



Indian street loses parking

Five blocks to receive bike lane and lighting

BY PETER JENSEN
The Western Front

Parking near campus has become tougher after the city of Bellingham removed more than 100 parking spaces along the west side of Indian Street to make space for a bicycle lane.

The bicycle lane will span a five-block stretch north of campus and is designated for bike traffic going toward campus, Western Alternative Transportation Coordinator Carol Berry said. The city also will install additional lighting along the lane.

"I am very pleased with this project," Berry said. "With bike lanes, more people are more likely to bike, which will ease traffic and parking congestion at Western."

Constructing the lane will take until the end of June and will cost the city approximately \$5,000, said Dan Remsen, a member of the Bellingham city Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

While bikers have welcomed the idea of a bicycle lane, Remsen said residents and students who are losing parking spaces have not shared the enthusiasm.

"It's really frustrating," Indian Street resident Chloe Akers, 22, said. "There are not a lot of parking spots to begin with and now they're taking what little we have."

Although construction has yet to begin, the west side of Indian Street has been a tow-away zone for two weeks, Akers said. Signs are posted along the west side of Indian Street to notify residents that parking there is illegal, but students who are unhappy with the new restrictions have torn them down, she said.

Cars parked in the tow-away zone receive a \$10 dollar ticket, and owners are told to move their cars or risk being towed. The tow-away zone ends when the project is slated to be finished June 24, according to signs. Akers said she does not expect to park in front of her apartment in the future.

see PARKING, page 5



CHRIS HUBER/The Western Front

A biker pedals up Indian Street on his way to Western's campus Wednesday. The north side of Indian Street is blocked off to make way for a new bike lane starting at the corner of High and Indian Streets.

Baker gets fresh spring snow base

BY KELSEY DOSEN
The Western Front

The Mt. Baker ski and snowboard area has re-opened due to last week's increase in snowfall.

This season has been less successful than usual for Baker; a lack of snow caused the mountain to close during the weekdays starting March 14, said Gwyn Howat, spokeswoman for Mt. Baker Ski Area.

After 10 days of weekend-only operation, the mountain was able to open again with its normal winter schedule this past Thursday, March 24.

This is not the first time Baker has had to close early, but Howat said this closing is one of few.

"In 1976, our operations were affected because of too little snow," Howat said. "It is pretty unusual, but heavy snows in March are not. We've been looking forward to that."

Baker received 30 inches of snow and a continuous amount of snowfall last week, including a total of 28 inches on Sunday and Monday. The forecast calls for continuing snow throughout the week. Howat said Mount Baker could reach a 100-inch snow base by Sunday.

Howat said the change in weather is because the jet stream — relatively strong winds focused in a narrow stream in the atmosphere — shifted to the Northwest. This resulted in a more normal weather pattern, causing the snowfall.

The mountain re-opened near the end of Western's spring break, allowing some students to spend their remaining days of vacation on the mountain.

see BAKER, page 6

Senate bill helps schools restrict credit advertising

BY MEGAN MULDER
The Western Front

Washington state could soon have a law limiting the presence of credit companies on public university campuses.

Senate Bill 5506 would require higher education schools to restrict credit companies' access to students with each school's own policy, and would make credit companies forewarn campuses about their visits, limit the "freebies" used to entice students to sign up for credit cards and enforce education about credit cards. The bill is at the Washington state House of Representatives now with a vote scheduled for April 1.

With education about the intricacies of credit cards as the

bill's main focus, Washington state Rep. Maralyn Chase said she hopes students will realize how easily credit cards can lead to debt.

Chase said she introduced a companion bill of Senate Bill 5506 to the House of Representatives based on her belief that college students need to be educated about credit cards, and more importantly, credit card debt.

"If you add up the amount of money students borrowed in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s, it equals out to what students borrowed in the 1990s," Chase said. "College students triple the amount of credit cards they carry in their wallet from their freshman year to their senior year."

see CREDIT, page 5

City council resuscitates medic one

BY ADAM BROWN AND
SEAN MCGROREY
The Western Front

One of Whatcom county's Medic One ambulance units will continue running after the Bellingham City Council's unanimous vote.

The council decided March 21 that the Medic 3 unit, one of the county's two Medic One units, will continue running through the end of June.

Whatcom County and the city of Bellingham have funded Medic One for 30 years, but the program may face termination in 2006 if the city does not approve an extension agreement or funding is not found.

Currently, two Medic One units serve Whatcom County, and an additional two units serve Bellingham. One unit also is available in case of emergency.



SEAN MCGROREY/The Western Front

Fire and EMS dispatcher Cindy Sluys prepares to receive emergency calls at Bellingham Fire Station One Thursday.

"In Whatcom county the cost of an advance life support ambulance is roughly \$1.1 million per year, which includes all operating costs," said Roger Christensen, Bellingham Fire Department

see MEDIC, page 6



ON THE RISE

Bellingham hardcore bands take the stage.

ACCENT, PAGE 8

WOMEN IN RAP

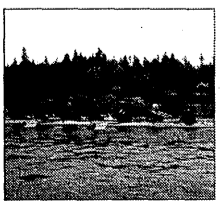
Consumers need to evaluate the effects of misogynistic ideals in the hip-hop industry.

OPINIONS, PAGE 14

CREW PREVIEW

The Western women's and men's rowing teams hope to paddle their way to glory.

SPORTS, PAGE 10



COPS BOX

University Police

March 29, 5:23 a.m.: UP responded to a report of a fiber-optic alarm triggered in Miller Hall.

March 29, 2:43 a.m.: UP checked on a male student in Ridgeway Beta who was reported as having a seizure. An officer found the student had fainted after standing too fast and was not having a seizure.

March 28, 11:42 p.m.: UP collected marijuana allegedly confiscated from Ridgeway Kappa.

March 28, 8:43 p.m.: UP fixed a circuit breaker at the Fairhaven Residence Hall.

Bellingham Police

March 30, 12:44 p.m.: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle circling a school on the 2300 block of Mill Avenue.

March 30, 8:36 a.m.: Officers responded to a report of suspicious circumstances and possible explosives on the 1400 block of Woburn Street.

March 30, 12:24 a.m.: Officers responded to a report of a stolen car on the 1200 block of Railroad Avenue. Police recovered the vehicle.

March 29, 11:21 p.m.: Officers responded to a report of domestic violence, without assault, on the 1700 block of East Maple Street.

March 29, 10:54 p.m.: Officers arrested and cited a 41-year-old woman on suspicion of assault in the fourth degree on the 2000 block of Harris Avenue.

Compiled by Stefani Harrey

Viking Voices

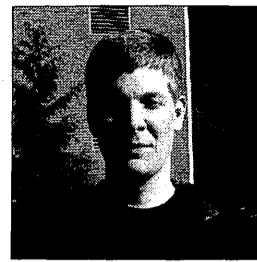
Are you planning to go to Mount Baker now that it's open?

Compiled by Dawn Chesbro



Caitlin Sullivan
Freshman, psychology

No, I just don't have the money, and none of my equipment is up here.



Jeremy Fuller
Graduate, business

Nope, I don't like cold places since it makes my joints ache. I'd rather be in the lodge drinking liquor by the fire.



Courtney Glover
Senior, business

I don't ski or snowboard, so it doesn't make a difference to me. All of my friends will be happy, though.

AP Wire

news briefs

STATE NEWS

Three Whatcom County men convicted of beating gay man

Three Whatcom County men accused of stabbing and beating a gay man have been convicted Wednesday of a hate crime in Seattle.

The King County Superior Court jury convicted the main attacker, 21-year-old Vadim Samusenko, of second-degree assault and two accomplices, 20-year-old David Kravchenko and 18-year-old Yevgeniy Savchak, of fourth-degree assault.

Prosecutors refer to Kent shooting as revenge

A man described by King County prosecutors as a Portland gang member is accused of killing a rival gang member in Kent.

Nicholas Everett Adams, 23, was charged Tuesday with

second-degree murder in the Feb. 4 shooting of 24-year-old Charles Edward McCleoud, Jr.

McCleoud was suspected on suspicion of a drive-by shooting of members of Adams' gang in Portland.

Prosecutors said McCleoud had been soliciting prostitutes along Pacific Highway and was last seen leaving a motel with Adams.

NATIONAL NEWS

Psychologist provides support for Michael Jackson's accuser

Psychologist Stan Katz is providing possible support for the claims of Michael Jackson's accuser.

Katz, who reported molestation claims against Jackson, testified Wednesday at his trial. Katz was not allowed to testify about the credibility of Jackson's accuser or whether Katz believes molestation occurred.

But he did say children older than five rarely fabricate claims of molestation.

Federal court criticizes Bush and Congress in Schiavo case

Terri Schiavo, the severely brain-damaged woman who spent 15 years connected to a feeding tube in an epic legal and medical battle that went all the way to the White House and Congress, died Thursday, 13 days after the tube was removed. She was 41.

Schiavo died at 9:05 a.m. at the Pinellas Park hospice, where she lay for years while her husband and parents fought over her in what was easily the longest, most bitter, and most heavily litigated right-to-die dispute in U.S. history.

Schiavo suffered severe brain damage in 1990 after her heart stopped because of a chemical imbalance that was believed to have been brought on by an eating

disorder.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Two U.S. ships sent to earthquake-stricken region

The Pentagon said two U.S. Navy ships are heading to Indonesia to help after an earthquake occurred on Monday.

A U.S. military spokesman said a hospital ship and a supply ship should arrive next Tuesday at Nias Island, the area hit hardest by the magnitude 8.7 quake.

The two ships helped in the relief effort after December's devastating tsunami, and they have been on a humanitarian mission to East Timor.

Indonesian officials estimate 1,000 people or more died in the quake.

Compiled by Megan Deck
AP Wire courtesy KUGS 89.3-FM

The Western Front Online



Dogs are better than cats; The Western Front Online is better than both.

www.westernfrontonline.com

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 – PLEASE POST

Deadline for announcements in this space is noon Friday for the Tuesday edition and noon Wednesday for the Friday edition, except when otherwise noted. Announcements should be limited to 50 words and be typewritten or legibly printed. Announcements may be sent to FAST@wwu.edu — in the subject line include a one-word topic and clearly note that the item is for Official Announcements. Items also may be sent to "Official Announcements," MS-9117, faxed to X/4343, or brought to Commissary 111. DO NOT SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS DIRECTLY TO THE WESTERN FRONT. Phoned announcements will not be accepted.

MATH PLACEMENT TEST. The Math Placement Test will be given in OM 120 at 3 p.m.

STUDY ABROAD WITH LEXIA INTERNATIONAL AND VERNON JOHNSON in Cape Town, South Africa this summer. Johnson will teach the course "South Africa in a Global Perspective." For more information, contact International Programs and Exchanges, ipe@wwu.edu, X/3298.

STUDY ABROAD IN OVIEDO, SPAIN with AHA International and James Loucky next fall. Loucky will teach the course "Migration in a Global Age: The Changing Face of Spain and Europe." A minimum one year of college level Spanish language experience is required. Contact International Programs and Exchanges at ipe@wwu.edu, X/3298.

THE ACADEMIC ADVISING CENTER IS CURRENTLY HIRING ACADEMIC STUDENT ADVISORS. Applications are available online at www.acadweb.wwu.edu/advising/Default.htm or can be picked up in the Academic Advising Center in Old Main 380. Applications are due by 5 p.m. Friday, April 15.

BIOLOGY SEMINAR. Merril Peterson (biology), "Hybridization, Natural Selection, and the Evolution of Reproductive Barriers." 4 p.m. April 6, BI 212. Refreshments at 3:50 p.m.

WEST-B TEST. Applicants for admission to state-approved educator preparation programs and those from other states applying for a Washington residency teaching certificate must have a minimum passing score on the basic skills assessment test. Residency teaching certificate applicants who have completed an educator preparation program outside Washington and have not passed WEST-B may be granted additional time. See www.west.nesinc.com to register. Test dates: May 14, July 9.

THE COMPUTER-BASED MILLER ANALOGIES TEST (MAT) is available by appointment only. Make an appointment in person in OM 120 or by calling X/3080. A \$42 fee is payable at test time. Test takes approximately 1½ hours. Preliminary scores are available immediately; official results are mailed within 15 days.

WEST-E PRAXIS. Washington requires individuals seeking teacher certification and teachers seeking additional endorsements to pass a subject knowledge assessment in the chosen endorsement area beginning Sept. 1. The state has chosen specific Praxis II series tests to meet this requirement. See www.ets.org/praxis/prxwa.html for a description and online registration information. Registration bulletins are also available in MH 216.

REMAINING WEST-E PRAXIS TEST DATES for the academic year are April 16 and June 11 (the June 11 test is not available at Western; see the Praxis Web site for location).

READMISSION PROCEDURE. The Office of Admissions reminds the University community that all students who interrupt studies at Western, other than for summer quarter, must apply for readmission. Students pursuing a first bachelor's degree are generally assured readmission if they have followed the application instructions and apply by the priority deadline (summer, continuing into fall, April 1; fall quarter, April 1. Readmission for post-baccalaureate students is more stringent. Applications are available in OM 200, X/3440.

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS DEADLINE: noon Wednesday for Friday editions; noon Friday for Tuesday editions. Limit announcements to 50 words or less and send to FAST@wwu.edu with a one- or two-word topic. State in the subject line the item is for Official Announcements. Announcements also may be faxed to X/4343, sent to MS-9117, or brought to CM 111. Do not send announcements to the Western Front.

Western students travel to Chicago ethnic studies conference

By LINDSAY HANSIK
The Western Front

While many college vacationers migrated south to popular spring break destinations such as Cancun and Mazatlan, four Western students traveled east to Chicago to attend the National Association of Ethnic Studies Conference and present their papers on American Indian identities.

Western Fairhaven College instructor Dan First Scout Rowe accompanied Western seniors Fritz Dent, Chrystal Doucette, Victoria Nevins and Western sophomore Amber Olsen to the ethnic studies conference from March 24 to 26.

A panel, which Rowe headed, allotted students 12 minutes each to present their papers, Rowe said. "They received good comments and feedback, which is important

because these are established scholars in the field," Rowe said. "For undergraduates to have that kind of attention to their research and to give them those comments is a real advantage."

Dent presented his paper, "Native American Cultural Identity: Apprenticeship Programs," which he said drew from his work and experiences with the Washington State Arts Commission.

With the Washington State Arts Commission, Dent said he was able to work with and photograph a number of Native Americans during their apprenticeships to western Washington artists.

The students presented their work, and the panel provided helpful feedback and enthusiasm, Dent said.

"You're sitting at a table with a glass of water with all these Ph.D.s in front of you, and that was pretty intimidating," Dent said.

Olsen presented her paper, "Eliminating Indian Mascots and Team Names from High School Campuses," which she said examined the simplistic and exaggerated use of Native American imagery in youth organizations, such as sports' team names and mascots. The use of these images impacts how people

perceive Native Americans, Olsen said.

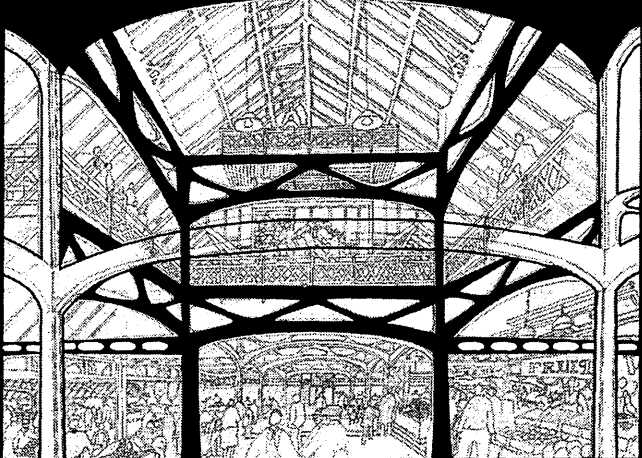
"It was a really great experience to be an undergraduate and go to a conference like that," Olsen said. "Overall, we were extremely pleased."

The association that held the conference is a group of teachers and directors from national and international ethnic studies programs.

Ethnic studies are under siege in the current political climate, and they must be pursued and defended, Dent said.

"Everybody is ethnic, even white Republicans," Dent said.

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Officials, participants rally for 'The Human Race'

BY STEFANI HARREY
The Western Front

Even though Whatcom Volunteer Center's fundraising event, The Human Race, will not take place until June 11, the volunteers and participants are preparing now.

Wednesday marked the kick-off of the fundraising efforts for the 5K run/walk and the 10K run. Approximately 150 team captains, sponsors and participants gathered at the Bellingham cruise terminal for the annual rally.

"We have the kick-off event every year to give people a chance to get excited about The Human Race," said Sue Ellen Heflin, Whatcom Volunteer Center executive director.

The Human Race is intended to raise money for local nonprofit organizations, including the Whatcom Volunteer Center which hosts the event, Heflin said. The volunteer center uses 25 percent of the money raised for coordinating the event and supporting other agencies with volunteers. The other 75 percent of the donations goes to the nonprofit organizations' individual participants pick, said Christy Bell, the volunteer center program director and member of the race organization committee. Bell said that as long as an organization has nonprofit status with the government, it qualifies for The Human Race fundraiser.

The annual event featured speeches from captains and participants, helping to bring ideas for team building and successful fundraising campaign information to new and returning joggers.

Whatcom County Executive Pete Kremen also spoke at the kick-off celebration this year, although he said he felt naked without the mayor, who usually attends the kick-

off with him. Kremen offered motivational words to participants and introduced each speaker. During his speech at the event, Kremen urged people, young and old alike, to participate in The Human Race.

Heflin said the information kick-off was open to the public and allowed teams to sign up for the race as well as get fundraising packets and network with others who will be participating this year. She said the volunteer center hopes to raise \$100,000 this year.

Bell said the Human Race raised \$74,000 for 91 agencies this past year.

This year joggers will travel along a new route, Bell said. The organizers had to modify the old route because of traffic problems, and this year the participants will travel down Roeder Avenue past the marina, she said.

This past year The Human Race had nearly 600 participants, and Bell said they hope to have more this year.

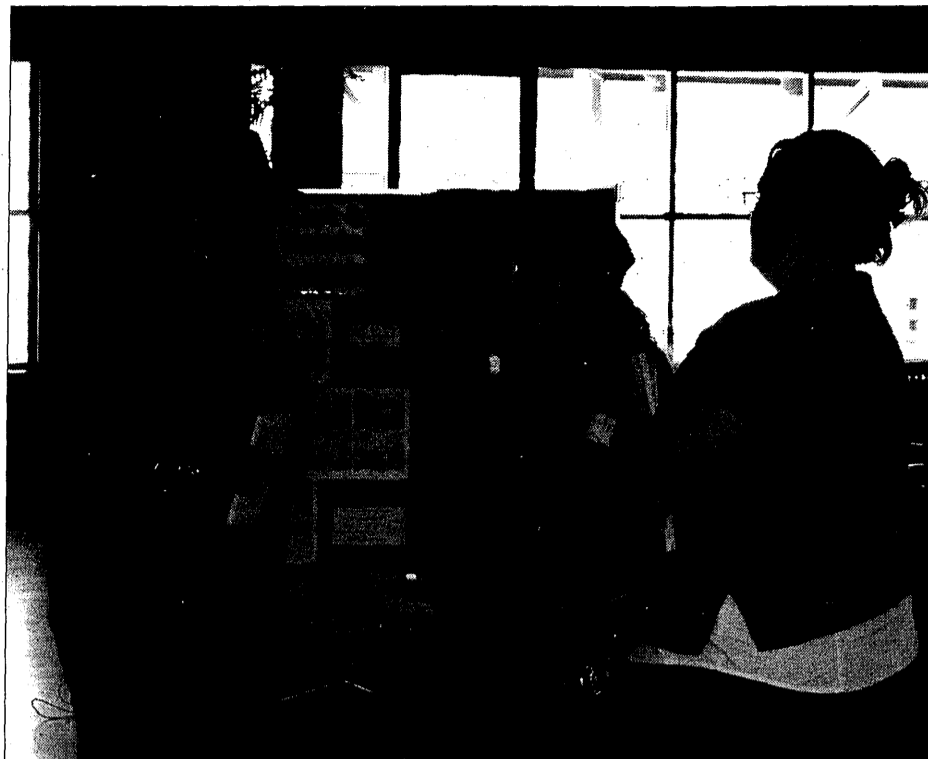
"We have room to grow," Bell said. "We want more people to participate."

Alexandra Wiley, a team captain from the North Coast Credit Union, a group that raises money for the fundraiser each year, said she has participated in The Human Race for four years now. Three of those years were as a captain of the joint team from the credit union and Costco.

"It's been wonderful," Wiley said. "The weather has been perfect every year I've done the race."

Wiley said The Human Race is a respectable cause because it brings members of the community together. She said the race is a way to meet people from different organizations while supporting nonprofit groups and to see fellow employees in an arena other than at work.

"The Human Race is an efficient way



STEFANI HARREY/The Western Front

Whatcom Volunteer Center Executive Director Sue Ellen Heflin, left, talks with race organizer Christy Bell, middle, at the informational kick-off for The Human Race Wednesday.

to deliver time and talent back into the community," Wiley said.

Wiley said she attended the kick-off event and spoke to the crowd about how to create a team and how the credit union teamed with Costco.

Terry Belcoe, the chief executive officer of North Coast Credit Union, attended the kick-off with Wiley and said the credit union and Costco have similar philosophies on giving back to the communities they are in, so naturally they came together to create a joint team.

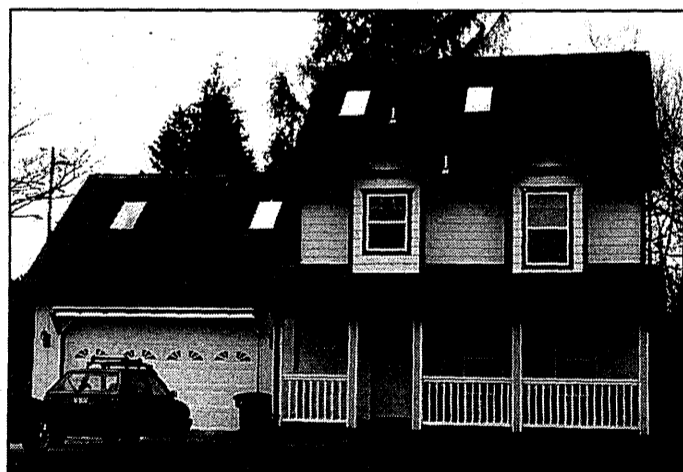
"It's a great way to connect yourself to the rest of the community and help meet other people who care about the same things," Wiley said.

Wiley said that last year the race was the same day as many high school graduations in the area, so her team attendance was down from past years. This year only Western will be graduating that day, and she said she wants to have at least 50 participants on her team.

see RACE, page 7

HOUSES FOR RENT

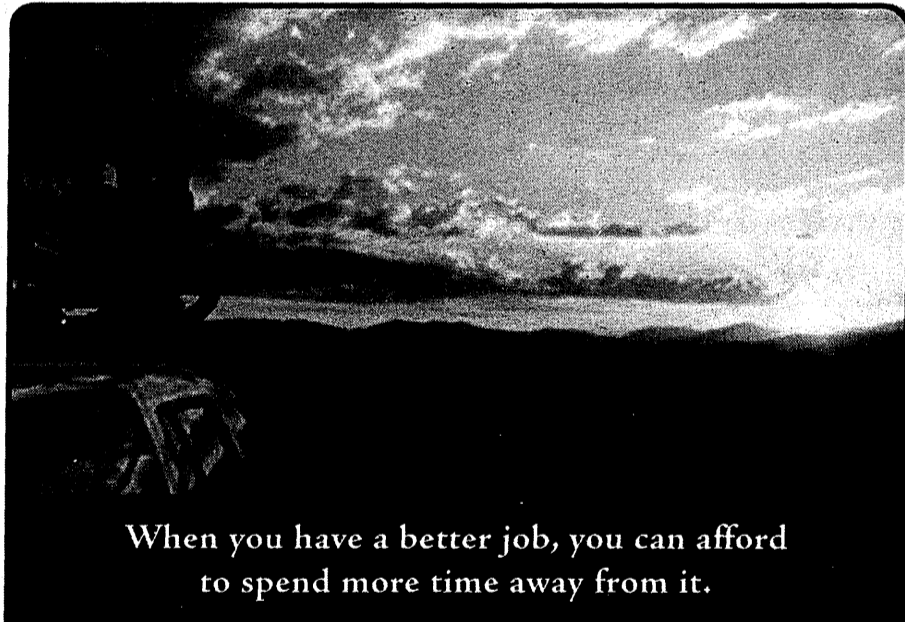
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Get there.

Police charge Canadian woman for alleged fake flu shots

By ADRIANA DUNN
The Western Front

Whatcom County Prosecutor Dave McEachran filed charges against a Canadian woman who allegedly injected more than 130 people with what the prosecutor called a "purported flu shot." She is currently in Canada, and Lynden Police are negotiating her arrest.

Nancy Jean Olson of British Columbia was charged March 22 with one misdemeanor and six felony counts for the unlicensed practice of medicine, McEachran said. At the time, Olson commuted daily to work at the Alderwood Park Convalescent Center in Bellingham, and her co-worker identified her picture on the news, Detective Lee Beld of the Lynden Police Department said.

Olson could not be reached for comment. Investigators from the Lynden Police are still unsure exactly what Olson allegedly injected the customers of her flu clinics

with. They only know the injection was not a flu shot, McEachran said. The customers paid \$30 cash per shot, he said.

"All I would say at this point is we are in negotiation," Beld said. "We have had indirect contact with her."

The Food and Drug Administration said the injections could have been a saline solution, but it is not sure, Beld said. The FDA, however, does know the injections were not Fluzone, a flu vaccine manufactured by Aventis Pasteur. Olson claimed she had purchased the vaccine from this manufacturer, Beld said.

Beld said the Lynden Police Department knew Olson was living in Canada, but she was not arrested at the beginning of the investigation for medical and investigative reasons. He declined to comment further on

the reasons.

Olson had a half-vial of Aventis Pasteur Fluzone, enough for approximately three injections, at her residence. She had a family member turn the vial in to investigators, Beld said. Olson said the vial was all the

vaccine she had left from what she originally purchased. The FDA laboratory in Cincinnati tested the sample and found it to be a valid flu vaccine.

McEachran said the sample may have been different from what Olson administered to customers.

McEachran said remaining syringes did not contain enough fluid to be tested.

The locations where Olson set up the clinic included the church in Everson where the syringes were obtained, Cost Cutter and Food Pavilion grocery stores in Lynden, Cost Cutter in Blaine and the Silver Reef Casino in Ferndale, Beld said.

The grocery stores took several calls from customers who received the "vaccine" from Olson and the store questioned who administered the shots.

Olson told the stores she was working for Pacific Coast Consultants, Beld said.

"They called up the store manager, and the store manager couldn't produce the Pacific Coast Consultants for which she said she had worked," he said. "People alerted the media, and then the media actually called us. We had no idea at that point."

If convicted, Olson faces a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine, McEachran said.

Janet Davis, community health manager for the Whatcom County Department of Health, said the stores are taking measures to ensure this type of situation does not happen again.

"I would say that from here on out, everyone will be a little more careful," Beld said.

I would say that from here on out, everyone will be a little more careful.

LEE BELD
Lynden Police Department Detective

Credit: House listens to student testimony on credit bill

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Chase said she knew action was necessary when college administrations said they were losing students to high debt, which caused bad grades. Students are usually offered free goods to sign up, but are never taught to read the fine print for the card, Chase said.

Although the bill has passed through the Senate, the House of Representatives has been hearing testimonies from students, lobbyists and credit card companies. Washington state Rep. Dave Quall said he did not have a strong opinion on the bill because credit card companies claim students do pay off their bills.

Quall also said the bill does make sure credit card companies give accurate information and are reputable. With debt being such a big issue in society, Chase said she believes this bill is a step in the right

direction.

Student lobbyists in Olympia said this bill would help protect campuses where the schools' administrations have had trouble with credit card companies, such as Washington State University and the University of Washington. Western already has a policy that states no credit card companies can solicit on campus.

Jim Schuster, director of Viking Union Facilities, said students brought the policy to the Associated Students and put it into action in 2000. According to Western's policy, no person can sell agreements or arrangements for future goods or services that may or may not be subject to approval from another, non-university party. This includes contractual agreements such as credit cards, Internet service providers and cellular phone service.

Parking: Bike lane will help traffic move smoothly and keep bikers safe

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I don't know how the parking spaces and the bike lane could coexist," Akers said.

Akers now has to park behind her apartment but is not guaranteed a spot. Still, despite her frustrations, she said she thinks the bicycle lane is a good idea and will make Indian Street safer.

Remsen said he hopes the lane will make biking on Indian Street easier. Traffic will also move quicker because cars will no longer be stuck behind bikers slowly moving up the hill to campus, Berry said.

Remsen said the city chose Indian Street for the bicycle lane because of its heavy bike traffic and because it would not lose as many parking spaces as other streets. He said he has proposed a residential parking zone on Indian Street to fix the parking woes of residents to the city. But students will just have to find other places to park, he said.

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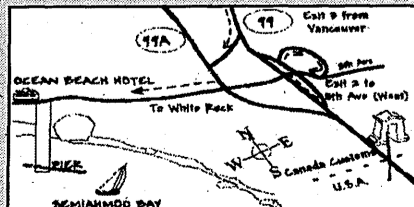
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Baker: New conditions allow Baker to add 'Bonus Monday' to spring schedule



PHOTO COURTESY OF MT. BAKER SKI AREA

Mount Baker Patrol director Chris Olson surveys the lift while wading up to his waist in new snow last weekend at Mt. Baker Ski Area.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Mount Baker employee Nick Mendenhall was laid off from his position as ski-lift operator in mid-March but was allowed to keep his employee pass. He said his employer told him that when they did re-open they would call him, triggering optimism about the re-opening. He said he has been to Baker once since it re-opened and was pleased with the large amount of people.

Western freshman Eric Wells said he was disappointed when the mountain closed because he had purchased a season pass. Previously, he worked at other locations and was able to snowboard for free, Wells said.

After moving to Bellingham, Wells said he bought a pass and used it at least 15 times before the mountain closed. Now that he is able to go snowboarding again, Wells said he plans to go twice a week. He said he is unsure about whether or not he will buy a pass next year.

"We just have to hope for a better season next year," he said.

Howat said Mount Baker will stay open seven days a week until April 11 when it begins its spring schedule. During spring operation, the mountain is open Friday through Sunday, and this year Baker has added an additional "Bonus Monday" for the month of April, for as long as conditions allow, he said.

Medic: Demand for emergency services increasing but decreasing funding is a challenge for city council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Medical Services Officer.

Medic one, operated by the Bellingham Fire department, has provided the county with emergency medical transport for 30 years. In 2004, while operating on a \$5.7 million budget, Medic One responded to more than 11,000 calls, said Capt. Daniel Ohms, who helps oversee the program.

Whatcom County Deputy Administrator Dewey Desler said he is trying to save the Medic One program from termination in 2006.

"Nobody has a desire to watch a very important service get washed away," Desler said. "But we need relief from the program's growing costs and falling revenues."

He said the demand for emergency services increases 6 percent each year in Whatcom County, but the current program would incur \$11 million of debt throughout the next six years.

Desler said the growing debt stems from the fact that 65 percent of Medic One benefactors are senior citizens on Medicare and Medicaid.

"We are trying to shift the cost of the service to those who need it," he said. "Our community is growing and aging rapidly. If we left the system as is, we would have to raise millions to respond to future call loads."

Desler is collaborating with an emergency medical services (EMS) working group and both city and county councils to solidify a new program before the 2006 deadline.

Under the EMS group's proposed plan, Medic One Advanced Paramedic units would handle two-thirds of calls, specifically those requiring the specialized skills of administering drugs and

field electrocardiograms, or EKGs. The EKGs are used to measure the electrical activity of the heart muscle. Local fire districts would handle remaining calls with Basic Life Support units.

Christensen said the proposed system would require 911 operators to ask questions of callers in order to assess the level of service to send in each individual case. The available levels are Basic Life Support, Intermediate Life Support and Advance Paramedic Staff.

Basic life support includes procedures such as CPR and defibrillation and can be performed by EMTs. Advanced life support, performed by paramedics, includes administering intravenous drugs such as adrenaline. Advanced life support 2, also performed by paramedics, includes invasive procedure, such as installing a breathing tube through a surgical opening in the throat, said Fern Shaffer, Medic One's accounts payable manager.

Christensen said firefighter EMTs are usually the first to respond to an emergency in Bellingham.

Christensen voiced his concern that local voters rejected both a 2003 county wide levy and a 2004 citywide levy that would have funded Medic One.

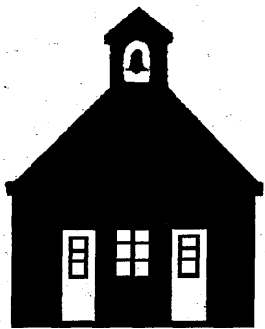
Desler said he is optimistic that the new proposal will contain ideas that will require less than half the cost of previous levies.

Desler said the EMS working group has the foundation for a new program in place. He said the city council approved of its approach pending further details. The future of the Medic One program remains uncertain.

Both Christensen and Desler said they remain hopeful the program will continue.

'Our community is growing and aging rapidly. If we left the system as is, we would have to raise millions to respond to future call loads.'

DEWEY DESLER
Whatcom County
Deputy Administrator



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Race: City council emphasizes importance of donating to organizations

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

The Human Race is a great way to raise money for organizations that participants are passionate about, said Louise Bjornson, Bellingham City Councilwoman

and a member of the Board of Directors for the volunteer center.

If a person does not choose a specific nonprofit organization, the volunteer center donates the money that person raises to one of 350 partner nonprofit organizations

it works with, Bjornson said.

Last year, 88-year-old Vivian Champion raised the most money—a total of \$2,300 for a nursing scholarship, Heflin said.

Champion also participated in the race and walked the entire route after raising the money, Heflin said.

The volunteer center welcomes people of all ages to take part in the race as well as pets. The

volunteer center gives out awards for the best pet costume, as well as other awards, Bell said. Prizes are awarded on race day, and Bell said participants who raise \$500 or more will be entered in a drawing to win the grand prize—a tent, backpack and gift certificate for an outdoor excursion.

Bell said even if people did not attend the opening event, they can still participate by picking up a

packet at the Whatcom Volunteer Center.

Throughout the kick-off event Heflin and Kremen stressed the importance of building a strong community. They said one way to do that was by participating in The Human Race, either by donating money or by actually walking.

"It helps build an even better community than we already have," Kremen said.

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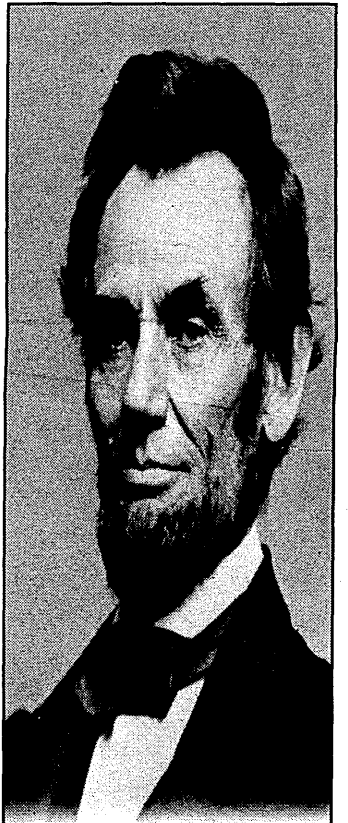
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SAGE FRANCIS: A HEALTHY DISTRUST



Underground hip-hop music is distinctive from the mainstream rap/crunk/yelling or whatever else is played on constant repeat throughout radio frequencies. Sage Francis' recent album, "A Healthy Distrust," takes on a completely dissimilar taste from what most people's palates are used to.

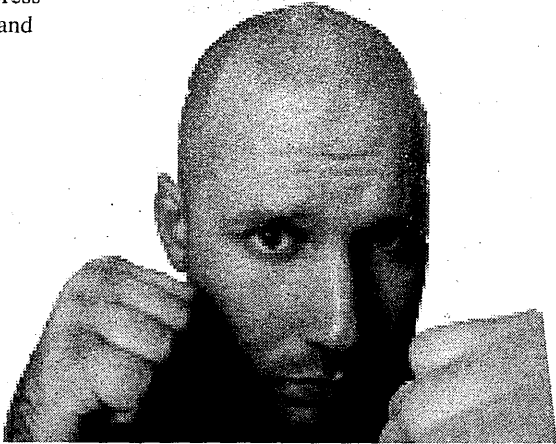
In "A Healthy Distrust," Francis brings current issues, such as politics and rap violence, to life in his own atypical way. The beats can be classified as alternative rap and don't contain traditional hooks meant to grab and captivate the listener. Instead, Francis' lyrics are metaphorical and provoke insight that can't be captured in a single catchy phrase like traditional rap songs.

Francis starts his album with "The Buzz Killer," which has a certain rock element that complements his quick-witted and fast-paced rapping. Francis intentionally begins his album with provocative lyrics directed toward the American public and the Bush administration's policies, claiming "The USA has cracked." The song forces the listener to contemplate current situations in the United States.

In Francis' song "Slow Down Gandhi," he again displays his intellect, capturing aspects of American life and transforming them into complex metaphors. Francis describes the American government as a "Republicat/Democran/one-party system," showing that politicians will be politicians, no matter what party they belong to. Francis also rhymes about the expansion of various industries, saying "Institution/Making you think you're crazy is a billion-dollar industry/If they could sell sanity in a bottle/They'd be charging for compressed air/And marketing health care."

"A Healthy Distrust" is an album that requires multiple attempts at listening in order to grasp all of Francis' poetic exclamations. But after the initial trial run, Francis' creative pictorials of his everyday life will continue to impress listeners again and again.

— Lincoln Smith



Rockin' out for sobriety:



Women gather at Mount Baker Theatre to perform for a cause

By MEGAN SWARTZ
The Western Front

Girls struggling with substance abuse now have another way out — through music. Sea Mar Visions, a level-two residential substance abuse program for teenage girls, is known for its successful, alternative approaches to tackling substance abuse through art and music. The Bellingham-based organization will host a benefit concert Sunday called "Girls Need Guitars."

According to the Bellingham Benefits Web site, the program has helped approximately 80 14- to-17-year-old girls per year since 1999, and it is the only level-two residential substance abuse program for teenage girls in Washington state. For most of the girls, the time they spend living at Sea Mar Visions is the most peaceful and sober time of their lives, according to the Web site.

Visions volunteer Cathy Mason said she generated the idea of "Girls Need Guitars" after working with a girl who participated in the program who used a guitar as her outlet from her troubled life. Mason, as well as other girls in the program, became inspired to learn guitar and use it to express herself.

"The concept of this show is to inspire these girls by having women musicians who have broken musical barriers perform and then raise money to provide these girls with the instruments they need to

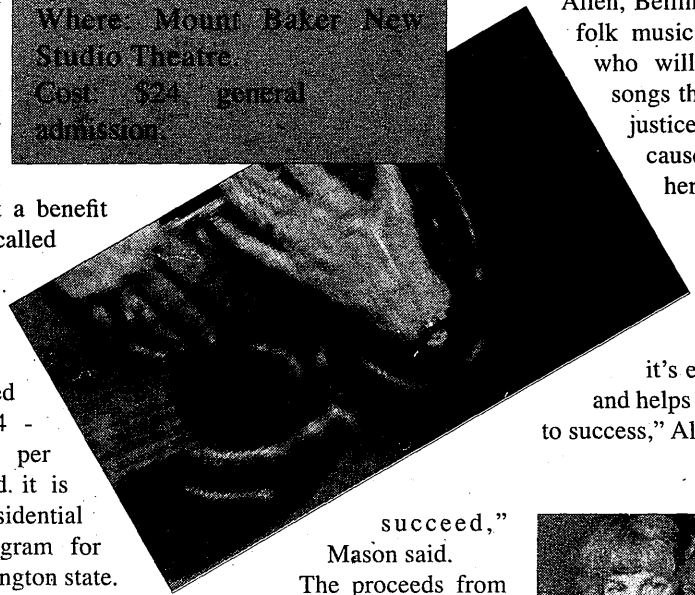
support have made this program a success."

The show will be an all-female, multi-genre guitar performance that will mix rock 'n' roll, blues, jazz and folk music. The lineup for the show includes Grammy nominee Alice Stuart, The Laura Love Duo, Linda Waterfall, Vadinska, Tricia Sikes and Linda Allen, Bellingham resident and folk music performer. Allen, who will perform original songs that deal with social justice issues, said this cause is important to her.

"Anytime you can give a tool of self-expression and help girls to find their artistic voice, it's extremely powerful and helps to open their doors to success," Allen said.

Performance Details:

When: 7 p.m. Sunday, April 3
Where: Mount Baker New Studio Theatre
Cost: \$24 general admission



"Music is a form of self-expression, so when the words aren't there, these girls can express themselves and help get their emotions out through the music," Visions program director Jeanette Palmer said. "This benefit is important because it involves the community and staff, whose

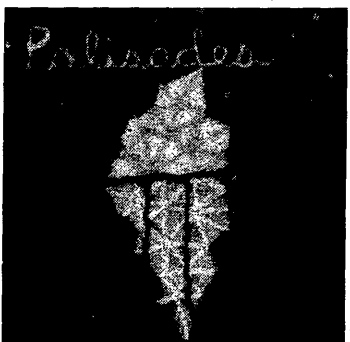
succeed," Mason said. The proceeds from "Girls Need Guitars" will go toward placing guitars and other instruments in the arms of girls in the program who dream of owning and playing one, according to the Bellingham Benefits Web site.

"Music is a form of self-expression, so when the words aren't there, these girls can express themselves and help get their emotions out through the music," Visions program director Jeanette Palmer said. "This benefit is important because it involves the community and staff, whose



Photos courtesy of Linda Allen. Pictured above, will play some of her own songs at the all-female performance on Sunday.

PALISADES: SELF-TITLED



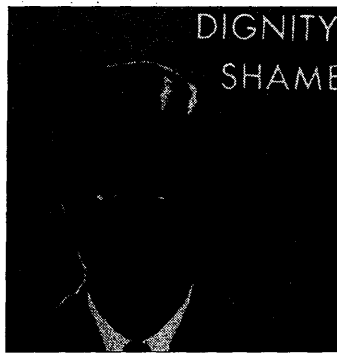
Palisades' self-titled album, released on the Bellingham-based MASA Records, subtly reflects the gloomy weather of western Washington. The indie pop band hails from Olympia but frequently performs along Interstate 5 from Bellingham to Eugene, Ore., and has developed quite a local following. The tone of the record is calming and is the kind of music to kick back, relax and maybe take a nice nap to.

Palisades has a mellow tone similar to that of The Strokes and Coldplay. The songs are pleasantly smooth with catchy beats. Lyrics such as, "It's good to know there's no such thing as love, now you can be myself," are easy to relate to for those who have been disappointed in life and love. The soothing harmonies of vocalists Eli Moore and Josh West are soft and welcoming, and match the comforting rhythm of each song.

— Elisa Sparkman

CROOKED FINGERS:

DIGNITY AND SHAME



Plenty of stand-out albums on the indie rock scene were released this spring, but "Dignity and Shame," the fourth full-length record from the North Carolina band Crooked Fingers, was not one of them. Merge Records released "Dignity and Shame," which showcases the talents of frontman Eric Bachmann and a collection of consistently changing accompanists.

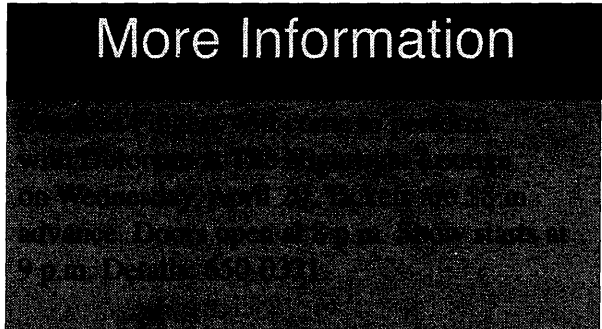
The album has an unusual style that sounds like a Mariachi band, a lovesick poet and a southwestern fiesta rolled into one. An eclectic mix of Spanish guitar, piano ballads and Latin horns, "Dignity and Shame" has strong influences from the bullfighter music in the south of Spain and Eric Bachmann's seemingly irreparable broken heart.

Bachmann himself sounds like a cross between Neil Diamond and Isaac Brock, the lead singer of Modest Mouse. His lovesick crooning bounces through the 12 tracks of the album, straining on slow-moving ballads, such as "You Must Build a Fire," hitting the fast-paced radio-ready "Call to Love," and then jumping to the quirky "Valerie," a song about a peeping Tom finding drunken romance.

More upbeat and positive than some of Crooked Fingers' previous releases, this album was simply good but nowhere near wonderful. Alone in the dark with a cheap bottle of Spanish wine is the best way to appreciate this album.

— Jared Yoakum

Palisades will play with Galatia at Blazer Rock on Sunday, April 3, at the Mount Baker Theatre. Tickets are \$24.



Bellingham has a "new regard" for hardcore:

Hardcore music isn't just for gutter punks anymore. New Regard Media bands prove the Northwest has a hardcore following.

By TOM KLOSER
The Western Front

Whether it's Bloodhag chortling demands to read more science fiction or The Locust juxtaposing the soundtrack to sexually charged limbic pulses against a screeched critique of capitalism, local hardcore music is moving away from savvy Pitchfork Media readers and into the fray of mainstream consciousness.

With The Blood Brothers reviewed in Spin and The Stranger recommending Akimbo shows, talented Northwest acts are starting to receive more attention, and new bands, labels and promoters are finding more of an audience. Tonight,

show-goers of all ages can find out why.

New Regard Media, a local label catering to the punk rock demand for noise and community, is sponsoring an all-ages show at The Warehouse in Bellingham. The headliners, Axes of Evil, will perform after Black Eyes and Neckties, Full Frontal Assault and The Contra.

The label's name is its approach. Chris Nelson, the label's mastermind promoter and the drummer for Axes of Evil, said he looks at band management and

show production in a new way.

"We're a budding label going out to support local music and to make it stable enough so

Concert Information

When: 8 p.m. Friday, April 1
Where: The Warehouse on Carolina and Queen streets.



Photo courtesy of New Regard Media

Black Eyes and Neckties, a spooky New Regard Media band, will perform again at The Warehouse tonight.



Photo courtesy of New Regard Media

Axis of Evil will rock The Warehouse tonight, along with label mates Full Frontal Assault and Black Eyes and Neck Ties.

we'll be around for a while," Nelson said.

Sporting new gear and a talented lineup, Nelson said he is looking forward to tonight.

"It's going to be good," he said. "We've got a brand new PA. It should be a really well set-up, professional show."

While Axes of Evil conjures the spirit of ball-crushing metal — as Nelson cited Iron Maiden and Rich Kids On LSD as influences — Black Eyes and Neckties is comparable to The Bronx.

Bassist and vocalist for Black Eyes and Neckties, who is known to fans as Bradley Horror, is anticipating the show for all ages.

"We haven't been playing a lot of all-

ages shows lately," he said, adding that this might be the only opportunity for underage show-goers to attend.

Full Frontal Assault, brandishing a new record, "The Universal Struggle," and an upcoming show with The Accused Feb. 5 at Seattle's Funhouse, will perform after opener The Contra, whose new self-titled EP may be available at the show. Aside from the band being hopeful about getting the record ready by Friday night, this show is significant for The Contra for other reasons.

"This is a going-away show for our second guitarist, Eric, who's going to Japan," The Contra's bassist Blake Owens said.

"And I guess it's my birthday."



In the spotlight

Friday, April 1

Downtown Gallery Walk

Located at 39 downtown venues; 527-8710, free. Paintings, sculptures, political art, photography and music will be featured at various downtown locations from 7 to 10 p.m.

Bluegrass

The Underground Coffeehouse; 650-3000, free. The Bucklebusters and Creeping Time will perform at 8 p.m.

Afro-Cuban jazz rock

The Wild Buffalo; 671-6745, \$8. Danny Godinez performs his eclectic blend of world and blues music. Grasshoppah opens. Show starts at 9 p.m.

Jazz and Gallery Walk After-party

The Nightlight Lounge; 650-0331, \$5. The Jazz Project celebrates Fang's CD release

and downtown gallery walk. Doors open at 8 p.m. Show starts at 9 p.m.

Saturday, April 2

Evergreen AIDS Foundation Benefit

The Nightlight Lounge; 650-0331, \$10. "Queer Plan for the Straight Woman," featuring Sistershake will open at 8 p.m.

Emo and hardcore

The 3B Tavern; 734-1881, cost to be announced. Fall North, Whilom Knox and 5 Good Reasons will perform at 10 p.m.

Sunday, April 3

Fairytale theater

St. Paul's Episcopal School; 671-0110, \$5. The Little Swan Theatre presents its last two performances of "Cinderella" at 1:30 and 6 p.m.

Tuesday, April 5

Jazz piano

Whatcom Museum of History & Art; 676-6981, free. John Mutchler performs solo, playing jazz versions of famous songs. The show starts at 12:15 p.m.

Wednesday, April 6

Indie pop

iDiOM Theatre; 201-5464, \$7. Polyvinyl Records sweethearts Ida perform with Snow Cuts Glass. The show begins at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 7

Indie rock

Bison Bookbinding & Letterpress; 734-0481, \$5. Local popsters of Goldstar perform with Your Heart Breaks and Palisades. Show starts at 8 p.m.

SPORTS

FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2005 • WESTERNFRONTONLINE.COM • PAGE 10

Western looks ahead after West-Region loss

By TREVOR SWEDBERG
The Western Front

The Western men's basketball team is done for the season; and looking back, players on the team said it is pleased with its accomplishments. But the players said they are hungry for more and looking forward to returning all five of their starters next season.

The Viking men finished with a 22-7 record and were co-champions of the Great Northwest Athletic Conference with the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Western also earned a No. 1 seed in the West Region for the NCAA Division II men's basketball national tournament but lost, 88-66, in the second round to that same Alaska-Fairbanks team.

"We had a lot of players who had never been in an NCAA tournament before," Western men's basketball coach Brad Jackson said. "It was a tough loss, but maybe it will serve as a stepping stone for next season."

Even though the season ended abruptly, the young team met a lot of its goals, and also gained some valuable post-season experience along the way, Jackson said.

"I think it was an excellent season," Jackson said. "It was a young team that progressed a lot through the year. We were disappointed we weren't able to advance further, but nevertheless it was a good year."

Despite Western playing in what Jackson called one of the toughest conferences in the nation, he said he still is proud of his team's accomplishments.

"This group played like a team," Jackson said. "We played together, we worked hard together, we supported each other, and I think that was reflected in our performance."

The season ended March 12, but Western junior guard Ryan Diggs said the team is already thinking about next year.

"It's looking really good," Diggs said. "We're returning all five starters. We're losing a pretty good sixth man (Western senior forward Craig Roosendaal) to graduation. I haven't seen many shooters as good as him, but I think we can all step up our game this summer."

The team is not wasting any time starting its preparations for next year.

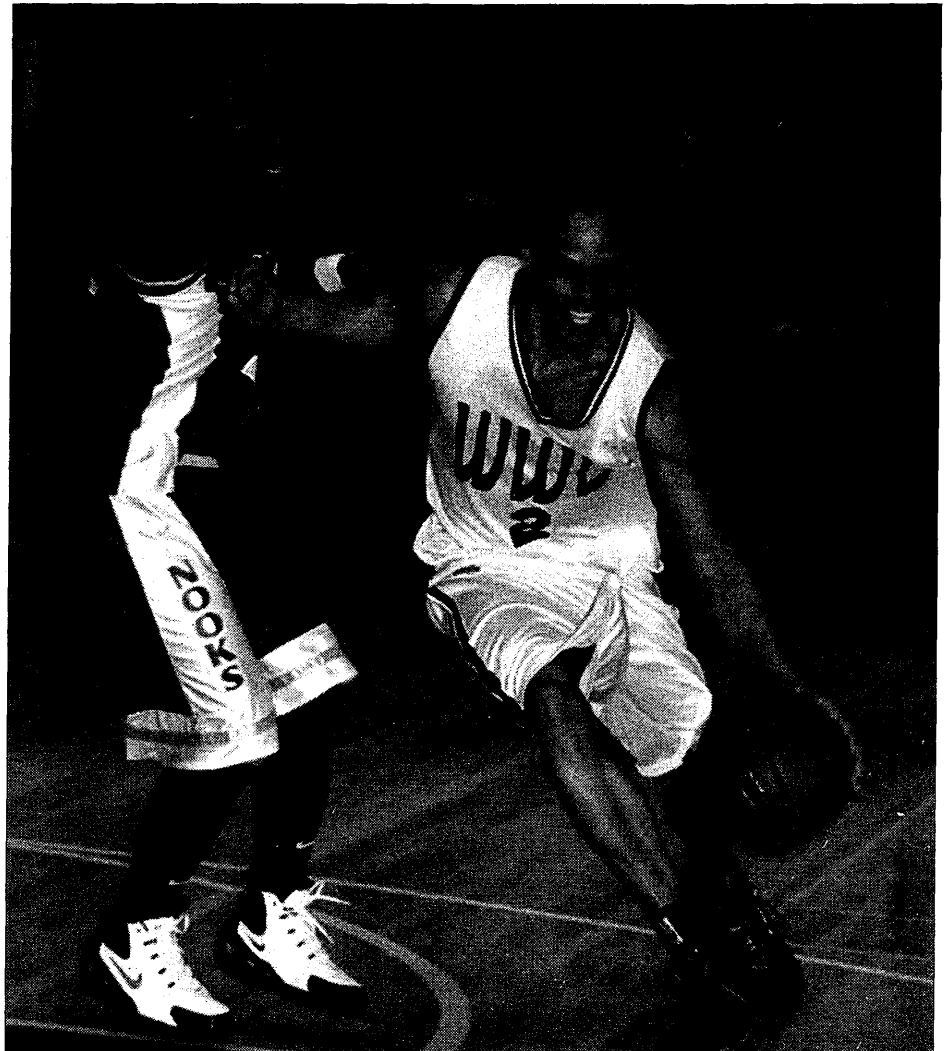
"We'll start working out in a few weeks," Western junior guard Preston Vermeulen said. "We'll start weight training and conditioning. We all need to work on our individual game, too."

Vermeulen said the team is gifted offensively, but all of the players need to improve on defense and rebounding.

"I think we can accomplish what we did this year and further," Vermeulen said. "Winning a national championship would be the main goal, but it starts with the little things before that."

'We played together, we worked hard together, we supported each other, and I think that was reflected in our performance.'

BRAD JACKSON
Western head coach



CHRIS TAYLOR/ For The Western Front
Western junior guard Ryan Diggs drives by University of Alaska Fairbanks senior guard Chris Smith in a playoff game March 12 at Carver Gymnasium. Diggs had 11 points and 5 assists in the season-ending loss.

Who's Who in Bellingham Business!



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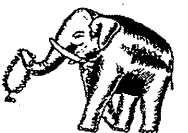
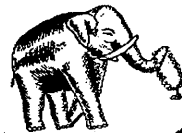
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Each India Grill menu selection features a unique combination of spices including coriander, cinnamon, fennel ginger and others. A favorite at the India Grill is the chicken tikka masala. A savory dish with boneless chicken simmered in tomato sauce with a blend of spices. Another popular choice is the lamb kadahi that is presented in a sizzling iron wok.

India Grill is a wonderful restaurant for vegetarians. Tumber's menu features many hearty meatless dishes such as Baingan bharta, an eggplant dish and Saag paneer, a cheese and spinach dish puree.

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Illinois will top North Carolina



BRADLEY THAYER

The 2005 NCAA tournament is over. Illinois might as well be anointed now. The Fighting Illini's surprising comeback against Arizona decided the championship.

The game was Arizona's to lose, considering the team held a 15-point lead with only four minutes remaining in the game. Poor play in those four minutes on all fronts, including turnovers by Arizona senior center Channing Frye, senior guard Salim Stoudamire, junior forward Hassan Adams and sophomore guard Mustafa Shakur led to arguably one of the most impressive comebacks in NCAA tournament history. The Illini fought its way to a glorious, frustrating and well-deserved victory.

With this victory, the Illini has quelled any doubt it will win the tournament.

First, Illinois' domination on both sides of the court will not allow the team to lose. In fact, prior to the Arizona game, Illinois had led its opponents 93 percent of the time.

The Illini had only trailed in the second half five times and never by double figures, according to an April 27 article by columnist Mike DeCourcy from Sportingnews.com. Illinois showed poise and maturity, however, in defeating the Wildcats.

Illinois junior forward James Augustine will lead the team past Louisville Saturday, and into the championship game April 4.

Augustine emerged this season as one of the better big men in the country and has stepped up his game at critical times.

After averaging 12.7 points and 12.3 rebounds in the Fighting Illini's Big Ten Tournament games, Illinois won the tournament, beating the University of Wisconsin.

Augustine had 23 points and 10 rebounds against Nevada in the second round of the tournament, advancing the team to the Sweet 16.

Nevada is known for its suffocating perimeter defense, and much of the Illinois offense runs through its guards. Augustine's emergence in Illinois' victory is a great sign for the team, according to DeCourcy's column.

"I think everyone sees now why they (Illinois) are 36-1," Arizona head coach Lute Olson said in DeCourcy's article. "They are not a team that is going to give up."

Illinois' 36-1 record is testimony not only to its outside shooting, but also to its defensive pressure.

One of its 36 wins was a 13-point victory against Michigan State, another team in this year's final four.

Those who criticize Illinois generally think the Illini are simply a three-man show — guards Dee Brown, Deron Williams and Luther Head all live by the 3-point shot.

Much of the Illini game relies on those players on the offensive end; however, the other, more underrated facet of the team's game is its defensive prowess.

Also, the North Carolina Tarheels have four of five starters who are projected first-round picks in the NBA draft.

With North Carolina and Illinois as virtual shoo-ins against Michigan State and Louisville respectively, the championship game will certainly be a great match-up.

Illinois has proven throughout the season and the tournament that even in the face of extreme adversity, it can overcome the likes of North Carolina junior guards Raymond Felton and Rashad McCants, as well as freshman forward Marvin Williams and junior center Sean May.

Illinois will prove it has the ability to work miracles.

Women's crew team opens with three wins

BY SAMANTHA EVERTS
The Western Front

With five returning team members and three promising new freshmen, Western's varsity women rowers have a good chance to take the Division II National Championship this year, Coach John Fuchs said.

The Western women's rowing team ranks No. 2 in the pre-season national poll this year.

In 2002 and 2003, the women's varsity eight, which is a boat with two stroke rowers in the back, two bow rowers in the front, four middle rowers, and a coxswain, took second place at the national regatta. They placed third in 2004.

The team started the 2005 season at the Daffodil Regatta, a competition in Tacoma. The novice eight and Western's two varsity eight boats placed first and the junior varsity eight placed second. Fuchs said he was satisfied with the

team's performances in the regatta.

Freshman Samantha Marikis, who rowed in the second varsity eight and the novice eight, said competing in the regatta last weekend was a new challenge for her.

"I have never been so cold and wet and had such a great time," said Marikis.

Fuchs said the rowers on the team are strong and self-motivated. He said all the rowers in each boat are equal, and no team member is better than another or at a higher level.

This year's team captains are Western junior Julia Gamache and Western senior Gail Lumsden. Gamache said her plan for the season is to take each race one at a time.

"Right now the goal is to win the races this weekend against the University of California San Diego and Gonzaga," Gamache said.

Western's next competition is April 9 in Bellingham on Lake Samish against Gonzaga University.

2005 Women's Rowing Captains



Julia Gamache
Varsity
Junior
Blanchet H.S.



Gail Lumsden
Varsity
Senior
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Photos courtesy of the athletic department

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Young Western rowing team looking strong

BY MARK REIMERS
The Western Front

Western men's crew team faces a challenging season, with only three returning rowers to pull the oars this season.

Coach Marty Sauvage said that despite the lack of experience, the team plans to remain as competitive as possible.

"It would be nice to get instant results and have them win a lot of races, but sometimes the long-term view is going to be better for the overall success of the program," Sauvage said. "I'm just trying to teach them how to be very competitive."

Sauvage said racing in the Daffodil Regatta in Tacoma last weekend was a learning experience for the team. The men's novice eight boat won, ahead of the University of Puget Sound by 3.96 seconds in their race.

The crew boats are designated by the pairs of oars, four and eight, and the two categories, varsity and junior varsity. The secondary novice category is for first-year rowers. Western raced a varsity eight, a junior varsity four and eight, and a novice four and eight in the regatta.

Except for its one win, all other Western men's boats placed either fourth or fifth.

Sauvage said he was pleased to see the novice boat win despite the poor weather and tough competition.

"Those are all first-year rowers, so I was pleasantly surprised to see them go and be able to finish that strong," Sauvage said.

Western freshman Jack Marolich, a rower in the winning novice eight boat, emphasized how close the race was.

'From what I've gathered, I think most of these guys really like crew. This is the strongest group of freshmen I've ever seen.'

PHIL DUBOIS

Western senior rower

"We were behind half a boat length for 400 meters until we pulled ahead in the last 30 strokes," Marolich said. "I guess it was the adrenaline rush."

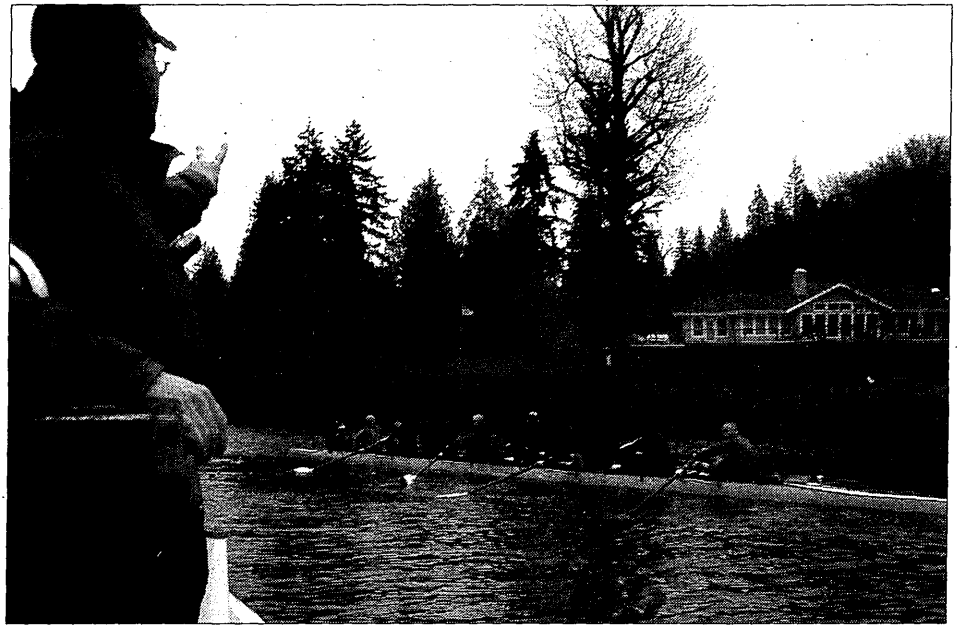
Western sophomore and junior varsity rower Kevin Cumming said he thought the novice eight rowed a quality race.

"(The novice eight crew was) tied till near the end, and then they just walked right through the other team," Cumming said.

Western men's assistant coach Josh Griesse said he thinks the new rowers have an abundance of potential speed.

"That last race was impressive," Griesse said. "It's a young crew, and I think they've got the heart to do it."

Western senior and returning rower Phil DuBois said that although this is a building year, he thinks Western will have a strong rowing team in the future if crew members keep coming back every season as their



MARK REIMERS/The Western Front

Coach Marty Sauvage calls instructions to Vikings crewmen during practice Tuesday morning on Lake Samish.

rowing improves.

"From what I've gathered, I think most of these guys really like crew," DuBois said. "This is the strongest group of freshmen I've ever seen."

Marolich, a first-year rower, said that although he wanted to join his high school's rowing team, he couldn't because of potential job conflicts.

Now that he is a member of Western's

team, Marolich said he has enjoyed rowing because he likes the hard work and the chance to make new friends.

"It's definitely worth it," Marolich said. "I'm planning on going the whole four years."

The team will finish its season April 30 at the Western Intercollegiate Rowing Association Championship in Rancho Cordova, Calif.

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OPINIONS

FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2005 • WESTERNFRONTLINE.COM • PAGE 13

Flood victims deserve access to report



STEFANI HARREY

The city of Lynden should do its part to minimize the chance of floods as much as possible. And more importantly, if residents who wind up with damages from floods have to pay out of pocket to repair their homes, they should at least have access to documents explaining why.

Residents of Lynden are upset with the city because it refused to make documents public that show residents cannot receive money for damages caused in a Jan. 17 flood, according to a March 26 Bellingham Herald article.

An engineer for the city's insurance company, Canfield & Associates, wrote the report that said the city cannot be held liable for the damages, according to the Herald article.

Floods cannot be controlled, especially by homeowners. If

homeowners lose their valuables or have their homes damaged in a flood, whom can they turn to, if not the city? Residents should not be forced to pay the costs of floods themselves.

According to the Herald article, city officials have declined to get a copy of the engineer's report. The residents who filed the claim and were denied damages can now file a lawsuit if they want, in an attempt to force the city to turn over the engineer's report, according to a March 23 Bellingham Herald article.

The city should not force Lynden residents whose property was destroyed in the flood to sue over a public document. If the report states that residents cannot receive money for an act of nature, then the residents should have access to the proper documents to avoid a long, expensive court battle. According to the Herald articles, the residents have not decided whether or not to pursue the matter further in court.

The refusal to make the report public makes the city look like it is hiding something. By not showing the report, it looks like the residents who filed for damages

could possibly receive money, but the city does not want to admit it.

The city engineer stated that floods are an "act of nature," according to the Bellingham Herald article.

Despite this, the city should not force residents to pay out of pocket for damages to their homes, especially if the it did not take proper precautions to prevent such extensive damage.

City officials will begin cleaning out drainage ditches throughout Lynden, according to the March 23 Herald article. Those ditches would be suitable places for water runoff since the city created them to limit the amount of flooding in certain areas. But the city did not properly clean the ditches before January when the flooding first became a problem, therefore worsening the potential for flooding. If a city does not do its part to proactively help flood victims, it should do its part to pay for damages to its residents' property.

In Queens, N.Y., Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced the city would pay for damages done to homes because it was responsible for a water main break that led to massive flooding to residents' homes, according to a March 2 Western Queens Gazette article.

The city of Lynden should follow suit. Since its efforts to prevent widespread flood damage were ineffective, the city should pay the residents affected by the flood. And if the city continues to refuse, it should at least show residents the paperwork explaining why.

Waiver process unfair



ALLYCE VANHOOSER

This past year, colleges waived \$154.2 million in college tuition for 138,099 students, according to a March 11 Seattle Times article.

As college tuition, which increased by 7 percent last year, continues to rise, colleges need to re-evaluate the line between those who receive tuition waivers and those who don't, and instate strict rules for tuition waivers.

Rep. Mary Helen Roberts, D-Edmonds, is sponsoring a bill to closely evaluate waivers issued by colleges, according to the Seattle Times article. Roberts' bill passed in the state House of Representatives March 8, and is currently under evaluation in the Senate.

According to the Washington state Legislature's Web site, all or some of tuition, services and activities should be waived for students 19 or older, or nonresident students enrolled in a program to finish high school and receive a high school diploma. Children of law enforcement officers or fire fighters who lost their lives during service are eligible for tuition waivers as well as up to 40 percent of students enrolled in a regional education program for deaf students.

Under the current system, individual colleges decide which

students are eligible for tuition waivers and how much of their tuition will be waived. At Edmonds and Everett community colleges, for example, all or part of a student's tuition can be waived for adult basic education, English as a second language or a two-year associates degree, according to the Seattle Times article.

All universities and community colleges should follow the same standards because with the current system many students who transfer from community colleges to universities are left wondering whether they qualify for tuition waivers in both institutions.

Tuition waivers, based on the varying interpretations of the rules, are not benefiting the colleges or universities because many students are confused by the actual qualifications of a waiver.

In addition, schools are often forced to pay the tuition themselves. This forces colleges to raise their tuition, and the 7 percent increase is partially the result of this. Colleges are not profiting from students with tuition waivers, according to an Aug. 11, 2004 Seattle Times article.

Gov. Christine Gregoire's new budget proposal allots more funding for education and may help colleges that have been forced to raise their tuition. Officials at Washington state colleges are pleased with the proposal, which issues \$3 billion to expand facilities and create new programs.

see WAIVER, page 15

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Frontline

Corporate coffee hits downtown

On March 25, something entirely banal and outrageous happened on East Holly Street — Starbucks opened its gleaming sterile doors downtown.

This is the tenth Starbucks to set up shop in Bellingham. In a city of over 70,000, this equates to more than one store for every 7,000 residents. Even in a region where caffeine is currency, this Frappuccino influx is excessive.

Downtown Bellingham has always embraced an eclectic mix of businesses. Mallard's Ice Cream, La Vie en Rose Bakery and Paris Texas are just a few of the distinctive stores that make downtown their home. This wide variety of shops draws tourists and locals to the area, and Starbucks, with its highly commercial and pervasive presence, does not fit.

Placing a Starbucks downtown is not exactly a coup for local businesses or the local economy either. The new store means even more coffee-fueled competition in an area already packed full of coffee shops. And, though Starbucks is based in Seattle and is somewhat local, its presence will not have the same positive economic impact on the Bellingham community as a truly local business would.

According to the Sustainable Connections Web site, small local businesses keep more money in the community and are more likely to make decisions that will benefit their community. Locally-owned businesses usually make less environmental impact because they tend to buy from local suppliers, reducing the toll of transportation of goods on the environment.

The 2004 Andersonville Study of Retail Economics in Chicago found privately-owned businesses supported the local economy better than chain retailers. For every \$100 spent at a local retailer, \$68 stayed in the Chicago area, compared to \$43 for chain retailers. The study also found that replacing local businesses with chain businesses reduces the economy's overall vigor because local business owners create a more sound economic landscape.

Despite its downfalls, Starbucks is not an evil, faceless corporation. It provides a comprehensive and progressive benefit program for its employees, and its presence in downtown Bellingham could be a sign that bigger businesses view the downtown area as a viable and thriving marketplace. It could also provide a comfort to tourists looking for something familiar.

A Starbucks coffee shop is not the worst thing that could happen to downtown; it is also not the best. Local businesses could have made that space their home, benefiting the local economy and adding more color and character than Starbucks ever could.

Frontlines are the opinion of The Western Front editorial board: Caleb Heeringa, Laura McVicker, Zoe Fraley, Brittany Greenfield, Timory Wilson, Chris Huber, Elana Bean, Marissa Harshman, Molly Jensen, Adam Rudnick, Krissy Gochnour, Christina Twu, Blair Wilson and Greta Smoke.

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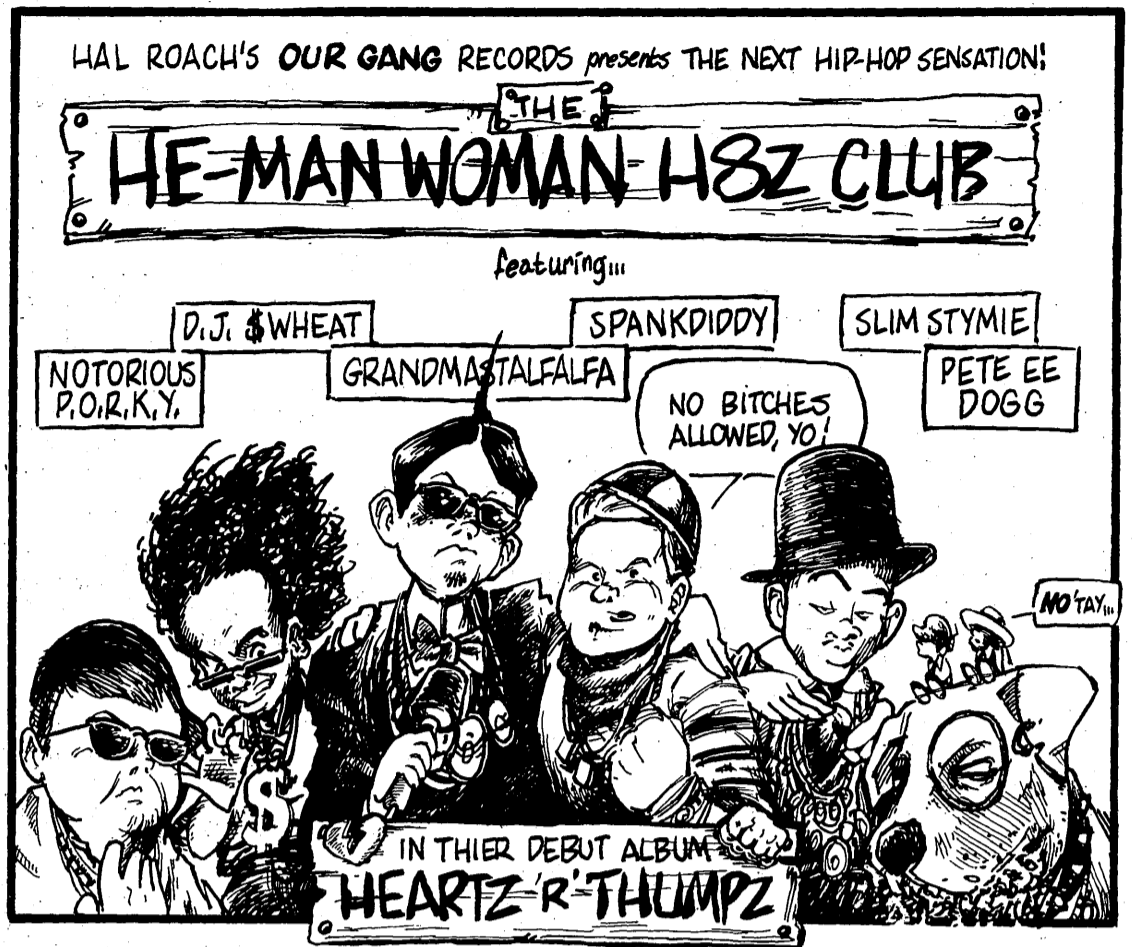
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And we quote:

"Only Irish coffee provides in a single glass all four essential food groups: alcohol, caffeine, sugar and fat."

~Author Alex Levine



Hip-hop industry needs evaluation



BRADLEY THAYER

In the most recent video for his song "Tip Drill," the popular rap artist Nelly pulls out a credit card and looks straight into the camera. As he smiles from ear to ear and chants the lyrics, "It must be your ass, cuz it ain't your face," he proceeds to swipe his credit card through a scantily dressed woman's buttocks.

Media consumers must question this blatant and offensive style that is prominent in the media today. Society's problems are not solely the music industry's fault, but

violent and misogynistic lyrics certainly play a role in influencing society. The messages viewers derive from the video are clear. One that comes to mind is: that women are objects that can be bought — all it takes is one swipe. This is not an attack only on Nelly — the problem is much larger than one musician or genre of music.

These misogynistic ideals are found throughout American mainstream media. A recent panel of female rappers, authors, radio personalities and magazine editors discussed some of the problems presented by misogyny in rap, according to a March 23 Associated Press article.

On March 22, approximately 300 people crowded into the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City to watch the panel's examination of negative female stereotypes in the hip-hop industry.

The group discussed examples other than Nelly's video, including Remy, the only female member of Fat Joe's Terror Squad. Remy frequently references oral sex in her raps.

According to the AP article, a teacher and audience member stood up and said, "If you don't believe hip-hop is affecting young people, join me in the schools where junior high school girls are performing fellatio in the hallways."

Blaming hip-hop lyrics for the sexual activities of young girls is like blaming violent rock artists, such as Marilyn Manson and Ozzy Osbourne, for school shootings or suicides. The music or lyrics are not completely at fault, but they do play a role — how big or small a role is inconsequential. If rap lyrics are a factor in triggering self-conscious

see PANEL, page 15

Stereotypes are not a good judge of character



TARA NELSON
FROM THE LEFT

I have a friend who passionately believes that Americans should not vote.

Last November, he set up tables at various Bellingham voting polls to convey his message. A self-proclaimed anarchist, he says he believes one cannot possibly change the system from within, so he attempts to live outside of it.

Time and again, I have heard him recite rhetoric that corporations are taking over the world and globalization is an evil force that is killing South Korean farmers. Sound familiar?

I have another friend who works at BP Cherry Point Refinery. During her free time, she hunts ducks with her fiancé, another refinery

employee, and complains about job outsourcing. She drives a sport utility vehicle and makes fun of hippies. She says I am too liberal.

Having friends of different political perspectives is challenging. But the most difficult part is that I am no longer sure of where I stand. They are both wonderful people, but the truth is I don't want to be politically affiliated with either of them.

I was feeling a little lost so I decided to take the world's smallest political quiz. Bruce Guthrie, a libertarian candidate for the Washington state Senate, gave me the quiz, which categorizes people according to their beliefs on authority, personal liberties and economic policies. I figured the result was rigged when it pegged me as a libertarian. Because of this, I decided to try something else.

The next thing I did was make a list of my everyday behavior for clues to my political perspective. I drive a Volkswagen, shop at The

Community Food Co-op, walk whenever possible and recycle. Heck, I even refill my soap bottles and buy biodegradable dish and laundry soap. To some, this screams radical liberal.

But in reality it means absolutely nothing. To those of you who disagree, I urge you to find evidence of a causal relationship between vegetarianism and leftist tendencies.

So I made a new list. This one included where I stand on a range of contentious issues such as abortion — which can be summed up nicely by the words of my former high school teacher.

"A clump of cells is a clump of cells," he said.

I also included my stance on social safety nets. Maybe it's because my father is handicapped and on Social Security, but Bush's Social Security reform proposal worries me.

And maybe it's because I live in Bellingham, where labor supply

see LIST, page 15

List: Individual beliefs are complex

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

exceeds labor demand — and subsequently understand the fear of not being able to pay my rent — that I advocate sufficient unemployment benefits. Because without them, as former World Bank executive Joseph Stiglitz said in his book "Globalization and its Discontents," people likely will be hesitant to leave their jobs and employers hesitant to fire employees. As a result, the free flow of labor that capitalist theory hinges on will be stifled, as in post-communist Russia.

All this seems to point to liberalism, but then I remembered I'm a free-trade advocate and believe globalization can be a force for good if governments harness it correctly.

So where does this put me on the political diamond? I don't know.

But I do know we need to be careful not to get caught up in reactionary labeling of people as liberal or conservative because politics are more complex than a linear scale with right on one end and left on the other. (By the way, real "liberals" call themselves progressives.)

Psychologist Hans Eysenck was the first American to add a vertical line to the right/left spectrum after realizing it did not encompass certain philosophies within its boundaries, according to Wikipedia.com.

The vertical axis added the distinction of where a person lies with respect to authority. Anarchism, for example, which rejects all forms of authority and depends in theory upon the voluntary cooperation of "free" individuals, would falsely resemble communism if placed on a linear model because both emphasize responsibility of the individual and public ownership of goods.

Libertarianism, which abhors any government limits to individual freedoms and advocates capitalism as the only compatible economic system, would fall in line with fascism on the right/left line, which is also inaccurate.

'Few of us are cutouts of a political stereotype.'

A more developed vision of politics is one that realizes we all cross over party lines, and few of us are cutouts of a political stereotype.

After all, former Republican President Theodore Roosevelt made the national park system. And former Republican President Richard Nixon created the Environmental Protection Agency.

Even today, many Republicans still place a huge emphasis on the environment — ever hear of Green Elephants? And, from my personal explorations in a distracting and lurid culture, some "leftist" people are more authoritarian than John Ashcroft.

Black and white, left and right are not that clear anymore.

So, where do you stand?

Waiver: Gregoire's budget may aid effective use of funds

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

for the growing number of students in the undergraduate population, according to a March 21 Seattle Post-Intelligencer article.

Under Gregoire's proposal, \$58.3 million will pay for 6,000 additional spaces for students at state schools, with 300 spots for

students in popular fields such as health care and computer science. The proposal will add \$26.9 million as financial aid for low-income students, according to the Seattle Post-Intelligencer article.

If passed, Gregoire's proposal would enable colleges and universities to improve their campuses and resources for their current student populations,

rather than worrying about whether enough money is in their budget to allot waivers to students who qualify.

Gregoire's proposal strongly benefits education, and in a "perfect educational world" Roberts' and Gregoire's bills combined would create an opportunity for tuition waivers to be used properly.

Panel: Change will be result of awareness, not censorship

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

teenage girls to perform unwanted sexual acts or take abuse, it is a problem that must be addressed.

A 2004 protest of the "Tip Drill" video at Spelman College in Atlanta inspired Essence magazine to launch a yearlong "Take Back the Music" campaign in January that featured articles in the magazine and established town hall meetings in cities throughout the country.

The campaign hopes to tackle stereotypes about women that hip-hop perpetuates, according to the AP article. Essence and the Center for Communication, a nonpartisan forum designed to familiarize college students with

the business of media, sponsored the panel in New York, according to the AP article.

Younger people attending the panel felt hip-hop's depiction of women accurately reflects the behavior of some females. Older audience members insisted rap's content negatively affects the behavior of younger men and women, according to the AP article.

Unfortunately, according to the AP article, the panel didn't accomplish much.

"It was an attack on hip-hop that didn't solve anything," caseworker and youth specialist Tanysha Chaffin said.

Saying the panel accomplished nothing is illogical. The panel began a heated discussion about a topic that affects many people

— this fact alone seems to suggest the panel accomplished a great deal. Especially considering the event received media coverage, spreading word further.

Akiba Solomon, Essence magazine health editor and panelist at the event, said the campaign's goal is to create dialogue on an unpopular topic, according to the AP article.

The way the panel approached the topic is the only true way of beginning a shift toward change — a step in the right direction. Eliminating lyrics or censoring artists is unconstitutional; however, if people are made aware of the issues at hand, it creates a starting point to work from.

The hip-hop industry will not change until it recognizes and addresses its problems. By discussing misogyny, one of hip-hop's main problems, the panel in New York functioned as a step toward reforming a money-driven and exploitative industry.

'Eliminating lyrics or censoring artists is unconstitutional; however, if people are made aware of the issues at hand, it creates a starting point to work from'



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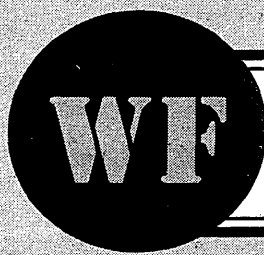
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E-mail: Charlesjoshua230msn.com

Subject: PHYS 114-116
Price: \$65.00 OBO
Title: 3 Books (Custom for W.W.U.)
Contact name: Nathan
Phone: 360-391-9810
E-mail: natea16@hotmail.com

study jobs on international communication now available for a few qualified students data entry/typing skills required call Safavi ext. 4822

LOOKING FOR a Fantastic Summer Job? We are College Pro Painters and we are currently hiring for the summer. 888-277-9787 www.collegepro.com

IMMEDIATE SALES help wanted. Sporting goods morning hrs must be able to work over summer Play It Again Sports Sunset Square

SUMMER JOBS at Mt. Rainier, WA! Seasonal job opportunities are available with Rainier Mountaineering, Inc., America's premier mountain guide service. We desire qualified seasonal staff to join our experienced team. Positions include Mountain Guides, Cooks, Shuttle Drivers, Retail Sales and Rentals. Detailed information can be found at: www.

rmguides.com or call 888-892-5462.

GET PAID for your opinions! Earn \$15-\$125 and more per survey! www.moneyforsurveys.com

SUMMER CAMP jobs across the USA. Exciting and rewarding positions. www.campchannel.com

LOST & FOUND

LOST: BLUE fleece Northface jacket. Lost 3/14 in Fraser 4? Contact Andrea (360) 319-9101

ANNOUCEMENTS

\$600 Group Fundraiser Scheduling Bonus 4 hours of you groups time PLUS our free (yes, free) fundraising solutions EQUALS \$1,000-\$2,000 in earnings for your group. Call

TODAY for a \$600 bonus when you schedule you non-sales fundraiser with CampusFundraiser. Contact CampusFundraiser, (888) 923-3238, or visit www.campusfundraiser.com

CAREGIVERS

NO NECESSARY experience needed, all shifts pref. Provide in home care to seniors @ Home Attendant Care 1316 King St #1 Bellingham

Do you have stuff?

want to sell it?

Advertise in the Western Front 650-3161

FOR SALE

20 VERY clean motel mattresses in plastic some pillow tops. 6520 Guide Meridian (360)398-2771 please leave message.

FOR RENT

ROWAN GROVE 1, 2, 3 & 4 bdrm

town house & flat style apt available Aug 1. See website www.rowangrovecondo.com. Picts, floor plans & forms w/in wk of WWU 527-9639 Seth

5BD/3BA, Garage, Brand new. All appliances included. Close to WWU. Call Jason @ 366-3577

HELP WANTED

ON CAMPUS good paying work



Vikings looking for a place for next Fall... We have the right place for you!

* Indoor Cats allowed in some units ** Dogs allowed on a case-by-case basis

STUDIOS:	Date Available:	Rent Price:
Near WWU:		
*1018 23rd Street	7/1-9/1	\$460- \$475
*2211 Douglas Ave	7/1,9/1	\$460-\$525
*501 Voltaire Court	6/1- 9/1	\$525-\$675
Lakeway Area:		
*1025 Potter Street	8/1-9/1	\$500-\$550
Downtown Area:		
*601 E Holly Street	8/1,9/1	\$395-\$410
*607 E Holly Street	6/1-9/1	\$475-\$545
*1304 Railroad Ave	9/1	\$500-\$535
**1600 D Street	9/1	\$550/\$575
*839 State Street	9/1	\$575-\$625
Fairhaven Area:		
1001 Larrabee Ave	7/1- 9/1	\$675/\$775
Near Bellis Fair Mall/North Bellingham:		
*135-139 Prince Ave	7/1 - 9/1	\$550
*500-504 Tremont	6/1 -9/1	\$550/\$575
*3516-3518 NW Ave	9/1	\$615

ONE BEDROOMS:

Near WWU:		
*926 24th Street	9/1	\$500
1014 23rd Street	7/1-9/1	\$515
*303 32nd Street	7/1-9/1	\$500-\$565
230 32nd Street	8/15, 9/1	\$575
*240 32nd Street	7/1,9/1	\$565-\$600
*2211 Douglas Ave	7/1, 9/1	\$600
813 Indian Street	9/1	\$600
*501 Voltaire Court+Den	9/1	\$750-\$775
1026 22nd St.	9/1	\$645
Downtown Area:		
*1304 Railroad Ave	7/1 - 9/1	\$500 - \$650
*1001 N State Street	6/21-9/1	\$700-\$775
*839 State Street	8/1,9/1	\$700 - \$950
Lakeway Area:		
**1420 Lakeway Drive	9/1	\$500
408.5 Lakeway Dr. (HSE)	7/1	\$500
*1025 Potter Street	9/1	\$650-\$700
Near Bellis Fair Mall/North Bellingham:		
*2719 W. Maplewood	9/1	\$550
*3516 NW Ave *flat	9/1	\$615-\$650
*3516 NW Ave *loft	9/1	\$710/\$725
*500-504 Tremont	7/1-9/1	\$600/\$650
500-504 Tremont *loft	6/1-9/1	\$700/\$725

TWO BEDROOMS:

Near WWU:		
*1014 23rd Street	7/1-9/1	\$635 -660
*2211 Douglas Ave	7/1, 9/1	\$660/\$765
230 32nd Street	9/1	\$750-\$775
*250 32nd Street	6/1 -9/1	\$725-\$765
1018 23rd Street	8/1	\$785
813 Indian Street	8/15-9/1	\$700
Downtown Area:		
*1600 D. Street	9/1	\$900
*1001 N State Street	6/1-9/1	\$750-\$975
*839 N. State Street	Now,9/1	\$950-\$1000
205 S. State Street	9/1	\$1250

Two Bedrooms cont...	Date Available:	Rent Price:
Lakeway Area:		
**1420 Lakeway Drive	9/1	\$550
**2320 Valencia Street	8/1, 9/1	\$650
*1025 Potter Street	9/1	\$700-\$750
1267 Toledo Street	7/1	\$750
*1503 Lincoln Street	9/1	\$775
**1304 Ellis Street	9/1	\$775
1115 Yew Street	NOW	\$775
Near Bellis Fair Mall/North Bellingham:		
3405 Northwest Ave	6/1,7/1,9/1	\$650
*135-139 Prince Ave	6/1-9/1	\$700
*2719 W Maplewood Ave	5/15, 9/1	\$625/ \$700
3516 NW Avenue	9/1	\$775
Near Fairhaven:		
1506 Wilson Ave	9/1	\$975
**1014 12th Street	8/1	\$1,100
Other Areas:		
**1709 Carolina Street	8/1, 9/1	\$650/\$750

THREE BEDROOMS:

Near WWU:		
*921-927 21st Street	7/1-9/1	\$775-\$800
1112 High Street (HSE)	7/1	\$900
1026 22nd Street	9/1	\$1,150
**1129 22nd Street	9/1	\$1,000
1907 34th Street (HSE)	8/1	\$1,150
Other Areas:		
**1709 Carolina Street	8/1, 9/1	\$750
1723 E. Illinois St. (HSE)	7/1	\$1,050
1503 Lincoln Street	7/1, 9/1	\$1,100
2241-2251 Michigan St.	6/1, 7/1,9/1	\$1,150
1588 Brook Edge Crt.(HSE)	9/1	\$1,300
1600 D. Street	7/1	\$1,125
1109 Yew Street (HSE)	9/1	\$1,200

FOUR BEDROOMS:

16 Valley View Cir.(HSE)	NOW	\$1,150
**1304 Ellis Street	9/1	\$1,200
**1838 - 1844 Valencia St.	9/1	\$1,200
2930-2932 Nevada St.	9/1	\$1,250
1817-1819 Maryland	8/1, 9/1	\$1,250
1119 Kenoyer Dr. (HSE)	9/1	\$1,000
*1305-1349 Varsity Place	9/1	\$1,400

FIVE BEDROOMS:

*1015 Potter St. (HSE)	9/1	\$1,050
1107 Illinois St. (HSE)	9/1	\$1,450

SIX BEDROOMS:

2630 Verona St. (HSE)	9/1	\$1,850
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Apex Property Management, Inc.

360-527-9829

2821 Meridian Street

Bellingham, WA 98225

Fax: 360.527.3082

www.apex-property.com

Check out our website, includes pictures of properties & floor plans. Applications & cosigner forms can also be downloaded

\$30 APEX BUCKS \$30

FREE Application Fee Coupon

Use this coupon to have your application fee waived for the following properties only:

230 32nd Street 240 32nd Street 250 32nd Street 1026 22nd Street
303 32nd Street 1014 23rd Street 1018 23rd Street 2719 W Maplewood

Offer expires 5/15/05 *

*Application and all related documents necessary to process the application must be received in our office by 5/15/05

*Originals only (no copies will be accepted)

(Available dates & rent amounts are subject to change at any time without notice)