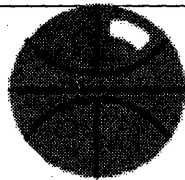


In this week's
Accent section:
• Zap Mama, pg. 6 and
• Playwrights, pg. 7



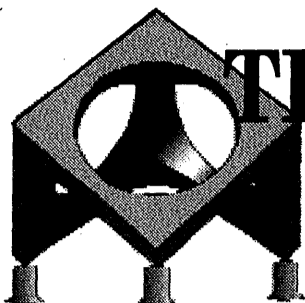
Art competition and display featured in Viking Union Gallery
ACCENT, 6



WWU intramural hoops squad plays in Kentucky for championship
SPORTS, 9

Friday, April 4, 1997

Volume 100
Issue 1



THE WESTERN FRONT

Western Washington University

Bellingham, Washington

Welfare reform's 'dirty laundry' aired at City Hall

By Joe Rzczkowski
The Western Front

A determined group of welfare reform activists strung a clothesline full of "dirty laundry" around the American flag poles at noon Thursday in front of Bellingham City Hall.

The group of about 40 men, women and children were protesting welfare reform legislation pending in the Washington State House and Senate.

Braving the cold wind and rain, as well as a city police request to unblock the City Hall entrance, the protesters carried signs and listened to speeches by labor leaders, welfare recipients and concerned citizens that criticized the proposed House Bill HB 3901.

The Rally to Reform Welfare Reform was staged today in Bellingham and other cities in the state, including Olympia. The rallies were intended to inform people that the proposed law will go into effect April 1, 1997, and that real welfare reform must guarantee health insurance, living-wage jobs and affordable child care to all.

Aileen Satushek, a representative of the Service Employees International Union 120, said "There is a myth that the law will get freeloaders off of welfare. Instead, 30 percent of workers will be unable to earn a living

wage. By the year 2000, one million welfare recipients will enter the job market, where there is already a shortfall of jobs. Workfare programs will take the low-paying jobs."

"Employers will be able to lower wages 12 percent. This is not enough to support a family," Satushek said.

One young woman who spoke at the rally said she had been working for almost two years in a retail grocery store, earning \$5.60 per hour. With no union to help with worker grievances, she said no organized way to ask for higher wages or benefits exists.

"We have to create a decent standard of living and justice for all," she said.

An unnamed DSHS worker who was at the rally, said "More people are going to be affected by this law than the poor. There are a lot of people up at Western trying to earn degrees who think that will land them high-paying jobs. They will have to start at entry-level. But the low-paying and entry-level jobs will be held by people on Workfare. What will be the employer's incentive to pay a decent wage?"

"And what's going to happen when a working couple on minimum wage loses child care benefits or can't qualify for Medicaid?" he said. "A lot of minimum-wage jobs provide no benefits," he added.

New Playwrights Theatre begins

By Scott Castle
The Western Front

The newest edition of New Playwrights Theatre opened last night in the Performing Arts Center 199 for the first of three nights. NPT is an evening of short plays written, acted and directed by Western theater students. Presented once per quarter, NPT gives writers the opportunity to present their works in progress for audience reaction and critical review.

The show consists of five plays: "Guess Who?," "Two Bums vs the Salvation Army," "Humanity Cafe," "Narcoleptic Thief" and "Just Schmee and

the Captain." Instead of just watching the plays, audience members are encouraged to comment on the play they've just seen. The show will run at 7:30 p.m. tonight and again on Saturday April 5.

The exhibition of the work is designed to be part of the academic learning process. "The emphasis is on the word and on the playwright's craft," said Tom Ward, chair of the Theater Arts Department.

NPT has been performing on campus for more than 20 years and is one of the oldest new playwrights series in the nation.

See related story, page 7

Praying for the Dineh tribe



Front/ Dennis Pasco

Fairhaven College freshman Richardo Valadez, 19, was one of many participants at last Wednesday's candle light vigil to show support for the Dineh people who are being removed from their ancestral home, in order to use the coal reserves below their sacred ground. The crowd spilled onto East Magnolia Street as songs and prayers were dedicated to the Dineh in front of the Federal Building.

Western dedicates newest building to 'world-class' science education

By Amy King
The Western Front

Western will dedicate the new science, mathematics and technology education building during a ceremony at 4 p.m. today. The building, officially the Science Lecture Halls, opened in fall of 1996.

The ceremony will feature three speakers: Western President Karen Morse, Western Board of Trustees Chair Charlotte Chalker and chemistry professor Joseph Morse.

The ceremony marks the completion of Western's three new science facilities. The Chemistry building opened in 1993 and the Biology building opened in 1995.

"The overall plan was to bring

the science facilities at Western into the next century feeling confident to teach science at the next level," said Joseph Morse, event speaker and director of science education at Western.

The building also signifies the culmination of science, mathematics and technology education, an idea proposed by former faculty member Irwin Slesnick, who retired in June 1996, Morse said.

"His vision was to integrate science, math and technology education, ... and for teachers to weave them together into their own practice," Morse said.

The dedication provides an opportunity for students to recognize Western's commitment to integration of these disciplines and in technological advances, Morse said.

"(The ceremony) represents a dedication of the university to teaching science itself at a world-class level and preparing teachers to teach at a world-class level," Morse said.

"Everyone's welcome," said Matthew Gray of Western's Office of Special Events. The event is expected to include many faculty members, community members and students.

"I would recommend that someone go to the dedication if they're interested in sharing what this vision can be for Western," Morse said.

A reception including punch and cookies will take place in the Learning Resource Center on the second floor of the facility.

Reserved parking for off-campus guests will be in Lot 26C.

COPIES BOX

Campus Police

March 30, 3:30 p.m.: A theft occurred in Carver Gym at the ticket window and money slot. The cardboard cover over the glass was found ripped out and candy merchandise was grabbed through the slot. Some candy boxes found at the scene were left half empty inside the slot.

March 31, 12:30 p.m.: A male reported that he received a harassing phone call at Ridgeway Gamma between 9 a.m. and noon. He did not recognize the caller and could not think of who would have called him.

April 2, 3:30 p.m.: An officer was sent to Wilson Library regarding a trespasser on the 5th floor. The transient had been warned for trespassing by the same officer on a date prior to this incident. The officer asked the transient to leave the library. She refused. The officer issued her a citation for trespassing.

April 2, 3:34 a.m.: A fight was reported in the area of Stack 2 at the Birnam Wood complex.

Bellingham Police

April 2, 12:34 p.m.: A youth was observed at the corner of Central Avenue and Roeder Street spray-painting graffiti on bridge abutments. He was referred to juvenile court.

April 2, 5:15 p.m.: A person reported that his car had been broken into in the 1600 block of Ohio Street while being repaired. Stereo equipment was taken from the car. Unknown suspect(s) tore the soft top of the convertible to gain entry.

April 2, 7:53 p.m.: A man reported that for the past couple of days his house and garage, located in the 3500 block of Northwest Avenue, had been hit with flying golf balls. At this time, it is not known where the balls were hit from. The man's house is too far away from the country club for this to have been an accident.

April 2, 8:11 p.m.: A man reported that a neighbor boy threw an egg at his house. The man said that this had become a constant problem, but that he just wanted the problem stopped. He did not press charges.

April 3, 12:34 a.m.: A person reported shots fired in the 1200 block of Ellis Street. No suspects were found in the subsequent investigation.

April 3, 2:15 a.m.: A man attempted suicide in the 2200 block of Squalicum Way, but a person prevented the incident and called 911. The man was taken to the hospital for a psychiatric evaluation.

April 3, 2 p.m.: It was reported that a sexual offender was not living at his listed address, which is in the 500 block of Grant Street.

Cops Box compiled by Sarah Olson

Western Briefs

Fairhaven will present benefit for Earth Day

Fairhaven College will be hosting an Earth Day awareness benefit at 7 p.m. tonight in the Fairhaven auditorium. The benefit will feature the grooves of MANAH with special guests Riverroots. The function will also provide information and education on Earth Day. Doors open at 6:45 p.m. Advanced tickets can be bought at the Community Food Co-op.

English partners sought for international students

Western is looking for conversation partners for international students this spring. Conversation partners will meet for one hour a week with international students to help them with their English skills. Students are also wanted for Western's Intensive English Program to help international students practice conversational English and to help them become familiar with American culture.

Sign up in Old Main 530, or contact Michelle Van Slyke or Rita Miller at 650-3755 for more information.

Task Force searching for leadership volunteers

The Youth Task Force and Youth Empowerment Co-op is looking for volunteers to help in implementing the Whatcom County Prudential Youth Leadership Institute April 11, 12 and 13 at Camp Horizon in Birch Bay. Volunteers will participate in

a variety of jobs from helping facilitate leadership activities to assisting in first aid coverage.

For more information call PYLI Team Leaders Whatcom Youth Task Force at 676-6829.

Human Services schedules informational meeting

The Human Services Program presents an informational meeting at noon, April 10 in Old Main 482. Only juniors and seniors may declare a major, but all are welcome to attend.

Carver Gym plays host to kids swimming classes

Children's swimming classes start April 5 at Western and will run through May 31. The classes will be taught in the Carver Gym Pool on Saturdays from 9:30 to 11:45 a.m.

For more information and pre-registration, call Karen Mauerma at (360) 650-3115 weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Candidates set sights on AS board elections

Today is the last day to file for candidacy in the upcoming AS elections. All forms must be turned into the AS Board Office, Viking Union 227, by 5 p.m. Candidates will be campaigning between April 9-22. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on April 17, the Miller Hall Coffeeshop will host a candidate fair.

A candidate forum will be in Red Square April 17. Polls open April 22 and 23 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Economics brown bag lunch focuses on ethics

The Shalom Center will host a brown-bag lunch Monday, April 7 at 12:15 p.m.

"Are ethics and economics incompatible in international development?" is the topic of discussion.

Peter van der Veen will reflect on the recent International Development Conference in Washington D.C.

Upcoming presentations

* "Mining Away Our Future," a slide show by Will Patrick of the Mineral Policy Center at 7 p.m. Tuesday April 8 in the Wilson Library Presentation Room.

* "When Fear Takes Over: The Nature, Consequences and Treatment of Medically-related Phobias," a lecture by Ronald Kleinknecht at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday April 8 in the Old Main Theatre.

* "The Bear Facts" presented by natural historian Greg Smith at 8 p.m. Thursday, April 10 in Fraser Hall 2.

* "Dreams and Nightmares," a movie about the Spanish Civil War, will be shown at noon Thursday, April 10 in Viking Addition 454. At 6 p.m. Abe Osheroff, a member of the Abraham Lincoln Brigades who made the film, will be speaking in the Wilson Library Presentation Room.

Briefs compiled by Kevin Rus

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

SEVEN STUDENT JOBS: AS BOARD OF DIRECTORS, paid positions for 1997-98. Filing period closes today (April 4). Application packets available in Viking Union 227. Call David Candy, X/7439, with questions.

UNIVERSITY WRITING PROGRAM IS NOW RECRUITING qualified students to work as Writing Center Assistants/Writing Fellows for 1997-98. Applications are available in the Writing Center, WL 342.

LOT RESERVATIONS: Lots 10G, 17G and 31G will be reserved beginning at 3 p.m. Saturday, April 5, for those attending the Campaign for Western celebration. A shuttle will run from lot 26C for this event. Permit holders may leave vehicles in reserved lots for work-related purposes.

QUARTERLY PARKING PERMITS MAY BE RENEWED FOR SPRING QUARTER between 7:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday-Friday through April 7 at Parking and Transportation. Those who do not have a permit may purchase one for spring quarter now. *Those already on the waiting list, valid through August, will be contacted if space becomes available.*

REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED FOR THE MATH PLACEMENT TEST. A \$10 fee must be paid in exact amount at time of testing. Photo ID and No. 2 pencil required. Allow 90 minutes. Testing is in OM 120 at 9 a.m. Monday test dates are April 7, 14, 21, 28, May 5, 12 and 19, June 2 and 9. Thursday test dates are April 17, 24, May 8, 15, 22, 29 and June 12.

SURPLUS AUCTION, April 12, Armory lower level. Small pickup canopies, televisions, electric motors, camcorders, turntables, more. Item inspection: 9 a.m. to noon April 11. Register at that time or one hour before sale. Payment required within one hour of sale with cash, money order, cashier's check, certified check. Personal or business checks accepted with proper identification.

THE JUNIOR WRITING EXAM should be taken after acquiring 60 credits and before accumulating 90 toward graduation. Registration is not required. The JWE can be taken only once per quarter. Picture ID, a pen and No. 2 pencil are required. Allow approximately two hours. Testing is in FR 4. First-time examinees may take the test at 3 p.m. on April 14, 16, 18, 22, 23 or 28. Retests only may be taken at 4 p.m. April 29 or 3 p.m. on April 30.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED IN OM 120 OR BY CALLING X/3080 FOR THE MILLER ANALOGIES TEST (MAT). Scheduled dates are 3 p.m. on April 15 and May 12 in FR 4. A \$35 fee is payable at time of testing. Allow 1½ hours.

A VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY SERVICE INFORMATION FAIR will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 16, in the VU Main Lounge. More than 60 agencies will be on hand. For more information, call X/3158.

SPRING QUARTER PAYMENT DEADLINE FOR TUITION AND FEES is Friday, April 18. If you need a billing statement or more information, contact Student Accounts, 650-2865.

SPRING QUARTER GROUP OFFERINGS THROUGH THE COUNSELING CENTER include **Eliminating Your Self-Defeating Behavior**, time to be arranged, sign up for screening interview by today (April 4); **Terminated Pregnancy Support Group**, Mondays, 2-4 p.m., April 14, 21, 28, women and men welcome, call to schedule pregroup interview; **Discovering Your Body Pride**, Tuesdays, 7-8 p.m. starting April 15, Wednesdays 11-noon starting April 16, Fridays 1-2 p.m. starting April 18; **Parent Support Group**, time to be arranged; **Student Grief Support Group**, time to be arranged. For information or to register, call X/3164.

DIRECTORY AD SALESPERSON NEEDED. Sell ads for the 1997-98 *Campus Directory*. Must be available through fall quarter, including summer break. Must have own transportation and telephone. Voice mail or answering machine access preferred. Salary: \$6 to \$8 per hour plus mileage. Interviews begin April 21. Contact Margaret Loudon, X/3914, for appointment.

WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATIVE INTERNS are being selected this quarter to serve during winter quarter, 1998. Information and application forms are available in Arntzen Hall 415. Qualified undergraduates in all disciplines are eligible with at least junior standing and a minimum GPA of 2.75. Closing date is May 16.

IDENTIFICATION STATEMENT

Publication's Title:	The Western Front
Statement of Frequency:	Published Bi-Weekly
Authorized Organization's name and address:	The Western Front Western Washington University College Hall 110 Bellingham, WA 98225-9100

AP news from around the globe

Regional

Seahawks stadium plan heads for the House

OLYMPIA — After passing the state Senate, the Seahawks stadium financing plan is now in the House.

Football fans want lawmakers to send the package on to a statewide vote. But House Speaker Clyde Ballard of East Wenatchee says it's not his top priority.

Homeless man "squatted" in UW building for years

SEATTLE — University of Washington police have evicted a transient they say lived more than a decade in the basement of the music building.

Police say he turned a cubbyhole behind

some ductwork into an apartment, complete with artwork on the wall.

National

FCC approves new TV sets

WASHINGTON — The Federal Communications Commission approved a plan for a transition to cinema-quality digital TV. The new TVs should start appearing in stores in two years, costing about \$2,000 each.

Gas prices not expected to rise drastically this summer

WASHINGTON — Federal forecasters see a cheaper summer-driving season. The Energy Department is predicting that a gallon of gasoline will be a penny or two

cheaper this vacation season compared to last year.

The department predicted the average gallon of gas will peak at \$1.34 in June, which is a nickel more than current levels.

International

UN may need to move because of parking tickets

UNITED NATIONS — Angry diplomats are threatening to move the United Nations over the issue of parking tickets.

On Tuesday, New York started a program aimed at collecting fines from violations racked up by members of the diplomatic corps. Violators could lose their license plates and driving privileges if they do not pay fines within a year.

Diplomats say that would violate the

principles of diplomatic immunity.

No more insurance coverage for alien abductions

LONDON — In wake of the Heaven's Gate suicides, a British insurance company will no longer write policies for alien abductions.

The policy covered the group's 39 members for \$1 million each for abduction and impregnation by aliens.

The company's managing director said the cult was one of 4,000 alien abduction policy holders worldwide.

The company will continue to offer some unusual policies such as protection of virgins against immaculate conception and prostitutes against loss of earnings from headaches and backaches.

AP wire compiled by Arvid Hokanson.

EXCLUSIVELY for FACULTY and STAFF

PAIN.

PAIN KILLER.

© 1997 Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association/College Retirement Equities Fund, 730 Third Avenue, New York, NY

For fast relief from the nagging ache of taxes, we recommend TIAA-CREF SRAs. SRAs are tax-deferred annuities designed to help build additional assets—money that can help make the difference between living and living *well* after your working years are over.

Contributions to your SRAs are deducted from your salary on a pretax basis, so you pay less in taxes now. And since earnings on your SRAs are also tax deferred until you receive them

as retirement income, the money you don't send to Washington can work even harder for you.

What else do SRAs offer? A full range of investment choices and the financial expertise of TIAA-CREF—America's largest retirement organization.

To find out more, stop by your benefits office or give us a call at 1 800 842-2888. We'll show you how SRAs can lower *your* taxes.

Do it today—it couldn't hurt.

Visit us on the Internet at www.tiaa-cref.org



Ensuring the future for those who shape it.™

*Based on assets under management.

CREF certificates are distributed by TIAA-CREF Individual and Institutional Services, Inc. For more complete information, including charges and expenses, call 1 800 842-2733, ext. 5509, for a current CREF prospectus. Read the prospectus carefully before you invest or send money. Date of first use: 2/97.

JOE'S FIR
CREST AUTO

Foreign and Domestic
Repairs
Towing Available

FAIR RATING
671-3532

Bead Bazaar

OPEN 7 DAYS

We have a huge variety of beads & findings including:

Hemp Twine
Hemp Classes
& Knotting Books.

CREATIVE BEADING
SUPPLIES

In Fairhaven, 1001 Harris, Bellingham.
(360) 671-5655

Fresh Air
THE Fresh Ale
ARCHER
ALE HOUSE

World-class
beer!
Smoke-free
pub!
Can life get
any better?

<http://www.nas.com/ArcherAle>

21 & Over

HOURS
OPEN 3:00 P.M. SUN. - FRI.
OPEN 1:00 P.M. SAT.

DOWNSTAIRS AT
1212 TENTH ST.
BELLINGHAM, WA. 98225
360-647-7002

Raising equality awareness with cookie pricing

"Take Back the Night" fundraiser aims to highlight wage differences

By Naomi Dillon
The Western Front

Confusion, profits and awareness were raised by the Women's Center at its annual Equity Bakesale this past week. Because of a unique pricing system, controversy has risen in years past; this year was no different.

For example, students wanting to buy a cookie from the stand may be surprised to find that he or she will pay a higher or lower price depending on his or her gender and ethnic background. While a Hispanic woman may pay 54 cents for a cookie; a white male would pay a dollar for the same cookie.

Prices are broken down for each ethnic background in each gender, with the exception of the Asian Pacific Islander group. Based on the Bureau of Labor and Statistics June 1996 median weekly income for each group, the prices vary with the amount each group makes. Information for the API group was based on yearly income.

"We like to ignore the fact that the U.S. has a class system," said Ilsa Govan, a work-study student and member of the center said. "Although people don't like to recognize it, inequality does still exist," Govan added.

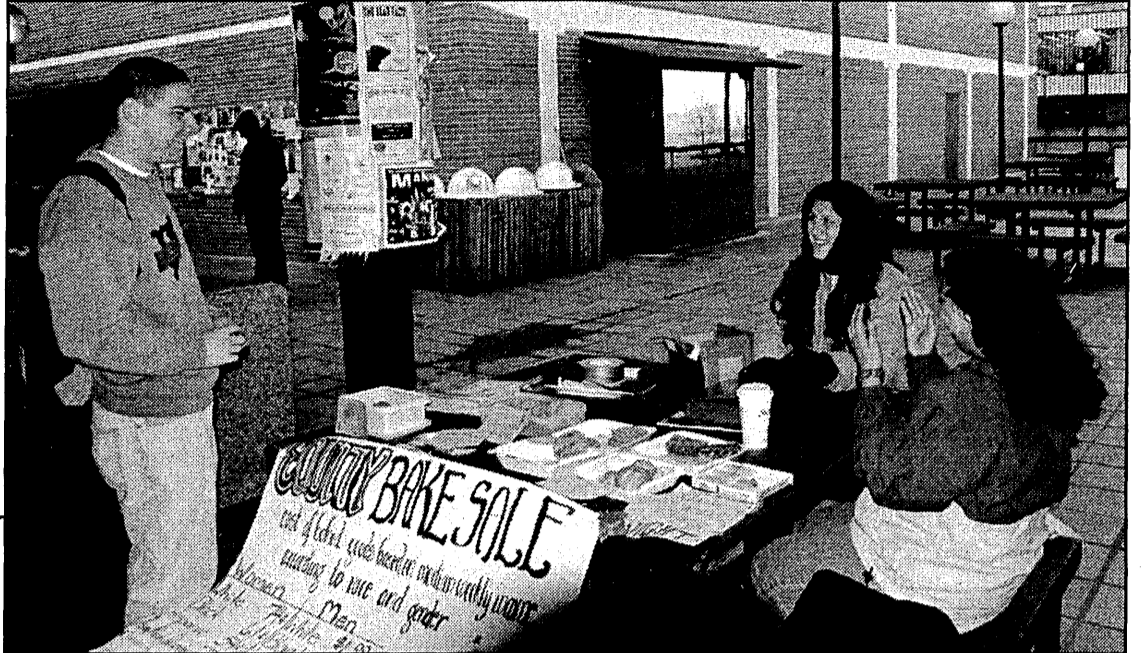
The profits, which will go toward the "Take Back the Night" march and rally, have been good even though some people have responded with criticism, Govan said.

"A lot of people have missed the point of the bakesale," co-coordinator of the center Colleen McArdle said. "There were several verbal confrontations with white men who said they were no different than anyone else. They made minimum wage and didn't receive any special treatment. But you know, when you look at the big picture, there are some definite inequalities and we need to recognize that," she said.

The rally and march, which supports the end of violence against women, will take place at 6:30 p.m., April 24 in the VU Lounge. Keynote speaker will be singer and feminist Rebecca Walker.

Walker is nationally recognized as the leader of the Third Wave feminist movement; she is a Generation X feminist who deals with issues concerning the women of today.

The rally will also include, MONSTER, a grass roots group protesting the rape against women and Mara Eaton singing a cappella. After the rally the march will proceed through downtown



Front/Aaron Dahl
Junior American cultural studies major Cori Hook speaks with senior elementary special education major Ilsa Govan, left, and senior secondary education/English major Odessa Ogo as they sell baked goods as a fundraiser for "Take Back The Night." The event, later in April, is for ending violence against women.

before returning to Red Square. Although men are invited to the rally, the march has and will continue to be an all woman affair.

"This is not a protest against men," Govan said, "Women should be able to march by themselves without the aid of men. It's about women feeling empowered."

"Men are welcome and encouraged to participate," McArdle

said. "Their roles are just different."

A torrent of events will proceed the big "Take Back the Night" march and rally. Among these, a free self-defense class will be offered from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. April 22 in Carver Gym 110. The class is run by Home Alive, a Seattle-based non-profit group "hell-bent" against all forms of violence.

In addition, women's talents will be honored by a Spoken Word at 8 p.m. April 25th in the Allied Arts Building.

"We're still looking for volunteers," McArdle said, "This is the biggest event for the Women's Center. We're expecting at least 600 people. Men are encouraged to help."

For more information, contact the Women's Center at 650-6114.

\$5
OFF



FAIRHAVEN BIKE & MOUNTAIN SPORTS

**ANY
PURCHASE
OF \$20
OR MORE!**

1103 11th Street • 360.733-4433

Expires 4-15-97

Western Front

Student Publications Employment Opportunities

WESTERN FRONT

Advertising Representative
Position Open Immediately

Requirements:

- Prior sales experience helpful but not essential (training provided).
- Capable of dealing with the public.
- Full time student enrollment required.

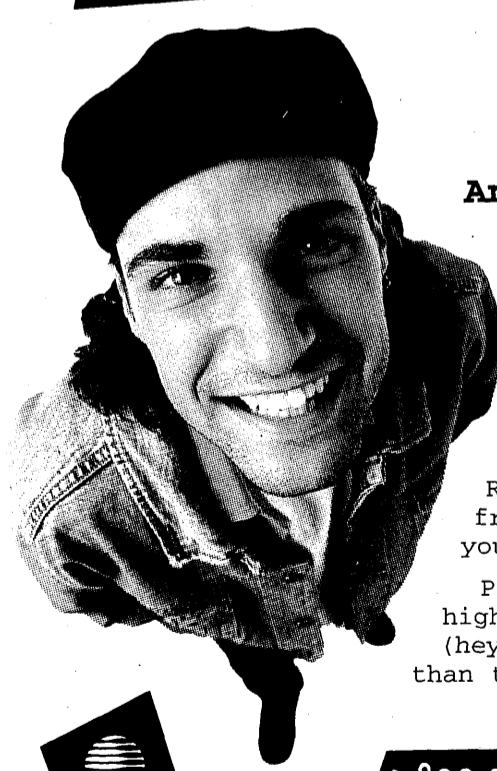
Submit resume and letter of intent to:
Business Manager, The Western Front, CH 110, MS 9100

IMPROVE YOUR NIGHT LIFE.



Too many accidents are caused by car drivers who didn't see the motorcyclists. That's why reflective vests, bright clothing, and reflectorized tape are so important. They help you be seen. And standing out on a dark, crowded road can keep your evening from being ruined. **MOTORCYCLE SAFETY FOUNDATION**

"There is such a thing
as a free ride."



**Announcing the AT&T
"Ultimate Road Trip"
Sweepstakes.**

Going abroad this school year?
AT&T would like to help pay
your way.

10 Grand Prize Winners -
Round-Trip Air Transportation
from the U.S. to the country where
you'll be studying.

Plus thousands of chances to win
high-quality currency converters
(hey, you may find it more valuable
than the air transportation).

To enter, call

1 800 257-5424 ext. 300

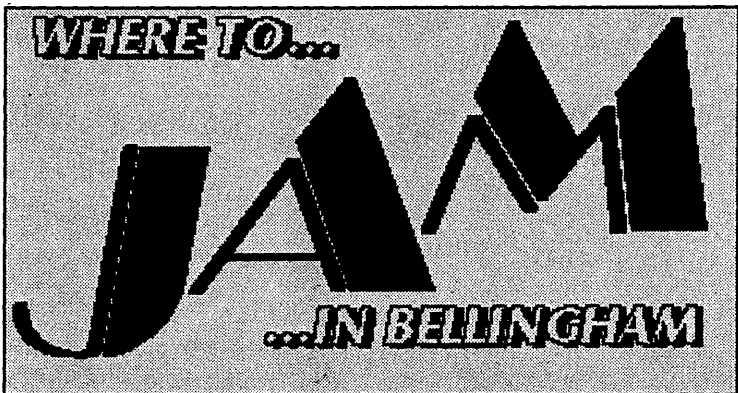
Or you can enter on-line at

http://www.att.com/student_abroad

Do it today.

No purchase necessary. Void where prohibited. Sweepstakes ends 5/1/97. Open to residents of the U.S., 18 years or older, enrolled at a U.S. college or university during the '97-'98 school year and traveling internationally for 14 days or more. See your Study Abroad Counselor or http://www.att.com/student_abroad for official rules and details.

© 1997 AT&T



The Beech House Pub			
Fri:	Alternate-Jazz Band	9 p.m.	Free
Sat:	Elephant, Lyons, Dolphins and Jack	9 p.m.	Free
The 3-B Tavern			
Fri:	Sourmash CD release party	9:30 p.m.	\$5
Sat:	The Squirrels & Clambake	9:30 p.m.	\$5
The Royal Room			
Fri:	DJ Jason & Bam Bam	9 p.m.	\$1
Sat:	Bam Bam	9 p.m.	\$1
The Cosmos Cafe			
Fri:	Gruntruck	9 p.m.	\$6
Sat:	DJ Big & the Pants	9 p.m.	\$1
Sun:	Roy Rogers	8:30 p.m.	\$10

Gruntruck in town to bulldoze Cosmos

By Chris Blake
The Western Front

Gruntruck will bring its head-banging, room-rattling Seattle sound to Bellingham at 8 p.m. tonight at Cosmos Cafe.

Gruntruck released its first album, *Inside Yours*, in 1990. However it wasn't until its next album, *Push*, was released at the peak of Seattle's rock hysteria in 1992 that the band began to receive national attention.

The band has toured the United States with fellow Northwest bands Alice in Chains and Screaming Trees, and traveled Europe with the kings of thrash, Pantera.

Despite the momentary attention, Gruntruck has watched other Seattle bands move on to major record labels and worldwide stardom while never receiving the contract or publicity it deserved.

Tom Niemeyer, Gruntruck guitarist, thinks that the attention the Seattle rock scene received actually hurt many bands.

"I think that the attention that

was brought on the scene was bad," Niemeyer said. "I think a lot of local bands that have been given big record contracts, and big huge tours, and money and attention ... I think it's ruined a shitload of these bands."

However, without attention and a record deal it's hard to pay the bills. This harsh reality led the band to take a two-year hiatus.

"We were tired of losing money," Niemeyer said. "This is a guilty pleasure and unfortunately this is a business."

The band has now regrouped and has released a three song CD on Seattle independent label, Betty Records. The group has played several Northwest shows and has even opened shows for Alice Cooper and the Scorpions.

While other bands have tried to change their sound to include synthesizers and other experimental techniques in an attempt to shift away from the dying Seattle sound, Gruntruck refuses to change to please anyone.

"I don't think it's appropriate for us. I think other bands have been effective with experimenta-



Gruntruck

tion, but I think it's still two guitars, a bass player and a drum. It's fine for us," Niemeyer said.

Niemeyer now realizes the benefits that come with being on an independent record label. The creative control bands receive is far more important to Gruntruck than any money they would receive from a major record label.

"Do it for the love of music," Niemeyer said, "Do it regardless of whether or not your girlfriend leaves you, you get kicked out of your apartment, you have nothing but the flavor packets of Top Ramen to live off — the Ramen is long since gone — the cat ate that, but you're still playing music."

It is with this attitude that Gruntruck has survived the rise and fall of the Seattle music scene and lived on to rock and thrash with every beat of the drum.

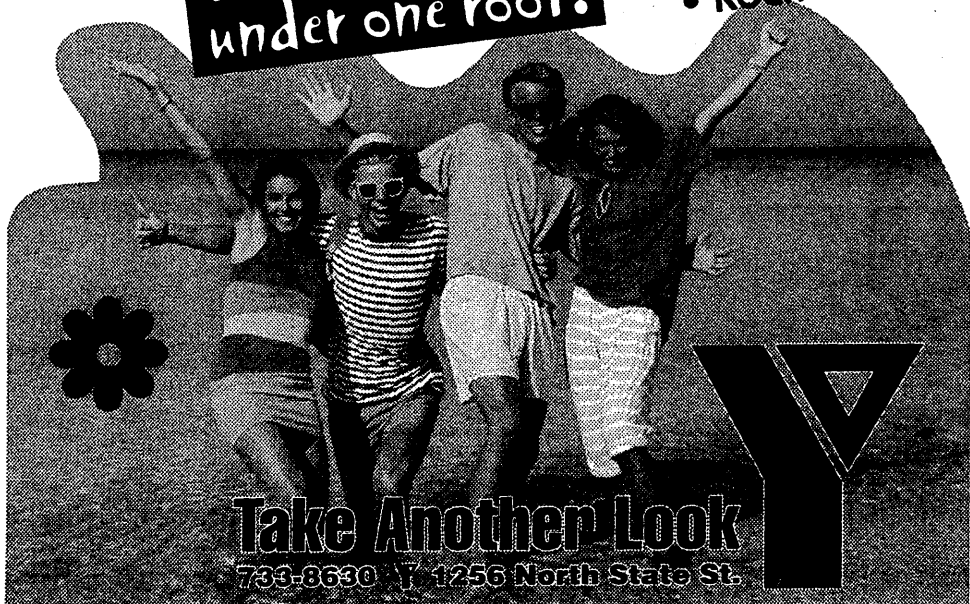
Spring 97

...for a student membership at the YMCA!

The YMCA is offering WWU students a discount on a single membership!
(\$72 membership is for Spring 1997 Quarter)
Regular Price for 3 months is \$90

We have it ALL under one roof!

- Weight Room
- Gym/Courts
- Pool
- Rock Wall



Looking for something special?



Music Every Weekend

Friday 6-8 PM
Saturday 6-8 PM
Sunday 12-2 PM

Sumptuous Specials,
Delectable Desserts, Savory Soups



Did You Know?

A person can pass along sexually transmitted infections even though no symptoms are present.

Be safe.

Call: Planned Parenthood
734-9095 or
1-800-230-7526

Zap Mama: a vocal journey at the Mt. Baker Theatre Saturday

By Shelby Benny
The Western Front

You won't need to pack your bags, but you will need to prepare for a musical journey.

Zap Mama, an a cappella group comprised of five female vocalists, uses the word "zap" to refer to switching cultures.

Throughout their show, the women hop from continent to continent taking the listener on a journey through exotic cultural influences.

Lead singer Marie Daulne, who was born in Zaire, says, "My music is a mix — like me."

The vocalists combine influences from various cultures in order to create intricate

rhythms and clever harmonies that will remain with the listener long after Saturday's performance.

Among other influences, the vocalists weave European harmonies, African and Indian chant, American gospel, pygmy yodels and bird songs into their work. The result is a mesmerizing vocalization.

Saturday's performance will showcase the musicians' ability to create unique sounds by using only their vocal chords and their bodies to create their music. Everyday sounds, such as inhaling and exhaling, are combined to produce a fascinating backdrop to the lead vocals.

Aside from a vocal journey, Saturday's audience is guaranteed to enjoy a performance

augmented by dance, humor, theatrics and storytelling. Zap Mama weaves ethnic influences throughout its entire set.

The group tells stories on stage related to the countries that they have visited in order to provide a better understanding of their music.

Zap Mama's music is pulsating, haunting and eye-opening all at once. The performance is one that you will not want to miss.

Zap Mama performs at 8 p.m. Saturday at the Mt. Baker Theatre.

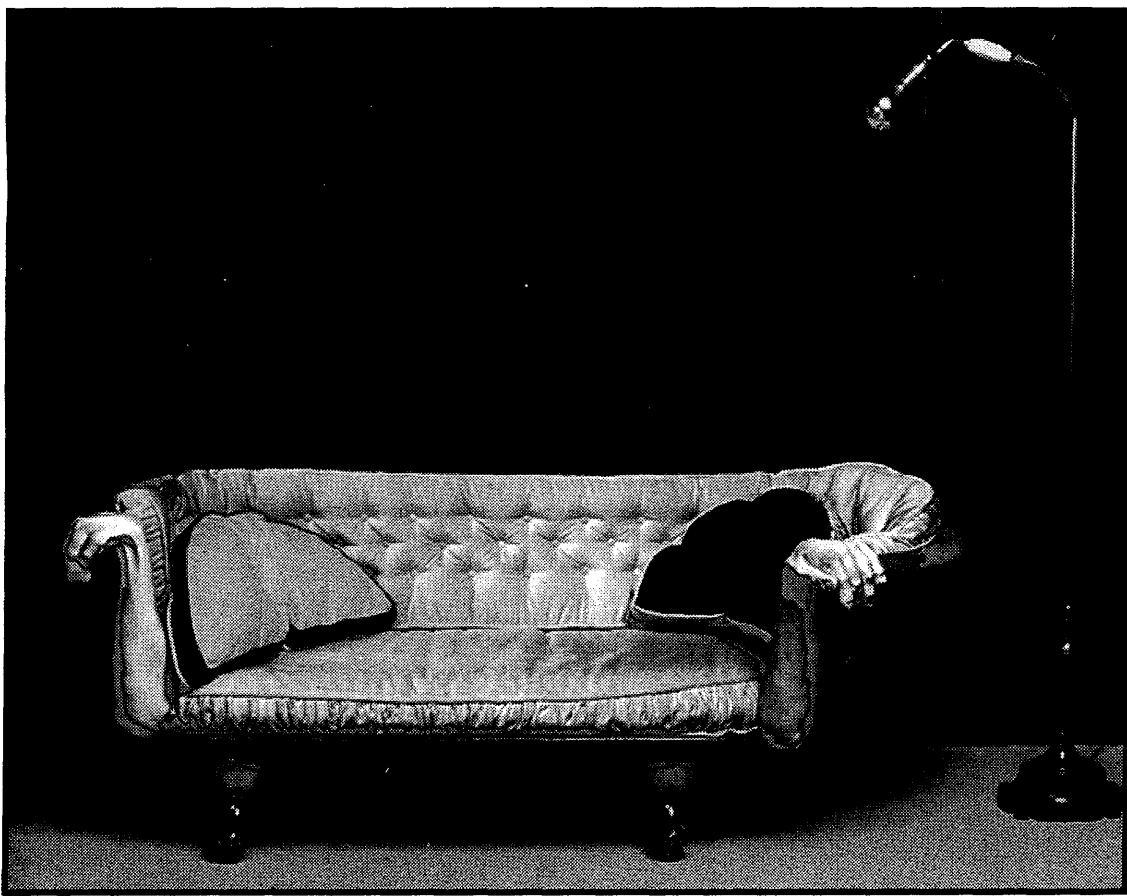
Tickets are \$14 and \$18 and can be purchased at the Mt. Baker Theatre ticket office at 104 North Commercial St.

For more information call the ticket office at (360) 734-6080.



The Belgium-based group is touting its current album, "Seven"

"Seven", the title of Zap Mama's latest CD, has significant meaning according to lead vocalist and founder Marie Daulne. "In Africa there are seven senses, not five," Daulne says. Intuition is the sixth, she says, and the capacity to put music and sounds and words together to put good feelings in the minds of other humans.



Courtesy of Claire Murgatroyd

Sculptor Claire Murgatroyd's "Love Your Self Seat" is illuminated by her "Shower of Light." Both works will be on display in the joint Allied Arts of Whatcom County and VU Gallery exhibition.

Did The Front miss the boat?

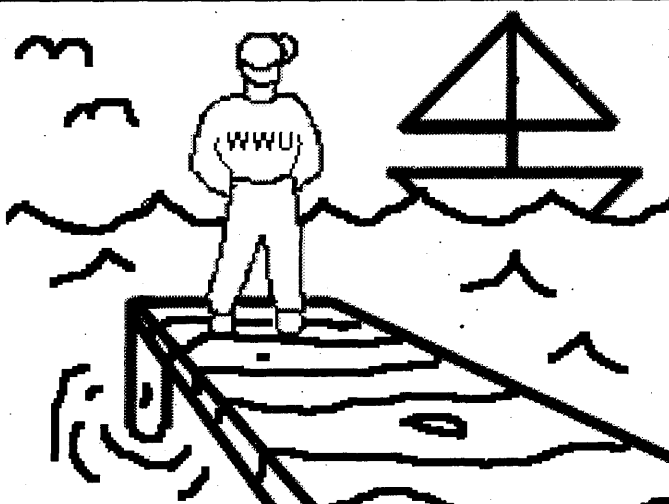
Talk back!

Speak your mind and tell us if we float your boat.

650-3162

OR

wfront@cc.wwu.edu



VU Gallery goes 'Beyond Borders'

By Arvid Hokanson
The Western Front

Tucked away next to Plaza Pizza is one of Western's best kept secrets, the Viking Union Gallery. This Saturday, the 1997 Beyond Borders College Art Competition Display will officially open at both the VU Gallery and at Allied Arts of Whatcom County, located at 1418 Cornwall Ave.

Hours at the VU Gallery are from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday

through Saturday.

Hours at Allied Arts

are from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday through Friday

and noon to 5 p.m. on

Saturday. Some of the artists will

be on hand at both galleries.

Following the viewing on

Saturday will be a free awards

ceremony in the VU Main

Lounge.

The Seattle-based Marriott

Jazz Quintet will provide music

during the awards ceremony

courtesy of the ASP Underground

Coffee House Concert Series.

Beyond Borders, now in its

second year, is a competition

designed to give West Coast

collegiate artists a chance to publicly

display their artwork, as well as

to share their work with each

other. The contest is the only one of its kind on the West Coast.

The types of art on display will vary to include works of ceramics, design, photography and illustration.

Stephanie Stargell, VU Gallery Coordinator and a senior sculpture major, started the competition last year.

"The goal was to see the work of the other institutions, as everyone has their own specialty. It's really good in the fact that we get a cross variety," Stargell said.

The goal was to see the work of the other institutions, as every one has their own specialty.

— Stephanie Stargell
VU Gallery Coordinator

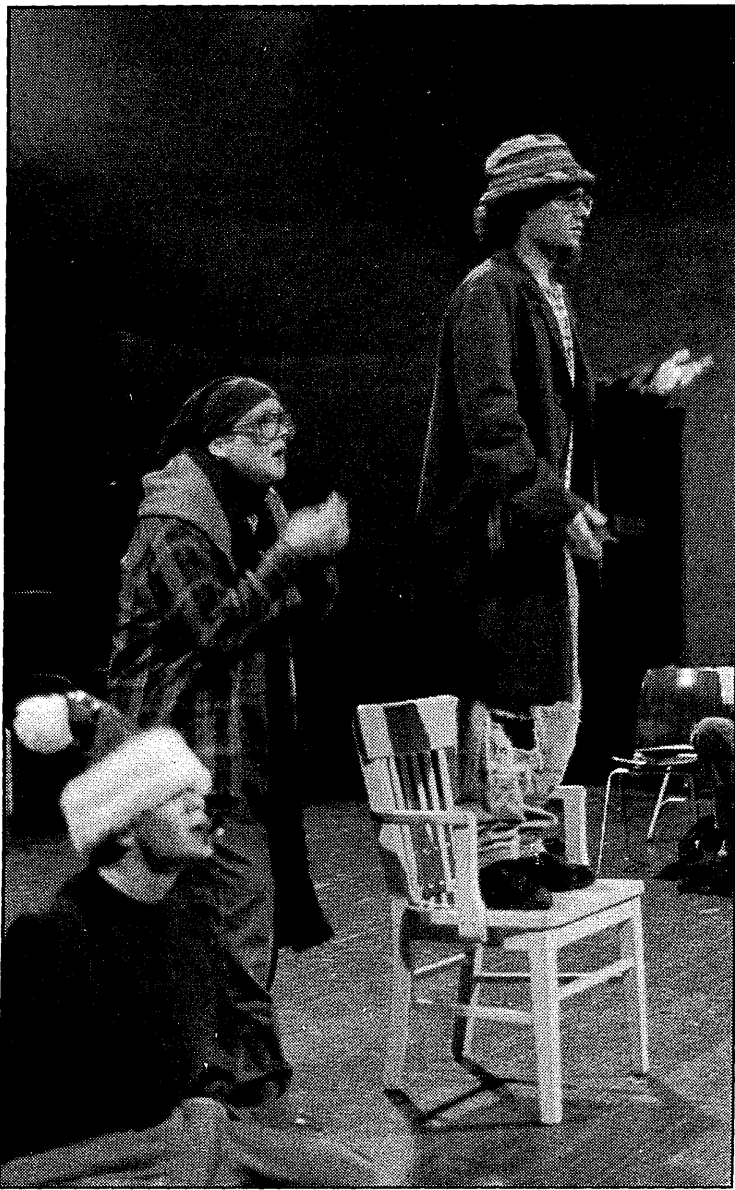
The contest was open to all undergraduate students of two- and four-year institutions.

This year, of the 125 entries from colleges and universities in Washington, Oregon, California and British Columbia, 32 artists' work were selected, with four to six artists receiving awards for overall best artwork.

The work will be judged by Seattle Arts Commission Member Barbara Goldstein, as well as freelance art critic Robin Laurence, whose work appears in Vancouver, B.C.'s Georgia Strait weekly newspaper.

For more information about Beyond Borders, please call Stephanie Stargell at 650-6534.

Lascivious humor reigns at PAC



Front/Scott Castle

Ian Fraser, Gabrielle Tracy and Noel Clayton comprise the entire cast of "Two Bums vs the Salvation Army."

By Scott Castle
The Western Front

Three times a year the New Playwrights Theatre graces the stage at Western. The spring edition is currently playing at the PAC 199. It shows today and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free. New Playwrights present works in progress and the performances change each night as the writer and director alter the work based on audience and critical response. Sets, costumes and props are minimal and the focus is on the script and its development.

New Playwrights consists of four one-act plays in the evening with a sixth five-act play performed in between the others. The five-act is called "Two Bums vs the Salvation Army," and it is the standout work of the night. Neither the accurate title, nor anything else can prepare you for this odd battle of wits between a donation bell ringer and two thespian bums. It starts off weird and then spirals off into the truly deranged land of psychotic amputees, dynamite and the Grim Reaper.

The most wonderful aspect of this piece is that just when you think it's gone as far into the freakish as it can go, it makes you guess again. The combination of subtlety and manic storytelling is brought off adeptly by each of the three actors involved. The posi-

tioning of each vignette in between the longer plays is a wise editing move allowing the piece to ebb and flow throughout the night's performance.

"Humanity Cafe" is a conceptual piece about an esoteric artist, a gregarious general, a flustered waiter and an imaginary fire. If this doesn't make any sense, don't worry — neither does the play. Nevertheless it entertains as much as it bewilders, and the actors tear into their roles with such vigor it's hard not to be drawn into their existential little existence. It's the kind of play where you get out of it what you're willing to bring into it.

"Guess Who?" takes teen rebellion to a bizarre new level and peels back the layers of sex and identity. A mom and dad play seductive parlor games while dodging the presence of their deceptively delinquent son. The acting is especially good, all players switching back and forth quickly but smoothly between their characters contradictory personalities. While the story is forcibly odd at times, the writing is promising and original.

The subject of the "Narcoleptic Thief" is clear from the title. The play has a great deal of potential, but never quite hits its stride. Instead, it wallows in its own pointlessness. The plot is a variation on other, previously explored subjects and "Thief" never takes it anywhere new. Most of the

humorous lines, unfortunately, are from other plays and films. A works cited page would have been in order.

"Just Schmee and the Captain" is a combination of "Peter Pan," "Robin Hood" and the "Rocky Horror Picture Show." It's heavy on weirdness and you can see several jokes coming from a distance, but the energy of the actors and the wit of the writing pull it off. The play tends to rely heavily on bondage and sodomy for cheap jokes, but like most cheap jokes, you catch yourself laughing anyway. The factor of randomness that permeates all the plays works especially well in this one. The sadomasochistic, sing-along finale alone is worth the price of admission.

New Playwrights Theatre is more than a workshop for writers, it is a chance for Western audiences to see truly original works by promising young artists. Though some of it is erratic, moments of crystalline inspiration shine through. Overall, it is a few evening's worth of entertainment condensed into a few hours. Unlike most performed art where you leave the theater at the conclusion and discuss the work with your friend over coffee, NPT has a discussion section after the show. So for everyone who has ever wanted to give the writer a piece of their mind, here's a performance that invites and encourages such participation.

An Irish terrorist crossed with an American police officer makes for an unworkable plot

By Jessica Kate Luce
The Western Front

Hatred breeds hatred. Violence incites violence.

"The Devil's Own," directed by Alan J. Pakula is a story about age-old hatred and deep-seeded differences between all people. Unfortunately, much of the American audience will not be able to identify where this life lesson is coming from because of characteristic American ignorance.

Harrison Ford and Brad Pitt lead this movie through its often confusing plot. "The Devil's Own" revolves around the brutal conflict in Ireland, but takes place in New York. No attempt is made at the outset of the movie to explain why a father is murdered in front of his family or why machine gun shootouts are common place in the neighborhood streets of Belfast.

At the center of the mayhem is Francis McGuire (Brad Pitt), otherwise known as Frankie the Angel — Angel of death, that is. McGuire is an IRA terrorist with the blood of over 20 people on his hands. When things heat up too

much for Frankie, he takes off for America to refuel with the aid of an American priest.

The IRA is the Irish Republican Army — a simple fact the movie does not delve into. The dynamics which make up North and South Ireland; Catholic and Protestant Ireland are also ignored as if the American audience would not be able to digest it. If you are not already aware of this war under the wraps, "The Devil's Own" will make little sense.

Harrison Ford enters as Tom O'Meara, the honest, good cop

who agrees to take Frankie into his home with his wife and three daughters as a favor for the priest, and for nothing else than "having someone around who can pee while standing up."

Frankie stays with the O'Meara family while he makes arrangements for the purchase of missiles to further his mission, which for most of the movie, appears to only be the avenging of his father's murder. In between his cozy moments with the family and beers at the happy local Irish-American bar, the deal is made.

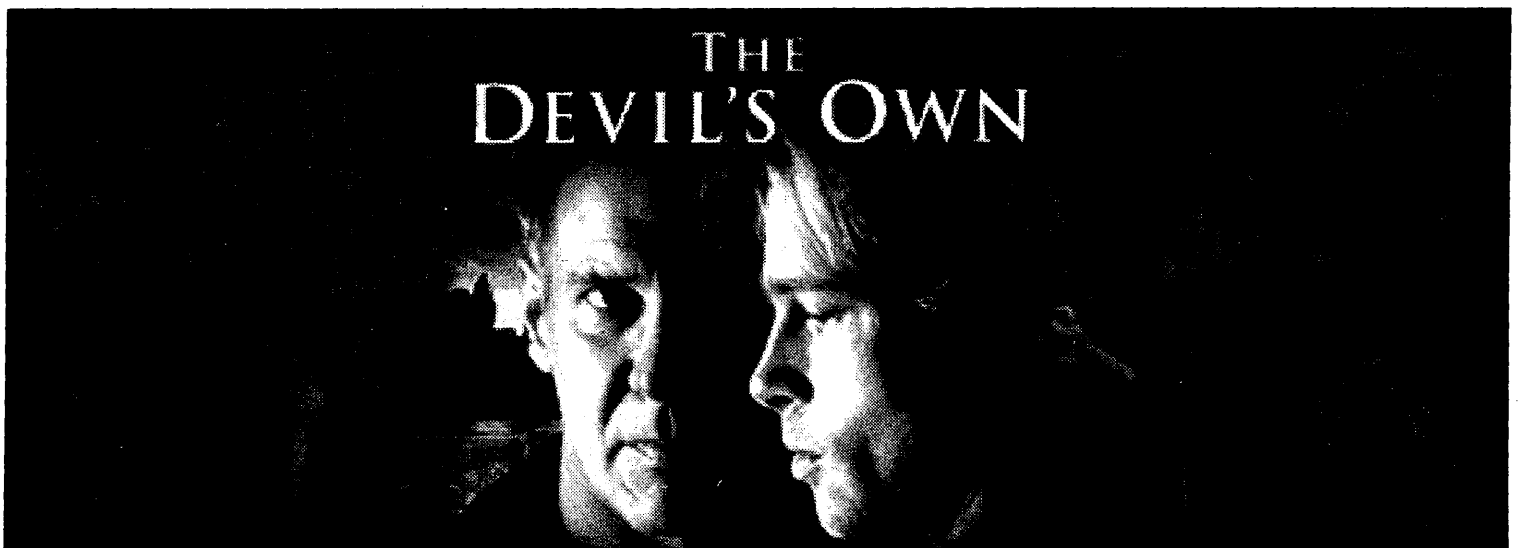
Behind all the gaps in the story

is the main theme, if you can catch it: hate cannot be fought with violence. The demons Frankie is fighting have ripped him, his family and his friends apart, and at this point he can do nothing about it. It is a part of him. "Nobody's innocent," he says.

Pitt's Irish accent is actually believable, but it still sounds funny coming from this American heartthrob. Ford does a good job reviving the idea of the truly good cop, but many moviegoers will still leave the theater saying, "Huh?"

This movie had the potential to really hit home, but it missed its mark. The only thing that made sense was the battle between Ford and Pitt. How Ford was trying to solve the problem in an American way, the only way he knew, and Pitt using what he knew, the Irish way. "It's not an American story. It's an Irish one," Frankie says in the end.

The film is befittingly graced with Irish flute and violin riffs, and songs by the Cranberries. "The Devil's Own" also stars Margaret Colin, Ruben Blades and Treat Williams.



Pre-season hype has M's winning series

COMMENTARY

THE
WESTERN
FRONT

Carey Ross

Until recently in Seattle, the word "baseball" was often uttered in the tone many reserve for obscenities.

However, that was before the miraculous season two years ago when the

Mariners put together their now legendary "Refuse to Lose" season.

All of a sudden, what was once considered a dying sport in this area had thousands holding their breath.

It's 1997, and baseball fans are finding themselves breathless once again. Sports experts and armchair analysts alike predict that not only will the Mariners make it to the World Series, they are poised to win their first championship in team history.

They certainly seem to have all of the required ingredients to become world champions.

They have two of the best overall players in baseball, Ken Griffey Jr. and Alex Rodriguez, as the backbone of their defensive roster.

Offensively, the Mariners are a powerful force at the plate. Last season, Griffey finished the year with 49 home runs, despite missing 20 games due to injury. He is supported by such sluggers as Rodriguez, Edgar Martinez and Jay Buhner.

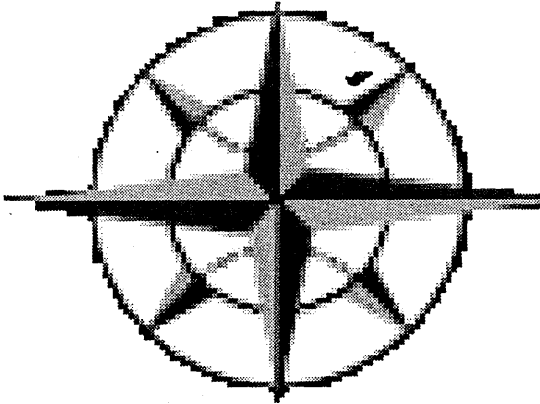
Joey Cora, Paul Sorrento and Dan Wilson have also proven themselves more than able to come through in clutch situations.

Perhaps the best news for the Mariners is the team finally has pitching that can back up the now healthy Randy

Johnson. This year, the pitching staff, which has been the teams' Achilles heel, should be able to help rather than hinder the team.

Despite the star-studded roster and impressive stats the Mariners bring with them, their season will not be an easy one. A World Series title is not guaranteed. No one earns a championship crown for getting the most pre-season hype.

The truth is, the Mariners as a team rely, perhaps a little too heavily, on their three star players, Griffey, Johnson



and Rodriguez.

The supporting players have not shown they can step up and get the job done in the face of losing one of these three players.

Randy Johnson's season-ending back injury a year ago illustrates all too clearly that the Mariners are one injury away from watching the playoffs from their living rooms.

Injuries aside, in order for the Mariners to win the World Series they have to show the kind of heart they demonstrated two years ago during their against-all-odds,

"Refuse to Lose" season. They did not mount all those comebacks and gut their way through all those extra innings because they possessed an athletic prowess superior to that of their opponents.

The Mariners won through sheer force of will; they simply wanted it more. That force of will was conspicuously absent a year later, and so were the Mariners come playoff time.

The fact is, despite what the roster looks like or what the stat sheet says, the Mariners have to get through over 150 more games before they even get a crack at the playoffs again, much less the World Series.

While it is undeniable that they have the talent to make it there, in this area, it seems that teams with all of the talent in the world, such as the Sonics, often self-destruct just when things are looking brightest.

The Mariners are certainly not immune to this kind of behavior, eloquently illustrated by their dismal loss Wednesday to the New York Yankees.

It seems that, while the Mariners can assemble all of their talented players in one place, outfit them in crisp new uniforms and sellout the game, no one can force them to actually show up and play.

Unfortunately, no secret formula exist to ensure a Seattle dominated World Series.

The M's have to win consistently, they cannot afford to make mistakes and they have to have a little bit of luck. Oh, and they have to be better than every single other team in baseball.

So put the ticker tape away and stop planning the celebration.

The Mariners have a pretty big obstacle to overcome before they get to be champs — they have to make it through the regular season.



Check
with us
for the
best
of the
Northwest!

If you're looking for a truly *free* checking account - with **no minimum balance, unlimited check writing, and no ATM fees,** check with us first! Because if you sign up for checking between April 1 and May 16, you'll automatically get a "Best of the Northwest" card, free. This card entitles you to **two free admissions** each to **Seattle Art Museum, Washington State History Museum, Northwest Trek, and Cheney Cowles Museum.**

Plus, you'll be entered to win a trip for two to Alaska's Glacier Bay Lodge. If you already have Free Checking with WSECU, add direct deposit or payroll deduction to your services to qualify for the drawing and get your "Best of the Northwest" card.

Sign up for free checking with WSECU today.
After all, you've got places to go!



Toll-free statewide:
1-800-562-0999
Live Member Service
M - F 7:00 am - 9:00 pm

Serving Faculty and Staff of WWU

Check us out on the web at <http://www.wastatecu.org>

*Free checking with no ATM fees at any Exchange or Accel cash machine.
Certain uncool locations may levy a surcharge for transactions at their machine. Avoid them.

BEING A BIG BROTHER IS
A SERIOUS RESPONSIBILITY.

BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS
671-6400



Magnificent seven clinches seat in national tournament

By Fred Sheffield
The Western Front

On a weekend in late March when the college basketball world focused on the NCAA tournament, seven men from Western traveled to Corvallis, Ore. and decided to make some college basketball history of their own.

Because of these seven men, Western is being represented in the National Intramural Tournament for the first time.

After going undefeated in a regional tournament, juniors Allen Andrews, Mike Cushman and Pat Pintar join sophomores Jason Bellerive, Greg Martineau, Jake Metcalf and Chuck Schelle in Louisville, Ky. this weekend playing for the right to be called the best intramural team in the country.

Their journey started Saturday, March 22 on the campus of Oregon State University.

After paying the team entry fee of \$80, the Western seven were ready to compete with some of the finest intramural teams in the Northwest.

The team was scheduled to play three games to determine seedings on Saturday and to participate in the actual tournament on Sunday.

In their first game, Western trounced a team from South Seattle Community College 70-40.

A much better Oregon team gave the Vikings a run for their money, but a Martineau fade-away with seconds on the clock propelled the team to a 52-50 victory.

In their final game of the day, Western improved its record to 3-0 defeating Portland State 67-55.

On Sunday morning, the seven young men found themselves with the No. 1 seed and a mere two victories away from an all expenses paid trip to Louisville, Ky for nationals.

The team began the day in a familiar fashion beating up on SSCC.

The win vaulted Western into the championship game where it defeated the OSU team on the floor of Gill Coliseum.

"On the six-hour ride home (to Seattle) we were all talking about Louisville," Schelle said.

"We came into dangerous Beaver country not knowing what to expect, but it felt great to emerge champions."

Though the tournament was in its first year of existence, Western players

said the hosts, Oregon State Intramural Department and sponsors TWA and Speed Stick, handled the event well.

"They gave us a free dinner one night, free pizza and a lifetime supply of Speed Stick: What more do you want?" Schelle said.

This week the team will write the final chapter in the story that began in Corvallis.

Early Wednesday morning, all seven players boarded a plane to Louisville where they will meet with six other regional champions to determine the 1997 National Intramural Champion.

Western played their first game in the single elimination tournament on Thursday, but the team will remain in Louisville until Sunday regardless of how they perform.

As the team packed its bags Tuesday night, the team was good-spirited and excited about the possibilities that lay ahead.

"We feel honored to be able to represent Western in a national showcase" Schelle said.

"We're coming down there with the cocky arrogance of a superior team. I just hope we get some of that southern hospitality."



Mens Lacrosse

April 4, 8 p.m. vs. Lewis and Clark State College at the turf field
April 5, 1 p.m. vs. Linfield College at the turf field

Womens Rugby

April 5, 11 a.m. vs. Central Washington University at Arntzen Field

Track and Field

April 5, 10 a.m. WWU Team Invitational at Civic Field

Fastpitch

April 5, 1 p.m. at Central Washington University

Womens Lacrosse

April 5, 9 a.m. WWU hosts Northwest teams at turf field

It's time to...
Get Real!
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Learn how the world of business *really* works—every business day.

Subscribe today to The Wall Street Journal.

Special Student Savings!

- Send me a one-year subscription for \$87.00
- I'd prefer a 15-week subscription for \$38.00
- I'd like a 10-week subscription for \$24.00

Name (please print) _____

Address _____ Room/Apt # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Is this an on-campus address? YES NO Telephone _____

School Name _____ Student I.D. # _____

Major _____ Graduation Month/Year _____

Check enclosed; Bill me later; Charge to my:
 AMEX; Visa; MasterCard; Discover Card; Diners Club

Credit Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
Mail coupon to: THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
200 Burnett Road
Chicago, MA 01020
or call toll-free: 1-800-2BUY-WSJ

©1996 Dow Jones and Company, Inc. All rights reserved. Offer good for a limited time, and only in the continental U.S. Subscriber is responsible for state sales tax, if applicable. 78HM

Bellingham Aquatic Center

1114 POTTER STREET
BELLINGHAM, WA 98226
(360) 647-7665

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

EFFECTIVE
JANUARY 6/97
to JUNE 14/97

TIME	MONDAY-THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
5:30-7:00	Lap Swim * & Swim Teams	Lap Swim * & Swim Teams	CLOSED	CLOSED
6:00-7:00	Deep Water Aerobics	Deep Water Aerobics	CLOSED	CLOSED
7:00-8:30	Lap Swim & Swim Teams	Lap Swim & Swim Teams	CLOSED	CLOSED
8:30-9:30	Lap Swim & Water Aerobics	Lap Swim & Water Aerobics	Lap Swim, Swim Team & Water Aerobics	CLOSED
9:30-11:30	Lap Swim, Swim Lessons & Preschool Swim	Lap Swim & Preschool Swim	Lap Swim, Swim Lessons & Swim Team	CLOSED
10:30-11:30	Arthritis Class	Arthritis Class		CLOSED
11:30-12:30	Swim Lessons, Lap Swim & Water Aerobics	Lap Swim & Water Aerobics	Lap Swim & Swim Lessons	Kayaking 11:30-1:00
12:30-2:30	Lap Swim & 50% off Family Swim	Lap Swim & 50% off Family Swim	Open Swim & Lap Swim 12:30-2:30	Lap Swim & Water Walking 1-2:30
2:30-5:00	Swim Lessons & Swim Teams (*Lap Swim * After Feb. 20*)	Preschool Swim & Swim Teams (*Lap Swim * After Feb. 20*)	RENTALS & Classes 2:30-4:30	Open Swim & Lap Swim 2:30-4:30
5:00-6:30	Swim Lessons, Swim Teams, Lap Swim*	Open Swim, Swim Teams & Lap Swim* 4:30-6:30 (4:45-6:30 until Feb. 14)	Open Swim & Lap Swim 4:30-6:30	Swim Lessons, Synchronized Swimming 4:30-5:30
5:30-6:30	M/W: Arthritis Class & T/Th: Water Aerobics			50% Off Open Swim & Lap Swim 5:30-7
6:30-8:00	Lap Swim & 50% Off Open Swim	RENTALS 6:30-7:30	RENTALS 6:30-7:30	Water Polo 7-8
8:00-9:00	Deep Water Aerobics & Lap Swim M/W: Water Aerobics Wed: Scuba	50% Off Open Swim & Lap Swim 7:30-9	50% Off Open Swim & Lap Swim, 7:30-9	
9:00-10:00	RENTALS	RENTALS	RENTALS	RENTALS

*1-2 lanes
Program schedule is subject to change.
Please call to confirm.

Frontline

Geyser of insanity spreads spring fever

Like the swallows migrating back to San Juan Capistrano, students returned to Western in droves this week.

With their return, the students brought back the annual spring quarter fever that seems to infiltrate the campus every April.

Every spring, people herd themselves into Red Square with a deer-in-the-headlights look on their faces. They adorn themselves in shorts, T-shirts, sunglasses and sandals mysteriously oblivious to the fact that it is still 50 degrees and windy.

Students huddle in small packs to discuss their schedules, their vacations and the cool effect that is created when goose bumps form on their bare arms when wind gusts hit them.

Although the source of this fever is difficult to pinpoint, I believe it centers around Fisher Fountain in Red Square.

The one constant in all this madness is the fountain. As soon as the shower of water begins to fall within the fountain, the shower of madness seems to emanate from this hub of spring fever.

Some have speculated that the Hale-Bopp comet could be linked to this phenomenon, but this explanation doesn't fly no matter how much Heaven's Gate propaganda is explored.

A more reasonable answer is that spring break brainwashes people into forgetting they actually attend school in Bellingham, Wash. They don't realize Bellingham weather does not correlate with Mazatlan, Honolulu, San Diego or even Walla Walla weather. In two weeks, students have forgotten the weather patterns of their Northwest educational roots.

No matter how many theories are suggested, explanations always aim in the direction of Red Square's geyser of insanity.

Although the true explanation may never surface, this craziness is bound to continue for years to come.

This behavior can't be stopped, but it can be contained. Students must help friends overcome this sickness.

If you see a friend leaving the house with a tank top and shorts on — save them. Please remind them they are in Bellingham and unless a comet does collide with earth, temperatures will remain chilly. Remember, friends don't let friends wear tank tops in April.

In the meantime, the mystery of Western's spring fever will roll on.

—Matt Finlinson, managing editor

The Western Front

Editor: Lisa L. Diaz; **Managing Editor:** Matt Finlinson; **News Editors:** Rachel Morrow and Kristen T. Paulson; **Features Editors:** Jen Nikolaisen and Jen O'Brien; **Accent Editors:** D. Eric Jones and Dennis Pasco; **Sports Editors:** Kristin Darland and Josh Godfrey; **Opinions Editor:** Gene Metrick; **Copy Editors:** Jessica Kate Luce and Rachel Morrow; **Photo Editors:** Aaron Dahl and Tom Degan; **Graphics Editor:** Vincent Verhei; **Online Editors:** Nicky Loi and Jessica Kate Luce; **Cartoonists:** Jeremy Chase and Jason Kelly; **Adviser:** Pete Steffens; **Business Manager:** Teari Brown; **Custodian:** Scott Biern; **Custodian Emeritus:** Roger Sprague.

Staff Reporters: Shelby Benny, Chris Blake, Edward Brightman, Chris Brooks, Sara Buckwitz, Scott Castle, Amy Christiansen, Tammy Clarke, Naomi Dillon, Jennifer Dye, Julia Groce, Jennifer Hart, Ryan Hawkes, Jennifer Hayes, Jacob Henifin, Molly Hernandez, Arvid Hokanson, Ryan Hooser, Lucy Kee, Katherine Johnson, Amy King, Brian Kingsberry, Chris Luczyk, Mercedes Maddox, Heather Mills, James Morrell, Scott Morris, Riley Morton, Sarah Olson, Laurie Phillpot, Heather Rennie, Carey Ross, Kevin Rus, Joseph Rzczkowski, Fred Sheffield, Heather Stanczak, Steven Uhles, Kimberly Vincent, Todd Wanke, Norah West, and Jenny Zappala.

The Western Front is the official newspaper of Western Washington University. It is published by the Student Publications Council, which hires editors and oversees financial matters. The Front is largely supported by advertising revenue. The Front's opinion is not reflected in these advertisements.

Content is determined entirely by student editors. Staff reporters are enrolled in the journalism department course entitled "newspaper staff." However, items published in The Front are not limited to persons in the class.

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



Beware of mindless consumerism

COMMENTARY



Nicky Loi

Buy American. Buy everything you don't need.

We've long been aware of our brazen spending during the Reagan years, which can be summarized with the infamous line from the movie, "Wall Street," "Greed is good." Well, those of us nostalgic for the 1980s need not worry — we're not much different now than we were then.

Take a tour of your own home and make a mental checklist of the wow-I'm-glad-I-bought-this-product-that-has-vastly-improved-my-life-and-made-me-a-happier-person items and the why-is-it-again-I-bought-this-and-what-exactly-does-it-do? products.

Chances are, like the rest of us schmucks-for-brains consumers, you own more of the latter.

Ask yourself this question: Do you know how to work all the controls on your television? Your VCR? Your PC? How many times a month do you use your food dehydrator? Your Soloflex? Your Buttmaster?

Suckers. Somewhere in the corporate high heaven, the big-wigs are laughing in their Rolls-Royce with cohibas clenched between their teeth, repeating the phrase, "It's not how good the product is, it's how well you tell

people how good it is and why they need it," to their distributors over their cell phones. And we're sitting here paying high interest rates for our credit cards and finance plans — always loaning, always owing.

The reason why credit card companies, infomercials and banks exist is because we, the American consumers, like to have things we're not supposed to have.

I almost got drawn in by temptation last Tuesday by spending \$200 over my budget on a video camera because it had a color viewfinder, a 26X zoom and other spiffy little features.

Luckily, I didn't have any credit history so the salesman couldn't offer me the financing by Sony, and I had to settle for a simpler, basic camcorder — what I had wanted in the first place. Besides, not too many of my friends would want to be filmed in the solarized, black-and-white or negative mode the expensive camcorder offered.

My brother bought a brand new Acura last year, a \$24,000 nervous system on wheels. He wouldn't travel to "questionable" neighborhoods, he wouldn't take it to the supermarket and he drives even less than he needs to. He worries about it all the time, and he forked out more money for an additional sensor alarm. I believe bulletproof windows aren't too far away.

I love my bro, but his hand-me-down car that I now drive actually gets me from point A to B, serving the same functions as his

Acura. Sure, it's ugly, it's falling apart and it should be condemned, but I don't worry about it. It was my fun little snowsled during the winter storm while he was stranded at home out of fear.

Does the extra money buy quality? Not necessarily. According to figures quoted in the March 14 issue of Entertainment Weekly, the combined costs of making all the Oscar-nominated movies, "The English Patient" (\$31 million), "Secrets and Lies" (\$5 million), " Fargo" (\$7 million), "Shine" (\$5 million), and the one with that Cruise guy (\$50 million) are a million dollars less than the price tag of this summer's "Starship Troopers," another alien invasion picture we don't need to see.

But it's all in simple economics. If nobody bought new products, supply and demand and the whole economic structure would fall apart.

We're poor college students with meager budgets, though. We don't need to pay through our noses. Get what you need and not what you think you want. Functionality is the key word.

Gimmicks, special effects, extra features and perks are like casual dates — they're new, different and hold you over until the excitement dies down, and then you'll be looking for something else. And just like casual dates, you'll even have that bitter after-taste in your wallet.

The overwhelming abundance of products does not certify quality nor validate our need for those products — so spend wisely.

Letters Policy

The Western Front accepts submissions up to 250 words on any topic. We reserve the right to edit for style, grammar, punctuation, spelling and libelous content. Letters must be typed and signed and include a phone number for verification purposes.

Send submissions and correspondence to: The Western Front, College Hall 09, Bellingham, WA 98225. E-mail letters to wfront@cc.wvu.edu

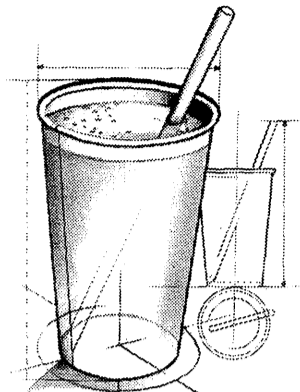
ROSARIO

Listed On The National Register
Of Historic Places

Rosario Resort, located on Orcas Island in the San Juan Islands and accessible by Washington State Ferries, is hiring NOW for the upcoming summer season! We need Hospitality oriented people for all positions at the resort. If you have prior experience in the resort industry it will help but we are also an excellent training ground for those people that have no work experience. Our wages start at \$6.00 per hour; tipped positions at \$4.90, we have excellent employee benefits and an incredibly beautiful working environment. For an application packet, please call or write to us at Rosario Resort, One Rosario Way, Eastsound, WA 98245 360-376-2222, ext. 1006. Rosario Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

TREATS

Boomers Drive-In Recipe #0201



The Hard Ice Cream Shake

Old fashioned method of preparation only!

1. Add 3 large scoops of quality hard ice cream.
2. Add one or more of the following: Fresh Bananas, Strawberries, Black Berries, Mocha, Vanilla, Pineapple, Cherry, Peanut Butter, Orange, Chocolate Chip Mint, or the Special Flavor of the Week.
3. Add 3 oz milk and blend for 3-4 minutes until the shake has reached the ultimate shake lovers consistency — thick yet viscous enough to flow through a 3/8" wide straw.

Special Instructions to the Car-Hop:

Never use the high-tech shake machines — these machines use a low-cost product called "shake-mix" that freezes and mixes air into the mix, producing a much-too-sweet imitation air-filled shake. Yuck!

310 North Samish Way ♦ Open 7 Days/Week ♦ 647-BOOM



Of Bellingham

Sunday Services: 10 AM to Noon

- Worship • Teaching • Ministry • Coffee Time •
- Casual Atmosphere • Contemporary Music •
- Sunday Meetings At 1418 Cornwall—

Call 647-1949 For More Info

FEELING LEFT OUT IN THE COMPUTER AGE?

The Washington Air
National Guard can
help!

Now hiring part-time positions in Electronic Computer and Communication Systems working with LAN/WANs in a military environment. We provide free, paid training in a variety of related fields. Gain the education, training, and experience today's employers are looking for. Train full-time for 3 to 6 months and then work part-time, one weekend each month, plus two weeks each year.

Stay in college and
get the experience
you need!

Contact: Al Epp
262 CBCS/RS
4001 Williamson Way
Bellingham, WA 98226
(360) 676-2363
aepp@wacpm.ang.af.mil

AIR
NATIONAL
GUARD



RIDE THE CARD

Catch the bus and save some cash around Whatcom County this spring with WTA's Monthly and Yearly Passes. For a mere ten bucks a month, you can ride the WTA as far as it goes, as much as you want. Pick up your pass today at the Viking Union.

GET A CARD. RIDE THE BUS. SAVE SOME CASH.

For further information please call:

676-7433 (RIDE) or 354-7433 (RIDE)



TTY **676-6844** or
TTY **384-6844**



WTA Whatcom
Transportation
Authority

Delivering safe, reliable, and friendly
transportation service to our community.