



## Western expands to waterfront land

By KELSEY DOSEN  
The Western Front

The Port of Bellingham is collaborating with the Bellingham City Council to clean up the city's waterfront, and has offered Western a space for possible expansion. Western is deciding how to use the land.

Currently, Georgia-Pacific, a pulp and paper mill that ceased operation in 2001, occupies the area, said Robert Frazier, Western vice president for external affairs.

The 150-acre property starts at the Port of Bellingham on Bellingham Bay and wraps around the harbor. Frazier said Western would use only a portion of the area, but the port and the City Council have yet to determine the amount.

"This is the port's and the city's project," he said. "They just invited us to participate."

The port and the City Council will tear down and recycle or remodel the warehouses, port property and 16 brick buildings located on the land before Western develops the area, said Buff Schoenfeld, executive assistant to the president of the university.

Last spring, Western President Karen Morse appointed a committee composed of 15 faculty members from various departments to review proposals for the utilization of the area, Schoenfeld said. During the past year, Western received 22 proposals from faculty, students and departments.

The proposals range from the university building a possible park and ride facility to it moving entire academic departments, such as the department of art, to the waterfront, Frazier said.

Plans are still in the early phases of development and the committee has not decided what to do with the property, she said.

Linda Beckman, budget director for student affairs, said she submitted a proposal April 15 for Western to build an arena for events that would benefit Western, as well as the community.

Western could use the space for campus activities such as commencement, and community members could use it for activities such as concerts. The campus does not have the space necessary for events with a substantial amount of people, Beckman said.

"The beauty of the plan is it also provides a facility of value to the community," she said. "The area also bridges the marina to Fairhaven, so it might get people out and about more."

The Port of Bellingham invited Morse's suggestions in the

see **WATERFRONT**, page 8

## Exploding with patriotism



SUSAN ROSENBERY/The Western Front

Lummi Nation residents David Jefferson, 41, and Evelyn Jefferson, 36, discuss fireworks prices for July 4 at the Hillaires fireworks stand at the intersection of Slater Road and Ferndale Road.

## Fire officials offer rules, tips for fireworks use as residents prepare to celebrate the holiday

By SUSAN ROSENBERY  
The Western Front

The bright and colorful celebration of Independence Day can create legal issues for fireworks users if they do not abide by Whatcom County and Bellingham laws. Risks arise if people do not use fireworks safely, said Brian Flannelly, public information officer for the Bellingham Fire Department and Whatcom Medic One.

Individuals planning to use personal fireworks must abide by city and county rules regarding fireworks use to prevent legal repercussions, such as imprisonment for as many as 90 days and fines up to \$1,000, Bellingham Police Sgt. Tim Lintz said.

Shoppers must purchase legal fireworks — city and county laws dictate the legality of certain fireworks — from licensed stands, Flannelly said.

People can light fireworks at varying times within Bellingham city limits and in Whatcom County. Bellingham residents can light fireworks between 9 a.m. and midnight only on July 4, while people in the rest of Whatcom County can light fireworks from June 28 to July 5, he said.

Bellingham tightened its fireworks restrictions as a preventative measure in response to Washington's 2003 drought, and has continued the restrictions since then, Flannelly said.

"People can get burned, poked and blown-up with fireworks if they are not used properly," Lintz said.

People or families that choose not to use personal fireworks can still enjoy the spectacle at the public fireworks show, Flannelly said. The Bellingham/Whatcom Chamber

see **FIREWORKS**, page 8



Courtesy of Special Collections Wilson Library

Mark di Suvero stands in front of his sculpture "For Handel" in 1975 on campus with donors Bagley and Virginia Wright. The Wrights have promised to donate seven more sculptures to Western's collection, including another piece by di Suvero.

## Wrights donate seven outdoor sculptures

By CANDACE CUSANO  
The Western Front

Seattle art patrons Virginia and Bagley Wright have promised a gift of seven sculptures to add to Western's current collection of 25 outdoor sculptures. The Western Foundation accepted the gift June 10.

The Wrights have donated and helped fund seven of the 25 sculptures that currently decorate Western's campus, said Sarah Clark-Langager, curator of Western's outdoor sculpture collection.

Their first gift to the university, titled "For Handel," is the sculpture by artist Mark di Suvero that sits in the Virginia Wright Plaza outside of the Performing Arts Center, Clark-Langager said.

"The fund began in the early 1970s," Virginia Wright said. "We wanted to find a place in western

Washington to help build and promote a collection."

The beauty of the campus, and the existing sculpture at Western by artist Isamu Noguchi, influenced the Wrights' decision to donate sculptures to the university, she said.

"The Wrights have been involved with the outdoor sculpture at Western for decades as lifelong philanthropists eager to see the collection grow and flourish," said Stephanie Bowers, vice president of university advancement and executive director of the Western Foundation. "Their generous gift of seven of their personal pieces caps Western's already highly-regarded collection. I am very pleased that this incredible gift will have an everlasting effect on Western."

see **SCULPTURES**, page 8



### SUMMER SOUNDS

The Viking Union showcases musicians in a concert series

ACCENT, PAGE 4

### PITT IS MISGUIDED

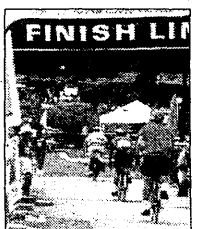
Actor Brad Pitt is using the media to cover up his infidelities

OPINIONS, PAGE 6

### FINISH LINE

Eight thousand bicyclists enjoy summer at annual race

SPORTS, PAGE 5



## COPS BOX

## University Police

**June 23, 2:41 a.m.:** UP responded to a report of a man hit by a dart in the Ridgeway Complex.

**June 23, 12:55 a.m.:** UP assisted the Bellingham Police Department in an attempt to locate a Peeping Tom on south campus.

**June 23, 12:14 a.m.:** UP responded to a suicide attempt and officers took the woman to the station. Officers transported her to the hospital where doctors determined she had overdosed.

## Bellingham Police

**June 26, 12:57 p.m.:** Officers arrested Robin Miller, 42, on the 2900 block of Meridian Street on suspicion of urinating in a public place.

**June 25, 11:21 p.m.:** Officers responded to a report of a missing person on the 100 block of Sea Pines Lane. The person was later found with a friend.

**June 25, 2 p.m.:** Officers responded to a report of someone driving away without paying for gas on the 3900 block of Meridian Street.

**June 25, 12:40 a.m.:** Officers responded to a loud party on the 600 block of East Myrtle Street and cited a 21-year-old man for disorderly conduct.

**June 24, 9:32 p.m.:** Officers responded to a fight in a transient camp on the 4100 block of Cordata Park. A man hit another man in the head.

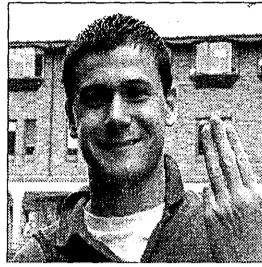
**June 24, 3:30 p.m.:** Officers responded to a vehicle that struck a deer that was darting onto the 500 block of East Ivy Street.

Compiled by Katie Rothenberger

# Viking Voices

Have you ever injured yourself with fireworks or known anyone who has?

Compiled by Susan Rosenberry



**Justin Hjelm**  
Junior, finance

*My friend lit an M-80 in his hand. It had a short fuse and now he only has three fingers.*



**Nathan Franck**  
Junior, biology and Spanish

*Last summer, my roommate tried shooting a firework out of his ass. He has a scar now — it didn't really work.*



**Randal Gabel**  
Senior, psychology and philosophy

*I used to blow up mailboxes, but I'm a firm believer in safety first, so I never got hurt.*

# AP Wire

# news briefs

## STATE NEWS

### Microsoft and Toshiba form alliance

Officials at Microsoft Corp. and Japanese electronics-maker Toshiba announced plans June 27 to work together to develop high-definition DVD players.

Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates and Toshiba President Atsutoshi Nishida will disclose details of the new agreement Monday at a Tokyo hotel.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### Officer shoots at child driver

A Polk County Sheriff's deputy fired at least three shots at a 12-year-old girl who attempted to run him over with a car June 27, Florida authorities said.

Officials said the girl was driving a Chevrolet Cavalier with

her 6-year-old brother inside. Two deputies blocked the Cavalier between their cars after the girl began to drive toward Deputy Chris Hillsgrove, who was standing next to his vehicle.

A sheriff's office spokeswoman said Hillsgrove feared for his life and fired at the Cavalier before jumping out of the way.

The deputy is on administrative leave, and the girl faces several charges, including attempted murder and aggravated battery.

### Nurse admits he killed terminally ill patients

A former nurse admitted to killing five more people by giving them overdoses of medication.

Charles Cullen has now confessed to killing 29 people in New Jersey and Pennsylvania since 1987, most by injecting the patients with high doses of heart drugs.

He pleaded guilty for the latest five murders June 27 in New

Jersey Superior Court.

Cullen's lawyer said Cullen believed his victims were terminally ill and that it was dehumanizing to prolong people's lives by artificial means.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Pope rushes saint-making process

The Rev. Giuseppe D'Alonzo, the "devil's advocate" in Pope John Paul's beatification process, is pledging to remain objective, but also said he supports the cause.

D'Alonzo is the promoter of justice in the Diocese of Rome, and investigates any possible doubts about Pope John Paul's saintliness.

The process includes reviewing the pope's work, interviewing witnesses about possible miracles and gathering letters, articles, books and other documents written about him.

Pope Benedict heeded calls from the public and waived the traditional five-year waiting period for sainthood, allowing John Paul's saint-making process to begin June 28.

### Italian men to show more skin

If Italian designers have their way, men will be showing more of their skin and physique next summer.

This week is Men's Fashion Week in Milan, and designers are previewing next summer's styles. The designers' new trend is tight-fitting on top and baggy below.

Designer models so far have displayed unbuttoned shirts that reveal bare chests, below the waistline ultra-short shorts, transparent T-shirts and shiny evening wear.

Compiled by Susan Rosenberry  
AP Wire courtesy KUGS 89.3-FM

## Corrections

In the June 23 article "Jumping into Summer," Nathan Cox was referred to as a sophomore. He is actually a senior.

The Western Front regrets these and any other errors.

The Western Front is published twice weekly in fall, winter and spring; once a week in summer session. Address: The Western Front, Western Washington University, CF 251, Bellingham, WA 98225. The Western Front is the official newspaper of Western Washington University, published by the Student Publications Council, and is mainly supported by advertising.

Opinions and stories in the newspaper have no connection with advertising. News content is determined by student editors. Staff reporters are enrolled in a course in the Department of Journalism, but any student enrolled at Western may offer stories to the editors.

Advertising inquiries should be directed to the business office in CF 230, 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 Thursday for inclusion in the next Tuesday issue. Announcements should be limited to 50 words. Announcements may be submitted by e-mail to FAST@wwu.edu. The subject line should contain a one- or two-word topic title and clearly state that the item is for Official Announcements. Items sent by e-mail should be sent separately from submissions to FAST. Announcements that are typewritten or legibly printed also may be sent through campus mail to "Official Announcements," MS -9117, sent via fax to X/4343, or brought in person to Commissary 113A. DO NOT SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS DIRECTLY TO THE WESTERN FRONT OFFICES. Phoned announcements will not be accepted. All announcements should be signed by originator.

PLEASE POST

TESTING SCHEDULES ARE AVAILABLE ON THE WEB at [www.ac.wwu.edu/~assess/tc.htm](http://www.ac.wwu.edu/~assess/tc.htm).

**THE MATH PLACEMENT TEST (MPT)** is offered at 3 p.m. on July 11, 18, 25, Aug. 1, 8, 15, and at 9 a.m. Thursdays on June 30, July 7, 14, 21, 28, and Aug. 18. Registration is not required. Students must bring photo identification, their student number, Social Security number, and a No. 2 pencil. A \$15 fee is payable in the exact amount at time of testing. Allow 90 minutes.

**THE TRANSFER TRANSITIONS MATH PLACEMENT TEST** will be given at 3 p.m. July 8, 13, and 15. Registration is not required. Students must bring photo identification, their student number, Social Security number, and a No. 2 pencil. A fee of \$15 is payable in the exact amount at time of testing. Allow 90 minutes.

**THE MATH PLACEMENT TEST SCHEDULE AND SAMPLE TOPICS** may be found on the Web at [www.ac.wwu.edu/~assess/tc.htm](http://www.ac.wwu.edu/~assess/tc.htm).

**MILLER ANALOGIES TEST (MAT).** The Miller Analogies Test is administered as a computer-based test, by appointment only. Appointments may be made in person in Old Main 120 or by calling X/3080. A fee of \$42 is payable at test time. Fall quarter the fee increases to \$60. The test takes about 1½ hours. Preliminary scores will be available immediately; official results will be mailed within 15 days.

**WEST-B TEST.** Anyone applying for admission to state-approved teacher education programs must meet the minimum passing score on the basic skills assessment by the application deadline. Visit [www.west.nesinc.com](http://www.west.nesinc.com) for registration information and a study guide with sample test questions. The remaining WEST-B test dates for the 2004-05 academic year is July 9. Note that registration deadlines are several weeks in advance.

**WEST-E PRAXIS.** Washington state requires individuals seeking teacher certification and teachers seeking additional endorsements to pass a subject knowledge assessment in the chosen endorsement area (the Washington Educator Skills Test — Endorsement, or WEST-E), beginning Sept. 1. The state has chosen specific Praxis II series tests to meet this requirement, now referred to as the WEST-E Praxis. See [www.ets.org/praxis/prxwa.html](http://www.ets.org/praxis/prxwa.html) for a description and online registration information. Registration bulletins also are available in MH 216.

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

**DEADLINE FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS IN THIS SPACE IS NOON THURSDAY** for inclusion in the next Tuesday issue. Announcements should be kept to 50 words or less and may be submitted by e-mail to FAST@wwu.edu with a one- or two-word topic in the subject line and clearly stating it is for Official Announcements. Typed or legibly printed announcements also may be sent by fax to X/4343, sent to "Official Announcements" at MS -9117, or brought to CM 111.

**DO NOT SEND OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS DIRECTLY TO WESTERN FRONT OFFICES.** Phoned announcements will not be accepted. All announcements should be signed by originator.

# FEATURES/ACCENT

TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2005 • WESTERNFRONTONLINE.COM • PAGE 3

## Strange Days

### Already-dead woman involved in car accident

Local authorities found a young woman dead in a car that was involved in an auto accident near Tokyo Sunday morning. She was dead for at least one full day before the accident occurred, local police said in a June 26 Reuters article.

Emergency personnel discovered the body of Rie Ishikawa, 28, in a state of rigor mortis, in the backseat of her family's vehicle, according to the Kyodo news agency.

The woman's husband, Masayuki Ishikawa, 32, was driving when the car hit a concrete wall and then a highway-lane divider. Masayuki left the car to find his 3-year-old son, who was thrown from the passenger seat of the car, according to the news agency. He and the boy were then both struck and killed by an oncoming vehicle.

Police said the cause of the woman's death remains unknown.

### Locksmith creates duplicate key from X-ray

A man from North Platte, Neb., accidentally swallowed his friend's truck keys after placing the keys in his mouth as a prank on his friend, according to a June 24 Associated Press article.

Doctors told prankster Arthur Richardson the keys posed no risk to his health. Richardson's friend, who needed to access the keys, took

Richardson's stomach X-rays to a locksmith, who created a new key.

The locksmith said he had never made a key from an X-ray before, but the key worked fine.

### Farmer kills leopard with his bare hands

A Kenyan peasant farmer, near the capital of Nairobi, severely wounded an attacking leopard when he reached into the animal's mouth and tore out its tongue, local authorities said, according to a June 22 Reuters article.

Daniel M'Mburugu, 73, was working in his field when the leopard charged at him from the surrounding long grass. M'Mburugu pulled out the leopard's tongue, leaving the animal writhing on the ground.

"A voice, which must have come from God, whispered to me to drop the panga (machete) and thrust my hand in its wide-open mouth," M'Mburugu said in the article.

A neighbor came to aid the farmer and kill the dying leopard.

M'Mburugu was mauled by the animal's claws and received bite wounds on his wrist. He received free hospital treatment by impressed local authorities.

### Hamster sent through British Postal service

A postman intercepted a first-class parcel containing a hamster in Cambridge, located in eastern

England, according to a June 24 American Foreign Press article.

The local postal worker rushed the moving parcel to a local veterinarian, fearing that it contained a rat.

Patrick von Heimendahl, a veterinarian, said the hamster, which rescuers named Postie, was in good health and should survive.

"It is a very stupid thing to do," said Wendy Barry of the British Hamster Association. "With letters raining down on it, it would have been terrified."

The person who mailed the hamster remains unidentified.

### Restaurant to sell fried whale meat sandwiches

For 380 yen, or \$3.50, a Japanese fast-food chain is offering a new sandwich made of whale meat to customers, according to a June 23 Reuters article.

Lucky Pierrot, a restaurant chain in Japan started selling fried minke whale burgers.

"The taste and texture are somewhere between beef and fish," restaurant manager Miku Oh said. "People (here) have a long history of eating whale, so customers are looking forward to trying it."

The whale meat is not coming from recent hunting activities, Oh said. The restaurants are using meat from whales originally caught and killed for scientific experiments.

- Compiled by Coreé Naslund

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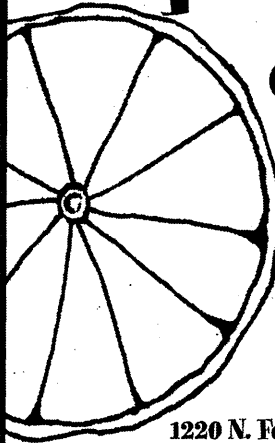
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# Midday Music

Noon concert series outside the PAC provides summer entertainment from artists around the country



COREÈ NASLUND/The Western Front

The bluegrass and world-beat band Spoonshine perform Wednesday, as part of the Summer Noon Concert Series. Band members from top to bottom, Jacob Navarro, James Harper and William Cook.

## Summer Noon Concert Series

June 29

The Eskalators

July 6

Vicci Martinez

July 13

Flowmotion

July 20

The Mishras  
Indian Sitar  
Masters

July 27

Maggie's Fury

Shows are located in front of the Performing Arts Center.

If it is raining the concert is relocated to the VU lobby.

BY COREÈ NASLUND  
The Western Front

Pedestrian traffic flows in the Viking Union around the rows of seats filled with concert-goers. The VU is packed with faculty, students, children and community members on a gray Wednesday afternoon. The atmosphere is relaxed but upbeat — much like the live music. Children from Western's Child Development Center dance to the pulsating beats, while adults nod their heads or tap their toes approvingly.

The four members of Spoonshine, the first of six bands participating in Western's annual Summer Noon Concert Series, soak up the atmosphere their audience creates. Out of Anacortes, Spoonshine members Matt Ambrose, 31, William Cook, 27, James Harper, 29 and Jacob Navarro, 30, played a total of 11 instruments, including the guitar, upright bass, keyboard and mandolin, during their set last Wednesday.

"I liked (the concert)," said Mika Kawakami, a Western senior and information desk attendant at the VU. "It was a different style of music than what I typically hear, so it was fun to listen to."

Vocalist, guitarist and mandolin player Navarro, describes their sound as "world-grass" — folk music heavily influenced by music from around the world. Some songs are melodic, with notes from a soothing saxophone, while some are more rhythmic, with pulsating beats from African tribal drums.

"I try to find music that will appeal cross-

generationally," said Lisa Rosenberg, Western's student activities coordinator and Summer Noon Concert Series planner.

Rosenberg, who has been in charge of the concert series for the past 14 years, said she thought Wednesday's concert, which would have been outside in front of the Performing Arts Center if the weather was decent, was a success.

Rosenberg said she books acts she thinks Western's community would enjoy listening to, or is contacted by, potential artists. Each summer, she sets the line up of artists, some of whom travel from across the world to perform on Western's campus.

"I try not to repeat too many artists too often," Rosenberg said. "I want to make sure everyone who wants to participate gets a chance."

For the next five weeks, the performances will take place every Wednesday outside the Performing Arts Center, or in the VU lobby if rainy weather occurs.

Local Bellingham band The Eskalators will perform June 29. The band has seven members, and plays Jamaican, British and American ska and reggae, Rosenberg said.

Tacoma resident Vicci Martinez, 20, a pop-rock artist, will perform for a second time at Western later in the series.

"She played last year and got a great crowd response so I thought I'd bring her back this year," Rosenberg said.

On July 13, a Seattle quintet, Flowmotion, will perform. Rosenberg said the self-described

"world-funk" band combines funk, jazz and Latin-influenced beats in their music.

Making their second appearance at Western, the Mishras, Indian sitar masters are promoting their newest album "Raga Cycle," said spokeswoman Dudley Everson, owner of Sounding of the Planet, a Bellingham independent record label that produced the new album.

The father and son, from Benares, India, are the sixth and seventh generation sitar players in their family, Everson said. The duo, accompanied by three other musicians, will play traditional-style Raga music.

"(The concert series) provides a unique opportunity for people to see their performances," Rosenberg said. "It's not too often people (locally) would have a chance to see them."

Maggie's Fury, a Bellingham-based quintet, will play their modern version of traditional Celtic and folk music July 27 in the final concert of the series.

The student services and activities fee that all full-time Western students pay funds the concert series. This year's concert budget was approximately \$4,200, Rosenberg said. The money covers the performers' fees, hospitality services, technical support for the sound equipment, publicity and promotion.

Rosenberg said the series provides students and other attendees an opportunity to see bands they haven't been exposed to.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE ESKALATORS (LEFT) AND THE MISHRAS INDIAN SITAR MASTERS (RIGHT).

The Eskalators are scheduled to play June 29 and The Mishras on July 20. The Summer noon concert series will feature both performers. The concerts will be located in front of the Performing Arts Center.

"(The concert series) provides a unique opportunity for people to see their performances. It's not too often people (locally) would have a chance to see them."

LISA ROSENBERG

Student Activities Coordinator and Summer Noon Concert Series Coordinator

# SPORTS

TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2005 • WESTERNFRONTONLINE.COM • PAGE 5

## VIKING FOOTBALL

### Western assistant coach resigns after 13 years

Scott Hodgkinson, 40, will resign June 30 as the Western football team's offensive line coach so his 10-year-old daughter, Kristine, can attend the Arizona State School for the Deaf and Blind. Hodgkinson coached six All-American Western athletes, and during his tenure the Vikings made national playoffs five times and won seven league titles. Hodgkinson said the choice was a difficult one to make.

## TRACK & FIELD

### High jumper McGillen receives GNAC Freshman of the Year

Kyle McGillen became the 2005 Great Northwest Athletic Conference Male Track and Field Freshman of the Year and helped the Vikings win the GNAC men's title. At the GNAC championships on May 7, which took place at Central Washington University, McGillen set a meet record with his winning 6-foot-8-inch high jump, and won the long jump with a 23-foot jump. He also finished fourth in the triple jump with a 45-foot-one-half-inch jump.

# STP provides wild ride for locals and students alike

By RENEE REDEKOP  
The Western Front

Riders will need more than a cup of coffee to pedal their way through the 26th annual Seattle to Portland Bicycle Classic — a 202.25 mile trek. Lungs of steel, burly legs and enough willpower to fuel a gas-guzzling sport utility vehicle are essential. Eight thousand bicyclists will be chatting, sweating and eating energy-packed bananas for an entire weekend, en route to finishing the race.

As the largest multi-day race event in the Northwest, the Classic continues to attract thousands of athletes and spectators.

Race participants consume an average of 11,250 bananas, 7,900 pounds of watermelon, 12,000 Cliff bars and 13,250 bagels over two days each year, said Carry Porter, the marketing director for the Cascade Bicycle Club.

Not only are Western participants preparing for July 9 and 10, when the event begins, but members of Bellingham's growing cyclist community are also looking forward to the trek. Although participants' ages and occupations vary, riders in the race have a passion for healthy lifestyles and bike riding in common, Porter said.

Western Facilities Management electrician, Fred Escher, 58, will ride in the race with his sons Daniel, 22, and Peter, 26.

"Cycling promotes good health," Escher said.

Escher and his sons have participated in the bike, run and canoe Ski to Sea events for the past four years and are ready for a new challenge, he said.

Riders will leave the University of Washington July 9 between 4:45 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. with one destination — the finish line.

Holladay Park in northeast Portland will play host to the "Finish Line Festival," which will feature food, music, sponsor booths, showers and first aid.

Like Escher and his sons, Western junior Adrian Pike, 19, will compete in his first Seattle to Portland ride this year. Each year, more than half of the riders participating in the event are first-timers, Porter said.

"It will be cool to test



Photo courtesy of the Skagit Bicycle Club

Riders gather, hydrating, stretching and chatting before last year's Seattle to Portland race on July 17, 2004.

my endurance, and to share the experience with so many other riders," Pike said.

Pike heard about the race from a friend who was training to ride the course on his unicycle this year, he said.

"At first I thought he was crazy, but he started me thinking," Pike said. "If somebody can ride it on their unicycle, maybe I could ride it too."

The race's total uphill distance of 30.87 miles makes the ride a huge challenge, Porter said.

"I'm nervous," Pike said. "Some people say that it is really difficult and others call it a breeze."

The Cascade Bicycle Club organizes the race, which can be a one-day or two-day event, depending on the aspirations and stamina of the individual cyclist.

After living in Bellingham for 30 years, Wendy Longman, 55, said she is ready to com-

plete her second STP with three of her four sons. Being able to ride with her college-age sons who have left home is part of the thrill for Longman, she said.

"What makes it special is doing it with the long-lost kids," she said.

Longman's sons, Jameson, 20, and Mark, 31, hope to finish the ride in one day, and join the elite 20 percent who finish in one day. The Cascade Bicycle Club estimates that, by averaging a 17.5 mile per hour pace, riders can complete the race in one day, Porter said.

Longman, her oldest son, Jesse, 33, and her daughter-in-law Gina Muia, 31, will join the family for the ride and make it a two-day trek.

"On the second day you are sore and don't even want to get back out there," Longman said. "You just do it because everyone else is doing it."

Riders spend the night in campgrounds, private homes, churches and motels along the way to Portland, Porter said. Even for those who are not racing, the scenic route through the valleys, forests and farmlands of western Washington and Oregon make the trek worth traveling.

Longman said she never thought she would participate in a race like this one. Ironically, she now hopes to make it a fam-

ily tradition, she said.

The support from other Seattle to Portland participants also forms a strong bond between riders that she enjoys, Longman said.

The youngest rider last year was 1 year old and riders came from 38 states, primarily Washington, Oregon, California and Idaho, Porter said. The young ones ride tandem with their parents in a seat with wheels, Longman said.

"It's more of a casual ride where family, groups, friends go together," WWU cycling team member Chris Parrish said. "Most do it for the accomplishment rather than the competition."

Parrish, 19, who is also a Fairhaven Mountain Bike Shop mechanic, said cyclists just finishing the race is a huge achievement.

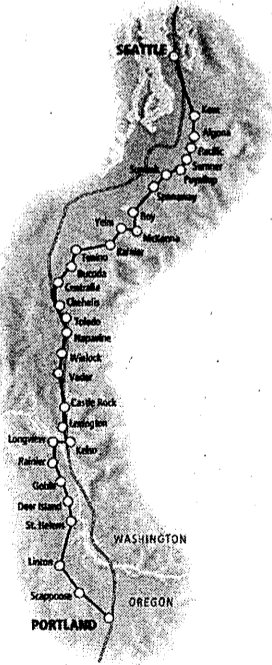
Porter said the oldest rider this year is 81 years old. Twenty-eight riders under 10 years old will also participate.

"These young riders are bound to get hooked to the event," Longman said. "Once you do it, it's so fun you have to do it again. You can never forget how to ride a bike."

In 1979, 187 riders participated in the first Seattle to Portland ride. The number of participating riders peaked in 1991 with 10,000 riders, and now is capped at 8,000 riders.

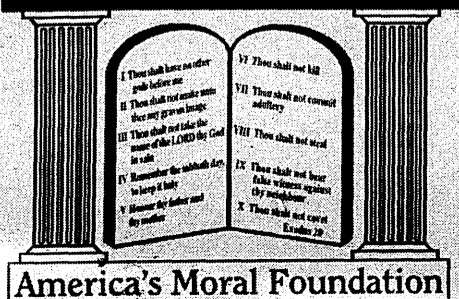
"Once you've done it, the spokes start rolling and a tradition forms," Escher said.

### The 202.25 mile course



Courtesy of the Skagit Bicycle Club

## Ten Commandments



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## Frontline

### Fourth of July another holiday spoiled by American culture

With Independence Day only one week away, many Americans are gearing up for spectacular fireworks displays. While nothing is wrong with impressive displays of light and color, the holiday has become less about celebrating freedom and more about the commercialism that surrounds it.

Fireworks are incredibly expensive. According to Grucci Fireworks, the company that produces fireworks displays for events such as presidential inaugurations, state-of-the-art fireworks displays range from \$3,000 for a small light show to \$300,000 for a colossal display. For the average U.S. family that wants to exhibit a neighborhood show, it can expect to spend anywhere from \$4.50 for a basic roman candle to \$130.50 for a multi-shot aerial kit, according to U.S. Fireworks, an online fireworks retailer.

Ironically, the one day on which Americans celebrate their freedom is strictly government-regulated. State laws restrict the days fireworks stands can sell fireworks, what time businesses can sell them, who can sell them, and where people can set them off. With the power to ban all purchasing and discharging of fireworks, local city and county laws are often more restrictive than state laws, according to the Municipal Research & Services Center of Washington.

Like Valentine's Day, the Fourth of July has turned into another excuse for excessive commercialism. Clothing retailers, such as Old Navy, market products specific to the Fourth of July, which encourages consumers to buy a new outfit for the holiday. Retailers lure customers using these specialty products. Beer and wine sales are higher during the Fourth of July weekend than at almost any other time during the year, according to a June 2001 CNN.com article. This tendency towards consumerism distracts Americans from remembering that the Fourth of July is about freedom, not sales.

Despite the expense and regulation of firework displays, they are a U.S. tradition that brings families and communities together. The earliest settlers fired black gunpowder to celebrate holidays, and Americans have continued to use the combination of noise of color to commemorate Independence Day.

While celebrating the nation's independence with fireworks is historical, the tradition should not justify the danger associated with the practice. According to Washington State Fire Marshal's statistics, 1,110 injuries and fires resulted from fireworks in 2004, representing a 49 percent increase from the last five years' average of 742 incidents.

The fire marshall's study showed that an estimated \$951,133 in property loss resulted from fireworks-related fires. Of the 535 fire departments in Washington, only 80 reported having no fireworks-related incidents. Americans should continue to celebrate Independence Day with enthusiasm and patriotism. But they should also recognize the holiday for what it is — a day honoring the freedom of the United States.

*Frontlines are the opinion of The Western Front editorial board: Travis Sherer, Michael Murray, Adam Rudnick, Molly Jensen, Lauren Allain, Brittany Greenfield, Bradley Thayer, Lauren Miller and Sarah Berger.*

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**Editor's note:** The views expressed on The Western Front opinion pages are the views of the authors or cartoonists and are not necessarily the views of The Western Front staff, managers or adviser.

### And we quote:

*"Solutions are not the answer."*

*— Richard Nixon, former U.S. President*



## Pitt using "misleading" media for own benefit



BY SHANNON HUTCHINSON  
The Western Front

Brad Pitt's attempts to steer media attention away from the public's speculation about his possible infidelity with actress Jennifer Aniston and toward his humanitarian work is a deceptive practice and a misuse of public relations. The use of the press is not subjective, and it is its responsibility to report news fully and without bias.

Brad Pitt's announcement during a June 7 interview posted on the E! Online Web site that he is frustrated with the press' focus on his personal life rather than his humanitarian efforts, is laughable and difficult for the public to sympathize with.

Too often celebrities cry foul on

the same press that made them famous. Pitt is another example of an over-exposed, self-righteous star who is trying to steer the press toward issues he would like to see reported on.

According to the E! Online Web site, Pitt is the son of a trucking-company manager and a high-school counselor, and graduated from Kickapoo High School in Springfield, Mo. According to the site, Pitt's acting career took off in 1991, when he played J.D. in the movie "Thelma and Louise."

From his humble beginnings, Pitt quickly ascended to the top of the Hollywood scene as a result of roles in the 1990s such as "Interview with the Vampire," "Seven" and "12 Monkeys."

Pitt's marriage to Friends' sitcom star Jennifer Aniston in 2000, and the couple's subsequent separation in January, earned the couple considerable column space

in newspapers and magazines.

The media's speculation on whether Pitt and actress Angelina Jolie are a couple is the latest example of the actor's incessantly-covered life.

Pictures of Pitt and Jolie walking together on a beach in Africa have not done much in the way of publicity damage control either. According to a June 8 ABC.com news article, photographers took pictures of Pitt in April with Jolie and her son, Maddox, on a beach in Kenya after he announced his separation from Aniston.

Additionally, the July issue of W magazine contained a 60-page feature article on Pitt and Jolie, titled "Domestic Bliss." The article will keep interactions between the two at the forefront of the public's minds for at least another couple of weeks.

see PITT, page 7

## United States should close Gitmo to save face



BY J.J. KARABIAS  
The Western Front

If the Bush administration actually intends to eliminate terrorism abroad, it should cut its losses and dispel the notion that the U.S. military are proprietors of human torment by shutting down the Guantanamo Bay prison, cordially known as Gitmo.

While the terrorist detainee center at Guantanamo Bay is no Gulag, it certainly possesses many of the unsettling elements that made the former Soviet labor camp one of history's most notorious human-rights debacles.

Amid recent FBI reports made public by the American Civil Liberties Union in which prisoners claimed to have been severely tortured, the White House has become increasingly concerned about what has become an international public relations problem.

Beginning in 2002, detainees began publicly complaining about mistreatment by U.S. interrogators at Guantanamo Bay. The complaints included charges of sexual humiliation, severe physical and mental abuse, and most notably, ill-treatment of the Quran by interrogators.

The latter, of course, culminated with riots in Afghanistan after a May 9 Newsweek article came out citing an internal military report in which a Quran had been flushed down the toilet by U.S. military interrogators.

Recent allegations by Amnesty International, an independent human rights organization, accused Guantanamo Bay of being "the Gulag of our time," and referred to the United States as "a leading purveyor and practitioner" of torture and mistreatment of prisoners, according to a May 26 Washington Post article.

This barrage of negative press has created widespread debate both in the media and on Capitol Hill as to the practices of military interrogators at Guantanamo Bay. Both entities are debating with each

other about whether the prison's continued operation is worth the inauspicious reputation the United States is developing abroad.

Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., illustrated an important point June 15 on the Senate floor when he discussed the appalling actions of U.S. soldiers. According to FBI reports released by the ACLU, detainees had been handcuffed in the fetal position for days at a time without food by interrogators and were then left to defecate on themselves.

"If I read this to you, and did not tell you that it was an FBI agent describing what Americans had done to prisoners in their control, you would most certainly believe this must have been done by Nazis, Soviets in their gulags or some mad regime — Pol Pot or others — that had no concern for human beings," Durbin said, according to a June 17 Chicago Tribune article.

Durbin made the point that while the United States claims to be a nation guided by democratic principles, its actions appear similar

see GITMO, page 7

## Pitt: The actor has only brought himself further into the media's spotlight with his criticisms

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

"I cannot get out of the press," Pitt said in a June 6 interview with Diane Sawyer on ABC's Primetime Live.

Perhaps the cause of Pitt's problems has something to do with his plastering himself all over the same media he later complains about.

In the interview, Pitt also expounded on his newfound enlightenment of the pitfalls of celebrity status.

"It's a strange focus, isn't it? That my relationships or relationship mishaps take precedent," Pitt said. "I understand it's about entertainment, but, man, it's misguided a bit, isn't it?"

Pitt, more than anyone, should know that his profession is entertainment. People go to movies and admire celebrities because

doing so offers them an escape from the realities of society.

When Pitt, one of People magazine's Most Beautiful People of 2005, suddenly thrusts the issue of an African AIDS epidemic into the public's faces, obviously people will be surprised and caught off guard.

According to a June 13 American Foreign Press article, Pitt directed an interview that initially addressed questions about his relationship with Jolie to highlight his experiences in Ethiopia, which he described as daunting and complex. In the middle of the media's narrowly-focused interest on Pitt's interactions with Jolie, he could have addressed the issues head-on, rather than diverting to a different subject.

*'Pitt, more than anyone, should know that his profession is entertainment.'*

Some may argue that Pitt is genuinely interested in aiding other people and using his status to enact positive change in the world.

During a June 12 interview with ABC's "This Week" broadcast program, Pitt discussed his cause. Pitt said the AIDS crisis in Ethiopia is a cause more than an emergency, and though the media hardly mention it, the epidemic is spreading quickly.

In the May 14 issue of Britain's Daily Mirror, however, Pitt said Jolie's humanitarian trips to Africa to visit AIDS victims changed his perspective on life. According to the interview, Pitt said he did not know how he could not change after what he had seen.

By crediting his involvement with AIDS awareness and education to Jolie, Pitt has

done nothing more than imitate her, perhaps in hopes of finding common interests through which the two can spend more time together.

The tough question is whether Pitt is doing humanitarian work because he truly cares, or if his efforts are a last-ditch attempt to clean up his public image. Pitt is an actor so he and his lifestyle are available for close examination by tabloid publications — keeping this in mind makes Pitt's sudden humanitarian interests clairvoyant.

In essence, Pitt has not really accomplished anything except providing Americans with a distraction from his questionable lifestyles. People do not seem to care about the issue of AIDS any more than before. In fact, Americans still seem to care more about staying up to date on the intricacies of Brad Pitt's life, than the well-being of a third world country.

## Gitmo: Detention center only fuels growing Anti-American sentiments around the world

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

to those of the world's most nefarious regimes, rather than a country that endorses human rights. After all, eliminating ruthless Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein was part of the U.S. rationale for war in Iraq.

The U.S. military has been able to avoid being subject to the Geneva Conventions, citing a statute that excludes opposing forces not wearing uniforms clearly identifying them as an official military from the stipulations of the conventions.

Guantanamo Bay, has also become a recruiting tool for Islamic fundamentalists internationally. Abu Ghraib made headlines last year when the Washington Post published photographs of American soldiers torturing Iraqi prisoners, which caused an international uproar.

Television networks, such as Al-Jazeera and other Arab media outlets, have placed emphasis on Guantanamo Bay and the Abu Ghraib prison scandal. This type of media

coverage inspires in potential terrorists an increased hatred toward the United States among a growing population that already sees the U.S. as an imperialistic nation meddling in Middle Eastern politics for its own strategic, economic and political gains.

U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez, who is responsible for the interpretation and application of the Geneva Conventions and U.S. military law, must consider not only the fundamental importance of respect for human dignity, but also the strategic advantage doing so would provide the United States from those who use abuses at Guantanamo Bay as justification for abhorrent actions.

By allowing suspected terrorists the protections of the Geneva Conventions, Gonzalez would send a message that the United States respects all human beings to the international community, and also quiet the critics who use bad press to fuel violence against the United States.

Those who support the detention center

argue that the United States treats imprisoned suspected terrorists with ample respect in comparison to prisons around the world, such as those in Syria, Egypt and Iraq. These places were referred to by Durbin in his June 14 floor speech to the Senate.

"The United States, which each year issues a human rights report, holding the world accountable for outrageous conduct, is engaged in the same outrageous conduct when it comes to these prisoners," he said.

This, however, is a fundamentally flawed argument. Democracies should not justify bad behavior with worse behavior. Believing that the U.S. military's treatment of prisoners is proper because it does not possess rape rooms is absurd. Those in charge at the detention center merely physically and mentally torture detainees.

This problem is an easy fix — charge and prosecute Guantanamo Bay criminals, then the U.S. will not have to keep the prison open. The prisoners who are actually guilty will serve as any other maximum-security prison-

er would in a U.S. detention center. Logically, it would be impossible for a successful prison break to happen. Prisoners at Gitmo who are found innocent of participating in terrorist activities would hypothetically return to their countries of origin in this situation.

The argument for shutting down Gitmo is two-dimensional. First, if the United States feels compelled to lecture the rest of the world about democratic ideals, then it must exemplify and carry out those same principles. Secondly, the United States has a major image problem throughout the world right now, specifically in the Middle East, which inspires new terrorists every time the media reports on the continuing abuse at Guantanamo Bay.

Closing the Guantanamo Bay prison would strip those people hostile toward the United States of a significant amount of the fodder they use to recruit and carry out terrorist actions against this country every day the Guantanamo Bay detention center remains open.

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# Fireworks: Celebrators purchase variety of fireworks on reservations, use restrictions apply

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of Commerce and Industry will exhibit a fireworks show over Bellingham Bay commencing at dusk July 4.

While the Bellingham Bay show is the only official public fireworks display in Bellingham, Flannelly said the city of Blaine will also sponsor a fireworks show beginning at 10:15 p.m. July 4 at Blaine Harbor.

Under Washington's municipal code, fireworks, including mortar-type, missile-type, firecrackers, salutes, chasers and sky rockets are illegal and highly dangerous, said Ron Richard, Bellingham Fire Department fire inspector.

The Washington State Fire Marshal, Samuel Pierre, conducted a statewide study with fire departments and hospitals this year and found that 1,110 fireworks-related injuries occurred in 2004. These injuries include second-degree and third-degree burns, and traumatic eye, finger and hand injuries, Flannelly said.

"The number of fire incidents in Washington fluctuates, determined by Mother Nature," Flannelly said. "If the damp weather pattern holds out, we won't have very many this year."

Fireworks caused two house fires in Whatcom County during June, Flannelly said.

The fire that caused greater damages occurred June 19 at 1500 block of Burk Road in a barn on an active dairy farm, where four 13-year-old boys lit illegal fireworks and set fire to the establishment, Whatcom County Fire Marshal Warner Webb said.

He said the other incident occurred June 12 at 3400 block of Emma Road, where children allegedly caught a house's roof on fire while playing with bottle rockets. Webb said the incident is under investigation. The two fires resulted in \$200,000 in collective damages, Flannelly said.

Consumers can choose from a larger selection of fireworks than is available in Washington on American Indian reservations, Lintz said. A separate set of laws governs the reservations, including Lummi Nation and Nooksack Nation.

Buyers, however, should take heed of Washington laws, which legally require customers to use all fireworks within the reservation jurisdiction where they purchased

the fireworks, he said.

"We respect the right of the Lummi Nation and Nooksack Nation to sell whatever fireworks they wish inside their borders," Flannelly said. "However, Washington state law requires that those fireworks must remain inside their jurisdiction."

Everyone planning to enjoy July 4 with fireworks can abide by three precautionary recommendations to reduce the risk of injury from improper or poor use of fireworks, Flannelly said.

To ensure the fireworks are safe, people should only handle legal fireworks. Fireworks are legal for use in Bellingham if purchased within the city's limits, Flannelly said.

"If the fireworks are purchased within

the county and city limits, they are legal," Flannelly said. "Those establishments are licensed and are not going to sell you illegal fireworks like openers, such as sky rockets or bottle rockets, which travel a significant distance in the air and then explode — very

dangerous. People can create house fires this way."

Fireworks users should select an area where the ground is saturated with rain or water for fireworks use and shoot them away from houses, cars and people to ensure that the fireworks' sparks do not ignite dry surroundings and spread fire, he said.

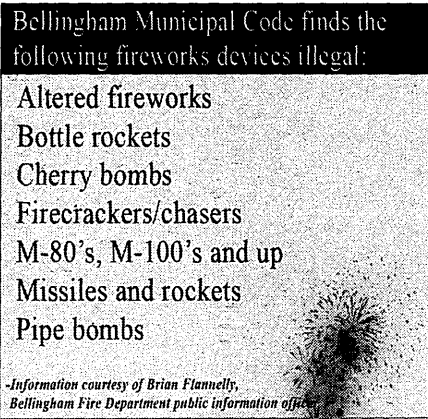
"Fireworks such as fountain fireworks that create a small shower of sparkly and colorful sparks are the safest kind of fireworks available," Flannelly said.

Lastly, he said adults and parents must rigorously supervise all children who use or are in the presence of fireworks.

"Fireworks are very enticing and make children want to go over and touch them," Flannelly said. "Burns on a child is something you definitely do not want to see or hear."

Fireworks burn to temperatures up to 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit, even with the most basic of fireworks such as sparklers, Flannelly said. If a child touched the firework, he or she would suffer from, at the minimum, second-degree burns with blisters and even third-degree burns with skin charring, he said.

"Our best recommendation to stay safe is not to use fireworks and instead go down to Bellingham Bay and watch the fireworks there," Flannelly said.



# Sculptures: Five new artists' work to adorn campus

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

When the gifts will arrive at Western's campus is at the Wright's discretion, Clark-Langager said.

The Wrights are currently enjoying the sculptures in their private collection at their Seattle home, which they are planning to move out of in two years, Wright said. At that time, the Wrights will send the sculptures to Western's campus.

The gift will add five new artists to Western's collection: Scott Burton, Jenny Holzer, Ulrich Rückriem, Joel Shapiro and Meg Webster, Clark-Langager said.

The donations reflect Wright's personal preference for postwar American sculpture. The new artists will compliment the postwar American style of

the existing pieces in Western's collection, Wright said.

"Normanno Column," a new sculpture by artist Beverly Pepper, will be added to Western's collection and is similar to the piece "Normanno Wedge," also by Pepper, located in Haskell Plaza near Arntzen Hall, Clark-Langager said.

"Mindseye," a 53-inch-high steel piece with a moving circular center, will be the second sculpture by di Suvero in Western's collection, Clark-Langager said. She said she and the Facilities Management directors are considering placing the new di Suvero work in the lobby of the Performing Arts Center.

Clark-Langager and Rick Benner, Western assistant director of planning, will examine what new buildings the university is constructing and

which ones it is renovating in order to find places for the new sculptures on campus, she said.

Clark-Langager also works with Facilities Management Director Tim Wynn and Assistant Director of Operations Bill Managan to consider the present condition of the campus as well as the size, weight and fragile materials of the new works, she said.

"The placement of the works is very complicated," Clark-Langager said. "The context of the piece is very important in determining where it will fit in on campus."

The only other sculpture donation from the Virginia Wright Fund to a Washington university is Barnett Newman's "Obelisk," which the Wrights donated to the University of Washington, Clark-Langager said.

# Waterfront: Committee evaluates proposals for development of property

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

remodeling process of the waterfront and offered her the idea of expansion.

The port put more pressure on Western last fall to make a decision about whether the school would use the land by encouraging the university to accept submission proposals for ideas, Frazier said.

The extra space is not necessary for Western now, but it provides the university with an opportunity to expand in the future, Schoenfeld said.

When reviewing the submissions, the committee is looking for proposals that will complement the main campus by incorporating outdoor sculptures and grassy areas into the plan for the space, she said.

"We want something more than a brick building with our name on it," Schoenfeld said.

The committee will also need to devise a plan for transportation, most likely a shuttle bus, to guarantee students have the ability to easily access both campuses, she said.

Transportation to the area is not yet an issue, however, because the expansion is still in early stages of development. After the committee makes a decision for the use of the space, it can solve the transportation problem, Schoenfeld said.

Frazier said he predicted the committee will finish reviewing the proposals by this fall, and will decide which ideas to eliminate and which to consider pursuing. The committee will dismiss some proposals due to impracticality and the possibility of high cost, he said.

"The process has begun to face reality and we'll see which (proposals) work best and which ones don't," Frazier said.

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