

FRIDAY
JANUARY 31, 1997

Long, long ago
in a galaxy
far, far away
Pages 6-7

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the New Athlete

THE

WESTERN FRONT

Western Washington University

Volume 99 Issue 6

Bellingham, Washington

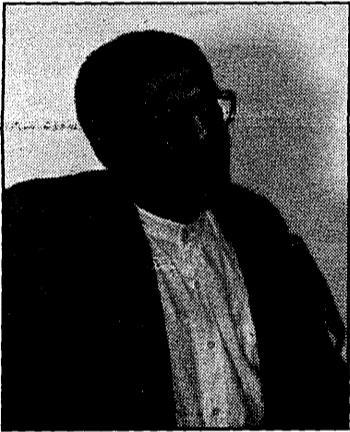
Militia targets Western professor

By Carey Ross
The Western Front

The Washington State Militia's intentions to threaten two members of the Bellingham community surfaced on Jan. 22 at their ongoing Seattle trial.

According to the Bellingham Herald, a secret tape recording of a meeting last March between militia members Marlin Mack and Fred Fisher outlined plans to harass and scare Western political science professor Vernon Johnson and Bellingham Herald reporter Cathy Logg. Bill Wassmuth, Seattle executive director of the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment, was also threatened.

Members of the militia planned to go to each of their homes dressed as federal agents hoping to intimidate them.



Vernon Johnson

Johnson, co-chairman of the Whatcom County Human Rights Task Force, had publicly expressed concerns about the militia, in particular about a recruitment meeting held in Mount Vernon about a year ago.

Although Johnson was not surprised by the group's threats, he found their plans disturbing.

"I am frightened when I think about it, but I try not to think

about it," Johnson said. "I've been pretty successful with that."

He said that his role as an outspoken activist with the task force makes him a target for these kinds of threats.

"It comes with the territory," Johnson said. "There's nothing you can do about it short of going public and saying, 'Look, I'm scared shitless, I quit.' That is what they want me to do. Then if I quit, I wouldn't have to worry, but I don't want to do that."

Johnson said if militia members were intent on hurting him, he would not be able to stop them.

"If they want to hit me, they can do it," he said. "I can't run around being paranoid 24 hours a day about that possibility."

Although Johnson knows that being an activist can put him in a dangerous position, he said the odds are against his being

hurt or killed.

"They don't tend to hurt activists," he said. "In fact, they tend to roll over and maybe move on to different kinds of issues. Besides, their target is less the activists, and more the government."

Eight people are being tried in the case on charges ranging from conspiracy to obstruction of justice.

Looks like protest weather



Front/ Tim Klein

Élan Dickerson and Samantha Tretheway demonstrate with a poster in Red Square Thursday.

Front under fire for ad

By Erica Christensen
The Western Front

A handful of students gathered in Red Square Thursday to protest an advertising insert in Tuesday's issue of The Western Front.

The insert, titled Beyond the Wall, sold "ads as art," including posters of J. Crew, BMW Motorcycles, UNIONBAY and Calvin Klein ads.

The group said the ads were offensive toward both men and women and that The Front did not travel the proper channels in

reviewing the ads.

Samantha Tretheway, 23, was one of the women who organized the protest. She compared the incident to one in 1994 when The Front pulled an ad for Club Borneo in Surrey, British Columbia after complaints from the Ethnic Student Center.

The ad showed a primitive man named Borneo Bob in a grass skirt with a bone through his nose and a spear in his hand.

"We have two issues going on. The first and most important issue that we can address here on our college campus is the follow-

ing through of guidelines. These guidelines that I'm speaking of were tightened up after the Borneo incident and, unfortunately, The Western Front didn't follow their own guidelines in working with this advertisement," Tretheway said. "The second issue is ... the objectification of this advertisement and the body awareness that needs to be done on this campus."

Journalism Department Chair, Floyd McKay, said this is not a Borneo Bob situation.

See Protest, page 4

Western plans for cuts, hopes for best

By Craig Scott
The Western Front

Western faxed a proposal to Olympia on Tuesday to trim its operating budget for the 1997-1999 biennium by more than \$2 million.

On Jan. 21, Washington's Office of Financial Management (OFM) gave most state agencies and programs one week to submit proposals to reduce their budgets by 5 percent, in an attempt to decrease the General Fund for the state (GF-S) by approximately \$400 million.

Western proposed to lop

\$2,056,000 off its current budget of more than \$60 million, said Al Froderberg, Western's vice-president for External Affairs.

"We've got kind of a generic plan (turned in)," Froderberg said.

Froderberg was unable to give many specifics on how Western plans to decrease its budget; cuts cannot be planned until Gov. Gary Locke sets his GF-S. Locke hopes to submit his budget proposal to the state legislature by Saturday, Froderberg said.

"There's every reason to believe there will be no cuts at all," Froderberg said. He said

Locke's priorities, which include higher education, will likely receive money cut from other agencies.

Froderberg said the OFM wants to work with Locke to create a "war chest" of extra funds to deliver to education and juvenile justice systems. Without such a pool, only \$59.2 million would be available for such programs, according to a fax from the Council of the Presidents' Office in Olympia.

Froderberg said Western proposes to eliminate 16 non-instructional positions. These positions won't be chosen until Locke's

budget is announced, likely in early May.

Western's proposal also includes lessening its operating support budget by \$350,000 for each fiscal year in the 1997-1999 biennium. These cuts won't affect student instruction but will cut supplies and equipment.

Froderberg said Western plans to cut funding in non-instructional areas like the library, computer centers, police department and grounds maintenance.

Financial aid wouldn't be affected, he said.

Froderberg said further cuts could come from position freez-

ing — replacing employees who retire or quit with persons already employed by Western, instead of hiring new persons.

"If there is a budget reduction, regardless of if in instructional or non-instructional (budgets), it will impact students," said Jack Cooley, Western's budget director.

Cooley said he was concerned about further reductions in Western's budget, which has decreased 10 percent in the last six years.

Locke hopes to free up some \$4

See Budget, page 3

COPS BOX

Campus Police

Jan. 26, 9 p.m.: A suspicious woman was reported in the area of Red Square by a woman who said that she was watching her at three separate locations around the square.

Jan. 27, 5:40 p.m.: A faculty member at the Ross Engineering Technology building reported that a fire had been started in a paper recycling barrel. The Bellingham Fire Department and University Police were called; the fire was extinguished by a building service worker. The plastic barrel was a total loss.

Bellingham Police

Jan. 28, 1:31 p.m.: A resident of 25th Street reported that the driver's window of his vehicle had been broken out. The loss is unknown.

Jan. 28, 7:35 p.m.: A middle school student in the 800 block of Halleck Street was given a trespass warning and told not to return to the location unless she was sober and could follow school policies.

Jan. 29, 11:05 a.m.: A man camping under the Kentucky Street and I-5 overpass was told to leave. The man understood that he will be cited if he continues to trespass.

Jan. 29, 1:32 p.m.: A business in the 2100 block of Roeder Avenue was reported vandalized. Unknown subjects cut a vinyl sign in front of the business.

Jan. 29, 7:28 p.m.: Police responded to a report in the 200 block of Carolina Street from residents who reported that a rock was thrown from a passing car through their front window. The occupants of the car sped away but continued to circle the block. A past problem with one of the subjects was cited as a possible cause.

Jan. 29, 9:18 p.m.: A resident in the 800 block of 21st Avenue reported that over the past two days she has received five to six hang-up calls. The officer referred her to U.S. West's security business number.

Jan. 29, 9:38 p.m.: Police responded to a suicide attempt in the 1200 block of Indian Street. The resident was taken to the hospital by paramedics after taking several sleeping pills.

Jan. 30, 12:24 a.m.: A citation was issued to a resident in the 1400 block of G Street for harboring a barking dog.

Jan. 30, 1:59 a.m.: An 18-year-old man was arrested for shoplifting at a business in the 2300 block of Cornwall Avenue. He was cited and released and issued a one-year trespass warning.

Jan. 30, 12:09 a.m.: Police responded to a loud party in the 700 block of North Garden Street. The party was ended, and the owner was warned to keep the noise level down. No arrests were made.

Cops Box compiled by Kim Vincent

WESTERN BRIEFS

Advising center has positions open

The Academic Advising Center is looking for Peer Advisers for Fall '97. As a Peer Adviser, students would answer questions about Western's academic policies, GURs, withdrawal procedures and the registration process.

In order to be eligible, one must be a full-time student, have a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA, possess strong communication skills and have a desire to help others. In addition you must be able to enroll in ED 340 spring quarter. Applications are available in Old Main 380 and due by 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14. For more information, call x3850.

Learn about indoor air quality

The Opportunity Council and the Environmental Health and Safety Office will host a presentation from noon to 1 p.m. Feb. 12 in the Wilson Library Presentation Room. Tore Slette, who is the Housing Services Energy Educator at the Opportunity Council will speak about residential indoor air quality, including moisture problems, combustion safety and dirty ductwork.

The presentation is being funded by an Environmental Justice grant received from the

Environmental Protection Agency in 1996. Slette also monitors the Council's 24-hour indoor air quality hot lines: (800) 553-6559 (English) and (800) 622-4627 (Spanish).

Professor speaks about the social sciences

University of Pittsburgh Professor Emeritus Mark Perlman will raise questions and expound upon his own skepticism toward the social sciences 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 4 in Parks Hall 441. Perlman has had a long and distinguished career in the field of economics, including founding the Journal of Economic Literature, a prestigious and influential academic journal on economics.

The event is being sponsored by Dennis R. Murphy, dean of the College of Business and Economics and Kaiser Professor of International Business James W. Dean. For more information, contact Kathryn Finn at x7299.

Blood center asks for donors

The Puget Sound Blood Center is asking for people to donate blood from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 11 through 13 in the Viking Union. For more information contact Catherine Vader at x2961.

Students

Returning After Time Away offer winter activities

Students Returning After Time Away, STRATA, a support service for students 23 years or older, has announced its winter activities:

Jan. 30: Internet workshop, MH 60, 10 a.m. to noon.

Feb. 8: Bowling Night, 20th Century Lanes, 7 p.m.

Feb. 20: Potluck, 6 p.m.

Feb. 23: Skagit River Bald Eagle Float Trip.

Feb. 26: Writing Center Workshop, VU 408, 4-5 p.m.

Humane society offshoot meets

Feb. 10

Students concerned with the problems facing domestic animals became a recognized club by the Associated Students. Dubbed "For a Bunch of Animals" (FABOA), the organization will address such issues as pet abandonment, rental situations and housing changes. If you are interested in joining FABOA, the next meeting will be at 6 p.m. Feb. 10 in ES 313, or contact Kania Smith at 758-7586.

Western Briefs compiled by Naomi Dillon

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

JWE BLOCK ALERT: Spring quarter registration will be blocked for students who have completed 120 credits and haven't passed the Junior Writing Exam. To find out what to do, contact the Writing Center, WL 342, X/3219.

ALL STUDENTS EXPECTING TO GRADUATE AT THE CLOSE OF SPRING QUARTER must have a degree application on file in the Registrar's Office, OM 230, by today (January 31).

STUDENTS WHO EXPECT TO GRADUATE AT THE CLOSE OF SUMMER QUARTER must have a degree application on file in the Registrar's Office, OM 230, by March 14.

STUDENTS MAY TAKE THE JUNIOR WRITING EXAM only once per quarter. Students with 95 or more credits will be notified of a mandatory test date. Students with fewer than 95 credits may choose from the following at 2 p.m. in FR 4: **First-time examinees:** Jan. 31, Feb. 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 13; **Retests only:** Jan. Feb. 5, 11, or 12. Photo ID and a No. 2 pencil are required.

REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED FOR THE MATH PLACEMENT TEST. A \$10 fee must be paid in the exact amount at time of testing. Photo ID and a No. 2 pencil are required. Allow 90 minutes. Testing will be in OM 120 at 9 a.m. on Feb. 3, 10, 13, 20, 24, 27, March 3, 6, 10, 13, 17 and 20.

KEEP YOUR W-2! A fee of \$5.40 is charged for each additional W-2 requested. Forms for W-2 copies are available at the University Cashier and from Payroll Services. Payment must be made at the Cashier. Duplicate W-2s will be available within three working days of receipt of payment.

INFORMATION ABOUT PROGRAMS IN ENGLAND, IRELAND, SCOTLAND, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND will be presented by Mickey Slind of the Institute for Study Abroad at Butler University from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 11, in front of the VU Lounge.

MILLER ANALOGIES TEST will be given at 3 p.m. Feb. 14 and March 3 in FR 4. To register, stop by OM 120 or call X/3080. A \$35 fee is payable at time of testing. Allow 1½ hours. MAT is not administered on an individual basis.

WILSON LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED on Saturday, Feb. 15, in observance of President's Day. Open hours for the holiday weekend will be 1-11 p.m. on Sunday and Monday.

THE TEST FOR ENTRANCE INTO TEACHER EDUCATION (TETEP) will be at 2 p.m. March 4 in FR 4. A \$20 fee must be paid in the exact amount at time of registration in OM 120. Testing takes approximately 2½ hours. TETEP is not administered on an individual basis. • **Application deadline for fall 1997 admission** to the education program is April 1.

ACADEMIC ADVISING CENTER IS HIRING PEER ADVISERS for fall, 1997, to spring, 1998. Qualifications include a minimum GPA of 2.5, full-time student status, experience working with people and strong communication skills. Students selected must register for Ed 340 spring quarter. Applications, available in OM 380, are due by 5 p.m. February 14.

THE WESTERN FRONT WILL NOT PUBLISH on February 18 due to the Presidents Day holiday. The last issue of winter quarter will be Tuesday, March 11.

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.

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AP news from around the globe

REGIONAL

Ballpark lawsuit dismissed

SEATTLE — A federal judge in Seattle dismissed a lawsuit that seeks to block construction of a new ballpark for the Mariners. Judge Carolyn Dimmick said Wednesday that federal courts have no jurisdiction in the case.

9-year-old shot

FEDERAL WAY, Wash. — A group of teens playing with a gun shot and wounded a 9-year-old boy. King County police spokeswoman Joanne Elledge said it happened Wednesday night at an undeveloped park. The boy was taken to Harborview Medical Center and is in stable condition.

County ditches country tunes

WENATCHEE — If you call Chelan County offices and get put on hold, you will no longer hear country music. Sheriff

Dan Breda complained it made them sound like a bunch of hicks. Now when you're on hold to Chelan County, you'll hear the sound of silence.

NATIONAL

Simpson jury requests evidence

SANTA MONICA, Calif. — The O.J. Simpson jury asked for a number of exhibit boards and photographs. Many of them relate to DNA tests on the blood of Nicole Simpson and Ronald Goldman, according to a jury note. Others involve tests on blood at the crime scene and in Simpson's Bronco.

The jury also asked for a photo enlargement of the glove collected behind Simpson's house.

Senate votes on budget amendment

CAPITOL HILL — The Senate Judiciary Committee approved a balanced-budget

amendment to the Constitution. The vote Thursday was 13-5 for the Republican-backed plan.

President Clinton warned that the amendment could force a future government to delay social security checks.

The committee rejected a series of Democrat proposals, one of which would have removed the social security trust fund from the budget-balancing requirement.

INTERNATIONAL

Four killed, 18 injured by time bomb in Columbia

BOGOTA, Columbia — A bomb that ripped apart the offices of a community association in Medellin, Columbia, Thursday killed at least four people and left 18 people injured.

Police say the time bomb went off just outside the association of neighborhood groups. Authorities say they have no information on a possible motive.

Leaders meet to end hostage crisis

LIMA, Peru — The leaders of Japan and Peru will meet Saturday to discuss ways to end the hostage situation in Lima.

The Canadian government said Japan's prime minister will meet with Peru's president in Toronto.

Japan is concerned about provocative moves toward leftist rebels by Peruvian police. The rebels seized the Japanese ambassador's residence in Lima Dec. 17 and are holding 72 people hostage.

Three Israeli soldiers killed

TYRE, Lebanon — Three Israeli soldiers have been killed by a remote-controlled bomb in Israel's self-declared security zone in South Lebanon. Security officials said two other soldiers were wounded.

Guerrillas of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah, or Party of God, claim responsibility for the pre-dawn attack Thursday on the Israeli patrol. The attack appears to be in retaliation for an Israeli air raid on Hezbollah strongholds Wednesday.

AP Wire compiled by Darrin Wellentin

Budget, from page 1

million in this reprioritization of funds to create a pool of money that can be used for his declared priorities basic and higher education and the juvenile justice system.

This reduction of funds is necessary because former Gov. Mike Lowry proposed a GF-S that went \$254 million above the spending limits allowed by Initiative 601.

Once Locke's proposal is submitted to the legislature, the House and the Senate will each consider and redraft it. Then a conference committee — three members of the House and three from the Senate — will form a compromise budget proposal. This new proposal will go back to Congress and finally arrive on Locke's desk for final approval.

Froderberg said the directive to cut budget proposals was disappointing but not unexpected.

"Maybe we were all hoping it wouldn't happen, but gee, you just do the arithmetic" he said, chuckling.

Even with the cuts, Froderberg said he is optimistic for Western's future.

"I think we have every right to believe he'll (Locke) do everything he can to help us," he said.

Froderberg said Western may come out better after the reductions with a few well-placed cuts and Locke's prioritization of education. Funds will be redirected but with education as a top priority, state universities may not need to reduce their budgets.

Cooley said his work is done for now; it will resume when the budget is passed, likely at the end of the legislative session in late April.

"We have not seen a specific budget except for the Lowry budget," he said. "There's a lot to be discussed in Olympia before we can do anything."

Speaker urges support for Zapatista rebels in Mexico

By Jana Alexander
The Western Front

The North American Free Trade Agreement's policies in Chiapas, Mexico have caused extreme poverty and have led one indigenous group to violence, said Richard Ortega, Zapatista sympathizer and visiting economics professor from Mexico City.

Ortega spoke on Jan. 29 in the Wilson Library presentation room.

"One of the main aspects of neo-liberalism is the concentration of wealth in a few hands," Ortega said, "[Neo-liberals] use the argument that a free market can benefit everyone."

Ortega worked for the Federal Reserve. He said the free market concept cannot work.

Zapatistas flatly refuse to commodify their lives. The corn now grown for export is central to their culture and tradition. Corn is more than a commodity to Latin Americans. "It is life itself," Ortega said.

Prices set by the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs policy, industrial contamination and competition prevent farmers from making even a subsistence living.

"Seven multi-national [corporations] control the market of corn. To them, corn is just one more commodity," Ortega said.

Each color of corn has "specific cultural uses and strong cultural meaning."

No anti-trust laws exist in Mexico. Unchecked industrialization, coupled with new technology eats up resources for export and leaves nothing for its people, Ortega said.

NAFTA started at a time when the "people had no love for their country; the government had no love for their country." Its signing "showed the weakness of the Mexican government," he said.

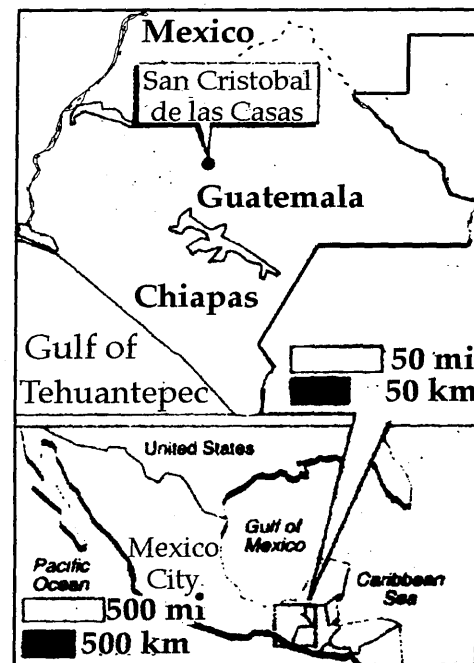
Now the top 1 percent is prospering, and many are starving, Ortega said. The average laborer makes \$2.70 per day.

Before NAFTA, workers made enough in a day to buy 36 pieces of bread, now they make enough to buy 17.

Industrial reformers supported by neo-liberals in Mexico "validate free trade with mathematics," Ortega said. But it's just not adding up: 15,000 people die of hunger every year, he said. That's 34 people every day.

Industrial policy is enforced by violence. In 1993, in indigenous zones, 3,387 violations — including rapes, beatings and homicides — were committed, 2,160 in Chiapas. Afterward military controls increased.

"Sixty-three percent of total violations in Mexico are committed in Chiapas," Ortega said.



Courtesy of The New York Times

The Mexican government has purchased weapons from all over the world. A wide-scale military plan to wipe out Zapatista rebels or "surgical attack" is planned, and people will gather at local consulates to protest it, he said.

A candle-light vigil at the Mexican Consulate meets a 5 p.m. Jan. 31 at 2132 3rd Ave., Seattle. For information on the economic factors within Chiapas check out the site on-line: MRR200@Economiaol.Economia.UNAM.MX, Autonomoeous University of Mexico City.

Ortega speaks some English and was aided by interpreter Susanna Saravia-Ugarte of the Nueva Amanecer Press. Both were invited by the Peace Resource Center.

Check out The
Western Front home
page at:
www.wvu.edu/~wfront

The Part 1 Glimpse Cassini into the Probe Green World

This is the first in a five-part series of environmental stories.

By Derek Reiber
The Western Front

On Oct. 6, 1997, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) plans to launch the Cassini deep-space probe on a 10-year mission to Saturn. The largest quantity of nuclear material ever put into outer space, 72.3 pounds of Plutonium-238, will generate power for its on-board scientific instruments.

Although it will provide an unprecedented close-up view of Saturn, opponents of the \$4 billion project warn that the risks involved make the mission a dangerous gamble.

"We feel this mission could be accomplished just as well with safer technology," said Jeff Shaw, member of the Global Network Against Nuclear Power and Nuclear Weapons in Space. "But it's a one-hand-washes-the-other situation. NASA needs cheap power, and the nuclear industry needs a reason to exist."

An explosion after liftoff could spew plutonium across the planet, according to critics. The Titan IV rocket, which will boost Cassini into space, had malfunctions, including a 1993 mishap that destroyed a \$1 billion spy satellite.

But NASA said it is "comfortable" with the odds against a disaster during the mis-

sion, calculating million-to-one-odds against an accident.

"We believe it is a safe mission," NASA spokesman Doug Isbell said. Opponents dispute this figure, noting that before the Challenger disaster, NASA estimated a 1-in-100,000 chance of a space shuttle failure. After the accident, the estimate was revised to 1-in-76.

Even if Cassini makes it into space, it will not have enough propulsion for a direct route to Saturn. Instead, it will use a "slingshot" maneuver, a gravity-assisted fly-by of Earth. The probe will head toward Earth at 42,300 mph, passing 312 miles above the surface during the Aug. 16, 1999 "slingshot."

NASA said that in the case of an "inadvertent reentry," approximately 5 to 8 billion people could receive radiation exposure. NASA alleges the level of exposure would be so low that any resulting deaths would likely be "statistically indistinguishable from normally-occurring cancer fatalities."

But many urge that the impact of the radioactivity could be much greater. "One pound uniformly distributed hypothetically could induce lung cancer in every person on Earth," wrote Dr. Helen Caldicott, founder of Physicians for Social Responsibility, in the summer 1996 issue of Covert Action Quarterly.

Cassini uses the plutonium for its radioisotope thermal generators (RTGs). Different from nuclear reactors, which use

chain reactions for energy, RTGs use heat from plutonium's natural decay and convert it into electricity. Cassini will use three RTGs, coupled with 18 individually-encased fuel pellets for a maximum output of 745 watts of electricity.

RTG design aims to keep the fuel pellets intact and shielded in case of an accident. The plutonium is in a heat-resistant ceramic form that would break into chunks too big to inhale if impacted, according to NASA. Each pellet module is clad in a layer of iridium and shielded by graphite blocks.

"These devices are safe," Irbell said. "They have been tested to contain their plutonium."

Western Physics and Astronomy professor Richard Vawter agrees. "The canisters housing the plutonium are designed to withstand impact ... Overall, it looks pretty safe to me," he said.

Alternatives to RTG, such as fuel cells, batteries and solar panels, exist for producing electricity in space. But NASA mission planners say such alternatives do not meet the probe's power, weight or fuel requirements.

However, light and efficient high-performance silicon solar cells were developed in 1994 by the European Space Agency (ESA). "If given the funding, within the next five years the ESA could have solar cells ready" for the Saturn mission, said ESA physicist Carla Signorini in CAQ.

"The plutonium will be used to power instruments that use the energy equivalent of about 12 light bulbs," Shaw said. "And they're trying to tell us we can't store enough energy to power 12 light bulbs."

NASA counters by citing a recent Jet Propulsion Laboratory study that concluded present solar cell technology inadequate for Cassini. The study found that too many cells would be needed, weighing down the probe and limiting navigation. It questioned the reliability of the cells at vast distances from the sun.

If Cassini does fall to Earth, it won't be the first time radioactive materials in space crashed to the surface. There have been eight mishaps in the last two decades, dating back to 1964. The most recent accident occurred Nov. 16, 1996, when the Russian MARS96 probe crashed into the planet. Four small pellets of radioactive plutonium, totaling .44 pounds, could be resting among pieces of the broken spacecraft in the desert between Chile and Bolivia.

Regardless of past debacles and potential future failures, NASA continues to forge ahead with Cassini. But the skeptics remain unconvinced and unwavering.

Shaw said those who care should do so immediately. "The thing that scares us is that Cassini is on such a short time frame," he said. "Because it is scheduled to go in October, there isn't a lot of opportunity to stop it. We'd just like to encourage people to get involved."

Protest, from page 1

"We dealt with it at the time, and we have a policy in place and, hopefully, we'll catch things like that. This did not rise to that level," McKay said. "There is nothing in (Beyond the Wall) that is not seen in the advertisements of the daily newspapers circulated in this area."

Student publications Business Manager Teari Brown said she does not think the Beyond the Wall supplement stepped beyond the Front guidelines.

"If you take a look at the ads ... there is nothing here that is obscene. There is no obscene nudity, no erotica. It certainly isn't illegal or illicit ... this certainly falls within the guidelines of this publication," Brown said.

Élan Dickerson, 21, was one of the protesters who felt men and

women were being objectified in the ads and said people need to have more body awareness.

"The week coming up is body pride week, which is the most important thing ... if we understood what our bodies were about and what we were then maybe advertisements such as this wouldn't have as much of an effect on our thinking of what we should look like as women or what we should look like as men," Dickerson said.

Western Front Editor-in-Chief Amity Smith said that while she is sympathetic to the protesters' cause, The Front is in the mainstream media.

"In the context of the mainstream media, I do not think this is inappropriate for The Front," Smith said.

Smith said the ad department has policies in place to determine what is questionable and if anything is, they are supposed to bring it to her attention.

"I don't look at every ad because ... I do not want our coverage to be influenced by our advertisements ... we are not going to let advertisers dictate our coverage or our news content," Smith said. "That's part of the reason our department has the separation there. We're concerned about our integrity."

Dickerson said she wants The

Front to recall copies of Beyond the Wall so the insert can be looked at by the ad department to see if it is appropriate for the pub-

“ ... if we understood what our bodies were about and what we were, then maybe advertisements such as this wouldn't have as much of an effect ...

— Élan Dickerson
Activist

lication. "If it was actually integrious to what they had stated previously ... then maybe it would be

allowed to have them be put through," Dickerson said. "But, if it was not to send all of those that were retracted to the company of Beyond the Wall and say our democracy ... at Western Washington University and the people of The Western Front do not agree with your advertising and objectification and so we're sending it back."

Brown said she has not found out yet whether the ad went through the proper channels before landing inside the Front.

"What we try to do is to take a look at all ad copy and this will be something I will be addressing to find out whether this happened or didn't happen," Brown said. "But I can't really make a statement as to that because I really don't know."

The Academic Advising Center is hiring peer advisers for Fall '97 to Spring '98.

Peer advisers are well-trained undergraduates who assist students with questions about GUR, course scheduling, & academic policies. Qualifications include min. cum. GPA of 2.5, full-time status, experience working with people, & strong communication skills. Must register for Ed 340 (4cr) next qtr. if selected.

Applications available in OM 380. Due by 5 pm 2/14.

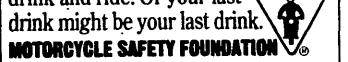
fryday's



SUNDAY BRUNCH
\$6.95
All You Can Eat
10 am to 2 pm • 734-1522

WHEN YOU RIDE DRUNK, ONE MORE FOR THE ROAD CAN HAVE AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT MEANING.

Alcohol quickly affects your judgment, balance, and coordination. Don't drink and ride. Or your last drink might be your last drink.



Local record label loses in fire

By Erica Christensen
The Western Front

Estrus Record's Bellingham warehouse burned to the ground Jan. 16 after a fire spread from a neighboring unit at Bellingham Storage, 1998 Midway Lane, just northeast of Bellingham off of the Hannigan and Bakerview Road area.

Dave and Bekki Crider, the owners of Estrus, have been busy this week getting their company in order and were not available for comment. Dave Crider plays lead guitar and sings in his own band, the Mono Men, and is the founder of the 3B Tavern's well-known Garage Shock, which will celebrate 10 years of Estrus this year.

The building was a total loss and "all color vinyl and other items sold through the Estrus Quarterly were destroyed in the fire, so mail order will be temporarily closed," Estrus said in an official statement.

They said in a press release they hope to be up and running within six months.

Although the Criders suffered a great

loss, the majority of their regular inventory is safe and sound in a wholesale distributor's warehouse in California.

Whatcom County Deputy Fire Marshal Warner Webb said the fire started in unit 110, close to units 114, 116 and 118, which the Criders rented. He said there are a lot of ways the fire could have started.

"It could have been an electrical overload; it could have been a pinched cord; it could have been like a power surge that created some kind of arcing and sparking, which threw sparks and caught some combustibles on fire," Webb said.

Webb said the insurance company for Bellingham Storage took all the electrical equipment to get a more in-depth examination of what may have failed.

"They had a freezer; they had a refrigerator. I can't tell you, to be honest with you, why people plug things in," Webb said. "Some people had space heaters plugged in."

All together there were 20 storage units destroyed, Webb said.

"If you figure there's probably two or

three people that may be interested per unit, then you're looking at 40 to 50 people that are affected, if not more," Webb said.

A few renters were able to recover some items stored in the units, such as a tractor, but the Criders suffered a total loss.

"As far as I know ... they had everything from amplifiers to records to CDs, just anything you would associate with a recording-type studio," Webb said. "There was a drum set in there, there were guitars in there — the standard stuff that goes along with that."

Estrus said their business offices and computer data files were unaffected by the fire, but they will be closed until they can "sort things out."



Courtesy of Estrus

For customers with pending orders, Estrus said they will either issue a refund, a credit voucher or return the order unopened. Crust Club and Estrus Quarterly mailings will be delayed.

"We would like to express our appreciation to you, our friends and music fans who've helped and supported the label over the past 10 years, and we look forward to hearing from you in the future. Thanks for your patience and understanding," Estrus said in the statement.

Symphony performs music to jump-start Valentine's spirit

By Amy King
The Western Front

If you're looking for a perfect way to romance your Valentine, "The Age of Consent, a Valentine for Music Lovers" performed by the Whatcom Symphony Orchestra will do the trick.

"Everything's related to romance," said the 18-year Conductor, Nicholas Bussard, who is also a faculty member of Western's music department.

The Valentine's concert will be performed at 3 p.m. Sunday at the Mt. Baker Theatre. It will feature romantic selections hand-picked by the orchestra's season ticket holders.

"It's an audience-inspired program," Bussard said.

The concert features selections from the Romantic Era including "Bartered Bride Overture" by Smetana, Khatchaturian's Suite, "Masquerade" and "Romeo and Juliet Overture-Fantasy" by Tchaikovsky. The orchestra will also perform Delius' "A Walk to the Paradise Garden," a selection chosen by Bussard.

As an added bonus, special guest soprano Anna Linden will sing Wagner's "Wesendonck Songs."

Linden is a nationally recog-

nized soloist who starred in the Bayreuth Festival and the New York City Opera.

"We're really excited to have her," Bussard said.

"Wesendonck Songs" is based on poetry written by Mathilde Wesendonck that Wagner set to music.

"They're some of the sultriest German love songs written ... They're absolutely luscious," Bussard said.

The Whatcom Symphony Orchestra has served music lovers of the community for more than 21 years.

"The symphony is Whatcom County's finest," said Sally Bishop, publicist for the orchestra. "(This performance) is a test to the dedication of its members."

The concert will be performed by 80-85 orchestra members who practice three hours a week in preparation for this performance.

"(The selections) are not easy ones," violinist Jane Lund said. "They're very demanding."

Tickets are \$13 and \$9 for students and \$14 and \$11 for adults. For tickets call 734-6080, or stop by 104 N. Commercial St. Tickets will be sold at the door if remaining seats are available.

Swingin', diggin' the 'Revue'



Royal Crown Revue

Courtesy of Warner Bros. Records/Reprise Records

By Sarah J. Olson
The Western Front

Appearing on stage in dapper zoot suits and polished wingtips, the Royal Crown Revue will have students swinging and tapping their toes at 8 p.m.-Friday in the Viking Union Main Lounge.

"This is the biggest event for the swing club so far," Erin Pagel, Swing Kids club president said.

"I wanted a band that I would enjoy watching," said Jason Dennie, the Underground Coffeehouse concert series coordinator. "They have more stage appeal and that complements the music nicely."

"The thing that amps us up is the energy of the crowd, and the more energy the crowd puts out, the more energy we have," said Scott Steen, trumpet player for the Revue.

Starting in 1989, the Los Angeles-based band worked

local clubs and later expanded across the nation and in Europe. In the movie "The Mask," the Revue performed one of its original songs, "Hey Pachuco!" and attracted more gigs.

The band has come a long way since its club-playing days and film debut.

The Revue was signed by Warner Brothers in the spring of 1995 and worked diligently on its debut album, "Mugzy's Move." The album contains the originals "Zip Gun Bop," "Datin' With No Dough" and a new version of "Hey Pachuco!" It also features a rendition of Bobby Darin's "Beyond The Sea," a stand-up version of "Walkin' Blues" and a few other classics.

Swing dancing thrived in the mid-30s to the early 50s, but once rock 'n' roll became the craze, swing dancing faded.

"Swing never really disappeared, but it was removed far enough that it is now new and

fresh," Steen said.

As swing resurfaces, the Revue takes advantage by adding a musical flare, awakening the dance scene to the swing era.

"The late 40s and early 50s is the stuff we play like, jump swing (a high energy swing) and a little rhythm and blues," Steen said. "You can't play punk rock with a trumpet, but the energy of the punk rock is there."

The band will be touring for the next several months, and the band is scheduled for the Warped Tour this summer.

Admission into the concert is \$5, and tickets may be purchased at the Viking Union candy counter. During the concert, the Swing Kids will give away several raffle prizes donated by local businesses.

"Really get into the music, and do whatever the music moves you to do," Steen said. "Don't worry about knowing swing."

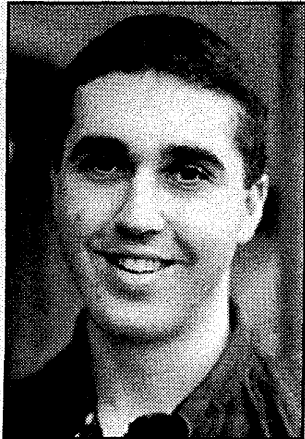
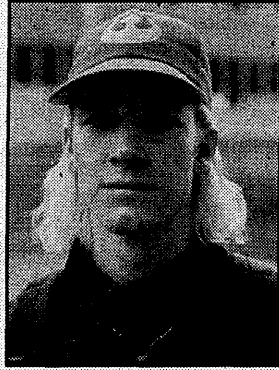


<p>Friday 3B Tavern: Blind Willies, Brett Lovins, 10 p.m., \$5 The Cosmos: Critters Buggin, 9 a.m., \$5 The Beech House Pub: Acousticats, 9 p.m., no cover</p>	<p>Saturday 3B Tavern: 80s New Wave Dance Party, 10 p.m., no cover The Cosmos: Green Apple QuickStep, 9 p.m., \$5 Stuart's Coffee House: Jud Sherwood Jazz Trio, 7:30 p.m., no cover</p>
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What is your favorite childhood memory of 'Star Wars'?

"We were at a drive-in and we had to leave early because my little brother was born."

Jeremy Morace
Senior

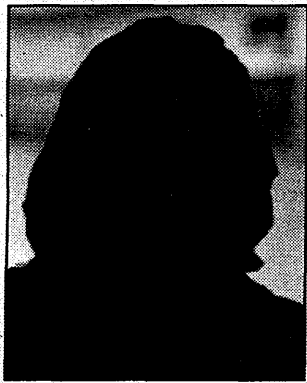


"I had all of the action figures and I was a member of the fan club. I had 'Star Wars' sheets, I think."

Chris Bakili
Sophomore

"I thought Grapenuts were what Ewoks ate, so I'd hide Grapenuts all around the house."

Embarassed Student



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Entire galaxy of people are freaky over 'Wars'

By Craig Scott
The Western Front

A long time ago, in a theater far, far away, my parents saw the most pivotal movie in cinema history. They were blown away like the rest of the movie-going world by George Lucas' masterpiece.

On the other hand, I was only old enough to think an X-Wing Fighter looked vaguely like a big rattle. But when I became old enough to appreciate movies, I knew one thing — I loved the "Star Wars" trilogy.

Yep, I'm a confirmed "Star Wars" junkie. Quotes from the three movies have become staple items in my family's dinner conversations, and I was able to impress my parents a few years back by quoting the opening scene of "Return of the Jedi."

Sometimes I like to watch the movies, one each night. Other times, I watch them back-to-back, particularly the space battles. I fast-forward through the slower parts, especially the scenes involving Yoda. At any rate, I've picked up some interesting phrases without meaning to.

Obsessive? Perhaps. A bit extreme? Not on your life!

My friend Rachel Morrow, Western junior, has me licked. She has the dialogue of the entire "Jedi" movie memorized! She estimates she's seen each movie more than 100 times; I'm probably in the 20-times each category.

While this may not be information to plop down on a resume, the cult following of Lucas' films have generated

a following large enough to fill, well, an entire galaxy.

"Star Wars" fans have generated clubs by the thousands and hold regular conventions to trade "Star Wars" memorabilia. This multitude has been targeted by companies everywhere — the market is awash with action figures, clothing, comic books, magazines, interactive CD-ROM games and more. "Star Wars" has created a following in a generation which hasn't seen any of the movies on the big screen.

That all changes today. When "Star Wars: The Special Edition" opens, fans can be sure of battling lines long enough to fill the Death Star.

Andy Carrel, Western sophomore, plans to head home to Redmond with a group of friends and attempt to see the movie at three different locations, all in the same night. A true fan, Carrel hopes to find a theater with superb sound quality and the best screen.

Carrel said he is excited to see the new special effects but is unhappy with the ads surrounding the release of "Star Wars." He mentioned a Pepsi ad, wherein Darth Vader uses the Force to crush a noisy drinker's pop cup, but Carrel was bothered even more by an ad depicting fans cheering after every scene in the movie.

"If that actually happens, I'm going to kill people," he said. Carrel said he is afraid "Star Wars" will become the next "Rocky Horror Picture Show," with people talking back to the screen.

Carrel's roommate, Chris Sylvis, is also very excited to see the new effects. An admitted special-effects fan, Sylvis

said he was amazed at the effects in "Star Wars," especially for a movie that reached theatres in 1977.

Sylvis, a Western sophomore, estimated he has seen the trilogy about 15 times, which he usually watches straight through. Sylvis said the movies can be more enjoyable when the audience participates in the "Star Wars" drinking game.

Sylvis explained the game, down-loadable at different sites on the World Wide Web, lists about 40 different occasions that require players to take a sip of a beverage when they occur. Such situations include every time Luke Skywalker whines and every time an Imperial Storm Trooper misses his target in a fight.

This could be quite fun, especially in tandem with something else found on the Internet — "The Top 10 Sexually Slanted Lines of Star Wars." Found by my friend Morrow, these interpretations add a new dimension for even the most knowledgeable fan.

I'd go for something a bit tamer, like Morrow's bumper sticker. With a picture of R2-D2 on the side, it states, "I'm a 'Star Wars' fan, honk if you R2."

I don't understand the need to see the movie on opening day — except for a few additional scenes, I already know what's going to happen. This isn't to say I don't plan on traveling to Bellis Fair and shelling out my three bucks; I'm just going to wait a week or two.

In the interim, I'll stay at home and watch my THX "Star Wars" videocassettes. And maybe this time, I'll let Yoda get a few words in before I grab the remote.

Five years ago in a r, far away Lucas had a venty years original, he uces us to WARS

Lucas must be influenced by the Dark Side of Force

By Scott Castle
The Western Front

COMMENTARY

Five years ago the 15th anniversary of "Star Wars," the original, was re-released and toured the country for a limited time. I lined up and stood for hours to see it at Seattle's King Theater, in all its big-screen glory. Now five years later, we are visited by "Star Wars" bastard younger brother, a mega-theatrical combination of the original movie, rampant technology and the American hype machine. There's an old saying that goes, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it," and I've never considered "Star Wars" to be flawed or lacking in special effects. The new, "improved" version features new sound, new special effects, new creatures and a new scenes, including one with Han Solo and a computer-generated Jabba the Hut.

George Lucas claims technology has finally caught up with his vision, so now he can provide the audience with the movie he originally intended. This sounds sweet enough, but when was the last time Lucas came out with a new movie? Lucas is just trying to cash in on a sensation that's still warm after 20 years. He is also currently screwing up "The

Empire Strikes Back."

Using technology to fix old art has been controversial for years now. Remember when Ted Turner started colorizing old black and white films like "Casablanca"? People reacted like he was desecrating a burial ground, but now they can't wait to line up for "Star Wars."

What's the difference?

The film's success was admittedly due in part to the special effects, but films do not become classics because of their technology. They become classics because of their stories and their characters.

Do you think anyone will be lining up for the 20th anniversary of "Independence Day" — a film with nothing but special effects and a few stereotypical characters running around bumping into one another?

The characters in "Star Wars" had flaws, moral dilemmas and personal growth; we loved following them through the relatively-simplistic plot. The beautiful thing about the original film was the depth of the characters and the charm of the special effects that were considered revolutionary and brilliant in 1977, but just don't fit into the "bigger is better" 90s.

"Star Wars" grossed \$323 million and is still the fourth highest-grossing film in history, which is all the more impressive when you

realize tickets were a lot less than \$6 in 1977.

But Hollywood can't wait to squeeze every bit of profit out of everything it touches. And now Taco Bell and Frito Lay have "Star Wars" promotions and contests, and Pepsi has new commercials featuring costumes from the film, but no actors.

Speaking of improving "Star Wars," I had a chance to see the new action figures designed for the re-release. Luke Skywalker now appears as though he's been popping steroids rather than practicing to be a Jedi.

The new figures are all buff little freaks that look more like He-Man than anyone who was actually in the movie. The figures I had, correction — have, look like people, not weightlifters. The new figures tell kids who play with them that size and strength are the most important things, just the opposite of the film's message.

I for one will not be going to see the new "Star Wars." To me, films are art that you just can't change when the mood suits you.

It's fine if you want to clean up the sound a little. They spent years cleaning up Michelangelo's paintings in the Sistine Chapel. What they didn't do was add a few more angels that should've been there in the first place.

So if you do go see "Star Wars," I hope you enjoy it. And I hope you choke on your Doritos.

'Wars' returns even better

By Josh Godfrey
The Western Front

COMMENTARY

Put down your light saber, throw down the Chewbacca outfit and step out of your X-Wing fighter. It is time for a revamping of the greatest trilogy ever made.

For those who scoff at the fact that movie makers are enhancing the "Star Wars" series, just relax and listen because this project has numerous upsides.

The re-releasing of the trilogy is going to give younger generations an opportunity to enjoy the pure electricity sent out by these movies. In essence, George Lucas, the producer of "Star Wars," is passing on the "Star Wars" legacy.

The first of the three movies, "Star Wars," was released in 1977. Not many young children had the opportunity to watch "Star Wars" in its original form. Instead, they are watching "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" join forces with a giant rat in the sewers of the city. Now, because of the efforts of Lucas and his crew they can see the new and improved "Star Wars."

On the other hand, this will also give any "Star Wars" junkie a chance to see new and different scenes from the movies they grew up with.

"I remember coming out of the theater after watching 'Return of the Jedi' when I was 7 years old

and stepping right back in line," said "Star Wars" junkie Mike Cline. "I am sure that I will do the same again."

Anyone who has had the pleasure of watching the original trilogy will agree the special effects used were far ahead of their time. Realistically, most of the movies that are being released today don't stand up to the complex special effects produced in 1977.

"Star Wars" fans can only imagine the scenes that await them in the new set of movies. "It will be exciting to see all the new digital technology that they will include," said Western student Brian Brandli.

Combining improved special effects, never before seen scenes and new characters will make an already marvelous set of movies better.

Many Western students seem very anxious and excited to see the new series, but none more than Justin Colquhoun. "I am looking forward to seeing the new trilogy on the big screen," said Colquhoun, a serious "Star Wars" buff.

Even though the new set of "Star Wars" movies are going to be just as exciting as the old, don't forget the brilliance and unmistakable scenes of the original trilogy.

Sit back and enjoy the show, but don't relax too much because this Friday marks the reincarnation of Star Wars IV: A New Hope.

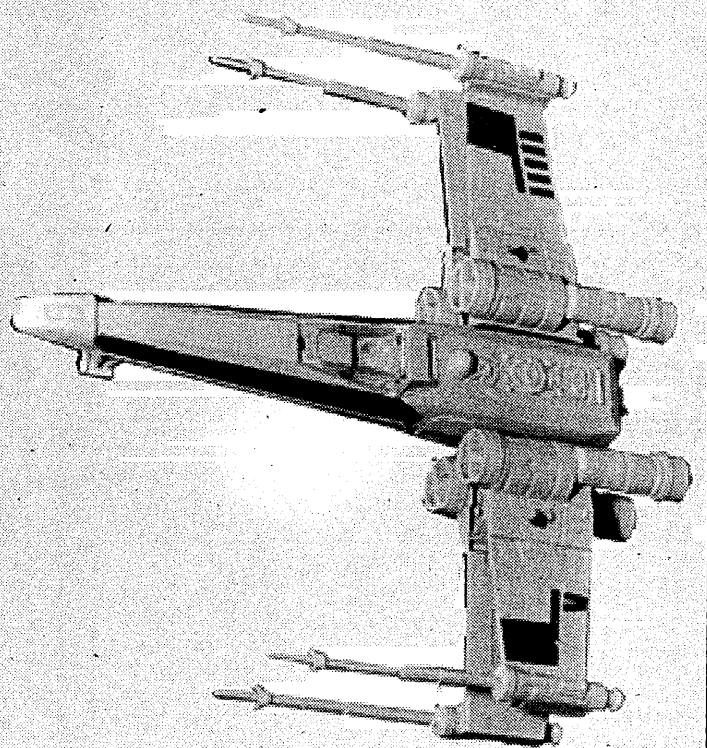


Photo Illustration by Brad Benfield

The wacky world of sports

Big money pro sports create new brand of athlete

**Commentary by
Carey Ross**
The Western Front

Dennis Rodman is nothing but a loud-mouthed, crazy-haired, cross-dressing embarrassment to professional sports.

He's making a mockery of basketball.

The cries can be heard loud and long. It seems there is no escaping the controversy caused by Rodman, especially in light of the most recent incident.

In a game against the Minnesota Timberwolves, Rodman, seemingly out of nowhere, kicked an unsuspecting cameraman in the groin.

Well, I'm getting a little tired of everyone jumping on the "I hate Rodman" bandwagon.

It seems as though people are willing to believe that Rodman is the personification of not only all that is wrong with professional sports, but all that is wrong with the world in general.

For those of you who hold that view, let me explain a few things.

First, nowhere in Rodman's contract does it say he has to set an example for anyone.

Many people believe simply because someone earns millions of dollars to play a professional sport, he or she has an obligation to be a role model to all of America.

That's just not the case.

The truth of the matter is, Rodman earns millions of dollars to go into each game and pull down as many rebounds as he can get his hands on — period.

Whether he chooses to be a big brother or hug a tree in his spare time is just that: his choice.

Second, concerning the incident with the cameraman, anyone who has ever played a contact sport will tell you that they have been guilty of getting angry and taking a cheap shot at someone who didn't deserve it. It happens.

At some point or another everyone plays dirty, and everyone hits below the belt (pardon the pun).

Even Michael Jordan has been known to throw a few undeserved elbows in his time. Unfortunately for Rodman, he took his anger out on the wrong person.

The fact of the matter is, despite the myriad of hair colors and the crazy antics, Rodman can

play. He can back up his attitude with a good, solid performance every game.

He does, arguably, the dirtiest job in the NBA, and he does it better than anybody else.

I will never make the argument that Rodman is the ultimate gentleman.

I agree he brings much of his trouble upon himself, but I also think that his antics need to be kept in perspective.

He's an athlete, not a saint.

Besides, in a league where shooting percentages are at an all-time low, ticket prices are being raised so Shaq can get his star on the walk of fame and Jordan wins a championship every year, people need a reason to get fired up about basketball.

Maybe he's not doing it with picture-perfect passing and dazzling dunks, but Rodman always keeps fans coming back for more.

**Commentary by
Chris Butterfield**
The Western Front

What in the world is happening to professional sports?

It seems like the whole damn thing is going to pot, or in Michael Irvin's case, cocaine.

Nowadays, it seems like every time I turn to the sports page some columnist is whining about how terrible today's sports figures act.

They imply things like, "When I was a kid, there were no coked-up Michael Irvins or c r a z e d

lunatics like Dennis

Rodman." They call these players a product of that drugged-out, next generation.

Let me tell you something: If those perfect goody-goody 1960s athletes had received salaries anywhere near the salaries handed to today's athletes, you would have seen plenty of drugged-out weirdos back then.

It's part of human nature to splurge when the opportunity presents itself.

And how do these athletes get those damn big salaries anyhow?

Well, upon first glance, it's the fault of the owners.

If you trace it right to the source, you

will find that it's the sports fans' fault — they're the ones who keep dishing out the money to the owners.

From where I'm sitting, I can see some dark clouds on yonder horizon.

Professional sports franchises are no longer comparable to your friendly neighborhood grocery store.

The big superstores like Safeway and Stock Market are moving in, and they're bringing a hell of a lot of turbulence with them.

What it comes right down to is professional franchises are now in an arms race to get all the natural resources they possibly can — or in the layman's terms, they're trying to suck every last ounce of green from Joe Sports Fan's pocket.

Eventually, Joe's just going to say, "I can't afford it no more," and then you'll start seeing lots of the professional franchises folding, much like the Soviets in the late 80s.

I would venture to say the tip of the iceberg has already emerged in some of the small market franchises.

I need to look no further than our neighboring city, Seattle.

What do you think all this talk about the potential departures by the Seahawks and Mariners is all about?

Professional sports are merely a product of our dog-eat-dog capitalist system, and eventually the big dogs (New York and Chicago) are all that will be left standing.

And then they'll be gone too, because they won't have any other dogs to play with.

Besides, isn't capitalism based on life, and don't the strong generally survive? At least that's what the Nature Channel tells me.

Then what will Michael Irvin do?

I guess he's going to have to go get his high from that dealer on the corner who doesn't give a rip about who he used to be.

So I say, enjoy your favorite professional team while you can because nothing lasts forever.

Sooner or later, the day of multi-million dollar salaries and gala events like the Super Bowl will go the way of the dinosaur.



Courtesy of Dennis Rodman Home Page

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Mariners stay home for a price

Greedy owners negotiate stadium deal using relocation as bargaining chip

Commentary



Just barely over one month ago, the owners of the Seattle

Mariners shocked the baseball world by announcing the team was officially and immediately for sale.

The abrupt news came after the King County Council and the Public Facilities District suggested delaying the \$414 million stadium project to further study the project's economic impacts.

Mariners' owners expressed extreme frustration with the proposed decision to delay the project and said any delay would jeopardize the construction time table for the new stadium.

Six days after the Dec. 14 announcement to sell the team, M's owners said they would stay if the city paid an additional \$30 million in projected cost overruns and paid for game-day traffic control and cleanup costs at the new ballpark. These

costs are estimated to amount to \$1.8 million annually.

Those demands were forcefully rammed down the public's throat by none other than Sen. Slade Gorton, R-Wash., who acted as a mediator between city officials and M's ownership. The terms were non-negotiable, and the city was given a Jan. 13 compliance deadline.

The most disturbing part of recent events is that M's owners refused to engage in negotiations or to open up lines of communication in any way with city council and PFD members about their demands.

They arrogantly threatened to sell the Mariners, whose future appeared to be bright, after finally reaching major league success the past two years. City leaders and owners had achieved a hard-fought, mutually-beneficial partnership by creating a state-of-the-art retractable-roof stadium near the heart of downtown Seattle. The thought of the owners selling the team now after all the work that has been accomplished seemed preposterous.

This brutal style of political hardball surprised most everyone, including many

local business strategists. So blatantly unreasonable were the M's demands that several PFD members resigned in protest. PFD member Shelly Yapp cited the M's refusal to adopt a contractual clause, that would allow local buyers 120 days to purchase the team before the owners could sell and move the team, as her primary reason for resigning. This clause is closely related to the one that city leaders used just five years ago to prevent former M's owner Jeff Smulyan from selling and moving the team to south Florida.

However unethical or questionable the owners' strategy was, they are claiming victory in the sense that they have achieved what they wanted, a much sweeter deal. The team must now begin repair its dramatically-damaged public image.

Mariner CEO John Ellis said his announcement last Tuesday to "notify major league baseball that the team is no longer for sale" should help.

Many people will indeed forget the whole distressing episode once the season starts and Randy Johnson is hurling shutouts and Griffey, Buhner, Alex and Edgar are slamming homeruns.

Others will not soon forget the bullying tactics used by the owners. Especially when one stops to consider that the new stadium is a public project being built with mostly public money.

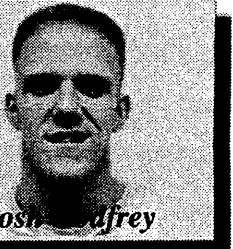
The Mariners are responsible for paying a mere \$45 million of the estimated \$414 million stadium, money they will quickly recover from luxury box and ticket revenues within the first few years of operation at the new field. As for the financial sacrifices they have endured over the last five years, how many tens of millions of dollars do you think they will make when they eventually sell the team?

The end result of this frustrating process has been the guarantee that the Mariners will be playing baseball in Seattle at least until the year 2019. Mariners fans can rejoice and be comforted by that assurance.

However, this was just another bitter reminder of the continuing trend of the cut-throat business side of professional sports. As fans we will have to continue to endure this for as long as the owners remain concerned with dollar signs rather than the love for the game.

Fundamentals the key to Sonics' championship run

Commentary



For all of the Sonic fans that have been considering moving to Los Angeles, Houston or Utah, take it easy because things will turn out just fine with the help of a few small adjustments.

All the team needs is a large dose of the basics. What has worked for them in the past will work again in the future if the Western Division Champions just relax and let the game come to them.

The Sonics are in sole possession of second place behind the Los Angeles Lakers. Wednesday night they upped their record to 31-13, routing the Golden State Warriors 111-86.

Despite the fact they are 0-6 against the premiere teams in the league, Houston, Los Angeles and Utah, this team still has the talent and the desire to make a repeat appearance in the finals.

What has been concerning me about the play of the Sonics these past months is their rebounding, or lack thereof. The Sonics are 23rd in the league in rebounds per game.

Let's get this straight, we just spent \$35 million in the off season acquiring 7-foot center Jim McIlvaine, and he is only averaging 3.9 rebounds a game.

Rebounding is a major reason why the Sonics have lost so many close games.

Hopefully, McIlvaine will wake up and begin to use his 7-foot frame to grab some more boards. Newly acquired

“ Let's get this straight, we just spent \$35 million in the off season acquiring 7-foot center Jim McIlvaine, and he is only averaging 3.9 rebounds a game. ”

Terry Cummings also looks to add some strength on the glass.

Lately, the absent-minded play of Shawn Kemp has caused some problems. He has slowly steered away from the Kemp we saw dominate in the finals against the Bulls to his foolish ways of picking up dumb fouls.

Kemp isn't helping his team by being a cheerleader on

the sidelines in the fourth quarter. He needs to stop fouling out when his team needs him on the floor.

I have also noticed, in big games, the Sonics play very tentatively.

Even at home against the Lakers on Sunday, the Sonics were intimidated. This intimidation led to a 21-point deficit and eventually a one-point loss.

Why is it that as long we trailed the Lakers, the Sonics were relaxed, and each player filled their respective role. As soon as we drew even with the Lakers, it was back to intimidation and lack of intensity.

The Sonics must keep their intensity high throughout the entire game and look to team leaders Gary Payton and Kemp.

When Payton is playing with intensity, the entire team feeds off of him. He needs to assume the role of the emotional leader now that Nate McMillan is out with back troubles.

In order for the Sonics to get back on track against tough opponents, all they have to do is revert back to the fundamentals of smart basketball.

Come playoff time, all the wrinkles will be ironed out and the Sonics will be back in the playoffs in pursuit of the NBA championship.



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Frontline

Barbecued Mustang anyone?

Everybody knows that parking is a problem on Western's campus. Not only is the gripe of finding a parking spot frequently heard, but increasing parking permit costs and increased fines creep into the fold every time someone even hints about the campus parking situation.

I must admit, I'm not innocent. I've done my fair share of whining and complaining. I am right in the trenches with the masses, desperately looking for a piece of pavement to legally shove my automobile on at a low cost.

But after the events of the past year, I have a slightly different take on the situation.

Last January, my Ford Mustang was stolen from the 20R lot above the Ridgeway dorms. A month later, it was found burned to a crisp on some Dukes of Hazzard country road in Skagit County.

One of my neighbors woke up one morning last quarter to find her car up on blocks and one tire missing. That's right, one tire missing.

Last week, I strolled back to my (backup) car and discovered the driver's side riddled with huge dents.

I'm beginning to think parking isn't the huge problem we should be worried about. It's vandalism and theft of automobiles while they are parked that is the problem. It might sound ridiculous, but I'm just happy to find my car in one piece when I return from class these days.

These aren't just a couple isolated incidents. Bashed-in windows and stories of theft are becoming common at Western. Broken window glass is visible along 21st Street and in any parking lot at any given time.

As beautiful as Western's campus is, the woods offer seclusion to would-be criminals. It is easy to prey on an unoccupied vehicle when it is parked in a desolate parking lot such as 20R or on a dimly lit side street such as 21st or 25th Streets.

That's the reason theft and vandalism increased during fall quarter, University Police Chief Doug Gill said.

Although school administrators and the University Police have addressed the problem and consider the issue a high priority, paying for corrections is another story.

Measures such as improved lighting and remote cameras in the parking lots have been discussed, but the funding is just not there, Gill said.

Without the funding for these needed improvements, our wooded campus will continue to be a thief's paradise.

Until then, let's hope Bellingham's criminals aren't in the market for any more tires to complete their set.

—Matt Finlinson, Sports editor

The Western Front

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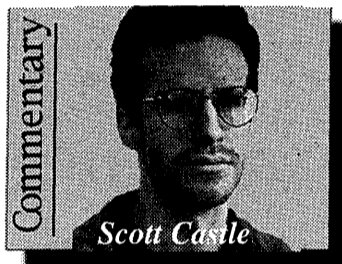
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Pentagon's Gulf bluff called



Commentary
Scott Castle

On Jan. 17, 1991, the United States attacked Baghdad and initiated the Gulf War to keep the world safe for democracy and goodness. But now that the U.S. military has saved us from Saddam Hussein, who will save our own troops from the U.S. government?

Gulf War Syndrome or Persian Gulf Syndrome, refers to an affliction characterized by memory and sleep difficulties, problems with balance and thought processes, chronic suffering from sore joints or muscles and tingling or numbness in the hands and feet.

The current death total from the syndrome ranges from 0-10,000, depending on who you get your "facts" from.

Its existence has been vehemently denied by the Department of Defense for years. Those with symptoms have been told that it is a psychosomatic affliction. Evidence contrary to the government's denial has been piling up for the last six years, uncovered by both medical researchers and individuals who have been affected.

On Jan. 15, 1997, the Journal of the American Medical Association published three articles from researchers at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. They concluded some Gulf War Veterans suffer from symptoms caused by wartime exposure to combinations of low-level nerve agents and other chemicals.

"Each article solves a different piece of the puzzle that has baffled previous researchers of these mysterious illnesses," said Dr. Robert Haley, chief of epidemiology and the study's principal investigator.

"Our findings provide the first evidence of associations between

symptoms in the Gulf War veterans and exposures to chemicals, including chemical nerve agents," he said.

The most horrendous aspect of this particular cover-up is that our troops may have been affected by chemical weapons produced in Texas and Florida and then sold and shipped to Hussein back when he was our ally against Iran.

Included in the stockholders of these companies are former President George Bush and other members of his administration, said Capt. Joyce Riley, one of the country's most outspoken victims of, and investigator into Gulf War Syndrome.

The responsible thing for the United States, would be to aid current research, rather than covering up evidence and doing everything to disprove the claims of researchers and those afflicted. The Defense Department cannot forever hide and should swallow their arrogant pride in order to insure the health and safety of the Americans it should protect.

Perturbed by percipitation



Commentary
Vicki Strait

Hear that?

It's the omnipresent sound around the Sound—rain hitting the windows. In February, it seems more persistent, more annoying, more penetrating than ever.

Might as well get used to it. The Northwest has two seasons: summer (part of July and August) and "fallintering" (the rest of the

year).

Northwest natives tell me they ignore or enjoy the rain. I think they're in denial. They say it's worth a little rain to be in such a beautiful place. I visited Seattle seven times before I could even see Mount Ranier.

After nearly two years here, I just want to see, feel and absorb the sun—or even the moon. But it's time for a reality check. Those orbs won't get a chance to dominate our skies and brighten our spirits for months yet.

So, I have come up with my own Letterman-like list of the top five things to like about this climate.

5. I don't lose sunglasses anymore. You can't lose what you

don't use (except, maybe, your brain).

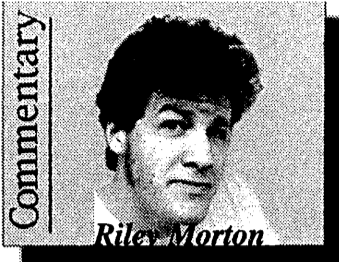
4. The television weather people are entertaining in their efforts to outdo Pete Roget in finding ways to say it's going to rain, pour, shower, drizzle, sprinkle, precipitate ...

3. I sometimes enjoy whining and complaining, and the weather here offers endless opportunity to engage in such sport.

2. I don't mind being in class. No blue skies entice me to give my professors any less than rapt attention.

1. When I get back to the Southwest, I'll never again complain when weeks go by without rain—unless I miss that Sound.

Please casually date me



Riley Morton

We often think we have made a lot of progress over our parent's time. Civil rights, technology and the domination of fast food restaurants make our generation appear superior to the ones preceding it.

This is rarely true, though, and one way we have degenerated is the virtual disappearance of the casual date.

In high school, it was more pronounced. With the exception of the big dances, nobody ever asked anybody out on a casual date. Now maybe I just went to a particularly snotty high school, but friends from different high schools only confirm this fear. Frankly, I'm still a little dumbfounded as to how people ever get together.

At Western, the situation isn't much better. One would think with over 5,000 members of the opposite sex around, surely people would be able to meet others. The truth is very few people do.

These days, one would never even think about approaching a person in Red

Square and asking them if they'd be up for a soda. This isn't just because soda isn't the fad anymore, it is because dating isn't either.

People in the '90s have an inflated idea of what a date is. It seems that many of our contemporaries think that if they are seen with a member of the opposite sex over coffeepeople will think that they are an item.

Nowadays, a pair has to determine if that interest is there before they go on a date. Singles have to determine this in settings like classes, work, parties and bars — settings that aren't necessarily prone to lengthy conversation.

So what is the solution?

The only one I can think of is that we all just have a more open-minded view of who we might be able to date.

There needs to be a mass-movement of asking strangers out for dinner.

In order for this movement to go beyond a single episode, we all need to have an open mind about who we can go out with.

Don't say 'no.' Ever. Start small. Go get a glass of freshly squeezed at Creative Juices. Spend half an hour talking to someone that you didn't know well.

If it doesn't work out, that is fine, at least you tried. But if it does work out, you'll be happy that you read this article.

Letter Letter Letter Letter

Co-op überallis

Dear Editor,

I must commend Mr. Corning on his efforts to set us straight concerning which superficial labels and ideologies should be ascribed to Hitler.

This is an extremely important endeavor, for another Hitler could be among us today. It would be much easier to identify such a person if we could rule out the possibility of him/her being of a conservative persuasion. Furthermore, the ideologies espoused by Hitler along with his traits, which can be discovered by closely examining the minutiae of his daily life, would be warning signs to watch for.

For example, it may be profitable to inquire whether or not Hitler was a feminist. On the one hand, he believed that women should stay home and concentrate on bearing healthy young men. On the other hand, his favored documentary film-maker, Leni Riefenstahl, is a woman. Upon resolving this issue we will be closer to knowing whether or not a new Hitler could be lurking within the feminist camp.

It has been confirmed, however, that Hitler was an avid recycler. He strongly supported the recycling of metal and rubber in order to keep the German forces well-equipped during the war effort. This supports Mr. Corning's contention that Hitler was a real left-winger.

Thanks to Mr. Corning's subtle but piercing observations, we can now be more certain that a person of Hitler's qualities would be found shopping at the food co-op rather than cruising the Costco meat section. It is heartening to know that scholars in Western's graduate programs are addressing such important issues.

Matt Lambert
Senior



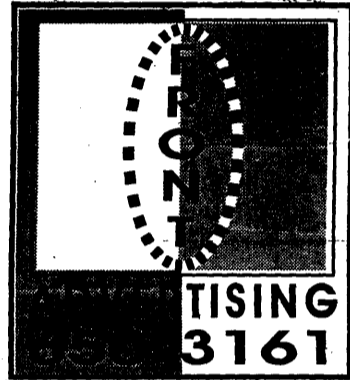
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