



Low Points
HIGH
Morale
SPORTS/10



Sibling
RIVALRY



ACCENT/8

THE WESTERN FRONT

FRIDAY
February 6, 1998

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

VOLUME 103 ISSUE 8

BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON

Vendors' Row debate brews



Front/Erin Fredrichs

This sign at the Cookie Table on Vendors' Row asks students to support the vendors.

By Samantha Tretheway
The Western Front

The proposed removal of Vendors' Row during the renovation of the Viking Union and Addition spurred vendors to circulate a petition that might save them.

"Students aren't just signing the petition ... they're furious," Tim McHugh, Cookie Table employee said.

In three days, approximately 1,700 students, or 15 percent of the student body, signed a petition voicing their concerns regarding the future of Vendors' Row.

"At first they said 'you can't stop it' ... now the same students are saying 'you've got to stop it,'" McHugh said.

The petition provides a space for students to voice disagreement with the proposed removal of Vendors' Row during at least a year and a half of construction, McHugh said.

Vendors and concerned students attended a meeting last night of the Facilities and Services Council, which oversees proposed changes to student buildings.

The council projects the renovation will cost \$19 million. Student fees, bookstore reserves and bonds will pay 95 percent of the cost.

The renovation will enclose the Associated Students Co-op Bookstore, the VU and the VA, the Plaza and vendors under one roof, council advisor Jim Schuster said.

KUGS, the Outdoor Center and the Ethnic Student Center will move to rooms currently occupied by the Academic Technology and User Service in High Street Hall, he said. Food Service and the bookstore will move to the VU Main Lounge.

"We're hoping to continue using the space for activities, but that is up to food service," Schuster said.

Vendor's Row will not be relocated, said Hyun Berglund, chair of the council and vice president for busi-

ness and operations.

"At the current time, we decided not to relocate them simply because there is not space on the campus," Berglund said.

AS Clubs, such as the Women's Center, CESAR and Western's Endangered Species Alliance, also utilize Vendor's Row to raise awareness of what the clubs do or to raise money for events.

"If it's (the space) not taken by a vendor, there's a club there," representative from the Activities Council Perry Parson said.

Schuster told the Front in 1992, "It's ultimately up to students to make that decision. We work for the students. If they decide (vendors) are going to stay, that's fine."

"Students may vote on issues by using the initiative process, AS President Shane O'Day said.

Only five percent of enrolled Western students must sign an initiative to place it on a ballot, according to the Election Board Handbook.

However, people at the meeting questioned whether this process could be used in this matter.

Students must know why they want something on the ballot, O'Day said.

"Are you asking the people for an opinion, or are you asking for them to act on something?" O'Day asked.

O'Day advised students to use his presence as an ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees rather than go through the initiative process, which might not get anything accomplished, he said.

The AS doesn't have a right to mandate the vendors' space, O'Day said. The Board of Trustees will make the final decision.

"I don't think they're going to screw the vendors, and if that does happen, I will fight tooth and nail to make sure it doesn't," O'Day said.

The future of Vendor's Row is on the agenda for the next weeks council's session, two weeks.

Western faces another discrimination suit

By Ernesto Cardenas
The Western Front

Western staff member Caroline Caine has filed a suit against Western in Federal District Court.

The lawsuit is a complaint for damages, alleging illegal gender discrimination under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Caine filed her suit in June 1997 after a negotiation dispute over her salary resulted in the termination of her position as an exempt assistant to the dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts.

Caine alleges Western discriminated against her because of her

gender when she applied for the position of dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts in the fall of 1996. Caine claims she did not receive full consideration for the position.

Caine also alleges that her position as exempt administrative assistant was terminated because of an informal complaint she made about the dean position.

Out of 10 applicants for the position, three finalists were considered; two were men and one was a woman.

"If you look at the number of qualified women, and then the number of women that made it to

the top 10, that's a real indication of possible discrimination," Breean Beggs, Caine's attorney, said. "That's the biggest red flag."

After not receiving the position of dean, Caine was assigned to do a report on how the dance program at Western could be reshaped. In the report, Caine suggested a non-tenure track position as a program head/lecturer that she would take over; the position would be open to other applicants the following year.

In the summer of 1997, a new dean, Bertil Vanboer, who had an administrative background, took

over the College of Fine and Performing Arts, while Caine was still completing her report.

Caine had been performing administrative duties until that time, when the new dean decided he didn't need an administrative assistant.

The provost then offered Caine a position, but she declined it due to a salary disagreement. Caine claims that her position was terminated due to an informal complaint she had made about the dean position that she was not considered for.

"It's a normal thing in the history of America that when people

are turned down, they aren't happy," said Wendy Bohlke, Assistant Attorney General for Western.

Western has a system for internal complaints, but Caine didn't file an internal discrimination complaint, Bohlke said.

"I have a strong feeling that if institutions don't have good procedures for people to air complaints, they lack integrity," Bohlke said.

"(Caine) is a valued employee. She has the right to issue a complaint. She hasn't done that," Bohlke said.

See *Lawsuit*, page 3

COPIES BOX

Campus Police

Jan. 30, 4 p.m.: A Marriott Food Services manager reported the Creative Juices banner was stolen.

Feb. 3, 4 p.m.: A student reported his/her backpack stolen from a cubicle in the Associated Students Co-op Bookstore.

Feb. 3, 6:07 p.m.: A fire alarm was pulled in Fraser Hall. The building custodian and a student gave a description of a male seen by the pull-box station moments before the alarm sounded. The two witnesses also reported seeing the suspect run from the area moments after the alarm sounded. The building was checked, but no fire was found.

Feb. 3, 11 p.m.: A passerby reported a car with two doors open and items strewn on the ground. The owner of the vehicle said she could find nothing missing.

Bellingham Police

Feb. 2, 10:59 p.m.: Officers responded to a report of shots fired near the 3000 block of Cherrywood Avenue. They located a witness who said he/she heard the shot but believed it sounded more like a firecracker than a gunshot.

Feb. 2, 2:25 p.m.: Officers responded to a 911 call in the 1600 block of "I" Street. The two people at the residence are mentally disabled and accidentally dialed 911 while playing with the phone.

Feb. 3, 10:31 a.m.: A building manager in the 1100 block of Railroad Avenue reported two people sleeping under a stairwell inside the building. They had been let in by a resident of the building. The building manager issued them a permanent trespass warning.

Feb. 3, 12:52 p.m.: Officers responded to reports of a drunk and disorderly person at the intersection of Lakeway and Ellis Streets. Upon arrival they found the person extremely intoxicated and transported him to detox.

Feb. 3, 2:42 p.m.: Two officers responded to a call in the 3400 block of Plymouth Street. The caller reported her car stolen. She said she did not see who stole the vehicle but that she thinks it was her husband. She saw the car entering I-5 South at the Sunset Square on-ramp.

Feb. 3, 3:24 p.m.: Officers responded to a call in the 2700 block of Alderwood Avenue. The owner of the business claimed to be having trouble convincing an employee that he was no longer needed that day. The employee left without incident after talking to the officers.

Feb. 3, 3:35 p.m.: A person reported items stolen from his/her home, which is under construction in the 3000 block of Sylvan Street. Two doors were stolen from the doorway where they had been hung.

Feb. 3, 3:50 p.m.: A person reported he had seen some children playing with a walker. When he later returned to the area, the kids were gone and the walker had been left. He brought the walker to the police station for safe keeping.

Compiled by Meredith Lofberg

Western Briefs

Blood center sponsors blood drive

Western's quarterly blood drive will be conducted from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, Feb. 17-19, in the Viking Union Main Lounge.

According to the Puget Sound Blood Center, participants in Western's blood drive are the second-largest donor group among the 1,000 organizations that participate in the center's mobile program. For more information, contact Catharine Vader of Primary Prevention and Wellness Services at 650-2961.

Career Services Center hosts career fair

The Winter Career Fair will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11, in the Viking Union Main Lounge. The event is sponsored by the Career Services Center and will be 50 percent larger than last year's event.

Employment professionals from 50 companies and organizations will represent a variety of private companies and public agencies. The fair offers students an opportunity to meet employers directly and discuss both internships and full-time career positions.

The event is free. Students should come appropriately dressed, with resumes in hand, for informal interviews.

For more information, call the Career Services Center at 650-3240.

Master plan task force to present workshop

The Campus Infrastructure Pre-design Task Force will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 17, in the

Sehome High School cafeteria.

This will be the second workshop on proposals for improvements to Western's south campus. Representatives from neighborhoods adjacent to Western, city officials and Western representatives comprise the task force.

The workshop is open to the public. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend and participate in the discussion.

Heads debate Feds

A debate between Curtis Sliwa and Steve Hager concerning the legalization of marijuana will take place at 8 p.m. today in Arntzen Hall 100. Sliwa is the founder of The Guardian Angels. Hager is the editor-in-chief of High Times magazine.

An opportunity will be given for audience members to voice their opinions and to learn more about this controversy. The event costs \$3. Tickets will be available at the door.

Daniel MacIvor to speak at Western

The Performing Arts Center Series will present "Here Lies Henry" at 8 p.m., Feb. 13, at Old Main Theatre. Canadian Daniel MacIvor brings his lively, humorous view of life's great questions to the stage with off-the-wall verve. Ticket prices are \$10, \$18 and \$20. For more information, call 650-6146.

Bellingham Parks plans trip to Friday Harbor

Bellingham Parks and Recreation offers an all-day adventure, "Friday Harbor ... A Whale of a Good Time," from

8:15 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28.

The group will meet at Civic Field. The trip begins with a ferry ride to San Juan Island where the group will go to Lime Kiln State Park to explore the lighthouse and look for orcas.

The trip costs \$29. For more information, contact Recreation Coordinator Lauren Woodmansee at 676-6985.

Audubon society sponsors hike

North Cascades Audubon Society presents "Wildlife Watching at Scudder Pond," 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7. The trip will consist of a morning walk on the wild side at a unique urban wildlife area in the heart of Bellingham. People of all ages are welcome. For more information, call Jeanie Johnson at 671-1537.

Art critic lectures about Canadian art

Lon Dubinsky will give an illustrated lecture titled "Artists and Entrepreneurs," about arts in contemporary Canada Wednesday, Feb. 25.

Dubinsky is a Montreal-based art critic, professor, consultant and historian. He also created the landmark Canadian Museums Association literacy project, "Reading the Museum," for which he continues to serve as coordinator.

For further information or disability accommodation, contact Canadian-American Studies at 650-3728.

Compiled by John Bankston

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

THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS' WOMEN'S CENTER is seeking donations of money or books in an effort to expand its lending library. All books donated or sponsored will be recognized with a nameplate in the front cover acknowledging the source. Contact the Women's Center at VU 211, X/6114 or women@cc.wvu.edu.

A THESIS SUPPORT GROUP, sponsored by the Counseling Center, will be held Tuesdays from 4-5 p.m. in OM 540. For graduate students who benefit from extra support. No signup necessary. For information, contact the Counseling Center, X/3164.

WINTER CAREER FAIR, sponsored by Career Services, will be held on Feb. 11 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. in the VU main lounge. Free. Fifty organizations will attend. This is an excellent opportunity to meet employers directly. Students should come in appropriate interview attire with resumes in hand. For a list of organizations attending or for more information, come to Career Services Center, OM 280, call X/3240 or visit our Web site at www.wvu.edu/~careers.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST INTERNATIONAL CAREER FAIR, cosponsored by WWU, will be held Feb. 27 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Seattle Pacific University in the Royal Brougham Pavilion. Graduating seniors and master level students are welcome. A copy of your resume is required for admission. Come dressed for success. For more information check out the Web site at www.ups.edu/pnwicf.htm or contact Don Gorman in Career Services X/3240.

CLOSING CEREMONIES FOR ASIA UNIVERSITY AMERICA PROGRAM students are scheduled for Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. in SL 150. A reception follows from 8:30-10 p.m. in Canada House. Everyone is welcome.

MOVING SALE FOR THE ASIA UNIVERSITY AMERICA PROGRAM will be held Feb. 13 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in Canada House. For information call X/3922.

BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT ADD CODE REQUEST FORMS are available this week, Feb. 2-6, on a cart outside BI 315. All forms need to be completed and put into the indicated instructor's mailbox no later than Feb. 6. Pick up requested add codes in the Biology office Feb. 24 and 25.

THE NATIONAL SECURITY EDUCATION PROGRAM (NSEP) awards scholarships for study in foreign countries and world regions critical to U.S. national security. Applications are available in International Programs & Exchanges, OM 530E, X/3298, for summer and fall 1998 and spring 1999. Deadline for application is Feb. 4.

THE VISITOR CENTER is open 7 a.m.-8 p.m., Monday through Friday, except closed on holidays.

ACADEMIC ADVISING is hiring peer advisers for next year. Applicants must enroll in Ed 340 this spring, be full time, have a minimum GPA of 2.5, and possess strong communication skills. Advisers are trained to assist students with the GURs, course scheduling, and academic policies. Applications are available in OM 380 and must be returned by 5 p.m. Feb. 6.

MILLER ANALOGIES TEST: Registration is required in OM 120 or by calling X/3080. A \$35 fee is payable at the time of testing. The test will be administered at 3 p.m. on Feb. 17 and March 3 in FR 3.

MATH PLACEMENT TEST: Registration is not required. Students must bring picture identification and a No. 2 pencil. A \$10 fee is payable in the exact amount at time of testing. Allow 90 minutes. Testing will be at 9 a.m. in OM 120 on Feb. 9, 12, 19, 23, and 26, and March 2, 5, 9, 12, 16, and 19.

THE TEST FOR ENTRANCE INTO TEACHER EDUCATION (TETEP) will be in FR 3 at 3 p.m. March 11. Registration is required in OM 120. A fee of \$25 is payable in the exact amount at time of registration. The test takes about 2½ hours. TETEP is not administered on an individual basis.

INFORMATION REGARDING NATIONAL TESTING is available at the Testing Center, OM 120.

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Strange Days

The Western Front takes a look at the weirder side of the news

John Bobbit's got nothing on him

Earl Zea, 34, of Johnstown, N.Y., used a pair of pruning shears to remove his penis because a man was interested in him romantically, he told the district attorney. Zea thought if he removed his organ, the man would leave him alone.

Two horse power doesn't cut it

Seventeen-year-old Aaron Miller, an Amish man, tried to outrun sheriff's deputies for four miles in his buggy near Leon, N.Y. The officers patiently followed Miller in their cruiser and eventually charged him with traffic violations.

A friend of Dionne Warwick's

Diana Gazes held a psychic spoon-bending seminar for \$29 per ticket. At the seminar, Gazes told the 100 attendees their powers of concentration would "cause an alteration in the spin of the atoms" of the spoon. She told students to grasp the spoon in both hands with thumbs underneath the smallest part of the handle and apply downward strength. As Gazes shouted, "Bend! Bend!" the attendees leapt to their feet, waving their spoons while shouting, "I bent!"

Size does count

A photo in the third issue of the magazine Oneworld had black

bars over the breasts of one model, while in another photo a model appeared topless without bars. A magazine spokesperson said the decision was dictated by the magazine's printer, who said the second model's breasts weren't big enough to be offensive.

Phony feces

The New York Times reported the Kimberly-Clark Corp. had received a patent for chemically realistic, synthetic feces. The corporation regards the product as crucial for testing diapers and incontinence garments. Technicians concluded makeshift substances such as mashed potatoes, peanut butter and canned pumpkin pie mix were inadequate because they separated into liquids and solids too quickly.

Not by the hair on my chinny-chin

In Ithaca, N.Y., a 21-year-old college student was arrested for beating up a man during a bar fight because of an argument about who had the better-looking goatee.

A Spock a day keeps shakes away

Psychologist Sandy Wolfson told the London Times her research on Star Trek fans reveals that as many as 10 percent of so-called "Trekkies" meet the clinical definition of an addict. Some even going through physical withdrawal during the show's

absence and require increasing doses to overcome their tolerance levels.

Licensed to drive

According to trial testimony in Santa Ana, Calif., George Edgar Lizarralde, 31, was legally blind in 1985 when the Department of Motor Vehicles issued him a driver's license. He had failed the test three times, and DMV granted the license on the fourth try, even though he again failed the vision test. In the trial, DMV's negligence was found to be the cause of injuries to a woman whom Lizarralde ran over in a crosswalk in 1990.

Natural born idiots

A gang of three "spree killers" terrorized the Great Lakes states during the summer of 1995. "Other than the two we killed, the two we wounded, the woman we pistol-whipped and the light bulbs we stuck in peoples' mouths, we didn't really hurt anybody," accused killer Frederick Treesh said in court testimony.

"Owner of a lonely heart"

United Hospital in St. Paul, Minn., announced in May that it was looking for someone to take over curating its collection of more than 14,000 human hearts, each stored in a plastic bag. The collection features specimens with nearly every kind of heart disease. Dr. Jesse Edwards, who started the collection, is retiring

and said maintenance of the hearts by a staff of five costs \$650,000 per year.

Stupid.com

Fortune magazine reported on the foresightedness of Procter and Gamble in registering names for potential exclusive Internet addresses. It won the right to use, among other names: toiletpaper.com, pimples.com, germs.com, bacteria.com, dandruff.com, underarm.com, badbreath.com and diarrhea.com.

Bet that hurt coming out

A 33-pound, two-foot-long Border collie named Apple swallowed an entire 12-inch carving knife while eating devil's food cake at the home of her owner, Eric Fuchs of New York City. Two days after doctors surgically removed the knife. Apple was back at home "ready to play," Fuchs said.

Oh ... crap

Four rows of soiled underpants with the names of death row inmates executed in Texas are on display in a Stockholm, Sweden, window front — all in the name of art.

The exhibition, by Swedish artists Bigert and Bergstrom, is part of a two-week program of 58 shop-window exhibits in Stockholm organized as part of the city's year as Cultural Capital of Europe.

Spokeswoman for the In Window program, Margareta

Zetterstrom, said the waistbands of the 92 pairs of underpants, hung along washing lines, were marked with the names of prisoners executed in Texas between 1982 and 1996.

Each pair of underpants in the exhibition, titled "Death Watch," also had details of the prisoner's last meal.

"Most people see this exhibit and say, 'how disgusting,' but then they start talking about it. That is good," said Zetterstrom.

That's cybersex

Rep. James Traficant, worried about e-mail pregnancy, called for a "chastity chip" for the internet Wednesday.

Traficant, known for his flamboyant rhetoric, gave a brief floor speech about a woman named Frances who claimed to have gotten pregnant through an e-mail exchange with a paramour 1,500 miles away.

"That's right — pregnant," he proclaimed, warning of the dangers of "immaculate reception."

He called on Congress to go beyond "v-chips" that would protect kids from sexual content on the Internet, saying: "It's time for Congress to act. The computers do not need a v-chip. The Internet needs a chastity chip."

Although Traficant did not say whether he believed the woman's story, he said it was "enough to crash your hard drive."

Compiled by Wendy Giroux from Internet sources

Lawsuit, from page 1—

Beggs said Caine hasn't filed an internal complaint because then Western would be investigating itself. She thought she would get a more impartial hearing in court.

A court hearing has different remedies than an internal complaint would provide, such as damage awards.

Caine was initially a classified staff person, meaning she had to complete a nine-month probationary period before being given permanent status.

She then achieved exempt status, which made her an "at-will" employee. As an "at-will" employee, Caine faced the possible termination of her position without reason and with six months notice.

Having completed her probationary period, Caine had the option to return to her position as classified staff person, which she did. She now works in the Human Services Department of Woodring College.

Caine joins Hedi Moscovici to be the second woman to file a sexual discrimination suit against Western. Moscovici was a former biology professor who was not hired after her probationary teaching appointment

had ended.

Moscovici filed a complaint with the Equal Opportunity Center, but the grievance committee found no evidence of sexual discrimination.

The committee did, however, issue a right to sue, and Moscovici's case will go to trial in September 1998, the same time as Caine's case.

"Certainly it's unusual to have two discrimination cases in the same year," Bohlke said. Beggs said Moscovici's case will surface only "to a degree that we can establish this is a pattern."

Beggs is beginning to take depositions from everyone involved with Caine's case, but it may be three months before there is a complete witness list.

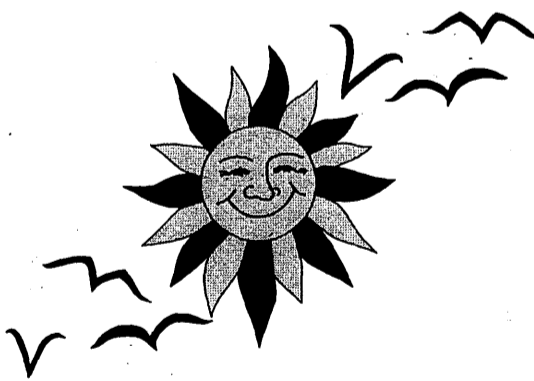
"The thing with these cases is they take forever," Beggs said. "They're kind of ponderous. We still have lots of work to do."

"The university is taking this seriously," he said. "They've hired an outside law firm to defend it."

Western has hired Reed McClure, a law firm from Seattle, to handle the case; Mary Petersen will be the lead attorney for Reed McClure.

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The toast of Old Main



Courtesy of Stuart Martin

Old Main was evacuated Thursday afternoon because of a fire alarm activation on the fourth floor. Classes, administration and the Board of Trustees' quarterly meeting were interrupted, but officials let them back into the building shortly after. Campus police attributed the fire to overcooked food. Officer Dave Garcia of University Police said, "Apparently somebody overtoasted a bagel." Marty Kink of the Bellingham Fire Department said the call was made at 12:19 p.m. He added that the building was re-opened at about 12:40 p.m.

Professor hosts talk on initiative

Ken Brierly
The Western Front

Political Science Professor Vernon Johnson hosted a lunch-hour discussion about Initiative 200, the Washington State Civil Rights Initiative, Wednesday at the Ethnic Student Center.

An area of major concern to the 25 people who attended the discussion was the perceived misleading title of the initiative when in fact, those in attendance said they felt the initiative stood for just the opposite: restricting civil rights.

One woman said she was talking with her mother and was horrified when her mother told her, "Oh, a civil rights initiative. Well, that sounds good."

"The name is misleading," Johnson said. "In initiatives such as this, the ballot title is really a key to deceive people."

The initiative, modeled after California's Proposition 209, would make it illegal to grant preferential treatment "on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education or public contracting."

Prop. 209 was recently upheld by the Supreme Court.

Johnson said that under the current system, the state gives hiring preferences to certain "protected groups," which include females and persons of color; protected groups also include the disabled, Vietnam veterans or disabled veterans — whether or not they're women, colored or white males.

Moreover, the number of women and minorities actually given jobs with the state (1993 is the most recent data) is only a

small percent more than white males who have benefited from the same system of hiring, Johnson said.

"Before affirmative action, getting hired came down to, 'Will this guy go to the taverns with me on Friday nights?' or, 'Will this guy be my golfing buddy?' That was the 'old-boys' system," Johnson said.

"In this state, politicians are generally white. So affirmative action is politicians going, 'You helped get us here; we're going to give some of your people jobs,'" Johnson added.

At this stage in the proposal, the legislature may do three things: it may take no action on the initiative and send it directly to the November ballot; it may pass it into law verbatim with no changes and no veto power for the governor; or it may draft an alternate bill and send both proposals to the voters.

Johnson said people are often confused by the distinction between quotas and affirmative action.

"Quotas are illegal. That is shown in Bakke v. (University of California) Board of Regents, 1978," Johnson said.

The Supreme Court ruled in Bakke v. Board that colleges or other state entities could not exclude any person from participation in any program receiving federal financial assistance based solely on the grounds of race, sex or color.

When it comes down to the hiring process, Johnson said, "It still comes down to if you can do the job or not."

"People of color and women have leverage in the public sector — that's all," he said.

Community radio show receives grant

By Sarah Erlebach
The Western Front

The Opportunity Council, a Bellingham community-action group, received a \$6,500 grant from the US West Foundation Thursday. The grant recognized the council's radio program, "Windows of Opportunity."

George Chappelle, US West regional area manager, said he was pleased to present the award.

"We are glad to be here in the community," Chappelle said. "We are glad to be involved with both the community and the Opportunity Council."

The Opportunity Council, is a non-profit, community service agency.

Founded in 1965, the council serves Whatcom, Island and San Juan counties.

"We are here to marshal the resources of the entire community to help low-income or disadvantaged people improve their lives and move out of poverty," said Cat McIntyre, coordinator of "Windows of Opportunity."

Specifically, the council provides information, education and access to programs for child and family development, housing, energy assistance and health care.

Beginning in the fall of 1996, the

Opportunity Council produced a series of weekly 30-minute programs sponsored by local businesses.

"Windows of Opportunity" programs are designed to distribute community knowledge and provide varied, balanced viewpoints.

Participation in the discussion of community issues is encouraged in the show.

The forum provides a chance to air personal opinions as well as hear many differing ideas.

Locals interviewed or invited to the radio show are interested in an opportunity to talk about issues affecting the Bellingham area.

"Everyone has an investment in their community," McIntyre said. "Participating in the community makes that investment profitable."

The Opportunity Council will use the \$6,500 to hire two part-time producers for "Windows of Opportunity."

The new producers will create an internship program for the production of public radio shows, using "Windows of Opportunity" to help another section of the local population — student journalists.

Dennis Lane, an experienced broadcaster, has already been

hired with the grant money.

"Windows of Opportunity" continues Lane's decade-long struggle seeking community empowerment through the media.

Set to air from 7 to 8 p.m. Feb. 23 of KUGS, this month's "Windows on the Community: Black History" broadcast focuses on the history of African-Americans and a discussion of racial concerns in Whatcom County.

Several programs are planned for the near future. "Windows of Opportunity" broadcasts on KUGS and 91.7 KZAZ-FM, and will feature debates about affordable housing, water quality and the future of Dorothy's Place, a shelter for battered families which will open in Bellingham.

In October 1997, the "Windows of Opportunity" program featured interviews with abusers and victims of domestic violence and a dramatic performance by Bellingham High School students about domestic violence.



Front/Jesse Kinsman

Opportunity Council interns, "Windows of Opportunity" coordinator, producer and host speak with a US West Foundation representative.

The January 1998 show featured a panel concerned with the types of cultural messages sent to women in our society.

The agency that awarded \$6,500 to the Opportunity Council considers itself the "giving arm" of US West.

In Bellingham, the US West Foundation has also donated

money toward the YWCA swimming pool and sponsored beautification projects around Bellingham.

Since 1989, the US West Foundation has requested grant proposals from non-profit agencies in the areas of education, arts and culture, and civic and community work.

Board of Trustees discusses diversity plans

By Jennae Phillippe
The Western Front

Diversity at Western was one of the main focuses of Thursday's Board of Trustees meeting.

The board was presented with "Summary of Diversity Efforts," a report outlining efforts to increase the diversity of the faculty and student body at Western.

Roberta Ferron, the newly chosen executive director for equal opportunity, affirmative action and employment diversity, reported new developments that will affect the role of affirmative action.

One of the proposals is a change in the race categorization process in the national census.

The new census process focuses on multi-racial designation and attempts to allow individuals to better describe their ethnic backgrounds by allowing them to check all ethnic groups that apply.

A change in the census process will "undo affirmative action before anything else," Ferron said.

The problem with this is that a person can only be counted once, in one category, Ferron said. If one person who is half Asian, one-fourth African-American and one-eighth Native American checks all three categories, the computer cannot read that person as three people. So a default system is established that will pick one of the categories to place the person into.

Ferron said this will "undo" affirmative action because the program has to be narrowly tailored to address only compelling state interest. She said it's very hard to have a narrowly-tailored program when individuals do not clearly fall into any of the affected groups.

Five core categories are protected through affirmative action: race, creed, color, national origin and gender. Along with these five, Washington also protects persons with disabilities, veterans and those over the age of 40.

Initiative 200, which would abolish affirmative action, only applies to affirmative action plans based on race and gender and, Ferron said, will not affect the protection of people with disabilities, veterans and people over the age of 40.

Regardless of whether I-200 passes, the Board of Trustees is still concerned with the diversity of the faculty and student body at Western.

Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Kunle Ojikutu presented the board with the report, "Summary of Diversity Efforts," which compiled data from 1989 to 1997 and traced the enrollment of minority

students at Western. The report also includes rates of retention — that is, how many of those same students stayed at Western after one year and after two years.

The figures indicate that enrollment of minorities at Western has increased, but the percent of minorities is about the same.

"It's great that we're doing better than other institutions," Board of Trustees Chair Grace Yuan said. "But when one out of four Native Americans graduate in six years, it's not acceptable."

The board is concerned that nearly 30 percent of minority students who enroll at Western leave within their first two years.

"We are painfully aware that this is an area that needs improvement," Vice President of External Affairs Al Froderberg told the board.

Surveys are being conducted to find out why these students leave. Past surveys suggest that it had less to do with the ability to effectively compete and more to do with a lack of role models in the Western staff.

Ideas to improve minority enrollment and retention discussed at the meeting include special summer sessions for Western students who are struggling and need extra help, pulling in cultural

resources from the region and hosting cultural events on campus.

"It's in our best interest, once these kids get here (during the summer programs), to get them prepared to compete," board member Wayne Ehlers said.

Minority faculty recruitment is another important goal for the board. With a more diverse staff, it will be easier to attract a more diverse student body. A fellowship for doctoral students, especially those who would help Western diversify the curriculum and staff, was proposed. The students would have a reduced teaching load, giving them teaching experience while allowing time to finish their dissertations.

Western President Karen Morse said the biggest issue is the kind of climate and environment minority students encounter. She said the goal is to make them feel comfortable, with more student, faculty and staff role models.

Morse has sent out invitations to develop a statewide, multi-cultural advisory board. She said the board will not be made up of employees or students at Western, but representatives of where students come from.


"We want them to come evaluate what we're doing," Morse said, "(and tell) how we can connect to these communities."

According to the Summary of Diversity Efforts, ethnic minority students have been graduating from Western at a rate ranging from nine percent to 13 percent higher than the national average.

"We want them to come evaluate what we're doing, (and tell) how we can connect to these communities."


Karen Morse
Western President

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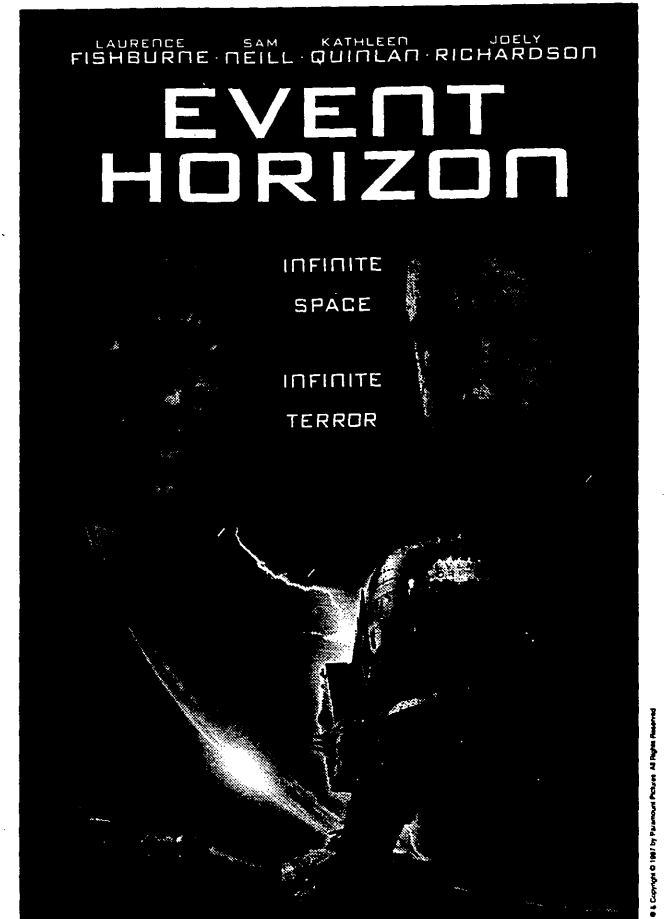
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What part of NO don't you

By Karl Horeis
The Western Front

The bass-driven, hardcore-funk sound of the Victoria, British Columbia, band NoMeansNo will blast through speakers in Western's Viking Union Main Lounge at 8 p.m. this Sunday. Special guests Royal Grand Prix and local band Sharpie will bring down the house as opening acts. Tickets are \$4 for students, \$5 general at the door.

For the last 15 years, NoMeansNo has released seven albums of what Matt Galloway of the magazine "New Music Express" calls "their unmistakable jazz/hardcore/funk sound held together by the unbelievably tight rhythm section of the brothers Wright." Past albums include "You Kill Me," "Live and Cuddly," "The Power of Positive Thinking" and "Sex Mad."

NoMeansNo was originally comprised of brothers Rob and John Wright. Rob plays bass and guitar. John plays drums, keyboards and sings.

After NoMeansNo's first release, "Mama," the band added guitarist Andy Kerr. Kerr played with the band until the 1991 release of "0+2=1," and then got married and moved to Amsterdam.

The loss of Kerr meant a new direction for NoMeansNo.

"He's gone for good and we've moved on to different things," Rob said of Kerr's departure. The older sound of NoMeansNo was a powerful output of roaring drums and bass held together by Kerr's jazzy epoxy.

Now the band has evolved into a cohesive, very heavy — albeit unconventional —

unit. Its songs are brooding and emotional; dark but with a slightly comic sense of optimism.

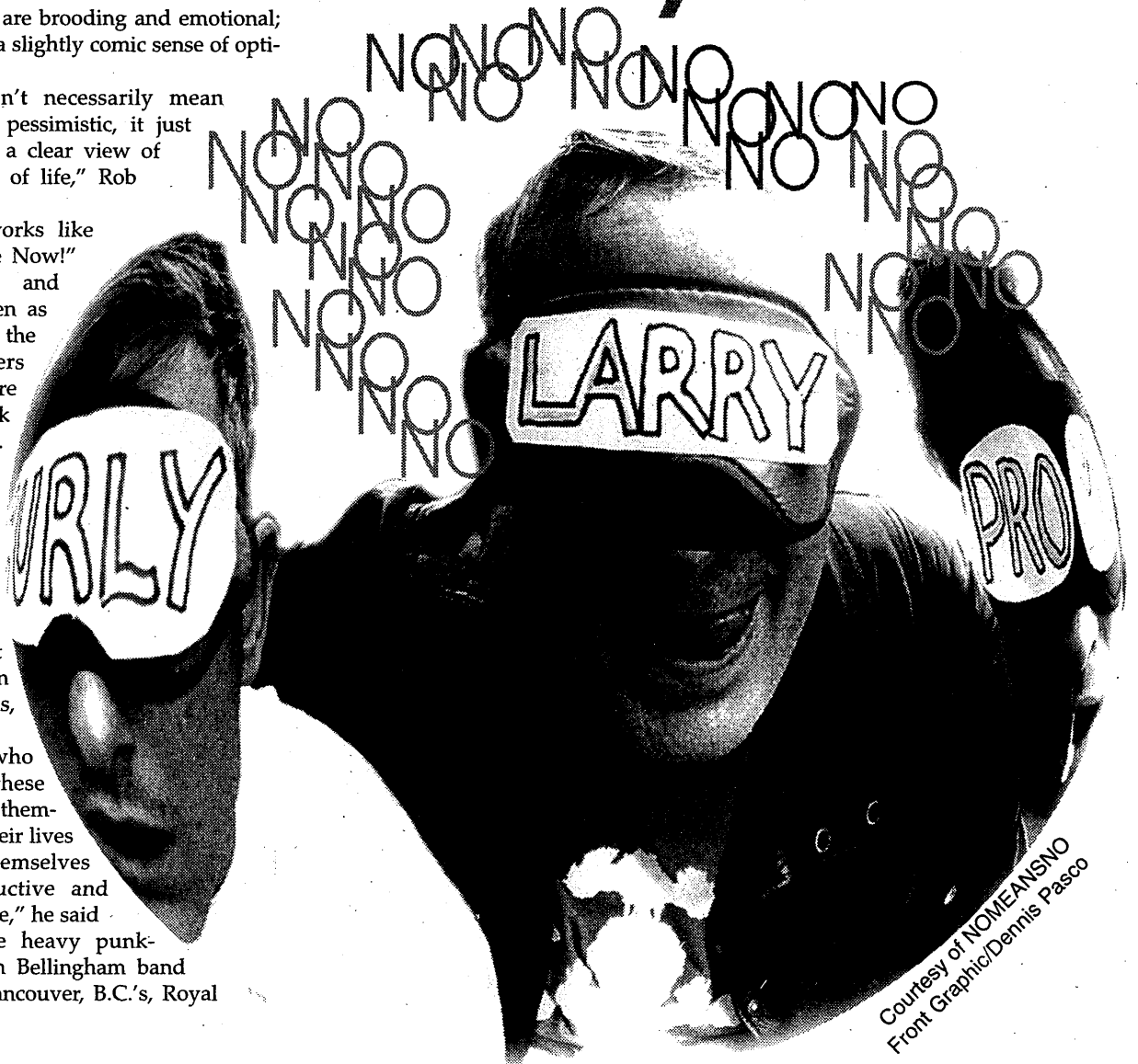
"Dark doesn't necessarily mean depressing or pessimistic, it just means having a clear view of the other side of life," Rob said.

Although works like "Kill Everyone Now!" and "Madness and Death" are seen as dour by some, the band members insist these are really the work of black humor.

"It's not a morbid or destructive thing to confront these issues," said Rob. "It's important to work them out on stage, in songs, in books, in paintings."

"People who don't allow these things to work themselves out in their lives often let themselves become destructive and unhappy people," he said.

Expect some heavy punk-style rock from Bellingham band Sharpie and Vancouver, B.C.'s, Royal Grand Prix.



Courtesy of Carol Weinberg/Front Graphic/ Dennis Pasco

Taylor proves bop still swings

By Arvid Hokanson
The Western Front

Making music so beautiful it created, at times, a euphoric connection — usually found in the nightclubs such as the world-famous Village Vanguard — with the audience gathered in the Performing Arts Center last Saturday, pianist Billy Taylor illustrated why he is a legend.

At 76, Taylor has more than 50 years of jazz performance under his belt, including gigs with the legendary Miles Davis, Charlie Parker, John Coltrane and Ella Fitzgerald. Taylor displayed Saturday why "Vogue" magazine recently called him "the most exciting pianist in the jazz world today."

Taylor didn't show any signs of age in his tuxedoed appearance or in his energetic, yet deft, playing. Throughout the evening, Taylor presented his precise playing as timeless art.

Taylor was backed by Chip Jackson on bass and Steve Johns on drums.

The performance included works by George Gershwin, Claire Fischer, Freddie Hubbard and Taylor himself.

Jackson and Johns, both accomplished performers, are just a few of the musicians who have played with Taylor. Others in the past have ranged from legends such as Art Blakely to Charles Mingus.

At the beginning of the performance, the audience expected selected works, as

printed in the program, from Don Raye, Billy Strayhorn and Ray Bryant. However, Taylor, a natural performer, chose works that captured the ambiance created by the connection between the audience and the trio.

From the opening note to the last chord, the trio complimented each other during the numerous solos. Taylor exhibited his soft touch during Gershwin's "The Man I Love," while Jackson wowed the crowd as his fingers danced along the length of the fingerboard during Hubbard's "Uped Jumped Spring."

The harshness of the piano — caused by the amplification — was the only down side to the performance.

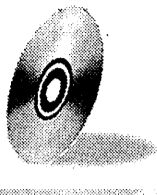
Between each piece, Taylor told short stories and descriptions about his selections.

One of the more colorful stories was about the time Taylor asked Duke Ellington how a young guy could develop his own style. When asked, Ellington told him to search out pieces he liked and play them how he interpreted them. Taylor said the piece he selected was Ellington's Theme, which the audience received with delight.

In the second half of the performance, Taylor showed the diversity of his repertoire from the upbeat Afro-Cuban sounds of Dizzy Gillespie to the tenderness of his own composition, "Step Into My Dream."

yield' a go

By Todd Wanke
The Western Front



CD REVIEW

If you're looking for "Jeremy" on the new Pearl Jam CD, forget about it — he graduated. He's gone, along with the other grungy anthems that made Pearl Jam rock stars in the early '90s, Pearl Jam has cast them away with their flannel shirts and made way for their fifth album, "Yield."

Perhaps it was lead singer Eddie Vedder's portrayal of a troubled child or those wonderful battles with Ticketmaster, but somewhere between Pearl Jam's debut, "Ten," and 1996's "No Code," Pearl Jam has lost its fire.

That's not to say its other albums weren't worthy efforts; they have all shown the band's growth over time. From a mosher's paradise to the vibrant style of rock that it's now producing, Pearl Jam has remained a steady force in rock music.

"Yield" may be Pearl Jam's best yet, coming up with all the fast-paced rides such as "Brain of J," the furious opener, or "Evolution," which reminds listeners of the band's wild side. Laid-back tracks such as "Low Light" and "In Hiding," let Vedder's voice seethe on ballads listeners will instantly fall in love with. On "Wishlist," Vedder offers up lyrics reminiscent of a high-school journal keeper with: "I wish I was a messenger, and all the news was good / I wish I was the full moon shining off your Camaro's hood."

"Wishlist" was composed by Vedder and contains a mid-song jet overdub that will make you look outside to see what landed. The song fades away with Vedder still rattling off wishes.

Pearl Jam has always produced the heart-felt singles; "Daughter" and "Nothingman," from 1993's "Vs." and 1994's "Vitalogy," showcased the band's ability to reveal its soft side, providing a change of pace amidst other fast tracks, but the flow on these albums often seemed interrupted.

With "Yield," Pearl Jam, along with producer Brendan O'Brien, has done a good job mixing up the pace on the entire album; going fast, then slow, and even getting a little weird with "Push me, pull me," where Vedder thinks aloud, over an infant's cry and a screeching guitar: "If there were no angels, there'd be no sin / Nah, stop me before I begin."

Pearl Jam's line-up hasn't changed, except for drummer Jack Irons, onboard since Pearl Jam's 1995 compilation with Neil Young, "Mirror Ball."

"Yield" holds the listener for its entire length, and even the biggest Pearl Jam naysayer might be impressed by how much Pearl Jam has grown.

the adventures of todd...



Todd woke up Saturday morning,

"Co-o-o-ffee," he croaked. Uh-oh, dilemma. Where to go for a cuppa jo? He massaged his brain. "That's it! Fairhaven!" he said when an inspiration dropped in.

He could re-fuel, do some book store-browsing, maybe get a birthday card for his mother—after all, her birthday was last week—and just generally poke around. It would be the perfect antidote for a hard night of...studying.

Todd ambled off to the bus stop and caught the next #7 to Fairhaven.*

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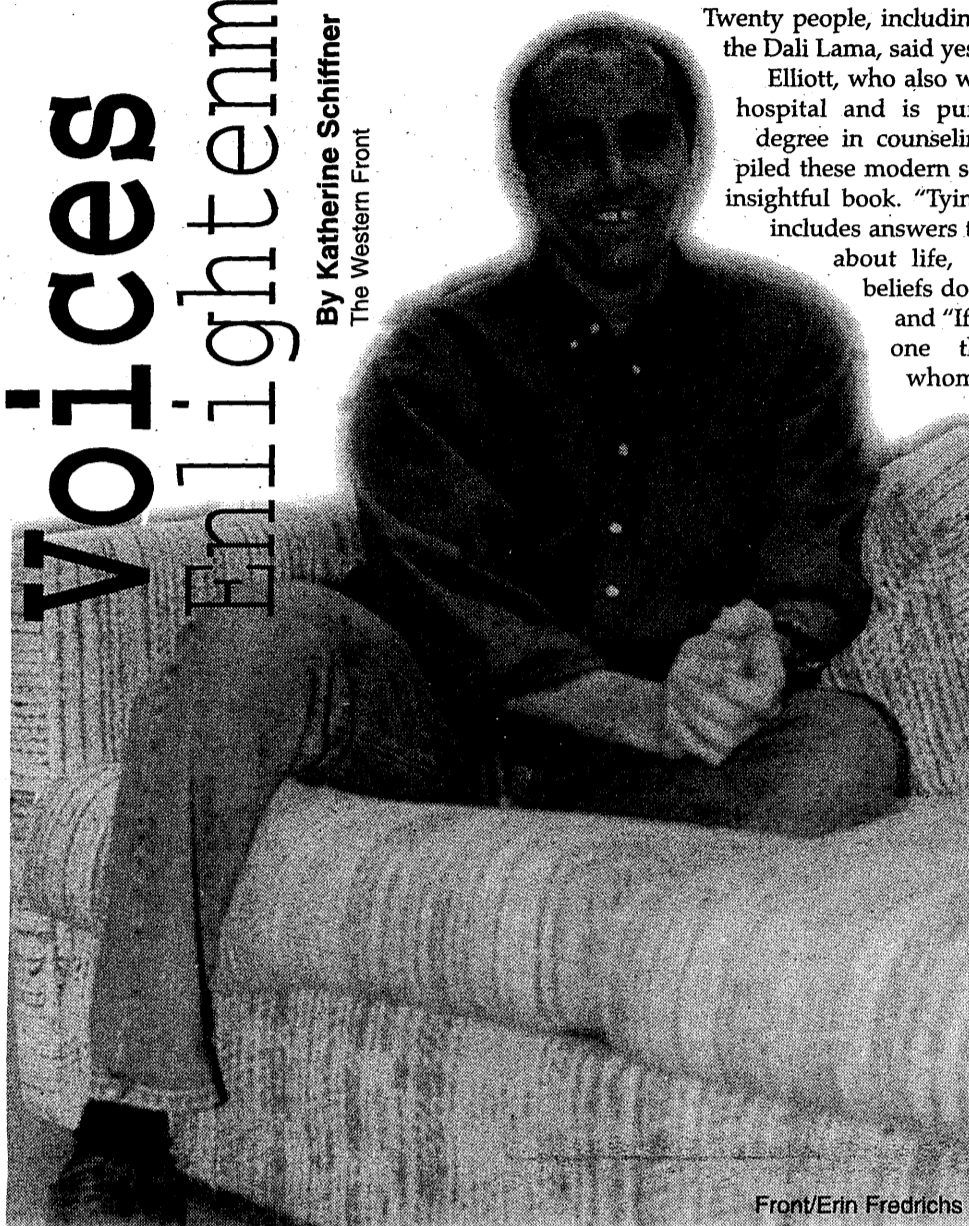
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Voices of Enlightenment

By Katherine Schiffrer
The Western Front



Front/Erin Fredrichs

After his parents died, Bill Elliott searched for answers. He questioned everyone around him about life, why people suffer and how people find meaning in life. The lack of satisfying answers didn't stop his questions — he just chose wiser subjects. Although he had little interviewing or writing experience, Elliott sent out requests to interview the most insightful people in the world for his book, "Tying Rocks to Clouds: Meetings and Conversations with Wise and Spiritual People."

Twenty people, including Mother Teresa and the Dalai Lama, said yes.

Elliott, who also works in a psychiatric hospital and is pursuing his master's degree in counseling philosophy, compiled these modern sages' answers in this insightful book. "Tying Rocks to Clouds" includes answers to about 15 questions about life, such as, "On what beliefs do you base your life?"

and "If you could meet anyone throughout history, whom would you meet and what would you ask that person?"

Some of the questions such as, "What makes you happy? Sad?" might seem simple, but the questions are carefully chosen and elicit detailed, complex answers in Elliott's discussions. Elliott never professed to be anything other than an ordinary person asking questions all human beings ponder, and his own humility shines in his frequent sections of personal narrative.

Although the focus of the book is the answers from the 20 subjects

Elliott got access to, he also described the emotional journey writing the book took him on.

Elliott, who is traveling around the United States in his motorhome, visited Bellingham on Monday for an 11 a.m. speech at Western to personally describe that journey, his life and other reflections gleaned from his book.

Front: How did you select your interview subjects? Were there any common elements they shared?

Elliott: One of the common things, as the Dalai Lama says, is to be a good human being and have a good heart. Now most people would probably agree with that, but the question is, 'how do you do that? Do you just make yourself become good?' I guess that's where the divergence is. A lot of religions have a different way of doing it. I would say the main thing is when you meet somebody that has a sense of themselves you can tell. They find the meaning of life not by going out of themselves and taking things from other people but by looking at themselves, which means being aware of your deeper self. In my experience most people try and avoid their deeper self.

Front: Who was your favorite interview subject? Why did you enjoy speaking with them?

Elliott: Some of my favorites probably were Ram Dass and Stephen Levine. The reason I liked them was (because) they talked about their spiritual side, but they also talked about the sides of themselves that were kind of dark and very human. I don't really like reading books or talking to people who only talk about their good side. I want to hear about the whole human being. And I liked Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi — he was just a regular guy. I liked the people who are the most human. People who try and act too saintly don't really interest me.

Front: In your book, you get to ask 20 people some difficult questions about life. How would you respond to one of your own questions — which beliefs do you base your life on?

Elliott: I'd say a lot of my beliefs come from experiences that I've had. So I would say one belief I have is that there is a God or some divinity in us and around us of some kind. And I always remember that things are bigger than I think they are. The main thing I try and do is be aware of myself, including the sensations in my body. I also try and be aware of my emotions. It's very good to be aware, but you also need to balance awareness with compassion. You need compassion to survive what you see.

I guess another belief I have is that there is a meaning of life everyone can tap into. I think that meaning ... is that just to exist has meaning. I think that there is a second meaning of life that is more individualistic. I think if people get stuck in one or another people get out of balance.

By Jennifer Dorsey
The Western Front

The toss of a coin determines not only the fate of the characters in "Sisterly Love," but which play the audience sees and possibly how much the audience enjoys it. The toss in Thursday's performance produced a farcical — albeit slow-moving — play.

"Sisterly Love," a free student production, which opened 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the Old Main Theatre for a packed crowd, is a surprisingly up-beat British comedy about the love lives of two competitive sisters. Written in what director Jessica Solberg calls a "choose-your-own-adventure" format, the play has four alternate versions — one for each performance. When the sisters toss a coin and make certain decisions, the play changes.

Though it sounds like a sappy chick-flick of a play, the first act was light and, judging by the many chuckles, entertaining for both men and women. Unfortunately, as the story continues in the second act, the laughs and the action slow considerably.

Though enjoyable, this play will never be considered an exceptional piece of theater. The story is superficial, and its set is too sparse. The lighting leaves too much to the imagination. But the humor is lively and the play has a wealth of good actors.

Rachel de la Torre, who plays Abigail Smythe, has a British accent that is hard on the ears. However, it fits her character perfectly. She is convincing as a sexually deprived young snob who is unhappy with her uptight husband and jealous of her younger sister's freedom to date. Abigail's sister Dorcas, played by Terra Stark, is an intelligent, perfection-seeking woman whose sole purpose in life is to choose the right man. Despite her name, Dorcas is the most realistic character in the play, and Stark does a good job of making her the star. Kai Morrison's portrayal of Abigail's sarcastic, business-minded husband is excellent.

By far the best character is the father, Dr. Ralph Mathews, played by Galen Osier. Despite possessing qualities that resemble an aging Bud Bundy, the doctor's senile antics provided many of the laughs.

Overall, Thursday's version of "Sisterly Feelings" was amusing. Remember, however, that the signs say "a different play every night." So toss a quarter to pick a performance, go and hope for a good story. Even if the second act is slow, you'll get a few laughs — and it won't cost a dime.

"Sisterly Feelings" runs through Feb. 8 in the Old Main Theatre. Friday and Saturday performances start at 7:30 p.m., with a 2 p.m. matinee Sunday.

Politics of Family Love



Front/Barney Benedictson

'Susannah's' Julie Reiber

By Briana Glenn
The Western Front

A grand opera is set to hit Western's Performing Arts Center Feb. 26, and Western Student Julie Reiber is centerstage. The opera, "Susannah," has been double cast with Reiber and Erin Wall alternating the title roles. When Reiber hits the stage, her acting and vocal talents will be striking.

"I have always felt at home on the stage," said Reiber, who has been acting and singing since age 12.

An audition for the Bellingham Theater Guild got her hooked on performance; she has been performing ever since.

Although Reiber usually sings as an alto or mezzo soprano, she is taking on the challenge of a first soprano in the upcoming opera.

"I love this opera, because it is a very vocally-challenging role," Reiber said of her upcoming performance.

Reiber is a vocal performance major and theater minor. After graduating in the spring, she has her sights set for New York City and the Broadway stage — big dreams for a Bellingham native who graduated from Sehome High School.

With roles in "Two Gentlemen of Verona" and "Marriage of Figaro" under her belt, and "Susannah" on the horizon, the Big Apple seems to be the only place left to go.

Reiber has done many performances with the Bellingham Theater Guild, including "Angry Housewives" and "Godspell." In a group of performances called Summerstock, Reiber played Audrey in "Little Shop of Horrors."

Reiber and the "Susannah" cast have been rehearsing for the past five months, and with this intense schedule

it's a wonder Reiber has time outside of the theater.

"I don't mind all the rehearsals, I love what I do. I don't really think of it as work, it's so much fun!" she said.

"It's a lot of rehearsal for only seven shows. But it's definitely worth it. I am so happy doing this role, because it has helped me to grow as an actress..." Reiber said.

Although it seems as though singing and acting are Reiber's entire life, she also loves the outdoors and skiing, tennis, volleyball and hiking.

"If it wasn't for the stage, I would be doing more outdoor activities. I am glad I have the chance to be where I am right now though," Reiber said.

After "Susannah," Reiber plans on doing "Nights of Gershwin" with the Whatcom Symphony Orchestra at Mt. Baker Theatre sometime in May. Performances with The Bellingham Theater Guild may also be in the future.

If all goes well, Reiber plans to head to New York for spring break and audition for summer performances.

"I hope to get a gig on the east coast during spring break so that I have a job lined up for the summer. If that doesn't happen, I will go anyway," said a very determined Reiber.

"Who knows, I might just relax and get ready for New York," Reiber said.

Carlyle Floyd's "Susannah" takes place in a small, church-going town in Tennessee. "Susannah" is a 19-year-old woman who bathes naked in a nearby lake. From there the play takes off and "Susannah's" life goes up in a whirlwind of lies, deceit and murder.

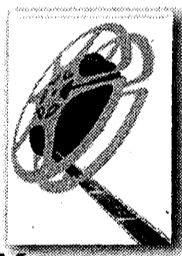
The opera starts at 8 p.m. and runs Feb. 26-28 and March 5-7. A matinee show will be performed at 2 p.m. on March 1 in the PAC Mainstage. Tickets are \$10 for students and \$15 general and can be purchased at the PAC Box Office by mail or by calling direct at 650-6146.



Front/Jesse Kinsman

Despite Hawke, 'Expectations' met

By Cindy Nunley
The Western Front



MOVIE REVIEW

If this had been the version of Great Expectations that my eighth-grade literature teacher

forced students to view after reading the novel, I'm sure I wouldn't have stayed awake to watch. However, director Alfonso Cuarón's version may not be suitable for junior-high viewers.

The updated treatment handed to this adaptation of Charles Dickens' dark tome intrigues.

The film is set in present-day Florida and New York City; its main character, Pip, is transformed from an orphan sent to London to become a gentleman, into Finn Bell (Ethan Hawke), who is sent to New York to become a successful artist.

Young Finn falls hopelessly in love with the one thing he cannot have — Estella (Gwyneth Paltrow), a young muse he is hired to be a companion to.

The affair begins with a sensual kiss between the 10-year-olds and becomes a relationship in which the maturing Estella continually

lures an enamored teen-age Finn into her web of desire.

Estella's guardian, Ms. Dinsmoor, a hideous character played by Annie Bancroft, further complicates the story. Dinsmoor, jilted by her lover on her wedding day years before, has instilled in Estella the disdain she has toward men. Thus Estella learns to treat men as possessions and sexual beings to be desired — but never loved.

Finn's childhood encounter with an escaped deathrow inmate (Robert DeNiro) adds an element of suspense, which, coupled with the generous workings of an anonymous benefactor, lends a tense uncertainty to the film's outcome.

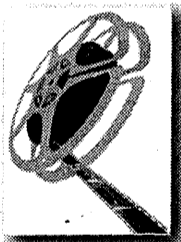
Finn's loyalty to Joe, the man who raised him and the husband of Finn's absent sister, is tried when he is transformed into a successful artist and holds his first gallery showing.

Finn's longing for fame and fortune is overshadowed by his desire to remain true to his humble roots.

The film is a wonderful combination of fairy tale, mystery, sexuality and humor that successfully adapts Dickens' novel into a modern-day romance that is compelling and sure to keep the attention of even an eighth-grade literature class.

Desperately seeking storyline

By Greg Tyson
The Western Front



MOVIE REVIEW

McCabe (desperately evil Michael Keaton).

After some desperate negotiations with the killer, Conner wrangles McCabe into undergoing the desperate operation. Little does Conner know, McCabe is equally desperate for his freedom and sees the hospital as the perfect opportunity to plot his desperate escape. When McCabe breaks out, Connor must desperately track him in a desperate game of cat-and-mouse.

Sounds pretty desperate.

"Desperate Measures" is to originality what Ross Perot is to analogies. Generic and obvious, "Measures" has one trump card: Michael Keaton.

With a curled sneer and eyebrows jutting out like TV antennas, Keaton looks like a comic strip Hannibal Lecter. More droll than demonic, Keaton manages a creepy caricatured villain.

Keaton's self-mockery meshes well with Garcia's brooding soul searching. When they initially meet, they're like wolves marking their territories. They say little — their eyes do all the talking. We actually get a sense of the psychological struggle erupting between these two. It's one of the few scenes that doesn't generate its tension through shameless gimmicks, but with the sheer momentum of two personalities.

As wickedly ironic as Keaton is, he's not quite

able to project the primal rage his character is screaming for. Granted, Keaton is given precious little to work with; McCabe is the kind of ill-drawn character who could pretty much be summed up on the back of a ticket stub.

Yet, Keaton's schtick still grips. For example, after laying waste to half the hospital, he leans back in his chair and quips, "It's good to be king!" Keaton may not get inside his character, but he pokes and jabs at the surface with sufficient malicious glee.

Yet Keaton alone can do very little to breathe life into a stale plot.

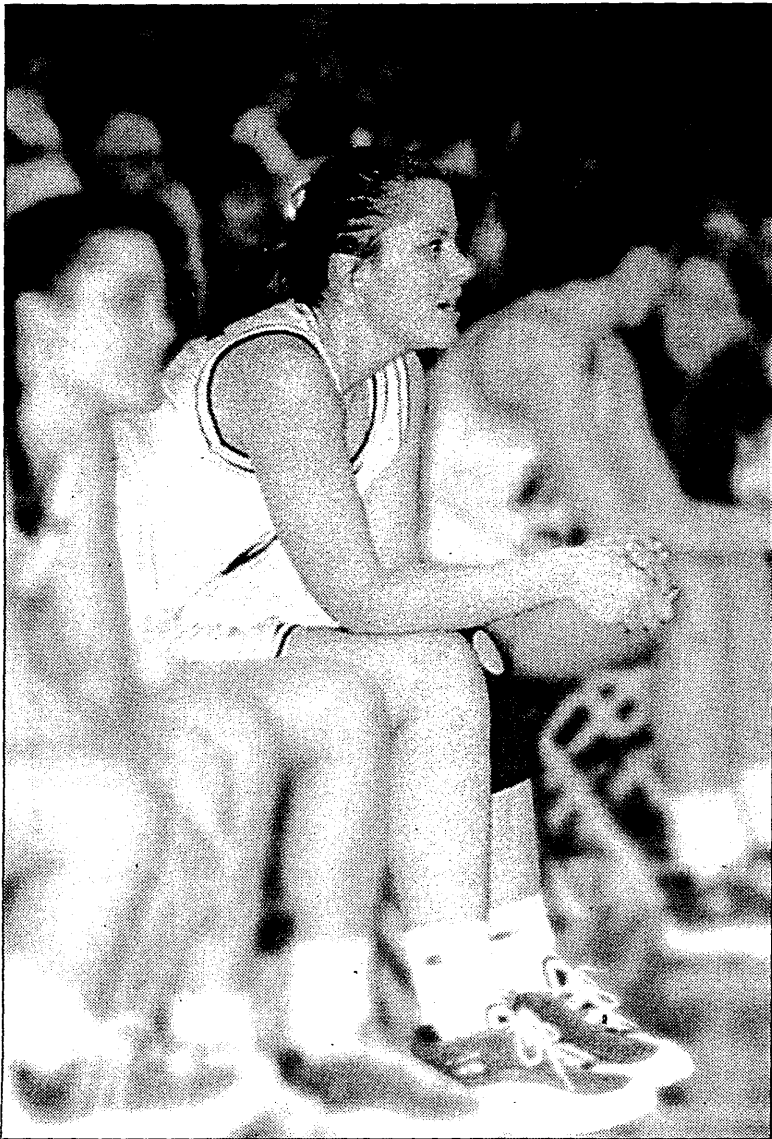
"Measures" is a textbook example of all build-up and no pay-off. Director Barbet Schroeder ("Kiss of Death," "Single White Female") revels in the tiny details that lead to McCabe's clever escape. As improbable as it all may be, Schroeder stages it with an intensity that is hard to discount. Yet when McCabe finally breaks free, Schroeder loses his grip and the film degenerates into a battle replete with father/son bonding, drab musings and tremendous plot holes.

In the film's production notes, Schroeder commented he wanted to make a thriller that harks back to the potboilers of the '40s. From a visual standpoint, the movie succeeds brilliantly. Many of the hospital's hallways glow with an austere, aqua blue that perfectly captures the feeling that something nasty could be behind every corner.

The script itself is riddled with improbabilities. For instance, are audiences expected to believe the entire structural plans of the hospital would be conveniently printed on the Internet? And why does Garcia have to break into the FBI mainframe to find a donor for his son? Couldn't he just ask a doctor?

McCabe inquires to Connor at one point, "Do you want to test my resolve, Frank?" The only resolve tested will be the studio executives when they take a gander at "Measures" final box-office take.

Gruendell epitome of 'student-athlete'



Front/Aaron Dahl

Western center Kari Gruendell cheers on her teammates.

By Colin E. Howser
The Western Front

Kari Gruendell — the 6-foot-3-inch reserve senior center for the Western women's basketball team — has done her time in college and done it well.

Gruendell, 22, has been on the 16-4 Western team for the last five years, first as a red-shirt freshman. Though running up and down the hardwood was important to Gruendell, her more important accomplishment comes at the end of this quarter, when she will receive a degree in biology with a minor in chemistry.

Gruendell averages 1.6 points in 14.5 minutes per game, but the pride in her game comes from defense. Gruendell is No. 10 in the Western history books for career blocks with 76, and averages 3.3 rebounds per game.

"I think that I'm more confident on defense. I'm more comfortable," Gruendell said. "It's easier to control."

Basketball didn't enter her life until her high school years — two years on varsity and one year as a starter. Gruendell also participated in volleyball and track in high school.

When Gruendell began attending Western, she had little hope of making the basketball team. Her primary goal was to get an education. Surprise: she made the team.

"I thought I would go to Western (instead of the University of Washington) for a couple of years and get the big classes out of the way, then transfer," she explained. "I thought I'd just try out since I'm here, and then I made the team. I'm glad I didn't leave — I've enjoyed this."

Gruendell had nothing but praise for her teammates and appreciation for being allowed to be a part of the team.

"I just feel so lucky and blessed with this group of people I'm with right now," she said. There's no behind-the-back talk, and everyone wants the best for everyone else."

Gruendell said she is happy to see women's sports getting more popular and women becoming role models.

"I think it's awesome," Gruendell said, referring to the American Basketball League and Women's National Basketball Association. "In the past, [women's basketball] wasn't as valued because a college athlete wasn't going to go anywhere unless they go overseas. Now, you can look at these people and say, 'that could be me,'" she said.

Although she said she feels that young girls will benefit from these role models, Gruendell doesn't think it should detract from an education.

"I'm big on the belief that you should put a lot into school," Gruendell said. "Sometimes your body doesn't want to do what you want it to do, and you have to have something to fall back on."

Gruendell said the problem with being a student-athlete is the affect it has on her social life.

"I'm not the best at (combining school and athletics,) so my school suffers," she said. "I'd rather work on relationships with friends than come home and hit the books right after practice."

Gruendell said she has enjoyed her experiences at Western and said she has matured over the years.

"I think that I've learned a lot about myself — My confidence has grown a lot," she said.

The next home game, where you can see Kari Gruendell and the rest of the Women's basketball team, will be at 7 p.m., Feb. 12 at Carver Gym.



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The fans have spoken: Kobe gets all-star nod



Klaus Gosma

COMMENTARY

Well, basketball fans, it's all-star time again. We, of course, look forward to the game itself, but added contests include the Rookie Game, the three-point shootout, and a new game called 2-ball with players from the NBA and WNBA.

But my purpose is not to critique the NBA's extravaganza, but to defend a helpless 19-year-old player who does not start for his team — despite his ability to get around those pesky laws of physics and score career-high point totals against the game's best. The phenomenon in question is none other than L.A.'s Kobe Bryant.

Sure the kid is named after a steak and an earthquake-prone city in Japan, but as fellow all-star Tim Hardaway once said, "He's got skeelz (sic)."

In last week's Front, Nolan Harron claimed Kobe should not have been selected to start in the all-star game, that his selection was an "incompetent blunder" comparable to Pearl Harbor ("Veteran's Association, line one").

Harron conveyed said the game's purpose is to "recognize the players who contribute most to their teams." Well, I was under the impression that,

since the fans get to pick who starts, the purpose is for fans to get to see their favorite players go head up. Besides, just because Karl Malone contributes the most for the Utah Jazz doesn't mean I want to see him dunk like a super model while representing the West Coast on Sunday.

Bryant, averaging 17.9 points per game through Thursday, does not start for the Lakers — this is true. He has only started six times in his career. Instead of chastising him for Del Harris' decisions, could we not conclude that his numbers are spectacular for a non-starter who, in 113 career games, has averaged only 19.7 minutes? I think we're on to something here...

Against Chicago last Sunday, Kobe scored 20 points and nabbed four rebounds in the Lakers 112-87 victory over the Bulls. The Bulls covered Bryant with none other than Michael Jordan. Some people argue Jordan's the best ever; in December, Kobe hit him up for 33 points.

Bryant posted a Rookie Game-record 31 points and eight rebounds last year and also won the slam-dunk contest.

Which brings us to the conclusion that, hey, the fans decide and they have spoken. They want to see Kobe send his elders to the trainer's table for ankle tape on Sunday, not bore them into submission with his statistics.

Besides, it's just a game ... right?

Women's hoops just the latest in long list of losers

By Kevin Westrick
The Western Front

Second-team NAIA All-American senior forward Nikki Johnson netted a season-high 33 points to help Simon Fraser University beat the Western women's basketball team 69-61 Wednesday at Burnaby, British Columbia.

Simon Fraser, ranked No. 4 in this week's NAIA Division I Poll, improved to 21-4 overall and 4-0 in the Pacific Northwest Athletic Conference. The Clan has won 15 straight games overall, including 21 consecutive games at home. Simon Fraser has lost only three times in its last 120 games in their home gym, Chancellor Gymnasium.

Western, ranked No. 9 nationally, dropped to second place at 3-1 in conference and 16-4 overall.

The Vikings were led by center Celeste Hill with 18 points and six rebounds. Nicole Krell had 13 points and a team-high nine boards. Heidi Van Brocklin added 12 points, and Amanda Olsen had 10. Sara Nichols grabbed seven rebounds and dished out four assists.

Simon Fraser led by 12 points (48-36) with 15 minutes left in the game before the Vikings went on a 21-8 run. Krell scored seven points on the run.

The Clan responded by scoring 10 straight points, six by Johnson, to take a commanding 66-57 lead with 3:07 left.

Johnson, who leads the conference in scoring at 17.6 points per game, was 12 of 23 from the field and 8 of 11 from the stripe. She also pulled down a game-high 12 rebounds. Joby McKenzie added 15 points and 11 rebounds for the Clan.

The first nine minutes featured six lead changes and two ties before Kleindienst broke a 13-13 deadlock by scoring eight straight points, including two three-pointers, to key a 12-5 run that put the Clan ahead, 25-18, with 7:30 left in the first half.

The Clan recorded 21 offensive rebounds and out-muscled the Vikings on the glass, 50-36. Simon Fraser went 14-21 at the line, and Western was 2-2.

Western travels to Lacey to play Saint Martin's College at 7 p.m. Saturday.

WESTERN 61, SIMON FRASER 69										
WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY										
	fg	ft	rb	min	a	m-a	o-t	pf	pts	
KRELL, Nicole	28	6-15	0-0	4-9	2	13				
SAUNDERS, April	30	1-3	0-0	0-1	2	2				
HILL, Celeste	24	8-17	0-0	2-6	5	18				
OLSEN, Amanda	21	4-14	0-0	1-2	2	10				
VAN BROCKLIN, Heidi	33	4-8	2-2	0-4	4	12				
NICHOLS, Sara	25	2-10	0-0	4-7	1	4				
ABRAHAMSEN, Briana	9	0-2	6-9	1-1	0	0				
GRUENDELL, Kari	18	1-2	1-4	3-6	1	2				
TOTALS	200	26-71	2-2	15-36	17	61				

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY										
	fg	ft	rb	min	a	m-a	o-t	pf	pts	
SALAZAR, Gaby	12	2-2	0-0	1-2	0	4				
KLEINDIENST, Teresa	34	4-15	1-2	1-6	0	11				
REYNOLDS, Pam	33	1-5	0-0	0-1	1	2				
MCKENZIE, Joby	40	5-11	5-8	5-11	0	15				
REDDING, Allison	12	2-2	0-0	2-5	1	4				
WOOD, Kristen	6	0-0	0-0	0-1	0	0				
EVANS, Carla	7	0-3	0-0	1-1	0	0				
HOBIN, Erin	6	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0				
EDGEELL, Karen	14	0-5	0-0	2-3	0	0				
JOHNSON, Nikki	36	12-23	8-11	5-12	3	33				
TOTALS	200	26-66	14-21	21-50	6	69				

Percentages: FG-.366, FT-1.000, 3-Point Goals: 7-21, .333 (Krell 1-8, Olsen 2-6, Van Brocklin 2-2, Hill 2-3, Abrahamson 0-2). Assists: 15 (Saunders, Hill 2, Olsen 2, Van Brocklin 2, Krell 3, Nichols 4, Abrahamson). Team rebounds: 1. Blocked shots: 2 (Nichols, Saunders). Turnovers: 10 (Olsen, Van Brocklin 3, Nichols, Gruendell 2, Hill 2, Krell). Steals: 6 (Olsen 4, Nichols, Abrahamson).										
Percentages: FG-.394, FT-.667, 3-Point Goals: 3-14, .214 (Kleindienst 2-3, Reynolds 0-2, McKenzie 1-4). Evans 0-2, Edgell 0-1, Johnson 1-4). Assists: 13 (Salazar, Kleindienst 2, Reynolds 3, McKenzie 2, Wood, Hobin 2, Johnson 2). Team rebounds: 5. Blocked shots: 8 (Johnson 4, McKenzie 3, Salazar). Turnovers: 14 (McKenzie 7, Redding 3, Evans, Hobin, Kleindienst, Johnson).										

	1st	2nd	Final
Western	29	32	61
Simon Fraser	36	33	69

Attendance: 953.

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when they
party.



one drink = 12 oz. beer = 4-5 oz. wine = 1 oz. liquor

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Vikings outlast Clan in shootout

Stevenson's three-point barrage sparks home win

By Jed Palevich
The Western Front

After losing two straight games, the Western men's basketball team has won two in a row, with a win at Evergreen State Saturday and a 95-88 win over Simon Fraser last night at Sam Carver Gym.

"I was pleased with how we started the game," Coach Brad Jackson said. "We came out very intense and did a great job running our offense."

The Vikings ran their offense well, hitting 32 of 61 from the floor. Western was also hot from behind the three-point arc, hitting 14 of 24, 58 percent for the game.

Sophomore guard Jared Stevenson hit 5-5 from down town in the second half.

Stevenson had a career-high 29 points.

Western held the lead for almost the entire first half. Simon Fraser forward Richard Anderson knotted the score at 43 by canning a free-throw shot after being fouled on his way to the hoop.

Western hit the boards well in the first half, out-rebounding the Clan 33 to 24.

"We didn't want them to get second-chance shots," junior center Kyle Stonehouse said.

"Percentages are higher on second shots; we cut down our fouls a lot from last game. We were keying on not letting them go to the line," he said.

In Burnaby, British Columbia, Jan. 17, Western surrendered only 11 trips to the free-throw line, compared to 43 shots from the charity stripe for the Clansmen last night.

"We've been working at practice on not reaching and staying away from what coach calls 'stupid fouls,'" Stevenson said.

In the second half, Western came out fast, hitting six shots before Simon Fraser could hit one.

They extended their lead to 14 (67-43) as Stevenson hit four three-pointers in a row.

Simon Fraser cut the lead to nine with 10 consecutive points by guard Steve Dynie.

After Western scored on their next possession, Mott sprained his ankle going after a defensive rebound.

He left with 10 points and three rebounds and nine minutes remaining. At that point Western led by 11.

From there the Vikings took control on a Stonehouse three that kicked the lead to 14, 78-64.

Western held on defense and gave the ball to freshman guard Ryan Kettman in the corner, who drained the three-ball to give the Vikings their biggest lead of the game, 81-64.

Though Western lead by 17 with 5:30 left, Simon Fraser mounted a comeback and whittled the margin to just eight with 3:30 remaining.

"I think when we get a lead we relax," Kettman said. "It seems like we've always had a lull; we really need to concentrate on keeping possession of the ball, taking good shots and running our offense when we're up."

The differences between this game and the Jan. 17 contest against Simon Fraser were rebounding, fouling and shooting percentage. Western shot 20 percent higher from the floor in this meeting.

"If we can stay out of foul trouble, I think we're a real tough team to beat," Stevenson said.

After the initial comeback, Simon Fraser ran out of gas and got no closer than seven points.

Down the stretch Western hit their foul shots that put the game out of reach, 95-88.

The Vikings have been plagued with injuries lately. Two games ago against Central, junior forward Michael Greene injured his

knee. During tonight's action Mott injured his right ankle.

Western's next game is 8 p.m. Saturday night at Lewis-Clark State.

Western is now 8-10 overall and 3-2 in the PNWAC.

WESTERN 95, SIMON FRASER 88

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY						
	fg	ft	rb	pf	pts	
	min	a	m-a	o-t		
DeBORD, Dan	35	4-8	4-5	1-3	2	14
ENGBLOM-STRYKER, Todd						
	35	6-10	0-0	2-9	2	12
MOTT, Dave	22	3-4	2-2	0-3	1	10
STEVENSON, Jared	37	10-15	4-4	0-3	1	29
KETTMAN, Ryan	31	4-7	5-7	2-2	2	16
GREENE, Michael	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0
MATTLER, Jim	4	0-0	0-0	0-1	0	0
CHAPMAN, Jeff	14	1-5	0-0	0-0	3	3
McNICOL, David	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0
STONEHOUSE, Kyle	22	4-12	2-2	2-8	3	11
OLDS, Justin	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0
TOTALS	200	32-61	17-20	9-33	14	95

Percentages: FG-.525, FT-.850, 3-Point Goals: 14-24, .583 (DeBord 2-3, Engblom-Stryker 0-1, Mott 2-2, Stevenson 5-7, Kettman 3-6, Chapman 1-3, Stonehouse 1-2). Assists: 17 (DeBord 2, Engblom-Stryker, Mott 2, Stevenson 7, Kettman 2, Mattler, Chapman, Stonehouse). Team rebounds: 4. Blocked shots: 0. Turnovers: 13 (Engblom-Stryker 2, Stevenson 2, Kettman 5, Mattler, Chapman 2, Stonehouse). Steals: 10 (Engblom-Stryker, Mott 3, Stevenson 2, Chapman 3, Stonehouse).

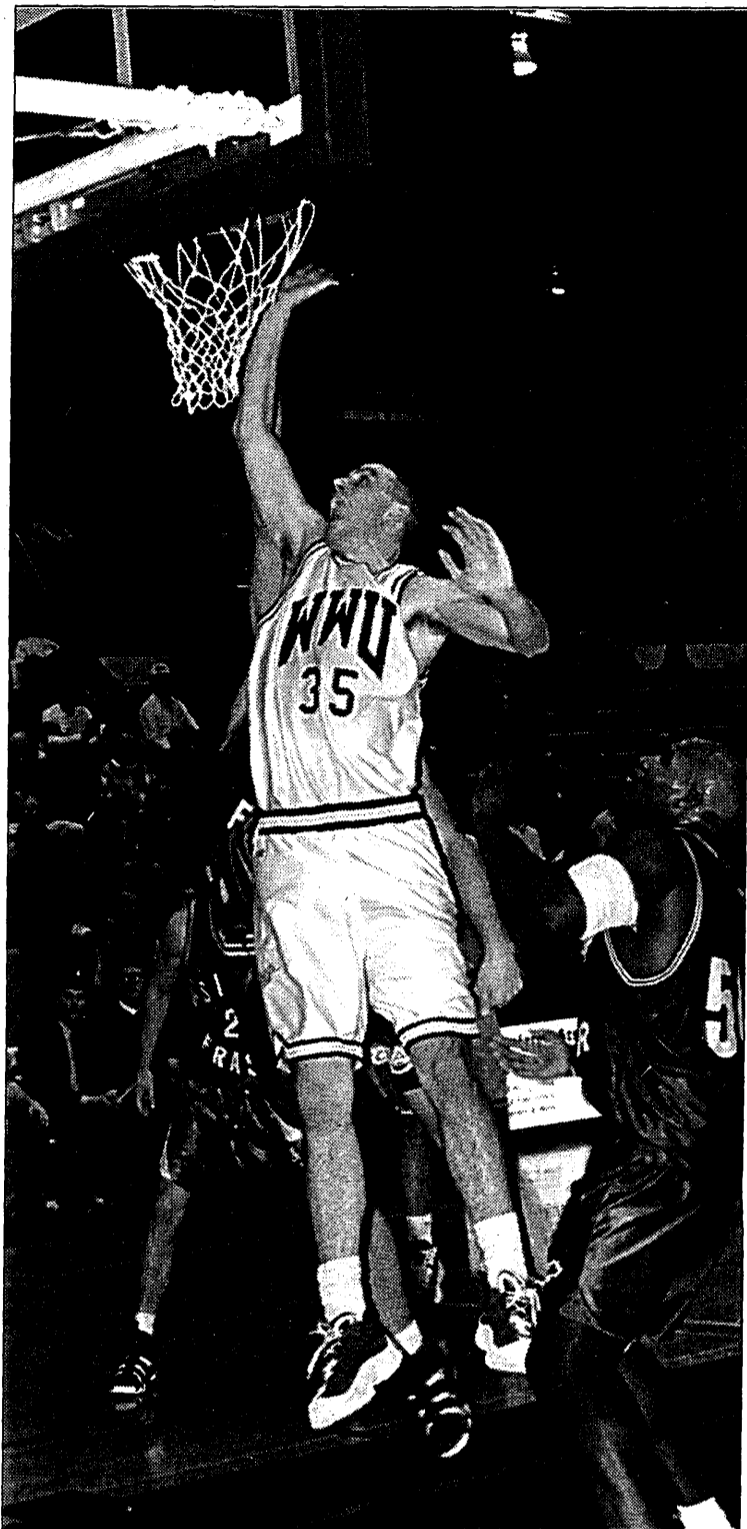
SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY						
	fg	ft	rb	pf	pts	
	min	a	m-a	o-t		
KWIATKOWSKI, Andrew	24	3-6	2-2	2-5	5	8
ANDERSON, Richard						
	38	6-6	5-6	1-4	2	17
WAHL, Dave	31	8-14	0-0	0-7	2	19
DYNE, Steve	36	7-12	2-2	1-2	1	20
McCRORY, Tony	31	7-14	0-1	1-1	3	16
EWONUS, Matt	5	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0
RAMJAGSINGH, Sean						
	17	4-9	0-0	1-4	1	8
SMART, Robert	17	0-2	0-0	0-1	2	0
TOTALS	200	35-64	9-11	6-24	16	88

Percentages: FG-.547, FT-.818, 3-Point Goals: 9-23, .391 (Kwiatkowski 0-1, Wahl 3-5, Dynie 4-7, McCrory 2-7, Ewonus 0-1, Ramjagsingh 0-1, Smart 0-1). Assists: 25 (Kwiatkowski 2, Anderson 3, Wahl 4, Dynie 7, McCrory 6, Ewonus, Ramjagsingh, Smart). Team rebounds: 2. Blocked shots: 3 (Anderson 2, McCrory). Turnovers: 11 (Kwiatkowski, Anderson 3, Wahl 4, Dynie, McCrory, Smart).

	1st	2nd	Final
Simon Fraser	43	45	88
Western	43	52	95

Attendance: 419. Technical fouls: SFU bench. Officials: Ron Omori, Stu Gorski, Eric Wilkins.



Front/ Erin Fredrichs

Forward Dan DeBord (35) strives for a tip-in last night vs. SFU.

Olympics should only be for amateurs



Kevin Westrick

COMMENTARY

hockey players on that magical team are not in our memories.

Excellent. That's the way it should be.

The reason is that the Olympics were traditionalized by hard-working, over-achieving, under-paid, mediocre hockey players who would give their left arms to just have a chance to compete for their countries. They are called "amateurs."

Those days are fading fast.

The National Hockey League has decided to take a two-week "winter break" in the middle of its season and allow players to participate in the Olympics. It would also give the non-Olympic players a vacation. They sure need it.

No season, as far as I know, has ever shut down for a 17-day period. But what the hell, it's the '90s and we're ready for new trends, right?

Team USA won the gold medal in hockey in 1980. Can you name one player from that team?

Hockey connoisseurs may remember a couple names, such as Jim Craig and Mike Eruzione. But for most of us, the

The NHL is starting to smell the greenbacks. It thinks the stars in the Olympics will set off sparks in the heads of the hockey illiterate.

So people who were never interested in hockey may just happen to be flipping through the channels and notice John LeClair, sporting the red, white and blue, flick in a game-winner from the blue line. Suddenly, they'll have a revelation: "Maybe I should watch the NHL after the Olympics are over."

That's not going to happen.

But the NHL is going to try to use this as a catapult to raise interest in the game, raise television ratings, get more people to pack the stadiums and rake in the cash.

And I think we should boycott watching Olympic hockey for just that reason. The NHL is a business, but let's not pump money into its pockets just because it decided to let this "winter break" happen.

The thing is, hockey lovers are usually hockey addicts, and those not interested probably won't be swayed to watch by checking out the Olympics — unless fists are flying and blood is bouncing off the ice; then some may be persuaded.

Hockey is now following the trend set by the NBA of allowing professionals to participate in the Olympics.

Can anyone honestly tell me that they enjoyed watching Jordan, Bird and Magic embarrass teams that would probably give a high school team a good game?

The United States is the best in the world in basketball. Well, duh. Everyone knew that; did we have to flex our muscles in Barcelona and Atlanta?

The United States won nine gold medals in basketball before the "Dream Team" came along — and we won the gold with amateurs.

Professionals take away from the purity of the games. Besides, the best players are on showcase once a year in the All-Star Game. Isn't that enough?

Hockey in the Olympics will be different than basketball because the United States is not the dominating force, although Team USA did pull off an upset win over Canada in the World Cup in 1996.

The NHL has players from all over the world, which has some people calling the Olympics the "Dream Tournament."

Canada, Russia, Sweden, Finland, the Czech Republic and the United States have players from the NHL competing at the Olympics, which gives all six teams a legitimate shot at the gold.

For a traditionalist like me, the Olympics has always been a time to root for the

underdog, which Team USA has usually been. But not Nagano '98. The United States is actually going in as one of the favorites, along with Canada.

Canada has a team of stars, including Wayne Gretzky, Eric Lindros, Steve Yzerman, Joe Sakic and Patrick Roy. These players could easily help Canada claim its first gold medal since 1952.

But how loyal are these pros to the Olympics and their countries?

"I understand my first (priority) isn't necessarily the Olympics; it's winning the Stanley Cup, and that's different from the amateurs," Roy said in an article by Rick Sadowski from ESPN Sportzone.

Oh, Canada, here's news for you: the games don't mean that much to NHL players. None of these pros are going to risk major injury to sell out for the puck just to win a gold medal.

On the other hand, amateur athletes would be doing everything humanly possible to win.

To an amateur without any chance of making the NHL, an Olympic gold medal would be the highlight of his life.

Sure, a gold medal would be nice to hang up in the trophy case, but the real prize for professionals is much bigger, cup-shaped, and silver — not gold.

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Bellis Fair contest too good to be true

Those who consider shopping malls to be the ultimate evil in America now have another reason to hate them.

Bellis Fair Mall, Bellingham's haven of commercial capitalism, is sponsoring a contest for local schools. All together, \$50,000 will be donated to Whatcom County Elementary Schools by the owners of Bellis Fair. That is good.

The bad news is the way the money is being distributed.

For every dollar a shopper spends at Bellis Fair, a point is awarded to the shopper's school of choice. The points will be used to determine the distribution of prize money. If a school gets 10 percent of the points, it will get 10 percent of the prize money.

On the surface, this seems like a fair way to award the money. Parents of students at larger schools will undoubtedly spend more money at Bellis Fair than parents at smaller schools, and it seems fair that larger schools should get a bigger piece of the pie.

But this logic presents a problem.

Take two hypothetical schools — say, Affluent Elementary School and Destitute Elementary School. Affluent and Destitute both have student populations of 500. Affluent has more teachers, and thus, students are taught to create complex computer animation. When they enter junior high, they know three languages.

At Destitute Elementary, no more than 15 teachers are present at any given time and at least two of those are substitutes. The principal hopes next year's budget will have room for slide rules, as the school's supply of beans to count is low. Students leave Destitute having difficulty identifying a frog, let alone being able to dissect one.

In a perfect world, Destitute would receive more gift money than Affluent because it needs the money more. In a near-perfect world, the two schools would receive equal portions of money because they have equal populations.

In the real world, Affluent parents spend far more money at Bellis Fair than Destitute parents, and Affluent will get a much bigger share of the prize money.

Or imagine that Affluent Elementary is within walking distance of Bellis Fair, and Destitute is on the far side of Mount Baker.

Do Affluent students deserve a better funded education because they live closer to a mall?

If a contest such as this one were staged in Seattle, it is obvious that schools from Kent, Seattle and Bothell would have no chance against the big-money schools in Issaquah and Redmond.

Fortunately, a contest such as this one could never happen in the Seattle area because the malls outnumber the schools.

Despite the system for splitting up the money, the contest is praiseworthy — it is giving \$50,000 to area schools.

Of course, it is merely exploiting that donation to make money for itself, hoping parents will spend money at the mall to bump Johnny's school into first place. But if it really wanted to distribute the money fairly, it should divide the money strictly by student population. Or it could get off its duffs, do a little legwork and find out which school needed the money the most.

No student's education should be compromised for the benefit of another, or for a program created to generate publicity.

— Vincent Verhei, Sports Editor

The Western Front

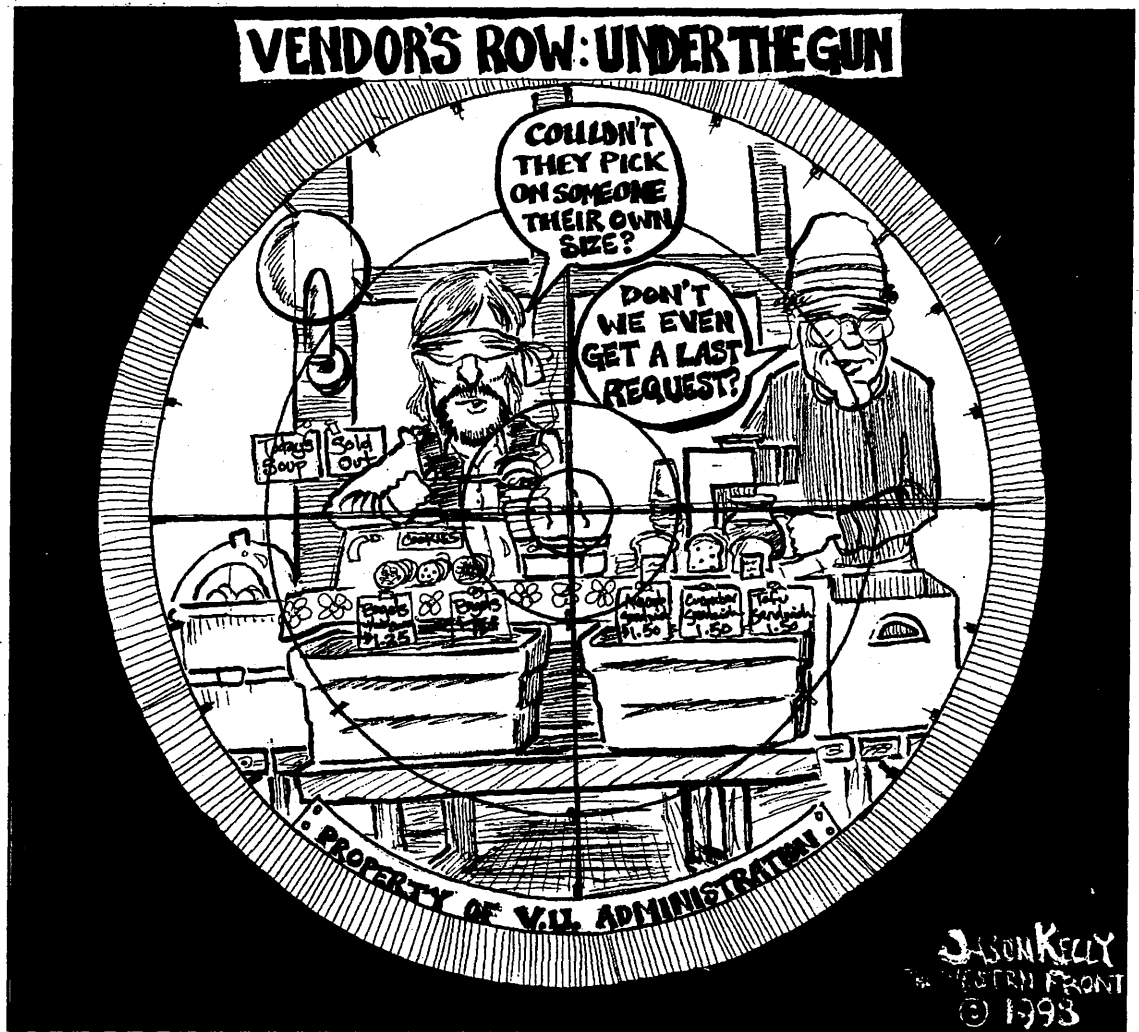
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Sex scandal vs. smart bombs: Which is the real distraction?



Meredith Lofberg

COMMENTARY

With the success of Hollywood productions such as "The American President" and "Air Force One," and the hype surrounding the upcoming "Primary Colors," it is clear that art often imitates American political life. But recent developments in the White House raise an ironic question: do American politics sometimes imitate movies?

The Clinton controversy invading our living rooms via CNN sounds strangely familiar.

The sex scandal surrounding Monica Lewinsky, paired with the possible bombing of Iraq, seems to be a re-enactment of the recent movie "Wag the Dog."

The similarity between "Wag the Dog" and the current uproar in the White House is just one more example of how the distance between Hollywood and Washington is quickly diminishing.

In the movie, the president's administration creates the appearance of a war to distract the attention of the American public from his philandering ways.

Monica Lewinsky's claim of having an affair with the President was quickly followed by the announcement that we may soon resume bombing Saddam and Co.

It is probable this is all just a crazy coincidence. In all likelihood, this is not a governmental conspiracy.

But the irony of the situation is hard to miss.

The State of the Union address was Clinton's chance to redeem himself in the eyes of the American public, and he ran with it. The stability of his presidency was conveniently circumvented as he focused on the "good times" our country is now enjoying. He discussed education, affordable child care, Social Security and crime. He attributed the prosperity and security of the nation to his policies, while ignoring the personal problems that have almost constantly plagued him during his six years as leader of the free world.

Clinton made no mention of the scandal revolving around allegations that he bedded the 21-year-old White House intern. Not once did he allude to the fact that he has been accused of obstructing justice by allegedly telling Lewinsky to lie about their affair.

Ironically, the President made an appeal for an America "rooted in responsibility," even as his own responsibility and moral compass are constantly questioned.

"With barely 700 days left in the 20th century, this is not a time to rest. It is a time to build — to build

an America within reach ... an America which leads the world to new heights of peace and prosperity," Clinton said in one of the most frequently quoted parts of his State of the Union address.

After painting a rosy picture of an America basking in abundance, Clinton got down to the nitty-gritty when he mentioned the crisis in Iraq that administration officials have said might lead to a military strike in less than two weeks.

Clinton said Iraq must allow U.N. inspectors to search for biological, chemical and nuclear weapons.

"You cannot defy the will of the world. You have used weapons of mass destruction before. We are determined to deny you the capacity to use them again," Clinton said, speaking directly to Saddam Hussein.

These are strong words meant to leave a lasting impression. However, perhaps their intended target was not Saddam himself, but the American people.

The all-powerful president plays the tough guy who puts an end to the a bully's abuses. Not only is this Clinton's policy against Iraq, but it also draws an eerie parallel with "Wag the Dog's" Clinton-esque president's declaration of war on Albania.

But what if the situation was reversed?

Perhaps Clinton created the sex scandal to take America's mind off the possible bombing.

Once again, this is quite a stretch. It is, at best, only theoretically plausible that the White House administration entered into such a dastardly plan to fool the American people.

Since the Gulf War, the American people have learned much more about what went on in Iraq. Stories of American soldiers killed in friendly fire littered news programs in the months following the fall of the smart bombs.

As more Americans become aware of the results of the Gulf War, fewer are eager to enter into another round of bombing.

Realizing this, Clinton and his cronies could have concocted a plan to draw attention away from the possibility of a war. The best way to do that would be to play upon the subject that has kept Americans glued to the TV since Clinton was elected — sex.

If this was a plan to snare the American public, it was brilliant. Both stories had a short-lived run on the front pages of America's newspapers. "Hard Copy" and "The Enquirer" are the only -media who still care if the president had sexual relations of the oral variety with Monica in the little room behind the oval office. The interest in the bombing of Saddam has already begun to dwindle.

Congratulations Bill, if this was your plan, your little scheme worked.

letters

Dear Editorial Staff,

I would like to thank Arvid Hokanson for the article on the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education's decision challenging accreditation of Woodring College.

I earned my teaching certification at Woodring and wouldn't recommend the program to anyone due to instructional and program incompetence. During my unpleasant association with Woodring, I had to endure incredibly incompetent instructors and program directors who regularly lost students' paperwork and had professors who bumbled through hypocritical instruction about classroom planning. I complained to administrators who ignored me and remain disgusted with the administration and teaching program at Woodring.

If you conduct a poll of graduates you'll find that most students have had similar experiences.

I've had associations with other departments on campus, particularly art and English, that have exemplary programs and staff. The demand for

change is long awaited in what I consider the weakest program that Western has to offer (particularly a shame and embarrassment given Western's history as a teacher-training college!).

In defense of the competent faculty and staff at Woodring, I would like to commend their fine job, amidst the frustration of working with such a number of academically and bureaucratically inefficient colleagues.

Classes and consultation with Dr. Atkinson, Dr. Walpov, and Dr. Towner were an inspiration and a pleasure. Program secretarial staff and the Office of Field Placement regularly assisted with my student teaching certification.

I recommend that the university do an extensive investigation of instructional and administrative incompetence at Woodring.

The campus community should stop shaking their heads in silent acceptance of this problem.

Sincerely,
Margo Wixsom

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