# **INSIDE:**

•RECONCILING HOMOSEXUALITY AND CATHOLICISM, PAGE 11 WESTERN STUDENTS TRAIN FOR TRIATHALON, PAGE 14

Western Washington University

VOLUME 107 ISSUE 12

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1999** 

WESTERN

RONT

### BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON

# Western funding millions less than other state colleges

THE

By Lisa Curdy The Western Front

The state legislature allocates \$500 less funding per Western student than other state universities receive, Interim Provost Dennis Murphy said

""It's not fair," Murphy said. "But the good news is the gap is becoming smaller. It used to be \$700 per student."

This budget discrepancy began in the 1970s when the governor's office required all state universities to cut their budgets by millions of dollars due to a major funding crunch.

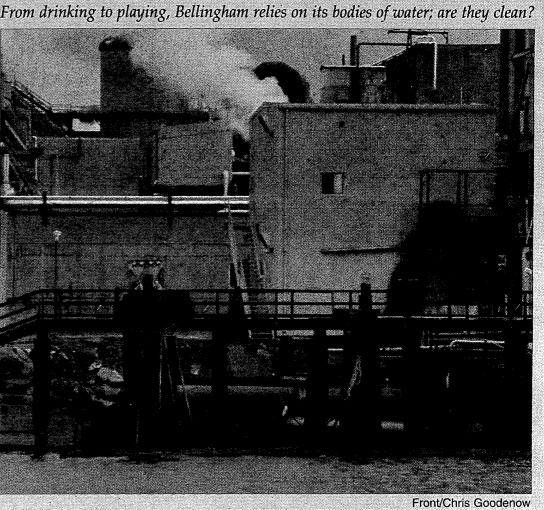
Many universities reduced fac-

ulty, but left their operating budget, which pays for people and supplies, intact.

To comply with the governor's office order, Western reduced its operating budget, cut the number of administrators and reduced staff work periods from 12 to 10 months, but didn't fire faculty.

"We made decisions in favor of students, and that remains today," Murphy said.

When the budgets were restored after the economy bounced back in the early '80s, the state legislature reinstated other university budgets in the See Budget, page 6



Some people say the downtown Georgia-Pacific plant has caused past and present pollution in Bellingham Bay. See story, page 4.

# **New Viking Union renovation** designs will be completed soon

Vendors' Row concerns prompted delay, revision

### By Bryta Alvensleben The Western Front

Delayed nearly a year, final design plans for renovation of the Viking Union and Viking Addition will soon be completed, said Jack Smith, director of student activities.

The delay was due to the Vendors' Row protests last spring and an initial design for the remodel that exceeded Western's \$14,105,500 construction budget for the project, Smith said.

"It was a combination of hear-

ing what people said they wanted and trying to make that design fit the project's overall goals to unify the V.U. and V.A.," Smith explained. "It required a fair amount of redesigning."

The initial plans for the renovation would have enclosed Vendors' Row and the rest of the L-shaped, open-air area between Associated Students the Cooperative Bookstore and Plaza Pizza. The entrance to the bookstore would have opened into the new covered area, dubbed "the galleria" by planners.

Because protesters called for the area to remain uncovered, Smith said the plans had to be changed.

"We needed to cut money — it was a logical place to go," he said.

The revised plan will connect the V.U. and the V.A., and renovate the bookstore, loading areas behind the Viking Commons and interior spaces in the three buildings.

'Our intent is to get people to the Union," Smith said. "Right now, ironically, 'union' means

### See Designs, page 6

# Lake Whatcom initiative unveiled at public meeting

By Melissa Miller The Western Front

The Initiative Group kicked off a signature-gathering campaign for a proposed Lake Whatcom Initiative Saturday morning at Bloedel-Donovan Community Building.

The group's citizens, Marian Beddill, Tim Paxton and Larry Williams, are seeking 3,700 signatures by May 31 to get the initiative on the city's November ballot.

The initiative's ballot title "Shall the city of states: protect Lake Bellingham Whatcom as a precious drinking source by acquiring targeted properties within its watersheds through dedicated funds from a surcharge on water use?"

About 50 Bellingham and Lake Whatcom watershed residents attended the meeting, which featured panel speakers Sherilyn Wells, Clean Water Alliance;

David Mason, professor Emeritus at Western; and Jamie Berg, Sudden Valley resident.

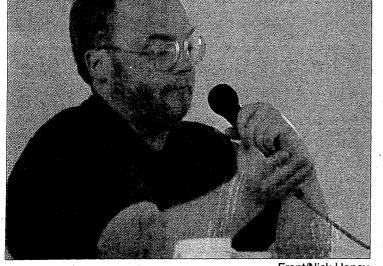
The panel addressed questions concerning the proposed initiative, and asked for volunteers to begin getting signatures.

The proposed initiative would have Bellingham residences pay \$6 to \$12 per month more for water use, allowing the city to collect at least \$4 million per year toward the purchase of undeveloped land within the Lake Whatcom watershed.

"The question is not whether this should be done, but shall we ask the people of Bellingham to give it to the voters to decide," Beddill said.

Beddill said if any Lake Whatcom watershed landowners choose to sell their land, the city could purchase and ecologically preserve it.

Paxton told the audience it See Initiative, page 3



Front/Nick Haney

Tim Paxton speaks about Lake Whatcom water quality.

## Students guide Western through committees

By Janis Yi The Western Front

Western has more than 40 committees composed of faculty, advisers and students that decide how to spend the quarterly \$10 technology fee, \$30 building fee and \$43 student health fee.

"This year we have the highest student turnout for committees," Associated Students' Vice President for Academic Affairs Victor Cox said. "It's a way for students to get involved."

The positions are filled on a first-come, first-serve basis; students may apply any time throughout the year, and may get an application in Viking Union 227 or online; students may apply for more than one com-

Committees, which range in size from 10 to 30 mem-

bers, each with one to four student representatives, discuss and vote on issues brought by other members or students.

Chairs are filled by either faculty or Associated Students Board members. They control the pace of the meetings, set the agenda and stimulate conversation. Some committees meet twice per week; other meet twice per month.

Of the 40 committees, only three lack student representations: Sale of Alcohol Review Committee, Sehome Hill Arboretum Board and Senate Library Committee.

"The strength of our university government is based on the committees," A.S. President Sarah Steves said. "Everyone has suggestions and complaints, but talking to your friends doesn't get the message out; take an

See Committees, page 8



### February 23, 1999



# **Campus Police**

University Police had nothing to report.

# **Bellingham Police**

Feb. 14, 2:25 p.m.: Police responded to complaints of a man shouting obscenities in the 2700 block of Donovan Avenue. Upon arrival, officers found the man intoxicated. He said he got sidetracked on his way to another part of town.

Feb. 16, 11:34 a.m.: Police responded to a verbal dispute between a woman and a man in the 1800 block of 16th Street. The woman said when the man would not help her mother with housecleaning, they got into an argument. The man left the scene, and the woman stayed to help her mother clean.

Feb. 16, 1:25 p.m.: Police received a call from a man installing bathroom splash guards in the Mount Baker Apartments. He said he discovered pornographic material in an apartment he felt was disturbing, and he determined he should contact the police.

Feb. 17, 3:10 a.m.: Police responded to a report of a beer theft in the 1000 block of Lakeway Drive.

Feb. 17, 7:41 a.m.: Police responded to a complaint of a man prowling near a house in the 400 block of South State Street. Officers found a man lying under shrubs. The man told police he arrived in town from Everett and needed a place to nap. Police arrested the man on an outstanding warrant for forgery and booked him in jail.

Feb. 17, 12:05 p.m.: Police received an anonymous call about a man who built a dirt ledge blocking his alley in the 900 block of 26th Street. When police contacted the man, he said he built the ledge, and a ditch, to alleviate drainage and prevent traffic in the alley. The man became angry when police told him he could not block the alley, but he cleared away the dirt.

Compiled by Kristin Hawley

### **Corrections and Clarifications**

On page 1 of the Feb. 19 issue, The Front misidentified Leonard Helfgott as Eban Goldstein. Helfgott was also misidentified as a Palestinian; he is American.

The Western Front regrets all errors.

# **Campus Curiosities**

Sociology department changes spring quarter class schedule:

The sociology department has made several changes to the spring quarter class schedule. It has added, dropped and rescheduled classes.

Students can acquire a list of the changes at Arntzen Hall 510 or contact the sociology department at 650-3160.

## **IDENTIFICATION STATEMENT**

Publication title: The Western Front

# **Western Briefs**

### **Dinner celebrates Black History Month**

The African American Alliance will sponsor its sixth-annual Black History Month dinner at 5 p.m. Saturday in the Viking "From Whence Union. We Came to Where We're Going: A Journey into the Millennium" will feature keynote speaker Keith Parker, director of African American and African studies and associate dean of graduate school at the University of Nebraska.

### Forum will explore future of Outback Farm

The future of Outback Farm will be discussed from 1 to 3 p.m. Tuesday in Fairhaven College Auditorium.

### Speaker will talk about archaeology in Mexico

Renowned archaeologist Nelly Robles Garcia, director of the Monté Alban archaeological site in Oaxaca, Mexico, will discuss "Negotiating the Future of the Past: Archeology, Development and Social Conflict in Mexico" at 4 p.m., Thursday in Science Lecture Hall 110.

A reception at Canada House will follow. For more information or disability accommodations, contact the anthropology department at 650-3620.

### Multicultural career fair open to college students

Western will host a multicultural career conference from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday at Fairhaven College.

Business and academic professionals will conduct sessions to opment, academic planning, job market preparation and understanding work-force diversity.

Students from Western and local community and technical colleges are invited. For those without a Western meal card, lunch is \$3.

### **Steves to hear student** comments, concerns

Associated Students President Sarah Steves will hear student comments, concerns and feedback at the fifth "Talk with the President" 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, near Arntzen Hall.

### Give opinion of bike, skateboarding rules

A hearing for proposed changes to bicycle, skateboard and in-line skate codes at Western is scheduled for 3 p.m., March 4. in Old Main 340.

Police The University Department proposes to change Washington Administrative Code 516-13, Bicycle Traffic and Parking Regulations, and WAC 516-15, Skateboards and In-Line Skates, to provide enforcement of the regulations as infractions within Western's administrative structure, rather than as criminal offenses in district court.

### **Student organizations** to honor women of color

The Ethnic Student Center, the Women's Center and Associated Productions-Social Students Issues will recognize National Women of Color Day with a series of events:

"Women's Resource Fair and Cultural Celebrations Women" will be at 11 a.m., help students with career devel- March 1, in the Viking Union

Main Lounge.

Magdalen Hsu-Li will perform "Redefinition of Identity" at 6:30 p.m., March 1, in the Viking Union Main Lounge.

Guest speaker Midori Takagi will speak at noon, March 2, in V.U. 109.

"Take Charge: Empowering Yourself to Prevent Sexual Assault" will be from 4 to 5 p.m., March 2, in Viking Addition 454.

"The Way Home," a video presentation and small group discussion, will be at 6 p.m., March 2, in the Wilson Library Presentation Room.

"Recognition of Women of Power," a reception, will be at 12 p.m., March 3, in V.U. 109.

### Western to host career fair

Western will sponsor a career fair from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesday, in the Viking Union Main Lounge.

### **Big Brothers/Big Sisters**

to sponsor bowling night Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Whatcom County is sponsoring "Bowl for Kid's Sake," at 6 and 8 p.m., March 6, at 20th Century Lanes, 1411 N. State St.

For more information, contact Charlene Paz at 671-6400, ext. 5.

Compiled by Jennifer Dye

### Western Briefs Policy

To include an event in Western Briefs, send a news release two weeks before the event to The Western Front, College Hall 09, Bellingham, WA 98225, via fax, 650-7775, or e-mail, wfront@ cc.wwu.edu. Due to space and time limitations, we cannot guarantee the publication of all submissions and reserve the right to edit any news release.

## **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, via fax to X/7287, or brought in person to Commissary 113A. DO NOT SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS DIRECTLY TO THE WESTERN FRONT.

Phoned announcements will not be accepted. All announcements should be signed by originator.

### PLEASE POST

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT INFORMATION MEETINGS will be held in HU 102 at 3 p.m. today (Feb. 23). Find out more about the bachelor of arts degree in Human Services offered through Woodring College of Education. For more information, call X/7759.

THIS IS BODY PRIDE WEEK. Events scheduled at St. Luke Health Education Center, Room E, include • Dietary Supplements and Athletics, 7 p.m. Feb. 24; • Recovery: The Road Back from Bulimia, Anorexia, and Compulsive Eating, 7 p.m. Feb. 25. Events scheduled on campus include • The Body Fair: Uniting the Body, Mind and Spirit, noon to 4 p.m. today (Feb. 23), VU Lounge; • The Body Beautiful: Tattooing and Piercing, 7 p.m. Feb. 24, FR 2; and • The Eat-In Celebration and Demonstrations, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 26, Red Square.

EMENT TEST. Registration is not required. Students must bring pictu a idant

Statement of frequency: published twice weekly Authorized organization's name and address:

> The Western Front Western Washington University College Hall 110 Bellingham, WA 98225-9100

The Western Front is the official newspaper of Western Washington University, published by the Student Publications Council. The Front is mainly supported by advertising revenue, but the opinions of Front editors and reporters are not reflected in these advertisements.

News content is determined by student editors. Staff reporters are enrolled in the course entitled "newspaper staff." Western students may send submissions to the above address.

Advertising inquiries should be directed to the business office in College Hall 07, or by phone to (360)650-3161.

Members of the Western community are entitled to a single free copy of each issue of The Western Front.

MAIH pencil. A \$10 fee must be paid in the exact amount at the time of testing. Allow 90 minutes. The test will be in OM 170 at 9 a.m. March 1, 8 and 15, and at 3 p.m. Feb. 25, March 4, 11 and 18.

**STUDY IN MEXICO.** An information session will be held from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Feb. 25 in OM 110 for all Western students interested in studying in Mexico with the 1999 Oaxaca field program. For more information, call X/3620. RENTER'S RIGHTS WORKSHOP. The Legal Information Center will host a renter's rights workshop 7 to 9 p.m. Feb. 25

in BH 109. Information will be provided about landlord/tenant relations, roommate disputes and tenants' legal rights.

SPRING QUARTER PARKING PERMIT RENEWALS begin March 1 at the Parking and Transportation office. Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Valid R lot permits are needed starting March 28 and for C lots starting March 30. The waiting list is valid until August those on it will be contacted if space becomes available in the lot of choice.

THE TEST FOR ENTRANCE INTO TEACHER EDUCATION (TETEP) will be given at 3 p.m. March 3 in SL 150. A \$25 fee must be paid in the exact amount at the time of registration in OM 120. The test takes approximately 2½ hours. TETEP is not administered on an individual basis. Deadline for fall admission into teacher education is April 30.

A DISCUSSION OF BELOVED, THE WINTER BOOK OF THE QUARTER, will be held at 4 p.m. March 3 in WL 676 (formerly the library lounge). Copies are available at the Associated Students Bookstore.

MILLER ANALOGIES TEST (MAT). Registration is required in OM 120 or by calling X/3080. A \$35 fee is payable at the time of the test. The test takes approximately 1½ hours. Testing will be in FR 3 at 3 p.m. March 9. The MAT is not administered on an individual basis

HELEN HOSTETTER INTERNATIONAL STUDY SCHOLARSHIP. One or more \$500 scholarships will be awarded for the 1999-2000 academic year to a student or students who will be studying abroad through International Programs and Exchanges. Applications are available from the Scholarship Center, OM 260, or International Programs and Exchanges, OM 530E. Application deadline is March 31.

WILLIAM BRYANT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP. One \$650 scholarship is offered for the 1999-2000 academic year to Applications are available from the Schölarship-Center, OM 260; or International Programs and Exchanges, OM, 530E. Application deadline is March 31.



# PEOPLE MAKING AN IMPACT ON CAMPUS

By Julie King The Western Front

Whatcom County's population has nearly doubled since Mayor Mark Asmundson attended Bellingham High School in the late '60s. As a teenager, he used to drag race on I-5, near the Samish Way exit and hang out at drive-ins with his friends.

Born and raised in Bellingham, Asmundson has witnessed many physical and economic changes in Bellingham since the time when Alabama Street and Lakeway Drive were two-lane roads.

"Where Bellis Fair Mall is, there used to be a nursery," Asmundson said. "Across the street, there used to be the Moonlight Drive-In Theaters. Yeah, everyone hung out at the Moonlight."

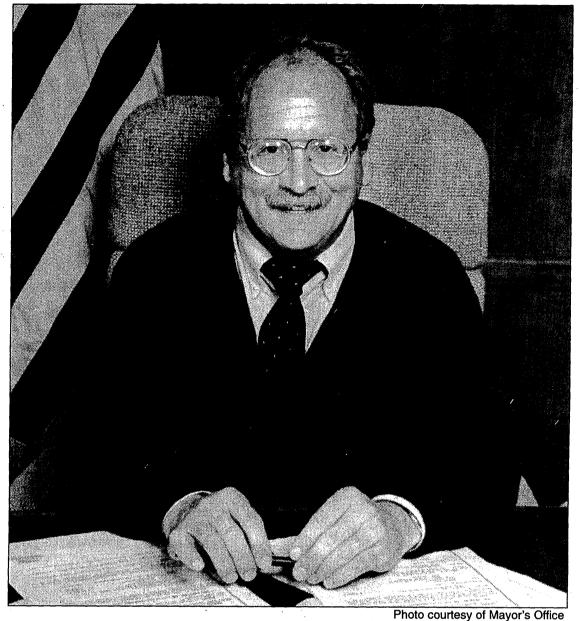
Asmundson has beheld Bellingham's growth with enthusiasm. As cities grow, he said, so does the level of excitement in the community, and he observes that eagerness in Bellingham's expansion.

He said Bellingham's growth has created a more diverse population and economy, and has allowed more opportunities, such as improvements to the municipal park system he is working to expand.

Asmundson said many aspects of the city have kept him here since childhood. He said he loves Bellingham's beauty and friendly community atmosphere, and he deems the city's location between Vancouver and Seattle as ideal.

"We are close to two major metropolitan areas," Asmundson said. "But we are far enough away that we have our own economy. Bellingham is not a suburb, and it doesn't have suburbs."

Asmundson graduated from Western in 1976 with a bachelor's degree in political science. He attended the University of the



Mark Asmundson, Bellingham mayor for three years, has been active in city politics since the 1980s.

Pacific's McGeorge School of Law, earning a law degree in 1980.

He has been mayor of Bellingham for three years and served on the City Council for nine years in the 1980's.

He said he is involved in politics because he wants to positively influence the community he loves. He is involved in several programs designed to improve downtown Bellingham and preserve community neighborhoods.

"We are working hard right now on our downtown revitalization program," Asmundson said,

#### "and it is working."

He said downtown is flourishing as it continues to grow and offer more businesses and places to shop. The revitalization program will make downtown a more clean and lively area for community members, he said. "Downtown is everyone's neighborhood; we want it to be healthier and healthier, and it is making great progress."

He developed the Neighborhood Association Program to give community members the opportunity to help preserve the beauty and safety of their neighborhoods through cleaning and building parks.

Asmundson said he is striving to create more recreational opportunities in Bellingham, such as trails and parks.

"My goal is to have a town that has energized, active neighborhoods who are involved in the governing of their community."

"I also want (Western students) to be as active in civic affairs as they are able to," he said. "We want Western students to be not just a part of the Western community, but of Bellingham."

Asmundson said Western should be well integrated into the community because it is a vital component of Bellingham.

He said Bellingham's population continues to grow because many students come to Western and they don't want to leave Bellingham after they graduate.

"I want Western students to feel like Bellingham is home," he said, "and I think they do."

During his spare time, Asmundson enjoys woodworking. An ornate, hand-made maple clock hangs on his office wall. He also builds wooden furniture and plays trumpet for Bellingham High School's Alumni Swing and Jazz Band.

Asmundson said he considers serving the city as mayor a "great honor" and is optimistic about the city's expansion:

"I love my job, and I love the people of Bellingham. (It's) a special town. It is physically, economically and culturally unique. It's just a great city."

## WWU GURs Available from Independent Learning

Communications Block B: English 201 (4) Humanities: Classical Studies 260 (3); English 216 (4), 281 (4), 282 (4) and 283 (4); History 103 (5), 104 (5) and 112 (5); Liberal Studies 232 (4) Social Sciences: Anthropology 201 (5); Canadian-American Studies 200 (5); Linguistics 204 (4); Psychology 201 (5); Sociology 201 (5) Comparative, Gender and Multicultural Studies: Anthropology 353 (4); East Asian 201 (5) and 202 (5); English 338 (4); History 280 (5); Women Studies 211 (4) Mathematics: Math 102 (5), 107 (3), 124 (5), 125 (5), 156 (4), 157 (4), and 240 (3) Natural Sciences B: Environmental Studies 101 (3)

# Activists promote initiative

### **Initiative**, from page 1

Paxton told the audience it would be cheaper to buy the land than allowing it to be polluted and fixing it later.

Williams said storm water treatment would be three- to five-times more expensive than buying the Paxton said it would take an estimated 70 to 100 years to buy the necessary land surrounding Lake Whatcom.

"Water quality is important for all people in Whatcom County," Lake Whatcom watershed resident Elaine McRory said. "I'm very interested in seeing some-

See WWU '98-99 Bulletin for explanation of GURs.

To preview a course outline, call or stop by: 800 E. Chestnut + 650-3650

land for preservation.

thing done, and I have been for 15

## STUDENT PUBLICATIONS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

EDITOR Jeopardy Spring Quarter, 1999

### To Apply:

Submit resume and letter of intent by March 5, 1999, 5:00 p.m. to Chair, Student Publications Council, CH 213, MS 9100.

Applicants will be interviewed on March 9, 1999 at 12:00 noon in CH 131.

For further information contact the Chair, Student Publications Council, CH 213, MS 9100

## NEWS

### **4** • THE WESTERN FRONT

### February 23, 1999

# What is the best way to clean Bellingham Bay?

Groups have differing views of how to get a very tough and important job done

### **By Kayley Mendenhall** The Western Front

On a clear day, the view from the lookout in front of the Performing Arts Center is breathtaking. Bellingham Bay sparkles in the sunlight and sailboats dot the horizon. The scene looks natural and pristine.

The pilot project designed to clean up the 1 million cubic yards of contaminated sediment in the bay paints a different picture.

Six known contaminated sites are in the bay, and a few are questionable. Olivine Sediment, Cornwall Avenue Landfill, Georgia-Pacific Outfall, Harris Avenue Shipyard, Boulevard Park and Whatcom Waterway are the six identified sites. Whatcom Waterway, where Whatcom Creek drains into the bay, is the most contaminated site, due to mercury disposal from Georgia-Pacific West Inc.

"The chlorine plant was built in 1965," G-P Environmental Manager John Andersen said. "It uses mercury in the chlorinemaking process. Mercury wasn't known to be toxic in '65."

In high doses, mercury and other heavy metals can cause serious health concerns, including nervous-system disorders, kidney and liver tumors, tremors and even death for aquatic animals and humans, according to a fact sheet provided by Robyn du Pre of Bellingham-based environmental group ReSources.

Andersen said biological studies have not indicated the mercury levels in the bay are a threat to human health, although eating the shellfish may be somewhat dangerous.

Bioaccumulation is a process by which contaminants move up the food chain, du Pre explained. For example, a prey animal, such as a crab, is eaten by a human. The metal contaminants in the fatty tissue and muscle of the crab transfer to human organs. The more contaminated crabs a human ingests, the more toxic the muscles and tissues of the human body become.

wouldn't eat anything out "I

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Protection Environmental Agency and G-P.

come up with the best plan for all interested groups and avoid legal obstacles.

"Federal, state, local, tribal and private parties are all involved," Hilarides said. "This is a landmark consensus procedure to ensure the bay gets dealt with."

"The flip side is to do it the conventional old way," Andersen said. "You end up in court. That's what happens."

Andersen explained that state agencies often have different agendas and don't always work together to find the best goals.

The group is working to write an Environmental Impact Statement, which will outline the sediment disposal options. The EIS should be completed by April or May, Andersen said.

The four cleanup options include: upland disposal, which would dredge the sediment from the bay and transport it to a hazardous-waste landfill in Eastern Washington; near-shore confined disposal; confined aquatic disposal with habitat; and confined aquatic disposal. The last three would all leave the sediment in the bay, but cap it with clean material.

In the past, the DNR has had the final say on the chosen option, as it is the owner of

Exploring

Whatcom's

Waters

all aquatic lands. Rep. Kelli Linville, D-Bellingham, has proposed a bill that would this give power to the Department of Ecology instead.

"The DNR promotes shipping it to a hazardous waste Eastern in site Washington," du Pre said. "The DNR wanted the alternative that would clearly get the

Department of Transportation, The goal of this plan is to

Front/Chris Goodenow

The Georgia-Pacific plant downtown was the source of mercury discharges in Bellingham Bay when the plant opened in 1965. It has long since stopped discharging mercury.

Long the playground of Whatcom

County, area residents are beginning to

# Lake Whatcom:

By Darcy Spann The Western Front

When Bellingham residents turn on the faucet to fill a glass with water, they probably don't think what they are drinking has been subjected to gas and oil leaks from boat and personal watercraft motors, sewage-line overflows and storm water runoff

caused by development within the watershed surrounding

Lake Whatcom. Although it remains one of clearest the sources of drinking water in the state, according to study paid for by the city, Lake Whatcom has begun

to show signs of deterioration: the acceleration of oxygen depletion; detection of cryptosporidium, a bacteria that results from the runoff of pet feces into the lake; and detectable levels of cadmium, zinc and arsenic. Land development is the major culprit of the deterioration; increased amounts of impervious surfaces, such as paved roads and rooftops, lead to unfiltered stormwater running into the lake, said Chris Spens, environmental analyst for the city of Bellingham.

learn hard lessons about the watershed build in it ... things which put heavy metals, pesticides and herbicides into the water."

Water quality is an issue that affects everyone in the community, not just those who live on the lake or in the watershed. Lake Whatcom is the sole drinking water source for the city, serving more than 65,000 residents.

According to an article in the fall 1998 The Planet magazine, zoning classifications in the Lake Whatcom watershed already permit 4,500 to 7,000 additional homes may be built during the next 20 years, which would increase the amount of impervious surfaces to the watershed.

Western geography students conducting a study in 1998 found the number of impervious surfaces in basins 1 and 2, the most densely populated areas of the lake, to have increased by more than four million square feet during the past 10 years. Bellingham's water is drawn from basin 2.

Long-term studies to determine

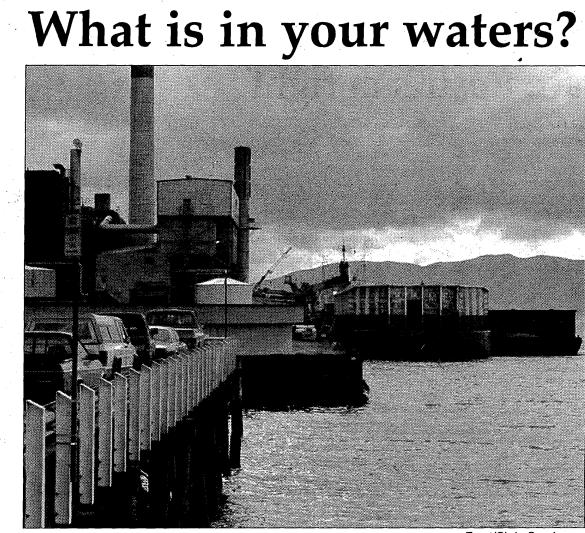
knows what amount of development the lake can withstand before water quality drops below acceptable levels and becomes irreversible.

Citizen groups and city and county government officials are taking steps they hope will slow development of the watershed and increase and maintain the current water quality of Lake Whatcom.

"The future need for water and water rights will continue to be one of our most daunting challenges," Whatcom County Executive Pete Kremen said.

"We must put real commitment behind our words in addressing the quality of our drinking water,' Kremen said.

Bellingham, Whatcom County and Whatcom County Water District No. 10, three governments with the most stake in Lake Whatcom, recently entered into an interlocal agreement, each committing to a minimum level of funding each year dedicated to management of the lake and its



of the bay - a lot of people wouldn't," du Pre said.

"There is mercury out there, it is the right thing to clean it up, but to say that it's ruining our bay is overstating the problem," Chip Hilarides, an environmental engineer at G-P said. "What we're dealing with is large volumes of low contamination."

The Bellingham Bay cleanup project started in 1996 and is different from most because it is using opinions from 14 different groups: the Port of Bellingham, city of Bellingham, Whatcom County Health Department, Lummi Nation, Nooksack Tribe, Washington Department of Ecology, Washington of Department Natural Resources, Washington State

problem gone. They wanted to see sediments dredged and taken out altogether."

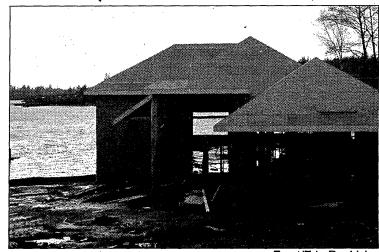
"This is a very expensive alternative, and G-P doesn't want that," she added. "They want to see the least expensive clean-up. The Port and the DOE have their own reasons. These agencies already have some turf issues between them."

Andersen said G-P would like to see some form of in-water disposal and is pushing for the confined aquatic disposal with habitat.

"The issue for cleanup of sediments is if you have contaminated mud in the water you can leave it alone, cover it up or dig it up," Andersen said. "If you See Bay, page 7

Without native vegetation and soils, the natural cleansing and filtration of storm water cannot take place, Spens added.

"It's a well-known fact that urban development has a negative impact on the lake," City Council member Louise Bjornson said. "Seattle has a watershed that you can't even walk in. We not only walk in ours, we also play in it and the cumulative impact of development in the watershed have not been completed; therefore, no one watershed The interlocal agreement See Watershed, page 7



Front/Erin Fredrichs Construction by Lake Whatcom can create water pollution.

News

### February 23, 1999

# Nooksack salmon face upstream fight

### By Lisa Bach The Western Front

Swimming upstream to spawn has always been a natural part of the salmon's life cycle. In addition to the challenge of moving upstream, salmon in the Nooksack River face environmental obstacles that could one day make their journey impossible.

The number of Nooksack River salmon has been decreasing rapidly during recentyears. The spring run of Chinook salmon could soon be classified as "threatened" on the list of endangered species, said Clare Fogelsong, project manager for the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association.

Salmon are limited by many factors, but the N.S.E.A. concentrates most on improving and restoring the salmon's habitat.

"If the fish don't have anywhere to go, nothing else really matters," Darrell Gray of N.S.E.A. said.

Efforts have been made to increase the population of salmon through hatcheries and in-stream incubators — large tanks that raise salmon fry in the stream where they will be released.

"N.S.E.A. began as a hatcheryoriented organization, but now it has moved away from salmon production and more toward the habitat," Gray said.

An ideal salmon environment should contain clear, nutrientrich, flowing water with deep pools and clean gravel, said Lisa McShane, coordinator of the Bellingham-based North-west Eco-System Alliance.

Pollution, clear-cutting and cattle farming are just a few factors that have contributed to the degradation of rivers and streams.

Pollution falls into two main categories: point source and non-point source.

"Point-source pollution is easily identifiable — it is a piece of garbage or an industrial pipe spilling orange liquid into the stream," Gray said.

Non-point source pollution

effects a larger area and is cumulative, Gray said.

Lawn fertilizer, herbicide and pesticides are just a few examples of this kind of pollution, he said. Clear-cutting removes the riparian vegetation. Riparian vegetation — the trees and shrubs on the banks of the stream - contribute woody debris to the stream. The decay of this debris adds nutrients to the water for insects to eat. Other organisms in the river, especially salmon, feed off these insects. The loss of riparian vegetation affects the entire ecosystem, Gray said.

Riparian vegetation also controls erosion, reducing the amount of sediment that enters the river. The sediment settles in the gravel where salmon lay their eggs, restricting the flow of water and oxygen through the rocks, Gray said.

When an area is developed, impermeable surfaces like concrete are added, causing the surface water to drain into storm drains.

"The water reaches the river quickly through the storm drains, not slowly and gradually like the natural process," Gray said.

Without vegetation to filter the water, sediment in the surface runoff is added to the

Exploring

Whatcom's

Waters

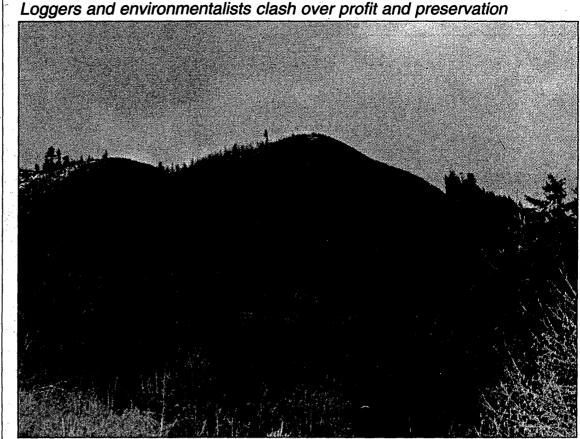
stream. Cattle contribute a significant amount of sediment to the river.

" T h e y level out the land when they cross streams and create a big mud pit," Gray said.

This mud chokes the stream, making it nearly impossible for fish to pass through.

"Clean water and a healthy instream habitat are the keys to salmon recovery," McShane said. The job of the N.S.E.A. is to get this message to as many people as it can.

See Salmon, page 7



Front/Erin Fredrichs

Logged hills like these surrounding Lake Whatcom are suseptible to mud slides and washouts. New bill could limit logging around Lake Whatcom

### By Kristen Hawley The Western Front

Jan. 27, Sen. Harriet Spanel, D-Bellingham, introduced a bill to the Senate, which, if approved, will require the Department of Natural Resources to study the affects of logging on Austin Creek and surrounding areas near Lake Whatcom.

The bill addresses the controversy of whe-ther or not logging in the Lake Whatcom watershed will cause irreparable damage to the environment. Some fear logging in the watershed poses a threat to drinking water quality,

fish habitat and public safety. Senate Bill 5536, written by Spanel and Sen. Georgia Gardner, D-Blainerequires a comprehensive study on the stability of the land and the consequences of logging prior to the sale of land. The bill calls for the DNR to work collaboratively with the departments of health and ecology to evaluate the area.

Opponents of 5536 fear lost revenue from lower timber sales will result from the bill.

In order to log in the vicinity of Austin Creek, the DNR would expand the existing logging road up Lookout Mountain to make travel easier for trucks. This is a potentially dangerous situation because the geological makeup of the area near Austin Creek is prone to landslides, geologist Dan McShane said.

Widening the road would create stability problems, he said, so the DNR proposed stripping topsoil above the road, which would expose a layer of bedrock.

"Bedrock has a tendency to break down quickly, and it could erode and collapse," McShane said. "Expanding the road will delay the healing process of Austin Creek."

The landslide possibility is reminiscent of a previous watershed disaster. In January 1983, 65 acres of timber debris from logging and 8 billion gallons of water flowed into Lake Whatcom, carrying with them a number of houses and washing out roads. The event occurred after a heavy rain followed snowfall, causing unstable land to slide down Lookout Mountain.

Concerned Sudden Valley residents Jamie Berg and Linda Merrom devote much of their time to helping the bill pass and raising awareness of the Austin Creek situation.

"If they have to do something of extra risk to the already risky geologic standing of the mountain, then they shouldn't do it," Merrom said. "Money shouldn't take precedence over water quality and public safety."

Berg and Merrom made important strides toward raising public awareness of Austin Creek's fragility when they led a group of public officials on a tour of the area. Their efforts saw immediate results: Shortly after the tour, Spanel submitted the bill to the Senate for consideration.

After discovering the DNR's plans for the Austin Creek area, Berg and Merrom spent many hours studying the effects of expanding the existing logging road.

"(The DNR) cannot tell me that road construction around Austin Creek will not add risk to this See Logging, page 7



## NEWS

### February 23, 1999

# Delayed, revised Viking Union plans soon to be finalized

### Designs, from page 1

two buildings."

The effort to attract people includes plans to relocate existing student services, such as the post office and the Student Health Assessment and Information Center, to the union building.

Also, food services now located on the fifth floor of the V.A. will be moved to the top floor, where the building's main entrance is — a location more easily accessible to students and visitors.

"The idea is to create a real community center," Smith said. "A gathering space during lunchtime and so forth ... but also all day and all night long."

Genevieve Panush, A.S. vice president for Business and Operations, has been involved this year in the renovation planning process.

"The best thing it will do is actually make a comfortable place for students to be," she said. "There are technically places to be here now — but it's not comfortable; it's not inviting."

Plans to remodel the V.U. have been discussed since the mid-'70s, but until now have never been acted on, Panush said.



A final model of the architectural piece that will unite the Viking Union and Viking Addition.

Construction is scheduled to begin winter of 2000, starting with the changes to the Vendors' Row area.

The improvements will be in three phases, so all the offices and services housed in the three targeted buildings will not need to be relocated at the same time.

"The biggest challenge for us, I think, will be making sure everyone knows where everyone is," Smith said. "It can be mind-boggling, but as long as you take it one issue at a time and resolve it, the project overall is doable."

The estimated completion date for the renovation is fall 2001 if everything goes as planned.

"Everyone expects everything to go really quick — but it is a state university; it's a bureaucracy," Panush said. "Hopefully, it's going to come along really well." Smith said the cost of the revisions to the plans were minor, considering that the estimated total cost for the project is \$21 million, including design fees and construction costs. The architects should pay some of the alteration cost, Smith said, because they were required by contract to design a building within the project's construction budget — \$14 million. Photo courtesy of LMN Architects

The new main lounge will have one-third more space for banquets and concerts, and more dining room seating. The renovation will also serve another purpose, Smith said; it will give the building identity.

"It will give the Union a reason for existing that people can readily identify with," he said. "It will be a much more public kind of space."

# Western closing \$500 funding gap

### Budget, from page 1

areas where they took their cuts, but not where Western took its cuts.

Western has battled with the state legislature to regain the lost budget money since.

"We remind the state that we're victims of an accident," Murphy said. "That's the historic accident that occurred; there's no villain, but we feel oppressed."

"We have had to count our shekels more closely; we are very efficient," Murphy said.

Some administrators contend Western has excelled by retaining the faculty — the most important aspect of the university to the students — when corners needed to be cut.

"We kept what keeps a university great," Murphy said. "We'll nickel and dime 100 places, but we fund our first priority — the students."

The budget shortage shows up

in faculty salaries and support areas, but the instructional quality and fundamental items are not affected, Murphy said.

The funding gap per student between Western and other state universities is shrinking, thanks to the state legislature's funding additional students.

Marginal funding, as it is called, pays Western more money per student after enrollment has reached a certain point.

This may seem to encourage overenrollment, but the two aren't related, Murphy said.

Marginal funding can be understood by comparing it to G.P.A.s, Murphy said.

To increase his or her G.P.A., a student must get better grades the next quarter; to increase the amount of money Western receives from marginal funding, it must increase the number of students enrolled, Murphy said.

Western benefits from its popularity, as it is monetarily rewarded for the increasing number of students who choose to attend.

Marginal funding has reduced the budget differential from \$700 to \$500, and the difference is still being reduced.

"It is important to us that the legislature continue the full funding of students," Murphy said.

Extra students cause Western to suffer space and resource shortages in certain departments, Cooley said.

In general enrollments have outpaced resources, said Jack Cooley, executive director for university planning and analysis.

To deal with the glut of students, the departments become more selective about accepting majors, Murphy said.

Western still struggles with the budget shortfall, Murphy said.

"We still make budget decisions on the instructional quality of the institution," Murphy said. "It's a historical anomaly, but we're slowly making progress."

# **Committee screens provost applicants**

### By Mia Penta The Western Front

The continuing search to replace Provost Roland De Lorme, who resigned last quarter, is going well and is just about on schedule, members of the Provost Search Committee reported.

The committee has screened more than 100 candidates since

early January. It has made several rounds of review, and requested follow-up information from the applicants.

The committee could not share specific details about the candidates because of the confidentiality of the process, Provost Search Committee

Chair Stephen Senge said. The committee will conduct overcrowding; retaining students and maintaining diversity.

"I'm looking for someone who has an open-door attitude;" he said, "who has a background in student needs."

"The next step is for the President and the committee to discuss potential finalists," Senge said.

The committee will conduct



on-campus interviews with the final applicants. With recommendations from the committee, faculty and students, Morse will determine who the new provost will be. Morse created the 15-member committee last June to find the replacement for

De Lorme; it consists of faculty, staff and one student.



Front/Justin Hall

Western's practice of overenrolling students strains its resources, such as its art studios.

off-campus interviews with some candidates; Senge said President Karen Morse had asked the committee to narrow the search down to five to eight of the strongest candidates.

"We are about where we want to be," Senge said. "We intended to discuss a potential list of finalists in late February. Now (we will have the list) in early March."

Committee member Victor Cox said he is excited about how well the search has gone so far. Being the only student on the committee, Cox said he is making sure the student voice is represented in the selection process. He said it's important to him how the candidates feel about issues important to students, such as The members were trained in affirmative action and equal opportunity by the Center for Equal Opportunity during the summer.

The committee had to create a position description, announce and advertise the job opening and communicate with the campus community before even beginning to look at the applicants.

Cox said when he sought student opinions from residence halls and several A.S. organizations, he had to explain the role of the provost; he said the provost's job is to raise money, work for the administration and lbe accessible students.

"The provost deals with academics, which is what we are all here for," Cox said.

NEWS

# Salmon may be in danger | Effects of logging near lake explored

**Salmon**, from page 5

"We provide education programs and field trips for schools, scout groups and church groups," Gray said.

The N.S.E.A. is a non-profit organization that involves the community in rebuilding salmon habitat. Areas that need improvement are determined through a surveillance process.

Most of the time, these areas are on the private property of farmers who stand to lose money by giving up valuable space to allow N.S.E.A. to make their land salmon-friendly.

"It is really up to the landowners," Gray said. "Some of them are very cooperative, and let us restore the stream on their land."

"The salmon are a citizen responsibility, and there is genuine concern," Fogelsong said.

The legislature is also involved with the recovery of salmon.

Gov. Gary Locke introduced a recovery plan entitled "Extinction is Not an Option," McShane said.

When a species is predicted to become endangered, the state must develop a recovery plan that meets federal requirements to avoid federal government intervention.

"Everyone assumes the federal government's regulations will be much more harsh than the state's," McShane said.

One aspect of the state's plan will include a mandatory 50-foot buffer of riparian vegetation lining the river, which McShane said is the ideal buffer for a flat stream.

For a steep stream bank, however, a 300-foot buffer is ideal.

"It just isn't good enough," McShane said.

The rules of the plan blanket the entire state and do not take into account specific site needs, McShane said.

The result of a plan like this is "the salmon go extinct more slowly," McShane said.

Although it is not a cure-all, "this plan sets the stage for the next phase of recovery," Fogelsong said.

With public recognition and the use of the best available sciences, the recovery of salmon has been "elevated to its deserved status," Fogelsong said.

McShane likened the governor's policy to recycling.

"Both involve voluntary compliance," she said.

Gray said he doesn't think people degrade the habitat on purpose.

"I think it is just ignorance," he said.

While the community is becoming more educated, a full recovery of the salmon is not likely in the near future.

"There is no short-term solution," McShane said. "Rebuilding the landscape won't happen within a governor's term, or even a biologist's career."

"We have to stop making landuse decisions without any salmon thought," McShane said. Logging, from page 5

area," Merrom said. "Any good rain-on-snow event could wash out Austin Creek. It has happened since prehistoric times."

According to a DNR mapping system, the slope of Lookout Mountain rates as a Mass Wasting Map Unit No. 4, a designation for only the most sensitive areas in a watershed, Merrom said. The rating means the land is at the highest risk for landslides.

Public safety is not the only issue raising questions in Austin Creek; spawning trout may also suffer as a result of logging.

Expanding logging roads requires the use of dynamite, which could send large amounts of debris into the creek, killing fish en route to Lake Whatcom.

The DNR proposes a stream crossing that would allow logging trucks to drive across a bridge spanning a route fish use to reach the lake.

Only 10 percent of native cutthroat trout remain in the lake, Merrom said, and Kokanee salmon stock in the lake have also declined because of high silt levels from logging and development in the watershed.

One of the greatest concerns among the supporters of the bill is preserving quality drinking water, Merrom said.

In August, the Nooksack Recovery Team — an organization working for salmon recovery successfully lobbied to shut off the



Front/Nick Haney

Loggers work near one of Lake Whatcom's tributaries.

diversion water flowing into Lake Whatcom. While this regulates the flow of water in the Nooksack River to help spawning salmon, it drastically decreases the amount of water flowing into Lake Whatcom.

Fifty percent of the inflow of water to Lake Whatcom is diversion water, Bill Black of the Alabama Hill Association said, and the water level of the lake hit record lows as a result of the discontinuation of the Nooksack diversion flow.

Since no water from the Nooksack River's tributaries flow into Lake Whatcom, Austin, Smith and Olson creeks are the only sources for water inflow, Black said, and those creeks are instrumental in providing Lake Whatcom with drinking water for more than 60,000 people.

"The watershed problem has reared its ugly head sooner than anyone expected it to," he said. "We have made the mistake of thinking this is a large watershed, when it really is not."

To keep Lake Whatcom's water clean, it is imperative to be extremely cautious around Austin Creek, Black said.

"This bill would require the DNR to involve other people to help determine the implications of logging the land, rather than look at the land as land to be logged, period," he said.

## Drinking water at risk

#### Watershed, from page 4

ensures that commissioners from each sector will meet semiannually to review progress in achieving the goals laid out in the annual work program for the lake, Bellingham Mayor Mark Asmundson said.

Taking a different angle to achieve a solution, Bellingham residents Marian Beddill, Tim Paxton and Larry Williams have formed The Initiative Group, to raise public awareness of the Department of Natural Resources' plan to clearcut portions of the watershed to generate funds for the state.

The group hopes to educate citizens and encourage them to vote for a \$10-per-month water-user fee increase dedicated to the purchase of the DNR's land to ensure its protection against logging.

"All three of us agree there really is no other permanent long-term solution," Beddill said.

Sudden Valley residents Jamie Berg and Linda Marrom have worked diligently for months trying to halt the DNR's proposal to clear cut portions of the watershed surrounding Austin Creek, a major tributary feeding into Lake Whatcom. that's genuinely important, like the stewardship of our resources for future generations, you realize you don't ever think about personal things," Wells said.

Development special-interest groups in the area, such as the Building Industry Association, face the problem of ensuring that homes will continue to be built while complying with regulations limiting continued development.

Responsible builders and developers can and want to play a positive role in the protection of this resource, said Mark Lambert, president of the Building Industry Association of Whatcom County.

The local BIA chapter seeks cooperation wants to work together with local government to promote the implementation of development standards that preserve and protect Lake Whatcom, Lambert said.

"As an association, we believe it is time for all of us to work together," he said. "These are the kinds of issues that can either divide us or unite us; we choose the latter."



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### EXECUTIVE TEAM LEADER OF TEAM RELATIONS/HUMAN RESOURCES

"In the future, every child should have the right to have clean, safe water," Berg said. "How can we tell them that money from trees and housing developments was more important?"

Representative for the Clean Water Alliance Sherilyn Wells works 60- to 80-hour weeks fighting for the preservation of Lake Whatcom's water quality. She makes weekly visits to city and county halls and numerous attorneys' offices, all in an effort to slow development.

"But if you focus on something

In early December, a new national federal drinking water standard was introduced, along with federal budgeting allocated for cleanup of city water supplies. Asmundson said it is unlikely Bellingham will receive any of the

Bellingham will receive any of the money because the city exceeds the federal standards for water quality.

With cooperation from all sides, Bellingham is moving positively toward a solution to halt deterioration of its water supply.

"This proves we all have the universal goal of ensuring this incredible resource ... is safe for future generations," Asmundson said. The chosen candidate will oversee the recruitment of well-trained, focused team members to provide quality guest service while interpreting company policies and ensuring fair and consistent application of personnel policies and procedures. You'll receive 4 weeks of Business College training and 4 weeks of position-based training while earning \$30,000 and full benefits.

To qualify, you'll need a college degree in Human Resources or Communications and the determination to succeed.

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## NEWS

February 23, 1999

# New class-withdrawl policy considered

Proposal aims to encourage students to withdraw from classes earlier in the quarter

### By Julie Graham The Western Front

Western may have a different class-withdrawal policy next year; the institution's struggle to balance student and faculty concerns in obtaining the perfect course schedule continues.

A proposal providing each student with two annual withdrawal privileges to be used during the third to seventh week of a quarter was passed by the Academic Coordinating Commission in early February, said Steve Ross, ACC chair.

The proposal is now under review by the Faculty Senate and the provost. If they find no problems with it — as Ross said he expects — then it becomes official school policy, effective fall quarter.

"I don't think it will prove controversial," Ross said.

Western has considered changing its class-withdrawal policy for a number of years, but needed to do so now to simplify record-keeping for the new registration system, Registrar Joè St. Hilaire said.

The proposal would change the current policy in two ways. First, the new policy would allow each student two drop privileges per year. Current withdrawal privileges, based on earned credits, provide three drops for freshmen, two each for sophomores and juniors and one for seniors.

Second, students dropping classes during a quarter's second week would receive a "W," but not have to use a withdrawal privilege as they do now.

The proposal's goals include encouraging students to drop classes by the end of the second week as opposed to the seventh, offering a consistent number of drops per student and helping the transition to the new student information system, St. Hilaire said.

The ACC hopes students will settle on a course schedule more quickly if they don't have to use a withdrawal privilege to drop a class during the second week, Ross said.

Students often spend the beginning of each quarter adding and dropping classes, trying to obtain the ideal schedule. Currently, they may only add or drop for free during the first week of classes, St. Hilaire said.

Approximately 1,400 students drop a class between the second and seventh weeks of a quarter, and the number of drops "skyrockets" during the seventh week as the deadline approaches, he said.

Students may drop a class when they can get into a class they need or want more, feel overloaded, are doing poorly academically or something traumatic happens, such as severe illness or a family death, Ross said.

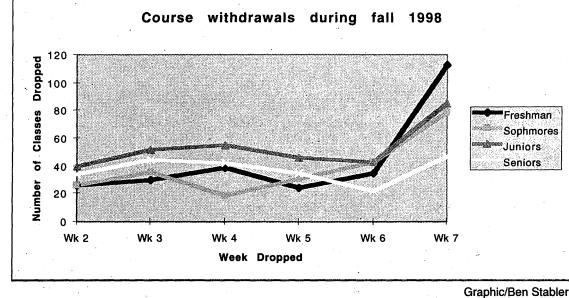
Students withdrawing from a class late in the quarter prevent other students from getting in, causes extra work for faculty and

disrupts class organization, said Tom Downing, a philosophy professor.

Downing, the only member of the ACC to vote against the proposal, said he didn't feel offering "W"s instead of requiring withdrawal privileges for dropping a class during the second week provided a large enough incentive for students to drop early in the quarter.

The proposed policy will be more liberal for students in giving them the second week to decide whether or not to keep a class, but also more strict in that if they don't want to use a drop privilege, they need to make up their minds fairly quickly, Ross said.

"I thought the proposal was a really good cooperative collaboration between the student board and the faculty members," said Victor Cox, Associated Students vice president for Academic Affairs.



This graph based on information provided by the Registrar's Office.

# **Students shape policy**

### **Committees**, from page 1

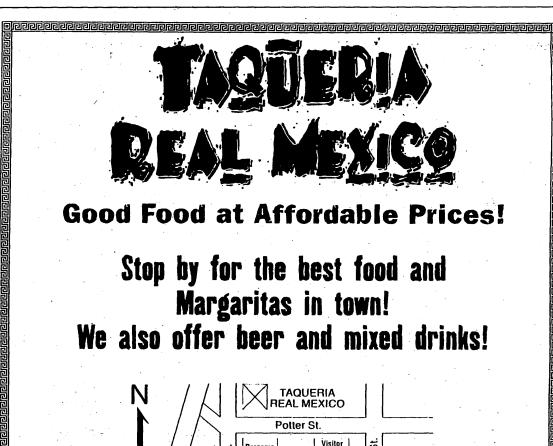
active role," Lindsay Ezell said.

Ezell is a student on the Facilities and Services Council, which covers the student bookstore, Viqueen Lodge and day care. Members allocate funding for various facilities.

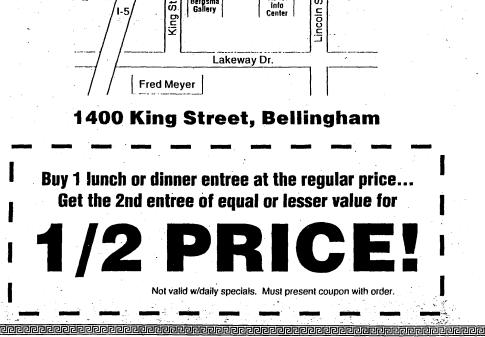
"I like the way students are represented," Ezell said. "Students are helping in making decisions, and the faculty and advisers really listen to what we have to say."

"We're the inner workings of the university," said Lisa del-Bosque, a student on the Academic Coordinating Commission.

The ACC deals with academic programs, curriculum, withdrawal privileges and GURs.







Features

**THE WESTERN FRONT •9** 

# A piece of history-He's definitely not old news

### By Michael Van Elsberg The Western Front

NBC news anchor Tom Brokaw's best-selling book, "The Greatest Generation," is a collection of profiles of people whose lives were shaped by the experience of growing up during the Great Depression and surviving World War II.

The stories profile wellknown people, such as George Bush, and more obscure people, such as Andrew Francis Renaud of Bellingham.

Renaud, 82, lives with his seeing-eye dog, Almond, in a small apartment.

"Frank Sinatra died on my birthday, and we were the same age," he said.

Renaud is not as famous as Frank Sinatra, but Renaud's biography might well be as interesting, especially to anyone involved in financial markets and economics. Although Renaud is noted for his involvement in World War II and two doctorates, law and psychology,

Wall Street was his life, he said. Renaud was the youngest person to have a seat on the cotton exchange and spent most of his life investing in commodities futures, over-the-counter stocks and bonds and oil.

Renaud loves to tell visitors about his life and the many interesting people he has known. His memory is remarkable.

He talks about the people around him with the same enthusiasm when boasting of his former fraternity friendships.

Renaud remembers cocktail parties in New York with Frank Sinatra and conversations with Winston Churchill, but he would rather lecture about how today's stock market is overinflated and may experience a setback second only to the crash that started the Great Depression.

"When I was in the street, companies sold for 10-to-15 (yearly) earnings," times Renaud said. "Today they sell for five-or-six times as much which is ridiculous."

Renaud divorced his third

wife several years ago and had seven children in what he calls "three litters."

He blames excessive drinking for the loss of his eyesight.

Renaud has not had a drink for more than seven years. Today he is as fit as a man in his early 50s.

Still, Renaud's children call and visit him regularly to check on him.

"I was drunk for 50 years," Renaud said.

Renaud fought in Europe during World War II as a lieutenant colonel in the Army Air Corps. and he has taken advantage of his veteran's benefits in recent years, getting his seeingeye dog through one of its programs.

"Almond comes from a litter that has dogs who all have names that start with the letter "A," Renaud said.

He talks about his dog's pedigree, his eye doctor's famous relatives, and the great grandparents of the director of the seeing-eye dog school — as easily as he does about his own.

### The Greatest Generation

In his book, "The Greatest Generation," Tom Brokaw profiles the war-time roles of more than 40 men and GENERATION World War II.



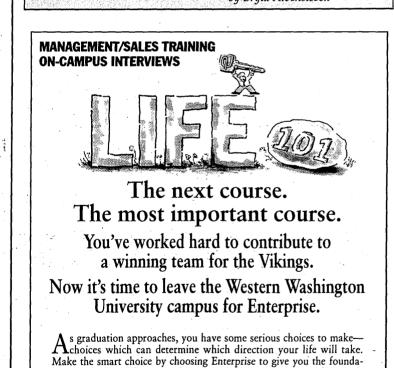
He writes stories about what he terms "ordinary people" to the stories of famous personalities such as Julia Child and George Bush.

One of Brokaw's stories in his book follows the life of Nao Takasugi, a Japanese American who was 19 years old when Pearl Harbor was bombed. After the bombing, Brokaw writes about Takasugi's three-and-a-half years in the Gila River internment camp and the impact internment had on his life.

Brokaw shares his inspiration for compiling the stories in the book's introduction.

"When I first came to understand what effect members of the World War II generation had on my life and the world we occupy today, I quickly resolved to tell their stories as a small gesture of personal appreciation," he said.

by Bryta Alvensleben

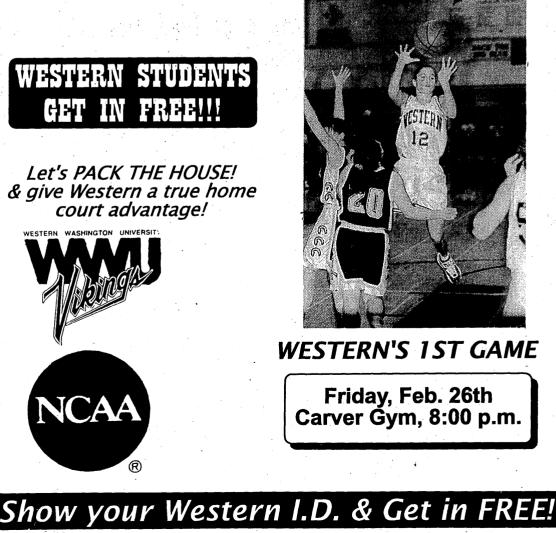




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### FEATURES

**10 • THE WESTERN FRONT** 

<u>February 23, 1999</u>

# For the Bell whom the Bell Tolls

**By Chris Goodenow** The Western Front

At the top of Miller Hall, in Western's bell tower, one might picture a monk dressed in a robe, striking a giant bell, producing the Westminster chimes that resonate at noon every day. In this story, neither a monk, nor a bell, exists.

Motion sensors in a tightly-locked room guard one of Western's best-kept secrets in Miller Hall's bell tower.

In addition to playing the traditional Westminster chimes at noon every day, a CD player plays selected songs, in bell tones, twice per day, at 11:55 a.m. and 4:55 p.m.

Song availability ranges from "The Sound of Music" to "The Star-Spangled Banner" to seven different versions of "Silent Night" during the holidays.

The songs are pre-programmed into the CD player hooked up to an amplifier and speakers outside the bell tower. Fourteen different songs are usually programmed into the CD player for a weeklong period, said Del Hubbard, control technician lead of Planning, Facilities and Operations.

Hubbard frequently selects what is played on the system. The songs are arranged into three categories: popular, patriotic and classical and Christmas songs

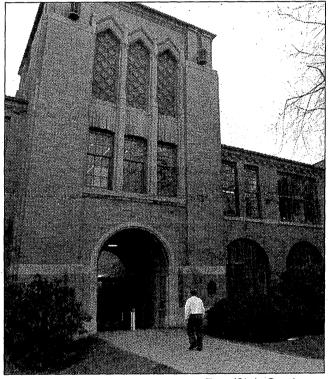
Most of the songs last one to four minutes

Hubbard said he prefers certain songs. "I have a tendency to probably play a combination of patriotic and classical."

With 180 songs to choose from and a list of other CDs to order, he said he has "quite a variety. Most anything that you've been exposed to, I guess."

The system is used regularly during graduation ceremonies, Hubbard said.

Two of the most popular graduation songs requested are "Claire de Lune" and 'America." He said President Karen Morse often requests songs. "She has this one that she has an obsession with," Hubbard said, chuckling, referring to "Pomp and Circumstance."



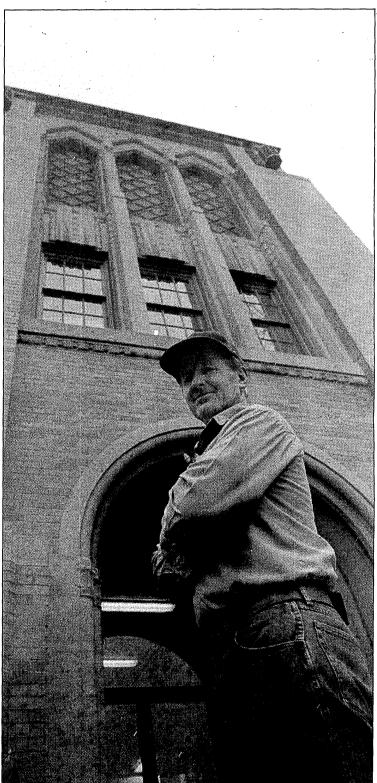
Front/Chris Goodenow The bell tower plays the Westminster chimes every hour and is reprogrammed one to two times per year.

times at noon are not technologically advanced. They are similar to a metal xylophone. A computer, programmed with the time, uses strikers to hit a set of bells of different lengths. An amplifier hooked up to a microphone sends the sound to the speakers mounted outside Miller Hall.

"It brings a little bit of character to the university," said David Sherwood, technical maintenance supervisor of Planning

about the bells, but for the most part, he said, people enjoy them when they get used to the chime.

The bell tower equipped is with locks on



Front/Chris Goodenow

every door and Del Howard is the primary operator of the bell system in Miller

Although he has received song requests for events, Hubbard has never gotten a request for a song during a normal workday; however, he said he would accept one.

He said most people never realize the same songs are being played.

When the week is done, the pre-programmed cycle repeats. Hubbard said the CD player is reprogrammed one to two times per year.

"By the time we get around to the first day of the week again, I don't think it makes any difference," he said. "It's more of a background music, like when you are in a store."

The Westminster chimes that strike 12

Facilities and Operations.

'It gets to be a little like a grandfather clock is. They're kind of annoying

at first, but when they don't work you miss them.'

**David Sherwood** technical maintenance supervisor at Planning Facilities and Operations

"It gets to be a little like a grandfather clock. They're kind of annoying at first, but when they don't work you miss them," he said.

Sherwood has fielded one complaint

a window lead- Hall, which consists of a CD player, speakers and an amplifier.

ing into the

fourth-floor

room where the system is located.

Motion sensors await any movement in that room and transmit a signal to University Police.

The security system was installed immediately after the amplifier and the lock leading to the room were broken about four years ago. The intruders attempted to play their own CD's.

"They could have played it on theirs," Hubbard said, "but they wanted everybody to hear. It was just an expression of, 'Look, we beat the system.'"

"We took very quick, stringent and decisive 'action. I couldn't break in, myself, after hours now,"he said.

Other than the security improvements, the bell tower has had a series of technological improvements.

The bell tower section of the building was completed in 1942, but because of World War II shortages, real bells were never installed.

In 1993, the planners of Western's centennial celebration and reunion wanted a presentation that imitated a 1893 lifestyle.

A company named Maas-Rowe offered to install and lend the system to Western for a free, trial basis.

Former students and teachers collected the money to purchase the system for about \$10,000.

Susan Trimingham, of the alumni reunion planning committee, said the committee wanted to enhance the ambiance of campus.

"It's pretty amazing sound for an electronic device," she said.

### FEATURES

### **THE WESTERN FRONT** • 11

# Ecceptance under one roof

### By Mia Penta The Western Front

Ryn McKay sits with her hands folded on her lap, reminiscing in a low, but steady voice, about the hardships she went through in her marriage. She gazes at the students, sit-

almost ting motionless at her feet, while she speaks of the violent home she grew up in, and the solace she sought by marrying an Assembly of God minister.

Eyes start to well up when McKay softly says her husband sexually abused her to the point she needed 18 surgeries; yet at the time she believed she was

only fulfilling her duties as a wife.

While she explains how her husband justified his behavior because he left no scars like those she bore from her childhood, listeners let out a low sympathetic murmur.

McKay quickly moves to Lyndsey S. Davis, the woman sitting to her right and the bright spot in her life these days.

"My sensuous self and my spiritual self became one family in my heart," McKay said of her seven-year relationship with Davis.

She talked of the strength she continuously found in God. "All my

life, the Church was there

for me," McKay said. "The people in the church were not always there, but the Church was always there."

McKay and Davis were two of five people who spoke about

He told the crowd the panel had not rehearsed anything, and came "not to talk about the Church's official stance, but people's own experiences."

Davis discussed her two divorces, which led her to decide she was meant to be celibate.

She started working with AIDS ministry, which taught her to rethink her negative stereotype of homosexuals. She met McKay through her interest in gay and lesbian civil rights. Davis said both the Trinity

and same-sex relationships express the idea of a whole greater than any one.

She smiled and squeezed McKay's hand as she described how their love demonstrated God's love in an imperfect way.

"I thank God everyday I wasn't at a place where I thought only a man could meet my needs," Davis said.

Ron Belgau, a 24-year-old University of Washington graduate, talked about his struggle growing up the favorite son of an

extremely homophobic father, attending a Southern Baptist church and knowing he was gay.

> He said reading through scriptures, he decided that sexual relationships

were not appro-

priate for him, but his own experiences helped him to understand God's love.

> "Getting close and intimacy are imporvery

Rev. David Jaeger ministers to gay and lesbian people in Seattle. He has been with the Archdiocese7 of Seattle for 30 years; for the past nine years he has worked with HIV/AIDS patients.

to the many gay and lesbian Christians who, like herself, felt abandoned by their churches.

"People can't get kicked out for not fitting the typical format of

She said people were surprised the Shalom Center would host a program that Catholics and homosexuals.

'A lot of people tant," Belgau Catholic," Hol- feel like Christian haus said. "The

combined "There are

some safe places," Oster-

Front/Jenni Long

the gay student beaten to death last fall.

"It's good to see the community who support (gays and lesbians)," McKinney said "who are allies."

Senior Teri Rutledge, who regularly attends the Shalom Center, said she really enjoyed listening to the speakers. "A lot of people feel like Christian groups discriminate against gays and lesbians," Rutledge said. "Christians can be openminded about it." "We were wanting students to have a better understanding how people can be gay and live out their faith," Osterhaus said. "Break down prejudices and moral judgments." Osterhaus asked for a one or two-word response from listeners to close the discussion. After a few moments of silence, words tumbled out around the room. "Educational." "Informative." "Insightful." "Hopeful." "Moving."

were not always there, but the Church was always there.' Ryn McKay panel member

'All my life the

Church was there

for me. The peo-

ple in the church

atholicism and Ŵ homosexuality to a group of nearly 50 people scattered on the floor and couches of the Shalom Center on Sunday night.

Rev. David Jaeger, who works in Seattle, headed the discussion. He explained how his support for many gay and lesbian Catholics grew while he worked with AIDS patients the past nine years.

He said the idea of the Roman Catholic Church not mixing with gays and lesbians is false. Jaeger pointed out while many may get married, everyone has relationships that are intimate, committed, fruitful and a blessing for others - which can apply to same-sex relationships.

said.

be sexually active."

Linn Holley has been married for 22 years and has two children.

She, too, lived in a violent home when she grew up.

At age 13, she confessed about the abuse she endured to her priest, who told her to go home and apologize to her father; the audience members shook their heads in disbelief.

Even though she felt abandoned and wronged by the Church in her late 20s, she found a church active in social outreach. She became involved with AIDS patients, and could relate

'It's ley said firmly "That's not a huge not loss not to what my God

would say." While

> Catholic Church clearly states sex outside of marriage is wrong,

Holley said peoshouldn't ple scrutinize gays and lesbians any more than straight men and women.

"Why does everyone have to link sexual activity with gay people when not to straight people?" Holley asked.

the

Catholic campus minister Shirley Osterhaus asked Jaeger to bring his panel to Western.

groups discriminate against gavs and lesbians. Christians can be open-minded about it.'

Teri Rutledae Shalom Center member

ner said.

Shalom Center is a safe place for gays and lesbians."

Students Regina Goldner and Angela McKinney initially brought the idea to Osterhaus. Peer minister Goldner said the

issue of homosexuality and Catholicism was something she

wanted to learn more about. "I question it a lot when I think about any religion," Gold-

McKinney said she was surprised at the lack of Christian response to Matthew Shepard,

FEATURES

February 23, 1999

# hours – Military time

### By Carrie Van Driel The Western Front

Free medical and dental insurance, food and housing are hard to beat. Imagine having these things, plus an education almost entirely paid for. Joining the military gives students this and more.

"What we have to offer is based on an individual's needs," said Bellingham U.S. Navy Recruiterin-Charge Rich Makoski, NC1.

"Our program is designed for success; we don't want anyone to fail," he said. "Our students are monitored with a lot of hands-on training."

Navy programs allow students to obtain degrees as easily as possible, Makoski said. Many individuals have earned master's degrees in less than six years.

Even so, the decision should not be a last resort, Makoski said.

"The biggest thing we have a problem with is, if they go in, somebody does not own them," said Bellingham U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Station Cmndr. Robert Connolly.

Being in the Army is just like any other job," he said. "Your life is not over when you join."



The Army trains in more than 250 different disciplines. Placement is based on qualifications, interests and openings, Connolly said.

"The military allows people to gain experience that college doesn't always provide," he said.

The military provides training and technical experience and is very computer-oriented, he added.

On its ships, the Navy provides free college credits. In-state tuition applies to all enlisted members, and the Navy has fully accredited schools.

The Navy and Army pay about 75 percent of enlistees tuition,



Robert Connolly, Staff Sgt. at the U.S. Army 's Bellingham Recruiting Station and Aaron Reddell, a recent recruit, watch a video for new recruits.

leaving students with the cost of books.

The Army is increasing its incentives, Connolly said. A student can earn as much as \$50,000 toward higher education, along with many bonuses that vary based on qualifications.

"Only 25 percent of applicants can meet the qualifications," Connolly said. "We are getting really picky."

Qualifications for the Army are based on medical history, morals

and motivation, which includes the desire to give time and to allow self-growth, Connolly said.

"A lot of Western students pass through the doors," Connolly said. "You guys have the qualifications."

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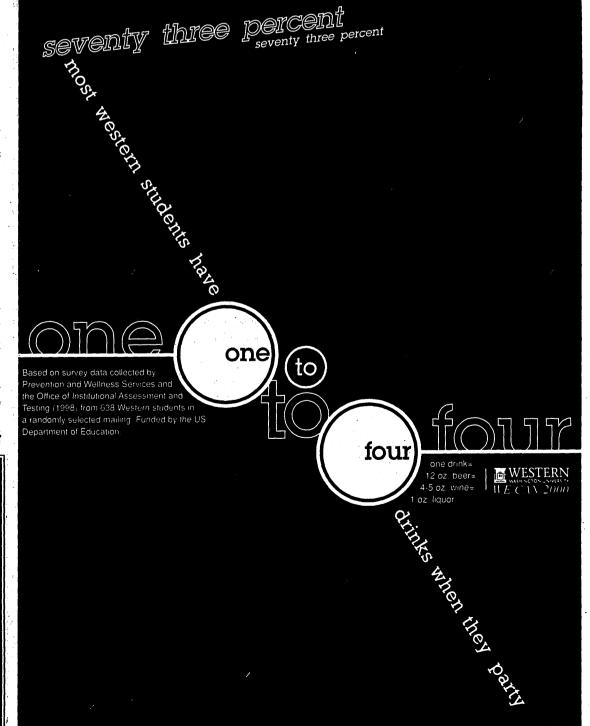
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### Features

### THE WESTERN FRONT • 13

# -asting for the future

### **By Addy Bittner** The Western Front

"I think people want to give. We want to help the overwhelming needs of the rest of the world and in our own community, but we don't know how sometimes," said Jennifer Hughes, a Western graduate and full-time staff member with the Campus Christian Fellowship.

Members of youth groups and churches around the nation will fast for 30 hours Friday and Saturday in order to raise money for hungry children in Sudan, Romania, Kenya, Mexico and the United States.

In Bellingham, CCF is hosting the "30-Hour Famine," an event started by World Vision, a nonprofit organization that raises money for hungry children.

Hughes said CCF has participated in the famine four times during the past five years.

The first year it got involved, Hughes said, it raised about \$2,000. The last time students fasted, they raised \$4,000.

She said the CCF doesn't have a set goal for how much they'd like to make this year, but she said she hopes they will reach \$4,000 again.

During the past month, mem-

bers of CCF have spoken with friends, neighbors and families to get people involved

through fasting or donating money

World

Vision.

Hughes said

200 people to fast.

she's expecting about

Events begin Fri-

stand set up to

the CCF will have a United States.

inform people how they can help;

one option being at the Maple Val-

that are far off, but we need to remember about Bellingham."

think about the real drastic needs

"spread the wealth," he said. The "Famine Kickoff" will be at 6 p.m., Friday, in Fraser Hall 3, where those involved will talk about the different coun-

> tries in need. At 7 p.m., Fridav,

Hall 100, a guest speaker an orphanage in from Haiti will talk about Front Graphic/Ben Stabler his church and its

n

Arntzen

day afternoon in The white dots represent the countries CCF is collecting activities. An all night prayer meeting will follow, focusing on different countries.

> CCF will have a canned food drive behind at 1 p.m, Saturday, behind Arntzen Hall. The food will go to local food banks. The group will meet 6 p.m., Saturday night, at a Marriott dining hall to

break the fast "lightly," Hughes said.

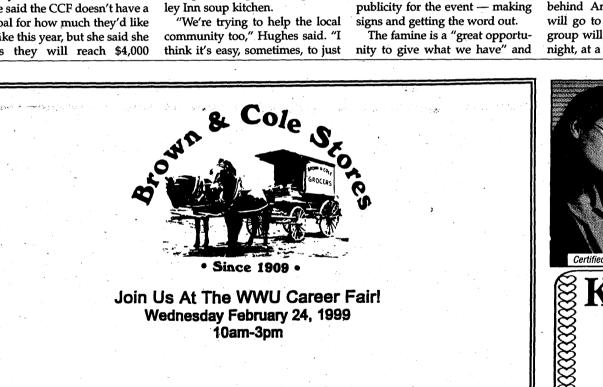
Participants will talk about their experiences fasting and find out how much money they made.

"One major reason why we're doing it is because of our faith, and that we really believe that it's important not to just say we have faith in God and want to serve him, but to really act it out," Hughes said.

She said the reason for the fasting is so "the people involved in doing it can experience hunger. I mean, in 30 hours, you're not even experiencing hunger, but it can give you some small insight into what other people face chronically. It's a really good lesson to the people involved about the needs of other people around the world."

Hughes said of CCF, "Our role is to provide a place for students to come to grow in their relationship with God --- to learn about Him if they don't know about Him. It's a place for believers to gather to worship, and for those that are curious to come and find answers."

The events of the "30-Hour Famine" are open to everyone, Hughes said.



Red Square, where money for: Sudan, Romania, Kenya, Mexico and the

Josh Kill, a Western sophomore

and CCF member, is in charge of

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## Sports

### February 23, 1999

# By land, by sea

### Western students gear up for triathlon

### **By Chad Marsh** The Western Front

Sometimes one race is not enough

After months of early morning laps in the pool and miles of road work on bike and foot, the members of Western's triathlon team have transferred their training to the course.

The co-ed team, an Associated Students club, is open to students and non-students. Since its inception in winter 1997, the team's membership has fluctuated between six and 14 members.

Western senior and team coordinator Aaron Moss, 21, said the rigorous training seems to scare away potential triathletes, but the challenge of conditioning is a worthy payoff.

"It requires a lot of determination," Moss said. "It requires a lot of will, and I like that I need to push myself and test my limits as far as what I'm capable of mentally and physically."

The individual competition the sport provides is matched by the sense of team it instills in its participants, he said.

Western graduate and team member Jeremy Gerking, 25, said the time training with others who are equally focused is rewarding.

"I like the camaraderie that's created between you and your friends out there on the team," Gerking said. "Misery loves company, and a lot of times - especially this time of year — it really sucks to be out there when it's windy and rainy."

Lengths for the triathlons vary from the sprint — with an 800segment and eight-kilometer run - to the ironman, with an opening 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile ride and 26.2-mile marathon finish.

At the collegiate level, the most typical length is the Olympic, with distances nearly double that of the sprint. Western's triathletes usually complete this in less than three hours, swimming 1,500 meters, cycling 40 kilometers and running 10 kilometers.

The team will travel to the University of British Columbia Feb. 27 to compete in the school's Sprint Triathlon.

Gerking and former team coordinator Mark Kendall, along with a few others, formed the team after an A.S. Infofair. The original members completed the paperwork necessary for club status and began training.

During the season of rigorous training, February through October, Western triathletes' typical weekly workout has them swimming 15 to 20,000 yards, biking 80 to 120 miles and putting their shoes to the road for nearly 40 miles, in addition to regular weight training.

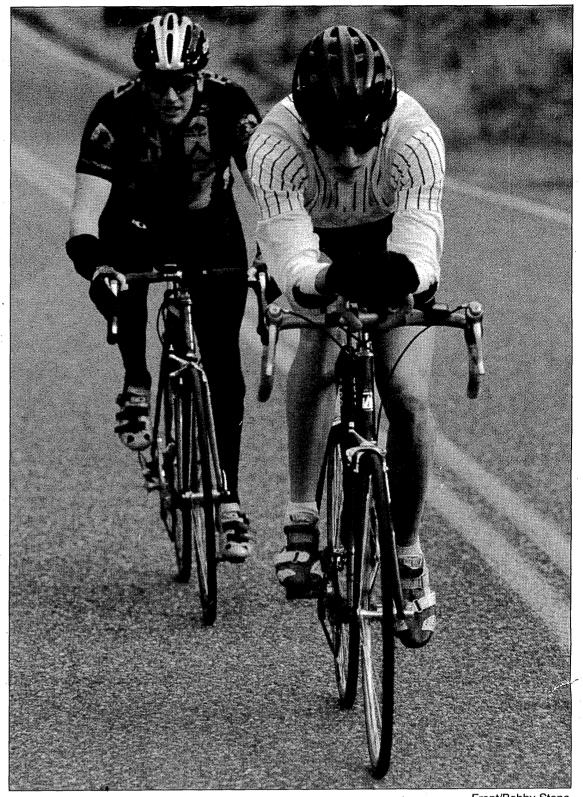
The grueling workout may deter some, but Gerking said it's not as burly as some numbers suggest.

"I think a lot of people have this misconception that you need to be this bad-ass Navy S.E.A.L. or G.I. Jane type to get out there and do one of these things, but it's not the case at all," Gerking said.

Senior Lynn Morin, 22, stressed that the team is always looking for newcomers.

"I think people just need to give it a shot," Morin said. "It's fun, and it's a good club team."

A swimmer before she discovmeter swim, 26-kilometer bike ered triathlons, Morin said she



Western senior Aaron Moss rides ahead of junior Aaron O'Callaghan as they warm up on their bikes Saturday afternoon on Old Samish Highway.

finds the variety of the sport to be the biggest appeal. She said the competitions were initially intimidating, but taking part in the women's Danskin Triathlon Series in Seattle last August helped her

get accustomed to the challenge.

Current and former team members put together the Chuckanut Mountain Bike Triathlon, winding the course in and around Lake Padden.

The big event for the team will be its annual trip to Lake San Antonio in northern California for the Wildflower Triathlon Festival in early May, the second largest in the world.

# Blue Angels help recruit players

### By JJ Jensen The Western Front

Unfortunately for the Blue

(allegations in the South) comes from people that want to make Angels in a false light. something out of nothing --- small

"These gals do a great job. I think it but noted the possibility some people could view the Blue

"Being the liberal school that this

happen," he said.

Feb. 3, the last day for recruits to sign letters of intent, marked the end of the Blue Angels' first coaches always campus tours. recruiting season. Corsi-Clark said she has received nothing but positive feedback.

campus, is at least a sophomore and likes football.

Smith said that before this year,

Front/Bobby Stone

Angels, a group of eight female Western students that conducts campus tours for football recruits, their inaugural season assisting the football program coincided with allegations from the South that similar organizations use their groups for sex appeal to help schools sign players.

Groups such as the Georgia Girls, 'Bama Belles (Alabama) and Vol Hostesses (Tennessee) have been accused of using sex to lure players to their programs.

Those who know the Blue Angels are quick to set the record straight.

"That's certainly not the intent of this program at all," said head coach Rob Smith, defending the group that first-year Western assistant coach Brian Schwartze created.

minds that have nothing better to do and want to stir something up."

Junior Harmony Corsi-Clark, head of the Blue Angels, admitted she had concerns about what people would think of the group before she got involved, but reiterated the intentions of the group. "I did know that people would think 'Oh, a group of girls trying to get guys to go there for other reasons,'" Corsi-Clark said. "We're a group of students that give campus tours to recruits and their families. There's nothing going on other than that. We're

very professional about how we

Current football players also defend the group and say they

would've found the group helpful

when they were being recruited,

give tours," she said.

is, somebody might raise questions about women's rights, but pretty much every school in the country has programs like these," said junior linebacker Dave Josker.

"It's nice to have somebody to show you around and help to get acquainted with the school. They seem pretty nice and seem to be into it. The girls have fine intentions," Josker said.

Josker also pointed out that the football team also has almost no "groupies."

"It's not too bad here. I've heard of them (groupies) at bigger schools, but Western is more academic than athletic. Ninety-five percent of the students here are from Washington and went to high school together and know each other, so it doesn't really

"They did a great job for us," Smith said. "It's so important that students hear from people other than coaches. It was a real boost to our entire recruiting process.

"Looking at the strength of our recruiting this year, some of the credit needs to go to them."

The Blue Angels are an unofficial and informal volunteer group. They have no operating budget. Corsi-Clark and Smith said they hope that more people are involved with the program next year.

Corsi-Clark said there are no general requirements that need to be met to be in the group, but it helps if the person has lived on

We can provide the football perspective and answer the football questions, but with terms outside of football, we have limited knowledge and certainly we have no personal experience — we're a bunch of old guys," Smith said.

A typical campus tour will last about an hour and will cover most of the campus; conversation is pretty much open to anything, Corsi-Clark said. Tours have been as large as 40 people.

"Recruits have said it's really important to ask us about the things they normally wouldn't ask a coach - we'll tell them about parties and Canada and things like that. It's fun to tell people why I love Western and why I chose this school over a million others," Corsi-Clark said.

## **Sports**

### THE WESTERN FRONT • 15

# Viking fastpitch ranked nationally

By Curt Woodward The Western Front

The Western women's fastpitch team, last year's NAIA national champion, enters its first NCAA Division II season ranked 19th nationally in the USA Today/ NFCA preseason poll.

"Preseason rankings aren't as important as regular-season rankings," head coach Art Phinney said. "But in this situation, being our first year in NCAA, we're happy with it."

Phinney said he was also pleased about the implications for postseason activity. To move on to national competition, the Vikings have to win their regional championship.

Although regional preseason rankings have not yet been posted, only two teams from the Vikings' region, Bakersfield and Humboldt State, are ranked higher than Western in the national poll.

"Humboldt is ranked second, and they're that good," Phinney said. "I believe Bakersfield is ranked around 10th, and we feel we should be close to that."

Humboldt and Western are also the only teams from the PacWest Conference ranked in the poll.

Eight of nine top position players from last year's 38-8 squad are returning. Phinney indicated new recruits will help his pitching staff. He said two or three freshmen should be pitching quite a bit.

The Vikings are 2-2 in preseason contests, having swept a doubleheader against Sonoma State and lost to Simon Fraser and California State-Stanislaus. The Vikings will compete in the Central Washington University Invitational Tournament March 5 through 7.

## Western signs Lynden gridder

Wide receiver/cornerback Ryan VanDiest, named to three all-state teams as a senior at Lynden High School, has signed a national letter of intent to play football at Western.

VanDiest was selected to the Washington State Sportswriters Association, Tuengel's Washington Prep Football Report and the Seattle Post-Intelligencer's allstate squads.

He set Lynden High School career records for receptions, receiving yards and tackles.



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

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## **SPORTS**

# Viking women win, prepare for playoffs

By Jen Webber The Western Front

The scene was all too familiar for Western junior guard Amanda Olsen; earlier this season, Lewis-Clark State College had beat the Vikings with a last-second shot.

This time, Olsen hit a gamewinning layin with 6.5 seconds to play, and the Vikings edged the Warriors 75-74 Saturday afternoon at Carver Gym.

whole The

game was historepeating ry itself. Like the previous meeting between the two teams Dec. • Olsen's 14. assignment was to score with sec-

onds remaining — and score she did, but L-C State clinched the win on a 3-pointer with four seconds to play.

"That was a game we thought we should've had," sophomore guard Briana Abrahamsen said.

With 13 seconds left Saturday, Olsen took the inbound pass and drove the length of the court, briefly looking over to coach Carmen Dolfo for instructions.

Olsen slithered her way around Warrior defenders and gracefully elevated to the hole for the score. L-C State's Brianne Kottwitz' lastsecond attempt rattled off the rim.

"Carmen didn't want the defense to be able to get set up," Abrahamsen said. "Everybody put faith in Amanda."

Although the Vikings lead the series between the two teams (28-16), the Warriors have won five of

the last seven meetings "It's a game you always get

fired up for," Abrahamsen said. "It's a personal thing," Olsen added. "L-C SC and us have been rivals for a long time."

With 9:34 to play, the Vikings led 63-50, but that lead soon diminished. The Warriors stitched together a 19-6 run, tying the score at 69 with 3:31 remaining.

During the Warriors' comeback, Western played almost five

minutes without scoring a field 'The win is good goal. It also comemotionally going mitted four of its 28 turnovers in into the playoffs.' the stretch, leading to a 71-69, L-C State lead. Carmen Dolfo Vikings

The Western basketball coach ended their regular season ranked

> third in the PacWest's West Division at 13-5, 21-5 overall. Their postseason begins Friday, when they host the PacWest tournament.

> "The win is good emotionally going into the playoffs," Dolfo said

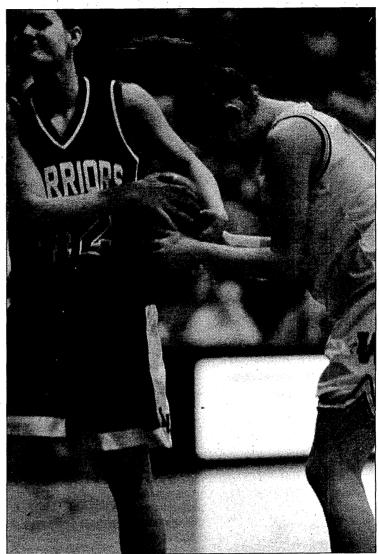
The Vikings ended the contest with three players scoring in double figures. Leading the way was Abrahamsen, who finished with 20 points on 8-of-8 free-throw shooting. Junior center Lisa Berendsen had 14 points and 11 rebounds off the bench, and Celeste Hill ended the contest with 17 points.

Amanda Campbell led L-C State with 28 points.

This will probably be the last meeting between the two teams, as L-C State declined an offer to become a member of the NCAA,

the tournament.

story of a game.



Front/Bobby Stone

Western forward Kim Bergsma, a junior, fights for a jump ball against L-C State's Kelly Lytle during the second half of Saturday's game at Carver Gym. The Vikings won the matchup 75-74.

opting to remain in the NAIA.

for its second-round game in the Washington at Carver Gym.

PacWest tournament Friday Western has a week to prepare against Seattle Pacific or Central

### Western to host PacWest tourney

### **By Jen Webber** The Western Front

With a 21-5 record, the Western women's basketball team will host the first round of the PacWest NCAA Division II tournament later this week.

The Vikings, who finished third in the division, will have a firstround bye Thursday, then play the winner of the Central Washington (12-14) and Seattle Pacific (18-8) game at 8 p.m. Friday at Carver Gym. The Vikings defeated both teams this season.

If the Vikings win Friday, they play for the PacWest championship Saturday at 7 p.m.

Western is 12-1 at home this season, its only loss coming in an overtime game against Simon Fraser.

The top two teams in the West Division, Simon Fraser and Lewis-Clark State, are not eligible for PacWest postseason play because they are not full members of the NCAA.

Montana State-Billings, the Pacific Conference champion, earned the tournament's top seed by having the best winning percentage.

Alaska-Fairbanks and Alaska-Anchorage universities round out the six-team tournament.

It is the 20th-straight year that Western has reached postseason play, and the 27th in its 28-year history.

# Western's outstanding season not even close to over

If you haven't caught a Western women's basketball game this season, you've been missing out. The Vikings have had a

record-breaking 21-5 season for 1998-99.

All their hard work is about to pay off as they enter the postseason as a first-year school in the

NCAA Division II tour- COMMENTARY nament

Regardless, the women will need to step

As the Vikings enter the postseason, they Jen Webber need to remember what got them this far teamwork. Superstars cannot win championships alone.

"When we make the extra pass to the

up their level of play in order to succeed in

Looking at the season's statistics, the

women have what it takes to win. The

Vikings' game looks solid. They run a lethal

fast break, control the boards offensively

and defensively, and play a suffocating man-

defense - but the stats don't tell the whole

person who's open, that's when we do good," Abrahamsen said. "Everyone is a contributor on this team; we need to recognize who's hitting shots — who's hot."

If the team can play a 40-minute game with the heart and intensity it has shown this year, it will win. If it plays the inconsistent, see-saw game so common throughout the season, they will not.

"When you play good teams, they'll come back to get you," Hill said.

Last week's 73-70 win against Central Washington was a great example of this. The Vikings posted a 21-point lead at half, and ended the game winning by a mere three points.

Even the Lewis-Clark State game showed the Vikings' inability to hold a comfortable lead. The Vikings led once by 13 points and ended up barely winning.

'We need to work on keeping our focus, especially when we're up," Hill said.

"When we are focused we lead," Abrahamsen said. "When we are intense and fired up on the court, we're at our best."

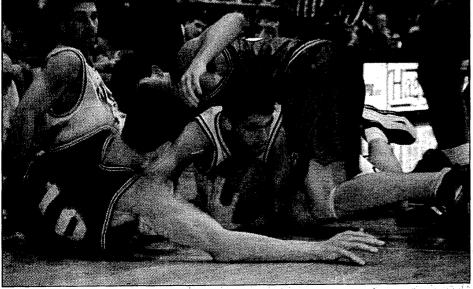
As the saying goes, the ball is on the Vikings' court, and they know just what to do with it.

## Men finish on positive note with big win

**By Justin Hall** 

Stevens prevented the Clan from establish-

February 23, 1999



Front/Erin Fredrichs

Western's Dave Mott protects the ball as Simon Fraser players pile on top of him and teammate Chris Stevens during their game Saturday.

### The Western Front

The Viking men held off Simon Fraser Saturday night as they closed out their basketball season with an 81-73 victory.

After losing five straight games, the Vikings won their last three, two of which were against the Clan, resulting in a 12-12 record and, for the first time in 13 years, no postseason.

After losing the opening tip, the Vikings showed aggressive pressure defense as they utilized the full-court press. Jared Stevenson quickly went to work and had four first-half steals. The Vikings came out fast and furious, determined not to get behind as they did Thursday.

Outstanding play by sophomore Ryan Kettman, who had 18 points, three assists and four rebounds in the first half, gave the Vikings control of the game. He finished with 22 points and eight rebounds.

Viking big men Brian Dennis and Chris

ing its inside game.

"(Dennis) is strong, and we knew that they couldn't stop him down low," senior Dave Mott said. "If he gets the ball, you either have to foul him or let him score."

As the first half closed, tempers flared when the Clan coaches-exchanged verbal suggestions with the officials, resulting in one of the game's two technical fouls.

"The officials let the game get way out of control," Jackson said. "Their coach was ragging all over the officials, and at some point, you have to put a stop to it because it becomes a distraction."

The Clan started the second half more energized, blocking the Vikings' first shot attempt. Continuing with full-court pressure, Dennis became an inside menace, pulling down nine rebounds and scoring nine points in the second half.

With the Clan trailing by only five points, a loose ball resulted in a dog pile, minor fighting and a personal and technical foul.

**OPINIONS** 

### THE WESTERN FRONT • 17

# Western students support Native Americans

destroyed homes.

leaving the pro-

testers to sleep

outside, near the

oak trees.'

The Mendota M d e w a n k t o n Dakota American Indians of Minnesota, the American Indian Movement — an Indian activist organization — and Earth First! have

joined together for



Earth First! have COMMENTARY

the past six months to protest the construction of a highway reroute project through Minnehaha Park, in Minneapolis, Minn., said Kim Mettler-Chase, a Fairhaven student who is currently working for the Indigenous Environmental Network, the I.E.N. is an organization established in 1991 to protect indigenous peoples' land rights.

In an effort to lend a hand in support of the Mendota peoples, the Native American Student Union, Environmental Center and Peace Resource Center joined together and organized a successful clothing and petition drive.

The highway project in question will require the destruction of four oak trees,

including a rare oak savanna, which has served as a burial ground and ceremoni-Y al site for the Mendota

peoples. A sacred spring would also be destroyed in the reroute. The site has been declared sacred by spiritual leaders of the Mondeta tribe and

the Mendota tribe and other Minnesota Dakota tribes.

The raid and reroute project directly violates the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, which protects American Indian's religious practices; and the Endangered Species Act.

A sessful clothuestion will ur oak trees, The officers More than 600 officers raided the encampment, at the park on Dec. 20, (of Minneapolis. Star Tribune reporter Steve Brandt stated that "this was the largest

> such action in state history." During the raid, officers extinguished the sacred fire, where the Mendota peoples had conducted ceremonies and prayers, confiscated sacred objects, destroyed camp tepees and brutalized protesters, according to the Star Tribune. The officers destroyed homes, leaving the protesters to

sleep near the oak trees.

In a statement released by Tom Goldtooth of I.E.N., Jim Anderson, member of the Mendota Tribe said, "this was a blatant and willful disregard for our sacred ways and the law."

The government blatantly violated federal and state laws against the Mendota peoples. Does this mean it can violate laws when anyone protests anything, or is this treatment special for American Indians?

Matt Remle is a member of Western's Native American Student Union and a senior at Fairhaven College.

**Community Voice** is a regular feature of the Western Front's Opinion section. The column appears every other Tuesday and provides an opportunity for Western and Bellingham community members to comment about campus-related issues. Ideas about a topic for Community Voice, may be considered by contacting the Opinions editor at 65-3162.

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# **OPINIONS**

### February 23, 1999



# Seattle subverts democratic process

Last week, the Seattle City Council passed a city ordinance to allow gay and lesbian workers to sue employers if they believe they've been the target of job discrimination because of sexual orientation. While the intent of this bill is admirable and a step in the right direction, the way the bill was passed is not.

The council chose to avoid the controversy about this issue that surely would have arisen and quietly passed the measure without debate.

In doing so, the council effectively subverted the democratic process that is at the heart of all political debate in this country.

If the failure of Initiative 677, a 1997 gay-rights bill, is any gauge of public opinion on this issue, then opposition surely would have been voiced.

When a controversial issue arises in a city's government, the council usually presents the issue to the public by the council, opens it up for public debate and then votes on it. Local media usually provides extensive coverage and publicity of the issue.

This was not the case in Seattle. According to The Seattle Times, the issue was placed on the regular council agenda; however, the council prepared neither press releases nor news conferences until after the measure passed.

No one opposed to the measure came before the council to comment on it, most likely because of the lack of press coverage.

This scenario might ring familiar to Western students who remember last year's Vendors' Row controversy. Students accused Western's administration of not adequately publicizing plans to enclose the Viking Union Plaza.

This is not the way government should function. The idea of government operating on the whims of its leaders and not the will of the people conjures up the ghoulish specter of Joseph Stalin's Russia or George Orwell's England in "1984."

The democratic process and the opportunity for open debate cannot simply be thrown to the wind because government leaders think a law is worthy. Opposing voices always must be allowed to speak; that is the foundation of our nation.

"There is no way I was trying to keep the lid on this," council member and bill co-sponsor Peter Steinbrueck said. "I invite divergent views in order to get the best results."

If this were true, Steinbrueck and the rest of the council would not have blatantly disregarded and disrespected the democratic system of debate - the core of American politics.

The next time the council faces a hot topic, it must turn toward the fire instead of running to the cold.

Frontlines are the opinion of the editorial board members: Ken Brierly, Wendy Giroux, Corey Lewis, Samantha Tretheway and Tiffany White.



Editor: Wendy Giroux; Managing Editor: Ken Brierly; Copy Editors: John Bankston and Sara Magnuson; News Editors: Corey Lewis and Jenni Odekirk; Accent Editors: Erin Becker and Tyler Watson; Features Editors: Jenni Long and Tiffany White; Sports Editors: Colin Howser and Bobby Stone; Opinions Editor: Samantha Tretheway; Photo Editors: Erin Fredrichs and Tim Klein; Graphics Editor: Ben Stabler; Online Editors: Chris Muellenbach and Matt Williams; Cartoonist: Sarah Kulfan; Adviser: Lyle Harris; Business Manager: Teari Brown.

Staff Reporters: Bryta Alvensleben, Lisa Bach, Sara Ballenger, Kari Benny,



# New existence for religion Catholicism must connect with youths

The Roman Catholic Church has members across the world numbering into the millions; yet, today in the Americas, the Church is experiencing a decline in participation.

Many religions have members who practice lethargically, but for Catholicism that COMMENTARY number is growing.

A rift is growing between the Roman Catholic doctrine and people's beliefs. Even the Pope is aware of the decline in actively engaged members.

Jan. 24, Pope John Paul II visited Mexico City,

where he urged parents to "educate your children according to the principles of the gospels, so they can be the evangelizers of the third millennium."

The United States is 26-percent Catholic, but the number of those who identify themselves as "strong Catholics" attending mass at least once per week has steadily declined, according to the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago.

Young adults and liberals feel disconnected from the Catholic Church because of disagree-



ment about abortion, birth control, the death penalty, homosexuality and forbidding women as priests.

Catholic college students may especially notice these issues as they, along with students of other faiths, are entering a period of life when religion, and everything taught and endorsed by their parents, falls under scrutiny.

Ultimately, understanding the difference between disagreeing with a church and having fundamental disagreements with the religious doctrines is crucial.

Two questions may help distinguish them.

First, is the disagreement something that may be changed through participation and discussion? Second, if the disagreement appears to be irre-

solvable and no debate is apparent, could you participate in good conscience?

For example, premarital sex is not accepted by most religions and presumably that will not change.

Many religions used to caste out homosexuals, but today some religions are trying to accept them, even if the religion does not approve the

Religion is about asking the hard questions. So go ahead and ask.

Jaime Martin

Paul A.C. Berg, Addy Bittner, Cole Cosgrove, Lisa Curdy, Duane Dales, Shane Davis, Jennifer Dye, Jai Ferguson, Julie Graham, Chris Goodenow, Justin Hall, Nick Haney, Kristen Hawley, Holly Hinterberger, Maggie Huffer, Julie King, Remy Kissel, JJ Jensen, Melissa Laing, Chad Marsh, Jaime Martin, Kari McGinnis, Kayley Mendenhall, Melissa Miller, Sarah Miller, Siobhan Millhouse, Nao Miura, Cindy Nunley, Kristen O'Conner, Mia Penta, Alyssa Pfau, Christie Shepard, Darcy Spann, Carrie Crystal Van Driel, Michael Van Elsberg, Michael Walker, Jennifer Webber, Chris Worth, Curtis Woodward and Janis Yi.

### And we quote ...

'Regardless of the outcome of this, we have made history."

-signed John William King in a note embellished by a Ku Klux Klan symbol and a Nazi salute. King was one of the three men accused of dragging James Byrd Jr. to his death in Jasper, Texas because he was black. Reported by the Associated Press on Feb. 22.

letters A sample of readers' letters and e-mails

### Saving money at expense of classes

### To the editor:

Friday's frontline, "Students need more library hours now," asks a question I have to assume is rhetorical: "Does the university care more about the prowess and monetary gain of the athletic department, or does it care about the educational

needs of students?"

In addition to the matter of the library:

... the number of

those who identify

themselves as

strong Catholics ...

has steadily

declined.'

lifestyle.

Look at who's forced to park in C-lots on game nights.

It's not the person going to watch the game, but the student who needs to work in the lab (I'm told the people who park in north campus have paid for it).

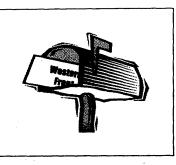
Sports events are also acceptable reason for missing class. According to the student catalog, intercollegiate athletic comare unavoidable petitions absences.

The answer to the question is obvious.

If a school considers it more important for students to attend a competition than class and constantly gives spectators better treatment than studying students, it isn't an institution that values mental exercise over physical.

#### Ann Barcomb Western student

see letters, page 19



letters, from page 18

## Presidential letter to students on I-200

To concerned Students:

I am genuinely pleased with the student interest in and commitment to diversity that are evident in a letter and rally flier I received Friday.

I am likewise genuinely disappointed that some feel that the only way to gain the university's attention is through a rally.

If individuals are dissatisfied with the level of communication from the administration concerning the impact of I-200, their first step should be to contact those individuals designated as liaisons — in particular, Dr. Kunle Ojikutu, assistant vice president for Student Affairs and ask for information.

A phone call, letter or request for a meeting would achieve the goal and enable students, faculty and staff to help us get the word out about what we have been doing.

We have been working steadily to identify and mitigate the impact of I-200. We can take pride in the fact that this university's approach to increasing diversity has not required us to use "preferences" as we've worked toward our goals.

The complaint that the university is not taking enough actions and is not being proac-

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tive about the impact of I-200 derives precisely from the fact that we have been progressive and proactive both before and after its passage.

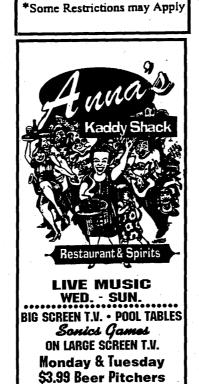
At this point, perhaps our most difficult challenge is to mitigate the concerns some people have that the impact of I-200 on Western is large and that the university is less hospitable than before. This symbolic impact of I-200 presents the most difficult challenge to our recruiting efforts.

Our best strategy to deal with the misapprehension about the impact of I-200 on Western is to continually reinforce our commitment to diversity, as evidenced in our mission statement, strategic plans and public communications, and by the increase in students of color on campus during the past decade.

Karen Morse Western President

Editor's note: Due to space constraints, only one-fourth of the letter was printed. The full text can be read in its entirety at The Western Front Online: wcug.wwu.edu/~wfront.

Letters to the editor must be no longer than 250 words. The Front reserves the right to edit for length, libel and content. Direct letters to The Western Front, College Hall 09, WWU. Direct e-mail to the address wfront@cc.wwu.edu.



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**THE WESTERN FRONT** • 19

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### -Jennifer Oakes

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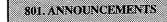
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**OPINIONS** 

February 23, 1999



# Entertainment Guide

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