



THE WESTERN FRONT

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WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

VOLUME 105 ISSUE 5

BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON

High Street drivers face fines

By Laura Campbell
The Western Front

Driving on High Street can come at a high price — \$71 — for drivers making their way through campus.

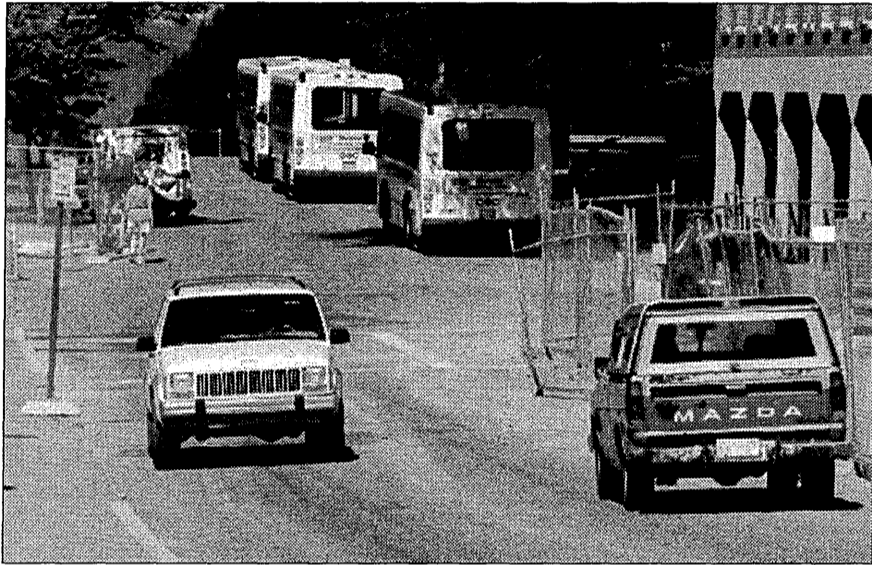
The section of High Street located in front of the bookstore on the west side of campus is closed from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday. The street is only open to emergency and community transit, campus vehicles, UPS, Federal Express and the U.S. Mail Service during that time, Sgt. John Browne of University Police said.

"The basic concept of why it is closed is to provide a safer access for students to walk to the academic buildings on campus," Browne said.

Unauthorized vehicles driving during the closed times — which are not posted — run the risk of getting a \$71 traffic infraction.

Although violators will not necessarily get a ticket for their first offenses, that decision will be left to the discretion of the officers, Browne said.

"It is a violation of the city ordi-



Drivers pass through campus on High Street Tuesday, despite its closure.

nance," he said.

Road closure times are not posted because they were removed when the Haggard Hall construction began, Browne said.

"They were originally going to close

the street altogether," he said.

The road will be open 24 hours a day, every day, during the intersession period, which runs from August 22 to September 20.

Fairhaven hosts nature summit

By Jay Tarpinian
The Western Front

Nature lovers arrived at Fairhaven College Saturday, July 18 to begin a week of environmentally centered activities and excursions. The college is hosting the National Wildlife Federation's 28th Annual Conservation Summit.

"The main goal of the summit is to create an environment where families can learn about environmental and cultural concerns," said Niki Carr, an organizer of the event.

"What really makes (the summits) different from other eco-tours is the

highly structured activity for each age group," Carr said. "Everyone, from age three to age 80, gets covered."

The adults in the group of about 520 people attend lectures to learn about the area's salmon fishing industry, intertidal ecology, ancient forests, birds, animals and the Pacific Northwestern American Indian culture. Then, to bring their knowledge to life, they hike trails in Bellingham and Whatcom County and go sea-kayaking and whale-watching in Bellingham Bay.

Children also participate in programs and field trips.

"We climb mountains and have snowball fights. We basically get to have fun while learning," said Luke Conner, 16, who is from Bartonville, Ill. and has attended the summits for approximately seven years.

His friend Jessica Springgay, a 15-year old from Gilroy, Calif., said the people are the reason she keeps coming back.

The two said the summits serve both as a vacation and a way to maintain their interest in the environment. Springgay said her favorite summit was in Hawaii because she "just liked the beach."

Conner said he liked the scenery in Alaska, but the summit in New Hampshire was his favorite because "it was the first summit I went to and I have good memories. Also, the food was good."

Conner's mother, Esther Siewert-Sitzmore, said she likes that her son can do his own thing, and his interest in the

summits is the driving force that keeps them coming back every year.

"This is a really nice group of people. There's a lot of camaraderie and friendship," Siewert-Sitzmore said.

Carr said the planning for the summits starts in September.

Course instructors are selected by course proposals they submit to the Federation. Potential sites must meet certain housing, facility, meeting room, audio-visual and food-service needs for the 400 to 600 people who attend.

"We have to be able to feed them all at one time," Carr said.

Sites also need to be in an environment offering a variety of activities, and the organizations that host the summits need to be environmentally conscious, Carr said.

Currently, two summits are held per year, Carr said. This year, the other summit took place in Silver Bay, N.Y.

Previous locations have included Hawaii, Alaska, the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, Big Sky, Montana and the Adirondacks of New York. Each site is usually repeated two consecutive years.

Bellingham hosted the summit in 1988, '89, and '90, and next year's summits will be at Fairhaven College and in Estes Park, Colo.

For information about the summits, the National Wildlife Federation, or registration, contact the Federation at (703) 790-4100 or call Fairhaven's conference office at (360) 650-4888.

Skate park gets help from city

By Kristen O'Connor
The Western Front

Local skateboarders are one step closer to getting the skate park at Civic Field they helped design.

The Bellingham City Council recently approved an increase of \$155,000 to the budget of the Bellingham skate park, bringing the total to \$267,000.

"The additional funds will make it less expensive in the long run by allowing the park to be built all at once, rather than in stages," said Louise Bjornson, city councilwoman and chair of the Parks and Recreation committee.

The skate park was first proposed to the City Council in 1995 by local skateboarders. Council members then visited parks in Des Moines and Kirkland to analyze the different types of parks, how they were constructed and the costs, said Leslie Bryson, design development manager at Parks and Recreation.

At nearly half of an acre, the Bellingham skate park will be one of the largest on the west coast, Bryson said.

Neil Johnson, a local skater, said many skateboarders worked on designing the park. Much of the park is focused on street skating, a style popular with most skaters, Johnson said.

The design includes ramps, stairs, railings and shallow bowls constructed of concrete. Sixteen different-shaped jumps and ramps are proposed for the site.

The north end of the park will be a large open area with a gradual transition, which Bryson said was important to the skaters.

The funding approved by the council will cover the cost of the park itself. Additional money is being raised through donations to add benches, landscaping, a drinking fountain and parking, Bryson said.

The park will be open to skateboarders, rollerbladers and bikers, Bryson said. Though, during open daylight hours, the park will not be supervised, and protective gear will be recommended.

Depending on the sometimes lengthy bid process, construction could begin either this fall or next spring.



Bjornson



Bryson



Front/Jay Tarpinian

Richard Vanderway teaches about local Native American cultures.

COPIES BOX

Campus Police:

July 14, 6:02 p.m.: The Performing Art Center's house manager reported a woman tripped down the northwest stairwell and hit her head. Medical aid was given.

July 16, 9:50 a.m.: An individual reported a Western parking permit stolen from their vehicle parked in the 400 block of South College Way. There are no suspects.

July 17, 7:21 p.m.: A male student reported his backpack stolen from under his chair while working in the Miller Hall computer lab. His possessions, worth \$537, were not found.

Bellingham Police:

July 18, 1:18 a.m.: A man with tattoos on his arms and neck was reported as an illegal alien in possession of a firearm. Police arrested and booked him into Whatcom County Jail.

July 18, 2:40 a.m.: Police arrested a man at the intersection of Chestnut and Garden Streets for driving under the influence and resisting arrest. He was booked into Whatcom County Jail.

July 18, 6:33 a.m.: A business located in the 1700 block of North State Street reported a man who was in earlier asking for free items and later became a nuisance to customers. The business requested the suspect be banned for life from its property. The suspect was not located and no warning was issued.

July 18, 6:53 a.m.: A man reported a person repeatedly using his bathroom to bathe in the 100 block of Samish Way. The man confronted the person and told him not to come back. The suspect left the scene in his vehicle. The man told police he would like to see the suspect cited for trespassing if he returns. No action was taken.

July 18, 8:09 a.m.: A woman reported being struck by an individual's vehicle in the 100 block of Samish Way. The woman had minor injuries and the suspect was not located. This incident is under investigation.

July 19, 3:10 a.m.: A man reported a beer bottle was thrown through the front window of his home in the 1500 block of Humboldt Street. There are no suspects.

July 19, 4:32 p.m.: At a business in the 4400 block of Meridian Street, a man was reported stealing a carton of cigarettes. The man was arrested for third-degree theft.

July 19, 10:39 p.m.: A man was booked into county jail after he was arrested for breaking into a business located in the 2200 block of James Street and stealing a couple of melons.

July 20, 12:32 a.m.: Officers were sent to contact a man who was asleep in someone's yard. Upon contact the man complained of symptoms resembling those of possibly a mentally diverse individual. The man requested the officers transport him to St. Joseph Hospital for a voluntary mental health evaluation. The officers obliged.

July 20, 2:11 a.m.: A juvenile was found on Alabama Street discharging a firearm. He was booked into Juvenile Detention for stealing and discharging a firearm.

Compiled by Kari Benny

Western Briefs

Summer Noon Concert Series

The Jeffrey Alan Band will perform from noon to 1 p.m., today at the Viking Union Plaza.

The band has been labeled as having an "emotionally driving acoustic rock sound ... sparkling clean acoustic arrangements, reaching a new-age kind of Zen." All concerts are free and open to the public.

Meet the artists at museum gallery

The 18th Annual Northwest International Art Competition will feature artist demonstrations.

Artists showing works in the competition will be on hand to show additional works, answer questions and demonstrate processes and techniques from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. on three Saturdays, July 25 through Aug. 8 at the ARCO exhibition gallery. Demonstrations are free.

For more information call the Whatcom Museum at 676-6981.

Girl Scouts still need volunteers

The Girl Scout Totem Council needs volunteers to help with the Circulo de Manos program.

The program benefits children of migrant farm workers and runs in the evenings, Monday through Thursday. It ends Aug. 14.

The camp's purpose is to provide informal, educational and social activities for participating boys and girls.

Individuals, families and groups interested in volunteering

or looking for more information about the camp call 738-1364.

Seattle festival celebrates world arts

WOMAD USA, Seattle's festival of world music, arts and dance makes its North American debut at King County's Marymoor Park in Redmond, from July 31 through Aug. 2.

Performers from around the globe will converge for the three-day celebration.

Along with stage performances, the artists will lead master classes, demonstrations and workshops, providing an opportunity to interact in an informal, intimate atmosphere.

For information on ticket prices and show times call the WOMAD USA Hotline at (206)281-8111 or visit www.womadusa.org.

Local natural history

Western hosts the Elderhostel program, "Histories of the North Cascades Mountain Range."

Illustrated lectures lead by Western faculty discuss the history of the North Cascades along with field trips to Mount Baker and Deception Pass.

Must be 55 or older to attend. Registration, available through July 24, is \$265.

Golf Semiahmoo for charity

The Third Annual Golf Classic, benefiting the Whatcom County Big Brothers/Big Sisters program is scheduled for Sept. 14 at the Semiahmoo Golf and Country

Club in Blaine.

Tee-times begin at 10:30 a.m. with a shotgun start. The \$150 green fee includes a custom windshirt, box lunch, drink cart, post-game BBQ, celebrity-hosted awards ceremony and plenty of prizes, including a resort-golf weekend at Semiahmoo.

Registration for the event ends Aug. 21. For brochure and entry form call 671-6400.

Summer Stock '98: "Hay Fever"

Mark Kuntz directs the Summer Stock presentation of "Hay Fever." The colorful Bliss family is the center of the 1920's-based production.

Show dates and times are at 7:30, July 23 and 24, Aug. 4, 5 and 15. Admission prices: \$13 general, \$12 senior, \$11 student and \$9 youth. All performances are held on the Performing Arts Center main stage.

For more information call 650-6146.

Learn basics of sign language

A class for beginning signers is offered through Bellingham Parks and Recreation the week of July 27 through 31. This week-long day camp will use games, songs, videos and special activities to help you learn some of the basics of sign language. Pre-registration is required.

For more information call Amanda Grove, recreation coordinator, at 676-6985.

Compiled by Chris Fryar

WWU Official Announcements

Deadline for announcements in this space is 5 p.m. Monday for inclusion in the next Wednesday issue. Announcements should be limited to 50 words, typewritten or legibly printed, and sent through campus mail to "Official Announcements," MS-9117, sent via fax to X/7287, or brought in person to Commissary 113A. DO NOT SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS DIRECTLY TO THE WESTERN FRONT OFFICES. Phoned announcements will not be accepted. All announcements should be signed by originator.

PLEASE POST

CLOSING CEREMONIES FOR THE ASIA UNIVERSITY AMERICA PROGRAM are scheduled for 7 tonight, July 23, in SL 150. The ceremonies will be followed at 8:15 by a reception outside SL 150. All are welcome.

A MOVING SALE FOR THE ASIA UNIVERSITY AMERICA PROGRAM will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday, July 27, in the Highland Hall lounge. For more information, call AUAP at X/3922.

ATTENTION NDSL/FED PERKINS, GSL/STAFFORD AND DIRECT LOAN BORROWERS: If you are not returning to Western fall quarter or are graduating summer quarter, you *are required to schedule an exit interview*. Interviews will be in the Library Presentation Room from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, July 28. To schedule an interview, stop by Student Fiscal Services, OM 265, or call X/2943 no later than Monday, July 27. *Transcripts will be withheld for students who do not appear for the mandatory interview.*

A SEALED BID AUCTION will be held for several items, including an oscilloscope, furniture, vacuums, a spotlight optical system, a forklift, a tractor, a recording console, a Johnson 25 horsepower outboard motor, a recumbent bicycle and more. To obtain a bid form or for viewing information, call Cheryl Karney, X/3566. Bids must be received by 1:30 p.m. Aug. 20.

WINTER QUARTER DEGREE CANDIDATES MUST HAVE A DEGREE APPLICATION on file in the registrar's office, OM 230, by Aug. 21. Degree applications and instructions are available in OM 230.

COMING THIS FALL: The 1998-99 *Campus Directory*. For advertising rates or other information, call David Candy, 714-0445.

CLASS MANUAL DEADLINES. For best results in obtaining copyright clearance for student class manuals by the first day of class, the deadline for submitting a clearance request is July 27 for fall quarter and Nov. 2 for winter quarter. The deadline for submitting student class manuals that do not need copyright clearance is Aug. 24 for fall quarter and Dec. 7 for winter quarter. Questions may be directed to Linda Heide, X/7435.

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Western women's basketball team offers camp for regional high school girls teams

By Dan Miller
The Western Front

With the sound of whistles, bouncing balls and screams of encouragement, another session of the Western girls basketball camp has wound down.

The girl's basketball camp is sponsored by Western's women's basketball team and lasts three weeks — one week for individual players, one week for junior varsity teams, and another week for varsity teams.

At the end of July, the camp holds a tournament where each team participates in a minimum of three games, as well as practice scrimmages.

"There are high school teams from Oregon, Canada and Washington," said Carmen Dolfo, Western's women's head basketball coach and camp director. "Our camp sizes range from 160 to 115 players."

The camps train girls to play and work better together in teams.

"It does make some money, but its main purpose is to promote young women to get involved with basketball," said Dolfo, who has been coordinating the camp for the last 12 years.

"I think camps are fun you want to mix hard work with fun," Dolfo said.

Current Western players also take part in counseling campers. They act as coaches during the games, as well as working on skills.

"These girls are awesome. They also listen very well," said Western Sophomore Julie Walker, 19, a player and counselor.

Each camper pays \$290 for one week, which includes a dorm room, lunch and dinners.

Each day consists of three sessions. In the sessions, players do warm-ups, exercises, learn strategies and play games.

"I like the competition between the different players; it teaches you how to be better," said 14-year-old camper Mackenzie Warren.

Teammate Jeaneen Brester, 14, agreed.

"Everyone is so positive and the coaches teach you a lot, they're really good," she said.

"I think it's really neat for teams to come together and get better at basketball," said 14-year-old camper Courtney Dann. "It's cool to get to know people and see them when you play against them in games."



Front/Matt Renschler

A high school basketballer works on her skills at Western's basketball camp.

Fall sports schedules: Get 'em while they're hot!

Football

Sept. 5	Blue/Silver scrimmage	9 a.m.
Sept. 12	at Chapman	7 p.m.
Sept. 19	at Montana State	12:35 p.m.
Sept. 26	Western Montana	1 p.m.
Oct. 3	Humboldt State	1 p.m.
Oct. 10	at Eastern Washington	1 p.m.
Oct. 17	Cal-Davis	1 p.m.
Oct. 24	at Simon Fraser	7 p.m.
Oct. 31	at Western Oregon	1:30 p.m.
Nov. 7	Central Washington	1 p.m.
Nov. 14	at Southern Oregon	1 p.m.

Men's Soccer

Aug. 21	Washington (Exh.)	7:30 p.m.
Aug. 26	at British Columbia	5 p.m.
Aug. 29	Chico State	4 p.m.
Sept. 5	Western Invitational	2 p.m.
Sept. 6	Western Invitational	12 p.m.
Sept. 10	at Humboldt State	3 p.m.
Sept. 11	vs. Montana State-Billings	TBA
Sept. 13	Incarinate Word	4 p.m.
Sept. 16	Simon Fraser	2 p.m.
Sept. 19	at Oregon State	1 p.m.
Sept. 27	West Texas A&M	2 p.m.
Sept. 30	at Seattle Pacific	7 p.m.
Oct. 3	Humboldt State	3 p.m.
Oct. 7	at Simon Fraser	7 p.m.
Oct. 11	Colorado School of Mines	12 p.m.
Oct. 14	at Seattle	3 p.m.
Oct. 16	BYU- Hawaii	3 p.m.
Oct. 17	Hawaii Pacific	3 p.m.
Oct. 24	at Gonzaga	2 p.m.
Oct. 29	Lewis III.	3 p.m.

Women's Soccer

Aug. 22	Alumni-Varsity	3 p.m.
Aug. 26	Washington (Exh.)	4 p.m.
Aug. 29	at British Columbia	1 p.m.
Sept. 2	UC-Davis	1 p.m.
Sept. 5	at Evergreen State Tourn.	1 p.m.
Sept. 6	at Evergreen State Tourn.	11 a.m.
Sept. 11-13	at Simon Fraser Tourn.	TBA
Sept. 19	at Humboldt State	1 p.m.
Sept. 20	at Stanislaus State	1 p.m.
Sept. 26	Western Oregon	12 p.m.
Sept. 27	Sonoma State	12 p.m.
Sept. 30	Simon Fraser	4 p.m.
Oct. 3	at Eastern Washington	3 p.m.
Oct. 4	at Seattle	12 p.m.
Oct. 7	at Portland State	4 p.m.
Oct. 10	Central Washington	3 p.m.
Oct. 14	British Columbia	4 p.m.
Oct. 25	at Central Washington	3 p.m.
Oct. 31	at Simon Fraser	TBA

Western names women's assistant basketball coach

By Chris Fryar
The Western Front

Former Western standout and All-American Gina Sampson was named the Vikings' new assistant women's basketball coach July 8.

Sampson, a four-year starter and two-time Western Female Athlete of the Year (94-95, 95-96), was selected from a nation wide search of nearly 100 applicants. She replaced Lori deKubber, who resigned last spring after an eight-year tenure.

Western Head Coach Carmen Dolfo said, Sampson immediately rose to the top during the selection process.

"I'm really excited that she's going to be a part of our staff," Dolfo said. "She understands what we do here. It's a good combination, and I think the players are going to really enjoy her."

Since graduating from Western in 1996, Sampson has been doing her fair share of traveling. Last year, she played and coached professionally in Australia and was named the Continental Basketball Association Player of the Year.

Sampson said she was thrilled to be reuniting with her former coach and returning to Carver Gym, where she accomplished much playing.

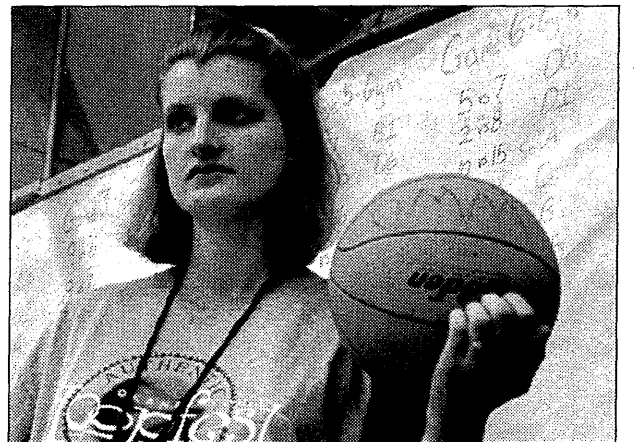
"I was very excited ... It'll be great working with Carmen; we really click and I'm excited about that," Sampson said. "I think with playing and coaching all over the place, I have a lot more to offer than I did when I first got out of here."

Although she may only be a couple of years older than many of her players, Sampson said she is confident age will not be a problem. She said she thinks the closeness in age might make it easier to relate to some of the players and even take some pressure off Dolfo.

During her playing days as a center, Sampson worked hard at getting her job done in the paint — as a coach, her philosophy has stayed much the same.

"I think defense wins games," Sampson said. "My philosophy is that hard work isn't fun, but working hard pays off, and the results of hard work is fun!"

Forever a student of the game of basketball, Sampson is now in a position to assume the role of teacher — a task she said she welcomes with open arms.



Front/Matt Renschler

Gina Sampson keeps her eye on the court.

"As a player, I learned a lot. Now, as a coach, I feel I can bring all that stuff to the team," Sampson said.

Sampson said after coaching at virtually every level from middle school to professional, the collegiate level appeals to her most.

"At this level they want to be here; they want to work hard, they want to succeed, and I love that part of it," Sampson said.

Before graduating from Western with a Sociology degree, Sampson secured her place in the school record books. She holds 18 school records, including career marks for rebounds (1,277), steals (284) and double-doubles (56, all for points and rebounds).

She holds single-game marks for points (42) and rebounds (25). She also ranks second among Western career leaders in points (1,786), third in blocked shots (146) and is ranked 16th in assists (240).

Having achieved success on the court at every level, Sampson has permanently traded in her high-tops for a clipboard, a bunch of X's and O's and a seat on the sideline.

Those who follow Sampson's career at Western and all others attending Viking basketball games this season will get a chance to watch yet another Sampson dribbling on the court of Carver Gym, Gina is expecting a baby girl in September.

Sampson is looking forward to the upcoming season this fall.

"I look forward to contributing to this program and its players," Sampson said. "I think they are going to be great this year. They mesh well and are a very close-knit team. It's very exciting."

Friends of the Co-op groove at Boulevard Park

By Rachel Dooley
The Western Front

Sailboats paraded around Bellingham Bay. There was a cool and continuous breeze coming off the water, and the sound of drums filled the air. People were dancing, laughing and enjoying the day. Children ran around with smiles on their faces and treasures in their hands.

The sun smiled down on a little girl spinning around, blowing bubbles that danced toward the stage.

This was the scene at the Community Food Co-op's Second Annual Community Party celebrating International Co-op Day. The festival ran from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday at Boulevard Park in Fairhaven.

A large gathering of people of all ages came to bask in the sun. Others stopped to lay in the grass and listen to the free music provided during the day by such bands as Craig Olson, Juba Marimba Band, Magical Vocal Rhythm Womym, Open Drum Circle, ELDJ Creation and Devachan.

Even though the buck-aburrito extravaganza ended at 4 p.m., no one seemed to mind. People munched on free popcorn and tortilla chips and drank juices provided by the Co-op.

Jamesa Bautista, a member outreach facilitator at the Community Food Co-op, is the creator of the annual celebration.

Bautista said the Co-op has had a celebration for its members every year, but she wanted to take it one step further last year and invite the community.

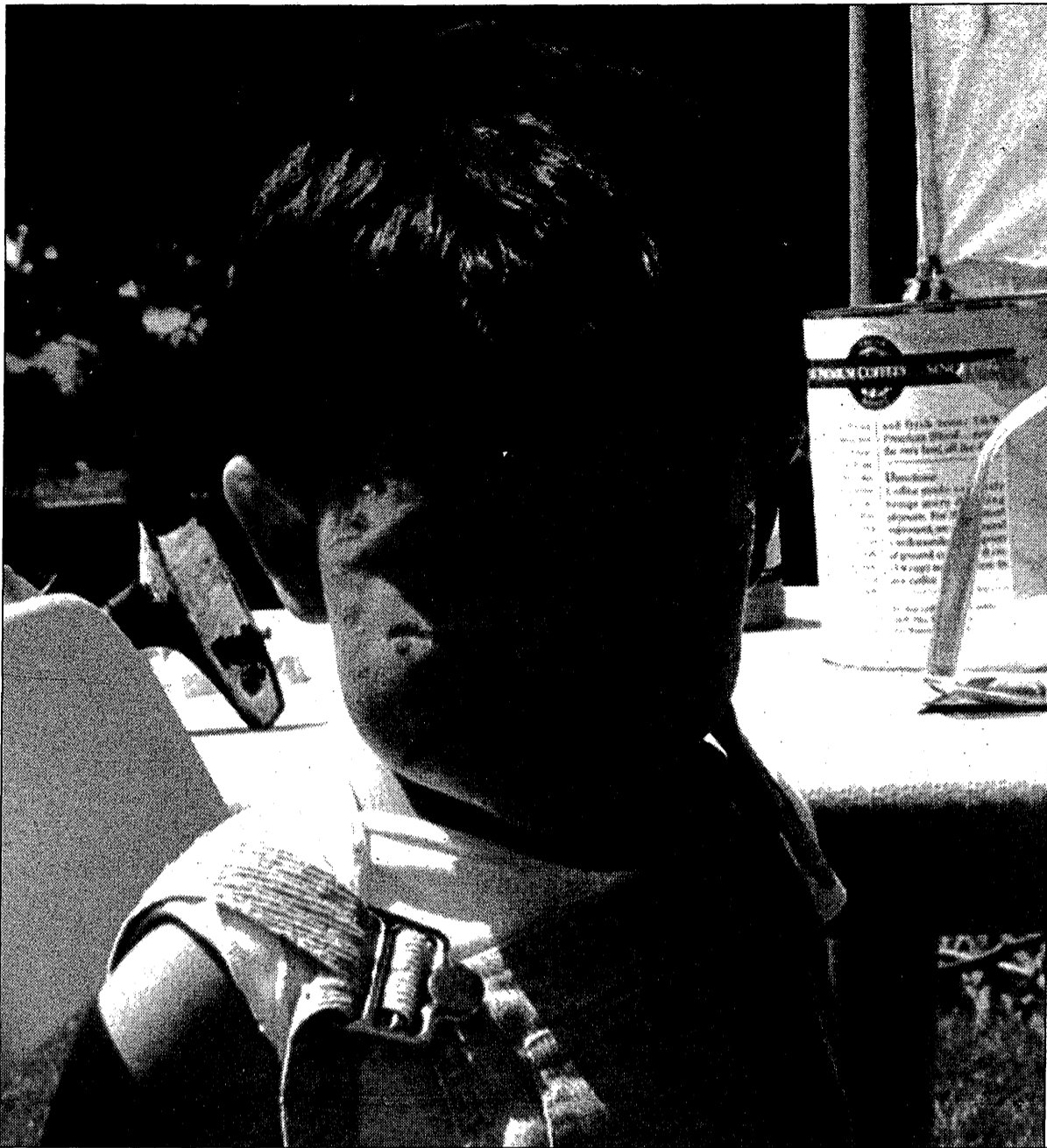
The celebration is a way of "gathering people together

to celebrate cooperativeness and have a good time," Bautista said.

The event is sponsored by the Food Co-op, but it requires "a lot of volunteer work," Bautista said.

p.m. with Devachan's Celtic flavored acoustic performance.

The day of celebration was over, but the message was not one to be forgotten. Bautista's idea to bring a sense of cooperation had succeeded.



Three-year-old Robert Rios gets his face painted at the International Co-op Day festival.

Front/Amy Vandall

The party coincides with International Co-op Day, started in 1923 to "promote the cooperative movement and peace and equality," Bautista said.

Many outreach programs, such as Woman Care Shelter, Circle Foods, and River Farm, set up information booths about their programs to encourage community involvement.

The sound stage for the celebration was solar-powered by River Farms Renewable Energy Project. The solar generator was hooked on the back of a Volkswagen van that had been sliced in half and painted orange — including the windows — except where spaces were left in the shape of the sun.

Jeffree Utter, a Western graduate, is on the board of directors at the Co-op as well as the Evergreen Land Trust, which owns five properties.

River Farm is one of the five properties and is "a group of people who get together to form a community," Utter said.

Utter said River Farm consists of 90 acres in Deming where Utter lives and works on his energy project.

He said River Farm's purpose is "informing the community about stewardship of the land and our relationships."

River Farm is also an "educational center," showing people different aspects of agriculture, organic farming and ecological forestry.

Each person living on the farm has a different area of focus.

Utter said River Farm is a place where "you can have a normal standard of living."

The celebration ended at 8

"Hay Fever" season in full swing at Summer Stock

By Christine W. Ross
The Western Front

Summer Stock '98's production of Noel Coward's "Hay Fever" premieres at 7:30 p.m. July 23 on the Performing Arts Center's Mainstage.

"Hay Fever is a play 'about the games people play with each other,'" said director Mark Kuntz.

The action takes place at the Bliss family home in Cookham, England. Each of the four family members has invited a guest over for the weekend — without informing anyone else in the house — and verbal mayhem ensues.

Assistant stage manager Scott Cravens described the play as a blend of "very eccentric people and very proper houseguests."

Judith Bliss, played by Western student Gabrielle Tracy, is the temperamental matron of the house; a retired stage actress in the throes of a mid-life crisis.

Her husband, David, played by Chris Sheets, is a writer. His personality is "blunt," said stage manager Aaron Torgerson.

Simon, played by Vincent Nappo, is the son and oldest Bliss sibling. Sorel, his sister, is played by Mimi Applebaum.

Torgerson described Sorel as "temperamental," much like the rest of the family.

The four guests are: Richard, played by Western senior Zak Krebs; Sandy, played by Jan Van

Amerongen; Myra, played by Alycia Delmore; and Jackie, played by Mariah Taylor. Clara, the housemaid, is played by Stephanie Couch.

Kuntz said the play is about games people play. Because of this, "the stage is designed like a gameboard," said Torgerson.

"The Bliss's are game players," he said. The living room and dining area is the setting for the three acts of "Hay Fever."

It is a minimally furnished room with a brightly painted floor; six uncomfortable-looking, standard-edition metal chairs surround the basic kitchen table and a baby-grand piano sits quietly on the opposite side of the set.

The actors must supply the rest of the theatrics — the "swoops and hoops and stretches of words," that have made "Hay Fever" such an enduring success, said Cravens.

Five performances of "Hay Fever" will begin at 7:30 p.m. on July 23, 24 and Aug. 4, 5, 15 on the PAC Mainstage, with a matinee at 2 p.m. on Aug. 16.

Ticket prices are \$13 adult, \$12 senior, \$11 Western students and family, and \$9 youth. Tickets can be bought at the PAC Box Office, 650-6146, Village Books, 671-2626 and the Community Food Co-op, 734-8158.

To request disability accommodations or hearing augmentation devices, contact the PAC Box Office, 650-6146.



"Hay Fever" actors Alycia Delmore (Myra) and Chris Sheets (David).

Front/Barney Benedictson

Jody Bergsma: enterprising local artist

By Jenni Odekirk
The Western Front

A Native American girl sits cross-legged, swaddled in a beige and blue blanket, cradling a spear in her lap with a stoic look on her face. Behind her stands a gray and white horse. Below her, the earth twists and turns. Above her, the light of dawn is rising through silver-blue clouds that form a buffalo, a wolf, a cougar and two bears. A white moon highlights the eye of an owl, which blends seamlessly into the swirling amber, mahogany, lavender and navy sky.

The words, "Sometimes I am by myself, but I am never alone," appear below the image.

Of the thousands of watercolor paintings Bellingham artist Jody Bergsma has painted, this one is her favorite.

That painting falls into Bergsma's Natural Elements line, featuring wildlife in its natural surroundings painted in a fantasy style.

"I am very interested in the preservation of our natural world and when you paint it, you make it important," Bergsma said. "And when you give the natural world a soul, you make it holy."

Bergsma also paints a second line called Dreamkeepers, including wide-eyed, whimsical elves, friendly animals and, sometimes, inspirational messages.

The words, "Care more than others think is practical, risk more than others think is safe, dream more than others think is reasonable and you will become more than others think is possible," adorn the image of a bright-eyed pixie boy and girl riding above the earth in a pink, purple and blue hot-air balloon named "Carpe Diem", flanked by a pair of gentle raccoons and majestic eagles.

Bergsma, 35, is tall and thin with bouncy short blond hair and large blue eyes and exudes the warmth and energy of her elfin characters. She said she paints Dreamkeepers with children especially in mind.

"One of the things about painting for children is that there are not very many people willing to do it and there's a whole audience there of people under 20," Bergsma said. "It's been a very successful thing for me financially, because there's not very much competition."

In addition to her artistic skill, Bergsma has a good business sense.

In 1994, she won the Best Bellingham Business award for the Jody Bergsma Galleries and Cafe, located at 1344 King St., Bergsma Gift Gallery at Bellis Fair Mall and the Wholesale Warehouse at 1301 Fraser St.

Prints of all sizes, figurines, stationary, cards and T-shirts are among other items featuring Bergsma's art can be found at any of her three galleries.

Bergsma's art became profitable when she began making prints in 1979.

"That was the big shift," Bergsma said. "From painting each piece separately to going ahead and letting machinery reproduce the imagery."

"If only Van Gogh could have made prints," she added, laughing.

Bergsma decided to build her King Street gallery in 1984 — the year of the Vancouver Expo — after attending a seminar on the power of tourism and the importance of being located next to a main arterial of traffic.

The adjacent cafe was originally meant to be a place to give lectures and serve cookies, but more food was added to the menu as the years went by. The cafe is open 12 hours per day to enable Bergsma to have a sign on the freeway.

"That was actually part of our advertising budget," Bergsma said.

Bergsma said she started the gift store in 1989 to expand her customer base to Canadians.

From her wholesale gallery, Bergsma sends artwork to about 3,000 stores in the United States and distributes it in Canada, England and Australia.

Bergsma said she also sells a lot of artwork through 1-800 lines and the Internet.

"Marketing is beyond what you see visually in the three locations," she said.

Bergsma used to paint at the King Street Gallery, but when it got too busy, she started painting at her home studio. She goes into seclusion six months of the year to paint, devoting half of her time to children's paintings and the other half to nature and more sophisticated paintings.

"Often, my images will start in the middle of a black background and I go, 'oh, there's an inspiration coming forward,'" Bergsma said.

"When I first start drawing and painting, it's very stumbly — I can't draw; I can't get the colors right, and it's not working," she said. "It's like this every time. And all of the sudden, I get into a flow and then I go, 'I'm in' — I always say that — and then I can almost not draw anything wrong or paint anything wrong."

Bergsma works with her inner world when she is painting, rather than images from reality. She attributed that style and her interest in art to a childhood experience.

"My mom made me draw for therapy because I had really bad problems with nightmares," she said.

"When I drew them, I found that they were no longer scary," she said. "From the very beginning of time, I was encouraged to draw from my imagination instead of drawing from a still life."

Bergsma drew all during her childhood and was invited by her aunt to take part in a Port Angeles art show when she was 15.

"I had all of these paintings that I'd won awards with, but I also had some children's paintings that I painted ... and people loved them," she said.

Bergsma made \$60 at her first art show. By the time she was 18, she would routinely make thousands of dollars at art shows.

Bergsma painted to pay her way through Western as an engineering major but did not believe she could make a living from it at the time.

"I hadn't discovered printing yet," Bergsma said.

Instead of becoming an engineer, Bergsma went to Vancouver, B.C. to study art.

"That's where I started to develop my Natural Elements style," Bergsma said. "They have a really incredible group of people called the group of seven. They all spiritualize nature. What they wanted to do was show that nature is alive. I got very excited about that."

Bergsma said the impressionists have influenced her work.

"I always loved the impressionists because I'm not really interested in reality," she said. "I'm interested in what the mind does with reality and how ... what you really see is reality filtered through their mind and soul."

To remain inspired, Bergsma experiments with new topics and incorporates into her artwork things she's seen on her travels around the world.

Bergsma just came back from Ireland and said that will inspire this year's theme.

"I looked at the Book of Kells at Trinity College and went through the museums there and was really excited," Bergsma said.

This August, "Skycastle," the third book Bergsma has illustrated, will come out.

She described the book, as an "inspirational book for kids with all these beautiful illustrations inside where fairies build this castle in the sky."

Bergsma has also illustrated "Dreambirds," a Native American myth and "The Right Kind of Touch", a charity book aimed at preventing the sexual abuse of children.

"The Right Kind of Touch" was voted Best Book by the Parent Teacher Association and Best Children's Book by Small Publishers.

Next, Bergsma plans to release a line of bookmarks that will have close-ups of her work on the top of them and quotes she has collected on the bottom of the bookmark.

She said she plans to call the line the Famous Quotes Bookmark Collection.

Bergsma also said she wants to illustrate a book a year for the next 10 years.

"I could probably retire right now, but I'd be bored," Bergsma said. "On the other hand, you never know what tomorrow will bring."



Local artist Jody Bergsma, founder of the Bergsma Gallery and one of her paintings.

Courtesy of Jody Bergsma

Frontline

Starr's inquisition threatens president's right to privacy

The tightest lips in Washington D.C. are set to be pried open soon with the summoning of President Clinton's Secret Service members to testify on the matter of the Clinton/Monica Lewinsky scandal.

This requirement was set by the head of the independent counsel investigating Clinton, Kenneth Starr — and it is a bit absurd.

The question on most people's minds is whether this sort of testimony violates the privacy of the President and if the alleged affair between Clinton and Lewinsky involves the public.

If President Clinton went to see a doctor and confessed a private detail of his life, he would no doubt be guaranteed confidentiality. But, as Starr's witch hunt continues, it appears the only way to possibly obtain the nitty gritty facts of what happened behind closed doors is to question Secret Service members.

As of last Friday, three members of Clinton's security department had testified before Chief Justice William Rehnquist, with more testimony scheduled, including that of Larry Cockell, head of Clinton's security department.

So, the question remains: Should Starr, along with the entire world, be made privy to what happened between Clinton and Lewinsky? I think not. I do not believe this is a matter that conflicts between Clinton's personal and public life. On the other hand, the scandal allegedly took place within the White House Oval Office, so does it pertain to the public?

The last time Secret Service members were forced to testify was during the Iran-Contra affair. This was clearly an issue involving public safety, and more importantly, presidential loyalty to the United States. I do not believe this whole Clinton mess lies within those boundaries.

The only person Clinton should have to tell the truth to is Hillary. Soon, Cockell will testify. He may just be the man Starr has been waiting to hear. As to what questions Starr will ask Cockell, we can only wait and see.

By forcing Cockell to testify, it is clear Starr does not have a case without testimonies from people who may have been present when the alleged affair between Clinton and Lewinsky occurred.

John Kottelly, Cockell's attorney, said, on the advice of counsel, Cockell would object to the specific question or type of question that Starr may ask. So, in other words, the Secret Service is willing to play along with Starr's charade as long as they do not have to blow Clinton's cover.

If the judge overrules Cockell's objection, Clinton's attorneys would be able to intervene and appeal the judge's decision. This tells me that we will get us no further than we've already gotten, with Clinton's attorneys being able to force a stalemate if push ends up coming to shove.

Kottelly also said he doubts Clinton's attorney-client privilege will be violated — but it already has with the Secret Service members being called to testify.

With Cockell taking the stand, his Secret Service status will no doubt be in question, because he will be in the public light. Can Secret Service members do a good job when they are the upcoming stars of tabloid television for this week?

Clinton will now have to worry about every move he makes, and he will not just have to look out for media and other spies who are trying to infiltrate him; he will also have to watch his back around his own Secret Service members. This is a position I believe no other president has been put in before.

Starr is wrong to believe that Cockell's job as head of security for Clinton will not be affected by his testimony.

Clinton may be a scoundrel in some people's eyes, but he is still entitled to his private life — which is supposed to be protected by the Secret Service, not exposed by it.

—Todd Wanke, Managing Editor

The Western Front

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KEN STARR'S NEXT TARGET AFTER THE SECRET SERVICE:



People should view elders as blessing but no burden



Greg Tyson

COMMENTARY

Old age should be a wonderful time in anyone's life. Retirement and a less chaotic schedule are just some of the perks associated with the September of our years. Yet, it rarely seems to turn out this way.

Andy Rooney once said, although the thought of living a long life appeals to everyone, the thought of actually getting old appeals to no one. Indeed, many of us would rather be chased by a pack of ravenous pit bulls than get our first gray hair. We abhor old age and discriminate against those past their prime. No place is this truer than the work place.

An article posted on the Career Builder Network's website stated last year nearly 16,000 American workers filed complaints with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, alleging violations of the 1967 Age Discrimination in Employment Act. Under the ADEA, it is illegal for a worker to be discharged or demoted simply because of his or her age. Corporations seeking to cut costs generally target employees in their 50s and 60s who often earn higher salaries. Corporations also worry that if they do not let go of their older members, they will be viewed as too stubborn and expensive by potential clients.

In the end, this comes down to the staunchest of American ideals — respecting your elders. Unfortunately, like listening to eight-tracks or taking the family to the local drive-in theater, this seems like one tradition that has long since disappeared.

For many college-bound students, the thought of getting old is hardly a concern. Why should it be? After all, many of us have our whole lives ahead of us. We still entertain thoughts of making it big and changing the world. But what about the other end of the spectrum?

Unlike the brash, wet-behind-the-years upstarts, people in their 50s and 60s are generally more conservative. Twenty-somethings, on the other hand, are much more apt to throw caution to the wind.

Yet no matter how much work and time older people have invested in a corporation, many executives are still not above letting go of a 62-year-old in favor

of a 22-year-old.

Sometimes the decision is warranted. After all, most 62-year-olds are not going to possess the same spunk and go-get-'em attitude that a 22-year-old will exude. Yet other times, a corporation will let an older worker go simply because it is looking for fresher blood. In this case, corporations are not only acting irresponsibly, but heartlessly, too.

Older people deserve to remain employed as long as they can get the job done. If this means turning down a 22-year-old Harvard graduate, so be it. Older people who have worked hard for a corporation should be awarded for their loyalty, not scorned.

Our society is obsessed with constantly updating. No matter how worthy something has proven itself in the past, it must be modified every few years.

For example, due to ever-evolving software, Microsoft frequently revamps its Windows operating system program.

In Hollywood, wunderkind George Lucas re-released sci-fi masterpiece "Star Wars" replete with new special effects and previously unreleased footage.

Like products, many people feel they need to constantly revamp their old image to succeed in the work place.

No one is more harmed by this mentality than older employees.

We need to get it out of our heads that just because somebody is old

he or she is ineffectual. Look at Ronald Reagan. He was at the ripe age of 76 when he became president. Yet, during his two terms as president, he was still able to open peace talks with the Soviet Union and help end the Cold War.

Whether the youngsters like it or not, some things truly do age like wine. Sean Connery is a perfect example. Long a symbol of ruggedness and beguiling charm, the former 007 has only become a greater source of female yearning and male envy as he slips further into his twilight years.

All of this raises an indelible point: People should celebrate old age, not discriminate against it. Corporations should hold onto their elderly employees like a squirrel holds onto a precious acorn.

If corporations actually give veteran employees a chance, they may notice that many offer the kind of experience and dedication the youth can only hope to one day achieve.

"We need to get it out of our heads that just because somebody is old, he or she is ineffectual"



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