

IRA GRAHAM
SIGNS WITH
THE SLAM

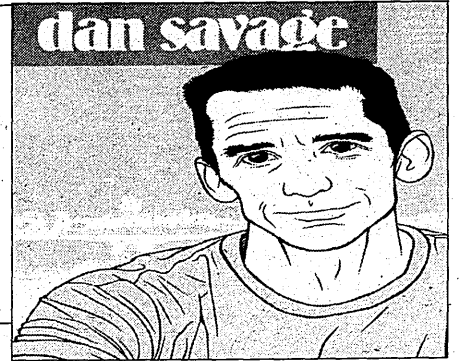
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FIRST OF THREE
PROVOST FINALISTS
VISITS CAMPUS

PAGE 4

DAN SAVAGE
TALKS PROP 8
AT WESTERN

PAGE 8



Friday, April 3, 2009

THE WESTERN FRONT

AN INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER SERVING WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SINCE 1970 | WESTERNFRONTONLINE.NET

Anticipated budget proposals released

Nicholas Johnson
Kevin Minnick
THE WESTERN FRONT

After the release of their 2009-11 budget proposals on March 10, all 16 of Western's planning unit leaders, which consist of deans, provosts and vice presidents, gathered March 18 and 19 to share their plans regarding multiple budget-cut scenarios.

All Western colleges and departments conducted a Strengths, Challenges, Op-

portunities and Threats (SCOT) analysis during winter quarter, as well as numerous subsequent inter-department meetings and discussions, to help prepare for the budget presentations.

The various academic deans and provosts presented budget-cut strategies for a 3.8 percent and a 5 percent scenario. Administrative planning unit leaders presented budget-cut strategies for a 5 percent and a 7 percent scenario.

"[All planning units] wanted to minimize impact to the units who provide

direct academic instruction," said John Lawson, vice provost for information and telecommunications. "Doing that means that some other areas need to take larger cuts. So, if you look at the areas outside the provost departments, they are hitting the 7 percent scenario."

Lawson has prepared for a deeper cut than what the academic departments face, presenting a 10 percent scenario in addition to the 5 percent scenario.

Western's budget-cut proposal scenarios of 3.8, 5 and 7 percent were based

on Gov. Chris Gregoire's \$342 million budget cut proposal to the state's higher education system made in December. Her proposal meant Western would need to reduce its operating budget by \$13 million, or roughly 5 percent for the 2009-11 biennial budget.

Brent Carbajal, dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, said all eight of Western's colleges were told to prepare for a 50 percent reduction in

see **BUDGET** page 6

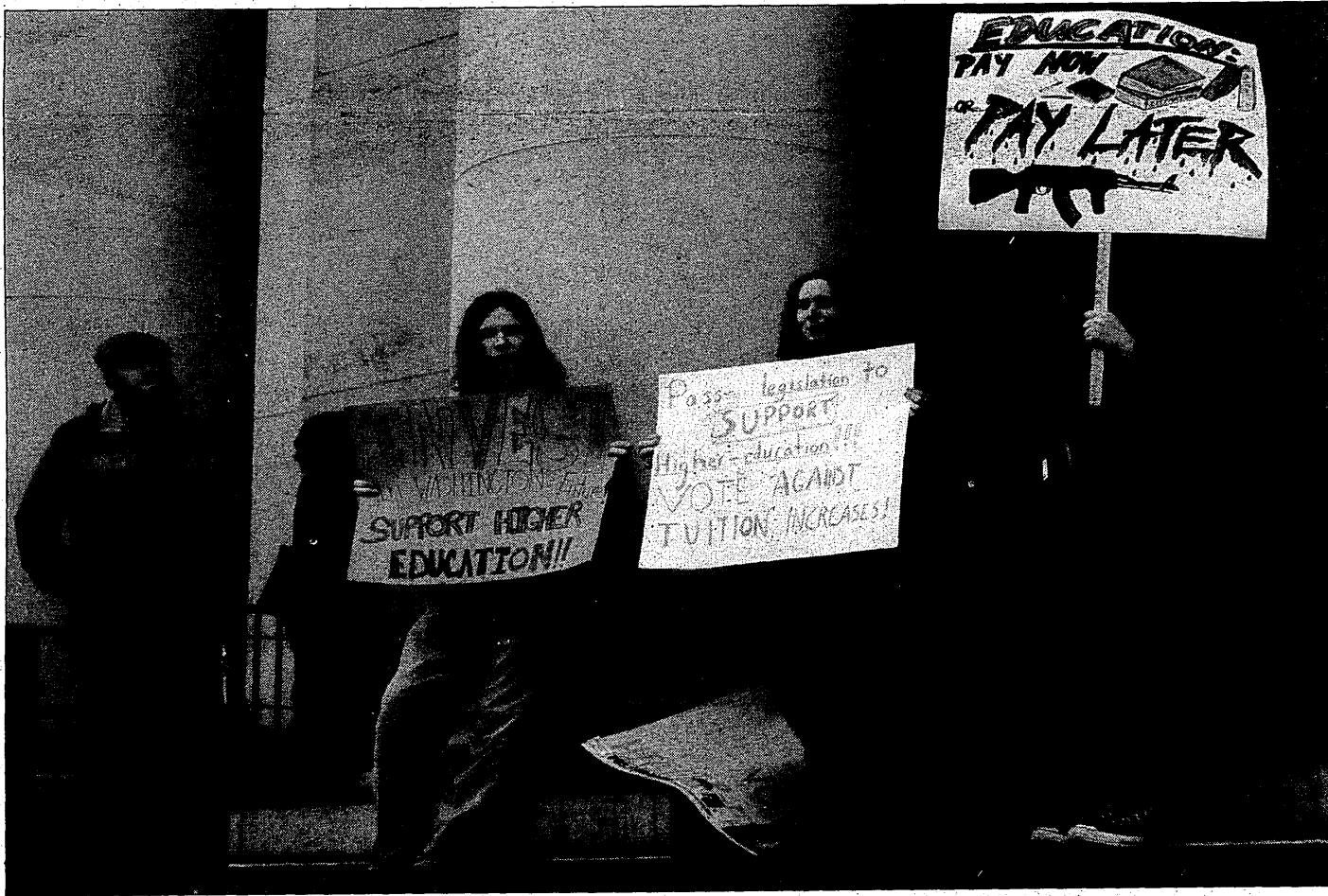


photo by Nicholas Johnson THE WESTERN FRONT

College students from all around Washington state gathered in Olympia with signs protesting the current decisions in legislation regarding budget cuts and tuition increases in the state's universities.

Students travel to Olympia to rally tuition increase

Nicholas Johnson
THE WESTERN FRONT

Despite Wednesday's wet and windy weather, the Washington Student Lobby (WSL) held a rally on the steps of the state capitol building to oppose the state's proposed higher education budget cuts and the possibility of increased tuition rates for resident undergraduates.

As a result of the state legislature's newly-released budget proposals, which could amount to a 25 percent cut to Western's budget between 2009-11, the WSL invited students from across the state to

rally in Olympia.

"We wanted to send the message that these cuts to our state's higher education system will allow fewer students to be able to afford rising tuition," WSL Executive Director Mike Bogatay said.

Urging legislators to continue their traditional support for Washington's higher education system, Western senior Thom Anderson spoke to a sparse crowd of media and Evergreen State students explaining his dependence on state financial aid.

"I come from a low-income family that could not contribute toward my education," Anderson said. "While I've had

access to [financial aid] opportunities, the availability of such aid will be greatly reduced under the proposed enrollment number and budget for 2009-11."

The state Senate's budget proposal allocates roughly \$10 million of financial aid to Western, whereas the House of Representative's budget allocates approximately \$6 million.

According to Western's Office of Planning and Budgeting, resident undergraduates can expect to see tuition in-

see **TUITION RALLY** page 5

Technology fee increase up for renewal in spring elections

Jeremy Schwartz
THE WESTERN FRONT

Associated Students (AS) Board of Directors decided Wednesday how the proposed Student Technology Fee renewal, which would raise the per student fee from \$17 per quarter to an amount not exceeding \$25 per quarter, will be presented to Western's student body for the 2009 AS spring elections, said Western senior Andrea Goddard, AS vice president for academic affairs.

The proposed renewal includes the possibility of the fee being less than \$25 per quarter in order for the AS board to have more flexibility in deciding exactly how much of the Student Technology Fee will go toward the projects the board is set to fund, Goddard said.

The Student Technology Fee was implemented in 1995 and comes up for renewal by student vote approximately every four years, Goddard said. The current fee is divided between the Student Technology Center and the proposal fund, which supports the myriad of technology-related project proposals that Western's staff and departments submit every year to the Student Technology Fee Committee, she said.

The tech center receives \$2 of the \$17 every quarter—approximately \$75,000 for the 2008-09 academic year—and the proposal fund receives the remaining \$15

see **FEE** page 7



photo by Katie Greene THE WESTERN FRONT

Western freshman Taylor Bunch checks the shelves in the Associated Students Bookstore for books for his Liberal Studies class on Thursday. "Seven books, can you believe that? For one class," Bunch said.

Former Western Provost, Andrew Bodman named Provost for CSUSB

Andrew Bodman, who served as Western's provost and vice president for business and academic affairs from 1999-2007, was hired for the same position at California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB).

In addition to his time as provost, Bodman was also a professor of geography at Western's Huxley College of the Environment. As provost, Bodman developed new academic programs at Western and improved the quality of existing academic programs, which helped him meet the eligibility requirements for the CSU provost position.

Bodman will begin his duties with CSU at the start of the new academic year on July 1.

Lecture Series 'Wizards at Western' on 'Deciphering Nature's Code'

The Western College of Sciences and Technology will host a lecture event called "Wizards at Western." Michael Naylor, associate professor of mathematics, will be the presenter.

This lecture is based off of the Golden Ratio, thought to be the most beautiful ratio in the world since the beginning of mathematics. Leonardo da Vinci was one of the many scientists who saw art in the Golden Ratio.

Naylor's presentation is designed to help the audience understand the history of this ratio and learn the secrets behind its patterns in nature. The lecture will be at 10 a.m., April 11 in the Science Math and Technology Building Room 150. All lectures are free and open to the public.

Man leads Western police on 15-minute car chase

On March 29, a man led Western police through local neighborhoods on a 15-minute car chase.

The 25-year-old man from Bellingham was initially pulled over after a Western officer noticed the pickup he was driving had a damaged fender that was rubbing against his front tire.

The driver refused to give the officer his registration, insurance and driver's license, then took off driving south on West College Drive.

Western and Bellingham Police chased the driver through the neighborhood streets until his pickup got stuck on top of a dirt mound. When the driver refused to get out of the truck, police fired a Taser at him, said Western police chief Randy Stegmeier.

Joseph Alan Schacht was arrested on suspicion of eluding police and third-degree driving with a suspended license. Test results are pending to determine if Schacht was under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

News Briefs compiled by Ashley Mitchell

COPS BOX

University Police

March 29

- Officers responded to a call from a resident advisor in Buchanan Towers about a student who reportedly was in possession of illegal drugs. The drugs were confiscated by police.

March 30

- Police responded to a report of a stolen backpack and cell phone from the Wade King Student Recreation Center.

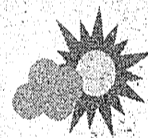
Bellingham Police

April 1

- Police arrested a 24-year-old man on North Samish Parkway on suspicion of giving false identification to a public servant. The man was booked into jail after being transported to the hospital after swallowing heroin.

Cops Box compiled by Dan Balmer

WEATHER REPORT



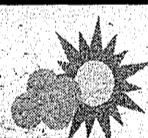
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SUN

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Sunny



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Low: 44° F
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WWU Official Announcements - PLEASE POST

The WWU Official Announcements will appear in The Western Front twice per quarter. Submission policy: 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 9011, faxed to ext. 6817 or brought to Old Main Room 300. DO NOT SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS DIRECTLY TO THE WESTERN FRONT. Phoned announcements will not be accepted.

MATH PLACEMENT TEST—The WWU Testing Center administers the math placement test, and the schedule can be found at the center's Web site at <http://www.wwu.edu/depts/assess/tc.htm>. The test is given on most Mondays and Thursdays throughout the quarter. All administrations are at the Testing Center in Old Main Room 120, unless otherwise posted. Remaining schedule for spring quarter: Mondays at 3 p.m. (April 6, 13, 20, 27; May 4, 11, 18; June 1, 8) and Thursdays at 9 a.m. (April 2, 16, 23, 30; May 7, 14, 21, 28; June 4, 11).

MILLER ANALOGIES TEST—To arrange an appointment to take the MAT, contact the Testing Center, either in person in Old Main Room 120 or by calling (360) 650-3080. A fee of \$70 is payable at time of test. The test takes approximately 1.5 hours, and preliminary scores will be available immediately. Official results will be mailed within 15 days. See <http://www.testprepreview.com> for more information and free practice tests.

WEST-B TEST—All individuals applying for admission to state-approved teacher education programs are required to meet the minimum passing score on the basic skills assessment by the application deadline. Visit <http://www.west.nesinc.com> for registration information and a study guide with sample test questions. Remaining test dates for the 2008-2009 school year are April 10, May 30 and July 11. Registration deadlines are several weeks in advance of each date.

WEST-E TEST—Washington state requires teacher candidates and teachers adding endorsements to pass a subject knowledge assessment for each chosen endorsement. This endorsement is called the Washington Educator Skills Test-Endorsements (WEST-E). WWU teacher candidates must pass the WEST-E test for each endorsement to be earned with a teacher certificate as a condition for entering the student teaching internship. New WEST-E tests administered by Evaluation Systems Group of Pearson are being implemented in two phases. Phase II tests will be available in fall 2009. Candidates are responsible for reviewing the Woodring College of Education WEST-E Test Resource Site at <http://www.wce.wwu.edu/Resources/Endorsements/WEST-E.shtml> for current registration and test information. Some students will need to pass the WEST-E/PRAXIS II test to qualify for endorsement during the New WEST-E implementation period. Refer to the Test Resource Site for test dates, registration and test information. Remaining 2008-2009 New WEST-E test dates: April 4, May 30 and July 11.

HEARING ON SKATEBOARD RULE CHANGES—WWU proposes amendments to skateboard and foot scooter rules to provide clear operational guidelines for students, faculty, staff and guests. The proposed rules acknowledge skateboards, foot scooters, skates and other similar devices as sustainable forms of transportation. The new rules will also set allowable speeds on campus and provide for walk zones where riders are required to dismount from their skateboards. The hearing on skateboards is scheduled for 3 p.m. April 22 in Old Main Room 340.

HEARING ON BICYCLE RULE CHANGES—WWU proposes amendments to bicycle rules to provide clear operational guidelines for students, faculty, staff and guests. The rules will set allowable speeds on campus and provide for walk zones where riders are required to dismount from their bicycles. The hearing on bicycles, mopeds, and other powered devices is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. April 22 in Old Main Room 340.

HEARING ON HOUSING AND DINING RULE CHANGES—Amendments to housing and dining rules are proposed to be consistent with the department's revised mission statement. The hearing on Housing and Dining is scheduled for 4 p.m. April 22 in Old Main Room 340.

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APPLICATIONS Pick up and turn in applications at the filing cabinet outside VU 505

Western meets Zimmerman, first of three provost finalists

Anne Maertens
THE WESTERN FRONT

Michael Zimmerman was the first of three new finalists chosen for the position of provost/vice president of academic affairs to visit Western Monday and Tuesday this week.

During an open forum held Monday for the campus community to meet and ask Zimmerman questions, he focused on the need to keep the liberal arts central to society during the rough economic times ahead.

Each finalist visits Western separately for two days and holds an hour-long forum. This is a continuation of the first search conducted last fall, which resulted in a candidate declining an offer made by Western President Bruce Shepard.

Western Associate Professor Craig Dunn, chair of the Provost Search Advisory Committee, said two dozen applicants were added to the original pool of candidates and then the search committee repeated the review process until they chose three new finalists.

Dunn said all finalists share many characteristics that would be beneficial to Western, including their leadership styles.

"We're not looking for someone who's going to be a heavy-handed dictator," Dunn said. "The culture at Western supports someone that is transparent and participative."

Zimmerman has a doctorate in biology from Washington University in St. Louis, Mo. He has taught at William and Mary College, Oberlin College, and was a dean at University of Wisconsin Oshkosh for 14 years before working at Butler Uni-

versity in Indiana. He said he likes to surround himself with the brightest people he can find so that he does not have to waste time micromanaging.

As dean of the college of liberal arts and sciences at Butler for the past three years, he said he has a lot of experience that is applicable to the provost position, but it is Western's responsibility to decide if he is the right fit for the university.

The questions in the forum ranged from dealing with the economic times to what Zimmerman can do to improve the lives of Western faculty and staff.

Zimmerman said he was good at bringing people from different backgrounds together. He also mentioned his experience at Butler, where he created cross-department reading groups and held multi-departmental panel discussions.

Western biology professor Deb Donovan is a member of the search committee.

"I like him," Donovan said. "He's a biologist, so what's not to like?"

Donovan said she would like to see someone with scientific background get the job, but she also appreciated his commitment to the holistic liberal arts education.

"The things I treasure most about higher education seem to be things that Western also values," Zimmerman said. "It appears that Western cares deeply about the primacy and centrality of the liberal arts."

The biggest challenge Zimmerman sees for Western, which depends heavily on state funding, is the recession. It is at a magnitude no one in higher education has ever experienced, and everyone will undergo budget cuts, he said.

To get through this, it is important for Western to demonstrate to society that providing a liberal arts degree, rather than a certification, is valuable to the entire community, not just the student receiving the degree, Zimmerman said. A liberal arts education creates strong leaders and volunteers for society, which is how graduates can pay back the cost of their public education to their communities, he said.

"Sinking limited resources into higher education is one of the best things society can do for itself," Zimmerman said.

Zimmerman said he believes raising tuition is not only necessary but inevitable. Equally important is raising financial aid assistance for students so the burden of the tuition rise goes to those who can afford it, he said.

Associated Students President Erik Lowe said dealing with tuition and budgets are difficult issues for administrators. Although, as a student it is unrealistic to think that financial aid will be able to keep up with the rise in tuition, he said. Many students and their families are facing job losses, decreased home values and increased debt, Lowe said.

Overall, Lowe said he was impressed with the way Zimmerman responded to the questions.

One professor asked if Zimmerman were provost, what would he do to protect scholarships available for students?

Zimmerman said students will suffer the most during this era of recession, and it is essential to keep scholarships available for students, especially those who have the hardest time affording higher education.

"If you lose a generation [of stu-

dents,] you've lost something that really is irretrievable," he said.

Donovan said the most important thing is that Shepard and Zimmerman work well together. President Shepard will make the final choice after the two other candidates visit campus.

Liz Sipes, assistant to the president, said President Shepard is going to wait until all three candidates have visited campus before commenting on them individually.

The next candidate Central Michigan University Vice Provost Catherine Rioridan visited the campus Wednesday and Thursday. The third, Gerard Voland, dean of the College of Engineering at Indiana University, will be on campus April 8 and 9.



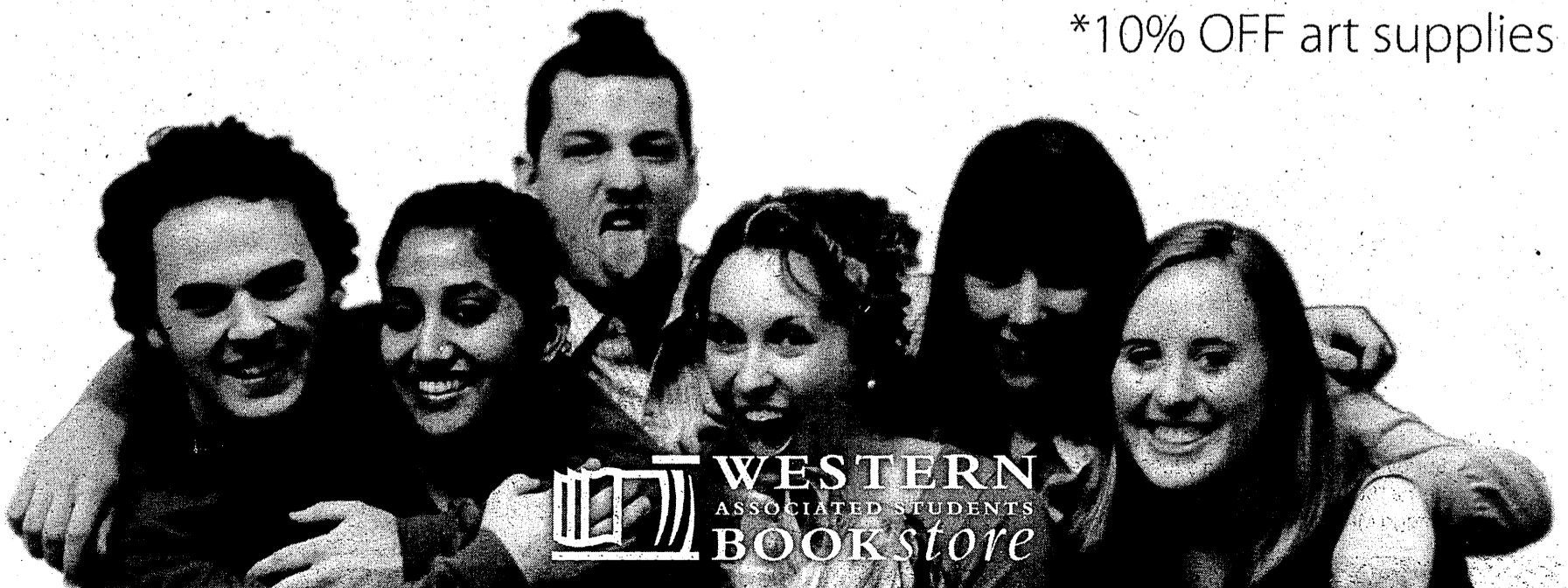
photo by Keith Daigle THE WESTERN FRONT
Dr. Michael Zimmerman answers questions during his provost forum on Monday.

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WESTERN
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RALLY: Students hope to preserve tuition cap

from 1

-creases of \$300 to \$429 per year during the 2009-11 biennium as a result of either a 7 percent or 10 percent increase.

Western's Board of Trustees is currently limited in its ability to raise resident undergraduate tuition above 7 percent of the previous year's rate, as a result of a measure approved by Gov. Chris Gregoire in April 2007. The measure was intended to cap tuition increases through the 2016-17 academic year, according to RCW 28B.15.558. However, the board maintains authority to raise non-resident and graduate tuition rates as they see fit.

The state Senate's budget proposal released Monday preserves the 7 percent tuition cap while the House of Representatives' proposal, released Tuesday, increases the cap to 10 percent.

"In recent years the [state] legislature has shown to be incapable of preserving a tuition increase cap," Associated Student Legislative Affairs Liaison Morgan Holmgren said. "What's the point of a cap if we keep increasing it?"

Jane Vroman, Western's legislative relations specialist, said Western administration has been asking the state legislature for a 14 percent tuition increase to help offset Western's predicted budget cuts since the 2009 legislative session began on Jan. 8. Western's administration has wrestled with the issue of decreased student access to higher education as a result of increasing tuition rates, Vroman said.

"We are incredibly sensitive to that, but we also need to remember that the legislature is offering less money than in previous years, which means students will need to pay more," Vroman said.

Sarah Ishmael, AS vice president of legislative and governmental affairs, said that while Western has been receiving less state funding each year, those financial burdens can not continue to be placed on students in the form of increased tuition. Rather than placing such heavy financial strains on students, the entire Western

community- students, administration, faculty and legislators as well- need to begin asking what higher education means to the future of Washington state, Ishmael said.

"There are ideas and resources that I believe have not yet been discovered because we, as an entire community, need to start asking these tough questions," Ishmael said.

According to Western Planning and Budgeting documents, Western's tuition has increased each year since 1987. Bogatay said the tuition rate has also grown at

a faster rate than inflation, which means students are faced with greater difficulties in paying tuition each year.

Bogatay said students are now borrowing an average of \$7,000 per year in loans, while the average period of time it takes a newly-graduated student to find a job is nine months. However, the grace period for paying back those student loans is generally six months after graduation.

"Student loan debts are the only debts that can follow a person no matter what," Bogatay said. "It's like these students are indentured servants."

President Barack Obama has pushed for financial aid relief by increasing loan and grant funds, such as the recently increased federal loan limits of unsubsidized loans by \$2,000. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has increased Pell grants for 2009-10 to \$5,350; increased student eligibility by extending the family contribution cutoff by \$576 for Pell grants and increased the maximum federal educational tax credit by \$700, according to Western's Office of Financial Aid.

"Approximately one-fourth of Western aid recipients were eligible for a Pell grant last year," Director of Financial Aid Clara Capron wrote in an e-mail. "The maximum Pell grant will increase by \$619 from the 2008-09 school year."

Capron also said federal aid funding for the College Work Study program has not yet been announced, but she expects increases there as well. State Work Study allocations have not yet been made, but Capron said an increase in those funds "remains a reasonable possibility."



photo by Nicholas Johnson THE WESTERN FRONT

Student Senate Chair Annie Jansen addresses the crowd of students and media at the Washington Student Lobby's rally Wednesday on the steps of the state capitol. "I am of the opinion that higher education should be more of a burden on the state than on students because it is a public good," Jansen said.

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BUDGET: Washington universities face harsher cuts

from 1

temporary funding. The College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Western's largest college, faces the biggest setback. If hit with a 5 percent cut, humanities and social sciences would lose \$749,419 each year, causing a complete depletion of its operating reserve budget. It would also eliminate more than 10 full-time faculty positions, the greatest reduction in full-time faculty across all colleges.

Western's College of Sciences and Technology is anticipating a loss of approximately more than 7 full-time faculty positions, the second highest among Western's colleges. Most of these positions are currently unfilled—so while core programs are unaffected, opportunities for student independent research projects will suffer.

"Each faculty member can work with two, three or four students each term [on independent research projects]," said Arlan Norman, dean of the College of Sciences and Technology. "If we don't fill these positions, we won't be able to expand the research opportunities as much as we hoped."

The Washington state Senate released

March 30, its proposed 2009-11 biennium budget, which would cut \$513 million from the state's higher education system.

Western President Bruce Shepard called the Senate's proposal "shocking and distressing."

According to documents recently released by Western's Planning and Budgeting Office, the Senate has recommended Western take a 25 percent cut over the 2009-10 school year and a 13.5 percent cut in the 2010-11 school year. This represents a 19 percent reduction for the biennium.

"While times are tough across the country, I am aware of no other state that is preparing to decimate its capacity to move ahead as times turn around," Shepard said in a statement.

Western's peer institutions, determined by the University Planning and Budgeting Office for the purpose of self-assessment and academic planning, such as James Madison University and Montclair

"While times are tough across the country, I am aware of no other state that is preparing to decimate its capacity to move ahead as times turn around."

- President Bruce Shepard

State University, average a 2009-10 budget cut of 6.5 percent, according to Western's Office of Planning and Budgeting. That average is nearly four times less than Western's proposed 25 percent cut.

The Washington state House of Representatives announced in its budget proposal a potential cut of \$683 million from the state's higher education system.

"If we're being prudent, we'll always have in the back of our minds the question of: what if we have to do more? What if we have to cut more deeply?" Norman said. "We're hoping that a way of managing the resources within the university can be found so that the academic programs can be protected at the 5 percent level."

Losing the highest share of any department, Western's information technology services has budgeted a 10 percent revenue reduction. This will significantly reduce the funding available for new software and software enhancements. Re-

sponse times in waiting for computers and lab equipment to be repaired will be longer, and the loss of the night shift machine room operator means that students will no longer be able to make after-hour administrative help desk calls. Lawson said they are trying not to lose any student employees.

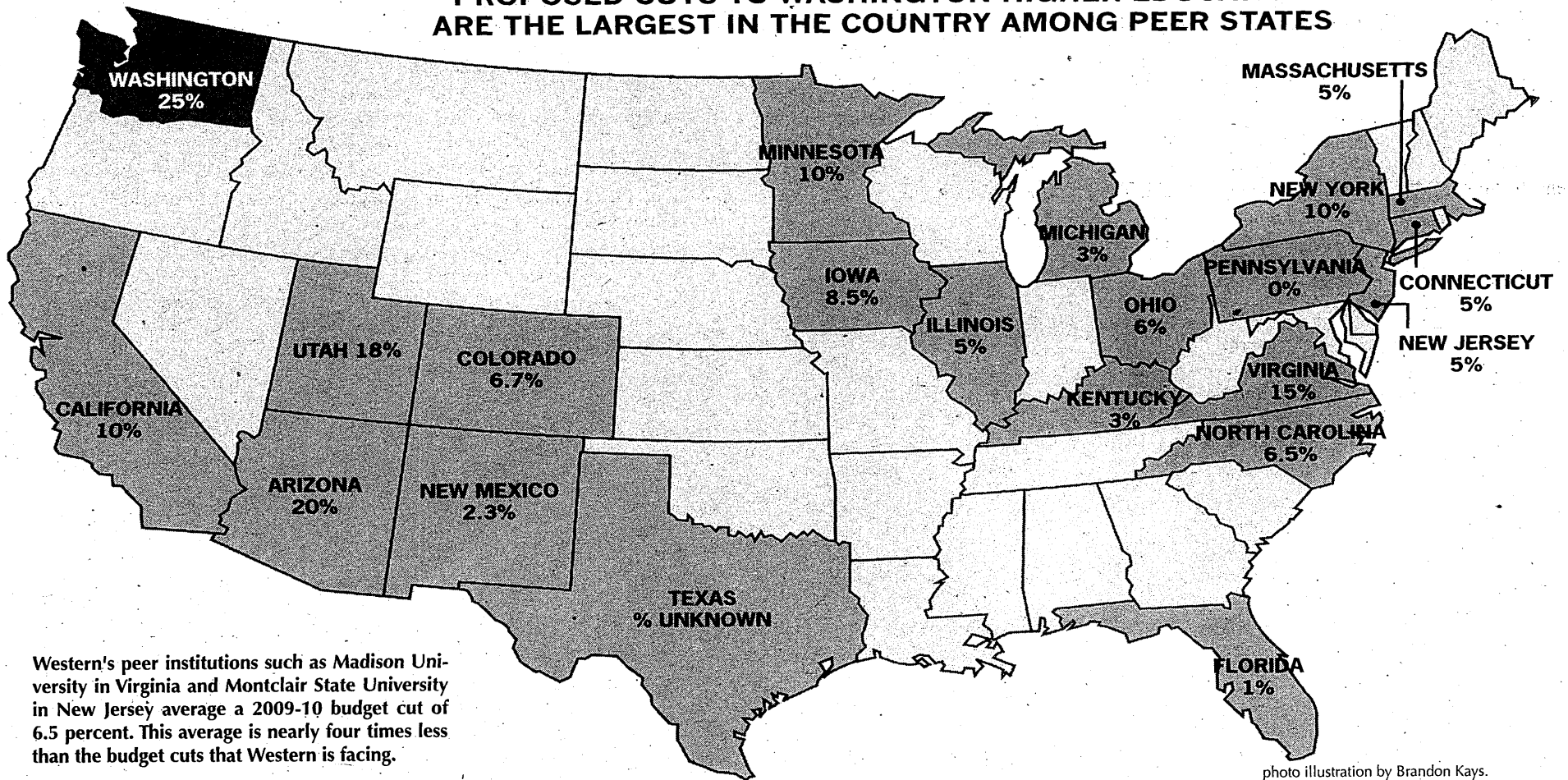
"We'll still have the help desk and the student technology center staffed by students," Lawson said.

The consequences of Western's proposed budget cuts are still being considered by department heads and university administration as the state Senate and House work toward a compromise of their proposals.

According to Western's Planning and Budgeting Office, the State legislature's final budget will be finalized by April 22, the last day of the 2009 session.

"I believe we'll be working on budget issues right up until the beginning of summer, probably into summer actually," Norman said. "When I look at the work we have ahead and all the uncertainty that there is, we'll probably be lucky to know where we stand by the end of the month, but I'm hoping we will."

PROPOSED CUTS TO WASHINGTON HIGHER EDUCATION ARE THE LARGEST IN THE COUNTRY AMONG PEER STATES



Western's peer institutions such as Madison University in Virginia and Montclair State University in New Jersey average a 2009-10 budget cut of 6.5 percent. This average is nearly four times less than the budget cuts that Western is facing.

photo illustration by Brandon Kays. Source: University of Washington

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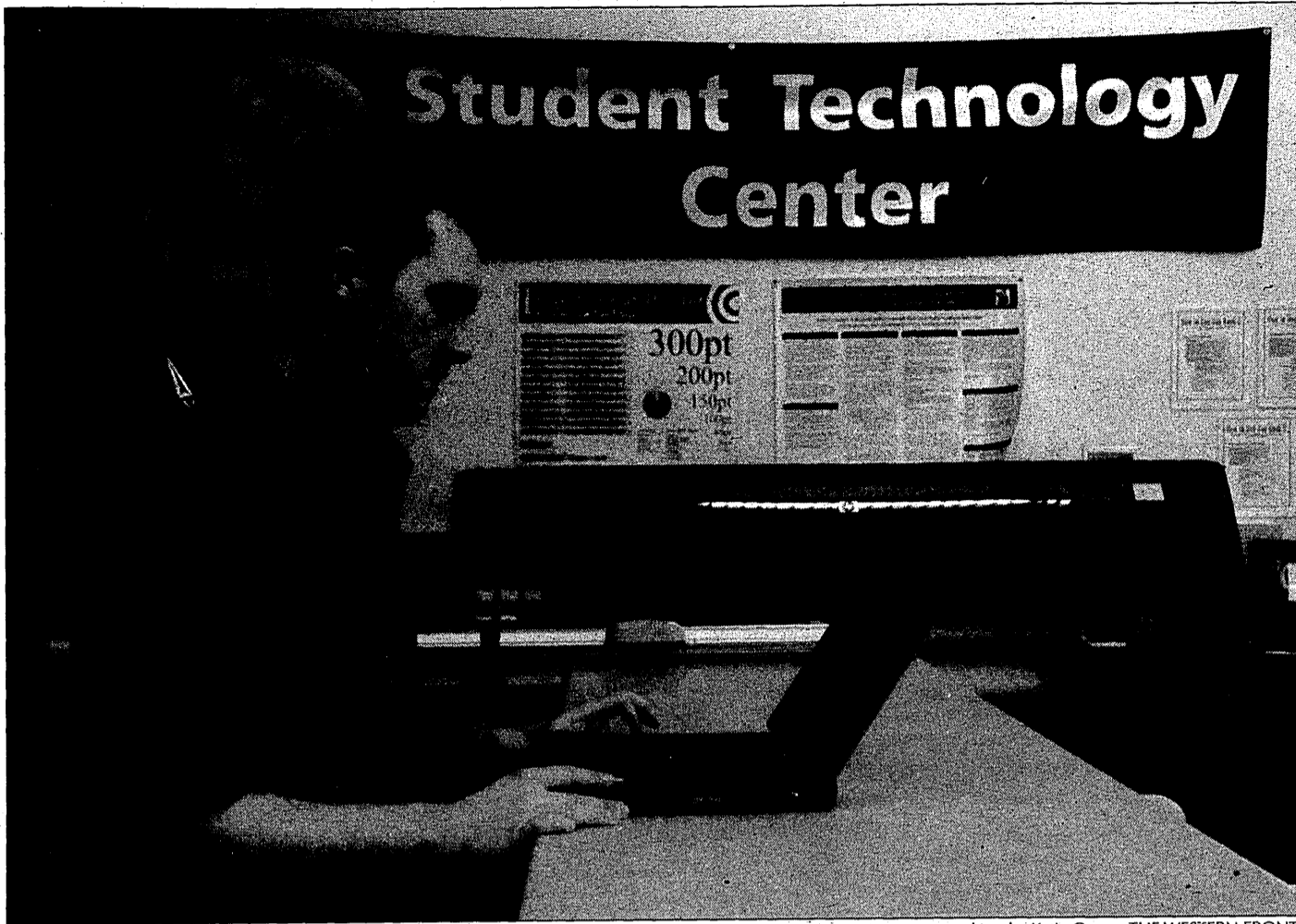
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FEE: money for campus technology hinges on student vote



Western sophomore Wes Payne checks in a laptop at the Student Technology Center Thursday. Laptops can be rented for free on campus. photo by Katie Greene THE WESTERN FRONT

from 1

per quarter, she said.

Rejection of the proposed increase would effectively do away with the Student Technology Fee altogether, leaving no money to support the Student Technology Center, Goddard said. The ballot will not include any option to maintain the current \$17 fee, she said.

The proposed 2009 Student Technology Fee renewal will not only increase the fee by \$8 per quarter, but will also reorganize the way the money is distributed, Goddard said.

The new fee will set aside \$15 of the \$25 per quarter for regular renewal and replacement of the computers in Western's 24 general university computer labs, which Academic Technology and User Services (ATUS) manages, Goddard said. The tech center will receive \$3 per quarter from the increased fee—approximately \$104,000 for the 2009-10 academic year, she said.

The current process for upgrading the general university computer labs involves ATUS submitting a separate proposal for an upgrade to each computer lab to the Student Technology Fee Com-

mittee. The committee decides how much of the money collected from the Student Technology Fee will be allocated to any staff and departments requesting funds for technology-related projects, Goddard said. The proposed increase will be used to update the general university computer labs every four to five years, she said.

The restructured fee will reduce the amount sent to the proposal fund to \$6 per quarter, since ATUS will no longer have to rely on the proposal fund to upgrade its computer labs, Goddard said. The remaining \$1 per quarter will fund future expansion, maintenance and upgrades to Western's wireless network, she said.

The committee, which Goddard chairs, created a Student Technology Fee Task Force during winter quarter 2009. The task force's mission was to determine how much the Student Technology Fee needed to be increased due to the higher demand for technology on campus since the fee's establishment, Goddard said.

"[The task force] was very cognizant of student dollars going to the fee," Goddard said. "We threw together things that would be needed."

The task force's original proposal called for an end to the renewal process

based on student votes in order to streamline the process of regularly updating the general university computer labs, Goddard said.

However, Washington law prohibits the approval of the technology fees of public universities without a regular student vote, she said. If students pass the increased fee, it will come up for renewal again in 2013.

The task force recommended more funding go toward the tech center, Goddard said. The tech center has seen a 10 percent increase in color printing and large-format printing, in addition to an increase in computer use by students over the past few years, said John Farquhar, manager of instructional development and multimedia. He said the tech center will need at least a \$14,561 per year increase in order to maintain its current level of service to students.

Farquhar said the most important thing is that the fee increase get passed, since a failure to renew the tech fee would result in absolutely no money left to support the tech center.

Western senior Chris Dworetzky, a student member of the task force and employee of the tech center, said the increase

and renewal of the tech center are definitely needed.

"If you vote 'no' on the increase, [the tech center] and most ATUS labs will disappear," Dworetzky said.

Farquhar said he would like to see the tech center be able to hold hours on Saturdays, something it does not currently do. Farquhar said he would like the tech center to be open a total of 80 hours per week instead of the current 60 hours per week.

In addition to more hours of operation, Farquhar said he would like the tech center to be able to provide more workshops that offer students free tutorials for software such as Adobe Photoshop and InDesign.

Both scenarios would require more money to pay staff, because the Washington state minimum wage has steadily increased in the last few years, Farquhar said.

"[The \$3 increase] would allow a modest increase in services," he said.

ATUS Director Frank Roberts said regular upgrades to Western's general university computer labs are vital if Western wants to continue to meet the technological needs of its students. Roberts said the computers available to all Western students need to be able to run the most up-to-date software, software that corporations such as Microsoft update every year.

Dworetzky said general university lab upgrades and replacements would be staggered, with a different lab being updated every year. He said an example of a computer lab that was in dire need of an upgrade was Old Main room 330, whose computers were originally purchased nine years ago and only recently replaced.

Western senior Whitney Dunbar said she uses the general university computer labs approximately four times per week and the computers in the tech center approximately once per week. She said she would utilize the center if it were open on Saturdays since she printed numerous documents in color during the end of winter quarter.

With regards to the general university computer labs, Dunbar said she would most like to see more labs on campus. Despite the new labs in the Academic Instructional Center, Dunbar said she thinks they do not take much traffic away from the computer labs on north campus, leading to long waits for the use of a computer.

"[Students] constantly use technology, whether in class or in their personal lives," she said. "I would support [the increased fee] to make life slightly easier."

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Dan Savage to speak on I

No stranger to Western, the columnist returns to discuss same

Coral Garnick
THE WESTERN FRONT

Getting married and raising children may sound like everyday occurrences to some, but to Dan Savage, who is the editorial director of *The Stranger* and creator and author of "Savage Love," a weekly sex advice column, it proved to be a little more challenging.

Savage, an openly gay male, adopted a son 11 years ago with his domestic partner, whom he married in Canada in 2005 because same-sex marriage was not legal in Washington.

"We wanted to be legally married some place, and Canada was the nearest option," Savage said. "We spend a lot of time in Canada, so it is a little taste of the future every time we go up there."

In an effort to create a discussion about issues students find important and are concerned with, Savage will answer any and all questions relating to same-sex marriage, Proposition 8 (Prop 8), and sex in general at 7 p.m. April 4 in the Performing Arts Center. Prop 8 is an amendment to California's state constitution prohibiting same-sex marriage which passed in November 2008.

"I hope to get in an argument," Savage said. "I hope that it is not just a room full of people that agree with me about everything and that we can have a real discussion about what are exciting issues at this time."

Associated Students Productions (ASP) Special Events coordinator and Western junior Hallie Anderson invited Savage to Western after conversations with ASP Civil Controversy and the Resource Outreach Program's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Alliance (LGBTQA) and Sexual Awareness Center, all of which are co-sponsoring the event.

Even though Prop 8 does not affect Washington residents, LGBTQA coordinator and Western senior Amber Aldrich said a lot of people on campus were asking for programs addressing the issue. The organizations decided to bring Savage to campus because he is a dynamic speaker that will engage the campus, Aldrich said.

"Dan Savage has a big voice. He has a weekly column. He is editor of *The Stranger* and has written several books about family, marriage, gay issues and, obviously, about sex," Aldrich said. "I can't think of a better person to speak in an engaging manner about Prop 8."

Savage came to campus two years ago to talk about sex, and the event was well attended, Anderson said. Special Events staff likes to bring people to campus to create discussion about current issues in the media, such as Prop 8, which is a widely talked about controversial issue right now, Anderson said.

"I hope this event will give Western students a broader understanding regarding Prop 8," she said. "And since *The Stranger* is no longer delivered to Bellingham due to economic expenses, I think it is great that we are able

to bring him up here."

Savage has been res with his weekly "Savage Keck moved to Seattle to *The Stranger*.

"Savage Love" was up by six other newspaper than 100 newspapers inte

"Dan Savage has a big v *Stranger* and he has writte and, obviously, about sex. ing manner about Prop 8."

"It just took off," he s of happened."

Savage describes the campuses, and the langua about sex in a bar with hi

"I write a column a when they talk to their f then, they don't have to."

As someone who reg how frank Savage is, but ions.

"Sometimes I find hi disagree with him," she s big rousing debates with at least have to admire th disagree with it."

Savage, who is open talked about and that pe said he does not want stu may think. Savage said perspective.

Just eight years ago, to ban same sex-marriage the law that the Supreme sex marriage in Californi banning gay marriage ag point shift in 8 years is ar

"Had the Prop 8 vote he said. "And when the ne Prop 8, we will win that r

Along with ASP Spe bringing Savage to Weste versy focuses on providin over a wide range of high such as food production a cal drugs and same-sex r assistant coordinator for A

"As much as Prop 8 I want to hear [Savage's] events to learn something spective."

Western senior Jessic is a good use of campu educated about Prop 8 an will attend the event.

"For students who m have good ideas for them LGBT community, he kn

ASP Special Events know more on his view s-willing to oblige.

"What I would say t young—is: do not despa fight for same-sex marria

Who: Dan Savage
What: Proposition 8 lecture and Q & A
When: 7 p.m. April 4
Where: PAC Mainstage
Cost: \$8 General/\$5 Student with I.D.

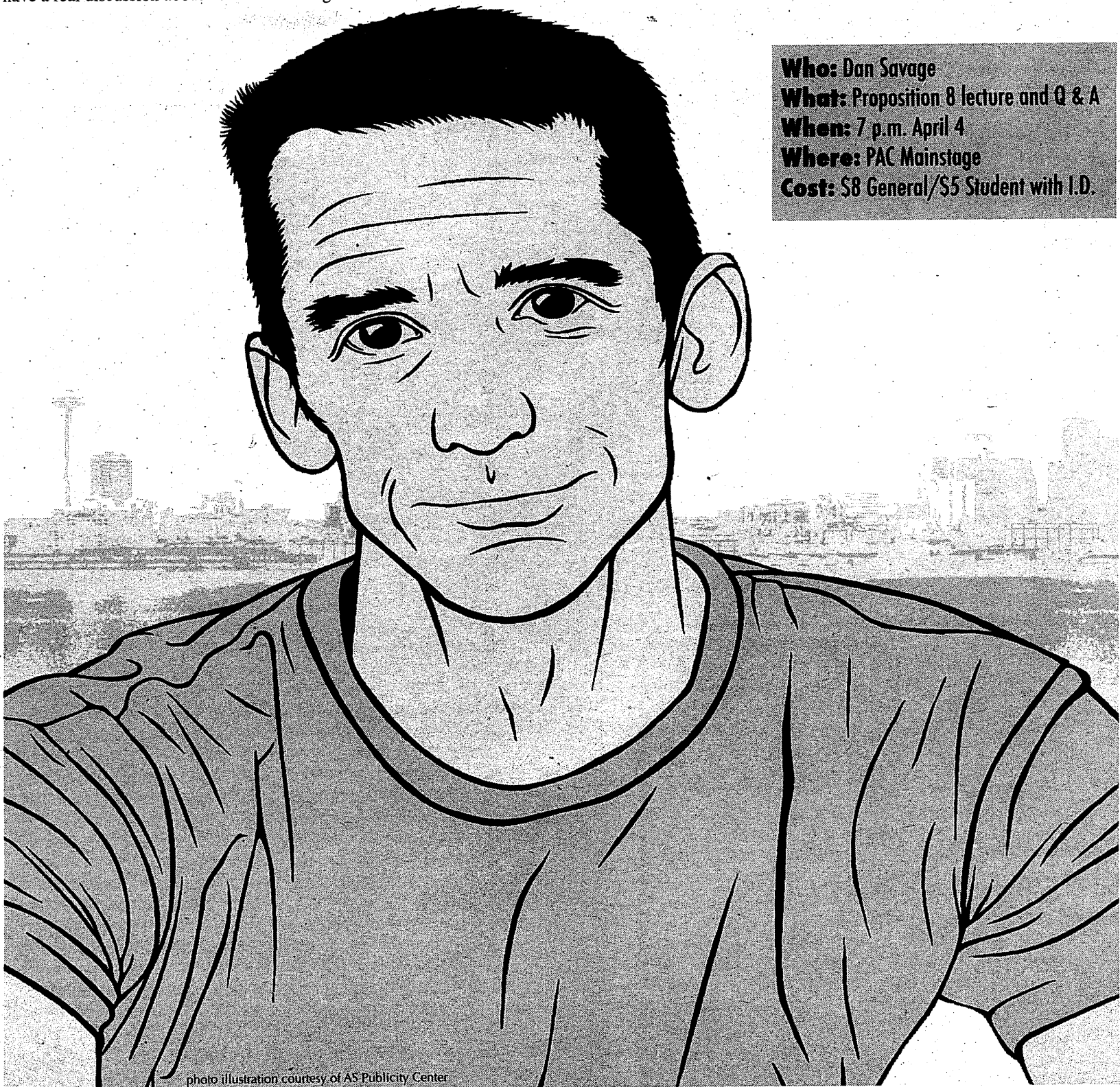


photo illustration courtesy of AS Publicity Center

Prop 8 e-sex marriage

ponding to the sexually frustrated and confused "Love" column since 1991 when his friend Tim start an alternative, left-leaning newspaper called quickly syndicated, and by 1993 had been picked ers. After 18 years, the column is printed in more nternationally, Savage said.

oice. He has a weekly column. He is editor of The n several books about family, marriage, gay issues can't think of a better person to speak in an engag-

- Amber Aldrich, LGBTA director

aid. "I never really tried to syndicate it; it just sort

e language he uses to talk to students on college ge he uses in his column, as having a conversation s friends.

about sex using the language people actually use riends," he said. "Some people don't like it, but ead it."

ularly reads "Savage Love," Aldrich said she loves she said she sometimes disagrees with his opin-

s ideas really refreshing, and sometimes I blatantly id. "But he is kind of like that friend that you have — sometimes you get furious with them, but you heir ability to articulate their side even when you

y against Prop 8, said he knows the issue is widely ple often want to feel depressed about it, but he dents to despair because it is not as bad as some Prop 8 is helpful when looked at in a historical

in 2000, in California, there was a ballot initiative and it passed by 22 points, Savage said. That was Court overturned when it briefly legalized same-a. Prop 8, which was a constitutional amendment ain, only passed by 4 points. Savage said that 18 n enormous accomplishment.

come two or four years later, we would have won," ew vote comes four or six year from now repealing ound. Everything is moving in that direction."

cial Events, ASP Civil Controversy co-sponsored rn to talk about sex and Prop 8. ASP Civil Contro- ng opportunities for a diversified dialogue to occur ly politicized or particularly pressing social issues, and consumption, America's faith in pharmaceuti- marriage, said Charles Walker, Western junior and ASP Civil Controversy.

has been in the spotlight and is so well known, perspective on it," Walker said. "I like to go to and to come away educated and with a new per-

a Blatt said she thinks bringing Savage to Western resources. She said she thinks people need to be d she hopes students who are uninformed about it

ay be uninformed, [Savage] is someone who may to listen to," Blatt said. "And him being from the ows what he is talking about."

has made it clear that Western students want to about Prop 8, Savage said he will be more than

o young, same-sex couples—besides don't marry r," he said. "We are ultimately going to win this ge."

New course addresses the issue of blind stereotypes in today's society



photo by Becca Rice THE WESTERN FRONT

From left: Jedi Moerke teaches Western junior Talia London, Western freshman Alyssa Piraino, Western sophomore Lara Gorrin, Western sophomore Katie Gronsky and Western freshman Hallie Sinclair a step dance routine April 2 during her Fairhaven class, Straight Talk About Blindness. After the dancing had finished Moerke asked her students, "If I had tried to teach you the steps with the lights off, would you have learned it as quickly?"

Megan Tackett
THE WESTERN FRONT

For too long, Western senior Jedi Moerke believes most people have bought the notion that people with disabilities are different from the rest of society.

Moerke started Straight Talk About Blindness (STAB) through Fairhaven College this quarter to address issues around blindness in society. She said she wants to enlighten students about history of prejudice toward the blind, as well as where and how society gains preconceived ideas of blindness.

To bring together community members with or without disabilities during one of her classes, Moerke instructed her seven students to stand up out of their chairs and participate in a short step-dance routine.

"A lot of times there's no reason why disabled and non-disabled people can't integrate together," Moerke said. "But unfortunately it doesn't happen that often."

Western sophomore Katie Gronsky, who is enrolled in Moerke's class, said by the end of the quarter she hopes to understand what actions and words are reasonable to do and say around blind people and she hopes to abandon stereotypes about all minorities.

Moerke's unconventional teaching styles help facilitate discussion within the class, Gronsky said.

"We're all kind of teaching each other. I feel like she's not telling us what to think," Gronsky said.

Moerke said sighted people often associate blindness with their fear of the dark. But she wonders if that fear stems from physical darkness or from fear of the unknown.

"What this class will hopefully tell students is blindness does not mean unknown," Moerke said. "When you're blind you don't not know something. It means you'll get information differently."

At a young age, Moerke learned that teachers were often more ignorant about blindness than her elementary school classmates.

"Adults are more clever about how they word their curiosity," Moerke said. "Sometimes their attempts at being tactful are offensive."

Moerke said some teachers would limit her activities based off the individual perception of what they felt a blind child

could handle. She said other teachers did not comprehend her constant frustration with her disability. Instead of being empathetic, teachers would tell her not to be negative and not to pity herself, she said.

Growing up as the only blind student in most of her schools, Moerke said her blindness created a social barrier to her peers. Although she still made friends, many of them were ridiculed for associating with Moerke.

After graduating from Bellingham High School in 2003, Moerke went to Louisiana to attend a six-month specialized blindness-training program, which teaches the blind how to use a cane, read Braille, use special computers and how to manage their living space with little or no assistance.

"A lot of blind people who are born blind are very sheltered," Moerke said. "They didn't have a lot of opportunities to learn those skills."

Moerke, who is partially blind, used a "sleep-shade," a large blindfold that eliminates all of its user's vision, during her training, challenging her to rely on other senses to complete daily tasks.

During training, Moerke said members enrolled in the program were allowed to experiment with tasks they were prohibited from doing when they were younger. For the first time, Moerke said she was able to operate power tools while other members were able to learn how to cross the street by themselves.

After returning to Bellingham, Moerke enrolled at Whatcom Community College and earned her associate degree in spring 2007. She began at Western the following fall to study blindness and society, with an emphasis in communication in pedagogy—the philosophy of teaching.

To navigate around campus, Huxley College loaned Moerke an audio GPS to notify her of how far she was from a building and in which direction the building was in. Moerke also pays attention to other audio cues, such as fans within buildings, to guide her to her destination.

David Brunner, director of the Disabilities Center at Western, said the size of Western's campus is ideal for students to experience diversity with their peers. He said some of the

see COURSE page 10

COURSE: 'There's no reason why disabled and non-disabled people can't integrate together'

from 9

universities he worked at were too large for students to interact with other students from different backgrounds.

"[At Western,] students have enough room to have anonymity, but enough opportunity to develop relationships with the same people over time," Brunnemer said.

Many students and faculty members help the disability center recognize areas that can be improved on campus to make accessibility easier for students with disabilities, such as the uneven bricks throughout

campus and buildings without accessible bathrooms, Brunnemer said.

However, Moerke said the physical accessibility problems on campus are small compared to social tolerance issues. Moerke said she often becomes frustrated when people attempt to give her assistance without asking her first. Moerke said people frequently inform her when she comes across a flight of stairs or grab her arm to guide her without permission.

"I'm not above asking for help because everyone needs help sometimes," Moerke said. "It's all about respect and respecting

boundaries."

Betty Sikkema, president of the United Blind of Whatcom County, experiences similar frustrations around Bellingham. When she begins to cross a street, people often grab her arms without permission to help guide her to the other side. She also receives encouragement from people passing by when she walks around town, she said.

While walking through Red Square, Moerke said religious groups have stopped her and asked if they can pray for her. She said she has been told it pains God that she is not "whole" and another individual told

Moerke her blindness was a result of a sin in a past life.

Although Moerke said she understands their concern, the forwardness is offensive.

"I understand where they are coming from. They are trying to improve my quality of life," Moerke said. "But what they are saying is, 'you are not acceptable the way you are.'"

Moerke aims to reach a larger audience, helping to close the gap between people with and without disabilities and to connect other minority groups with the rest of society.

Western musicians receive Bellingham Music Club awards

Megan Tackett
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western juniors Anni Stankovic, Deborah Blakesley and senior Aidrien Wilkins were named the Bellingham Music Club's annual Western music award recipients and they performed for the club Wednesday at Faith Lutheran Church. Each year the club gives awards funded by donations within the club to Western music students.

The recipients see more personal gain in the competition than the dollar amount. Wilkins said competition pushes musicians to perform at a higher standard.

"It's a checkpoint in some ways, and an opportunity to push yourself to the next level in other ways," Wilkins said.

Even if Blakesley was guaranteed not to win, she said she would still participate to gain the experience of competition and gain feedback from judges.

Second-place recipient mezzo-soprano vocalist, Blakesley began singing when she was 4 years old in a production of "Pinocchio" for the Bellingham The-

atre Guild. She grew up performing in Western's Summer Stock and began participating in local vocal competitions in sixth grade.

After graduating from Bellingham High School in 1997, Blakesley attended the University of Washington (UW) for two years.

Blakesley moved back to Bellingham during her second year at UW to be with her mother who was fighting cancer. Blakesley said Leslie Guelker-Cone, director of Choral Activities and coordinator of Vocal Studies at Western, convinced her to audition for the vocal department at Western.

Although first-place recipient Stankovic began playing the piano when she was 6 years old, she did not intensify her involvement with music until her senior year in high school.

During her freshman year, Stankovic won Western's concerto competition while playing "Prokofiev's Third Piano Concerto" with Western's Symphony Orchestra. She also received the Ford Hill, William D. Sanford and Arthur Hicks piano schol-



Wilkins practices guitar for up to eight hours a day. The Bellingham Music Club presents awards to Western music students Anni Stankovic, Deborah Blakesley and Aidrien Wilkins at Faith Lutheran Church Wednesday.

When third-place recipient Wilkins learned Western did not have a performance program for jazz guitar, he debated transferring to another college. He decided to instead pursue the classical guitar program.

eight hours a day.

Wilkins currently manages the recording studio for the Performing Arts Center and serves on the Department Related Activities Committee and the Services and Activities Committee at Western.

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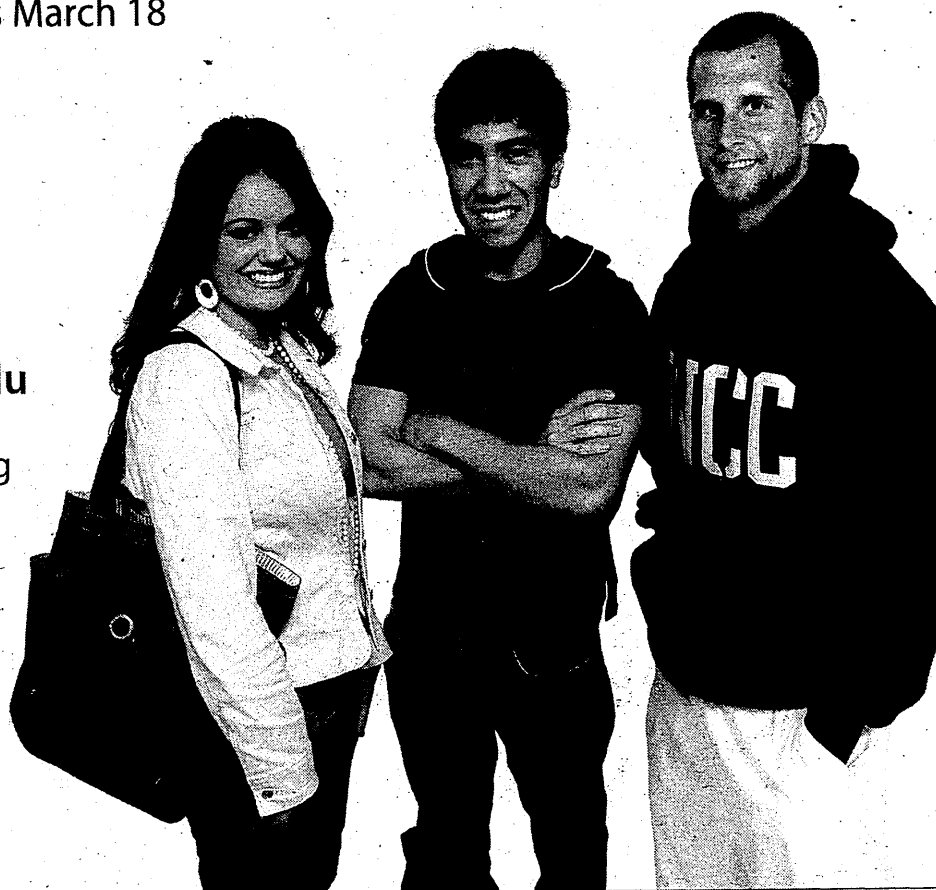
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Technology fee vital to student success

Frontline

Opinions of the Editorial Board

This spring Western students voting in the Associated Student (AS) elections will be faced with a choice: take a \$25 hit to their wallets by increasing the student technology fee or take a hit to the quality of their education and eliminate the fee entirely.

Students may cringe at the thought of more fees, in addition to a proposed 7 percent tuition increase next fall. But, unlike the \$95 recreation fee or the \$70 health fee, most students make use of the \$17 technology fee every day, often without realizing it.

Created in 1996, the fee has been expanded to establish the laptop loan program and the wireless campus network and provides upgrades for high-traffic computer labs.

The fee provides students with access to a variety of valuable resources, including technology workshops, computer labs and classroom tools such as microscopes and sound and lighting equipment.

The economy combined with a shrinking school and state budget, may be pressuring students and the administration to make drastic cuts in personal and institutional spending, but technology services are essential to a comprehensive education.

Western cannot hope to fulfill its vision of aspiring to be the premier comprehensive public university in the country without technology services.

Technology programs available at our school nickname Western as a "wired campus," a university on the cutting edge of a technologically fast-paced world. Without these vital resources Western students may find themselves lost in a competitive and dwindling job market that demands technology skills upon graduation.

Student technology is one of six fees charged to full-time students. It is also one of the lowest fees, currently costing students \$17 a quarter to provide a myriad of services and equipment. Western's student technology fee is significantly lower than most state universities. University of Washington students pay \$41 a quarter

and Evergreen College students may pay up to \$150 per quarter depending on their use of technology services.

The student technology fee pays for more than technology services and laptops, it also familiarizes students with changing technology and vital programs. Without access to laptops, computer labs, microscopes, GPS devices and other vital educational equipment, students will have limited learning potential at Western.

While state law mandates that student fees of this nature must be voted on by the students, not all students vote in the AS elections. If students simply vote against a fee increase much the same way citizens oppose vital tax increases, then the university and all current and future students will be severely affected.

In the long run, students cannot afford to vote against increasing the student technology fee.

The Editorial Board is comprised of the Editor-in-Chief Jeff Twining, Managing Editor Gabrielle Nomura and Opinion Editor Danielle Koagel.

Viking Voices

Opinions from around campus

What's the best April Fools prank you've played or had played on you?

Compiled by: Hailey Tucker



Mark Hayden
Senior

"I tried to convince my roommates we had to re-register for classes because of a mass computer error. No one believed me though."



Hillary Bean
Junior

"The traditional Saran wrap around the water spigot."



Gavin Gladsgio
Freshman

"I tried to take all the shower curtains out of Delta."



Chris Mitchell
Junior

"My girlfriend gave me frosting around a sponge that looked like a cake."

New bill focuses on talent instead of funding

Cody Flynn
Guest Columnist

Don't read this article if you think it's ok that last November—in the midst of an economic meltdown—we spent almost \$5 billion on election campaigns. Or if you think it's fine that more than 90 percent of the races for Congress were won by the candidate who spent the most money.

If, like me, you think lobbyists and big donors shouldn't be replacing ordinary citizens in policy making, big money shouldn't stifle your voice in politics and huge campaign contributions have created shameful pay-to-play political scandals and undermined the ideals of American democracy, then read on!

There's hope. In six states, this disgusting situation has been changed by a new way to finance campaigns.

In these states, both Republican and Democratic candidates can mount competitive campaigns without raising big bucks and without spending most of their time dialing for dollars.

When elected, they don't owe tax breaks and paybacks to big contributors. Instead they can run for office even if they

are not wealthy or connected to rich special interests, they can spend their time talking with voters and they don't owe anything to anyone but their constituents.

Washington state passed a bill a few years back that allows local municipalities, such as Bellingham, to enact public financing programs for local elected officials via a popular referendum.

This means one day qualified and passionate young Western students may be able to realistically run for office if programs like this are enacted.

Now, we have a chance to get the same kind of option for Congressional candidates as well.

A new bill with broad bipartisan support, the Fair Elections Now Act, would allow Congressional candidates to spend their time focusing on the difficult issues that confront our nation.

The act would free politicians from the pressures of fundraising, and from the question that members of Congress now have to ask themselves every day: How much time do I spend working to get the country back on track, and how much time do I spend fundraising for the thousands of dollars I need for my next campaign?

Or perhaps, legislators, national and

local, could begin working on issues such as financial aid, reasonable tuition and other things important to students but relegated to inaction because fund raising is more important.

The Fair Elections Now Act would give congressional candidates the option to run for office without relying on big money and lobbyist donors.

Instead, qualified candidates could fund their campaigns with a blend of small individual contributions and a set amount of public financing.

It would allow everyone with great ideas and a passion for service to run for office—even if they were not wealthy or connected to big special interests.

So what can you do? If you've read this far and are as excited as I am about changing our pay-to-play political system, you can write or call your members of Congress and tell them that they should support fair elections. Even better, you can join me and Western's Democracy Matters chapter to get big money out of politics and people back in. It's our democracy. Now we have to take it back!

Cody Flynn is a Western junior and the Democracy Matters Western Campus Coordinator.

Letter to the Editor:

Students should support Bellingham Food Bank

Hunger in Bellingham is growing.

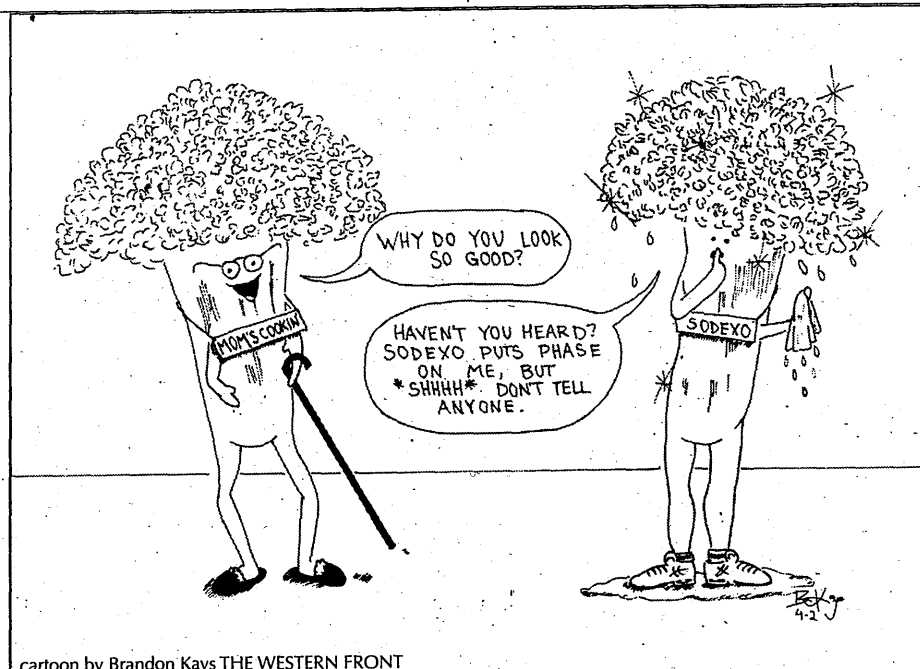
Bellingham needs to strengthen its food resources for the hungry. In 2008, 96,000 people visited the Bellingham Food Bank - a 25 percent increase from 2007. The Bellingham Food Bank sees more than 8,000 people per month and 15-20 percent of Whatcom County residents visited the food bank at least once.

People in our community depend on the food bank now more than ever. With a failing economy more people are losing their jobs, and as a result are losing money, which used to provide food for people and their families. Because most people have less money for food money, they have to rely on food banks.

National Public Radio stated there is an 8 percent unemployment rate in Washington. The Bellingham Food Bank supports 12 other local food banks and is stepping up in order to solve problems of hunger. The solution to this growing problem of hunger comes from the generous Bellingham community and students at Western. It is our responsibility to donate and fund raise for the food bank in order to keep the organization going strong.

We need to provoke change by giving change to support our local Bellingham Food Bank.

Brie Helmuth
Western sophomore



cartoon by Brandon Kays THE WESTERN FRONT

Graham not ready to throw in the towel

Western senior guard Ira Graham joins former Vikings on minor-league basketball team, Bellingham Slam.

Ben Corey
THE WESTERN FRONT

Basketball means different things to different people. It can be recreation and exercise for some or friendly competition for others. But for Western senior Ira Graham and his new teammates on the Bellingham Slam, it is a career.

Graham, 22, joins a long list of former Vikings on the Slam, including Western senior Calin Schell who like Graham, saw his Western career end by a defeat from Seattle Pacific University on March 13.

As the 2008-09 Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) player of the year, Graham finished his Western career ranking 7th in the team's history for total points scored, 1,465, and became the first Western basketball player to record two 500 point seasons. This past season, Graham led the Vikings to a 21-6 record overall and their first GNAC title.

Brad Jackson, Viking head coach, said Graham made a definite impact on the team's performance last season.

"I think [Graham] had a huge influence. Graham is a guy who was in our program throughout his college career and kept getting better and better," Jackson said. "[Graham] was the MVP of our league and was selected to play in the NCAA Division II All Star game, which is the top 20 players in the country. He did very well in that."

Graham said he was happy with his and his team's performance in the All-Star game, which took place March 27 in Springfield, Mass., but said the experience overall was

more important.

"The game went well, but the highlight for me was getting to hang out with some of the best ball players in the country," Graham said.

Both Jackson and Rob Ridnour, the coach of the Bellingham Slam, describe Graham as someone who can play well all over the court.

"He's a slash'er," Ridnour said. "He can hit the three pointer." "He's a good ball player all around."

Beyond being someone who could score, Graham had matured over the years into someone who could be counted on when the team needed him, Jackson said.

"[Graham] is a guy who was in our program throughout his college career and kept getting better and better."

- Brad Jackson, Western men's basketball head coach

"He was a great scorer, he scored very well in high school and did a great job scoring here, but I think he also developed the ability to score when he was needed," Jackson said. "He could make big plays." "He could make pressure free-throws and he embraced that role, which some guys do and some guys don't."

Western senior guard Morris Anderson described Graham as a great sport who loved to win. Anderson also commented on Graham's ability to score and said that Graham has his own style, one Anderson said he couldn't compare to any other player.

Graham said he grew up watching basketball players such as Magic Johnson and Kobe Bryant, who he described as two of the greatest players of all time. However, Graham attributes his own style to his coaches and team members at Western.

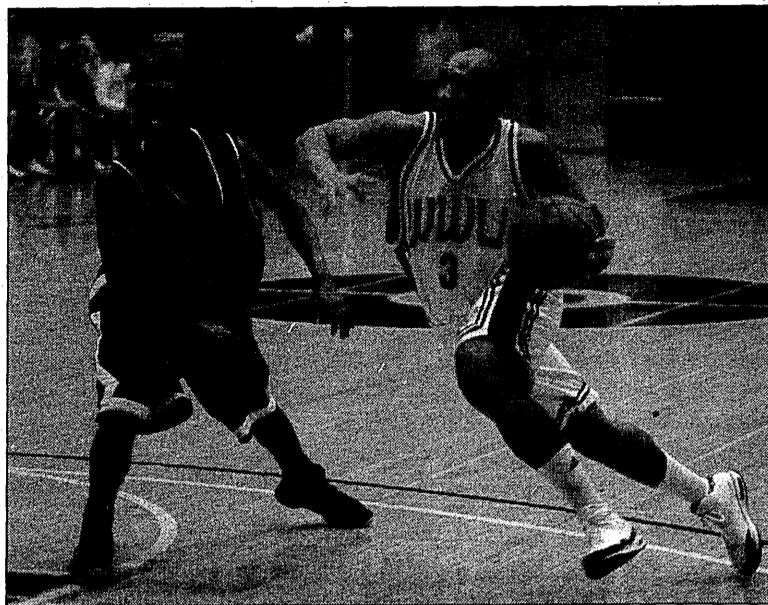


Photo by Alex Roberts THE WESTERN FRONT

Western senior Ira Graham drives to the basket in his final game as a Viking against Seattle Pacific University. Graham had a game-high of 29 points.

"I definitely think the coaches have helped my game and helped develop me as a player," Graham said. "I owe a lot to my experience at Western."

Graham has his eye on the future and said he is excited about playing for the Slam because he would be able to advance his career with the 2008 International Basketball League champions, while he continues to play with some of his teammates from Western.

"Who doesn't want to play in the NBA?" Graham said. "It's always been a dream of mine. I just want to work as hard as I can, and if I'm fortunate enough to get some breaks and make it happen, then I would love that."

The Slam had a high attendance rate last year when the team won the International Basketball League Championship. People who got a taste of it last year will continue to come to games this year, Ridnour said. It is a good opportunity to see players who have graduated from Western in a new arena, he said.

"People who have watched Ira play at Western should be excited to see him play again," Ridnour said. "Those people know how impressively he plays the game."

Graham plans to help the Slam toward another winning season. Last year the Slam was No. 1 in their league, winning 19 of their 23 games.

The Slam take on the Seattle Mountaineers in their season opener at 7 p.m. tonight at the Whatcom Pavilion.

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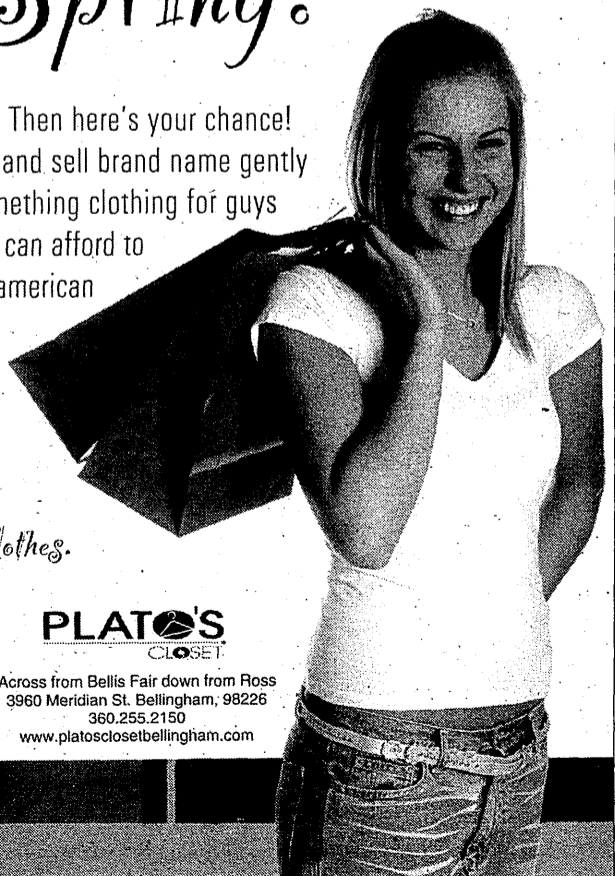
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Unexpected season-ender; Vikings lose heartbreaker

Dan Balmer
THE WESTERN FRONT

A storybook season for the Western men's basketball team came to a surreal close at the hands of conference rival Seattle Pacific University (SPU) losing 82-77 in the opening-round of the West Region playoffs at Carver Gym March 13.

After winning their first outright Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) championship the Vikings, ranked No. 23 in the final National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) II Top 25 poll, hosted a NCAA Division II West sub-regional tournament round.

Unfortunately, they had to face SPU who had given the Vikings trouble all season.

Western trailed most of the game and did not take their first lead until the second half.

"We came in thinking it was going to be a pretty easy victory," Western senior forward David Brittain said. "We didn't play well in the last two meetings, and it was another one of those nights."

Western lost three home games all season, including playoffs, and two of the losses were at the hands of the Falcons.

Western was the second seed in the West Region tournament, and finished the season with a 21-6 record.

Western was unable to regain the last lead they held with six minutes to play when senior forward Steve Alford sank a 3-pointer to give the Vikings a 67-64 lead.

Falcon senior forward Casey Reed responded with a 3-pointer, and then Falcon sophomore guard Jeff Downs rattled off five straight points to take the lead.

The Vikings looked to tie the game, but a cross-court pass by Alford was stolen by Downs, and SPU junior guard Brandon Larriue scored on the ensuing fast-break.

When the buzzer sounded, Seattle Pacific players jumped in celebration while Western fans were silenced, looking on in disbelief.

"We never were able to put a run together," Coach Brad Jackson said. "[SPU] did a great job scoring inside. They hit some big shots tonight."



Photo by Alex Roberts THE WESTERN FRONT

Western senior guard Morris Anderson went in for the layup in an attempt to assist his team with a win. Anderson scored six points.

Larriue led the Falcons with 24 points and junior center Rafael Moreira added 14. The Falcons capitalized on 48 points in the paint to Western's 32.

"[SPU] played a good game. You can't take credit away from those guys; they hit big shots," Graham said.

In the final seconds, Graham pulled his jersey over his face and fought back disappointment following such a close

loss at home.

"I thought I played well but it wasn't good enough," Graham said. "I scored 29, but I should have had 35. That's my motto."

The 'Carver Crazy's' were on their feet the entire game, jumping up and

see MEN'S page 15

What you missed

Spring Break sports highlights

March 22

Women's softball sweeps Western Oregon University in a two-game series

10-2 and 4-2.

March 24

Women's golf places first at Chico State Spring Classic.

March 28

Western's track team wins seven events in the Spring Break Open.

Women's crew wins four of eight races, runner-up in the other four in the

Daffodil Regatta.


March 29

Women's softball wins one of their four games against Central Washington University.

March 31

Women's softball falls 6-2 against San Francisco State University.

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Viking men swing into fifth place

Two days and 54 holes later, the men's golf team makes a name for themselves in Arizona

Kendall Mercer
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Western men's golf team finished fifth out of 20 teams at the 24th annual Grand Canyon University Men's Golf Thunderbird Invitational at the Palm Valley Golf Course on March 30-31 in Good-year, Ariz.

The Vikings played 54 holes total during the two-day event and ended with a total of 9-under-par 855 to tie for fifth place along with the host team, Grand Canyon University.

"I think we finally saw what this team is capable of doing," said Steve Card, associate athletic director and head coach. "I think the chemistry was good and they got back into a little bit of a groove that they've become accustomed to over the past year and a half."

Leading the team was Western senior Jake Koppenberg, who ended up in a three-way tie for sixth place in medalist play, when ranking is determined based upon the number of strokes a player makes.

He shot even par 72 and finished the tournament at 8-under-par 208 to clinch his fourth top 10 ranking in the last five tournaments.

"I was familiar with the course from last year, and I just felt comfortable with the layout," Koppenberg said. "I've been playing pretty good golf, the [Palm Valley] golf course just sets up for my game."

Koppenberg's teammates were also ecstatic about his success at the invitational.

Koppenberg's efforts helped Western move from sixth place on Monday to fifth place on Tuesday.

Western senior Brandon Brown said Koppenberg's role in helping the team to secure a fifth place ranking at the invitational was a very big highlight for the team. Brown tied for 57th place at 223 strokes.

Also placing in medalist play were sophomore Thomas Jun, who tied for 11th with 210 strokes; junior Julian Peters, who tied for 39th at 219 strokes; and freshman Jake Webb, who finished 62nd

at 224 strokes.

One of the major focus areas for the team over the next two weeks is to improve their short game play, Card said.

"I think the team needs to improve on making a few more putts per round and putting better," Brown said. "Also [the team needs to work on] their short game areas like sand-bunker play."

Western's next tournament is the 36th annual Hanny Stanislaus Invitational hosted by California State University, Stanislaus on April 13 and 14 at the Turlock Golf & Country Club in Turlock, Calif.

Developing a better short game will be beneficial, especially considering the layout of the course at the Turlock Golf & Country Club, where the next invitational is going to be held, Card said.

"The golf course that we're playing at in Stanislaus has pretty small greens, so with small targets you're not going to hit a lot of greens," Card said. "It's really going to put a lot of emphasis on chipping and putting. The short game will be important going into this next event."



Photo courtesy of B. Keith Baker

Jake Koppenberg shot even par to help place his team fifth in the invitational.

MEN'S: Winning season comes to a close in first-round playoff game

from 14

down and cheering loudly. More than 2,200 boisterous fans packed and provided an intense playoff atmosphere in Carver Gym.

"We had great support here at Western. I love our fans and I'm going to miss playing in front of them," Graham said. "It hurts to go out like this. We gave them a great game, and I hope [the fans] go home and are not disappointed with the way we played."

Jackson also acknowledged how supportive the fans

were as the season progressed.

"In the second half of the year our students really got into the games, they were awesome," Jackson said. "I hope there is a carry over and that [Western fans] realize this is a pretty good level of basketball."

Western came out hard in the second half and quickly took their first lead of the game on a layup from Western senior forward Calin Schell. Western took their largest lead, 40-35, in the second half.

"The four seniors have been great," Jackson said. "It's always really tough when the seniors play their last game

because there is so much invested. It's a huge commitment and the contributions of all four were really significant."

It was a heartbreaking loss for Graham, Western's leading scorer with 29 points, who played his last game at Carver Gym.

Graham's 29 points gave him 1,465 total for his career, seventh-best in school history. Graham's career highlight was winning the GNAC title earlier this year.

"It sucks to go out with a loss in the playoffs after winning a title you want to keep the good times rolling," he said.

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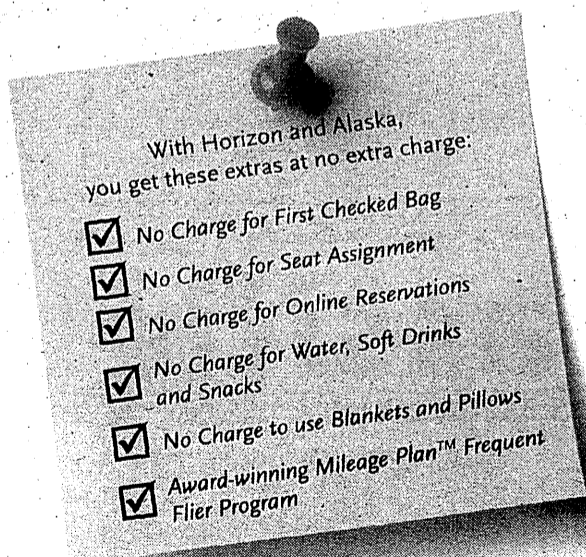
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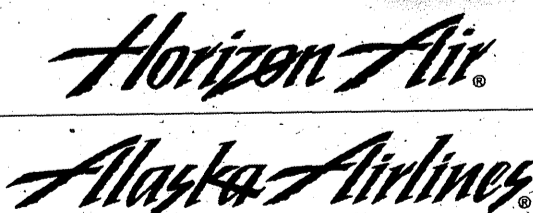
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