tested,

studied and publicized further in the media?

People have the right to know if thalidomide is going to help AIDS patients survive and if it's an accurate cure for AIDS.

If thalidomide is nothing but a hoax, it will just create more problems for American society.

We shouldn't risk using thalidomide on pregnant women and AIDS patients because we don't know how well it works.

Health experts are skeptical as to whether or not to issue the drug to certain people, who allows doctors to use people as guinea pigs in this experiment?

Nobody wants to be the fool for taking a possible chance on the thalidomide effects.

I hope people will realize the significance this potent and harmful drug.

The FDA shouldn't allow a disaster to begin in the United States.

We must stop spreading racism

COMMENTARY

THE WESTERN FRONT



Michele Ramirez

Believe or not, racism is still among us. Just when people thought the presence of assuring minorities equal opportunities such as Affirmative Action weren't needed, a recent racial incident has America rethinking its role to end discrimination.

The spark of the Texaco tapes, with three senior executives heard uttering racial slurs and discussing a discrimination lawsuit filed by African-American employees, reinforces America's need to wake up and smell the isms.

Discrimination is not limited to ethnic minorities. It crosses a person's path as obviously as a comment or shout. Discrimination

may transform itself so well, someone may not even realize it's there. As Americans, it's our job to start opening our eyes to what is going on in front of us.

Whether a victim of a racism or not, the necessity of individual action is a must. Implementing no-tolerance policies to discrimination is a start. That is what Texaco has done. But if not for threats of boycotting and forming protests, would the agreement of reparation payments to 1,400 current and former employees and 10 percent pay raises to black employees still have happened?

It is a question that plagues the mind. If outspoken black leaders such as Rev. Jesse Jackson had not kept the pressure on the company, this incident would have been hushed to the corners where other "unimportant" discrimination issues exist.

Even though this suit had the push of influential leaders, Americans shouldn't ignore the power in their own voices.

At a recent retreat I attended, talks of how to stop racism were raised. I've gone to many workshops on stopping racial attitudes and ending discrimination. But this one made the light bulb in my head shine brighter.

Rather than talking about actions the whole group can take on, the facilitator asked each person what he or she was going to do individually.

What she asked the participants, is something we should ask ourselves every day.

If we want a better life for future generations, we need to initiate action. If we want to stop discriminatory epithets labeled on people, we need to do something.

If we want action, we must react. If we are to be heard, we must shout. If we want this knowledge spread, we must educate.

If we want answers, each individual must first ask, what am I going to do today to start the end of racism?

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Frontline

Help Wanted: the JWE

The Junior Writing Exam is not a measure of who is and is not capable of passing a writing intensive course. Or even who is capable of graduation from this university.

Every minute before walking into Fraser Hall to take the test is filled with stress and anxiety. Journalism and biology majors alike feel the growing tension that saturates the atmosphere.

Am I going to pass? Am I going to have to explain to my professor that, because I procrastinated until the very last moment, I am in danger of being denied entrance into the last course in my major?

The post-test emotions are just as bad. Now, because I waited, I must endure two weeks of the unknown. Waiting to find out if registration will be hell or a breath of clean, winter air.

It is the test itself that causes these, and many other, emotions to roil through our systems. The JWE is in dire need of a massive overhaul.

The essay portion is not a measure of a person's ability to write coherently. It is a measure of whether or not they are capable of taking the first sentence from each paragraph and rewording it to the apparent satisfaction of selected Western faculty.

The fault does not lie with those who determine what passes and what is, apparently, too long a summary of an irrelevant topic.

The faults are contained entirely within the exam.

The objective section has more errors in it than a poem by e. e. cummings. And none of those oh-so-obvious mistakes are even choices. The multiple-choice format is insufficient. Examinees should have to determine the mistakes without having misleading ones presented.

Does passing this test somehow turn a student into Hemingway?

I can tell you right now, I had a roommate that couldn't have passed the JWE if he'd had Hemingway sitting next to him. He was an engineering major that did, in fact, graduate from this university. It's an unfair evaluation process that allows a person who says, and I quote, "I seen this truck" to receive a diploma.

By the same token, why isn't a basic math test required for release from Western?

If 60 percent of students fail a portion of any given test, the problem is not with the students. The problem is with the test.

And by the time you are a junior, if you haven't already been put on academic probation, you probably have sufficient English skills to make it in the "real world."

-Christine Troyke, Sports editor

The Western Front

Editor: Jesse A. Hamilton; **Managing editor:** Darrin Wellentin; **News editors:** Lisa L. Diaz and Amity Smith; **Features editors:** Bobbie Jo Egan and Jerry T. Weatherhogg; **Accent editors:** Erica Christensen and Jessica Kate Luce; **Sports editors:** D. Eric Jones and Christine Troyke; **Opinions editor:** Allison K. Gregg; **Copy editor:** Rachel Ann Morrow; **Photo editors:** Tom Degan and Dennis Pasco; **Online editor:** Craig Scott; **Cartoonist:** Jason Kelly; **Adviser:** Pete Steffens; **Business manager:** Teari Brown. **Custodian:** Roger Sprague; **Song of the Issue:** "9 to 5," by Dolly Parton. **Candy of the Issue:** Peanut butter-filled chocolate snowmen. **Drink of the Issue:** Slurpee.

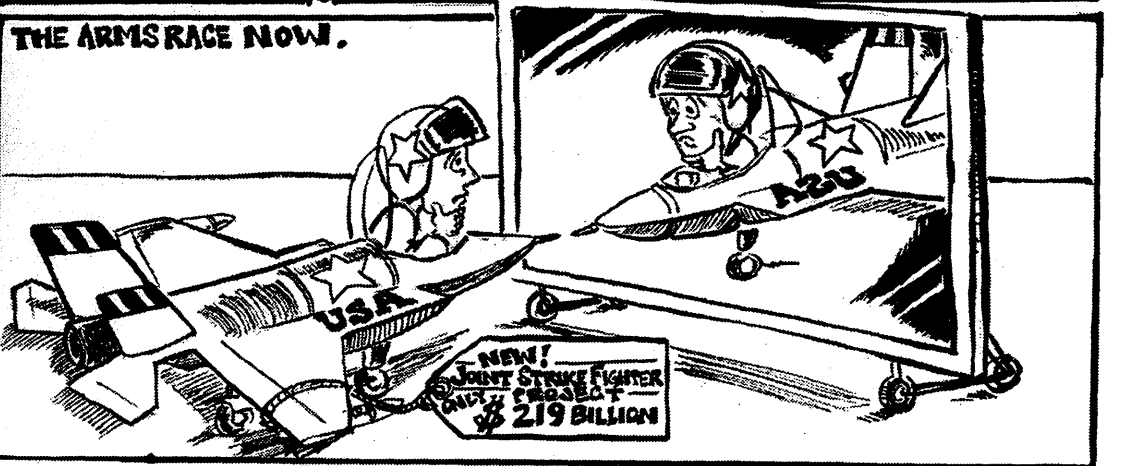
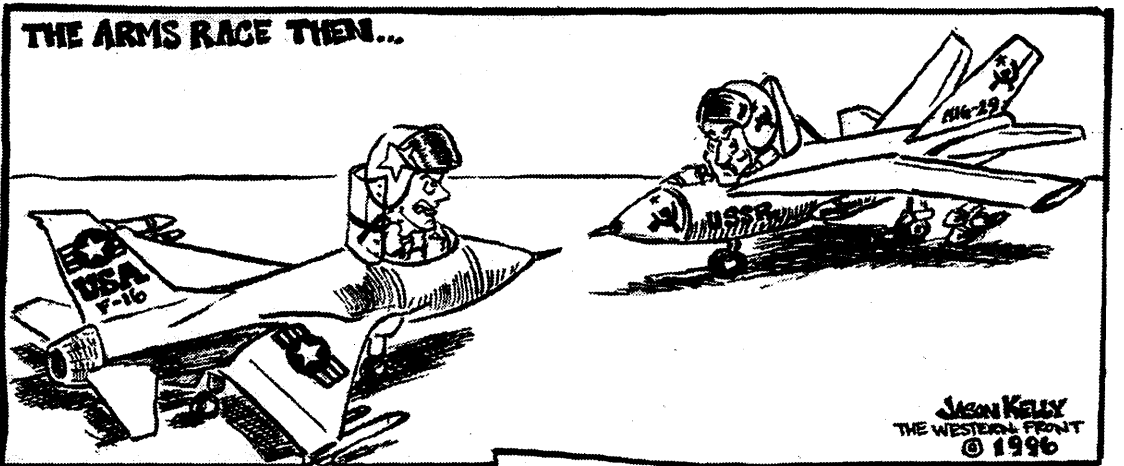
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Signed communications and cartoons reflect the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Front.

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



LETTERS

Look at the bigger picture

Dear Editor,

Even though the attack on those you mock, "Eco-Freakos — stop fighting and grow up" (Nov. 15) follows no sensible reasoning and only makes one arbitrary point, "to grow up, fast," I am still moved enough to respond to the ideas because if that editorial was written seriously, and for those who may agree with it, such sheer ignorance must not be allowed to grow any longer.

I am wondering if I should use this space to correct your "facts," or to give you some therapy so that perhaps you will realize that without the four sacred things — earth, water, fire and air, you would have no life. I am tested by such awareness as yours to feel compassion. But this is not about me. And I am not writing this to condemn you for your condemning of what you apparently do not understand: the complex, interconnected ecosystem of all living things. I am writing with faith that it will clarify your misconceptions about the many people in America, and all over the earth, — environmentalists, pagans, Greens, label us if you must — who recognize that the earth is a part of Creation just like our-

selves. Without her health we cannot possibly have health either. Regardless of your belief about how and why earth was created, whether humans are more important than rocks and trees, and if earth is a living being, the fact still remains unchanged: without earth, nothing can live! So yes, nature must be treated as sacred and holy if for no other reason than to sustain ourselves.

Christianity, capitalism, patriarchy and consumerism have done a thorough job of convincing humans that they are above everything else on earth and that everything is here for our use, that we are the reason earth exists. This philosophy was and is essential for the growth and success of Christianity, consumerism, etc. Otherwise, people would have continued to live as they had for thousands of years, honoring, praising and respecting themselves, the land, the Great Creator and all creatures. When people lived and believed in this way, there was a balance between humans and nature. There was no need for foundation for anyone to gain more power or resources than anyone else.

The state of the world today —

if only we would look beyond the facade of American living into the source of our opportunity to live so conveniently and comfortably — is painful proof that the ideas and religion that have reigned for the past 5,000 years are exploiting, torturing and killing much of this amazing creation, including humans.

Creating change is absolutely necessary if we want to continue living on this planet. Have you ever read The Americus Journal, The Utne Reader or Earth Island Journal, to name a few? Have you ever questioned where the food you eat comes from, how it was grown, or how those people who grew your food were treated so that you can have banana for 49 cents/pound whenever you want?

Step back and see if you can envision the whole picture, then listen to what your heart says to you with this new awareness.

I know where you are coming from. I was a narrow-minded Christian for 21 years before I realized that without those you call "eco-freakos," my grandchildren would most likely not have the chance to live with the blessings we have today.

Mary-Belton Scurry
Senior

Letters Policy

The Western Front accepts articles and opinions up to 350 words on any topic. We reserve the right to edit for style, grammar, punctuation, spelling and libel. Letters must be typed and signed with a phone number for verification purposes.

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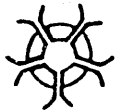
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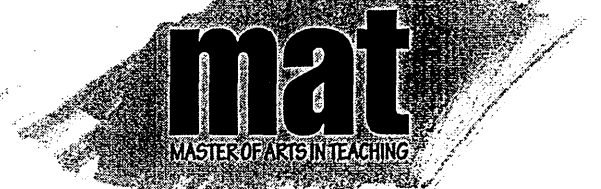
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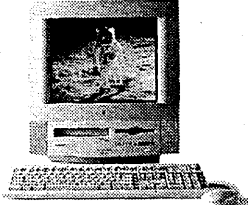
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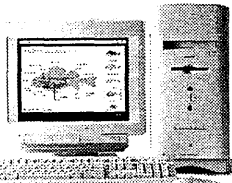
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