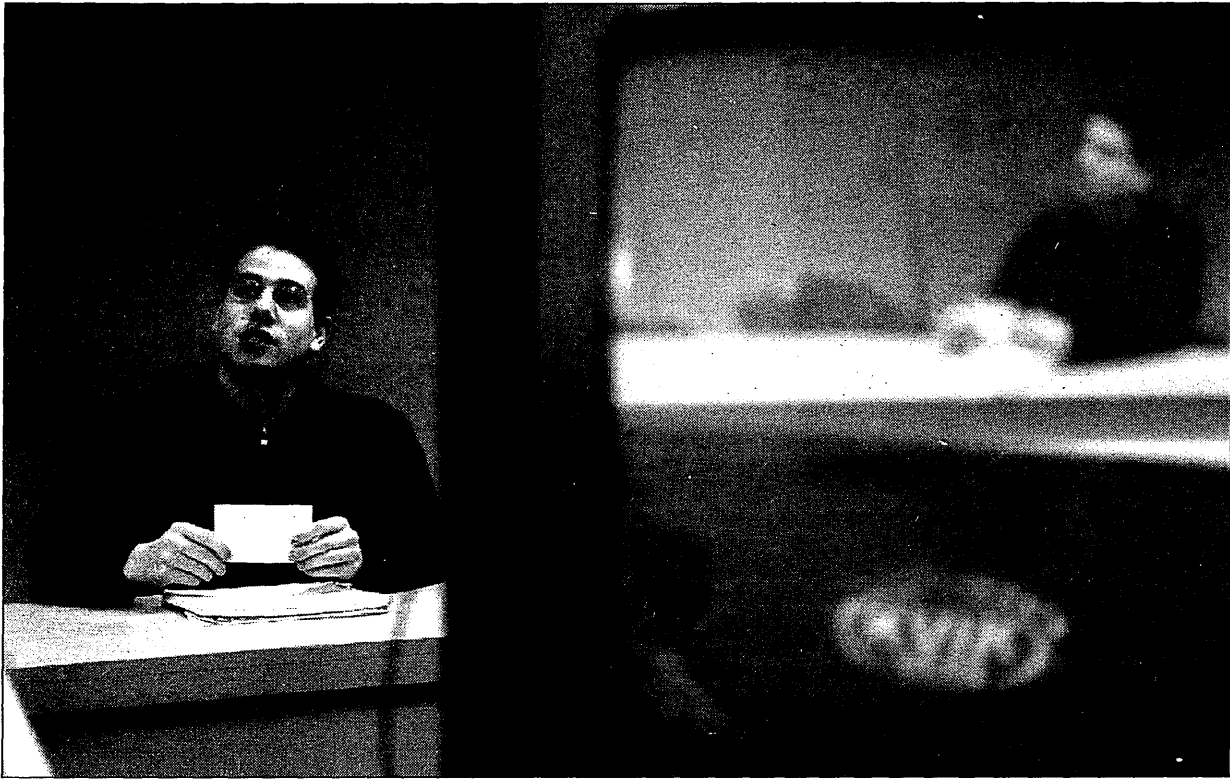


'Western Live' dead



CHRIS HUBER/The Western Front

Kenny Davis, Western junior and former host of KVIK's "Western Live," practices his routine before the 7 p.m. news segment at the KVIK studio in the Viking Union Monday.

By PETER JENSEN
The Western Front

"Western Live," Western's late-night talk show, ended last month because of disputes between the show's producers and EGTV channel 10, which aired "Western Live," said Kenny Davis, Western junior and the show's host.

After EGTV received complaints from community viewers at the end of this past school year about the show's content, EGTV put the show on hiatus for the first months of this school year. In January, he told Western junior

Matt Acosta, the show's producer, the channel would no longer accept episodes for airing, effectively ending its two-year run, Acosta said.

"It was a great ride," Davis said. "It was frustrating that it ended the way it did, though. I guess the show didn't fit the tone of the channel."

Station Manager James Baird said EGTV objected to the show's content and questioned its educational value, Davis said. Baird was unavailable for comment.

The "Western Live" crew continued to produce shows despite the fact they

weren't being aired and public interest was waning, Davis said. The show was filmed before a live audience, but only 10 people were coming to watch when it wasn't being aired, he said. Approximately 40 people were watching while it was aired, Acosta said.

The last show was two weeks ago, after which the crew agreed that producing shows was not worth the effort, Acosta said.

"Western Live" was a student-

see LIVE, page 6

Dykstra wins national award

By SARAH BERGER
The Western Front

Western junior and basketball guard Grant Dykstra, who has only partial use of his right arm, has been selected to receive the U.S. Basketball Writers Association Most Courageous Award for 2005.

The annual award recognizes those who have demonstrated extraordinary courage reflecting honor in the sport of amateur basketball, according to the association. The award will be presented in St. Louis during the National Collegiate Athletic Association Final Four on April 4.

Dykstra credits his achievements to his faith in God and to his family.

"You have to give praise to God first," he said. "If God wasn't using me, I wouldn't be getting this recognition. I think getting my story out is meant to encourage others."

Dykstra, 22, had his arm mangled in a grain auger when he was 2. He said he does not remember the incident, but recalls his father worked with paramedics for 90 minutes to get him out of the machinery. Initially, the doctors proposed amputation because they thought he would never be able to use his arm, but his parents wanted to try to work through it. Dykstra has undergone 16 surgeries during a period of 10 years to repair the damage.

Dykstra said the surgeries ranged from ligaments taken from his thigh and placed in his arm to his arm being sewn to his stomach for immobilization purposes. He also had several skin grafts. His ulna, the bone extending from the elbow to the wrist and opposite the thumb, was growing at a faster rate than his radius, the bone parallel to the ulna.

He said surgeons had to shave that bone down so his wrist would not grow inward. He said his right index finger and pinky now share a tendon, and he still has some decreased mobility and strength. He cannot make a complete fist with his right hand and his right arm is several inches shorter than his left. Still, he has taught himself to dribble with both hands

see AWARD, page 8

Kennedy Jr. coming to speak at Western in May

By ADRIANA DUNN
The Western Front

Tickets are available starting today for a lecture by prominent environmental lawyer Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

Kennedy is an activist and an author and was named one of Time magazine's "Heroes for the Planet" for leading the fight to restore the Hudson River in New York. He is a senior attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council and president of the Waterkeeper Alliance. Kennedy is the son of Robert F. Kennedy, former President John Fitzgerald Kennedy's brother.

Kennedy will lecture on "Crimes Against Nature" at 6:30 p.m. on May 5 in Carver Complex. Free tickets are available for faculty, students and staff beginning today with a limit of two per person.

Students who live on campus and faculty and staff members with campus

mail stops can use the online form.

Tickets also are available at the Viking Union Information Desk. For this event only, tickets will not be available at the Performing Arts Center Box Office. Distinguished Lecture Series Coordinator Fran Maas said.

"It's always nice to have nationally visible people come to campus. It's good for the university and the community," said Bradley F. Smith, dean of the Huxley College of the environment.

Kennedy will speak on issues such as clean air, clean water and healthy living conditions, Maas said.

"I am really excited to hear how we can affect change and that we can do something because sometimes we feel powerless in a democracy," she said.

"Crimes Against Nature" is the title

see KENNEDY, page 8

Robots to invade library

By JACINDA HOWARD
The Western Front

From creations made to detect light to creations made to detect fire, robots serving many purposes will be on display in the Fairhaven Library March 5 for the Bellingham Robot Festival.

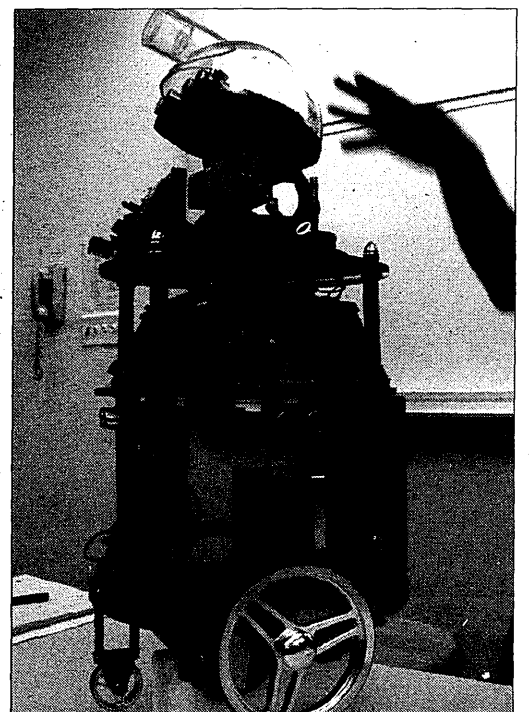
The festival will be the first one organized by the Bellingham Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Society. It is a chance for members of the society to display their work and inspire spectators to get involved in the club, BAIRS board member Terry Harmer said.

Harmer, 64, has been active in the software industry for 35 years and became interested in the hardware side of robotics three years ago, he said. He has been working on a robot, Topspin, for the past two years and has changed its design at least two or three times, he said. Harmer built the robot from scratch and created it to detect burglars and fires inside his house, he said. Harmer is eager to display it at the festival.

"I like to show off my robot," he said. "I like to brag about how I built it."

Although Harmer's robot is complex, not all

see ROBOT, page 6



ELANA BEAN/The Western Front

Bellingham Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Society member Terry Harmer displays his robot, Topspin, at a society meeting.



HOOKAH-ING IT UP

Western club finds relaxing social activity with the aid of smoke.

FEATURES, PAGE 11

TWO WASHINGTONS?

Washington legislators should consider other alternatives before dividing state in half.

OPINIONS, PAGE 17

STILL WINNING

The Viking men continue to win as the season come closer to a close.

SPORTS, PAGE 15



COPS BOX

University Police

Feb. 27, 2:24 a.m.: Officers arrested a 23-year-old man in the Fairhaven Residence halls on a domestic violence charge. Officials booked the man into Whatcom County Jail.

Feb. 25, 2:50 a.m.: Officers assisted Bellingham police in the investigation of a car prowling incident in the south exterior of campus.

Feb. 25, 2:17 a.m.: UP responded to the Performing Arts Center on a malicious-mischief call. Officers found graffiti in the area.

Feb. 25, 1:16 a.m.: UP cited and released two 18-year-old women and a 19-year-old woman for minor-in-possession outside Ridgeway Kappa.

Bellingham Police

Feb. 27, 7:30 a.m.: Officers responded to a vehicle prowling report on the 1700 block of North State Street. When officers arrived they found some tools had been stolen from a van parked in the area.

Feb. 27, 12:30 a.m.: Officers responded to a report of shots fired on the 800 block of Blueberry Lane. No one was shot, but officers arrested two individuals for felony assault and reckless endangerment.

Feb. 26, 11:32 p.m.: Officers contacted a female on Holly Street whom they discovered to be a juvenile runaway. Officers contacted her parent and she was returned home.

Feb. 26, 8:43 p.m.: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance call on the 2800 block of Iron Street. Officers arrested a 36-year-old female on suspicion of assaulting her husband.

Compiled by Michael Lee

Viking Voices

Who is your favorite — Hilary Duff, Hilary Swank or Hillary Clinton — and why?

Compiled by Adam Rudnick



Lauren Irish
Sophomore, anthropology

Hilary Clinton, because she is actually famous for what she knows.



Courtney Bendzak
Junior, anthropology

Duff, because the boy in "Lizzie McGuire" is really cute.



Dana Silverman
Senior, marketing

Definitely Swank, because I went to the same middle school as she did.

AP Wire

news briefs

STATE NEWS

Yakima man and daughter executed in gang-linked killing

Four people are suspected of what police described as a gang-related killing. They suspect that the killing stemmed from a case of mistaken identity based on a Washington State University sweatshirt.

In the execution-style killing of a man and his 3-year-old daughter, blamed by authorities on another gang, one man remained in custody and a second man described as a material witness was questioned and released. Two others — including the man believed to be the shooter — remained at large, police said.

Skull found in Olympia park

A man walking in the northern part of Watershed Park found a mossy skull on Feb. 27.

Police checked missing-person and homicide cases after the

discovery Sunday.

The skull was found in a clearing in the woods approximately 70 yards from a nature trail, Sgt. Raymond Holmes said. Police combed the area without finding other human bones or evidence.

Police asked an anthropologist to help determine the age, gender and other characteristics of the person, as well as how long the skull was exposed to the elements.

NATIONAL NEWS

Snowstorm travels up East Coast

Highway crews spread salt on roads and schools gave students an unplanned holiday Feb. 28 as a storm plowed along the East Coast with a threat of more than a foot of blowing snow.

Authorities posted storm watches and warnings as far north as Maine and snow coated roads as far south as North Carolina and eastern Kentucky.

Six to 10 inches of snow is likely to fall in the New York City area by the time the storm lets up Tuesday morning, with 14 inches possible in northwestern New Jersey and the Poconos of northeastern Pennsylvania, and up to two feet in the mountains of West Virginia, according to the National Weather Service. Eight inches is possible in Boston.

Teen charged with manslaughter in Wyoming

A teenager accused of fatally injuring a skier with his snowboard on a slope has been charged with manslaughter.

Witnesses said Heather Donahue, 28, of Shrewsbury, Mass., was skiing slowly on an intermediate slope at Jackson Hole Mountain Resort last week when she allegedly was hit by the teen on a fast-moving snowboard.

Donahue died Friday at a hospital, apparently from head injuries.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

122 dead after Iraq suicide blast

A suicide car bomber blasted a crowd of police and national guard recruits Monday as they gathered for physicals outside a medical clinic in Hillah, 60 miles south of Baghdad, killing at least 122 people and wounding 132 — the single deadliest attack in the two-year insurgency.

Dia Mohammed, the director of Hillah General Hospital, said most of the victims were recruits waiting to take physicals as part of the application process to join the Iraqi police and national guard.

Iraq's interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi wrote in The Wall Street Journal on Monday that Iraq still needed international forces on the ground while the effort was under way to rebuild Iraqi security forces.

Compiled by Mark Reimers

The Western Front Online



Warning: May cause brief periods of intense joy.

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 113F. 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. Mondays on March 7 and 14, and at 9 a.m. Thursdays on March 3, 10, and 17. Registration is not required. Students must bring picture identification, student number, Social Security number, and a No. 2 pencil. A \$15 fee is payable in exact amount at test time.

LOT RESERVATIONS. • Lot 14G will be reserved at 5 p.m. March 2, for those attending the Women of Color Empowerment Dinner. • Twenty spaces in lot 12A will be reserved at 7 a.m. March 2-3 for those attending scholarship luncheons. • Lots 11G and 14G will be reserved at 5 p.m. March 4-5 and March 10-12 and at noon March 6 for those attending performances of *Die Fiedermaus*. • Lots 11G and 14G will be reserved at 7 a.m. March 5 for those attending the Children's Literature Conference and at 5 p.m. for those attending the CFPA Taste of the Arts Gala. • Lot 7G will be reserved at 8 a.m. March 5 for those attending the Women of Color Conference.

SUMMER QUARTER DEGREE APPLICANTS: All students expecting to graduate at the close of summer quarter must have a degree application on file in the Registrar's Office by Friday, March 11. Applications and instructions are available in OM 230.

STUDY ABROAD IN MORELIA, MEXICO through AHA International. Spend winter quarter 2006 in Mexico with Wendy Walker (assistant professor, environmental studies). For more information, call X/3298 or send e-mail to ipe@wwu.edu.

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 March 5, April 16, and June 11 (the June 11 test is not available at Western; see the Praxis Web site for location).

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: March 12, May 14, July 9.

BIOLOGY SEMINAR. David Keys (Joint Genome Institute, U.S. Department of Energy, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Walnut Creek, Calif.), "Functional Genomics in a Basal Chordate: High-throughput Screens for Regulatory DNA." 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 23, BI 234. Refreshments, 3:50 p.m.

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.

Employers on campus

For complete and updated information, including locations and deadlines, visit www.career.wwu.edu or stop by OM 280.

• **Camp Vega**, counselors, Web designer, March 10 • **Campaign to Save the Environment**, canvas directors, March 7-10 • **Disney College Program**, various hospitality and entertainment positions, March 8 • **Lutherwood Camp**, summer positions, Feb. 23 • **Newell-Rubbermaid**, sales and marketing representative, Feb. 14.

'Control Room' star to speak on campus Wednesday night

BY ADRIANA DUNN
The Western Front

A former military spokesman to the Al-Jazeera news network will visit campus Wednesday to share his experiences as the Central Command press officer during the beginning of the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

Former Capt. Joshua Rushing also played a main role in last year's documentary "Control Room."

Joshua Rushing served 14 years in the Marine Corps before resigning last October. He has been featured on PBS's "Now" and Fox News' "The O'Reilly Factor" since then, but he is best known for his role in the documentary "Control Room," said Ann Carlson, coordinator of the American Democracy Project.

"Control Room" documents the behind-the-scenes events during the U.S. invasion of Iraq at both the Arab Al-Jazeera network and the U.S. military Central Command offices in Qatar. The film covers media manipulation of the Iraq war.

Carlson said Rushing will discuss his involvement in the film, his views on Al-Jazeera and military involvement in Iraq. He will share his unique perspective of being in charge of military communications with the international media.

Rushing will be speaking at two different times on Wednesday. He will speak in Fairhaven College's World Issues Forum at 12 p.m. and will speak in Communications Facility room 110 at 6:30 p.m. Both engagements will allow for questions after his speech.

Western graduate student Olga Kurochkina helped organize the event and contacted Rushing to see if he could visit campus. Kurochkina worked closely with the Whatcom Film Association on this event.

At 5 p.m. Thursday, a screening of "Control



Photo courtesy of Western's Publication Services
Former Capt. Joshua Rushing, a central character in the documentary "Control Room," will speak about his experience as a military spokesman during the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

Room," with questions afterward, will take place at the Pickford Dream Space.

World Issues Forum coordinator Shirley Osterhaus said Rushing will be able to give an inside perspective of the role of the military in Iraq. She said she hopes the campus will increase its understanding of the Arab perspective through Rushing's experiences and interactions with Al-Jazeera.

Osterhaus encourages people to view the film prior to the forum. "You see the change that happens in him in the film in terms of his interaction with the Arab news media, so I think that's an important dimension of why he is a former captain," Osterhaus said.

Both events are free and open to both Western students, staff and the community. Seating may be limited and is on a first-come, first-serve basis.

More Information

A screening of "Control Room" will be held in Biology Building room 234 at 3 p.m. Wednesday.

Rushing will speak at Fairhaven College's World Issues Forum at 12 p.m. and in Communications Facility room 110 at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Communications Facility flat-screen televisions stolen

Editor's note: Because of the proximity of the crime scene to The Western Front newsroom, several editors were questioned regarding the theft.

BY MOLLY JENSEN
The Western Front

University Police officer Eric Ellis responded to a call from a staff member in the Communications Facility this past Friday reporting that two 40-inch liquid-crystal display television monitors — worth a total of approximately \$11,500 — had been stolen from the building.

Ellis said students reported seeing the monitors at roughly 7 p.m. Wednesday. The monitors were not reported missing until approximately 5 p.m. on Friday.

The case has no suspects and no one has reported any additional information, Ellis said.

The police are hoping to gather enough information from people who were in the

building to find out on which day the theft occurred, he said.

"I'm hoping to shorten the time frame down to either Thursday night or Wednesday night," Ellis said.

A staff member who works in the building reported the missing monitors and sent an e-mail Monday saying the equipment could be returned to the Communications Facility without further questioning, Ellis said.

But UP have not established whether it would accept the equipment without further questioning, he said.

Ellis said in the event the television monitors were found, they could be identified by their serial numbers.

Ellis said no sign of forced entry to either the Communications Facility or the rooms with the television monitors was found. The monitors were not locked up, he said.

He said no security cameras are located either inside or outside the Communications Facility.

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Graduating with Bachelor of Arts in Operations Management:

Jason Hanks

Matthew Martin

Duc Nguyen

Micheal Sauther

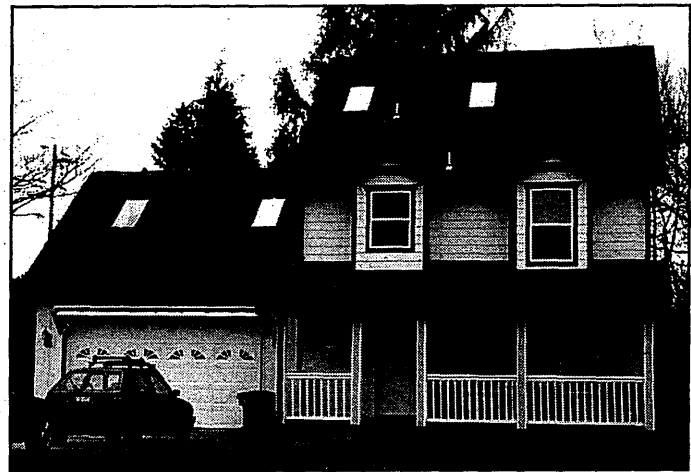
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Traveling peace exhibit graces Western's campus

By KATHRYN BRENIZE
The Western Front

This past weekend, the Western Buddhist club sponsored an exhibit titled "Gandhi, King, Ikeda: A Legacy of Building Peace" featuring photos, inspiring quotes and information about the lives and work of Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr. and Daisaku Ikeda.

The three men were the focus of the exhibit because of the way each dedicated their lives to bringing peace to the world, said Cerise Noah, a Western senior and coordinator of Western's Buddhist club.

"These people are just people," Noah said. "But, seeing what they have done with their lives, they can empower us to make a difference."

The exhibit, held this past Saturday and Sunday in Viking Union room 565, featured panels of photos, quotes and factual information about each of the three men, providing people with a deeper perspective of how they contributed to the world, Noah said.

Western junior Ryan Wapnowski, 21, said his birthday is near Martin Luther King Jr. Day, therefore he always has been interested in King's life.

"It is great to know that there were and are people that will be so selfless," Wapnowski said. "We can learn so much from them."

Having an open dialogue with others and reading about these



Western junior Ryan Wapnowski reads about the lives of Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr. and Daisaku Ikeda in the exhibit provided by the Western Buddhist club.

people are essential, he said.

"This is a great way to learn about these people, but I wish it could be set up in Red Square where all students could stop and read the panels," Wapnowski said.

The Gandhi, King and Ikeda exhibit has been brought to colleges, universities, libraries and other public venues along the West Coast for the past five years, said Sharron Newman, 56, a member

of the Soka Gakkai International branch of the Bellingham Buddhist organization.

The Western Buddhist club is part of Bellingham's Buddhist organization, a branch of SGI. SGI is a Buddhist organization that practices Nichiren Buddhism and has members in more than 190 countries throughout the world, Newman said.

"SGI was asked to be a part of

this exhibit in the efforts to change what is happening with human history," Newman said. "These three men stood for their beliefs, and they've overcome adversity."

The base of Nichiren Buddhism is the main chant, "Nam-Myoho-Renge-Kyo," based on the cause and effect of people's actions. The organization also has monthly world peace prayer meetings, which are open for anyone to

attend, Newman said.

Daisaku Ikeda, still alive today, is the leader of Nichiren Buddhists, said Mike Stone, 57, member of the SGI branch in Bellingham.

"There are over 12 million practicing Nichiren Buddhists in the world today," Stone said.

The ultimate goal of Nichiren Buddhism is to achieve the Buddha life condition of content people bringing happiness to others, Stone said.

"SGI promotes peace and individual happiness and centers on its three main pillars of peace, culture and education," Newman said.

The human being is of the highest value to the Nichiren Buddhists, said Joel Steiner, who joined the Seattle SGI branch in 1973.

"It is a natural process of challenging your own fundamental weaknesses," Steiner said.

Steiner said he was reluctant to join a Buddhist organization, but he said he ended up becoming the most radical member.

"When I first started — I didn't believe that this would work until I started chanting," Steiner said. "Nichiren Buddhism is rooted in humanism and instilling good values in society."

The five main themes of the exhibit, "Forging Destiny," "Humanity at the Heart," "Principles into Action," "Nonviolence" and "Adversity and Resistance" encompass the life work of Gandhi, King and Ikeda, Newman said.

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March 9-19

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Bellingham Public Library considering expansion

By BRITTANY GREENFIELD
The Western Front

Nearly half of the books at the Bellingham Public Library are stored in an area off limits to visitors because of safety concerns, library director Pam Kiesner said. The library's board of trustees is working to put a funding measure on the November ballot to improve the library's facility.

"It's been over 20 years since we've had any improvements made," Kiesner said. "We have one of the top per-capita circulation rates for a city of this size."

John Watts, Bellingham City Council member and liaison to the library's board of trustees, said the board is investigating various building options, such as adding on to the existing building or constructing a new facility. He said he expects the board to present its findings to the City Council and bring it before voters later this year.

"The need is there," Watts said. "It's just a question of when they'll be ready to go forward with it."

A large portion of the building — two interior floors that house nearly half of the library's collection — do not meet building codes because of the narrow stairways, low ceilings and poor lighting. Staff members have to retrieve books for library patrons, which Kiesner said is an unnecessary operation cost.

"As the collection has grown, the space has not," she said. "We would prefer to have everything out where the public can view them."

He said a geotechnical survey of the area surrounding the existing library, to be completed by April 26, will allow the board to determine if an additional building on the current site is possible by testing the load capacity and seismic risk.

Watts said the board also is considering whether it would be best to add onto the existing building or construct a new one. If the board decides to add onto the existing building, the library would have to temporarily move its operations to another location during construction, which Watts said could make an addition costly.

If voters approve funding for a new library building and its services, he said the city might hold a design competition similar to the one held in January for the new Whatcom



BRITTANY GREENFIELD/The Western Front
Marissa Darling, 17, searches for an art book at the Bellingham Public Library. The library's board is hoping for funding to improve the library building.

Museum of History and Art building. Watts said a design competition would involve public input to select a suitable design.

Library board chairman Tim Douglas said the new facility would need to have a more efficient layout and be twice the size of the current facility.

"That would be looking forward — to meet the needs for the next 20 years," he said. "We want to capture the best ideas and include them in any plans for future facilities."

Douglas said the Bellingham Public Library consistently ranks among the top five in usage rates for a city of this size, but the facility can no longer adequately serve the

community's needs.

"Every time we add a new book to the collection, we have to dispose of one because we have no more space on the shelves," Douglas said. "To keep Bellingham a really good place to live, we've got to address this problem."

Currently, library visitors have to park in metered spots along the street. She said improvements to the facility would address parking shortages by possibly building an underground parking garage.

Kiesner said the two checkout points in the existing building, one on the main floor and one in the children's section, will be consolidated into a single checkout counter in the new building.

If the board requests funding, Douglas said the City Council would discuss the plans and hold a public forum, then vote to put it on the ballot.

Watts said improvements to the library would require two separate funding measures, one to construct the facility and another to ensure stable funding for the library operations.

Watts estimated an adequate library facility of more than 65,000 square feet would cost approximately \$14 million, based on the typical cost per square foot of a building of this type.

Unlike the energy, street and water services, which have their own funding mechanisms, Watts said the public library operates on money from the city's general fund.

With the city facing a \$2 million deficit in its budget next year because of several state initiatives, Watts said the city must take alternate measures to ensure stable funding for library services.

"The trend that's going forward is the gap between the money the general fund can raise and the money that is needed," he said. "The general fund has come under real pressure in the last five years."

He said a "levy lid lift" is under consideration as a way of ensuring stable funding for library operations. With voter approval, city government could levy to exceed the restriction on the percentage by which it can raise property taxes each year.

"It's not going to be something the government will do for you," Watts said. "If the people decide not to support it, it won't happen."

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The Afrodesiacs
Saturday, March 5 AC/DC Tribute

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Thursday, March 10 College Rock
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Robot: Society acts as forum for those interested in discussing ideas of artificial intelligence

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

robots are. The festival is a chance for people to see the term "robot" can apply to a broad range of mechanics, Harmer said. Items such as cell phones and iPods can be considered robots, said Todd Morton, Western electronics engineering professor and BAIRS board member.

Robots can be classified as any sort of mechanical device made to serve a purpose or accomplish a task, board member and Western graduate student Collin Topolski said. Robots can be simple creations; however, people often think of them as complicated machines, he said.

"When you mention robots, (people) think of a humanoid—walking, talking, vacuuming your floor—robot," Topolski said.

None of the robots at the festival will be humanoids, and many of them will be less complex than Harmer's robot. Most robots were made using a kit called Mindstorm, Morton said. The LEGO company produces this kit, which includes the essentials for building a basic robot—motors, sensors and a tiny computer chip called a micro-controller, Harmer said. LEGO's kit also includes a variety of gears, wheels, belts and accessories, Harmer said. LEGO is one of approximately 10 manufacturers offering kits, which makes building robots easier and less time consuming.

"There are so many nice kits now you don't have to build from scratch. You can make a robot in one night," Harmer said.

The LEGO robots cannot function without what is known as a "brick" or brain, Topolski said. The brick consists of batteries and a micro-controller, he said. To operate a robot using micro-controllers, one

must first create a program that instructs the robot on how to act.

The program may instruct the robot to turn right when one of its sensors bumps into something and is tripped, he said.

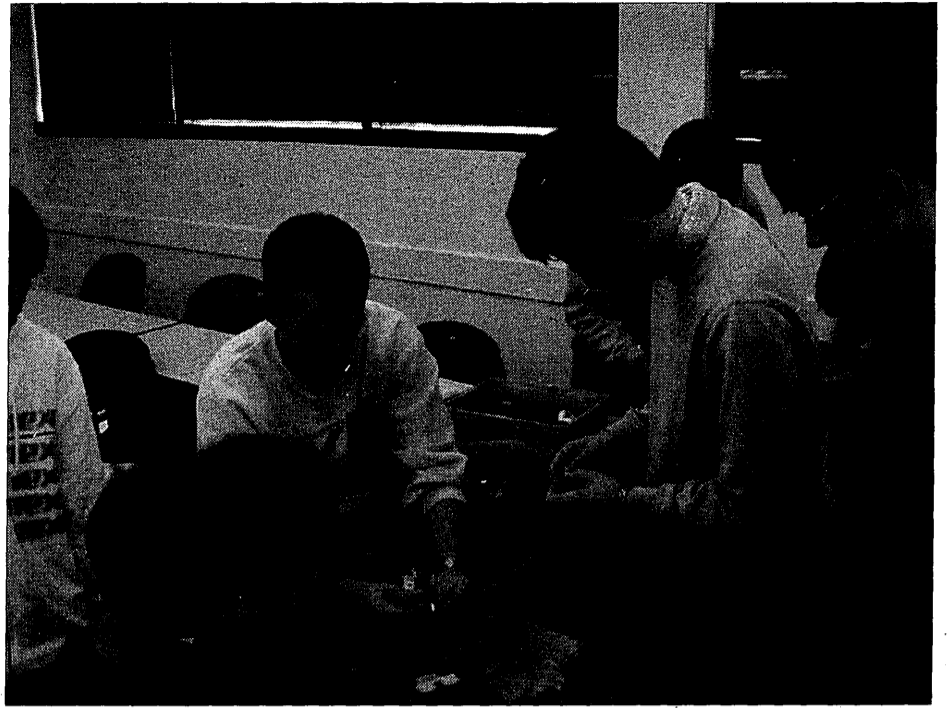
"That's what's so exciting," Morton said. "It (The LEGO Kit) introduces kids to concepts of programming without them needing to have a lot of experience in software programming."

BAIRS is the combination of three people's desires to create a club about robots. Western assistant professor Jianna Zhang has taught at Western for three years. Harmer heard of the robotics classes Zhang started at Western and e-mailed her regarding them, she said. The two continued to converse, and early this year they were two of the people who founded BAIRS, Zhang said.

Topolski formed Western's Robotic Club this past spring. The club, however, was limited to Western students. In an effort to allow participation from Bellingham residents, Topolski, Harmer and Zhang collaborated to create BAIRS approximately six months ago, Zhang said.

The society serves as a forum that encourages people to gather, show off their work and discuss ideas about artificial intelligence, Harmer said. It includes nearly 40 members from Western and the Bellingham area. Members of the society meet every second Saturday of every month. Approximately 10 Western students are consistent members of the society, Topolski said.

One of the society's goals is to introduce children to robots and computer software and provide them with knowledge about these areas, Morton said. Another goal is to get women involved in technology, Zhang



Courtesy of Jianna Zhang

Western Senior and BAIRS member Jason Lovgren, center, sits with his robot, Top Spin, which Harmer designed to detect burglars and fires.

said.

The club is a way for children to learn more about computer programming, Morton said. Some of the youngest members of the club are 8 years old, Topolski said. Often-times members will use the LEGO kits to create robots at the meetings, Harmer said. The LEGO robots are really popular in elementary schools, and the club is a way for children to expand on their learning, Topolski said.

All of the LEGO robots that will be displayed will have the same micro-controller, or brain, but they will not all look or act alike, Topolski said. Because

the LEGO kits allow robot designers to pick and choose parts to create how the robot looks, some robots may serve the same function but look different.

Some of the robots were programmed by their creators to seek light and some were made to be sumo wrestlers, Harmer said. Others were made to follow a series of lines, Topolski said.

People of all ages and academic standings will be displaying their creations at the festival. All the robots will be displayed on a series of tables. No specific criteria must be met in order for participants to display their robot, he said.

Live: Channel received complaints about content and withdrew show from airtime on EGTV

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

run program featuring sketch comedies as well as musical guests and discussions with community leaders, Davis said. Each week during the school year, students taped a new half-hour episode before a live audience, which was aired four times a week on EGTV.

EGTV is a government access channel and must follow regulations set by the Federal Communication Commission on content to be aired, Acosta said. This past year, parts of several episodes of "Western Live" were deleted because the channel found them objectionable.

EGTV programming must be educational in nature, have balance when discussing political issues

and be acceptable to the channel's audience, which includes most of Whatcom County, Acosta said. EGTV also airs Western news and athletic programs.

After EGTV received complaints about the show's political jokes and lack of educational value, the show was put on hiatus pending a review by EGTV and the Bellingham Mayor's Office of each episode that was to be broadcast, Acosta said.

"We had to dumb ourselves down to be on channel 10," Acosta said.

Acosta turned several episodes of "Western Live" in to EGTV, but he is not certain they were reviewed. Regardless, Baird, who is responsible for reviewing the shows, informed Acosta in January

the channel would no longer accept the shows.

Not having any desire to air "Western Live" on alternative mediums such as the Internet or public-access channels, the show's crew agreed to stop producing the show, Davis said. The final episode was filmed two weeks ago, and was archived on DVD with the rest of the unaired shows.

The show's crew is considering other programs to produce, including televised improvisation or a roundtable discussion of community affairs, Acosta said. But they are hesitant to try another late-night talk show because the host and main writer, Davis, no longer wants to be involved in a talk show.

"If people could prove to me that

they would work really hard on it, we could bring it back," Acosta said.

To bring back "Western Live," EGTV would have to be convinced to air it again, Acosta said. To do so, a university department would need to sponsor "Western Live," because that department would be responsible for the content of the

show.

For now, Western is without a late-night talk show, something Doug Sacrison, a Western sophomore and the show's co-host, will sorely miss.

"I am definitely sad," he said. "It was the one thing I really enjoyed doing at Western, even more than schoolwork."

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Former vice president garners award

By BLAIR WILSON
The Western Front

Bob Edie received the Robert G. Waldo Award after more than 19 years of work in higher education, including four years as Western's vice president for external affairs.

"The award is given to honor people who have given a great deal of service to higher education at the statewide level," said Lynne Masland, director of University Communications.

Former Washington state governor Booth Gardner presented the award to Edie Feb. 15 at the annual Higher Education Day luncheon in Olympia.

"(Receiving the award) was a combination of a lot of years of service in higher education," Edie said.

The award was created in 1998 for Robert G. Waldo. Waldo worked at the University of Washington from 1946 to 1984 and was the director of government relations for 10 of those years.

As vice president for external affairs, Edie said he communicated between Western and the Bellingham community as well as local and state governments. Edie said he worked with Western President Karen Morse as a member of her council.

"We worked together very closely," Edie said. "My job was to represent the university in Olympia and to work with Morse in communicating the needs of the university, internally and externally."

Edie retired in 2004 from his position at Western because of health



Courtesy Faculty and Staff online
Bob Edie, former vice president of external affairs, won the Robert G. Waldo Award Feb. 15.

issues. He and his wife, Susan, live in Kirkland, where they are near their two daughters and grandchildren. Edie said he receives treatment at University Hospital.

Edie worked for the Washington State Senate for 10 years.

After working for the Senate, Edie said he was the chief lobbyist for the University of Washington from 1985 to '96 and worked as its vice president for university relations from 1996 to '99. He worked for former Gov. Gary Locke during 2000. Edie said he worked at Western as the vice president for the last four years of his career.

"(Edie has been) a major influence in shaping higher education in this state," Masland said.

During the late 1980s and early '90s while at the UW, Edie said he pushed for salary increases for the faculty and staff.

"Over a six-year period, UW faculty and staff saw a 30- to 40-percent salary increase," Edie said.

Edie also worked while at the UW to expand the higher-education system. The UW expanded by building branch campuses in Tacoma and Bothell.

During the mid-'90s Edie said he worked to keep higher education budget cuts at a minimum.

"Bob was — and is — a relentless optimist," said Bob Roseth, director of news and information at the UW. "No matter how dark the times in the state budget or in the political arena, Bob has always worked to see the bright side and to work for positive change."

While at Western, Edie said he worked on the Gardner-Evans plans, which are designed to raise \$800 million to build new buildings during the next 30 years on the campuses of four-year universities and community colleges in Washington state. The statewide plan is named after its leaders, former governors Dan Evans and Booth Gardner.

In addition to his work in higher education, Edie said Bellingham Mayor Mark Asmundson appointed him to Bellingham's Waterfront Futures Group in January 2003.

Shuttle detours until workers can repair roads

By GRETA SMOKE
The Western Front

Western's daytime shuttle routes are temporarily detoured and will not stop at Old Main because of unstable cracks in the road through Lot 10 G, near Miller Hall and the northeast corner of the Fine Arts Building. The detour began Tuesday, Feb. 22, and will continue until repairs finish.

The shuttle's regular route traveled through Lot 10 G to its stop outside Old Main, where concrete plates over the road have created the possibility of a wheel breaking, Western project manager Dave Willett said. The plates, put over the road in 1946, are cracking from the heavy weight of the buses, he said.

"We could hear the plates bouncing around every time we went over them," Western shuttle driver Larry Bovenkamp said. "We broke a cement cover last week."

To avoid this potentially dangerous situation, shuttle buses now stop by the emergency phone near the motorcycle parking at the south end of Lot 10 G, alternative transportation coordinator Carol Berry said.

The shuttle buses will continue as usual with all other regular stops along the two routes — the commuter loop and the 32nd Street route, Berry said. No problems or complications with the detour have arisen from students or passengers so far, Berry said.

Facilities management crews are preparing a plan on how to go about fixing the damages to Lot 10 G, Willett said.

"We have not begun repairs, but we are in the process of hiring a structural engineer to design new lids that are able to withstand the weight of the buses and other heavy vehicles," Willett said.

Once the area is repaired, Western transportation services will review the new route and decide whether to keep it or switch back to the old one, Berry said.

Willett said he expects the damages to Lot 10 G to be repaired by the end of May at the earliest.

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Award: Dykstra also candidate for Great Northwest Athletic Conference Player of the Year

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and can shoot a basketball left-handed.

He had his last surgery when he was in the sixth grade and said he remembers having gone to physical therapy immediately after elementary school. He has spent hundreds of hours in physical therapy, using basketball as rehabilitation.

Dykstra said he remembers showing up to basketball camps in his youth and playing with a cast on. He chose to have the surgeries in the summer so they would not interfere with his studies.

Western junior guard Preston Vermeulen, a teammate and a childhood friend, said no one deserves the award more than Dykstra.

"On the court, he's one of the most unselfish guys I know," Vermeulen said. "That is so rare for a star athlete such as himself."

Vermeulen said many scorers tend to worry about getting points, but Dykstra doesn't think that way.

"He does whatever it takes to make the team win," Vermeulen said.

Vermeulen said Dykstra is one of his favorite players to work with because of his unselfishness.

"When you play with him, he always makes you better," he said. "He knows where everyone is at all times."

In addition to attending school full time and playing for Western, Dykstra is married and the father of an 8-month-old son, Griffin.

Dykstra said he met his wife, Tara, when he was in the third grade. He was one grade ahead of her, and they dated throughout high school. Dykstra proposed to her 10 days after she graduated and they have been married since October 2002.

Dykstra said he doesn't have a problem balancing his time between family, school and the team.

"I'm on a routine," he said. "I have to be on schedule and organized, so it actually makes my life easier. I

have no room for error."

Dykstra said his wife, along with his extended family, is happy to see him get recognition.

"She knows everything about me and what I've had to go through," Dykstra said. "I have so much support."

The 6-foot-4 guard and forward also is a candidate for the Great Northwest Athletic Conference player of the year award. Having started every game for Western throughout the past three years, Dykstra ranks 12th in points and 15th in assists among Western's career leaders.

In addition to being recognized for the award, an article about Dykstra and his accomplishments was published in USA Today on Jan. 10.

Head coach Brad Jackson, who has known Dykstra since the 22-year-old was a child, said Dykstra remains humble despite the attention.

"Grant is well aware of the fact that he has become someone whom many people are reading about," Jackson said. "He feels a sense of responsibility to use what he has learned to help other people."

Jackson said Dykstra's injury is not apparent in the way he plays.

"In the midst of it, I think when you take a step back and look at his accomplishments and who he is as a person, it's a privilege to share in that," Jackson said. "Whether he knows it or not, he's such an inspiration on a daily basis."

Dykstra said the award means a lot not only to him, but also to his family.

"My family and friends have supported me throughout my whole life," he said. "Having people continually pushing me has allowed me to excel."

Jackson said Dykstra excels at all he does.

"He's an inspirational, disciplined kid," Jackson said. "He takes pride in his academics and he's rock solid. He has such a sense of purpose and knows what he wants. He's so consistent in

that."

Dykstra said he now plays against teams that did not recruit him because they did not think he would be able to play college basketball.

"Every time I play against those teams, I remember that," Dykstra said. "It gives me motivation."

Jackson said there is no area of the game in which Dykstra doesn't do well.

"He's not just playing — he's exceptional," Jackson said. "Grant has great focus and determination. He has a mind for the game, tremendous mental toughness and a strong desire to excel. He comes in every day the same way. He's one of those guys who plays so hard and really enjoys it."

He also said Dykstra's greatest strength is his resilience.

"He's just a focused, tenacious guy, but in a really quiet way," Jackson said. "He's very gentle and easy to get a long with. He's consistent. It doesn't matter if it's 4:30 in the morning — he always has a smile on his face. I never have to tell him to hustle or work harder."

Dykstra credits those qualities to his upbringing. He said his father, Glen, was one of the best high-school players in the history of Whatcom County, and both his brother, Greg, and sister, Shannon, were all-state players in high-school. Dykstra said they were perfect role models.

"They were stand-out athletes and valedictorians of their class," Dykstra said. "They really led me in the right direction."

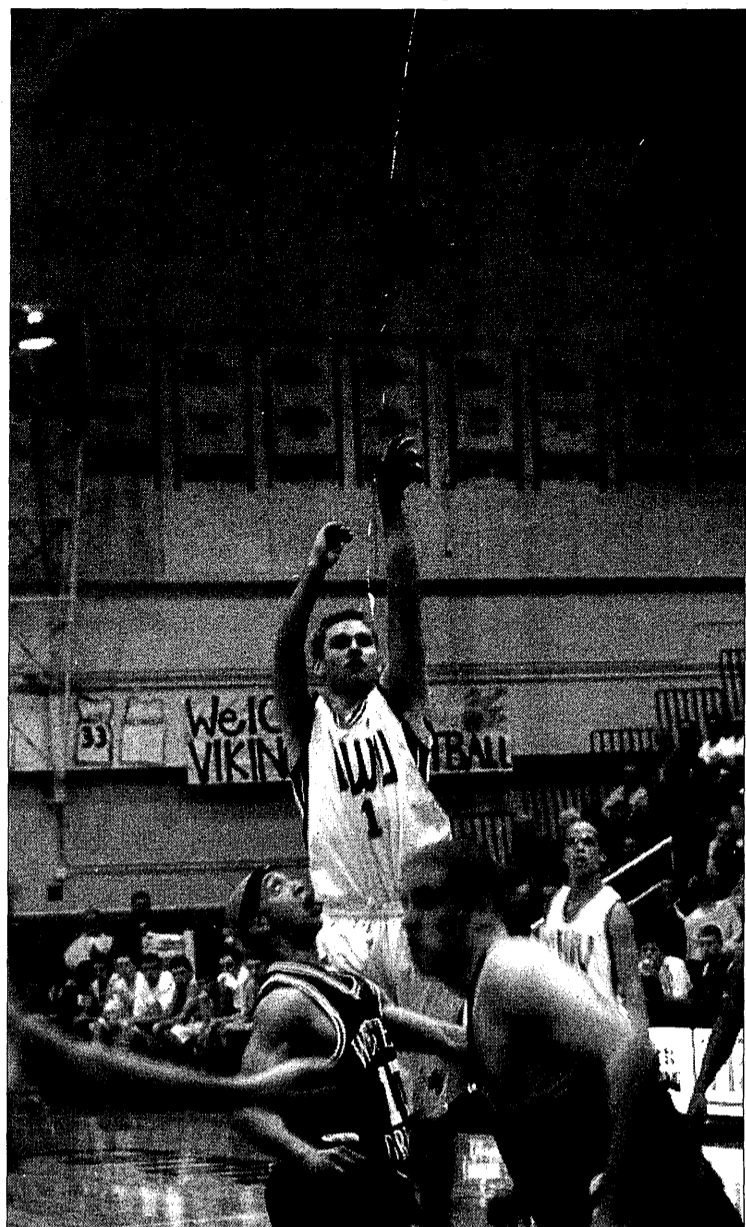
Although he comes from a basketball family, Dykstra said his parents never pressured him into the sport.

"Whatever we did, they just wanted us to give it 110 percent," Dykstra said.

Assistant coach Tony Dominguez said Dykstra has had to face a lot of criticism from scouts and people who ask if he really played with one hand.

"Every day he goes out there and shows how he overcomes his limitation," Dominguez said. "He's mature, talented and gifted. He's got the world at his fingertips."

Dominguez also said Dykstra



CHRIS HUBER/The Western Front
Western junior guard Grant Dykstra airs a jump-shot over Western Oregon University defenders at Carver Gym.

doesn't require a lot of coaching.

"He's a very intense player who makes a lot happen both offensively and defensively," Dominguez said. "Because he works so hard, he helps the team win. Because he is good at every area of the game, he is our most valuable player."

Western is ranked No. 2 in the West region for Division II and Dykstra said he hopes the team wins a national championship.

Despite all the character qualities his coaches and friends have used to describe his accomplishments, Dykstra said in addition to the support from his family and friends, hard work is what has allowed him to achieve so much.

"I don't think I'm the most talented guy in the league, but I like to think that I am one of the most hardworking," Dykstra said.

Dykstra's plans to play basketball after college, he remains undecided.

"God has a plan. I'll go wherever he leads me," Dykstra said. "If he opens a door for me to play, then that's where I'll go."

Dykstra said he hopes his message to never give up encourages others.

"You hear that a lot, but you can do anything through Christ, who gives you strength," he said. "That really represents me and who I am."

Kennedy: Lawyer's lecture is free of charge to public

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of Kennedy's latest book. In the book he claims the Bush administration is plundering the country and hijacking democracy because of the environmental legislation passed under his administration.

Maas said everyone needs to stand for something, and taking the politics out of environmentalism is necessary for humankind.

"He does take to task the administration, but he doesn't make it a political issue," she said. "It's not the Democrats versus the Republicans."

Maas said she will arrange a class discussion with Kennedy for students in environmental programs, with the time and location to be announced.

The lecture is free because funding is provided by the President's Club, Maas said.

"The president has a real desire to keep it free, which is a really wonderful thing," she said.

The lectures need to be available to everyone, and holding the lectures free of charge is one way to guarantee access, said Mark Bagley, director of Development for the President's Club, composed of those who contribute support to the university.

"I think it's important for universities to provide a series such as this which brings speakers in with different points of view and present this to faculty and students," Bagley said. "I think it's one of the responsibilities of the university to provide thought-provoking lectures. It gets people thinking."

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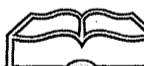
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FEATURES

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2005 • WESTERNFRONTONLINE.COM • PAGE 9

Strange days

Submarine luxury to be built in the Bahamas

A new luxury hotel soon will be built on a Bahama island's coastline — literally, according to a Feb. 24 Agence France-Presse article.

An underwater hotel up for construction in 2006 will offer luxury accommodations and a ceiling with a view of rare aquatic life.

The \$40 million resort will be accessible from two underground tunnels and an escalator.

The \$1,500-a-night suites will include in-room whirlpool spas and an in-house restaurant and bar.

The Chicago sperm burglar can't get sued

The Illinois Appellate Court told a doctor he cannot sue the woman who deceitfully used his sperm to become pregnant, according to a Feb. 24 Associated Press article.

Dr. Richard Phillips is suing ex-fiancée Dr. Sharon Irons for theft and for emotional distress caused by her secretly saving his semen after performing oral sex on him. She then using his sperm to become pregnant, he said.

Phillips said he did not know Irons had become pregnant by him until two years after their affair, when Irons filed a paternity suit that led to Phillips paying \$800 a month in child support.

The Feb. 23 appeals court ruling agreed with Irons' assertion that Phillips' semen was a gift at the time and therefore hers to use as she liked.

"There was no agreement that the original deposit would be returned upon request," Irons said.

Irons said Phillips made up the oral sex part to get out of paying child support.

Out-of-this-world lie brings teen's head out of the clouds

A 17-year-old Indian boy was caught in a lie about having won NASA's International Scientist Discovery examination, but not before fooling the government, the media and the Indian president into believing his claim, according to a Feb. 26 Reuters article.

Saurabh Singh was waiting to meet the president when an Indian online news organization contacted NASA about the boy's achievement.

NASA officials told the group they had no knowledge of Singh.

Indian news media recognized Singh as a national hero when he announced his achievement.

The Uttar Pradesh state government awarded Singh an \$11,500 prize, and more than 100 members of the state's upper legislative house donated a day's worth of pay to the boy.

Singh has returned to his village of Narhai and is under investigation.

Porn star to address the English elite

The Oxford Union debating society has organized speeches from former U.S. presidents, prime ministers, peace leaders, equal-rights activists — and now porn stars.

According to a Feb. 28 Reuters article, Ron Jeremy will address the union Wednesday.

"Ron is the biggest and apparently the best in the business, so I'm sure he'll have some fascinating stories to tell," said Oxford Union librarian Vladimir Bermant, who organized the event.

Jeremy has been in more than 1,700 adult films and claims to have had sexual intercourse with more than 4,000 women.

Jeremy also has appeared on VH1's "The Surreal Life" and in the movie "The Boondock Saints."

Roadkill candy gets squashed

Candy in the shape of run-over snakes, chickens and squirrels will be pulled from the market because of protests from animal-rights activists, according to a Feb. 25 Reuters article.

Kraft Foods officials said they want to be sensitive to public concern and will halt production of the candies, which resemble flattened animals with tire marks running across them.

The fruity-flavored Trolli Road Kill Gummi Candy fosters cruelty toward

animals, according to the New Jersey Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

It isn't often you see breast cream used in public

A promotion for breast enhancing cream that involved three models having a 15 minute mammary massage in public has caused a furor in Thailand, with family groups saying it violates traditional values and morality, according to a Feb. 27 Reuters article.

Despite Bangkok's racy reputation as the "anything goes" sex capital of southeast Asia, most Thais are uncomfortable with public nudity, and all newspaper pictures of the demonstration had the breasts blurred out.

The Nation newspaper said Ying, one of the models, was embarrassed at having to bare herself in front of the cameras, but did believe her breasts had become firmer and the gap between them smaller as a result of the treatment.

Executives of St Herb Co., which makes the "breast beautifying" cream, said they laid on the stunt merely to counter suggestions their advertising claims were exaggerated.

Whether it works or not, a headline in the Thai Post tabloid summed up the controversy best in a society obsessed with marketing gimmicks: "Big breast bras good for people with small brains."

Compiled by Crystal Oberholtzer

walottery.com

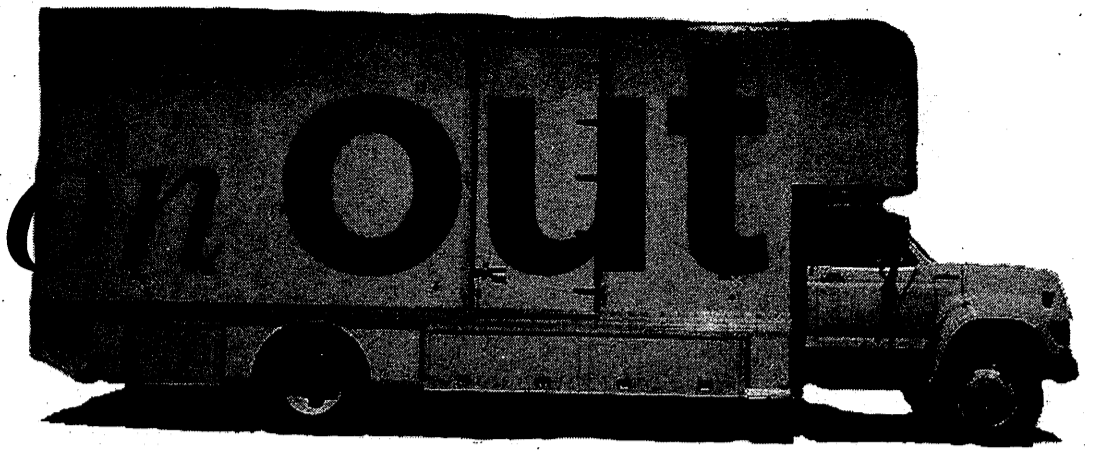


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Movin' *OUT*



Editor's Note: Western Front online editor Nick Schmidt was among the students evicted from the apartment mentioned in this story. He had nothing to do with the writing or editing of the story.

Evictions a worry for some Western students

BY MARISSA HARSHMAN
The Western Front

Parties, loud music, long nights — it's all fun and games until somebody gets evicted.

"We were definitely loud and noisy, but not to the point of getting evicted," Western sophomore Richard Schmalz said.

Schmalz and his three roommates were served an eviction notice Jan. 24 and told they had three days to vacate their apartment in the New England apartment complex on Douglas Avenue, Schmalz said. The final act leading to eviction, he said, was a Jan. 22 party.

"We had friends up from out of town and all of the neighbors were over," Schmalz said. "There was a fight in the courtyard and (me and my roommates) were in bed, but we

still got blamed for the whole thing. Monday we were told to get out."

This is not the first time he and his roommates have been accused of holding big parties and crowding the courtyard with people, Schmalz said. Whenever people were partying in the courtyard of the apartment complex, the police were called.

Once he and his roommates received eviction notices, they had three days to empty their apartment and try to find a new place to live, Schmalz said.

"It was very stressful, probably the week from hell," Schmalz said. "Monday we were told to get out, Tuesday and Wednesday we packed and Thursday morning we turned in our keys. And then I slept on my friend's couch for a week."

Being evicted from their apartment

led to other problems for the roommates, said Western sophomore Jeff Doolittle, Schmalz's roommate.

"My parents wouldn't pay for a place if I lived with those other guys because they were afraid I would get evicted again," Doolittle said. "(My parents) had to come up and help me move. They were pretty upset about having to drive up."

Despite being known for their loud parties, the roommates were only served with one official warning before they were evicted, Doolittle said.

If tenants create continuous problems regarding waste, nuisance or criminal activity, the real-estate companies will give tenants three days to remove themselves before taking the residents to court, Bellingham's Chuckanut Property Management owner

Marc Cascio said.

Usually, people are removed from their homes because of failure to pay rent and not because of problems with the tenants' behavior, Cascio said.

Being loud and throwing parties are not the only reasons for eviction. Bellingham has a zoning law stating that no more than three unrelated individuals can live in a dwelling together, said Darby Galligan, planner for the city's planning and zoning department.

The zoning law applies to any home within city limits and has been in effect since 1947, Galligan said.

Community members complain to the city about a lack of parking, noisy neighbors and too much garbage on the street, Planning and Community Development director Jorge Vega said. When police respond to a complaint from a member of the community, officers ask for the names of all people on the lease. If more than three unrelated individuals are on the lease, the police notify the city's zoning department, Vega said.

If in violation of the zoning law, the residents are told to move out, Vega said.

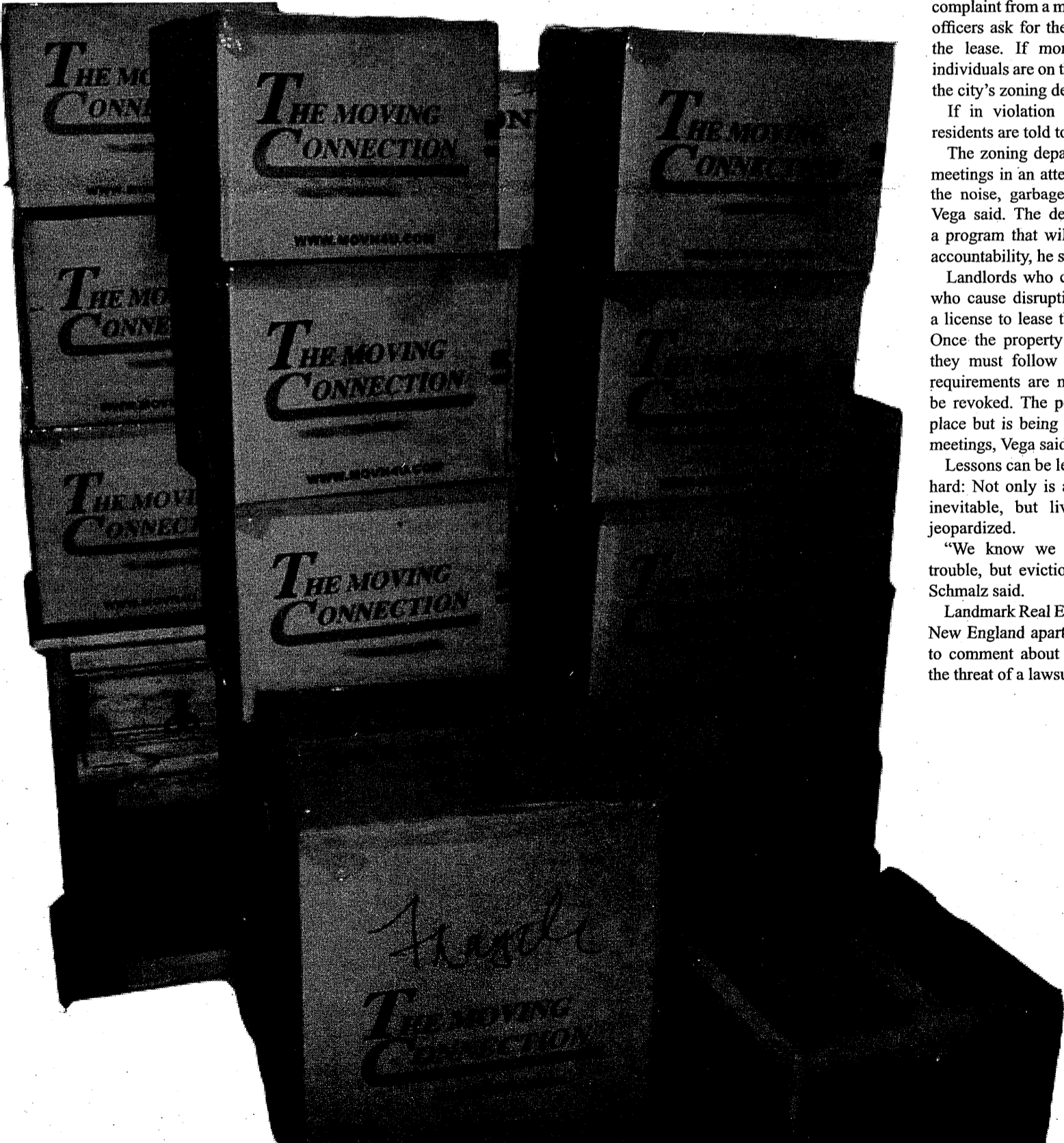
The zoning department is holding public meetings in an attempt to find a solution to the noise, garbage and parking problems, Vega said. The department is working on a program that will call for more landlord accountability, he said.

Landlords who consistently have tenants who cause disruptions may have to obtain a license to lease their property, Vega said. Once the property owners have a license, they must follow strict guidelines. If the requirements are not met, the license will be revoked. The policy is not currently in place but is being considered at the public meetings, Vega said.

Lessons can be learned from partying too hard: Not only is an unbearable hangover inevitable, but living situations can be jeopardized.

"We know we should have gotten in trouble, but eviction took us by surprise," Schmalz said.

Landmark Real Estate, which manages the New England apartment complex, declined to comment about the eviction because of the threat of a lawsuit.



Smoking students

Western club Friends of the Hookah blazes tobacco for social relaxation

BY LAUREN ALLAIN
The Western Front

Step into Western sophomore Loren Anderson's apartment on any Wednesday, Friday or Saturday night and a hookah will be burning in a dimly light room, accompanied by the music of Bob Marley playing in the background.

Western sophomore Andy Amoroso smokes with Anderson. He said he was skeptical to try smoking out of a hookah.

"I'm not a fan of smoking, but compared to cigarettes, it's nothing," he said. "It's pretty much a social thing. I wouldn't sit here and smoke hookah by myself."

The hookah can be seen in popular culture, from the caterpillar in "Alice in Wonderland" to the Dave Matthews Band music video for the song "I Did It."

A hookah is a water pipe used to smoke flavored, tarless, molasses tobacco products called sheesha.

The smoke produced by the hookah is smoother than a cigarette and produces a less intense buzz than a cigarette, Anderson said.

A bowl located at the top of the hookah is packed with sheesha and either tin foil or a screen is placed above that. Burning coals are placed on top of the screen, vaporizing the sheesha.

The smoke is then pulled down into a water chamber, which cools it and pulls out most toxins that tobacco produces, Anderson said. In the most common type of hookah, two hoses protrude, which enables the smoke to be inhaled, he said. The number of hoses ranges from one to six in more ornate hookahs.

"It looks like a marijuana bong," Western sophomore Joanna Browning said. "It looks illegal."

Western freshman Oscar Gubelman said he also enjoys the hookah because of its social atmosphere. Upon arriving at Western in the fall, he founded the Associated Students club Friends of the Hookah.

The process took two weeks for Gubelman's hookah club to get approved by the Activities Council that reviews AS clubs. Gubelman explained extensively to the council how hookahs work, the cultural aspect behind them and health hazards, which Gubelman said are minimal compared to cigarettes. Sheesha



LAUREN ALLAIN/The Western Front

Western sophomore Patrick Bateman and freshman Aaron Yoon smoke sheesha — flavored tobacco product — out of a two-hosed hookah.

has no tar present and 0.5 percent nicotine, he said.

Friends of the Hookah met several times during fall quarter in Red Square, but hasn't met recently because of the cold weather, he said.

Western requires the club to smoke outside at least 50 feet away from any building, Gubelman said.

"It's kind of a lax club right now, but with warmer weather it'll be up and running," he said.

Several hookah bars recently have opened in Seattle. Gubelman said he is planning a trip for the club to travel to a bar in the spring.

Shaher Abuelkhair, 50, owns two hookah bars in Seattle. Both locations are called Zaina, one is on 3rd Avenue in downtown Seattle and the other is in

Pioneer Square on Cherry Street.

Customers order a hookah and choose their sheesha flavors. Fifteen dollars covers the use of a hookah and one bowl of sheesha, which can be refilled for \$7.99, Abuelkhair said. Zaina opened four-and-a-half years ago, and the location on 3rd Avenue has recently been remodeled, he said.

"We're on a bigger scale now," Abuelkhair said. "It's a very cozy place with a Middle Eastern feel."

Abuelkhair said the downtown Zaina has an outdoor location to smoke as well, which is popular and crowded during the summer months. He also said this ensures they will not be forced to close if Initiative 901, which would ban smoking in public buildings, is passed.

As an AS club, Friends of the Hookah has received the annual standard \$50, but the committee will not allow it to be spent on tobacco products or tobacco paraphernalia.

Gubelman said the committee was vague on the reasons for this, but said that if the money did go toward sheesha, Western would be seen as promoting tobacco materials. Gubelman said the money will go toward advertising and trips instead.

The club has attracted more than 40 students without any publicity, he said, and many more have shown an interest.

Avalon Music, located on Railroad Street in downtown Bellingham, has seen an increased interest in the hookah since Friends of the Hookah formed.

"This year it seems like hookah has been really popular," employee Jeff Mitchell, 24, said.

Avalon Music sells hookahs ranging in price from \$59 to \$205. Mitchell said Avalon Music's prices are kept low because it purchases hookahs from local glassblowers.

The hookah is popular on the West Coast,

he said, possibly because of the fact that smoking tobacco inside is still allowed in most Washington bars.

Sheesha and coals are available for \$3.50, he said.

The molasses tobacco comes in a multitude of flavors, ranging from apple to cappuccino. Anderson and his friends mix flavors but have a favorite house special: a mixture of apple, cherry and mint. Normally, they purchase their sheesha online.

Anderson said misconceptions about the hookah and sheesha are common.

"When I first saw it, I was like, what the hell is that?" he said.

Many people associate the look of it with a bong, which marijuana or opium would be smoked out of, but sheesha does not possess the addicting quality cigarettes do, although it does produce a calming effect, Anderson said.

But Dr. Chris Covert-Bowlds, a physician and co-owner of North Sound Family Medicine in Bellingham, said there are multi-thousand dollar filters in casinos that do not get rid of all 4,000 different carcinogens nicotine produces, he said. If these do not eliminate the harmful effects, then a water bong will not either.

"The bottom line is there is no safe way to smoke, no matter how you do it," he said.

Dr. Covert-Bowlds said he assumes people smoke sheesha because it gives them a feeling associated with nicotine.

"It really relaxes you," Western freshman Alex Lindbloom said. "It's like sitting in a hot tub."

Gubelman said he has never met anyone who has tried hookah and not liked it.

"It's a great alternative if you don't smoke cigarettes, he said. "That way you don't have to sit inside while everyone smokes cigarettes outside."



LAUREN ALLAIN/The Western Front

Alex Lindbloom, right, places burning coals on the bowl of sheesha while Gage Galle, left, inhales from one of the hoses.

Drawing with direction

BY CRYSTAL OBERHOLTZER
The Western Front

In the Bellingham School of Comics, no detention, curriculum or grading system exists. The informal meeting of minds that is the B.S. of Comics is more of a study hall for cartoonists, where creativity, criticism, comedy and caffeine consumption run rampant.

The B.S. of Comics is a twice weekly gathering of cartoonists of varying ages and skill levels. It is an opportunity for those cartoonists to work on a comic if they are so inclined, but above all, it is a community of individuals sharing a common interest in comic culture — call it Bible study for cartoonists.

B.S. of Comics founder and Bellingham resident Jonathan Sodt got the idea to gather local comic artists, both aspiring and established, to share in creating and publishing comics from online forums he participated in.

Web sites such as the Megatokyo Art and Drawing Forum, Sodt said gave him the information, inspiration and guidance he needed when he was first creating and publishing his comic Harmless Free Radicals.

He said he wanted to help other artists receive the same helpful information he found, but on a more local scale. Sodt did not have to look far to find others who were interested in meeting with fellow cartoonists on a regular basis.

"Honestly, I didn't know if there were enough cartoonists in Bellingham for something like this to work," Sodt said. "After talking about it with a few people, I just counted the number of people interested in it on my fingers and decided I had enough. In two months, I had 18 people here."

Bellingham comic artist Julie McGalliard, creator of the online comic Goth House, began drawing her comic in 1991. She and her comic are local legends to other cartoonists in the B.S. of Comics. She said the ability to meet with others who are interested in the same medium helps her creativity and determination.

"When you're drawing cartoons, you start to think, 'Am I crazy?'" McGalliard said. "So I came here, and now I know, I am crazy, but I'm not the only one."

Not all of the people who attend the B.S. of Comics meetings share

such an extensive background in the art. Western junior R.M. Kehrli was primarily interested in writing novels when she happened to stumble upon a B.S. of Comics meeting while attending another event at the Black Drop Coffeehouse, the official site of B.S. of Comics gatherings since October 2004.

Kehrli said she enjoyed the company of the cartoonists and returned for the next meeting. She is now a regular and is working on the fourth page of her own comic.

"It's completely infectious," Kehrli said. "I'm a convert. Either that or I'm infected — it's like a disease."

Whether it is to brush up on what comics other people are reading to maintain motivation to work or simply to have a willing hand model ready when a cartoonist needs one, the B.S. of Comics seems to have achieved the primary purpose of its founder — to create a supportive community for Bellingham comic artists.

Robyn California, 33, is in no way a small part of that achievement. For more than 15 years, California has worked in some aspect of the entertainment industry. California has done Radio, Publishing, advertising and drawn his own comics.

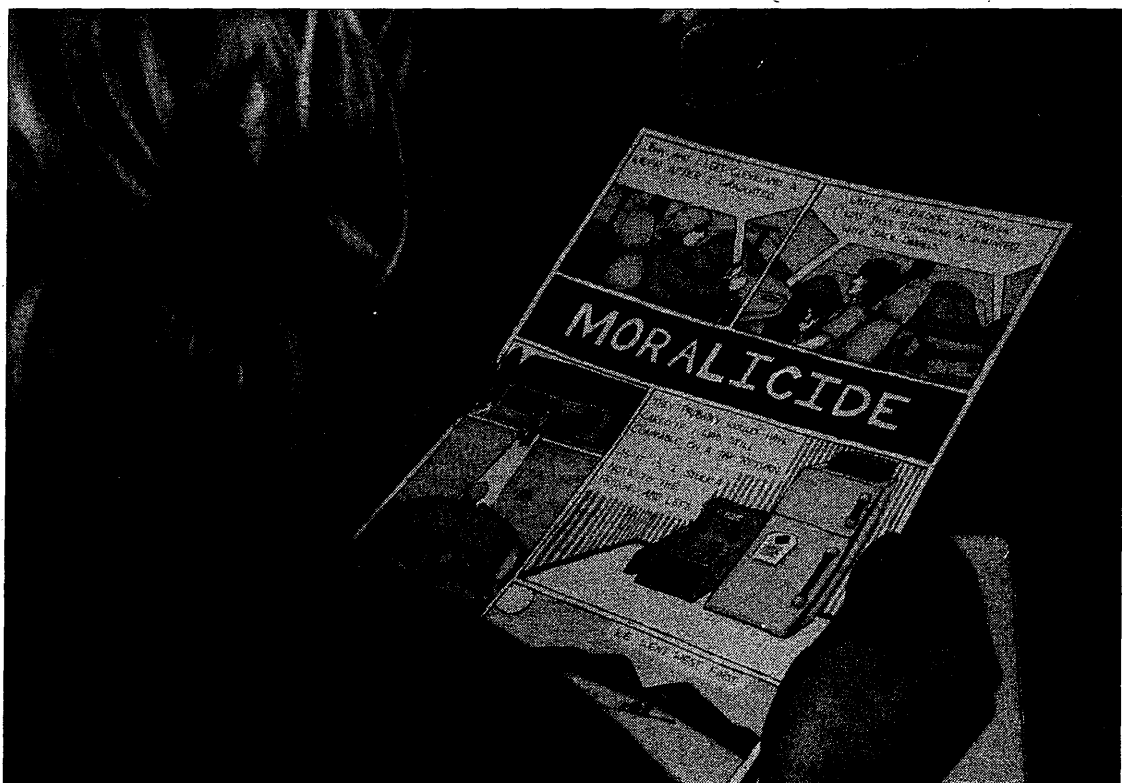
California had an interest in the B.S. of Comics from its inception in August 2004. He attended meetings to work on his own comic in a community setting.

When Sodt mentioned an interest in publishing, in a newspaper format, comics created by artists involved in the B.S. of Comics, California became attracted. California said that interest turned into a passion, and he knew he possessed the skill to put it together well.

"When I saw how many people were willing, that kicked it for me," California said. "We had at least 20 artists who could publish something on a weekly basis if they really, really wanted to."

Sodt's brainchild and California's passion resulted in the creation of the Bellingham Comics Bugle. The online publication features comics produced by B.S. of Comics artists.

The BC Bugle was never meant to be a primarily online publication and will make its print debut by the end of February if all goes as planned, said California, who also is the BC Bugle's editor-in-chief. The comic-only paper



CRYSTAL OBERHOLTZER/The Western Front
Julie McGalliard, creator of the online comic Goth House, examines the first page of Western junior R.M. Kehrli's first comic.

is molded after the Santa Cruz Comic News, a now-defunct but once internationally popular publication that followed the comic-only format.

California said a large portion of any profits made from the BC Bugle will go back to the artists. Even if the artists receive only enough money to buy a cup of coffee during a B.S. of Comics meeting,

California stressed the importance of supporting the artistic and independent community that is the basis of the publication.

"It's not about the profits," Sodt said. "It's about creating something to put up on your fridge so that people walk by and laugh at it."

The philosophy California and Sodt embrace on the business side of the project seems to be shared by others in B.S. of Comics.

Between eight and 20 cartoonists come to each meeting. Clarence Harper, 27, is one of the regulars. He acknowledged that the work he does toward bettering his comics will likely not earn him much money, but he enjoys coming to the meetings to learn more and talk about the art nonetheless.

"Mostly, it's about creating," Harper said. "It's part artistic and part authorship. Mostly, it's just bouncing ideas off each other."

The B.S. of Comics is not only a workshop-type meeting

of local artists. It is a forum for those artists to communicate about comic culture, a welcomed opportunity for those in the know about comics.

While many people think of comics in a purely comedic or superhero setting, they can be much more than that, Western senior and B.S. of Comics enthusiast Addelle Dierking said.

Dierking said comics are an art form often overlooked and a viable opportunity for serious social commentary.

She said even the now-popular "X-Men" comic was created out of a social commentary on the conflicts surrounding race relations.

The tendency of popular culture to take comics out of context and present them in another medium takes away from the original

importance of the art, Dierking said.

"The juxtaposition of fine art and fine words together takes a skilled artist and a skilled author to execute well," Dierking said. "Turning comics into movies removes that literary and artistic beauty from the medium."

The B.S. of Comics meets Mondays at 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays at noon at the Black Drop Coffeehouse.

They encourage anyone interested in creating comics to drop in on a meeting, with the fair warning that attendees may get addicted to either the art form or the Black Drop's coffee.

"If you live in Bellingham or Whatcom County, you are a member of B.S. of comics whether you know it or not," Sodt said.

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SPORTS

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Western community goes wild for water boy

By BRADLEY THAYER
The Western Front

Ryder Cunningham, 21, the student assistant and waterboy for the Viking men's basketball team, has overcome adversity and has been able to make an impact on the Bellingham community.

Cunningham was born with two holes in his heart, which required open-heart surgery when he was 11 days old, said Marty Cunningham, his mother. A second surgery was necessary at 8 months.

More recently, Cunningham has been diagnosed with Noonan's syndrome — a disorder that stunts growth and results in some developmental delays and hormone imbalances. Growth hormone injections have helped Cunningham fight the disease during the past five years.

"They thought I wasn't going to make it," Cunningham said. "But I did."

Not only did he make it, Cunningham is making the most of his opportunity — he holds two jobs on campus, and those aren't his only ones.

Aside from working at the Wade King Recreation Center behind the equipment desk and fulfilling his duties with the men's basketball team, Cunningham is the bat boy for the Bellingham Bells during spring.

The Bells are a baseball team that was a farm team for the Seattle Mariners in the past, said Cunningham's father, Jack Cunningham.

Also, Cunningham started up his own business two years ago in which he serves as a disc jockey at events.

E.Z. Ryder's Rock and Road Show just had its 15th gig, he said. Cunningham said he DJs at weddings, birthdays and parties.

"I like Rock'n' Roll, country, rhythm and blues, and some rap — but not all," Cunningham said.

Whether it be huge crowds cheering for him at a game, a high-five from a Vikings basketball player, a greeting from a student working out at the rec center or someone grooving to

a tune of Cunningham's choice at a special event, one thing is clear — Ryder Cunningham is appreciated in this community, and there are many reasons why.

Brad Jackson, head coach of the Vikings men's basketball team, summed it up best: "Ryder's just one of those guys — everybody loves Ryder."

Cunningham said his job at the rec center equipment desk allows him to meet new people and work with people he likes.

"It is better than sitting at home and playing PlayStation 2," he said.

Not that there's anything wrong with PlayStation 2 — Cunningham's favorite game is WWE's "SmackDown! vs. Raw." Wrestling always has been an interest of Cunningham's. Among his favorite wrestlers are The Rock and Stone Cold Steve Austin. When asked why he chose those particular wrestlers, Cunningham said he likes their moves and their "trash talk."

Cunningham said he has many interests outside of television and videogames, though, and one of those is the Kymco four-wheeler he rides around acreage his family owns outside the Cunninghams' Bellingham home.

Cunningham has lived in Bellingham all his life. He attended Kulshan Middle School, where in eighth grade he began his sports managerial career with the football team. His mother explained the first time she realized managing for sports teams was something Ryder would love.

"Another boy got hurt and was bleeding. Ryder ran up and slapped a bandage on it," she said. "That's when we knew he'd found something he would like."

In high school, Cunningham managed football, baseball and basketball at Sehome High School. Kyle Jackson, a Western junior and the starting point guard for Western's men's team, was on the Sehome basketball team that Ryder managed. He said he and Ryder grew close.

"Ryder is an inspiration to everybody — he's been through a lot, but he still has a smile on his face every day," Jackson said.



Courtesy of Chris Taylor
Ryder Cunningham cheers on the Western men's basketball team Saturday against Seattle Pacific University in Carver Gym.

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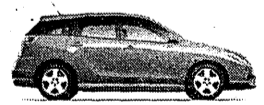
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AMANDA WOOLLEY/The Western Front

Western head coach Brad Jackson and his son, Western junior guard Kyle Jackson take a moment after practice to talk. "We know each other so well that I know what he wants," Kyle Jackson said. "I know what he is thinking."

Taking one for the team — and dad

One Western player's relationship with his father, on and off the court

BY LAUREN ALLAIN
The Western Front

The Western men's basketball team has gone beyond simply creating a family atmosphere. It actually contains a blood relationship.

Brad Jackson, head coach of the men's varsity basketball team, and his son Kyle Jackson, a 22-year-old Western junior guard, have the rare experience of working together on a Division II college basketball team. Kyle, although a senior academically, still has one more year of athletic eligibility remaining, giving him junior status.

Brad Jackson, 53, has been the head coach for the men's basketball team at Western for 20 seasons, and Kyle has been supporting him the entire time, Brad Jackson said.

"I was in the gym every day growing up," Kyle said.

Years later, Kyle still is in the gym every day with his dad, but now he is in his fourth season of playing for him, he said.

"It's an unusual situation," Brad Jackson said. "Not a lot of college coaches have their sons on their team."

Western recruited Kyle during his sophomore year at Sehome High School.

Brad Jackson said people are aware of their relationship, but on the court Kyle is treated like any other player. Brad Jackson said he made it clear to his son that

he was being recruited based on his athletic ability, not because he was the coach's son.

"He had to earn it just like any other player," Brad Jackson said.

But skeptics initially said Kyle was recruited only because of his relationship with the coach. Assistant coach Tony Dominguez said at the time Kyle was recruited, the team was coming off of the Final Four and was ranked No. 2 in the country. Dominguez said recruiting a coach's son was not an issue, since the team was strong to begin with.

"It was a quiet time, and Kyle was able to red-shirt his freshman year and develop," he said.

Both Kyle and Brad Jackson agree that being a part of the team together is not an issue as many would perceive it to be.

"He really tries to treat me like any other player," Kyle said.

On the court, Brad Jackson does his best to make sure he does not show favoritism, but at the same time he does not attempt to minimize their relationship.

"It's a comfortable situation," he said.

He said his son has more ownership in the game because of their relationship.

For Kyle, being successful is more than a personal goal, but rather a family goal. He understands the team's success impacts his father's job as well as his personal basketball career, Brad Jackson said.

"I feel that I have to prove myself more than anybody else," Kyle said. "In the back of my mind, it pushes me harder."

On and off the court, Brad and Kyle have a strong bond.

"We know each other so well that I know what he wants," Kyle said. "I know what he is thinking."

Dominguez said he does not think a blood relationship within the team is an issue, but to other teams it has been.

In Fairbanks, Alaska, this past weekend against the Nanooks, the crowd chanted "Daddy's boy" at him, Brad Jackson said.

When he signed with Western, Kyle said he expected to receive a fair amount of criticism, but he said the Fairbanks crowd chant was one of the few times that has occurred.

"If anything, it kind of motivates me to do better," Kyle said. "It's all in good fun."

In high school, Kyle said he decided if he did not play for Western, he would not play for another Division II school, to avoid playing against his father's team.

"I considered a few other places, but, ultimately, playing for my dad was an opportunity I couldn't pass up," he said.

Brad Jackson said it would have been difficult to see his son play for any other college. Because of time conflicts, he would be unable to see his son play.

"It's been a great blessing to have this experience," Brad Jackson said.



MATTHEW ANDERSON/The Western Front

Western junior guard Kyle Jackson looks for an open man during the Feb. 26 game against Humboldt State in Carver Gym.

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Western defeats Humboldt on its fifth attempt

BY AMANDA WOOLLEY
The Western Front

Western senior forward Craig Roosendaal ended his last regular-season home game Saturday night with an outstanding performance, scoring 24 points and nailing six 3-pointers despite fouling out with eight minutes to play.

But the Western offense wouldn't be slowed, and the Vikings defeated the Humboldt State University Lumberjacks, 107-83, in Carver Gym.

It was the 10th time this season the Vikings scored in triple digits.

"It felt really good to beat them," Roosendaal said. "The same thing happened to us when we went down there, so it was nice to beat them here."

It was the first time Western had beat Humboldt in the teams past five meetings, Western junior guard Kyle Jackson said.

"I don't think I have ever played in a game where we have beat them," Jackson said. "It was a good feeling to win."

The Vikings jumped to a 10-2 lead early in the first half, but the Lumberjacks rallied, pulling ahead 19-18 with 10:56 to play in the half.

The two teams stayed within 5 points until Roosendaal made three 3-pointers — the last coming with 4:05 left in the first half — and boosted Western's lead to a 47-39 at halftime.

Roosendaal led the scoring in the first half, scoring 21 points and making five of six 3-pointers.

Western junior guard Ryan Diggs, usually a leading scorer for Western, got two fouls in the first six minutes and sat out the rest

of the first half.

"I think we turned it around late in the first half," Diggs said. "Everybody stayed really focused and played good defense."

Western dominated the boards throughout the game, 57-36.

"(Last time) they killed us on the boards," Western head coach Brad Jackson said. "This time was kind of a reversal. We did a good job defensively and played aggressively."

Diggs returned to the game and scored 20 points in the second half. With 7:08 left in the game, Western led by 32 points, 94-62.

Western freshman forward Brett Weisner put the Vikings into triple digits with a free throw with 5:14 left.

"We made the right passes at the right time and made the right shots at the right time," Diggs said.

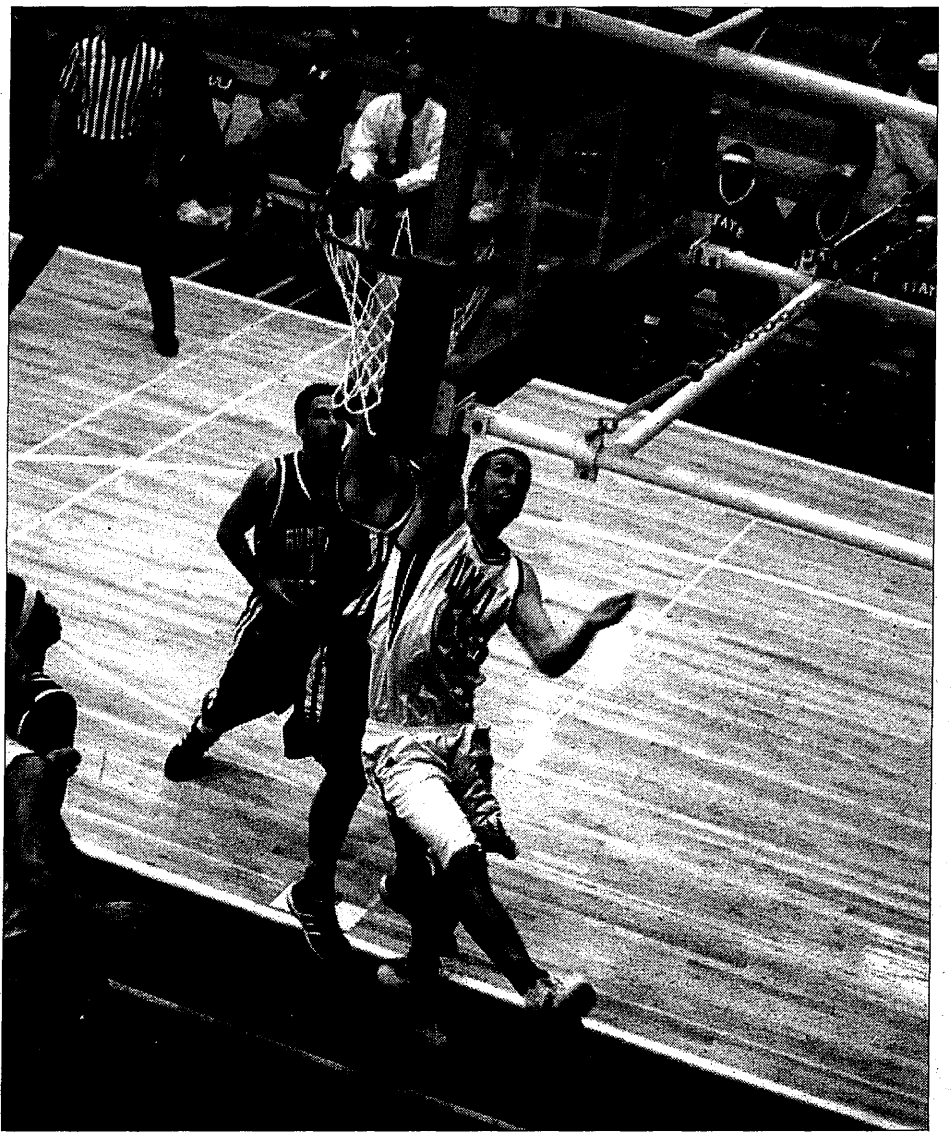
Diggs led the Vikings in scoring, totaling 27, followed by Roosendaal with 24, Jackson with 17 and Western junior forward Grant Dykstra with 13.

The Vikings will finish the season this week, meeting Seattle University and Northwest Nazarene University on the road.

"We are still in the hunt to host a region playoff if we (beat the other two teams)," Jackson said. "Seattle U is a tough team and should be a real battle, and Northwest Nazarene has had a really good second half of the season. We have two really big challenges ahead of us."

Western is in first place in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference and is ranked No. 2 in the West Region.

If the Western men win both home games this week, they can secure the No. 1 spot in the GNAC.



AMANDA WOOLLEY/The Western Front

Western junior forward Tyler MacMullen makes a layup in the first half of the Vikings' win over Humboldt State University Saturday night in Carver Gym.

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A two-sport hopeful Football player wants to pick up b-ball

BY PETER JENSEN
The Western Front

After he finishes his football career at Western next fall, junior Jake Carlyle said he is interested in exchanging his cleats for sneakers and joining the Western men's basketball team next winter.

"This is something I've wanted to do," he said. "Playing football keeps me going, but I want to try basketball as well."

Carlyle, 22, said he intends to play running back next year, splitting playing time with Western junior running back Duncan Sherrard. If he doesn't graduate fall quarter, Carlyle said he would try to join the men's basketball team in the winter as a backup point guard.

He said he spoke to men's basketball assistant coach Tony Dominguez about possibly playing this season as a replacement for Western freshman guard Ira Graham, who left the team for family reasons. But with only five games left the team did not need Carlyle, head coach Brad Jackson said.

"At this point in the season, we don't anticipate adding any players," Jackson said.

Carlyle said he began playing basketball in the second grade, and, after he was large enough, he began playing football in the fourth grade.

"Baseball was too boring," he said.

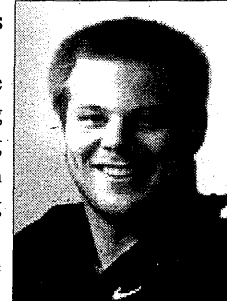
In addition to playing football, rugby and track, Carlyle said he played four years as a point guard for Capital High School in Olympia. Several community colleges and the University of San Diego recruited him to play basketball, but Carlyle came to Western in 2001 to pursue his football career.

After the football season, Carlyle said he plays pick-up basketball games three times a week with Dominguez, football strength coach Eric Tripp and other football players, such as Western senior tight end Rick Carte and Western senior quarterback Steve Nichols. This quarter, however, Carlyle has played sparingly because he has a class during the

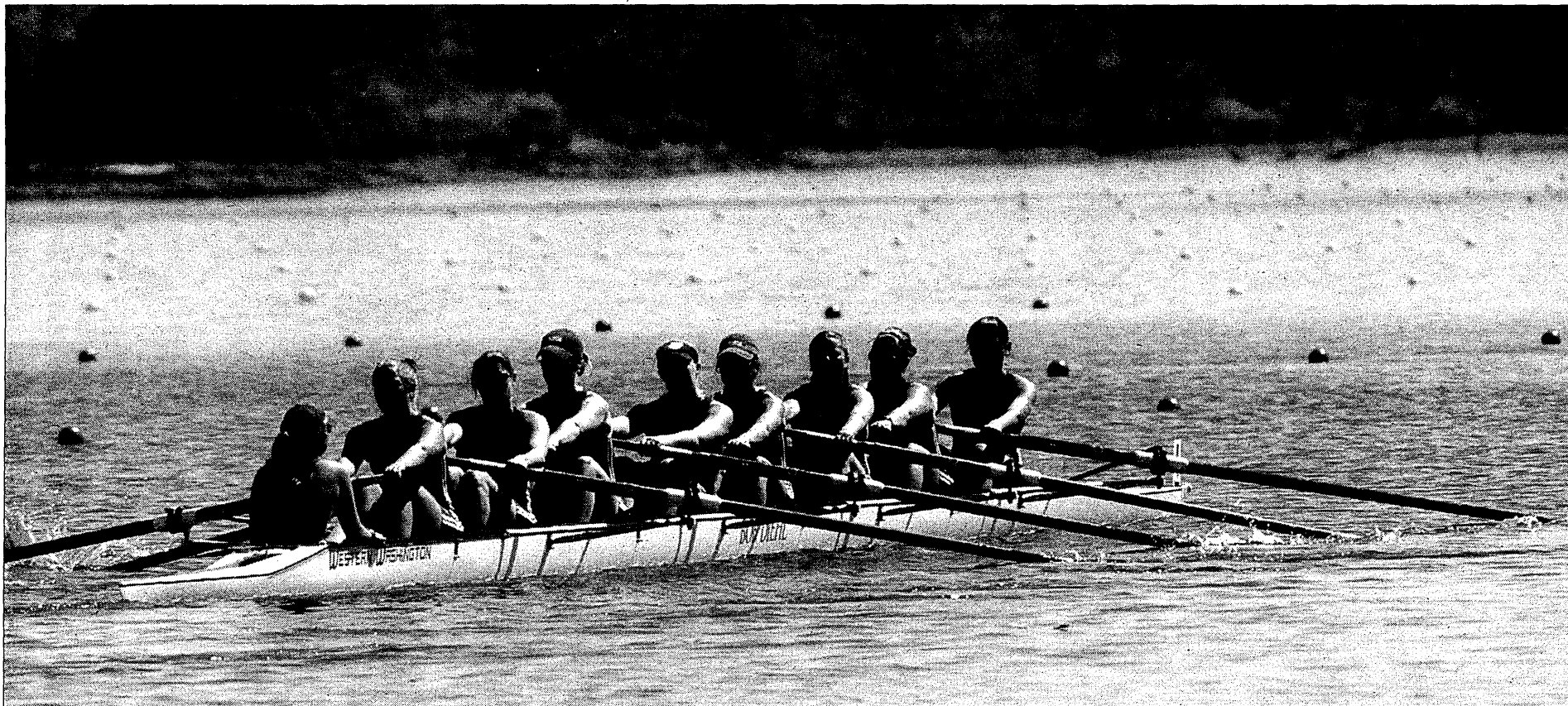
pick-up games, he said. "I love playing," he said. "It keeps me loose and in shape for football. It also keeps me disciplined."

If he were to play for the men's basketball team, Carlyle said he would join a growing trend of football players playing basketball. Last year, Western senior wide receiver James Laurence played 13 games as a forward for the men's basketball team, averaging 1.2 points per game.

In 2002, Western graduate — then a senior — Greg Dykstra finished his collegiate football career by setting Western's record for receptions and then joined his brother Grant on the basketball team. In 10 games, Dykstra averaged 1.6 points and 2.2 rebounds per game.



JAKE CARLYLE



Courtesy of John Fuchs

The Western women's varsity crew warms up before a race last spring at the NCAA Division II Nationals in Rancho Cordova, Calif. The team placed third. Although both teams participate in competitions, only the women's varsity team competes in the NCAA Division II.

Early to bed and early to rise: Western rowing is no joyride

BY TAYLOR WILLIAMS
The Western Front

On Lake Whatcom, Western's crew team begins the day in the dark and cold.

Starting practice at 5 a.m., these students train throughout the entire school year for a competitive season in the spring.

Most crew teams consist of eight rowers and a coxswain, the person who steers the boat and leads the rowers, said John Fuchs, Western's head rowing coach.

"The goal is to go as fast as we possibly can, whether we are in a competition or not," said.

To increase their speed, he said, all rowers must be rowing at the same time, not a fraction of a second off. That is the difference between crew and other sports, he said. Rowers are performing a repetitive motion together.

Practice has an emphasis on being like-minded, he said. From the beginning of practice to the end, each rower was one piece of the whole. Crew is one of the most physically demanding sports in the world, Fuchs said. Rowers drain almost all of their energy.

"It's like taking a 90-pound

barbell, squatting and lifting it up over your head 35 times for 37 minutes," Fuchs said.

Western senior Julia Gamache, the women's varsity captain, said she wished students knew how hard the team worked. Gamache rowed for two years in high school, and this is her third year on crew at Western.

"It requires constant dedication," she said. "It pretty much becomes your life."

Western crew consists of men's and women's varsity teams, but only the women compete in the National Collegiate Athletics Association Division II.

Although the men's team is a varsity sport, the NCAA does not have a championship for men's rowing. It is the only non-NCAA sport in the department, Fuchs said. Since Western's inception in the NCAA in 1997, the team has never placed below third, Fuchs said.

"(Women's crew) typically has 30 women," Fuchs said. "We would like to have about 40, but our numbers are indicative of our program. We start the year with 60 or 70."

The men's team has 20 rowers

who are mostly young and new, he said, and more male athletes might be rowing if they were not taken by other sports.

Western football claims approximately 100 people in the fall, Fuchs said.

The crew team practices three hours every weekday, along with a Saturday practice. Two hours in the morning are spent on the water. The third hour in the afternoon is spent cross training, running or using the bikes and rowing machines, Fuchs said.

"It's intense," he said. "We want them to be complete athletes."

As a Western program, crew has recently received the same amount of funding the other sports, Fuchs said.

The athletic department has helped double the amount of scholarships, with the equivalent of three-and-a-half full rides to disperse among the women's team.

The department will buy oars and four new boats, he said, although he is not sure when the team will receive them.

Two will be for the women's team and two for the men's.

Once the new boats are purchased, the women's varsity

team will sit in a \$28,000 crew boat. The program will have spent a total of \$100,000 on new equipment, he said.

"The athletic department is investing in us and that's cool," Fuchs said. "For a long time the team was self-supporting. Now (the athletic department) is bringing us up to par with the other sports."

Crew is extraordinary because the bonds and friendships the rowers make are lifelong, he said. They go through so much together and rely on one another.

It takes close to six months for a team to learn how each member works and to fully function as a team, Fuchs said.

"Eventually, they'll even know what each other is thinking,"

Fuchs said.

Western freshmen Metta Gilbert said being a part of crew was the first time she understood what being part of a team is like.

Gilbert was a swimmer in high school but picked up rowing after watching her friend row, she said.

"Everybody was in sync, and I loved the sound of the boat against the water," Gilbert said.

Gilbert is considered a novice, which is a first-year rower.

Although this is only her first year, she is already rowing for the varsity boat.

Tryouts were the third week in September, and the squad was picked on Oct. 1, Gilbert said.

"It's really hard to be together with seven other girls," Gilbert said. "(It's) a lot harder than it looks."

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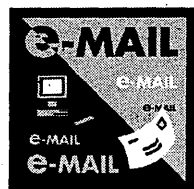
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Frontline

The 'Ham' needs a new all-ages venue

With the recent closing of Stuart's Coffee House and the increase in the number of bars and nightclubs, under-age Western students and Bellingham residents are left with few choices to fulfill their entertainment needs. Some may even resort to driving to Seattle or Vancouver, B.C.

With the Viking Union multipurpose room and The Underground Coffeehouse on Western's campus as the only remaining all-ages concert venues in Bellingham, many young people, including the 5,746 Western students who are under the age of 21, are wondering what to do with themselves on the weekends. With nowhere to see concerts or shows, they may resort to mischievous activities, such as drinking in parking lots.

And even though campus clubs organize free under-age shows at varying Western venues, performances at the Underground Coffeehouse are limited to a lame, 85-decibel noise level — only 5 decibels louder than an alarm clock or a busy restaurant, according to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health Web site.

The dwindling amount of rockin' all-ages performance venues provides a positive outlook for the remaining lame ones.

In addition, as the amount of 21-and-over venues, such as bars and nightclubs, increases more performing artists may seek the higher-paying, larger capacity gigs, thus cutting into the market of the all-ages venues.

This, however, could potentially lead to under-aged people doing other, more naughty things.

Many young people, including Western students, will be tempted to find ways to cheat the system in order to attend a concert. Methods could include getting fake IDs, licking another person's hand in an attempt to rub their admission stamp onto their own hand, sneaking into 21-and-over shows or just standing outside in the cold in an attempt to enjoy the music.

Because alcohol is a highly profitable aspect of concert venues, many entrepreneurs may argue more money can be made in 21-and-over establishments. But because so little competition exists in the Bellingham all-ages market and the "Ham's" music scene is booming, such a venture could prove them wrong.

Bellingham has a plethora of leisure activities for people over the age of 21. Unfortunately, however, if no new all-ages clubs are created, Bellingham's younger crowd could be left standing outside the club on Friday night, trying to sneak in or using a fake ID or calling their friends to go to the movies with their tricycles and lollipops. And all their spending money will likely be wasted trying to get getting homeless people to buy them beer.

Frontlines are the opinion of The Western Front editorial board: Matthew Anderson, Lauren Miller, David Wray, Anastasia Tietje, Elana Bean, Amanda Woolley, Caleb Heeringa, Laura McVicker, Aaron Apple, Michael Murray, Krissy Gochnour, Tara Nelson, Nick Schmidt, Kenna Hodgson and Chris Huber.

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

And we quote:

"I hate to advocate drugs, alcohol, violence, or insanity to anyone, but they've always worked for me."

— Hunter S. Thompson, late gonzo journalist



Proposal to halve state unnecessary



COURTNEY WALKER

Republican Sen. Bob Morton's plan to split Washington into two states is based on an emotional response to the 2004 gubernatorial election and is not economically or logically sound.

A plethora of articles written about the plan mainly cite the political divide between the two sides of the state as the real reason.

But the polarization of the two sides — east and west — should not be reason enough to cut Washington in half.

Ten senators have signed on in support of the plan, according to a Feb. 22 Associated Press article. These senators, including Sen. Adam Kline, D-Seattle, and Sen. Bob McCaslin, R-Spokane Valley, approve the separation of the state as a means of quelling animosity between the two.

A Northwest Public Radio broadcast Feb. 23

reported, however, that the split would have a harmful effect on the economy of both Western and Eastern Washington — especially for the Eastern side because of the loss of tax revenue.

Only 18 percent of the state's population live in Eastern Washington, yet they receive 22 percent of the state's tax revenue, according to a Feb. 22 KOMO 4 broadcast.

If Eastern Washington becomes the 51st state, it could have a smaller budget for education and social services because of a lack of funding from taxes. In other words, the plan likely will hurt the same party that is putting it forward.

While it is true many of the negative effects that are cited are simply based on speculation, they could have an impact on the economy of the new state of Eastern Washington if they become reality, according to the same broadcast.

Supporters of this proposal, such as McCaslin, say the two sides of Washington are too different to remain as one state. These aspects, however, come down to one big difference: In the 2004 election, the majority of Eastern Washington residents voted for Republican Dino Rossi, and the majority of Western Washington

see SPLIT, page 19

Stiffer penalties for Bellingham doctor needed



CRYSTAL OBERHOLTZER

The relationship between doctor and patient is sacred. If a doctor grossly breaks that trust, he or she should not be allowed to continue practicing medicine.

Recent allegations accusing Bellingham family medicine practitioner Gary McCallum of sexual misconduct bring to light this potentially dangerous flaw in the medical licensing system.

A physician may be accused of unwanted sexual contact and medical misconduct by his or her patient and still maintain a license to practice medicine.

That is, even if the physician is found guilty of sexual misconduct, he or she may maintain the ability to practice medicine.

McCallum has not been tried or convicted of any misconduct

against his patients. He was simply charged with administering expired flu vaccines to his patients in November 2004, said Donn Moyer, Washington State Department of Health media relations manager.

After an initial investigation, however, the department of health amended the charge to possibly

include alleged sexual contact with a patient, providing negligent care to patients, poor record keeping, aiding and abetting unlicensed practice in his office, providing false information during his investigation, and theft, according to a Feb. 4 press release from the health department.

If McCallum is found guilty of some or all of the charges, the Medical Quality Assurance Commission will decide on the punishment, which could include a revocation of the physician's medical license or a requirement of supervision while treating

female patient, Moyer said.

If, however, a physician needs to be baby-sat when dealing with his or her patient, the physician simply should not be practicing medicine at all.

The right for any physician to continue practicing medicine if convicted of sexual misconduct

against his or her patients should be questioned in this case.

The sexual contact charge brought against McCallum comes from a pregnant woman who went to McCallum in July 2001 to be tested for sexually transmitted diseases,

according to a Feb. 5 Bellingham Herald article.

The patient said McCallum called her into his office for immediate treatment the night of her visit. He then allegedly asked her to kneel on the examination table with her

see PHYSICIAN, page 19

'If, however, a physician needs to be babysat when dealing with his or her patient, that physician should not be practicing medicine at all.'

Relationships: In college, independence, not ignorance, is bliss



LAUREN ALLAIN

More often than not, relationships in college are more difficult to navigate than schoolwork. If mastering a functional relationship were a major, this is what classes might look like:

Lectures would be night-long talks filled with awkward silent pauses. Homework would consist of creating a list of perfect presents for obscure celebrations like the three-month anniversary of the first kiss.

Tests would be administered in a small room with a lie detector to get to the bottom of what happened the one night a partner said he or she would call and never did.

Kudos to the individuals who somehow pass all of these tests and figure out how to navigate this obscure thing called a relationship, in which there appears to be three distinct types.

The first and most controversial is the drunken relationship. This is marked by

distinct characteristics of post-bar booty calls at 2:01 a.m. or only seeing one another in the presence of alcohol. For those who desperately fear commitment, this is the perfect relationship.

On the weekends, sloppy, drunken sex receives attention but quickly reverts on the weekdays, in which school takes the center stage.

If both parties can mutually consent that having a drunken relationship is agreeable, then all is well. The problems drop like A-bombs when the beer starts talking.

The only downside to this is that drunken communication can become blurry, and one or both partners can become inadvertently attached. When this happens, the relationship is likely to fail.

Greg Behrendt, author of "He's Just Not That Into You," addresses drunken relationships. He said drinking is not the way to one's innermost feelings. Otherwise, people would not smash empty beer cans against their skulls.

"If he only wants to see you, talk to you, have sex with you, etc., when he's inebriated, it ain't love — it's sport," Behrendt writes.

It is easy to be satisfied with a drunken relationship in college, but be warned that it could get messy if the rules are not clearly outlined.

'It is easy to be satisfied with a drunken relationship in college, but be warned that it could get messy if the rules are not clearly outlined.'

The second type of college relationship is the polar opposite.

This is the relationship in which people appear to be married and suddenly drop off the face of the Earth.

One minute every day is spent with that best friend, but once he or she meets a significant other — like chocolate in a fat kid's hand, he or she is gone.

The third type of relationship, however, is somewhere between those two. Essentially, it is a relationship with no label attached.

Technically speaking, these individuals are single, but everyone knows they are off limits.

This seems to be the most popular of the three types in college because affection is there when one needs it, but it is acceptable

to play the ass hole once in a while and completely ditch the other person.

And since no label is attached to the relationship, this is not a foul and is, in fact, allowed.

This is the best college relationship because no definite breakup is needed. Creating a gap in communication for roughly a week will do the trick and send the signal it's over.

Finding the perfect relationship in college may be possible, but don't rely on it. Quite a bit of temptation is present, and the odds are against monogamous relationships — especially when many college-aged men believe they can pick up girls between points of beer pong.

The percentage of relationships that make it though all the booze and the loose girls who actually tear their clothes off when they hear, "It's getting hot in here. So take off all your clothes," is slim.

In addition, the college-aged men often have to use two hands to count the number of girls they have hooked up with.

For now, men and women in college do not seem to be equipped with the proper tools to make a relationship work. In college, independence may be bliss.

Federal program needed to help college students graduate on time



ADRIANA DUNN

In 2000, it took the average student in the United States working toward his or her first bachelor's degree four years and seven months to complete it, without taking time off, according to the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics Web site.

Because of this, it is necessary for the federal government to implement programs in universities and colleges in which a bachelor's degree is guaranteed in four years.

New York Gov. George Pataki has proposed legislation that would give extra state money to colleges nationwide where students graduate on time, according to a Jan. 26 New York Times article.

The proposed incentive, called the Partnership to Accelerate Completion Time, would give colleges in New York \$500 for each student earning a bachelor's degree in four years and \$250 for each student who completes an associate's degree in two years.

Western could benefit from an incentives system such as this. Only approximately 56.2 percent of students who entered Western as freshmen in 1998 graduated in 2003 after five years of undergraduate study, according to a Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board study.

The proposal in New York would require public colleges and universities to participate and private colleges to voluntarily take part, according to the article.

It also could give a financial incentive for students to graduate within four years in addition to eliminating the extra expenses for getting a four-year degree in five to six years.

One reason why students graduate behind schedule is because of poor scheduling early in their schooling. Many other factors, however, also can contribute to the added time it can take for students to graduate, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. And students who switch majors or change schools often take more time to complete their degree, according to the center.

Part of this is because students who switch schools often find the new school has different requirements. In 2000, students who attended two schools averaged 59 months and students who attended three schools averaged 67 months — an eight-month difference.

But even if students make poor planning decisions

or change their minds, they should not be penalized for switching schools.

Overcrowded, under-funded public universities often do not have adequate space in classes, and students can find themselves not being able to register for classes they need to graduate on time.

This burden, however, should not be transferred to the students themselves.

Through the legislation, universities would be given an incentive to eliminate poor scheduling and mandate advising early in the student's career.

In addition, a nationwide program in which the four-year degree takes four years would allow these students to cut extra costs.

And a proposal similar to Pataki's could give universities and colleges an incentive to do so.

The programs in which students sign up for a four-year program will pressure schools into better planning course offerings and making advising mandatory.

The government needs to take steps to allow the opportunity for every student in the country to have access to a post-secondary education.

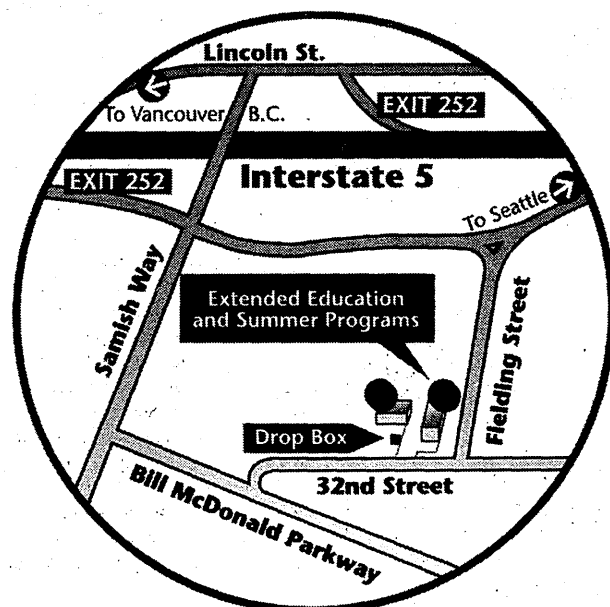
Regardless of wealth, everyone should be able to attend. Offering a program in which a bachelor's degree is guaranteed in four years would be a good first step.

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Families of slain military should have access to electronic files



GRETA SMOKE

Information stored in e-mail accounts, online journals and Web sites can provide a look into someone's life, thoughts and interests.

When that person dies, however, oftentimes so do his or her digital memories because of Internet companies' privacy laws, according to a Feb. 5 Washington Post article.

Online service providers could easily solve this ongoing debate over digital inheritance by requiring users to indicate whether they would like their accounts disclosed to family upon their death.

While Internet companies have strict privacy policies for active accounts, no clear laws address the issue of inheritance when customers die, which leaves the issue to be addressed by the Internet provider, according to a Dec. 24 Associated Press article.

Since so many people heavily rely on the Internet for communication, it is necessary that Internet companies

have clear policies regarding the inheritance of accounts upon death of the users.

Popular online services, such as Yahoo! e-mail and LiveJournal, a Web site where users can post their personal journals, have policies restricting the release of account information in situations involving the death of a client, according to the Post article.

Yahoo! Mail terminates e-mail accounts if an account holder dies or if the account is unused for more than 120 days. This permanently erases all information stored on the accounts.

The Yahoo! Company promises to treat e-mail as private, confidential information and said it believes the release of these accounts likely would trigger more problems for families by raising private, unknown information meant to be secret, according to an Oct. 16 Detroit News article.

But families of the deceased argue that — in the case of written journals, photo albums and other records — digital information also should be inherited, according to the Post article.

Because of the lack of clear laws, Internet companies find themselves in a bind when an online account holder dies. This places the companies in an ethical dilemma while it decides whether to disclose the information to

grieving families or uphold privacy policies and restrict the information, according to the AP article.

While it is important to uphold trust and maintain privacy for clients, Internet companies could be withholding information intended for family and friends to read.

Marine Corps reservist Cpl. Karl Linn, of Virginia, who was killed Jan. 26 in Iraq, is an example of why this information should be made available. Linn relied on electronic updates through his e-mail account and Web site photo collection to keep in touch with his family, according to the Post article.

When he died, his family was denied access to his account, which, they said, could have given them a small glimpse into his last days alive, according to the article.

To prevent restrictions from electronic data clearly intended for family, such as in the case of Karl Linn, Internet providers should open these accounts to verified family members.

In addition, those companies should allow users an option that would give companies permission to transfer their accounts to their families if they die.

A policy like this would allow many grieving families to view precious memories, which would otherwise die with lost loved ones.

While it is important to uphold trust and maintain privacy for clients, Internet companies could be withholding information intended for family and friends to read.

Split: Legislators should consider alternatives

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

voted for Democrat Christine Gregoire — the final victory of whom left Washington Republicans bitterly licking their wounds.

But while being upset or angry about the results of an election is perfectly understandable, this should not be a reason to split a state.

The differences between the two sides of Washington state should, instead, be seen as a benefit, not a hindrance.

It is fair to say that Eastern Washington residents' voices are not being heard in elections, but half of the United States felt the same way in 2004 when President George W. Bush was re-elected. The only difference was that John Kerry had the grace to concede.

The fact that Rossi and other Republicans refuse to move on just makes them look like sore losers.

Meanwhile, many alternatives to splitting Washington state exist, and they need to be

examined before state legislators make a decision whether to separate.

Research is needed to see if this proposal is even feasible. Dividing the state might not be the best answer to solving problems between the two sides. Instead, the two sides of the state have to realize how much they need each other.

Western Washington is urban and industrial; Eastern Washington is rural and agricultural. Each side contributes to the other and provides goods and services the other may not have.

In addition, these differences are not unique to Washington. Nearly every state in the United States has areas that are vastly different from others, but radical legislation is not the way to reconcile them.

Eastern Washington officials need to stop being bitter about the results of the 2004 gubernatorial election and realize plenty of economically feasible alternatives exist.

The differences between the two sides of Washington state should, instead, be seen as a benefit, not a hindrance.

Physician: License suspension is not enough

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

head resting on her arms so she could not see the instruments used during the exam. She later went to St. Joseph Hospital claiming she was raped, according to the article.

Because the alleged sexual contact happened four years ago and no additional allegations of sexual contact have been made, McCallum is not considered potentially dangerous to his patients and still can practice medicine during his 20-day response period, Moyer said.

But any allegation of sexual contact — no matter how long ago it happened — should warrant concern from patients as well as the medical community.

It should be the job of the Medical Quality Assurance Commission to ensure a patient's safety, perhaps by temporarily suspending the physician's license, when allegations are brought against him or her until — and if — the allegations are proved false.

Being innocent until proven guilty is an important part of the United States judicial system. But putting many people at potential

risk to maintain a doctor's "professional" image, however, is unethical.

Allowing a physician to continue practicing medicine after charging that physician with multiple instances of misconduct seems ridiculous. And allowing that physician to continue practicing medicine after being convicted of the charges is ridiculous.

But if a physician is convicted of misconduct, suspending his or her license is not mandatory, Moyer said.

With conduct classes and close supervision, the physician may be able to continue his or her practice.

Even if the physician's license is suspended, he or she may reapply for a license to practice medicine after a 10-year period.

An essential part of the doctor-patient relationship is trust. Because of this, allowing untrustworthy physicians to maintain or regain a license to practice medicine puts this sacred institution at risk.

Physicians convicted of misconduct against their patients should be forced to pack up their prescription pad and stethoscope and find another job.

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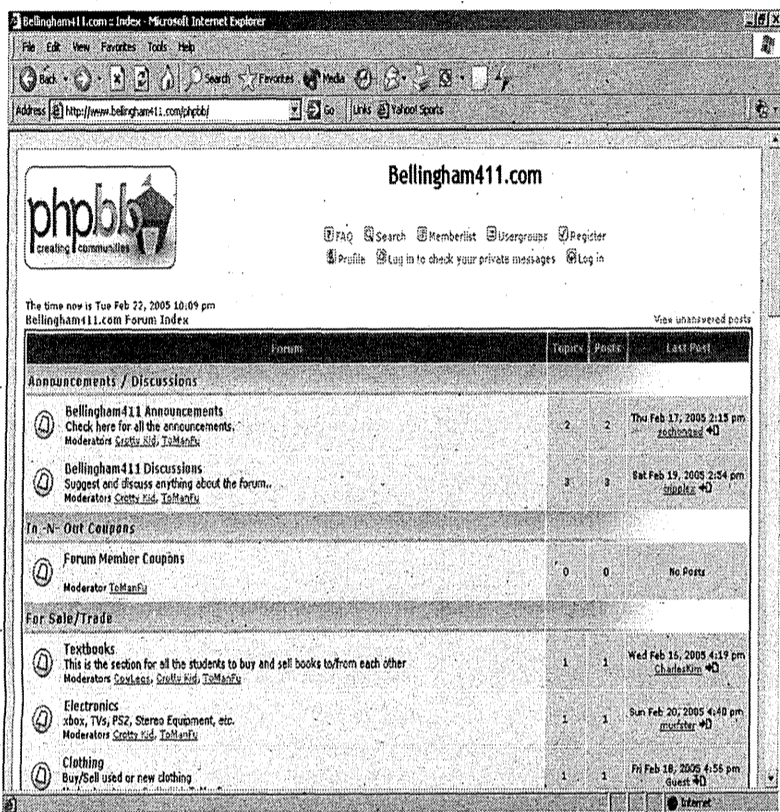
<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>HOTPOINT DRYER for sale. Works perfectly, we got a new larger one. \$50 OBO, you haul away. 360-510-2101 ask for Brandon.</p> <p>GE FRIDGE/FREEZER full size good condition \$50. Kenmore Dishwasher works great \$25. 656-5370.</p>	<p>D/W, WSG pd. No smoking/pets, close to WWU. 1yr lease. Avail spring. Call Kelly (360) 201-1666</p> <p>NEAR WWU. 3BD + 1RM. 2 car garage. Available now. \$1150 + deposit. Clean. Call (360) 920-5813.</p> <p>4BD/2BA. Living/dining rooms. New carpet. Sudden Valley. \$1000 + deposit. Clean. Call (360) 920-5813</p> <p>1 BR/1 BATH Apt. on Whatcom Lk. \$675/month, \$150 deposit, top floor, attic, trail access, W/D, DW + tons more! Available 3/22. Call (206) 992-6648</p> <p>MAGNIFICENT WATERFRONT Beachhomes and cottages on the accessible San Juan island, only 10 minutes across Bellingham Bay! ISLAND VACATION RENTALS www.lummi-holidays.com (888)758-7064</p>	<p>2BDRM DPLX walk to WWU, jet tub incld WSG elct \$800/month 1000 Jersey St. Jim 510-6225</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HELP WANTED</p> <p>GET PAID for your opinions! Earn \$15-\$125 and more per survey! www.moneyforsurveys.com</p> <p>!BARTENDERS WANTED! \$300/day potential. No exp. Needed. Training provided. 1-800-965-6520, Ext. 237.</p> <p>FEMALE AND male counselors needed for top summer camp in Maine. Competitive Salary room/board/laundry/clothing/travel provided. Must love working w/young people. Visit www.campvega.com for a complete list of available jobs- Field jockey, lacrosse,</p>	<p>basketball, arts, water-skiing, sailing, dance, gymnastics, crew, equestrian, ice hockey, photo/video/web, challenge course/climbing, tennis, theatre, and piano to name a few! Also opportunities for nurses/secretaries. Camp Vega for Girls APPLY ON OUR WEBSITE! Call for more information 800-838-VEGA or email camp_vega@yahoo.com. Will be at the Western Washington Campus March 10th from 10am-3pm in the Viking Union room 460 for information and interviews. No appointment necessary. Come see why Vega has set the bar since 1936!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ANNOUNCEMENTS</p> <p>\$600 Group Fundraiser Scheduling Bonus 4 hours of you groups time PLUS our free (yes, free) fundraising solutions.</p>	<p>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</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CAMPS</p> <p>SUMMER JOBS at Camp Kiloquanon campus interviews 3/7. Spend your summer working with kids at our beautiful 185 acre camp near Everett, WA. You could be a Counselor, Lifeguard, Program Specialist or more. Call 360-652-6250 or visit www.campfireusano-homish.org/campjobs</p>
<p>FOR RENT</p> <p>5BD/3BA, Garage, Brand new. All appliances included. Close to WWU. Call Jason @ 366-3577</p> <p>SPACIOUS STUDIO for rent. W/D,</p>				

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- *Buy sell & trade your textbooks - Get more for your books and buy it for less from other students. Students can work together to save each other some money for more important things, like paying bills.
- *Swap notes - Missed class? Get one of your classmates to help out with a copy of the class notes. Ask your professors to post class notes online for the you and your classmates.
- *Find the perfect roommate - Need a roommate for next quarter?
- *Just post under the ROOMMATES Section of the forum about yourself and what you are looking for in a roommate and wait for a response.
- *In the near future, many of the home owners and renters will post the description of their rental property so you can pick and choose instead of driving all over town to find a place to live.
- *Get the 411 (info) - Looking for something to do or want to let people know about an event... anything from an upcoming event, weekly BBQs or even a small Poker game.
- *Let others know what's going just Post it!
- *Talk about Sports - We have fantasy leagues setup every season. Fantasy Baseball starts soon. Login and check the SPORTS section for league ID and password. There will be a prize package for the league winners.
- *There are many more categories than listed above. Suggestions from our members will determine what categories will be available in the future. Sign up to join the forum and get connected with local people. Oh yeah...and it's FREE!

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