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The Western Front

High turnout for A.S. polls

Complaints of Planet threatens dual degree

By Ken Jager

THE WESTERN FRONT

A high-voter turnout for the Associated Students elections Tuesday and Wednesday in Red Square resulted in a new board and passage of two referendums.



Amy Finkbonner

Voter turnout reached 1,962 students, or 17.96 percent of the total 10,923 students at Western, topping the 16 percent turnout at last year's elections.

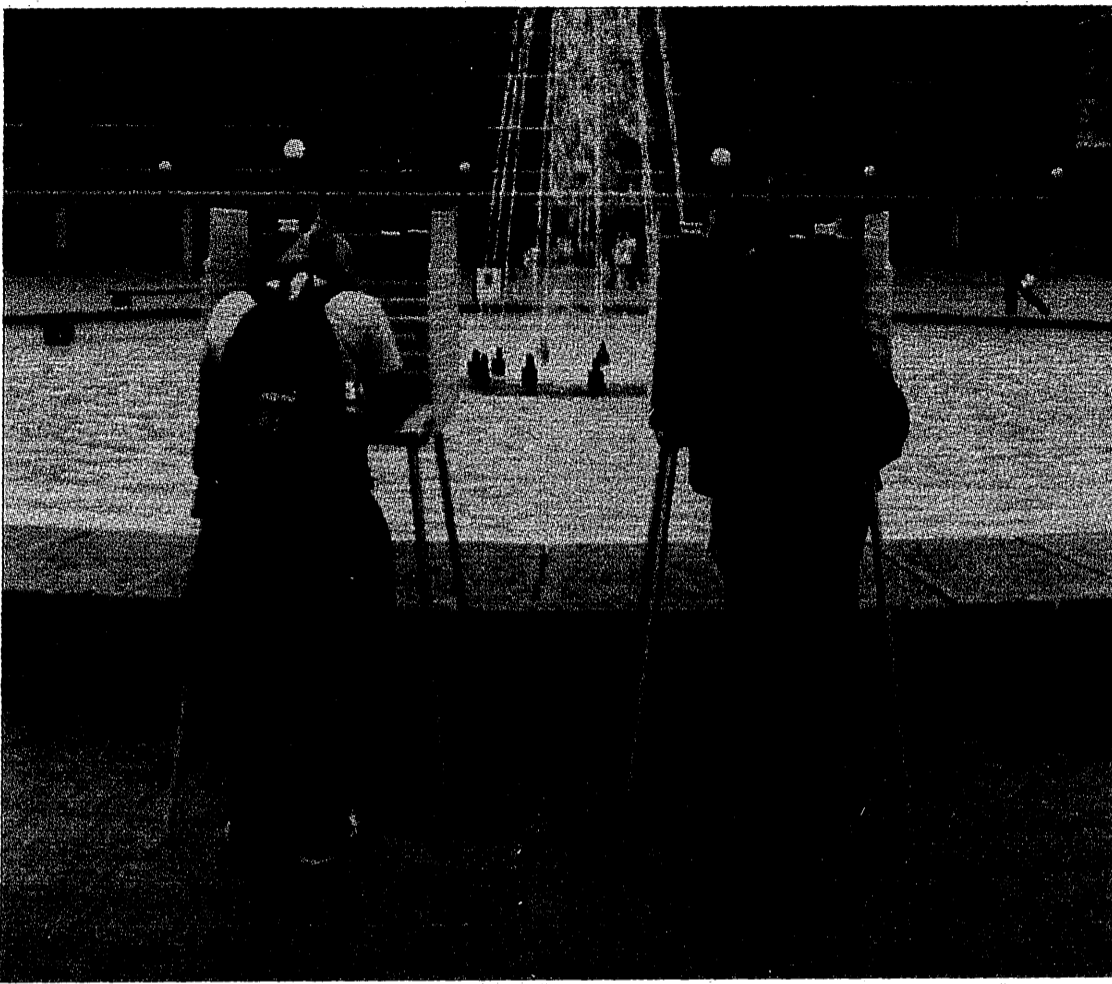


Bill Hemming

"I'm really pleased with the voter turnout," A.S. President Victor Cox said. "Eighteen percent is higher than the national average and much higher than our peer institutions. This is one of our highest election turnouts ever."

Amy Finkbonner won the race for A.S. president for the

See ELECTIONS, page 3



Two students cast their ballots during the A.S. elections this week.

Jay Tarpinian/The Western Front

By Levi Pulkkinen

THE WESTERN FRONT

The most recent issue of the Planet, a student-run environmental advocacy magazine, has come under fire in an e-mail from Dennis Murphy, Dean of the College of Business and Economics to Brad Smith, Dean of Huxley College.



Shane Powell

"I am taken aback by the tone, language, assertions and outright mistakes of the publication," Murphy wrote in reference to the Planet's winter "environmental audit" on environmental problems at Western.

The business college and Huxley are looking at offering a combined Master's degree, but Murphy's complaints about the Planet and Huxley may complicate the matter, according to his e-mail.

"I expect that we will want to have some discussions about this (perceived problems with the Planet), as it has implications for the dual degree we are contemplating with Huxley," Murphy wrote.

What Murphy meant by the comment is still unclear, as he has been unwilling to comment on the e-mail he authored. Some see it as a threat against the

See PLANET, page 4

Provost Bodman derails tenure track

By Gabriel Joseph

THE WESTERN FRONT

Her colleagues describe her as a great professor and an excellent writer. Her department chair said she is "fantastic."

Author and Western associate professor of English Katherine Halme said she thought getting tenure would be a snap for a professor like herself: well-liked, experienced, and winner of several writing and poetry awards, including a National Endowment for the Arts Poetry Fellowship.

Halme, who earned tenure at another university, said it came as an enormous surprise to her when she received a letter March 10 from Western Provost Andrew Bodman.

He said he would not recommend her for tenure — a status that prevents universities from firing professors without serious cause for the duration of their employment.

Halme, a published poet, taught in the creative writing program at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington



Kathleen Halme

Professors who have never been tenured usually serve a probationary period of employment up to six years before they can apply to be tenured. Since Halme

for eight years. She received tenure in 1996.

In spring 1998, she applied and was hired for a position in Western's English department beginning fall 1999.

Professors who have never been tenured usually serve a probationary period of employment up to six years before they can apply to be tenured. Since Halme

was tenured at another school, the provost's office agreed in 1998 to let her apply for tenure after one year — a common practice, she said.

The one-year provision was part of Halme's letter of offer, an outline of her conditions of employment at Western.

She can, however, apply for tenure next year, according to Western's Faculty Handbook. Tenure provides a larger degree of professional freedom

See HALME, page 4

Activist shares struggles of American Indians

By Heather King

THE WESTERN FRONT

Shedding a long fluorescent red coat, a world-class fighter with long black hair and strong, proud posture stepped into the light behind the podium.

Madonna Thunder Hawk, a Two Kettle Lakota woman from the Black Hills of South Dakota, spoke in a lecture hall full of students, faculty and community members Wednesday night about the struggles of American Indians, past and present.

She spoke at 6 p.m. in Arntzen Hall.

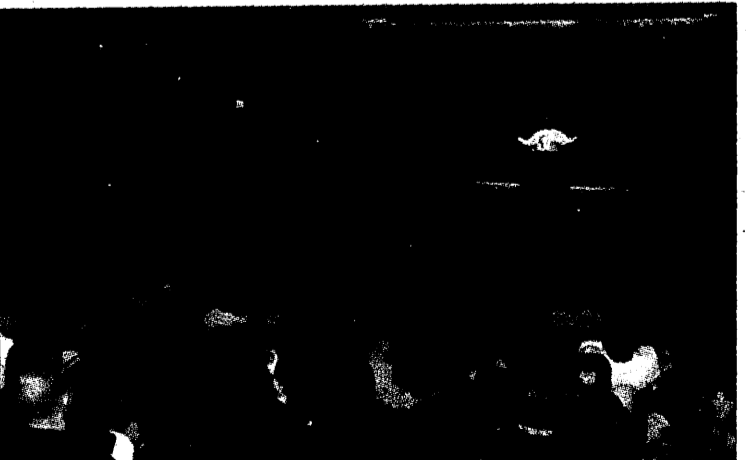
Today she is active in the modern American Indian

Movement, boxing gloves off, but Thunder Hawk has been a leader in the struggle from its violent start.

Part of a team that had to "kick the doors in" in the 1960s, Thunder Hawk has thrust herself into almost every modern American Indian confrontation, from the occupation of Alcatraz to the 1973 siege of Wounded Knee, said Margaret Chapman, Native American Mentoring Program director. The American Right's movement was lead mostly by women, Thunder Hawk said.

"The males had been jailed and

See THUNDER HAWK, page 5



Evan Parker/The Western Front

A crowd filled Arntzen Hall to listen to Madonna Thunder Hawk lecture on American Indian issues.

IN THIS ISSUE

Clampitt goes Cannuck

Western's award-winning wide receiver Ben Clampitt signed a free agent contract with the B.C. Lions.

See story page 8.

Swimmin' with activity



Check out recaps of three big Bellingham shows that went down last week —

The Paperboys, Hansen Brothers and multi-band extravaganza "Jammin' for Salmon."

See pages 6 to 7.

COPS BOX

University Police

April 25, 4:40 p.m.: A parking officer saw a parked vehicle in the 100 block of South College Way being struck by a fly ball hit from the field south of the Environmental Studies building.

April 25, 11 p.m.: A resident of Edens Hall South reported receiving unwanted phone calls. The victim knows the caller and an investigation is in progress.

April 26, 12:52 a.m.: An officer discovered graffiti on a campus building while on foot patrol. No suspects are known at this time.

Bellingham Police

April 24, 6:45 a.m.: A person was arrested for an MIP at 20 Bellis Fair Parkway. The father took custody of the minor.

April 25, 2:24 p.m.: A person was arrested for theft and possession of tobacco by a minor at 2700 Bill McDonald Parkway. The person was booked into Whatcom County Juvenile Detention to be held for arraignment.

April 25, 2:43 p.m.: An individual was arrested for possession of a controlled substance at 1100 Girard St. and was later booked into the Whatcom County Jail.

April 25, 5:29 p.m.: Officers responded to a malicious mischief call at 2428 Humboldt St. Unknown suspects broke a window out of the victim's vehicle.

April 26, 1:04 a.m.: A victim was struck in the head with a bat by two suspects at 2629 Grant St. Probable cause exists to arrest the suspects for assault and burglary.

April 26, 2:56 a.m.: A male was arrested and booked into the Whatcom County Jail after assaulting his girlfriend at 1810 Texas St.

Compiled by Dana Luthy

AP WIRE NEWS BRIEFS

STATE NEWS

New museum director begins in June

Bellingham mayor Mark Asmundson appointed Museum of New Mexico director Thomas Livesay director of the Whatcom Museum of History and Art.

Livesay said he'll begin his new job June 5.

He's resigning Sunday from his New Mexico job.

Livesay has been Museum of New Mexico director for 14 years.

He said he's leaving because he's tired of the grinding bureaucracy.

Livesay's salary at the Museum of New Mexico was \$73,642 per year.

His new job will pay \$87,500 per year.

Kaiser talks break down

The latest talks to end the 19-month labor dispute between Kaiser Aluminum and the Steelworkers have broken down.

Both sides said no new talks are scheduled.

Kaiser issued a statement today accusing the union of being inflexible.

The sides participated in two days of talks in Pittsburgh that ended Tuesday evening.

Kaiser recently proposed a new contract offer.

Union officials said the company is backtracking on several issues the union thought had already been resolved.

Kaiser's statement Wednesday said the company's offer makes significant economic improvements for union members.

Kaiser said union leaders should let rank-and-file members vote on the offer.

Two thousand nine hundred Steelworkers went on strike at five Kaiser plants in three states in September 1998.

The dispute became a lockout four months later.

Two thousand one hundred Spokane area union members and 300 in Tacoma are effected.

Gun tests to decide who killed robbery suspect

Gun tests will be used to determine whether a King County sheriff's deputy or a service station owner fired the shot that killed a robbery suspect.

They both fired as the suspect struggled with the deputy this morning near Renton.

NATIONAL NEWS

Vermont to recognize gay marriage

Vermont's governor signed a bill giving gay and lesbian cou-

ples marriage rights through civil unions.

No state has gone further than Vermont in giving gay couples something approximating marriage.

Columbine families angry at video release

The families of Columbine High School shooting victims are outraged at plans to release some video footage taken during the rampage, complete with a musical soundtrack, to the public.

A lawyer for the families said it shows a total disregard for the victims.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Kidnappers make hostage demands known

Gunmen keeping 21 people hostage in the Philippines are making their demands known.

Police sources said the kidnappers plan to free two Malaysians, because they're Muslim, but want \$2.4 million to release the rest of the hostages.

The hostages were grabbed Sunday from a resort island in Malaysia.

They were taken by boat to a remote province in the southern Philippines.

It's believed the kidnappers

are part of an extremist Muslim rebel group.

The hostages include tourists from Germany, France and South Africa.

An American couple escaped by refusing to swim out to the kidnappers' boats.

McCain tours his former prison in Vietnam

Although he has put the Vietnam War behind him, John McCain said he has not forgiven his Vietnamese captors.

The Arizona senator toured the "Hanoi Hilton" Wednesday, where he and 300 other captured American pilots were jailed over the course of the war.

McCain's visit comes as Vietnam marks the 25th anniversary of the war's end.

McCain said he never softened toward the prison's guards because of what he said they did to fellow prisoners, including killing some of them.

McCain seemed relaxed as he guided his wife and son through what is left of the building.

He pointed to a mannequin in leg irons, which kept prisoners immobile in their beds, noting that he was once held like that for several days.

Compiled by Daniel Pearson

Bellingham Weather

Friday



Showers. High 56, low 42.

Saturday



Cloudy. High 60, low 44.

Sunday



Sunny. High 64, low 48.

Monday



Cloudy. High 62, low 44.

Look at the NEW Western Front Online

It sure beats studying for midterms.

<http://westernfront.wvu.edu>

WWU Official Announcements

Deadline for announcements in this space is noon Friday for the Tuesday edition and noon Wednesday for the Friday edition. Announcements should be limited to 50 words, typewritten or legibly printed, and sent through campus mail to "Official Announcements," MS-9117, via fax to X/7287, or brought in person to Commissary 113A. DO NOT SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS DIRECTLY TO THE WESTERN FRONT. Phoned announcements will not be accepted. All announcements should be signed by originator.

PLEASE POST

MATH PLACEMENT TEST: 3 p.m. Mondays on May 1, 8, 15 and 22, and 9 a.m. Thursdays on May 4, 11, 18, 25 and June 1. Testing: OM 120. Registration not required. Bring picture identification and No. 2 pencil. A \$10 fee must be paid in exact amount at test time. Allow 90 minutes.

THE BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT WILL CHECK students' prerequisites and majors for most fall biology classes. Students who meet the restrictions may register for biology classes at their September appointment. For information: see <http://fire.biol.wvu.edu/biology/>.

SEVERAL FALL BIOLOGY CLASSES REQUIRE OVERRIDES. Override request forms will be available May 1-5 outside BI 315. Override requests are required for Biol 384, 403, 404, 432, 436, 439, 451, 453, 503a, 505, 508a, 508b, 599a. Transfer students with prerequisite equivalents taken elsewhere must request overrides. Biol 319, 321, 322, 325, 326 and 348 are restricted to specific officially declared majors. All others need to wait until Phase II to register or request an override.

THREE HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM INFORMATION SESSIONS will be held at 2 p.m. May 2 in MH 210. Find out about the bachelor of arts degree in human services offered through Woodring College. For more information, call X/7759.

A SLIDE SHOW AND INFORMATION SESSION about the semester program in Valdivia, Chile, will be held at 4 p.m. May 4 in VU 408. For more information, call X/3298 or stop by OM 530E.

THE TEST FOR ENTRANCE INTO TEACHER PREPARATION (TETEP) will be given at 2 p.m. May 22 in FR 3. Registration required in OM 120; a \$25 fee must be paid in exact amount at that time. Not administered individually. Admission deadline for fall 2000: April 30. Allow 2 1/2 hours.

LEGISLATIVE INTERNS FOR WINTER QUARTER 2001 are being selected this quarter. Information and applications are available in AH 415. Undergraduates in all disciplines are eligible with at least junior standing and a minimum GPA of 2.75. Applications due by May 5. Information: Eugene Hogan, Lori Pfingst or Joan Blackwell, X/3469.

MILLER ANALOGIES TEST (MAT) will be given at 2 p.m. May 12 in FR 4 and at 2 p.m. June 16 in SL 120. Registration is required in OM 120. Not administered individually. A \$35 fee is payable at time of test. Test takes about 1 1/2 hours.

THE SECOND ANNUAL AMERICAN CULTURE STUDIES Student Paper Symposium will be 1 to 4:30 p.m. May 18 in the Library Presentation Room. Papers are due April 21. Awards: \$200 for top paper; \$100 each for three others. Complete details: Ray McClinnis, X/3194, send e-mail to Raymond.McClinnis@wvu.edu, or send intercampus mail to MS-9103.

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

On-campus recruiting

Camp Orkila, Monday, May 1. Summer camp positions in the San Juan Islands. See summer job file for more information. Bring a resumé and sign up in OM 280. Camp application can substitute for a resumé.

Camp Kirby, Tuesday, May 2. Summer camp positions on Samish Island. See summer job file for more information. Bring a resumé and sign up in OM 280. Camp application can substitute for a resumé.

Deer Harbor Marina, Tuesday, May 2.

Cintas Corp., Wednesday, May 3. Submit resumé and sign up for interview in OM 280.

Mervyn's, Wednesday, May 3. Attend information session at 7 p.m. May 2 in OM 280. Enter using front door on the north end of building. Submit resumé and sign up for interview in OM 280. Submit resumé and sign up for interview in OM 280.

Norwest Financial, Wednesday, May 3. Requires graduation by August with degree in communications or a business-related discipline. Submit resumé and sign up for interview in OM 280.

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, CH 110, Bellingham, WA 98225-9100. 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 College Hall 07, or by phone to (360) 650-3161.

Members of the Western community are entitled to a single free copy of each issue of The Western Front.

Newsmakers

PEOPLE MAKING AN IMPACT ON CAMPUS

The voice behind 650-3000

By Liam House - Doyle
THE WESTERN FRONT

One person called and asked to be directed to the porn shop. Another student called and asked if he could have a wake-up call for the next morning.

Molly Fury couldn't help either person, but that's rare because in an average day she helps about 1,300 people.

Fury, the seven-year-long campus operator or Telecommunications Operator Lead at Western, sits in front of a computer screen with a switch board and a keyboard and steers people's requests.

"Mondays are always busy, and after long weekends — and the beginning of the fall quarter, especially," Fury said. "At most we receive 3,000 calls the first day of fall quarter — sometimes with six or seven calls coming at once."

Along with directing calls to departments and faculty, passing on phone numbers, e-mail and fax numbers, Fury answers general questions.

"We are kind of a PR piece," Fury said. "People always call



and ask, 'What is Western like? How close are you to Seattle? and What is the climate like?'"

When Fury is not working between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, students she interviewed, hired and trained take over the lines.

"I want them to understand the gravity of what they are doing," Fury said.

Fury said she tells all new student operators, "You are the university to the people who call. They may not speak to anyone

else at this university and you make that impression."

Western student Jenny Dailey, 19, was trained by Fury to be a campus operator and works evening hours.

"She cares about the operators beyond the job level; she gets to know who we are," Dailey said.

Fury came to Bellingham from Idaho more than seven years ago because she is a big hockey fan.

"Strangely that is why I moved to Bellingham," Fury said. "I wanted to be close

Jay Tarpinian/The Western Front

enough to a NHL team without moving east, and I didn't want to live at a border town."

She said the Colorado Avalanche is her favorite team.

She said she used to have season tickets to the Vancouver Canucks and followed the season closely until a friend of hers on the team was traded.

Dailey said Fury is well-suited for her position.

"She can read people; she can help anyone no matter what the situation," Dailey said.

STRANGE DAYS

Duct tape keeps wife faithful

To ensure his wife showed up for her court date, a Phoenix resident bound her arms, legs and mouth with duct tape and drove her to court.

He dropped her off at the security officer's desk in a very matter-of-fact manner.

She was arrested several days prior for aggravated assault and resisting arrest, but was unwilling to talk this time even after the tape was removed. Authorities are still considering whether to bring charges against Robert.

How to kill with a coin

When the jury of a murder trial in Kentucky could not come to a decision on the fate of suspect Phillip J. Givens II, they flipped a coin.

Fortunately the judge learned how the verdict was reached before passing his sentence. Judge foreman David Melton said, "I didn't think we had anything to lose." Apparently he wasn't concerned about what Givens had to lose.

Compiled by
Stephanie Kosonen

Referendums pass with overwhelming majority, Finkbonner elected next A.S. president

From ELECTIONS, page 1

2000-01 academic year.

"I'm really excited for the new year," Finkbonner said. "I think it was a great race and a fair election."

Finkbonner received 65.3 percent of the vote, beating Drew Eggebraten and Jake Barry.

"There's a great group of people coming on the board next year," she added. "I'm looking forward to working with them."

Finkbonner will also have to deal with the approval of both referendums that were on the ticket this election.

The bus pass fee referendum got 93.8 percent of votes.

The referendum will allow a voluntary fee of \$15 per quarter for a bus pass that would ulti-

mately save bus routes for Western students.

"It's very exciting and I'm very happy," said David Toyer, vice president for Legislative and Community Affairs. "It's great to have the approval from students and how overwhelming the victory was."

Through an association with Western and the Whatcom Transportation Authority, the funding from the fee will keep more bus routes running to the university.

The Whatcom Transportation Authority is facing a 60 percent budget cut next summer which would cut bus routes to campus.

The online evaluation referendum, dealing with posting faculty evaluations online, received



Jay Tarpinian/The Western Front

Kathy Rice and Jake Peterson distribute ballots to voters during Wednesday's elections.



Erica Grice



Stacy Valentin

93.6 percent of student votes.

The passage of this referendum provides faculty with the opportunity to post institutionally-supervised evaluations online for student viewing.

"This was a huge victory for the students," said Cox, leading supporter for the referendum. "I'm

hoping that this will make a big recommendation to the university to provide a tool to create better learning process for the students."

Vice president for Activities went to Erica Grice, who beat Hunter Bevis with 69.6 percent of the vote.



Corey Eichner

"I'm really thrilled about next year," Grice said. "I'm excited that I won because everyone ran a great campaign."

The vice president for Legislative and Community Affairs position went to Stacy Valentin, who received 60.5 percent over Cory Walken.

"I'm so excited that the elections are over," Valentin said. "I'm also excited about following through with my campaign promises and working with the board next year."

Corey Eichner beat out Nova Gattman for vice president for Student Life with 61.2 percent

of the vote.

"I'm really excited about working with the students and getting in touch with the students' wants and needs," Eichner said.

In the closest race of the election, Bill Heming, with 53.8 percent, won the vice president for

Business and Operations position.

In the uncontested races, Jason Adams will be the new vice president for Academic Affairs and Bruno Cross will take over the position of vice president for Diversity.



Jason Adams

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Planet not representative of Huxley

From PLANET, page 1

Planet's journalistic freedom.

Planet editor Shane Powell, is troubled by Murphy's assertion of "outright misstatements."

"He has nothing to base his statements on," Powell said. "This dean ... has not provided a list of mistakes. No one has brought any errors to my attention."

Journalism department chair Floyd McKay said when allegations like those from Murphy are made, they should be tied to specific mistakes.

"If someone charges a publication with misstatement of fact then they should, in fact, say what they are," McKay said.

In addition to the charges, Murphy also addressed the publication's connection to Huxley.

"How well do the views expressed in the Planet reflect the thinking of Huxley students or faculty?" Murphy wrote.

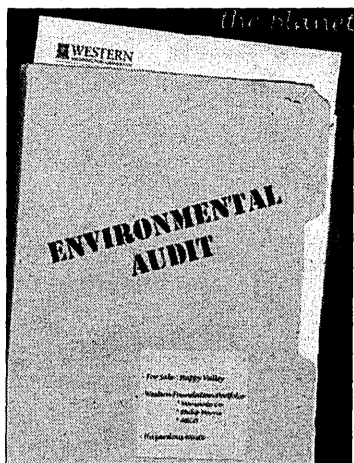
The Planet, however, is not connected through funding to the journalism department or Huxley.

McKay said Associated Student activity fees pay for the publication. Its budget is dictated by the Student Publication Council, which McKay chairs.

"The Planet is not Huxley College's publication," McKay said. "The notion has gotten around that the student publication somehow speaks for the academic unit. It is inaccurate to say that the Planet represents Huxley College. That's a very important point that perhaps Dean Murphy was unaware of. The Planet represents the editors and the staff of the Planet."

In the issue Murphy addresses, the Planet investigated some environmentally questionable practices at Western. The magazine looked at investments made by the Western Foundation into a managed fund holding stock in Philip Morris Companies Inc. and Dow Chemical Company. The Planet also alleged Huxley College is moving away from its environmentalist ideals towards a program "no different than an accounting or pre-dental major" except in its technical training.

The Planet's aim, as established by its mission statement, is



Winter 2000 Planet

to be a force for "environmental advocacy and awareness through responsible journalism."

"What I teach is that we need to have all of the facts," Powell said. "But we go beyond that. We ask people to think about what is really important in their story."

Many other environmental publications, such as the Ecologist, opt for the Planet's style of writing, McKay said.

"Environmental journalism is generally accepted to involve a form of advocacy," McKay said. "Environmental journalists usually feel free to have more latitude with opinion and to work outside the common grounds of objectivity that you see in a daily newspaper. That does not mean, however, they are free to invent or falsify. The rules are the same with the facts."

Environmental journalist Bill Dietrich expressed admiration for the winter issue of the Planet. The Western alumnus won a Pulitzer Prize for his coverage of the Exxon Valdez disaster for the Seattle Times.

"I felt the students were doing what students need to do, question the status quo," he said. "The whole issue was a good example of investigative journalism."

Dietrich also said it is not uncommon for a publication to be wrongly accused of a misstatement when it addresses volatile issues.

McKay said he does not believe censorship will be the result.

"I'm sure it is not Dean Smith's intent," McKay said. "It sure as hell is not my intent as chairman of the Student Publications

Tenure rejection 'undermines' department credibility

From HALME, page 1

that untenured professors do not have, allowing more challenging and controversial courses for students, said Ken Hoover, a political science professor and former president of the Faculty Senate.

"The basic purpose of tenure is to protect academic freedom," Hoover said. "If faculty could be fired because they displease administrators, people in the community or students, they wouldn't teach anything controversial, provocative or new."

Halme applied for tenure last fall. English department faculty and the department chair positively reviewed her performance at Western, Halme said. The previous dean of the College of Arts and Sciences also gave his support, she said.

After the dean, Provost Andrew Bodman reviews files of faculty members before sending a recommendation to President Karen Morse, who approves or denies tenure requests.

"It was shocking," fellow English professor Robin Hemley said after learning of the provost's rejection. "She's completely professional and a delightful colleague — a writer I admire a lot," he said.

Provost Andrew Bodman said he could not comment about professor Halme's situation because it is against Western policy to talk about personnel matters.

Current Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Ronald Kleinknecht declined to comment about Halme's situation for the same reason. He said Western will clarify its tenure policy soon, although it will not need to change its procedures.

The dean of Huxley College, Brad Smith, who participates in his college's tenure and promotion process, said nobody can automatically expect tenure. Although Smith said he is not familiar with Halme's situation, a university cannot guarantee tenure to a professor, he said.

"Having tenure at one university does not mean another will grant tenure," Smith said.

"There were no guarantees that she was going to get tenure,"

said Bill Lyne, acting chair of the English department. "But it's very unusual that overwhelmingly positive recommendations that the department, (tenure and promotion) committee and dean level then get overturned."

Lyne said he does not agree with the tenure decision and wants it reversed.

He added that the provost's decision to go against recommendations for Halme from the English department and Tenure and Promotion Committee undermines the department's credibility.

Halme said she had no idea why the provost did not endorse her.

"The provost's decision about my tenure is unfair and unwarranted by my record," she said.

English professor Christopher Wise said while he respects the provost's right to make the decision, he said it will make for a harder time attracting qualified English professors in the future.

Wise said job candidates could fear they would have less chance of being tenured.

Potential job applicants may not trust hiring committees, he said, because they could perceive faculty as "dishonest or ignorant" with respect to tenure and promotion issues.

He said he thinks Bodman may object to the fact Halme taught one year before her tenure application, but believed the provost should honor her letter of offer.

Hemley, similarly to Halme, left a tenured job six years ago in

1994 at UNC Charlotte. His situation, like Halme's, allowed him to apply for tenure after one year.

Hemley said had this been six years ago, knowing that Halme did not get tenure at Western, he might not have left his secure position in North Carolina.

"I was made to understand that unless I did something egregious, I was given assurance that (my tenure at Western) would more or less sail through," Hemley said. "I never would have come otherwise."

He said nobody in the English department thought Halme would not get tenure her first try.



Bill Lyne

"The provost's decision about my tenure is unfair and unwarranted by my record,"

Kathleen Halme

Associate professor of English

English professor Laura Laffrado, a member of the Tenure and Promotion Committee, said there was no question of the committee's support of Halme.

She said the provost would usually reject a tenure applicant if that faculty member was seen as controversial. With respect to Halme, though, no controversy existed, she said.

"What's the point of having committees and evaluating colleagues if those evaluations are then dismissed?" Laffrado said.

"It makes us look like we were dishonest," Wise said. "It's not just about this person. It undercuts the English department's ability to function in good faith."



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A SIX WEEK INDOOR LEAGUE FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS, GAMES WILL BE PLAYED ON ONE SIDE OF THE RED ARENA (120' BY 60') AND WILL CONSIST OF TWO 21 MINUTE HALVES. GAME TIMES WILL BE BETWEEN 8PM AND 11PM ON VARIOUS NIGHTS OF THE WEEK. TEAM FEES ARE \$250.

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International figure tries to find a common ground between sacredness and the outside world

From THUNDER HAWK, page 1

killed, simple as that," she said. Taking a step away from the podium, a proud grin forming on her face, she added, "Well, we all knew women ran things anyway."

Thunder Hawk first became active as a member of American Indian Movement.

"AIM arose out of poverty and cultural genocide to bring up living conditions to build a community," said Chapman, who compared the group to the Black Panthers, another militant group of the 1960s. "Their needs weren't being met through regular government processes."

Since then, Thunder Hawk also co-founded Women of All Nations.

In 1980, WAN organized a health study of the drinking water on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, which was found to be highly radioactive.

A rural water supply system was built as a result.

An active voice for American Indians throughout the country, Thunder Hawk also has spoken in Central America, Europe and the Middle East.

She was an International Indian Treaty Council delegate to the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

She was also a delegate to the UN Decade of Women Conference in Mexico City, Mexico.

"By networking with other indigenous people around the world, this country can no longer write us off as a domestic problem," Thunder Hawk said.

In 1980, activism "went to sleep," Thunder Hawk said.

"The problem was that they got through the door and didn't

know what to do," she said, referring to American Indians who struggled violently in the 1960s and 1970s.

Violent battle tactics aside, the main weapon currently used is finding common ground.

"You can't think about color," Thunder Hawk said. "Bad air, water and land effects everyone. You must find common ground."

This weapon, common ground, was discovered when uranium mining threatened the Black Hills.

Dangerous to all, living on the land and those who risked loos-

"By networking with other indigenous people around the world, this country can no longer write us off as a domestic problem."

Madonna Thunder Hawk
American Indian activist

ing precious land, banded together to fight the mining.

"Selling Black Hills would be like selling your mother," Thunder Hawk said, bringing up the topic of sacredness and spirituality.

The Black Hills are "sacred land" where people live, bury their dead and perform ceremonies, Thunder Hawk said.

To depict the Black Hills' spirit, Thunder Hawk shared a recent experience.

A satellite imaging company from Sioux Falls recently brought four aerial photographs of the Black Hills to show Thunder Hawk, one for each season.

From space, the Black Hills

appear shaped like a heart and are red from the rich mineral content of the land. When the photographs are flipped back and forth, the heart beats.

"Sacred and spirituality has nothing to do with religion," Thunder Hawk said. "It is our lifestyle."

Although an understanding seemed to be reached when the government granted Freedom of Religion to American Indians in 1978, the struggle continues.

The latest battle is with Kevin Costner and his brother Dan, who are building an enormous 838-acre recreation resort.

A private railroad is in the plan, which will bring vacationers from Sioux Falls to the resort.

Project costs are likely to exceed \$100 million. Breaking ground in 1995, the mountain top was cut off to clear ground for the resort.

The completed project will draw one million gallons of water for the golf course.

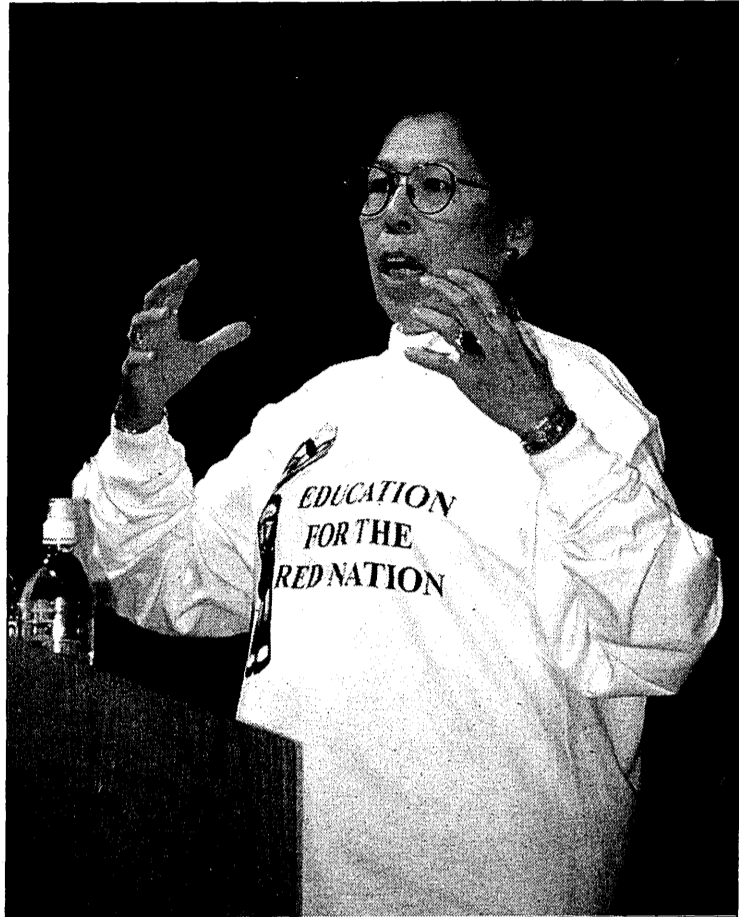
Also, sacred sites rest in the center of the course, she said.

At the moment, the project is at a standstill because of many building complications.

Thunder Hawk, who admired Costner for his movie "Dances With Wolves," which depicts the white man's disregard for American Indian land and history, now laughs without sympathy at Costner's run of bad luck since the ground breaking.

"What has happened since?" Thunder Hawk said with a thumbs down, "The 'Water World' movie, his marriage — what do you think would happen if they mined for gold under the Vatican?"

Her activity in cultural



Photos by Evan Parker/The Western Front

Thunder Hawk emphasizes a point for the audi-

preservation, economic development, environmental justice and Lakota social reclamation continues.

"It doesn't matter what age you are," Thunder Hawk said. "It's what you're doing."

Although she refers to her elder status, Thunder Hawk shows few signs of aging.

"Young is not in terms of years, but thinking," she said.

Today, Thunder Hawk said she sees education as the way for American Indians to push through struggles.

For many generations education was a bad word, but now young people don't have to be afraid of school, she said.

Encouraging education and communication through the Internet and other media sources and organizing better transportation for elders is on the list of current activities, Margaret Chapman said.

"To make any kind of lasting change, you have to start in your own community," she said. "Take part in this life, don't just take it."

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The Paperboys

CELTIC TUNES GRACE THE UP

By Mike Beck
THE WESTERN FRONT

A couple of times each year, Ireland gets a little closer to Bellingham when the popular Celtic bluegrass music group, The Paperboys, indulges crowds with their free-spirited music.

The band's high-energy shows have become a favorite wherever they play, winning over not only fans and critics, but club owners as well.

"The Paperboys are always a good draw," said The World Famous Up & Up Tavern owner Ian Relay. Relay said he enjoys the music and business they bring in.

The five-member band does a great job getting the crowd into the action. After only a few songs nearly everyone was on the floor clapping hands, prancing and jumping around to the beat.

Not one pair of feet were immune to the dancing and toe tapping that soon overtook bar patrons.

The dance floor was like a scene from the movie "Titanic" with everyone trying to keep their feet up with the pace of the music's energetic beat.

"These guys are so amazing to watch," Seattle resident Alicia Claasen said. "They are the cheapest plane ticket to Ireland you can get."

The Paper Boys raked in a diverse crowd with ages seemingly ranging from 21 to 50.

"It's cool to see a band that can entertain such a wide variety of ages," Bellingham resident Sarah Beaven said. "Not many bands can do that. Good brew and good times," she said, sipping her Guinness.

All it seemed to take was a little liquid courage and a lively band to keep the place rocking all night long.

The band brings traditional sounds of the fiddle, accordion, flute, mandolin and banjo together with energetic guitar, bass and drums to deliver a unique Celtic-bluegrass-pop blend they describe as Stomp.

The Vancouver, British Columbia band has been around for eight years, playing for as many as 10,000 people. The Paper Boys will be in Bellingham in the fall after an expected summer release of a third CD.

The Paper Boys second album, "Molinos", earned a 1998 Juno Award for best Canadian roots/traditional group and has sold more than 12,000 copies to date.

Lead singer and guitarist Tom Landa said Bellingham was the first stop in the United States.

"Our roots brought us here," Landa said.

The band's original drummer



Mike Beck/The Western Front

The Paperboys get a rise out of the Up & Up crowd while weaving old-school rhythms.

is a Bellingham native and fills in for the band when needed.

"This is the first I've heard of them — it was so much fun," Western student Haeji Rodriguez said.

Whether a first-timer or a veteran, after a few beers, they were singing the songs and feel-

ing the groove.

"Everybody is smiling, everybody is having a good time," Western student Mike Miller said.

Their love for the music is obvious and makes the band a worthwhile experience.

"So many people come up to

us after the shows and say, 'you really made me feel better. Thank you,'" Landa said.

"That's the best thing anyone could say," Landa said. "It's a great feeling to know that you made a difference in someone's life."

PENALTY BOX

ROCKIN'

By Grant Brissey
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Hanson Brothers stepped onto the Viking Union stage Friday night in front of a crowd full of rowdy, drunken punk rock fans. The band played punk rock songs about hockey, beer and women — the self-proclaimed order of the Hanson Brothers' priorities.

Before they began playing, they criticized the crowd for its lack of enthusiasm. People from the crowd shouted back obscenities and extended their middle fingers toward the stage.

Several minutes into the first song, fans began storming around in circles, colliding into each other with great determination.

Some fell after the impact and were trampled. Others stood close to the speaker stacks and nodded their heads to the speedy drumbeat. Later in the show, a scuffle had to be quelled by security.

Such behavior is often the norm in punk rock shows, but what was not normal about the Hanson Brothers' show was their stage presence.

Bassist Robby Hanson wore a hockey mask the entire show, and guitarist Tommy Hanson intentionally drooled on himself as he hammered

away on the chords of the heart-felt songs.

Obscene gestures were continually directed toward the audience throughout the show.

All of the Hanson Brothers wore heavy, black-rimmed glasses, indicating their strong influence from punk mainstays the Ramones, and their version of the Ramones' song "Blitzkrieg Bop" — "Blitzkrieg Hops" confirmed their heavy influence of the Ramones and alcohol.

In addition to the band's love for the Ramones and beer, the Hansons said they love hockey.

Their second album is called Sudden Death, and they released a punk rock compilation album dedicated completely to hockey.

According to an interview in "Drop-d" magazine, the Hanson Brothers also consider it their plight to get National Hockey League player Dave "Tiger" Williams inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame.

Williams is the all-time penalty minutes leader in the National Hockey League.

The Hansons explain their reasons in a review on wilma.com.

"Williams is the epitome of 'Old Time Hockey.' He deserves to be in the Hall of Fame ahead of some of those

fancy-schmancy, no-hitting prima donna whining millionaire goal sucks," they said.

Not all of the Hanson Brothers' fans are as dedicated to hockey as the band is.

"I know nothing about hockey, but the Hansons ruled tonight," said concert attendee Jared Schultz. "I wish I could drink beer with 'em."

Hanson said he was similarly pleased with the night's performance.

"We were glad to see some faces out there," he said. "This is the first time we played in three years."

Hanson noted several reasons for stopping in Bellingham on their tour.

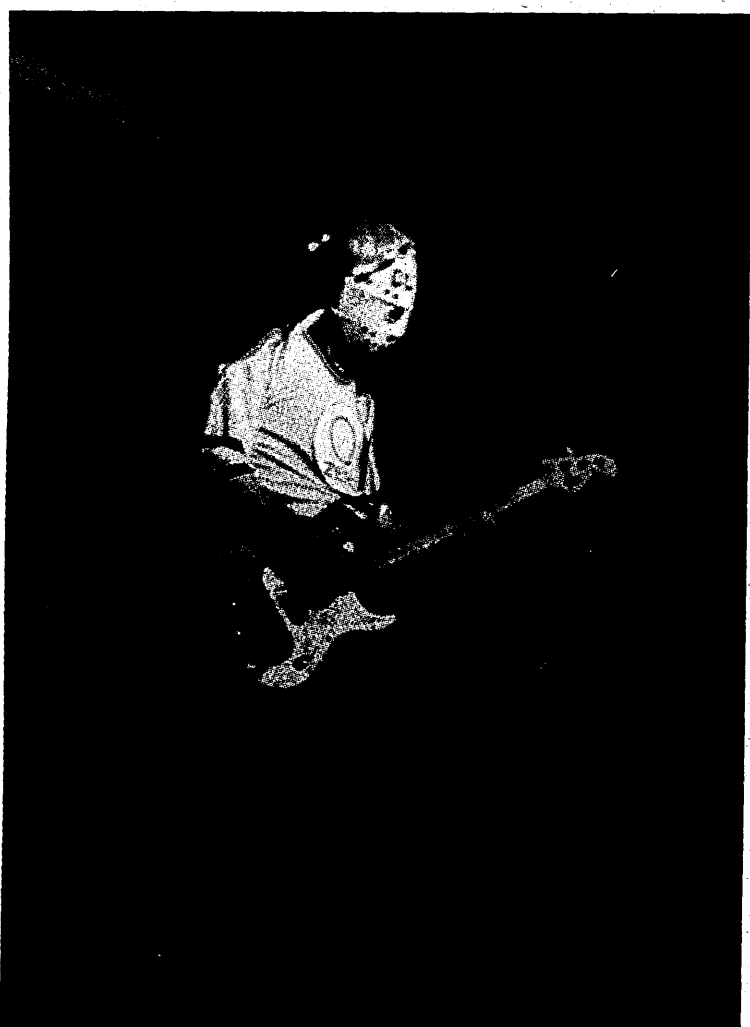
"Cause they're payin' us a lot of money," he said. "Wait — no, no, no — it's for the kids."

Johnny said the Hansons plan to have a new album out in June.

"That's what we're workin' on real hard right now," he said.

And if the Hansons' show Friday night was any sign of things to come, fans of punk rock, hockey, beer, or all of the above should be pleased with its quality.

Johnny Hanson said the band would try to stop in Bellingham on the band's promotional tour upon finishing the album.



Grant Brissey/The Western Front

Robby Hanson, shrouded in darkness and mystery, lays waste to weaklings Friday in the Viking Union.

B'ham's favorite fish festival

By Dionna M. Dominguez
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Northwest Ecosystem Alliance celebrated Earth Day's 30th anniversary April 21 with a benefit dance to help fund conservation efforts for the Northwest's nearly-extinct salmon.

The NWEA, an 11-year-old non-profit regional conservation group with more than 6,000 members, hosted its 2nd annual fund-raiser, dubbed "Jammin' for Salmon," at the Bellingham Cruise Terminal in Fairhaven.

The event gave the Bellingham community, as well as others, a chance to come together and catch live music while supporting a cause important to many in the area.

"Salmon are endangered and on the brink of extinction," said Hudson Dodd, NWEA volunteer coordinator. "The Pacific Northwest is the last stand on the planet for them, and the community response was quite positive."

Local bands, food and beverage vendors, children's craft stations and a mascot, "Sam the Salmon," contributed to the event's success. Community support in the form of ticket purchases and vendor patronage clinched it.

"Seven hundred people purchased tickets this year," Dodd said. "They have a lot of activities to choose from at this event."

Ticket proceeds, totaling \$5,000 this year, are allocated to the organization's lobbying efforts, literature publishing costs, educational outreach, staff pay and policy advocacy efforts. Although ticket proceeds are down \$2,000 from last year because of the decision not to hold an auction, the organization got the financial boost it needed.

Throughout the evening, local bands Foot Stompin' Trio, Flow Motion and From The Hip kept the dance floor packed.

The excitement of the crowd was unmistakable as people danced, screamed and applauded the musicians. Each band made its contribution to "Jammin' for Salmon" this year by selling tickets, donating time and leaving patrons wanting more.

"This is cool, man, everybody came out and is just having a good time," said Tom Forster, former Western student and drummer for Foot Stompin' Trio. "That's what it's all about."

Flow Motion lead vocalist and electric guitar player Josh Clauson said one of the reasons the band decided to play the event was because the ticket proceeds will help a good cause.

In addition, Clauson said the band is not particularly concerned with donating free time to the NWEA and that helping the community is part of the big picture of what Flow Motion wants to do for Bellingham, not just play great music.

Local food and beverage vendors, such as Bandito's Burritos, The Community Food Co-Op and Boundary Bay Brewery were among many that served patrons throughout the evening, as well as donated menu items.

"We bring in about two grand each year (for the event), and some volunteers," said Dave Morales, assistant head brewer for Boundary Bay Brewery. "We're pretty involved in the community. We were here last year, and we'll probably be here next year."

Each vendor is selected by Dodd, who said "Jammin' for Salmon" tries to work with like-minded businesses. Dodd acknowledges some vendors are selected based on their popularity with the community, because the show is a fund-raiser and community-building event.

Children received free soda all night and free ice cream from Mallard Ice Cream Company. Tables littered with craft

materials became a mecca of creativity as the kids made hats, noisemakers and drawings. Mascot "Sam the Salmon," played by Andrew Craig, took photos with the little ones and several adults who are kids-at-heart.

Many patrons' children are educated about the issue of salmon conservation, and understand the event is not merely social.

"We raise salmon in the classroom," said elementary school teacher Jackie Brown, who watched her son, Forrest, make crafts. "He (Forrest) already knows a lot about salmon. We go and watch them spawn every fall."

For those who are not as educated about the need for salmon conservation as they would like to be, the NWEA had an educational booth filled with literature, bumper stickers, hats and T-shirts. Western student and volunteer Jonathan Finnegan answered questions and helped educate the community members as they stopped by the booth.

"Many different issues are going on that I was not aware of before I started working in the booth," Finnegan said. "I like doing this. I like letting people know about what is going on with specific events and issues. It makes me feel good."

Finnegan added that as far as environmental education is concerned, "people are tuned in, but not on the right channel" and he is included. Not a Bellingham native, he finds volunteering at the fund-raiser an interesting way to learn about the issues in his new community.

As a non-profit organization, the NWEA does not have a substantial advertising budget and depends largely on word-of-mouth promotion by community members.



Dionna M. Dominguez/The Western Front
(Top) Sam the Salmon spreads love while greeting attendees of "Jammin' for Salmon;" (Above) Members of Flow Motion get tribal with a drum performance; (Left) Jeff Gray, bassist for Foot Stompin' Trio, grooving along to one particularly infectious beat.

B.C. Lions hear Clampitt roar

Western wide receiver headed for CFL

By Evan Parker
THE WESTERN FRONT

Viking All-American wide receiver Ben Clampitt has signed a one-year, free agent contract with the B.C. Lions of the

Canadian Football League. Clampitt, owner of seven receiving records at Western, will report to the Lion's training camp shortly after his graduation this spring.

"I am excited to start a career playing football," Clampitt said.

"This is an opportunity to be paid to play."

The rules in the CFL vary from those in the NFL. Canadian teams only get three downs to advance the ball and they play on a larger field. The style of play in the CFL is pass oriented, which would cater to a wide receiver like Clampitt.

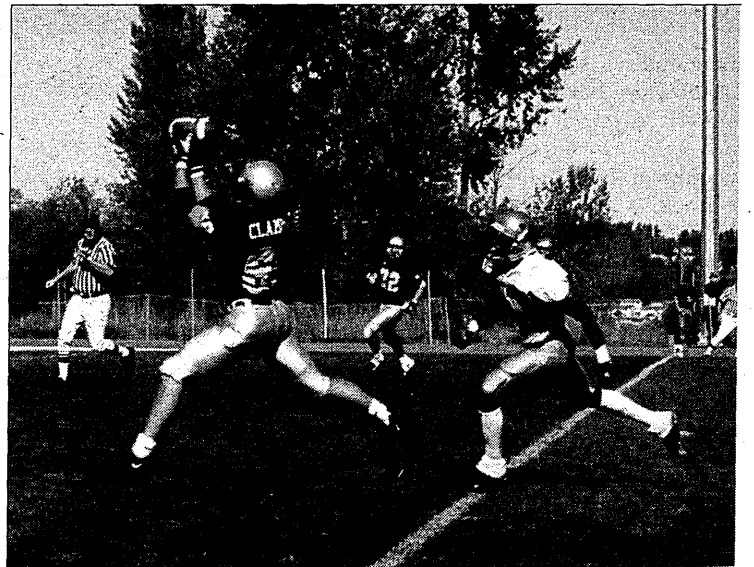
"It's a wide open game in the CFL," said receivers coach Eric Tripp. "It fits his style really well."

"This is a good place to get experience," Clampitt said. "I'm looking to do what I can to get a place on the team."

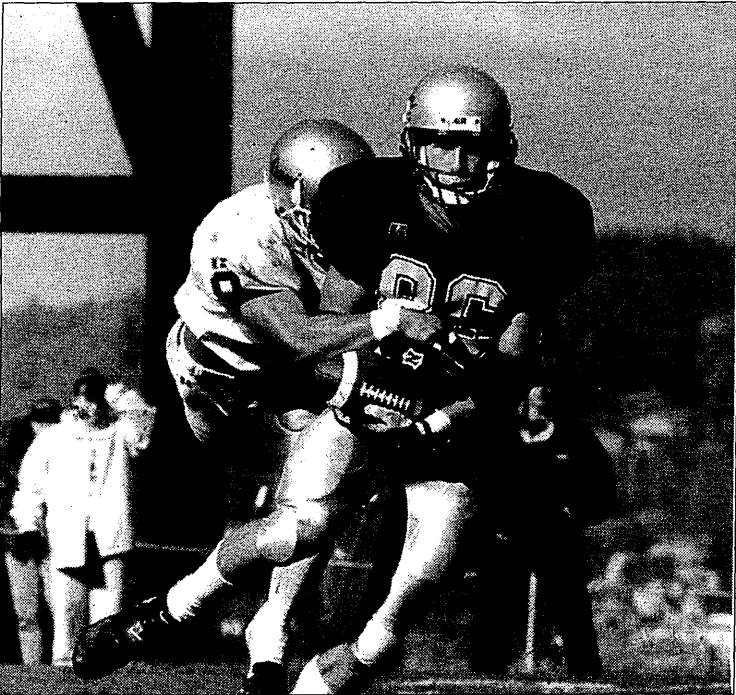
Clampitt caught 67 passes last season — 14 for touchdowns — while leading the Vikings to a NCAA Division II national play-off appearance. He was one of 23 nominees for the Harlon Hill Trophy, which goes to the Division II player of the year, and the Columbia Football Association's offensive player of the year.

"He was our speed guy who found the end zone a lot," Tripp said.

At 6-foot-1-inch and 190



File photos
Western All-American wide receiver Ben Clampitt caught 67 passes and 14 touchdowns for the Vikings this season. Clampitt is now headed to the Canadian Football League.



pounds, Clampitt's speed and ability to make acrobatic catches made him attractive to professional teams, Tripp said.

"He will probably be a speed guy for them (Lions)," Tripp said.

Clampitt's size and athletic ability caught the attention of many professional football teams, 11 scouts from the NFL traveled

to Bellingham to watch him play.

The teams from the NFL passed on Clampitt two weekends ago when they had their amateur draft, leaving the door open for the Lions to sign him.

Clampitt will join former Western football players Orlando Steinaur and Chad Rorabaugh in the CFL.

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Hard-hitting Herd earns player of the week

By Ken Jager
THE WESTERN FRONT

Sophomore softball player Carlena Herd batted her way to tying three school records and breaking one last week as she was named PacWest Player of the Week.

Herd led the Vikings to a 3-1 record April 16 through -22 with a .667 average, batting eight for 12, pounding out five extra base hits, including two doubles and one triple.

Herd also belted two home runs, bringing her season total to three, equaling her record-tying mark from last year. She now has six home runs for her career, also tying the club mark.

"I finally started to hit the ball last week," Herd said. "It really felt good to finally break out. It's pretty cool to get recognized."

In a doubleheader at Simon Fraser, Herd broke the school record for RBI's in a game with five, hitting a two-run homer and a bases loaded triple.

Western swept the doubleheader at Simon Fraser, the NAIA's top-ranked team, winning 10-0 and 9-2.

The Vikings played a twin bill against Central splitting the two games, winning 11-1 and losing 5-3. Herd tied another school record in the win at Central by scoring four runs in



Terrill Simecki/The Western Front

Sophomore Carlena Herd belts a bases-loaded triple in the Vikings' victory over NAIA No. 1 Simon Fraser.

the game.

Head Coach Art Phinney said he had high hopes for Herd at the beginning of the season.

"She has prodigious power and excellent hands on defense," he said. "The key for her is to keep improving and making adjustments to her game."

Herd is doing more than just starting to hit the ball, she's on an eight-game hitting streak batting an even .500 in that stretch, going 13-26.

Although Herd is on a hot streak, she is not getting a big head because of it.

"I really like our team this year, we have a lot of chemistry," Herd said. "I'm just another girl on the team."

Herd led the Vikings in eight offensive categories last year as a freshman including home runs, triples, RBI's, slugging percentage and total bases. She earned second-team PacWest all-star honors last season.

Golfers swing for West Regional title

By Janis Lee
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western's men's golf team will seek its first regional championship as they compete in the NCAA II West Region Championships May 1 through 3 at Bakersfield, Calif., marking the team's second consecutive berth in the NCAA II National Championships.

Only the top six teams among the 17 at regionals will earn berths to the national tournament, May 16 through 19 at Turlock, Calif.

"Our objective is to beat everybody," head coach Steve Card said. "It's the approach you have to take. You can't focus on sixth place."

Western's competitors include 11 teams ranked in the top 25 nationally in the Mastercard Collegiate Golf Rankings, including five in the top 10. Western shares the ninth ranking with Abilene Christian in Texas.

"If we play the way we're capable of, we should win," Craig Welty said.

The first round for Western begins at 10:30 a.m. Monday at Riverlakes Ranch Golf Course.

"Our guys are reaching the point where they're ready," Card said. "It's late April, and we're getting better as the conditions for practice get better. To reach nationals, this is a step you have

to go through."

Western won the second of two qualifying tournaments after placing second in the first. Western is also District 13 champions. Three of the 10 men on the team earned all-district recognition, including Craig Welty, Bo Stephan and Brain Flugstad. Welty also earned the honor of district Player of the

"Our objective is to beat everybody. It's the approach you have to take. You can't focus on sixth place."

Steve Card

Men's head golf coach

Year.

Welty leads the team with a 73-stroke average. Welty has finished in first or second place in five of the nine tournaments. He hopes to be the first player in Western's history to play in the national tournament for four consecutive years.

"All season, people have stepped up and responded," Card said. "Rarely have we had a round where two guys played poorly. Our depth gives us confidence."

Western finished second in the regional championships last year, and placed 11th in its first NCAA II National Championship.

NFL tackles off-field violence



Jessica Keller

COMMENTARY

increased. This only proves the ineffectiveness of the crime policy or the lack of influence the NFL has over its players.

It should be the responsibility of the coaches and team owners to let new and veteran football players know what the proper off-the-field conduct is and what consequences players will suffer if they violate the expected conduct.

Off-the-field violence by football players is giving the National Football League a bad reputation, but if the NFL is really interested in stopping poor behavior, the disciplinary measures should be left to team coaches and owners.

According to an NFL.com news release, Cincinnati Bengal Matt O'Dwyer, Tennessee Titan Denard Walker and New York Jet Jumbo Elliott were the first players suspended without pay under the NFL's newly amended Anti-Crime Policy. This new punishment however, is unlikely to discourage players from poor conduct off the field unless it comes from a source that has a big influence over players, like the team coaches owners — people football players have contact with everyday.

NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue said the policy was instituted in 1997 with only counseling for offenders. In 1998 employees were fined for policy violations, and now the NFL is raising the disciplinary standards once more. The new policy is necessary because criminal incidents involving football players have steadily

According to a column on Foxsports.com, this is not a new idea to Carolina Panthers owner Jerry Richardson. Richardson's Panthers already have players involved in the legal system, and Richardson is trying to impress upon new Panthers what is expected of them and what will not be tolerated, to prevent future incidents.

The new players are listening to Richardson's message. This is definitely a positive step in repairing the tarnished reputation of the NFL, but it would be most effective if every team owner and coach in the NFL followed Richardson's example.

The NFL could effectively counter bad publicity by impressing the importance of conduct codes to the football team owners and coaches and then leaving it to them to enforce any problems occurring. Owners and coaches have everyday contact with the players and are in more of a position to influence them than the NFL organization and its anti-crime policy.

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Frontline

The Planet under attack: vague claims drag it down

Recently, the Planet had its reputation as "Outstanding Environmental Science Magazine" for 1998 and 1999 by the American Scholastic Press Association tragically attacked by one person who has no specifics to back up his allegations.

Dennis Murphy, dean of the College of Business and Economics sent an e-mail to Brad Smith, Dean of Huxley College of Environmental Studies upon reviewing the Planet's newest issue detailing an "environmental audit" of Western.

Unfortunately, he had no exact comments or specific complaints to make, but wrote, "I am taken aback at the tone, language, assertions, and outright misstatements of the publication."

The reasons behind Murphy's vague allegations are under review. Did he ignorantly attack the Planet because he isn't aware the magazine is environmentally driven, hence their slanted view regarding economics? Or was he unaware the Planet is not connected to Huxley College?

Murphy believes the Planet is representative of Huxley, but in fact it is funded by Student Activity fees and run by students, hence it is a student publication — not affiliated to anything on campus, except the environment. Huxley students write for the Planet because it is an advocate for the environment, and they receive credit, but remember that is the only connection.

The Bellingham Herald wrote a lengthy front page article about Murphy's allegations in its April 25 issue. What this means for the Planet is all of its awards and certificates of achievements may be overlooked because one man stepped up and made allegations testing the magazine's ethics.

On the inside page of the Planet one can read for themselves its mission: "We are dedicated to environmental advocacy and awareness through responsible journalism." The editor and associate editor also wrote a synopsis of the content within the new issue in reference to the implied freedoms of speech and press, "... the Planet set out to investigate Western's impact on both the environment and Bellingham ... We looked at the systems that keep the campus running: energy, water, waste and food processing."

The publication spells out its stance and ideals regarding the environment within its first few pages, including the fact that it is explicitly a student publication.

Unfortunately the damage is done; its test of journalistic quality is on the table of discussion, where it shouldn't be.

The Planet will bounce back, but the way Murphy initiated his claims, with unsubstantiated, nonexistent facts provide us with nothing but ignorance and a cry to get to the point of the real issue.

Frontlines are the opinion of The Western Front editorial board: Alex P. Hennesy, Robin Skillings, Angela D. Smith, Bobby Stone, Soren Velice and Curt Woodward.

The Western Front

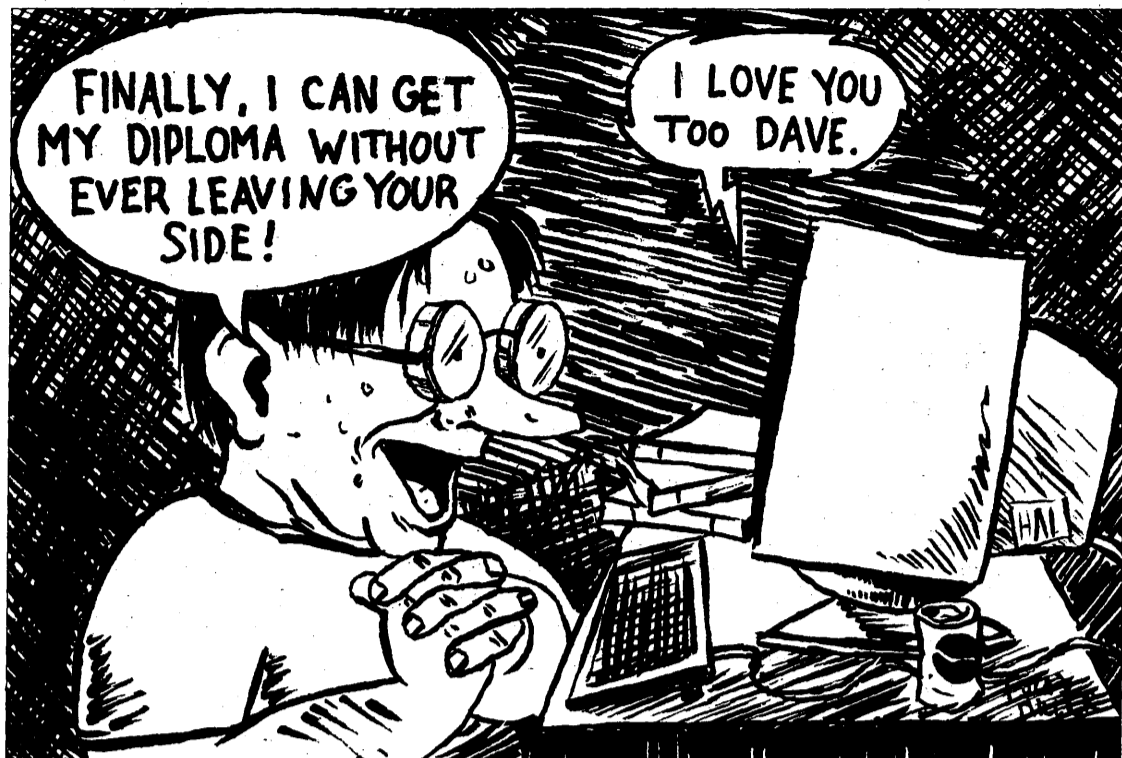
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And we quote:

'The approach of the Planet has been to draw conclusions ... Sometimes those conclusions are going to frustrate people who disagree.'

Shane Powell, editor-in-chief of the Planet regarding the now controversial issue of the magazine. From the April 25 edition of The Bellingham Herald



The price for independent learning: losing out on the college experience



Jacob Horn

COMMENTARY

Western's elimination of the 45-credit limit on independent learning courses is ridiculous.

Western's Faculty Senate voted to abolish the 45-credit limit on independent learning courses March 28.

Previously, Western students could complete up to 45 credits from independent learning courses where work and exams were given and received by mail or phone.

The Faculty Senate's vote not only eliminated the 45-credit limit, it eliminated the social learning that takes place on a university campus.

Now students are able to remove themselves further from

Western and much of what it stands for.

How are students able to share their ideas and experience the ideas of other students when they are alone in their house with only a textbook and a syllabus?

Try to imagine taking a course

"The fact is, Western students are not really Western students if they are not a part of the campus."

in cultural studies or linguistics without actually talking to anyone besides yourself and your computer. It is difficult to imagine a student having a discussion about different cultural belief systems via e-mail or fax. Western is known for its toler-

ance of diverse and sometimes conflicting ideas, which an off-campus or "external" student would not experience.

Independent learning courses do give some students the opportunity to take courses they would not otherwise be able to attend. This is great for those who work odd hours or who want to take a class during the summer.

The fact is, Western students are not really Western students if they are not a part of the campus. It is impossible to gain the same education from self-taught correspondence classes as it is from taking part in a classroom environment.

Invaluable learning takes place in a classroom environment that cannot be duplicated by Internet chat. It's simply not possible to duplicate the discussions and insights that take

See CREDITS, page 11

Student participation key to parking safety reform



Molly McCord

A.S.VOICE

How many times have you returned late from a night in Canada, out on the town in Bellingham or getting back from mom and dad's after a long weekend, and had to park either far away or in a dimly-lit parking lot?

I remember doing that many times when I lived on campus, and I picked up my pace to get to my room faster.

Campus safety is a very real and important concern that students face, especially those living on campus. We need to get the ball rolling on ways to improve it.

There are many aspects to

campus safety, and it's feasible to focus on parking lots because many students use them daily, especially at night.

Here's my proposal: A student-appointed committee that focuses on parking lots and general safety and makes a yearly recommendation to Western.

"Let's hear it — take it to the people who can do something about it."

I did some research and uncovered a previous committee, the Lighting Walk Group, that did an evaluation on parking lot lighting in late 1995. It was composed of 15 faculty and staff plus one student — who didn't live on campus. Notice what this committee was miss-

ing? Students.

Student participation is key. No on-campus residents were included, only people who worked 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and didn't have to walk in these parking lots at night or by themselves.

Five years later, I think it's time to re-evaluate.

If this is also a matter of great concern to you, I suggest contacting your newly-elected board of directors and getting this set up for next year, if not by the end of this year.

This is the time to set up goals for next year and let your new board members know what you want. Volunteer to be on the committee and give them your feedback. Tell us how many times you felt unsafe in a parking lot or anywhere else at night.

Let's hear it — take it to the people who can do something about it.

LETTERS

A sample of our reader opinions

Letters to the editor must not exceed 250 words. Bring them to College Hall 09 or e-mail them to wfront@cc.wvu.edu.

The Front reserves the right to edit for length, style and libel.

Column gives misguided advice

Lisa Curdy brought up an extremely important issue on our campus, depression. Some of the information and interpretations of depression were not entirely correct.

The column (April 11) simplified what those who suffer from depression go through.

While counseling may be a perfect option for some people, it is definitely not a "cure all" for everyone. Depression has been proven to have a biological basis. Thus, counseling will not sufficiently help those people suffering from clinical depression.

Curdy insinuated that taking antidepressants is a sign of weakness in a person. She

invalidated the struggle some of us go through deciding whether or not to start taking medication. Sometimes medication is the only thing that will help normalize brain functioning so that people can go on with life.

Depression can be a chemical imbalance and counseling cannot always "get to the cause" as Curdy states.

The column reinforced society's stigmatizing views surrounding mental illnesses.

Recently, the Associated Students Board of Directors approved the formation of a new club, Support for Students Affected by Depression and Mental Illness.

We provide a safe place for those effected by depression and mental illness.

Jael Jeffries, John McDonald
Amabel Narvaez and
Melissa Walston
Western students

Forum deserved front page nod

Recently, the issue of whether or not the university should sell

tobacco products on campus has been addressed.

The Associated Students Facilities and Services Council hosted a public forum April 20 in Fraser Hall 4 so that students could voice their opinions on the issue to ban the sale of tobacco products.

The forum's purpose was so the council could have a more sound understanding of students' feelings about the issue.

The Western Front, however, chose not to inform students of the forum. The only coverage the forum received was in the "WWU Official Announcements" box.

Conveniently, it ran a front-page story about the issue of banning tobacco sales when it first broke after the forum took place.

It even managed to squeeze the opinion of its editorial board on the issue in the Frontline.

I had the chance to read the opinions of the editors in the Frontline.

How about next time you give students a chance to voice their opinions, too.

Rhett Usry
Western student

Improved technology doesn't replace on-campus learning

From CREDITS, page 10

place in a working classroom with e-mailed correspondence between a student and a professor.

Western's residency requirement states a student must complete at least 45 on-campus credits in order to receive a degree. Students are required to come to campus for 25 percent of their college degree — big deal. With the residency requirement, students are getting about 25 percent of the university education that on-campus students are getting.

Something is lost in courses where students don't have the chance to object to the material that is being taught. Real, valuable learning takes place when students go beyond their textbooks and look at material from varying viewpoints.

The Academic Coordinating Commission requested removal of the old limit because it felt the limit was unnecessarily

restrictive. The ACC also said more media and better technology is available than when the limit was put in place.

"To impose a limit was kind of crazy, especially with the change in technology available to students," said Meredith Gilbert, supervisor of the Independent Learning office.

Technology has changed, making it much easier for students to access information than it was in the past. New technologies should be utilized to improve correspondence classes on certain subjects, but to use improved technology as an excuse to distance students from the classroom is wrong.

Western must rethink its policy and consider the quality of education that "external" students are receiving. If Western wants to be regarded as a high-standing academic institution, it should not allow its students to earn a degree based on textbooks and e-mailed responses.

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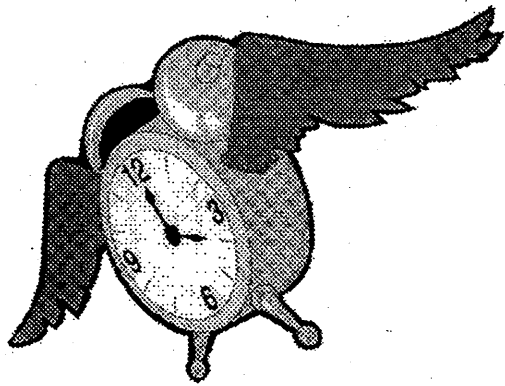
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