

The Western Front

Cox next A.S. prez; election race still not final

By Tiffany White
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Associated Students runoff elections results may be tallied; however, another grievance prevents one candidate from celebrating victory.

The unofficial results compiled Wednesday night declared Victor Cox as the 1999-2000 A.S. president with 52.91 percent, 491 votes.

Students selected Rafael Castañeda as the vice president for Academic Affairs. He won the runoff race with 53.21 percent, 448 votes.

Approximately 9 percent (958 students) of students voted in the runoff election, according to the unofficial A.S. results.

Castañeda won the first race and the runoff race, but his victory is still not certain. David McIvor, vice presidential candidate for Academic Affairs, filed another grievance Wednesday.

"I am not grasping every little bit of grievance I can find to get myself placed in that position," McIvor said. "I'm merely bringing it to the attention of the grievance council."

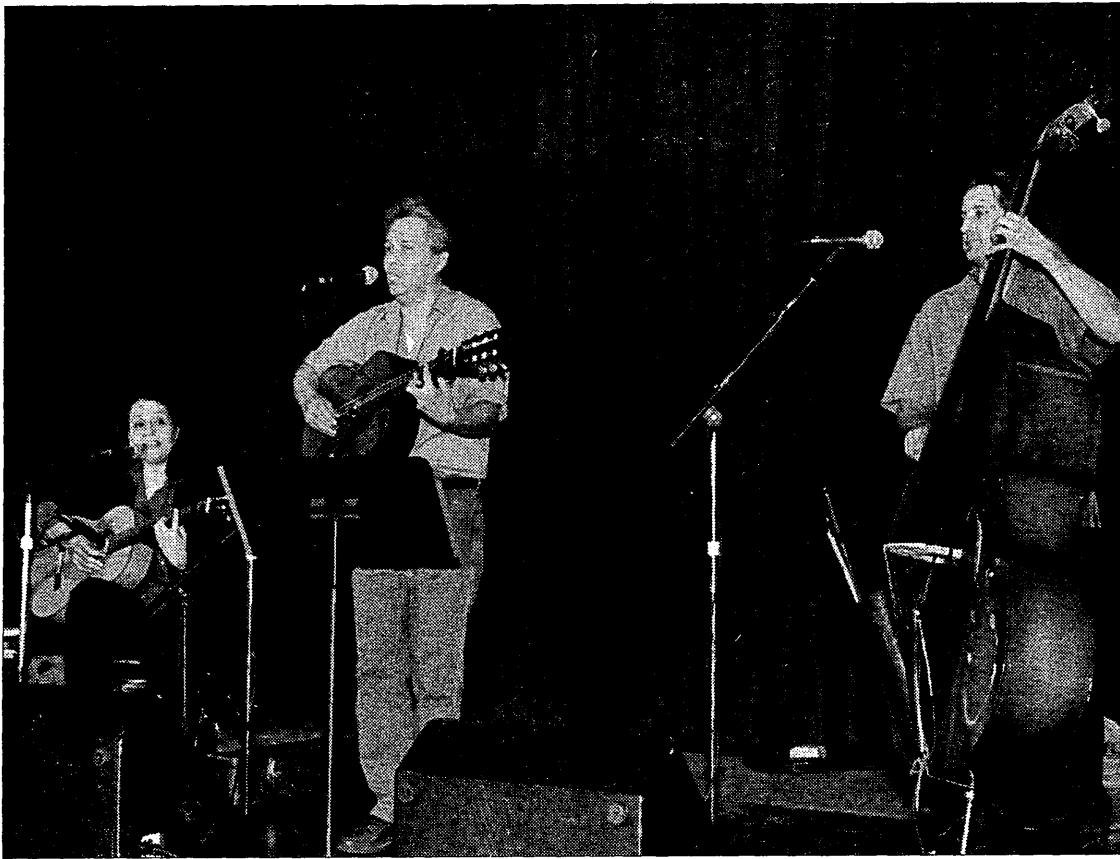
McIvor said Castañeda violated the A.S. elections code and misinformed students with his campaign.

"He had signs posted that stated 're-elect Rafael' and these go against the code," he said.

The A.S. Elections Board voided the first election results when

See ELECTION, page 4

The sounds of Cinco De Mayo



Barney Benedictson/The Western Front

Grupo Alma, from Fresco, Calif., performed in Fairhaven Auditorium on Cinco De Mayo. The band members are (from left to right) Patricia Wells, Agustin Lira and Ravi Knypstra.

Hispanic culture celebrated

By Katrina M. Tyrrell
THE WESTERN FRONT

Chicano culture was brought to life through music and narrative Wednesday night as about 50 Western students, staff and community members gathered in the Fairhaven auditorium to celebrate Cinco de Mayo.

El Teatro Movimiento, a group of 10 students from last quarter's Chicano Social Movement class, began the celebration with its play "The

Salsa Bowl." Colorful slides accompanied the play featuring pictures of Chicano murals and photographs of Mexican-Americans and past leaders who captured the spirit and history of Chicano culture. The play was a series of six poems, finishing with "I Am Joaquín," a poem about a journey through history and a search for one person's identity. One by one, the actors united with one voice to powerfully deliver this poem. Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Azlan hosted the

event, which featured a performance by Alma, an all-acoustic musical ensemble from California which used narrative and song to tell "CHICANO! 500 Years of Struggle," the history of Mexican-Americans.

Patricia Wells Solorzano, lead guitarist and vocalist of Alma, said she feels people need to be exposed to Latino history and feel pride in their Latino heritage.

See CELEBRATION, page 4

Professor evaluations may soon be online

By Matt Jaffe
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Associated Students Online Evaluation Committee meets Thursday to finalize a proposal that would make faculty evaluations available online.

A.S. Vice President of Academic Affairs Victor Cox said this program would be independent of the current teacher evaluations. The online evaluation would be voluntary.

"We're working to get it through the university with our own questions," Cox said.

Committee Chair Nova Gattman said the questions would be similar to those on the written evaluation.

Some of the questions would ask students to rate professors for organization, effectiveness of teaching methods, approachability and the difficulty level of work assigned.

The A.S. is working to get the evaluations linked to Western's home page, Cox said, adding that distinct advantages exist with the link.

He said more students would be able to participate if they could easily find the evaluation forms. Cox said the A.S. hopes to link the results to the online ClassFinder so students can look at a professor's evaluation when they use ClassFinder to search for open classes.

"I'm hoping (to open the site) for late next fall quarter," Cox said. "People need to express the way they feel."

See EVALUATIONS, page 4

Non-student-related offices to be moved off campus

By Holly Hinterberger
THE WESTERN FRONT

In an effort to establish more classroom space at Western, non-student-related offices are being moved off campus. The move will

result in an additional 14,000 square feet for instruction purposes.

Some of the offices will move to a Western-owned building on Chestnut Street. The rest will go to a building Western is in the

process of acquiring. Interim Provost Dennis Murphy said he hopes to complete the process by fall quarter.

The names of all the offices that will move have not been released.

"Students and faculty are well aware that we are going through a pretty pronounced space crunch," Murphy said.

Every year Western acquires

See SPACE, page 4

Zinn criticizes Constitution, praises social movements

By Amanda Hashimoto
The Western Front

Howard Zinn credited social change to popular movements rather than government action in his speech about social change and the Constitution Wednesday night in the Performing Arts Center.

The lecture, sponsored by Associated Students Productions Social Issues, featured Zinn, historian and author of the book, "A People's History of the United States," which sold 350,000 copies.

"There are many limitations to the Constitution," Zinn said. The Constitution is held as a great work but in reality it does not apply to the interests of all people so it is

limited, he said.

Those who wrote it were the elite and had themselves in mind, Zinn said. It was created to keep people under control and to provide for the interests of the elite.

The Constitution didn't prohibit European-Americans from encroaching on Native American lands or enslaving African Americans, he said.

"I appreciate the frank view he presented about the constitution and the context it was written and the glorified way it is portrayed," junior Towela Nyirenda said.

Social movements, rather than the Constitution, create democracy, Zinn said.

See ZINN, page 3



Nick Haney/The Western Front

Howard Zinn

IN THIS ISSUE

Three man circus



The Incognito Traveling Circus started when its members discovered they had talents such as

juggling knives.

Story page 6.

Men's golf advances to nationals

Led by senior Joel Skarbo Western's mens golf team finished second at the NCAA Division II West Regional Championship. The team will travel to Valdosta, Ga., to compete in nationals.

Story page 9.

FRONT ONLINE

<http://westernfront.wvu.edu>

COPS BOX

Campus Police

April 30, 11:15 p.m.: A car parked in the 20R parking lot was broken into. The owner reported his stereo speakers were stolen.

May 1, 2 a.m.: A smoke alarm was activated on the fifth floor of Buchanan Towers when an unknown person discharged a fire extinguisher. The building was cleared until the Bellingham Fire Department deemed it was safe to re-enter the building.

May 3, 2:58 a.m.: A vehicle was found in the university parking lot with the doors unlocked and the keys in the ignition. Theft or damage was not apparent. The keys were taken to University Police for safekeeping.

Bellingham Police

May 3, 10:16 p.m.: A vehicle was stolen in the 3200 block of Northwest Avenue when the owner left the car running and doors unlocked while purchasing groceries. The owner was in the store for a couple of minutes.

May 3, 8:43 p.m.: Someone smeared nachos on a vehicle in the 1100 block of West North Street. Cheese was found on the windows and front hood. No other damage was reported.

Compiled by Janis Yi

A P WIRE NEWS BRIEFS

STATE NEWS

More flight delays apparently caused by labor dispute

Alaska Airlines said it is being hit by another mechanics' slowdown, which is forcing flight cancellations.

Alaska Airlines canceled 47 flights Wednesday and more than 25 Thursday, said Jack Evans, airline spokesman in Seattle. The airline has nearly 500 departures per day on its West Coast routes and normally has to cancel no more than 10 flights.

Evans said mechanical problems have not increased, it's just taking Seattle mechanics longer to repair planes. The same thing happened last week, and the airline canceled dozens of flights.

The airline believes it's an orchestrated slowdown by mechanics, Evans said. Their union is involved in talks on a new contract. The talks continue May 18 with the help of a federal mediator.

Evans said the union doesn't think there is a slowdown. The airline, however, is looking at options that include court action or firing employees.

The airline is concerned about passengers, Evans said.

Locke signs bill to control released prisoners

Gov. Gary Locke said it was a mistake to abolish parole 15 years ago.

Locke he signed a bill Thursday that partially replaces parole and gives the state more control of ex-cons.

The law allows the Corrections Department to set rules for former inmates. They could be told to stay away from old hangouts, bad friends or attend alcohol or drug-abuse counseling.

Violators could get home confinement or be sent back to jail.

The state approved the use of \$8 million to hire 35 more corrections officers to keep an eye on the ex-cons.

Currently 51,000 people are out of prison but still under the authority of the Corrections Department.

NATIONAL NEWS

Oklahoma tornado fatalities now up to 41

The death toll from the Oklahoma tornadoes rose to 41 after three injured people died.

Vice President Al Gore shook his head in disbelief after seeing

the tornado damage in Kansas. He announced the federal government will give Kansas more than \$5.5 million to help cleanup efforts.

Yugoslavia illegally abducted soldiers, U.S. Army says

The Army concluded "beyond a shadow of a doubt" the three American soldiers held by Yugoslavia were illegally abducted.

Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon said the Army reached this decision after questioning the three after their release.

The Army soldiers weren't captured in Yugoslavia, but were abducted inside Macedonia by people in Yugoslav military uniforms who came across the border, Bacon said.

The Army soldiers were abused at the time of their capture, Bacon said. The bulk of their injuries came during this period, but they also suffered injuries during their captivity.

The three former Prisoners of War were honored Thursday at a ceremony in Germany. Christopher Stone, Andrew Ramirez and Steven Gonzales each received six awards, includ-

ing the Purple Heart for injuries received in captivity.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

World powers discuss peace, NATO batters Yugoslavia

As world powers discussed a diplomatic end to the Kosovo crisis, NATO bombs continued to pound Yugoslavia.

Bombs reportedly hit a residential area Thursday in Novi Sad, a city in Northern Serbia. Four people were injured, according to a local TV station.

Four civilians were reported hurt when the allies targeted an area about 12 miles south of Pristina. Just before dawn, two fuel depots in a major Yugoslav industrial center were destroyed.

This round of attacks came as foreign ministers from the allied nations met to discuss peace efforts.

The nations — including Russia — have outlined a seven-point plan that includes an international force to safeguard returning refugees in Kosovo. The plan must be approved by the U.N. Security Council.

Compiled by Laura Zimmerman

BELLINGHAM WEATHER: MAY 7 - 9

Today



Scattered showers. Chance of afternoon thunderstorm. Possible early morning snow. Some sun breaks. Highs near 50.

Saturday



Scattered showers decreasing. Sun breaks. Highs near 55.

Sunday



Becoming partly sunny after isolated mountain showers. Highs near 60.

Weather courtesy of wunderground.com

Corrections and clarifications

On page 1 of the May 4 issue, the article about a farmworkers and community march has two errors. No union contract between Washington Apple Growers and farmworkers exists. The marchers were demonstrating solidarity with United Farm Workers.

Visit the
WESTERN FRONT
Online
<http://westernfront.wvu.edu>

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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.

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

WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATIVE INTERNS ARE BEING SELECTED this quarter. Information and application forms are available in AH 415. Undergraduates in all disciplines who have at least junior standing and a minimum grade point average of 2.75 are eligible. Closing date is today, May 7.

MATH PLACEMENT TEST. Registration is not required. Students must bring picture identification and a No. 2 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 120 at 9 a.m. May 10, 17, 24, and June 17, and at 3 p.m. May 13, 20, 27, June 3 and 10. Sample problems may be found at <http://www.washington.edu/oea/aptp.htm>.

TEST DATES FOR THE MILLER ANALOGIES TEST (MAT) are 3 p.m. May 11 in FR 3, and 3 p.m. June 16 in FR 4. Registration is required in OM 120 or by calling X/3080. A \$35 fee is payable at time of test.

HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM INFORMATION SESSIONS will be held at 4 p.m. May 13 in HU 101. Find out about the bachelor of arts degree in Human Services offered through Woodring College of Education. For more information, call X/7759.

TEACHING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (TESL) priority application deadline for fall 1999 is May 15. For more information, call Trish, X/4949.

THE TEST FOR TEACHER EDUCATION (TETEP) will be given at 3 p.m. May 18 in FR 2. Registration is required in OM 120. A \$25 fee is payable in the exact amount at time of registration.

FALL QUARTER DEGREE APPLICANTS: Students who plan to graduate at the end of fall quarter must have degree applications on file by June 4. Degree applications and instructions are available in the Registrar's Office, OM 230.

On-campus recruiting

For more information on the application process for any of the following opportunities or to sign up for an interview, stop by OM 280 or call X/3240.

Berkshire Associates, Tuesday, May 11. Submit résumé, and sign up in OM 280.

Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Wednesday, May 12. See job description in signup folder. Submit résumé, and sign up in OM 280.

Protecting natural resources a concern as state population grows



Photos courtesy of DNR/Resource Mapping

Above: An aerial photo of Lake Whatcom and bordering area in 1969.

Below: An aerial photo of Lake Whatcom and bordering areas in 1995.



By Julie Graham
THE WESTERN FRONT

Population growth is leading to a decline in the quantity and quality of Washington state's natural resources, and this trend will continue, Commissioner of Public Lands Jennifer Belcher told approximately 70 Whatcom County residents attending a May campus workshop.

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources-sponsored workshop, On Common Ground, was the fourth of seven in the state intended to begin a dialogue about natural-resource issues, Belcher said.

One issue the state needs to deal with is a huge population increase expected during the next half century, she said. In 1997, the population was estimated at 5.6 million, according to Washington state's Web page.

"We have to think about what's going to happen when we're expected to double the population in 50 years," she said.

Doubling state population in the next 50 years would add enough people to fill a Tacoma-sized city — approximately 180,000 people — every 18 months, Belcher said.

She said eastern Washingtonians suggested stacking Seattle higher, but western Washingtonians wanted new residents to make their home in Adams County, in southeast Washington.

During the workshop, five discussion groups made butcher-paper maps showing their hopes for Whatcom county 25 years from now.

The maps depicted little to no urban growth, and group spokespeople said their groups desired existing towns and cities to become more dense rather than larger.

High-density growth in small

"We have to think about what is going to happen when we're expected to double the population in the next 50 years."

Jennifer Belcher
Commissioner of Public Lands

areas within existing population centers was the vision of Bellingham geologist Dan McShane's group.

Other hopes for Whatcom Country's future included safe, clean drinking water and the Nooksack River once again teeming with salmon.

One map showed Lake Whatcom surrounded by a tall fence; none of the maps pictured lakefront homes. Each map showed fish swimming upstream.

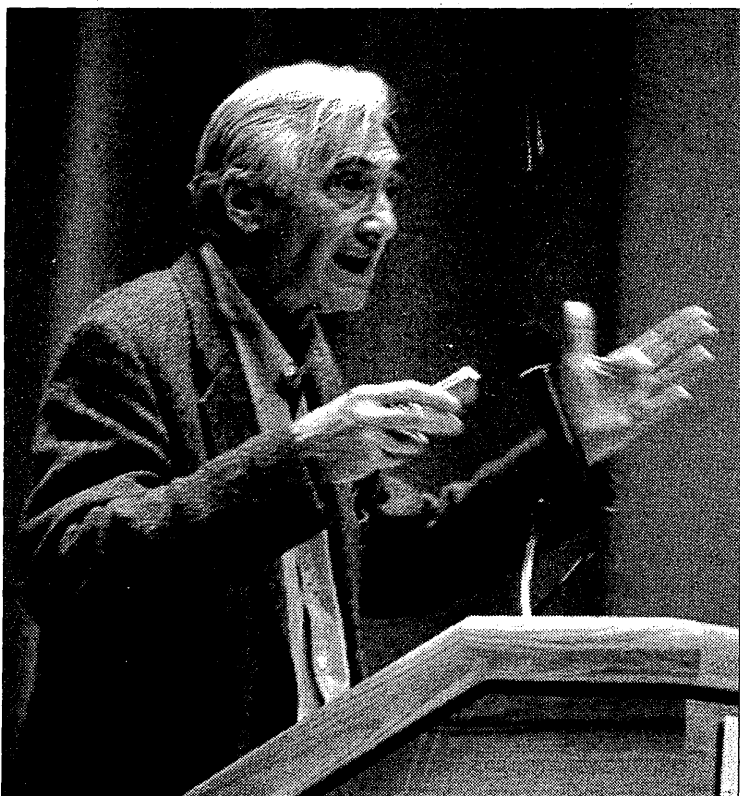
To reach these dreams, the groups proposes several solutions: Increasing public awareness of the issues through education and media, creating incentives for positive development, and beginning a dialog to create a community identity, among others.

Belcher said several Whatcom Country visions for the future mirrored those from other workshops. The first three workshops also wanted to protect and preserve resources, concentrate growth, protect agricultural lands and develop better mass transportation.

The DNR had no recommendations for people except to provide information to start talking about natural resources, Belcher said.

"We need to look at what we inherited, what we have left and what we want to pass on," she said.

Zinn speaks about U.S. social movements and constitution



Nick Haney/The Western Front

Howard Zinn talked about the role of the constitution and the role of social movements in the United States.

ZINN, from page 1

"Democracy comes from ordinary people when they get together and act," Zinn said.

The Civil Rights movement brought change when people planned sit-ins at restaurants and marched in protest of racism, Zinn said.

He said protests and draft resistance during the Vietnam War were two reasons the United States pulled its soldiers out of Vietnam. The fact that more American citizens opposed the war than supported it was one of the reasons President Johnson decided to start peace negotiations rather than send more troops to Vietnam, Zinn said.

"War solves nothing," Zinn said, "You end up multiplying the violence you set out to stop."

To create social change, citizens must act together and work for justice, Zinn said. "Don't expect social problems to be solved by those on top."

CAMPUS CALENDAR

May 7:

•Japan Week 1999 continues with an information session about studying abroad in Japan at noon in Science Lecture Hall 150.

•An annual West Coast college art competition, coordinated by the Viking Union Gallery will be displayed from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Viking Addition coffee shop. A local jazz band will perform at the reception.

For details call 650-7490.

•Washington State University professor Peter Chilson will speak about his nonfiction book, "Riding the Demon: On the Road in West Africa," at 7 p.m. at Village Books.

In the book, Chilson explores road culture in Niger.

May 8:

•Free LSAT prep testing will be conducted by the Legal Information Center at 9 a.m. in Fairhaven Room 312.

•Kate Moses will speak about what every modern parent needs to know, from potty training to tantrum control, 5 p.m. at Village Books.

May 11:

•A dance will be hosted by the Asian Pacific Student Union as part of the celebration of Asian Pacific Islanders American Heritage Month. The dance begins at 7 p.m. in the Viking Union Main Lounge. Dances from throughout the world will be performed and Fairhaven Professor Midori Takagi will give a speech.

For details call 650-7490.

•The Peace Resource Center will host a presentation at 7 p.m. in the Wilson Library Presentation Room about topics such as the death penalty, indigenous rights, prisoners of conscious, and ethical journalism.

•A public hearing will be at 2:30 p.m. at the County Courthouse Council Chambers to discuss the possibility of a needle-exchange program. The program is aimed at reducing injection-drug users' risk of contracting HIV or Hepatitis.

May 12:

•The Spring Gear Grab hosted by the Outdoor Center will provide an opportunity to buy and sell used outdoor equipment. The event will be from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Viking Union Main Lounge.

Compiled by Laura Query

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Former student donates \$5,000 to art department

By Holly Hinterberger
THE WESTERN FRONT

Former Western graduate Dan Morris won a trip to Hawaii and the choice of any accredited university to donate \$5,000 to as a part of a General Mills Back-to-School contest, said Jean Rahn of the Western Foundation. Morris chose Western's art department as his beneficiary.

Art Department Chair Tom Johnston said the department has yet to solidify plans for the money, though it has discussed them.

The faculty proposed ideas and developed a plan to schedule either an event or a series of events, which would be open to the public. Events may include activities such as panel discussions and art conferences, Johnston said.

"(It will) be good for students, and involve students," Johnston said.

The department has discussed using the money to bring visiting artists to Western to give presentations Johnston said.

It's possible a conference of events and visiting artists will be included in spending the money Johnston said.

He said the money will be used in the 1999-2000 school year.

Morris, a self-employed businessman and former Western art student, graduated from Western in 1966.

Administrators to ease space crunch

SPACE, from page 1

10 to 12 new faculty members, Murphy said. Space is required to provide offices for new professors. Previously that space has been taken from classrooms. The result has been fewer instructional rooms available during peak hours.

Between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. every classroom is utilized and nearly every seat in each class is filled, Murphy said.

By moving non-student-related offices off campus, more classrooms will be available. Murphy said smaller rooms — 40 to 60 people — are planned for the space.

The Center for Regional Studies, Campus Contact offices and extended learning offices have already moved to the building on Chestnut, Manager of Space Administration Jim Korski said. The Chestnut building is full until after Jan. 1, 2000, Korski said.

Other offices including purchasing, fiscal services and accounts payable will also move, Korski said.

"The university is very sensitive to the fact that we are crowded and we are finding ways to increase academic spaces," Murphy said.

Western plans to build a new structure south of the Environmental Studies building, Murphy said. It will house the journalism, communications, computer science and physics departments. Construction will not be finished for four years.

President-elect Cox plans to hold forums to discuss issues

ELECTION, from page 1

they voted to hold a runoff election for vice president for Academic Affairs — therefore Castañeda was never officially elected, he said.

McIvor said he did not realize an infraction had occurred until a friend notified him of the violation Tuesday.

Castañeda cancelled his grievance concerning the misspelling of his name last week.

"I didn't want to waste the time of the elections board or its members," he said.

Castañeda said he filed the grievance to prove a point — to let people know his name was misspelled. He still won the election.

Depending upon the elections board's final decision, Castañeda could be disqualified. Another runoff election could be held or the grievance could be dismissed, Castañeda said.

The A.S. Elections Board will hold the grievance hearing at 3 p.m. Friday in Viking Union 219A.

The A.S. Board will ratify the election results during Wednesday's meeting, said Genevieve Panush, 1998-99 vice president for Business and Operations.

"If I do finally get ratified there needs to be something done about the whole petty grieving for whatever," Castañeda said. "It's ridiculous and it wastes time."

Cox plans to change the elections process next year.

"I think the runoff is causing more student apathy because a lot of people don't understand the runoff and don't know what is going on," he said.

He said he wants to create a plurality system in which a candidate could win an election with at least 30 percent of the votes to help eliminate runoff elections that result when three candi-



Chris Fuller/The Western Front

Associated Students president-elect Victor Cox in his office.

dates run for the same office, he said.

"It is almost impossible to get 50 percent with three strong candidates," Cox said.

Cox begins his term in June and will work during the summer at Western. The first item on his agenda is to define all six vice presidents' jobs and have them determine their goals, he said.

Cox has several personal goals with one particular theme.

"My main thing next year is going to be accountability and I am going to start off by being very visual to the students and by getting a lot of feedback," Cox said.

To accomplish this, he plans to hold educational forums concerning campus issues, such as Initiative 200 effects and classroom space problems. He also wants to hold the administration accountable to the students, he said.

Cox plans to visit hall council meetings once per quarter and

“My main thing next year is going to be accountability and I am going to start off by being very visual to the students and by getting a lot of feedback.”

Victor Cox
A.S. president elect

continue the talks with Western president Karen Morse that 1998-1999 A.S. President Sarah Steves initiated, he said.

Cox said the other candidates who he ran against were great and hopes they will still be involved in A.S. events and programs.

"That's the one bad thing about elections, that somebody has to lose," Cox said.

Theater groups celebrate Hispanic culture on Cinco De Mayo

CELEBRATION, from page 1

"We have felt a big void about learning about our own heritage," Solorzano said. "This is a chance to let people know the cultural and musical tradition that we come from. The art of each cultural group is the soul of each nationality."

Alma's performance focused on the contributions and accomplishments of Mexican-Americans and how they fought racism and inequality while maintaining their culture and heritage. Songs in Spanish and English told the heroic story of a quest for freedom, beginning with the Mexican-American civil rights struggle and extending to present U.S. anti-immigrant sentiment.

MEChA President Carmen Perez said she feels most programs don't reflect different

“I have a passion for Mexican culture — it's so important to celebrate history.”

Erin McKee
Western Senior

cultures and said she was excited about the performance.

"The main goal behind it would be to educate and empower students, not only on Western's campus, but also Outreach students," Perez said.

MEChA's special guests at the performance were five high school Outreach students involved in Western's Hispano-American tutoring program. The program provides academic support of Chicano and Latino youth in Whatcom County.

ClassFinder may soon have link to faculty evaluations

EVALUATIONS, from page 1

Cox addressed concerns about the accuracy of representation in such a system.

He said the technical aspects of the program have not been

worked out, but the system would include information on how many students have filled out evaluations.

He added measures will be taken to ensure only students who have actually been in a pro-

fessor's class will be able to evaluate that professor.

Cox expressed optimism that the system will expand quickly.

"It will start up quick once students see how efficient it is," he said.

STRANGE DAYS

A LOOK AT THE WEIRDER SIDE OF THE NEWS

Alligator bites the hand that feeds him

Howard Sanders, a chicken farmer in Lexington, Ga., had trouble finding a way to dispose of the 1 to 3 percent of his flock that dies each day. He found his answer by raising 150 alligators to eat the chickens. Unfortunately he admits being attacked by his disposal units frequently.

Roosters a cock-a-doodle-don't in Dallas

If you awaken to the sound of a rooster call while staying in Dallas, Texas, notify the authorities immediately. The city council banned live roosters within city limits except under special circumstances, such as a state fair. Residents who don't abide by the anti-rooster law could face a \$2,000 fine.

Busted on the job

Gregory Zeoli may have been delighted with his new job as a trainee police dispatcher. His mood, however, changed quickly on the first day. While being shown how to look up an outstanding police warrant in the computer system, Zeoli typed in his own name. The computer matched his name with a warrant for issuing bad checks. Zeoli was not asked to come back the next day.

Obscene caller leaves number; police call back

A 32-year-old Austrian man was arrested after calling a woman who he had been harassing for more than five months. This time however, the woman said she was busy and would call the man back later. The man gave her his phone number and she then notified the police. When arrested the man admitted to making more than 40,000 obscene phone calls during the past three years.

One man's trash is woman's \$47,998.80 treasure

A woman from the city of Utrecht in the Netherlands purchased two etchings at an Amsterdam flea market for the American equivalent of \$1.20. The etchings were discovered to be created by the famous Dutch painter Rembrandt and sold to a German collector for the equivalent of \$48,000.

Compiled by Scott LaMont

SECOND CITY

COMEDY FOR THE MASSES

By Scott LaMont
THE WESTERN FRONT

An actor forgets a line, a sound effect occurs late or a set piece falls to the ground with a performance-halting crash. These moments during a stage production require swift improvisation to save the scene. For nearly 40 years, The Second City theater group has performed shows where this tense moment is required and encouraged; an improvisational show where the script is being written by its stars before, during and after the performance.

Students will be able to see the hilarious antics of The Second City National Touring Company as it visits Western at 7:30 p.m. Saturday in the Performing Arts Center Mainstage.

This six-member ensemble will perform a bevy of classic scenes from Second City's past troupes as well as some improvisations that have made the company world famous.

So what exactly is The Second City? One of those "Before They Were Stars" shows on television might discuss The Second City in reference to Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd, John Belushi, Rick Moranis, Martin Short, Mike Meyers or Chris Farley — all Second City alumni.

The improvisation group has been a spawning ground for novice comedians looking to make it big. Some have gone on to lead quiet lives while others move to

bigger venues such as "Saturday Night Live."

Borrowing a nickname for Chicago given by a New Yorker magazine writer, The Second City opened the doors of a refurbished Chinese laundry on December 16, 1959. The actors, many of whom came from the University of Chicago's theatre department, were shocked at the attention and praise their troupe received. Not long after opening, Time Magazine called The Second City "a temple of satire."

The formula was simple: take a serious topic, add a humorous outlook and throw in some wit through improvisation.

Past topics ranged from beatniks romantically approaching high-society women to the Vietnam War. Nowadays, scenes of the dreary corporate work structure provide comedy.

The show continued its early success even as some members moved to better things. In February 1974, producers sought a new Second City improvisation club and opened a new venue in Toronto with a cast of Canadian "unknowns" including John Candy, Eugene Levy and Gilda Radner.



Courtesy of The Second City

The current touring troupe of The Second City.

Even with success spanning two countries, The Second City found itself in competition with a new television program, NBC Saturday Night. The group had already lost Gilda Radner to the program that would later become "Saturday Night Live" and wanted to try its hand in a sketch-based comedy program. In 1976, The Second City debuted on television.

The result was "SCTV," a show similar to its aforementioned competition. Carrying some of the best comedians from the Chicago and Toronto troupes, "SCTV" was a moderate success.

It never reached the success of

"Saturday Night Live," and although it won two Emmys, "SCTV" ended after seven years.

The troupes continue today and have added another club in Detroit. For now, the National Touring Company tours the country seeking new members and bringing audiences the satirical wit that has kept the doors of the original Chinese laundry house open in Chicago.

Tickets for The Second City are \$18 for adults and \$16 for students. Student rush tickets can be purchased 15 minutes before the show for \$6 with student identification — if seats are available.

Teen Esteem

TEACHING TROUBLED KIDS SURVIVAL SKILLS AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF A WILDERNESS SCHOOL

By Holly Hinterberger
THE WESTERN FRONT

Separated into same-sex groups and forced to fend for themselves in the wilderness, troubled teenagers battle inner demons and hope to find a new identity.

In his book "Shouting at the Sky," Gary

Ferguson successfully relates the moving tale of seemingly hopeless children in their fight for normalcy and survival.

The book outlines the experiences of teenagers sent, most against their will, to the Aspen Achievement Academy wilderness program.

The program sends them into the Utah desert for 60 days to survive without

bathrooms, matches or showers.

Before writing the book, Ferguson trained as a counselor and spent three months working with students in the program, he said.

Ferguson was not paid for his work and said he felt it was important to participate with the group, instead of writing the story from the perspective of an outsider.

During the program, teens share their stories of drug abuse, eating disorders and suicide attempts as they struggle to prove themselves capable enough to go home at the end of the program.

At 14, Ruben is already a drug addict and went into the desert believing his addiction did not have any consequences — beyond getting himself into trouble.

His breakthrough occurred when a counselor totaled the cost of Ruben's drug use, which amounted to more than \$9,000.

Nancy is bulimic and spent most of her time hiding the problem. Despite angry letters

from her parents, Nancy manages to open up to her group and go an entire week without throwing up.

On Susan's first day in the program, all she wanted to do was die. She avoided conversations with the group and cried herself to sleep at night. Two weeks later, smiles grace her dirty face and she is off suicide watch.

Underlying the personal trials of each teen is Ferguson's message of hope. In a society constantly reminded of what happens to misguided children, "Shouting at the Sky" proves underneath their troubles they are good kids needing a second chance.

The Aspen program is designed to provide that chance by creating ritual and identity for those too lost to find it on their own.

"If you don't give young people ritual, they will create it," Ferguson said.

In his book, Ferguson said nature is the avenue of discovery the program uses.

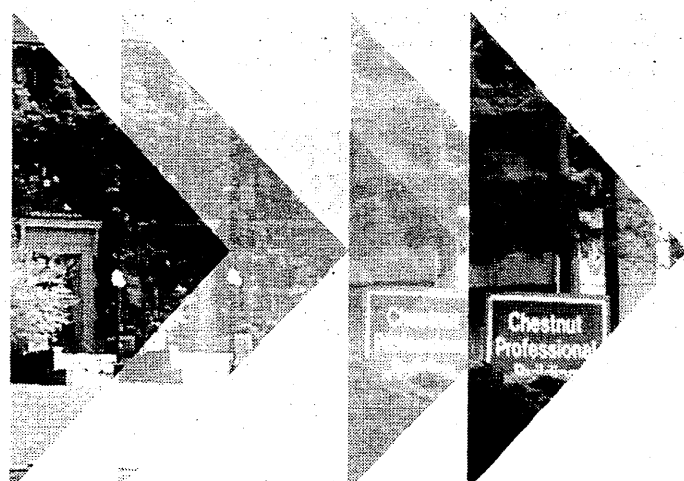
"Nature provides natural consequences," he said. "(It) doesn't care who you are or where you are from. (The kids) are finally in a place where what they do matters."

Part of Ferguson's inspiration for the book was his own use of wilderness as a coping device, he said.

"I went to nature to be quiet in a place free of judgment," he said. "It's a very healing place."

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TRAVELING INCOGNITO

Three men who ran away to start a circus

By Chris Goodenow
THE WESTERN FRONT

A man juggling knives, a singing monkey and a man forecasting weather by current events may seem strange to most people — however, that is what the Incognito Traveling Circus does best.

Traveling across 28 states, from Tennessee to California and now Washington, Simon Jaynes, Brian Stabile and Aaron Carson found they were always great entertainers at parties. Last November they decided they had enough talent to start a circus.

A typical show looks like a mini-carnival with constant live music, jugglers, fortune telling and carnival games. The group described its show as an elongated party, not a two-hour circus. The group often has contacts where it travels, like fortune tellers and a ringmaster.

"We want people to understand that it's not like the traditional idea of a circus," Jaynes said. "There's not going to be an invisible wall between us and the people. We're not just up there to look at; we're going to interact with people. I think the best way to get people into a circus is to make them feel like they're part of it."

The traveling circus has refined its skills in the past six months to become more entertaining. Jaynes and Carson, the jugglers of the group, have juggled whisky bottles, skateboards, knives, a pogo stick and a hamster — and the list keeps growing.

Jaynes said he hopes to move to flaming torches soon.

"You just got to find whatever your skill level is and then juggle the most dangerous thing you can do," Jaynes said. "I would love to say, 'find three objects, any three objects you want, and I'll juggle them for ya.'"

Jaynes tries to catch the knives by the handle, and said the minor cuts that occur don't bother him.

Carson is perfecting juggling while jumping on a pogo stick.

"We kind of pride ourselves in trying to juggle everything," he said.

Carson's talents don't stop at physical phenomena. He claims he can accurately forecast the weather according to current events. For example, bombing in Yugoslavia may cause rain in Florida, he said.

"Predicting the weather is easy — the trick is making it a show," Carson said. "You got to spice it up."

Although Stabile can't juggle, one of his best talents is being "The Monkey." In his homemade monkey suit, he puffs out his cheeks, scratches his head and skillfully flaps his arms.

The three often perform informally on Western's campus with a hat in front of them for change. The group's main interest is traveling and performing its act in small-town fields or parks. So far, the group has traveled 14,000 miles, marked by a half-inch-wide strip of duct tape on their dashboard for every thousand miles. In late fall, they plan to make another trip across the United States. They said their exact destination is unknown.

For now, the group is looking for new people to join the circus. They said they have gotten a few people interested by performing in Red Square.

"We're definitely looking for people to run away with the circus," Carson said.

"Anything can be a show if it's different enough from people's everyday lives," Jaynes said. "You need to stay crazy. It's just a lot of insanity involved in circus acting. That's what we're doing, is marketing insanity."

The circus' biggest crowd was at a college student's birthday party in Philadelphia, which lasted about a week-and-a-half. Jaynes estimated about 20 to 30 people were always present. The circus has found it draws bigger crowds in college towns such as Bellingham.

"You have to be pretty open minded to get what we're trying to put across," Carson said.

The circus never charges admission for its shows, but people can donate money if they want to.

"We don't want the kind of situation where you have to pay money to go see the circus," Carson said. "The most important part is our audience, and we don't want to exclude anybody from our audience."

The group's act is constantly growing. The members want to get a school bus for people and equipment. As part of an act, Carson plans to jump over it on his motorcycle.

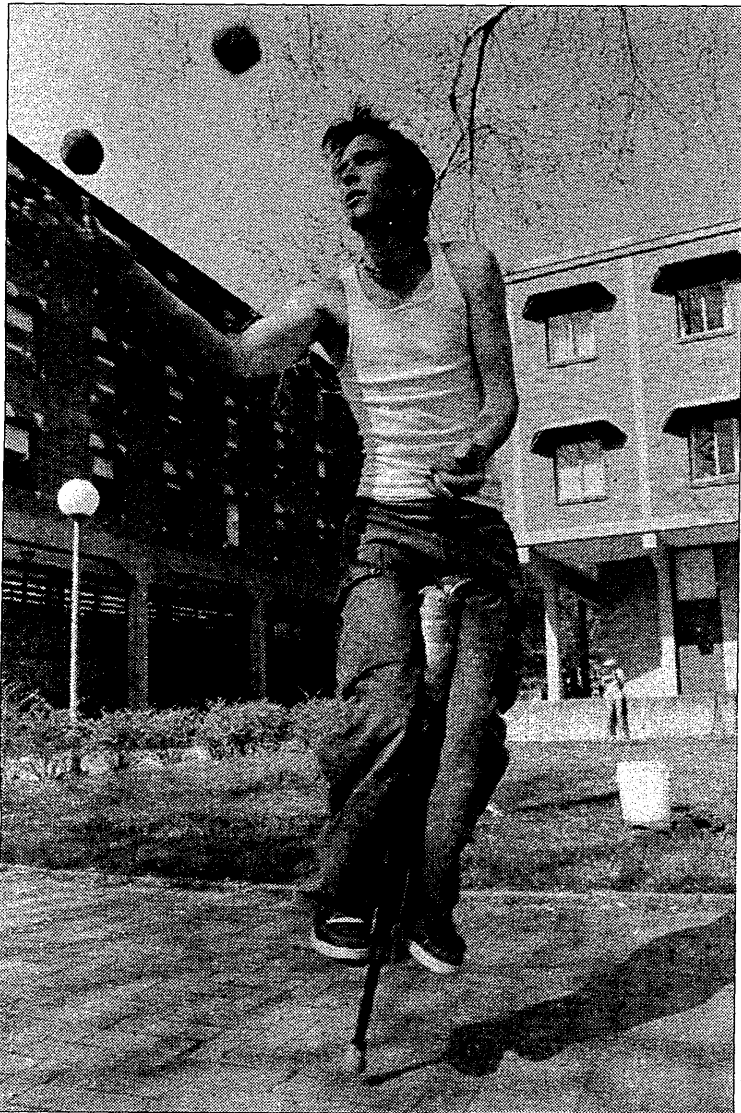
The traveling circus is practicing tightrope walking and is looking into preying mantis fights. A friend of the group wants to be a human cannonball, but they have to get the cannon first.

Stabile and Jaynes got jobs to pay for basic living needs and, of course, the expense of the circus. Most of their circus ideas aren't cheap, and the show is not bringing in much money.

"Money isn't really of that much importance to me, other than I need it to do things like this," Carson said. "I can't think of a better thing to spend my money on, personally. I'm ready to devote serious time, effort and money to this idea."

Jaynes agreed money is not an object when it comes to the circus.

"I don't care if I lose money left and right at this point," he said. "It's all about following this idea and dream as far as it can go."



Photos by Chris Goodenow/The Western Front

(Above left): Aaron Carson practices juggling-on-a-pogo-stick skills in Red Square.

(Bottom): The Incognito Traveling Circus (L to R) Carson, Brian Stabile and Simon Jaynes perched on their faithful steed.

WESTERN'S OTHER ART

By Bobby Stone
THE WESTERN FRONT

With more than 200 prints and drawings, the Western Gallery Print Collection is small, at best, compared with the selection of prints at a place such as the Seattle Art Museum, which has thousands of prints.

Western's collection, however, is still very valuable.

The collection features well-known artists such as John Taylor Arms, Homer Winslow, James Whistler and local artist Helen Loggie, said Western Gallery Curator Sarah Clark-Langager.

Of the 209 prints, 92 are American, 15 are First Nation/Native American, 30 are European and three are from Japanese artists. Fourteen prints were donated by Western faculty or alumni while the remaining 55 prints are by Loggie.

"(The amount of prints) is miniscule to what other institutions have," Clark-Langager said. "But we have a good beginning."

Tom Davidson, owner of Davidson's Gallery in Seattle, evaluated the print collection in September and referred to the different themes and designs of the prints and said the collection is pretty mixed.

"It's deep in some areas, while having a smattering of things in others," he said. "It's not seamless and cohesive by any stretch."

Davidson said the collection definitely needs to grow, however, it is valuable from a teaching perspective.

"There's enough range that students could benefit from having access to it," he said.

Clark-Langager said some art professors request prints periodically to use in their classes as examples of certain types of work.

Clark-Langager said when she arrived at Western 10 years ago, the collection was dispersed throughout campus in private offices, public rooms and storage. Records weren't kept of Western's prints so she did research to find exactly what was in the collection.

She said she found a nice, small print collection but was appalled by the state it was in.

"When I went to look, prints were hanging over radiators, set behind doors and left in direct sunlight," Clark-Langager said. "There wasn't a general respect for taking care of (the prints)."

She took the prints out of private offices and created a new policy to keep them safe. Most of the prints were put into storage and taken out for shows, while various prints can be found throughout campus in public areas such as the library or art department.

Clark-Langager said the print collection is good to have, even if it is small. Tom Johnston, chair of the art department, said he appreciates the prints.

"We have a good start of a collection," he said. "Prints traditionally

or historically have always been a really good art medium to see. It's an original art at an affordable price."

The Western Gallery Print Collection isn't the only collection Western is involved with.

Western has a stake in the Washington Art Consortium Collection. The consortium was organized in 1975 by four institutions: Cheney Cowles Memorial State Museum in Spokane, the Washington State University Museum of Art, the Tacoma Art Museum and the Western Gallery.

Three more institutions have since joined: The Henry Gallery at the University of Washington, the Seattle Art Museum and the Whatcom Museum of History and Art.

Clark-Langager said the consortium collection is well-known. She said museums in the United States and Europe borrow from it.

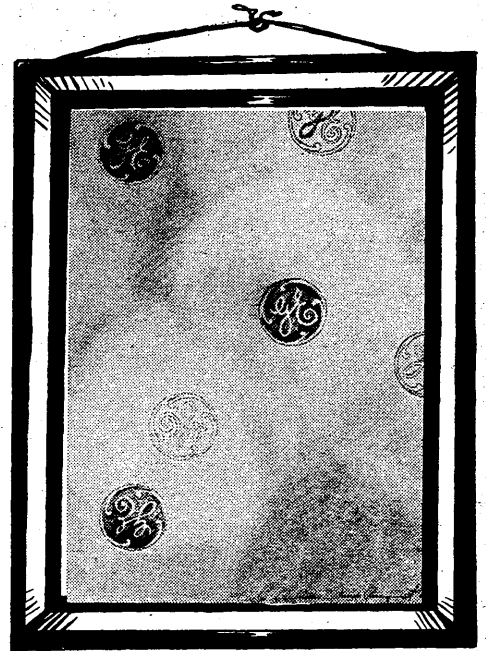
Some of the artists featured in the collection are Mark Di Suvero, Adolph Gottlieb, Andy Warhol, Frank Stella and James Rosenquist.

Clark-Langager is in charge of distributing the consortium collection while Western safely stores the artwork.

She said the reason more of the artwork isn't displayed is for the safety of the prints. She doesn't display prints where they can be easily stolen or are in danger of being damaged by the elements.

"Before we put the prints up we check out the security and conservation issues," Clark-Langager said. "For example, the dean of environmental science wanted some prints in his office; we checked out the light situation and said they couldn't have any unless there was a filter."

Clark-Langager hopes to increase the

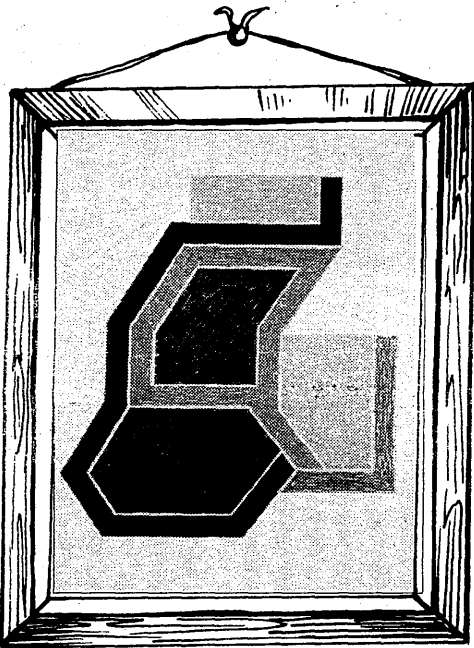


collections through donations.

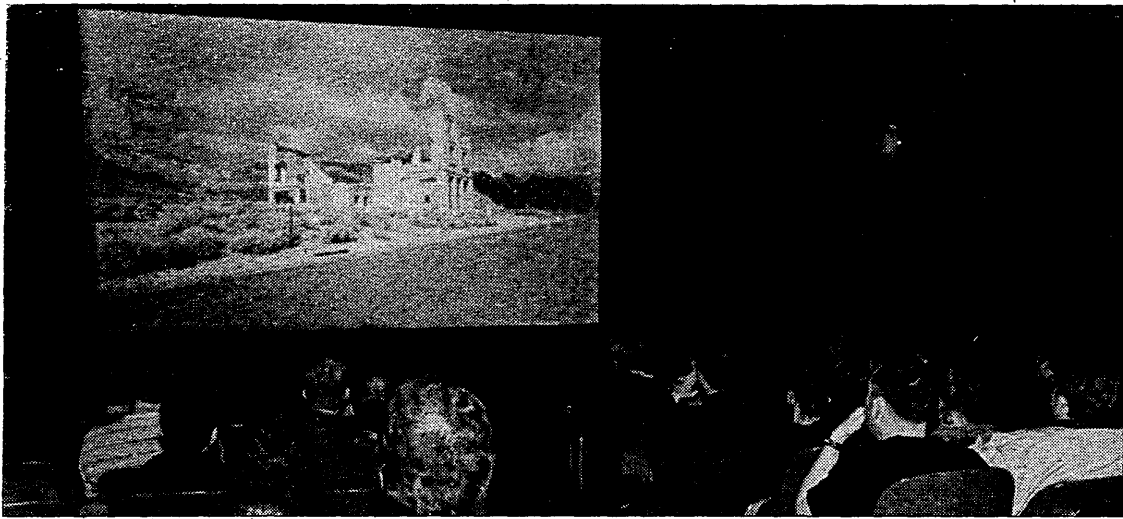
"(The collection) is not enough that it is so heavily committed to one direction or another," he said. "It's small enough that you can set your priorities and pursue those."

He suggested creating an independent study group or a specific class designed to solicit prints and start a publishing-type role.

(Above) James Rosenquist's "Circles of Confusion" (1965) and (Below) Frank Stella's "Eccentric Polygons" can be found in the print collection housed at Western.



CINEMA alternative



Barney Benedictson/The Western Front
Moviegoers enjoy the big screen at Bellingham's independent theater, the Pickford Cinema.

By Julie Hemphill
THE WESTERN FRONT

Hidden away in the 1400 Block of Cornwall Avenue, nestled between Allied Arts and Downtown Johnny's, exists the Pickford Cinema.

Sixteen members of the Whatcom Film Association

Board of Directors, three employees and countless volunteers run the Pickford Cinema, Bellingham's only independent cinema.

The original owner went bankrupt after four months of operation and closed the cinema for approximately one year.

Manager and motion picture

machine operator, Dunja Marton, helped re-open the cinema six months ago.

In order to raise money, the board created the Fairhaven Outdoor Cinema last summer. Movies were free, but donations were accepted. Family-oriented films ran for eight weeks, shown behind Colophon Café.

The turnout and size of donations were huge, Marton said.

The first month was rent-free. This enabled the board to renovate the cinema and learn to run the projection booth.

"It was a lot harder than we had expected," Marton said.

The old carpet was replaced, a new seating arrangement was put in and the concession area was remodeled, Marton said.

"It was a huge group effort," she said.

During the first couple of months, the cinema ran into a major problem. The platter used to project the film onto the screen was from the 1970s. This put it 13 years past its expected lifetime. The antiqueness caused one-quarter of the films to break.

"It would be complete mayhem," Marton said.

The cinema did not have the \$5,000 needed for the new platter, but a huge donation allowed them to buy a replacement, Marton said.

"It's been a really smooth ride since then," Marton said.

She said this provided time to concentrate on running and improving the cinema instead of worrying whether or not the film would break.

Marton credits the community and its enthusiasm for keeping the cinema alive.

"It's obvious this town needed

something like this," Marton said. "People want it to happen."

Volunteers come in nightly to help with the set up and concession stand. Martha Ammon, retired Bellingham resident volunteers twice per month.

"Not enough people take advantage of it," Ammon said.

The cinema has 94 seats and accommodates wheelchairs. The rows lined with lights, the walls draped in red fabric and the reclining chairs create a classic movie theater atmosphere.

The Pickford is in its sixth month of operation.

"This has been one of the best experiences of my life," Marton said.

The cinema features independent, foreign, classics, re-releases and first-run films. Daily shows run at 7 and 9 p.m. In two weeks, a 4 p.m. show will be added.

The films show for one week and change every Friday.

"God Said 'Ha!'" starring and directed by Julia Sweeney from "Saturday Night Live," runs May 7 to 13.

This film takes a closer look at Sweeney's life as she is dealing with her divorce, her brother's terminal cancer and her own battle with cancer. At the 1998 Seattle International Film Festival, Sweeney's film received the audience's Golden Needle Award.

Kickin' it out

By Aaron Snel
THE WESTERN FRONT

Sounds of breaking boards and forceful grunts came from Red Square Wednesday, as members of Western's Tae Kwon Do club demonstrated for nearly 100 spectators.

The club's instructor, Faith Dougherty, ordered the 10-person group into action, performing a series of kicks and punches. Next, members showed off their strength and control by breaking 12-by-12-inch pine boards with their elbows and feet.

Dougherty gave a nunchaku demonstration, performing 15 different moves and forms in rapid succession. Dougherty is a first-degree, level-three black belt in the Korean martial art of Tae Kwon Do.

"I study and teach because I need to be better," Dougherty

said. "I want to become a master and that takes mental discipline, respect and perseverance."

Dougherty led the group in poom-se, which is Korean for a pattern of punches, kicks and blocks performed from memory.

Senior Milyssa Carwin and freshman Jeremy Noone squared off in a sparring match. Each wore protective padding and head guards as they bounced barefoot on the red bricks, looking for openings to land a quick kick or punch.

Noone has been in the Tae Kwon Do club for two quarters. He said he has learned self-discipline and endurance from participating in the club.

"It's a great sport," Noone said. "I especially like sparring because it lets you try out the moves that we practice each week. Tae Kwon Do teaches control of what you're doing instead of flailing your arms



Western's Vivian Lee demonstrates a sliding side kick, snapping a board in the hands of fellow Tae Kwon Do member Thad Ekle. The club hosted a demonstration in Red Square Wednesday.

Bobby Stone/
The Western Front

and legs all over the place."

After sparring, Carwin performed a running-jumping-flying side kick. She started about 12 feet from a club member holding a board at shoulder height. She got a running start, jumped about four feet from the board and glided through the air — snapping it in half with a powerful kick.

"I started doing Tae Kwon Do last spring because I wanted to have some fun while I worked out," Carwin said. "I feel a lot more confident and strong since I started. It's taught me discipline and respect for others."

The Tae Kwon Do club practices three times per week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday,

at the U.S. Tae Kwon Do Center in downtown Bellingham. They practice under master Uoon Choi, the 1986 Tae Kwon Do world champion.

Western's Tae Kwon Do club is participating in a tournament from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at Edmonds Community College.

Phinney reflects on fastpitch, past and future

By Erica Oakley
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western's fastpitch team will not return to the playoffs just one year after winning the NAIA National Softball Championship.

A softball team must be ranked in the NCAA II West Region's top four to make the playoffs. Western is ranked fifth.

"I'm still trying to figure out how that feels," head coach Art Phinney said. This is the first time

in Phinney's coaching career he will not be going to the playoffs.

Being in the NCAA-II for the first year and losing five one-run games early in the season were reasons Phinney said the team did not reach the post-season.

Phinney said the team failed to perform in the five losses, lacking timely hitting and failing to drive in runners.

Taking into account the quality of teams played and Western's record, 33-13, Phinney said he feels the team

deserves to be in the playoffs.

"They are peaking at the right time and finishing stronger than they started," he said.

Phinney said several players have improved their play and made important contributions to the team this season.

"Our outfield has just played tremendous defense," Phinney said. "Sonya Joseph has had an incredible year defensively. She has saved us a lot of runs."

Darcy Taylor has improved her hitting and Andie Greenen

has done a tremendous job as catcher and increased her batting average, Phinney added.

Some players with natural leadership abilities, including Greenen, Taylor and Coni Posey, will have to step up next year to take the places of graduating players, Phinney said.

Phinney said he does not doubt Western will be a playoff contender next season.

"I'm proud of them," Phinney said. "These players should be proud of what they've done this year."

Athletes of the week awarded

Runner Devin Kemper and rower Amanda Moglebust were named Western's Athletes of the Week for April 25 through May 1.

Kemper set a school record, winning the men's 800 meters at the University of Oregon Invitational with a time of 1:50.52. He broke the record by .22 seconds.

Moglebust was the stroke in Western's varsity eight victory at the Opening Day Regatta with a time of 5:13.40.

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NO ICE NICE

By Jaime Martin
THE WESTERN FRONT

Imagine men and women all wearing snorkels and goggles, black fins attached to their feet. Then put them all underwater and tell them to play hockey.

James Luce explained Bellingham's Underwater Hockey Club.

Luce, who has played for 13 years, said the game is played using a short stick, not much longer than a person's hand, and a puck. Teams have 10 players, with six players in the water at one time.

The game is played in 15-minute halves. It begins with the puck in the middle of the pool and each team dives for it to start the game.

To score, the puck must go into metal troughs placed at each end of the bottom of the pool.



A member of the underwater hockey club at practice. Shown floating at lower left is his hockey stick.

Jay Tarpinian/
The Western Front

The referees are underwater, wearing bright gloves and clothing to signify their job.

The game can get rough, but players are supposed to play the body clean — with minimal contact — and just hit the puck, Luce said.

Bumps and bruises do occur. Vicki Gezon was the unlucky recipient of a broken nose at a practice not long ago, Luce said.

"It's so addicting, and a 105-pound woman can beat a 215-pound man because it's about finesse," Gezon said.

The club has two players attending nationals this June in Chicago.

John Hudson has played the game for the past two decades.

"I'll probably get picked up by a master's team," Hudson said.

On a master's team, all players are more than 35 years old.

Vicki Gezon, who has been playing for 17 or 18 years, will also attend nationals.

"I saw a pool full of guys wearing Speedos and I've been playing ever since," she said.

Golfers swinging wood at nationals

By Chris Blake
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western's men's golf team used a second-place finish at the NCAA Division II West Regional Championship Wednesday in Fountain Hills, Ariz., to earn its fifth straight trip to nationals.

Led by senior Joel Skarbo, Western posted a season-best final-round of 282 to finish at 865 — three strokes behind No. 3-ranked Texas Wesleyan University. Western will play in its first NCAA Division II national championship May 18 through 21 in Valdosta, Ga.

"It's such a relief to see us make nationals," Skarbo said. "My college career isn't over."

Skarbo shot a 5-under-par 66 Tuesday and a 67 Wednesday to finish the tournament in second place at 210, four strokes off the lead. A horrible first round of 77 may have cost Skarbo the tour-

name title.

"I'm very proud of this team," Western coach Steve Card said. "Joel shooting nine under the last two rounds really picked us up, but everyone played well."

Junior Craig Welty shot a final-round 71 to tie for ninth at 216.

"Craig played better than his numbers turned out," Skarbo said.

Skarbo said it was a full team effort that helped Western.

"The other guys played solid," he said. "That's what had been missing."

Freshman Bo Stephan tied for 13th at 218, junior John Stehlik shot a 223 and redshirt freshman Jamie Kim finished at 231.

The Vikings entered the tournament ranked 22nd nationally and wanted to prove they are among the elite teams in the nation, Skarbo said.

"We've done nothing but get better all year," Skarbo said. "I think a lot of teams are going to be surprised."

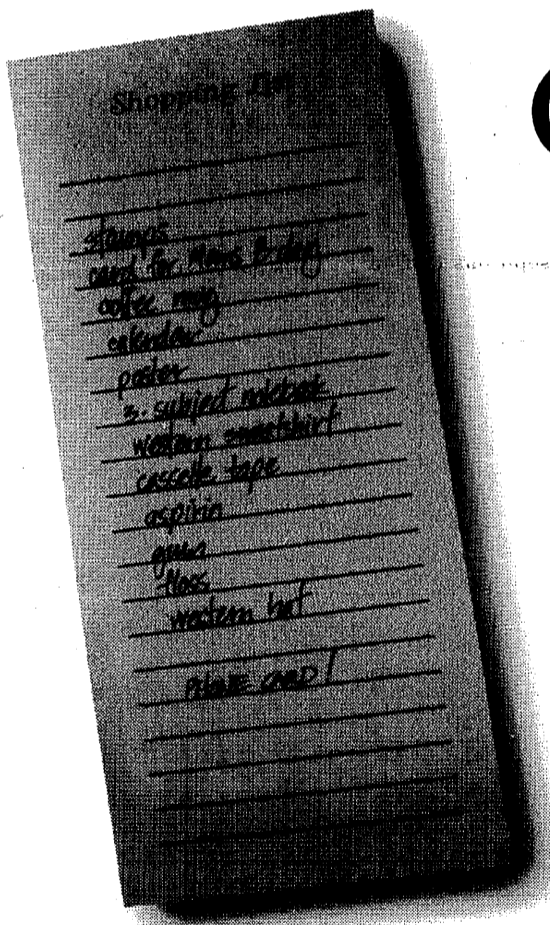
"Now we know that we belong in the upper echelon of teams," Card agreed. "We know we can play with any of these teams."

Skarbo said the tough competition Western faced all season has prepared them for nationals.

"We definitely have a legitimate chance to win it," he said.

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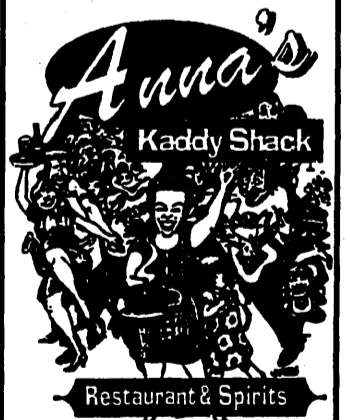
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Frontline

Campus must sacrifice to ease pain of overcrowding

The degree of overcrowding at Western is becoming worse, and it threatens to destroy what Western prides itself on — quality education.

More and more students are forced to sit on the floor to take lecture notes and strain to hear professors from standing-room-only space at the back of a lecture hall. This compromises students' education by allowing them less time to interact with their professors individually and during class.

No quick, simple solutions to overcrowding exist. Western will not have another building until the communications building opens in 2004. The number of students applying to Western and the number of students the state legislature requires Western to continue state funding are still increasing each year, Registrar Joe St. Hilaire said. Students and administrators, however, can make a few sacrifices to alleviate the situation now.

One of the main reasons overcrowded classrooms exist is most students take classes in the morning and early afternoon. Many students work during the afternoon or evening or they just want to get their classes finished in the morning. Classrooms are completely booked between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., but many classrooms are available in the late afternoon and evening, St. Hilaire said. Professors want their classes scheduled in the morning because they attract fewer students when they schedule a class after 3 p.m., St. Hilaire said. Although afternoon and evening classes are less convenient for students, they need to begin taking more of them because no other outlets for more classes exist.

"Even if we got 50 more classrooms tomorrow, we would still have the same problem," St. Hilaire said. Administrators are taking small steps to overcome overcrowding. The administration is moving administrative offices, such as University Extended Programs, off-campus to create more faculty office space and a few classrooms. It also created classroom space for 238 more students when it opened Haggard Hall winter quarter.

To effectively address overcrowding, however, administrators need to stop over enrolling. Western is currently over-enrolled by 200 students beyond the state target. The overenrollment money is used to hire more faculty, St. Hilaire said. More faculty makes expansion of Western's curriculum possible, but what good are new courses if no classrooms in which to teach them exist? Additional faculty also increase overcrowding because they require office space. Although limiting overenrollment would not solve the problem of overenrollment, it would prevent it from getting worse.

It is a sacrifice for students to take classes at less convenient times and for administrators to give up money generated from overenrollment. It will be hard for students to work more in the morning and find time for dinner in between classes, and it will be hard for administrators and faculty to budget their money more conservatively.

Making these small sacrifices, however, is better than further sacrificing the quality of Western's education.

Frontlines are the opinion of The Western Front editorial board: John Bankston, Erin Becker, Karl Horeis, Jenni Odekirk, Alyssa Pfau, Steven Uhles, Todd Wanke and Tyler Watson.

The Western Front

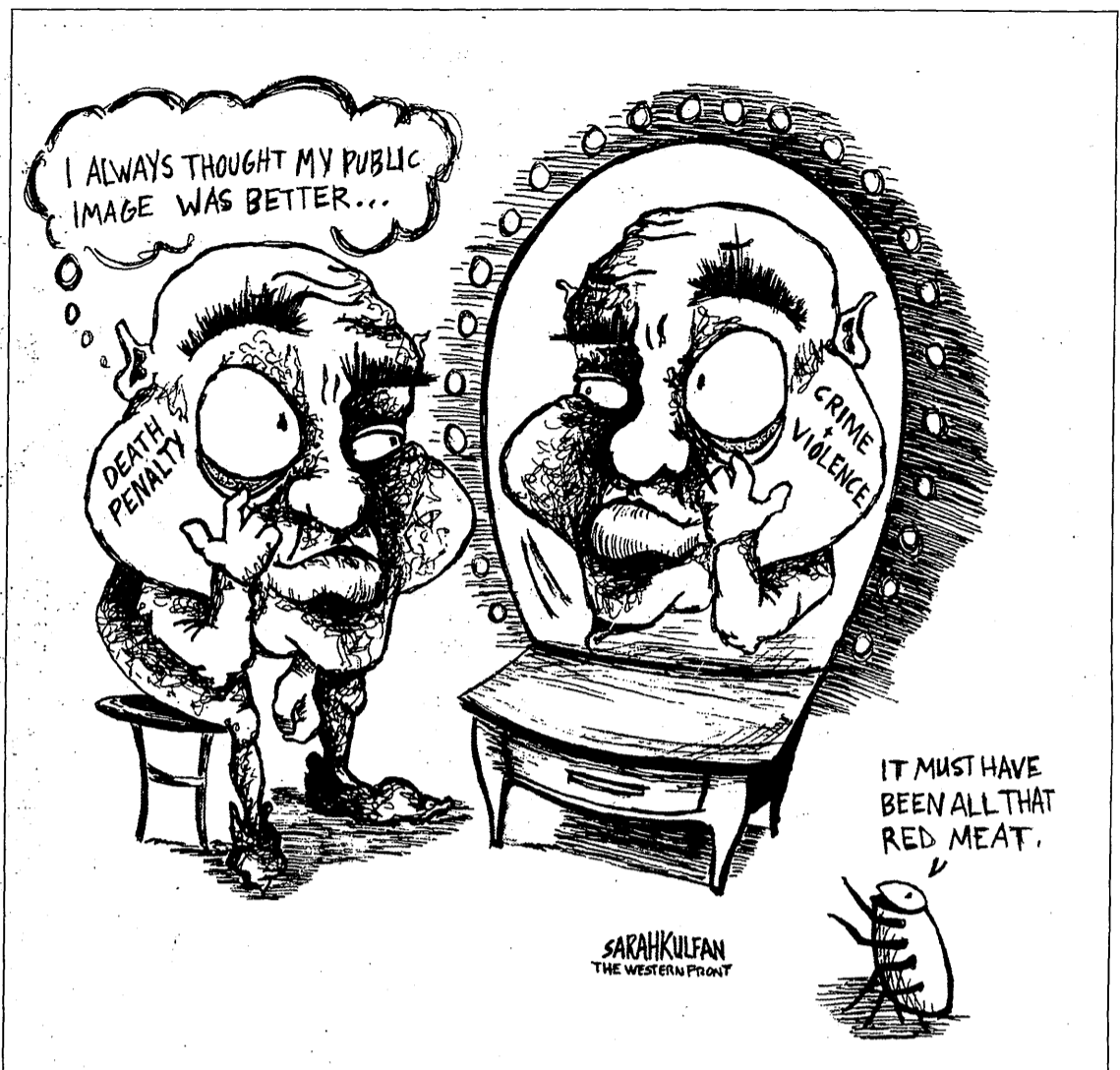
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And we quote:

"If you were to outlaw abortion you would create an enormous underground that would make prohibition seem small by comparison."

Paul Weynch of the Free Congress Foundation — one of the founders of the Christian Conservative movement. Source: April 26, 1999 issue of The Washington Post.



A life for a life or forgiveness?

Death penalty flawed but necessary for real justice

The death penalty is not perfect. It is slow, discriminatory and controversial. The answer, however, to this problem is not to eradicate the system, but to perfect it.



Sabrina Johnson

COMMENTARY

Last week, Sister Helen Prejean spoke at Western, recounting her experiences with death-row inmates. In her speech, she spoke against the death penalty.

Prejean listed statistics, citing the downfalls of the system. She said of the 18,000 homicides committed in the United States each year, less than 1 percent receive the death penalty. This 1 percent is poor, and usually includes those who are convicted of murdering a white person.

Unfortunately, Prejean is correct. The death penalty discriminates by race, class and gender. According to the Death Penalty Information Center's Web site, since 1976 eight white defendants were executed for killing a black victim, while 128 black defendants were executed for killing a white victim. Obviously, this is disproportional when, according to DPIC, 56 percent of the 271 people executed since 1976 are white.

The death penalty should not discriminate. Each victim and criminal should be treated equally, no matter what their race.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice's Web site, as of 1997 the death penalty was authorized in 38 states and by the federal government. Each state has its own laws determining what falls in the category of a capital offense — the type of crime that may result in a death-penalty sentence. In Washington state, aggravated first-degree murder is a capital offense.

According to the DPIC, 17 people have been sentenced to death in Washington State since 1976, but only three have been executed. The death penalty was re-enacted in Washington in 1975, but the first execution was not until 1993.

The threat of death is supposed to be a deterrent, something to prevent serious crimes. It is questionable whether or not someone will stop to think about the death penalty before committing a crime.

Right now the reality of receiving the death penalty is small because it takes years to enact. According to the Clark County Prosecuting Attorney's Web site, those executed in 1996 spent an average of 10 years, five months awaiting execution. From 1977 through 1996, 5,534 prisoners were on death row; only 358 (6 percent) were executed.

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Death penalty — often racist — is barbarous

It has become one of the most politically clichéd issues in our modern democratic system. Yet the disturbing finality of the death penalty stands.



Kathryn Stephens

COMMENTARY

The power of the courts to decide whether criminals should lose their constitutionally-protected rights is something that requires the lawful consensus of a modern society.

Such a standard, however, does not exist.

The death penalty, a state-authorized punishment, has been accepted in various areas since colonial times. It was not until 1972 that the U.S. Supreme Court halted executions in its Furman v. Georgia decision. The court found state death-penalty statutes lacked standards and contained discrimination. The arbitrary nature of such sentencing procedures were described as "wanton" and "freakish."

In 1976, the Supreme Court overturned previous rulings with its decision in Gregg v. Georgia, and again legalized the death penalty. Results and statistics that continue to compile are as disorganized and confused as the disturbing mix of court rulings. The United States retains the record for a death-row population of more than 3,500 — the largest of any country worldwide.

The methodology appears simple — in a just society, why not serve punishments worthy of the crime? The details that follow such a plan become sticky. Rapists are not punished with rape, nor arsonists with arson. The constitutionality of the death penalty becomes important to a free society.

The Eighth Amendment's protection against cruel and unusual punishment and the Fourteenth Amendment's guarantee of equal protection and due process are provisions that, under review, fall to pieces.

The concept of cruel and unusual punishment may not apply to the criminal after his/her last, delicious steak dinner. Nightmarish examples of botched executions come to mind, such as when a switch is thrown and instead of instantaneous death, the body jerks, smoke rises from the head and a smell of burning flesh attacks the nose.

In the case of Florida prisoner Jesse Tafero's May 1990 execution, he gurgled while ashes fell from his bobbing head for four minutes. Consider also the histo-

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ry of Texas state's three botched attempts. It took 24 minutes to kill one criminal while the tube attached to his lethal injection needle burst, spraying chemicals toward witnesses.

The presence of discrimination in state death-penalty decisions is apparent in the statistics.

A 1990 report by the General Accounting Office stated a consistent pattern of evidence indicating racial disparities in charging, sentencing and imposing the death penalty.

The same study concluded those who murdered whites were more likely to be sentenced to death than those who murdered African Americans. Of the 3,000 people on death row, 40 percent are African American.

The final issue discrediting the validity of the death penalty is it does not succeed in deterring crime. The Death Penalty Information Center revealed the majority of states with the death penalty show murder rates higher than non-death

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‘Of the 3,000 people on death row, 40 percent are African American.’

penalty states.

A 1995 Hart Research Associates poll demonstrated 67 percent of police chiefs did not believe the death penalty significantly lowered the number of homicides and ranked it last among ways of effectively reducing crime.

The remaining resolution is obvious.

The Supreme Court cannot make up its mind about the legality of the death penalty as citizens are stripped of their privileges and humanity.

Punishments guaranteed to be free of cruelty continue to be botched. The system is providing the public with blatant red flags — why aren't we seeing them?

From SERIOUS, page 10

The death penalty does not seem effective or threatening when only 1 percent of murderers receive the death sentence, and 6 percent of those are actually carried through.

The death penalty should be

taken seriously and should be enforced.

Without enforcement it is ineffective and worthless. The victims of these death-row inmates do not have a second chance at life. The inmates shouldn't have a second chance either.

Letters

A sample of readers' letters and e-mails

What ally diminishes his partners fear?

To the editor:

As a woman, I urge all men to take a strong, vocal stance against sexual violence. What Chris Goodenow's editorial [May 4 edition of The Front] fails to recognize is no man needs an invitation from a woman to be an ally against rape.

Goodenow suggests that women ostracize men as potential allies. Why do allies feel it's necessary to align themselves directly with oppressed groups? Men can be excellent allies, educating friends, brothers, roommates and Western's campus.

Men, with the privileges that come with being male, must stand together against violence, setting an

example for their gender. Women, with the risks that come with being female, are busy enough trying to make it home every night.

So if I don't say hello to you, Random Male Stranger, please forgive me: I've been stained by a dirty film, as well — one that requires I protect myself and cross the street first, say hello later.

Telé Aadsen
Western student

Protesters must consider impact

To the editor,

Walking through campus last Thursday, I was stopped by an individual. She asked if I had a Green Card. Of course I did not, considering I am an American.

The lady told me I could be deported if I did not carry my Green Card. She sent me to a table to talk a lady out of deporting me. I realize that these individuals were trying to prove a point. In some

cities, incidents such as this have occurred.

Yet, it literally made me furious. I found it appalling these people stopped me in my tracks to harrass me. It is great they are upset by the torment people have received for not having Green Cards, but they should not have gone about it the way they did.

Tell people in Red Square to go to the table and read about it. Do not harrass them on their way to class. Their cause seemed worthwhile, but to involve the students in this way not only made me mad, but scared me half to death.

Don't get me involved in that way. Don't scare me on my way to class. Just have posters set up, but don't ever tell me that I may "be deported," on my way to class. I thought it was ruthless and aggravating, trying to avoid them for the rest of the day. If they were trying to make a point, they did a great job: to not support them at all.

Julia Colleran
Western Student

Wreckless editorial defeats its purpose

To the editor:

As I read Chris Goodenow's commentary in the May 4 issue of The Front, I thought that he was making a good point at first. Certainly most of us agree that not all men are rapists, and not all men deserve to be treated as such.

Unfortunately, he ended up closing the article with the implication that women are somehow at fault for acting defensive around men these days. In fact, he left quite a hostile impression.

I am stunned that he not only trivialized the most recent reported rape on campus by saying, "Another rape has come and gone" as if rape is some kind of weather, but that he expects women to be able to avoid "the few individuals that cause the bad reputation for all men."

First of all, those individuals do a lot more damage than causing a bad reputation for men. If Mr. Goodenow had been raped I don't

imagine he'd be able to write so carelessly about this matter, and strictly from the male side.

Second of all, how does he expect women to know which men out there are potential rapists and which ones are not? Consider the fact that many of us have been raped already, often by people we trusted, and do not care to risk it again.

Third of all, isn't being ostracized a little more pleasant than being raped? To me it is obvious that his attitude was increasing the very gap between the sexes he was complaining about.

Katherine Lineberger
Western Student

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 or e-mail them to wfront@cc.wvu.edu. Please include a phone number for verification



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