



CAMPUS CHILDCARE HELPS STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF WHO HAVE YOUNG CHILDREN

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WESTERN' MEN AND WOMEN BASKETBALL TEAMS NOTCH DOUBLE-DIGIT VICTORIES

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Tuesday, January 27, 2009

THE WESTERN FRONT

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

"It's impossible to protect [Western's] academic reputation with what the senate is asking us to do."

-Bruce Shepard, Western president

Senators warn Western to brace for worst

Josh Stilts

THE WESTERN FRONT

Washington State Sens. Derek Kilmer and Rodney Tom warned Western to brace for the worst-case scenario in a letter e-mailed Friday morning to Western President Bruce Shepard and other university administrators.

Potentially, Western's \$21.7 million budget cut could become a \$36 million cut that would be disastrous to the Western experience, Associated Students (AS) Legislative Liaison Morgan Holmgren said.

With the state revenue budget due in

mid-March, state legislators wanted Western to prepare for more reductions if necessary, as initial revenue projections have not looked good, Holmgren said.

Classes normally offered four or five times per quarter could be combined to form larger classes or limited to once or twice per quarter, he said.

"Class sizes would have to increase," Holmgren said. "[Potentially] a class like Introduction to Chemistry could increase from 50 students to 100 students."

"It's impossible to protect [Western's] academic reputation with what the senate is asking us to do," Shepard said.

Increased cuts and/or reductions

could also bring a less personal experience to Western as professors could have fewer office hours to work with students, Holmgren said.

Although the AS stance is still firmly against increasing tuition, Western's Associate Vice President for University Relations Sherry Burkey suggested that if more cuts and reductions are needed, the 7 percent tuition cap needs to have flexibility.

"At this point we'd love to have the governor's proposed cuts," Burkey said.

Western has never had to deal with such drastic cuts with so many students, she said. Past budget reductions in 1981

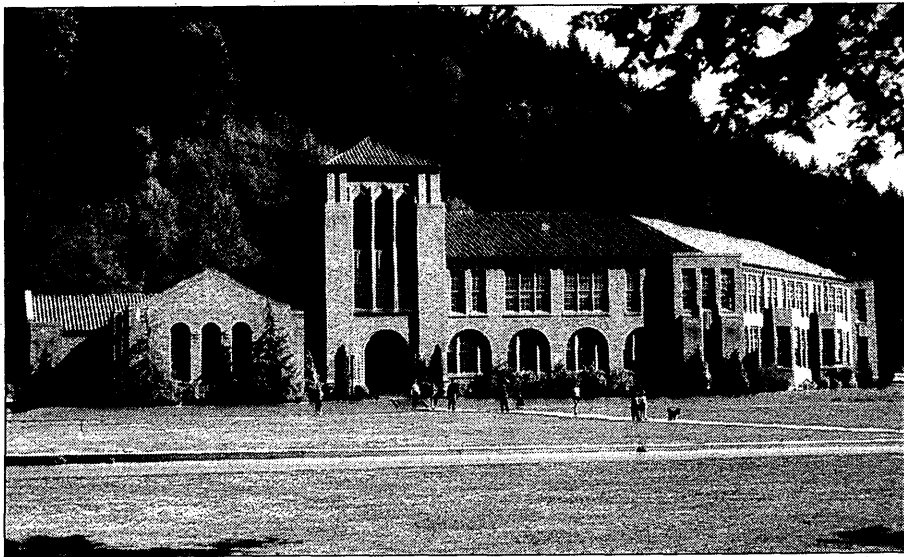
through 1983 were much smaller in comparison—12 to 13 percent—and were made approximately every six months, she said.

A budget proposal of this magnitude could create a feeling of instability, Holmgren said. Unpredictability leads to fear and apprehension—emotions students, faculty and staff should not have to feel, he said.

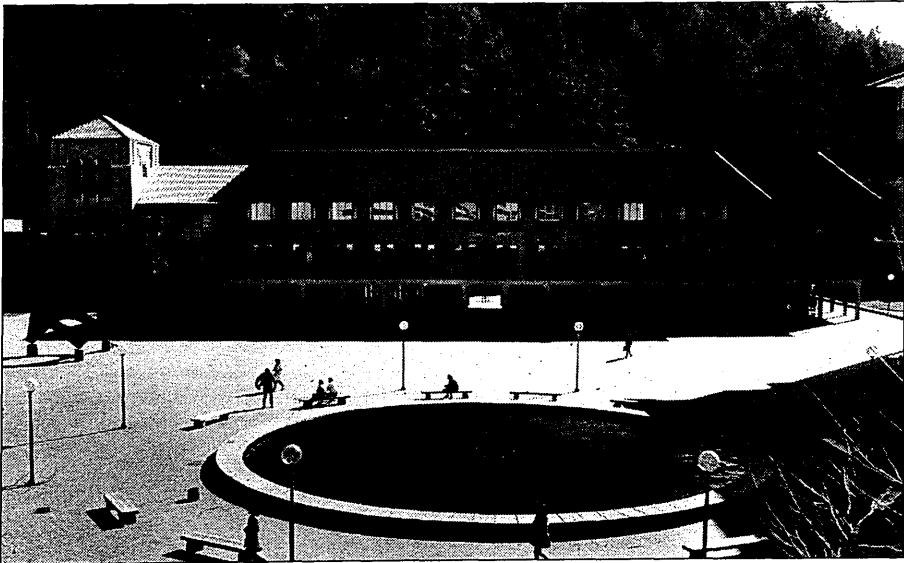
The operating budget for Western is nearly \$128 million, with 60 percent of the revenue coming from state appropria-

see BUDGET page 5

Gregoire approves Miller funding



Photos courtesy of Western Washington University Libraries Special Collections



TOP (1960): Students walk past the Campus Elementary School, now part of Miller Hall, in 1960. The building sits in a field that later became Red Square.

BOTTOM (1970): Students walk across Red Square in front of Miller Hall in 1970. After being closed in 1967, Miller Hall reopened with a new southern wing and courtyard.

Brynn Regan

THE WESTERN FRONT

Historic Miller Hall is ready to undergo renovations in April as soon as the state legislature approves Governor Christine Gregoire's Washington Jobs Now initiative which she disclosed on Jan. 15. Western would receive \$57.5 million for the renovation as part of Gregoire's \$1.2 billion economic stimulus package.

The package is designed to get "ready-to-go" projects underway to increase employment in the state and improve the economy as soon as possible, said Karina Shagren, deputy communications director for the governor's office.

"This has been a long-range plan of the university to renovate [Miller Hall]," said Ed Simpson, the assistant director of the Facilities Design and Construction Association for Western.

The renovation of Miller Hall has been on Western's ten-year capital budget plan since 2003 and is necessary to the "development and modernization of the university's academic core," according to Western's 2009-2011 biennium report.

"The state moved the project back one budget cycle [two years] after the pre-design because other construction projects around the state were more imperative," said Michael Henniger, associate dean of the Woodring College of Education.

The renovation was originally planned to begin in late summer, but will start sooner with the help of the governor. The earlier the project begins, the more beneficial it would be to the university, Simpson said.

see MILLER page 3

Sustainability office introduces new program

Michael Johnson

THE WESTERN FRONT

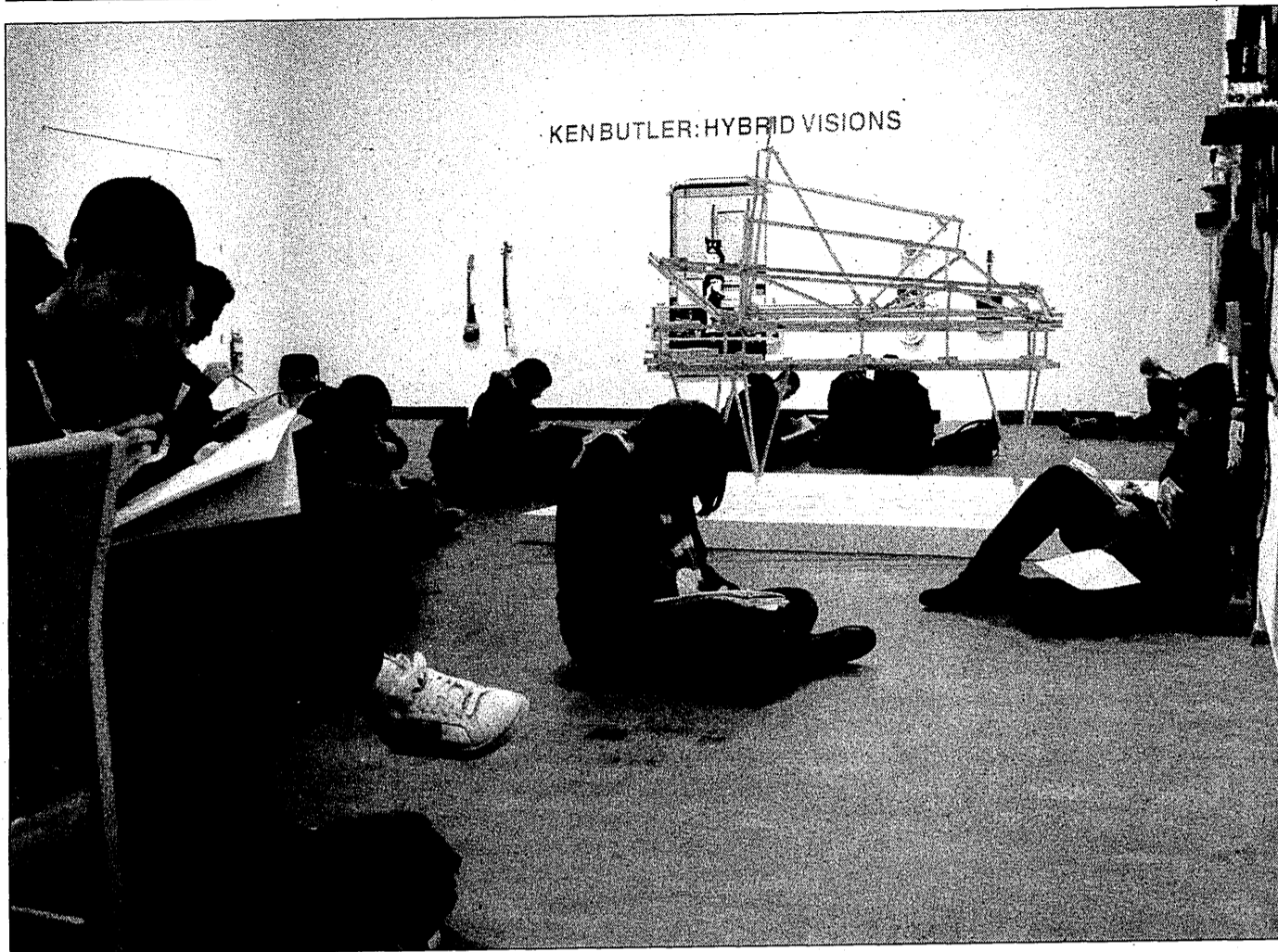
Western's Sustainable Transportation Office and University Residences have come together to introduce a new travel desk program in the Buchanan Towers Residence Hall to help students find cheaper and more convenient methods of transportation regionally and locally.

The office created the desk to answer students' questions about how to get around the Bellingham and Puget Sound areas without having to use a car. The

see DESK page 5



Photo by Carolyn Copsted THE WESTERN FRONT Western senior Zoey Brodsky, Buchanan Towers Transportation Desk Coordinator, shows sophomore Michael Lang a walking trails map Tuesday night.



Western sophomore Michael Suzuki (far left) sits in the Western Gallery Monday morning working on an assignment for Mark Kuntz's Introduction to the Art of Theatre class. The current exhibit, "Ken Butler: Hybrid Visions," opened last week and runs through March 14.

photo by Carolyn Copsted THE WESTERN FRONT

Cops Box

University Police

Jan. 23

- Campus police responded to a fire alarm in Fairhaven stack eight. Steam from showers set off the detectors, but there was no fire.

Jan. 24

- University police responded to a report of a liquor law violation near south campus. A Western student was issued a minor in possession, cited for urinating in public and was released.

Jan. 25

- University police cited a woman on suspicion of driving under the influence near south campus. She was later released.

Bellingham Police

Jan. 25

- Bellingham police responded to a report of malicious mischief when windows of vehicles were marked on the 3700 block of Seeley Street.

Jan. 26

- Bellingham police responded to a burglary on the 2700 block of West McLeod Road. A man located in the building was booked on suspicion of second-degree burglary.

- Bellingham police responded to a report of malicious mischief involving a broken window on the 1100 block of West Holly Street.

News briefs and cops box compiled by
Brynn Regan and Katherine Garvey.

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Liberal studies lecture will discuss Judaism, Christianity and Islam

Western's liberal studies department will host a lecture by David Nirenberg called "Sibling Rivalries: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam" at 4 p.m., Feb. 5 in Communication Facility room 110.

Nirenberg studies medieval ideas involving social relations, communication and exchange, as well as Muslims, Jews and Christians in medieval Europe and the Mediterranean.

This is the first lecture in the liberal studies departments' new annual series of lectures, by people in interdisciplinary studies, that include topics such as the history of culture and religion.

Western grad students recite poetry and prose at local museum

English department graduate students from Western will read selections of their poetry and prose at the 10th Annual Graduate Student Sampler hosted by Western at 7 p.m., Jan. 31 in the Rotunda Room at the Whatcom Museum.

Students will read samples of poetry, fiction and creative non-fiction pieces.

The event is free and open to the public.

Western blood drive set for Jan. 27 to Jan. 29

The Puget Sound Blood Center will be at Western from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. from Jan. 27 to Jan. 29 collecting donations.

With just one pint of blood, donors can help three patients. Donors are en-

couraged to bring friends and to donate earlier in the day to avoid long lines.

The blood drive is located in Viking Union room 565 and in the Mini Mobile in Red Square.

Donors must be 18 years or older and weigh at least 110 pounds. Donors cannot have received a tattoo in the last year.

Look for coverage on the blood drive in Feb. 3's issue of The Western Front.

Performing Arts Center hosts pianist Wayne Horvitz Jan. 28

The music department will host composer and pianist Wayne Horvitz and his Gravitas Quartet at 8 p.m., Jan. 28 in the Performing Arts Center Concert Hall.

The performance will be comprised of piano, cello, bassoon and trumpet, and will blend jazz and modern music to create unique sounds.

The tickets are \$7 for students and \$10 for general admission.

Dean of Huxley College appointed to serve on conservation committee

Dean of Western's Huxley College of the Environment Brad Smith was recently appointed to the Commission of Education and Communication Steering Committee.

The committee is part of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which is based in Switzerland.

IUCN helps bring together non-government organizations, United Nations organizations, local communities and other companies in order to find answers to major environmental issues.

MILLER: New design splits building into east and west wings

from 1

A jump-start on the renovation would allow the plan some flexibility in time to allow inspectors to look at the building after the demolition and later stages of the process, Simpson said.

Western is eager to renovate Miller Hall because of the severity of the building's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) issues, Simpson said.

A majority of the building is inaccessible for people who use wheelchairs and does not comply with ADA standards, Simpson said.

The ramps inside Miller, which were originally built for the elementary school in the 1940s, are not up to ADA code. The multiple levels of Miller and the layout of the building also cause confusion, he said.

Taking out the ramps and installing new two-sided elevators will solve many of these problems, he said.

The building will be split into designated east and west wings. The renovation will add half-flight stairs inside the building that will compliment the elevators to improve accessibility, Simpson said.

"We are also going to be incorporating some sustainable features," Simpson said. "The design and construction are scheduled to be LEED silver rated."

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) is a sustainability rating system awarded by the U.S. Green Building Council. A silver rating is one step above the Academic Instruction Center's [AIC] certification.

All state facilities are trying to target a silver rating, Simpson said.

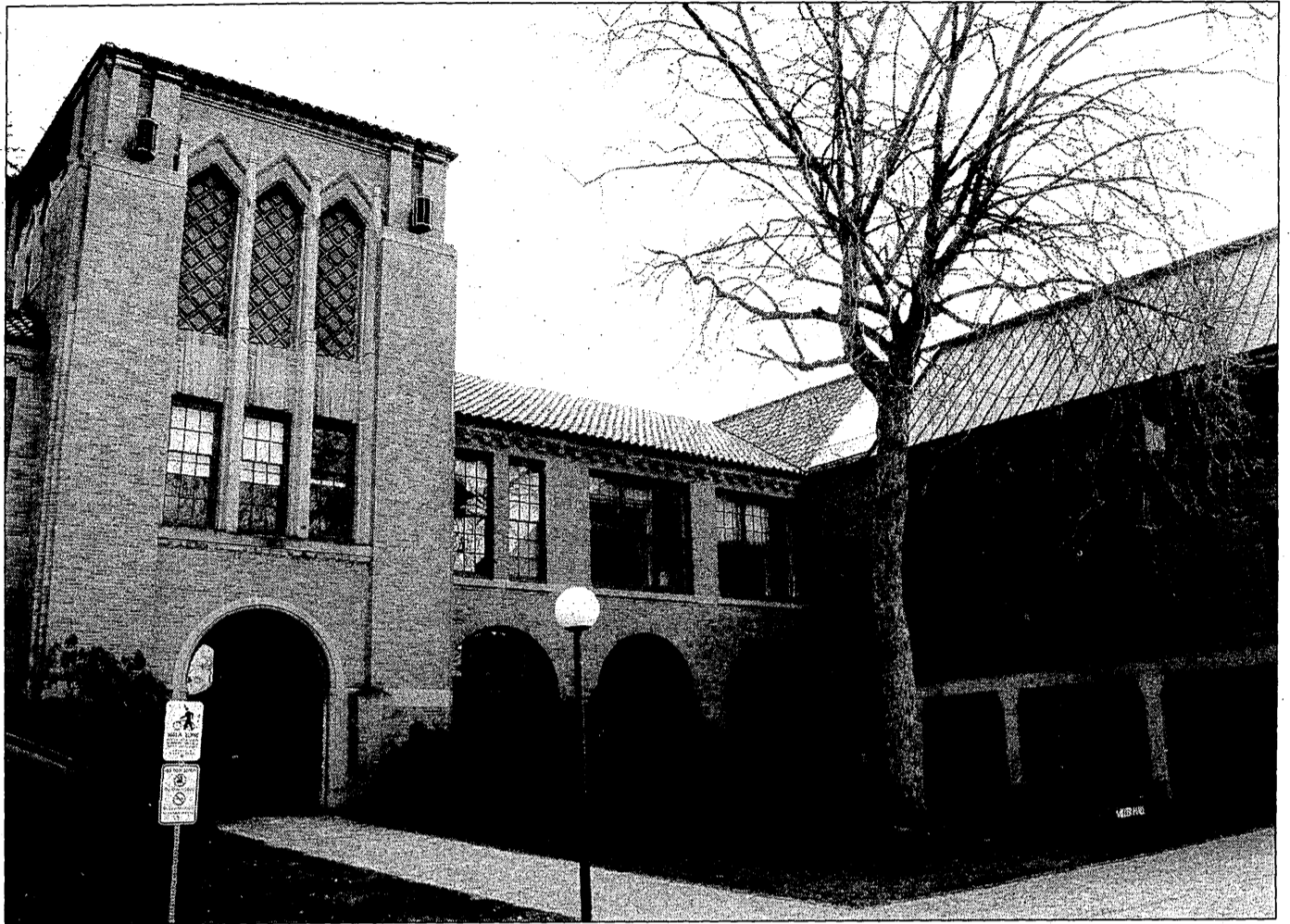


photo by Carolyn Copsted THE WESTERN FRONT

Current view of Miller Hall. The building's tower on the left was part of the original structure built in 1943. In 1967, Miller Hall underwent a major renovation during which the portion of building to the right was added.

The timing of the renovation coincides with the opening of the AIC, which allows more space to relocate the students and faculty who work in Miller, Simpson

said. The psychology department already moved to the AIC.

The first phase of the project will be renovating the portion of the building di-

rectly adjacent to Red Square, which was constructed in 1967.

see MILLER page 4

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Temporary hiring policy aimed at improving morale

Skyler Wilder

THE WESTERN FRONT

Western President Bruce Shepard recently approved a temporary policy designed to alert faculty and staff to vacant positions before making the job listings available to the public.

Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs George Pierce introduced the policy in early January to the campus community and outlined the procedure under which the policy will be carried out.

In an e-mail, Pierce described the policy as promoting department flexibility in order to retain high quality faculty and staff without sacrificing fair hiring practices, as well as providing diverse opportunities.

"It's a way in which to keep our employees employed," Pierce said. "That's

going to be very critical."

The policy calls for a combination of an internal search for candidates, an internal reassignment of someone within the department or an internal placement from somewhere within the campus community to fill a vacant position.

When the administration is looking to fill a position, a hiring authority, either the president or vice presidents, must approve an internal search, internal reassignment or internal placement.

Preceding appointment, the director of human resources, the appropriate dean or department head and the vice provost for equal opportunity will conduct a review of the candidate.

Eighty-five percent of Westerns' budget is spent on paid employee positions, but despite the recent budget cuts, this

policy is not designed to save any money, Shepard said.

"It's designed to improve morale," he said.

Shepard said the policy is a way for the university to circumvent some of the restrictions in the hiring processes to take advantage of people who are already on Western's payroll whose jobs might be affected by the budget cuts.

The temporary policy is effective through June 30, 2011.

Shepard said Western's current search for a provost will not be affected by this policy because the policy's stipulations are only designed to find opportunities for those staff and faculty who are in jeopardy of losing their jobs due to a budget cut.

Chyerl Wolfe-Lee, Western's director of human resources, has played a key role

in creating the policy.

Currently there are no vacant positions posted on the Internal Only Classified Staff Openings Web page accessible through Western's human resources Web site.

A listing was recently posted for Capital Budget Analyst and Wolfe-Lee said the listing generated interest and candidates are currently being reviewed.

Wolfe-Lee said Gov. Gregoire has asked other state agencies to attempt to fill positions within the state before searching outside the state.

To clarify the aim of the policy Shepard said, "It's a small part of a much bigger focus we need to have. This budget crisis is going to end, they always do. We need to stay focused on where we want to be as a university in the future."

MILLER: Renovation could be completed in two years

from 3

During this time, the education department will be relocated into the older section of the building on the eastern-most side of campus, Simpson said.

When that renovation is completed, the education department will move back into the newly-renovated section of the building while the older wing is worked on, Henniger said.

"We know there are times when we will be inconvenienced by the remodel, but for the most part we are very excited

about the space we will have after the work is completed," Henniger said.

Classes inside Miller Hall will also have to be relocated to other buildings, Simpson said.

The modern and classical language [MCL] department will stay in the humanities building until the renovation is done and will then move into one side of Miller and occupy three floors, said Dr. Vicki Hamblin, professor in the MCL department.

The MCL department committee has met with architects, facilities management

and space administration to help plan and understand the renovation process, Hamblin said.


"Our faculty will be happy to move to a new location that we have had a hand in planning and that will be better suited to our administrative and curricular organizations," she said.


The department will have an administrative suite, so communication can be easily facilitated between faculty, staff and students. They will also have two designated lab classrooms for language studies, Hamblin said.

"We are excited that our renovated building will be a healthy place to work and learn, a space that is welcoming to all who come here and a 'green' building that matches our college's commitment to sustainability," Henniger said.

If the legislature approves Gregoire's initiative, Western plans to have the renovation completed in two years, Simpson said.


Shagren said the governor is pushing for a quick decision by Washington's legislature, which would allow Western to start the renovation as soon as possible.





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BUDGET: Western's budget cuts could nearly double by March

from 1

tions and the other 40 percent coming from tuition, according to the 2008-09 University Planning and Budgeting Guide.

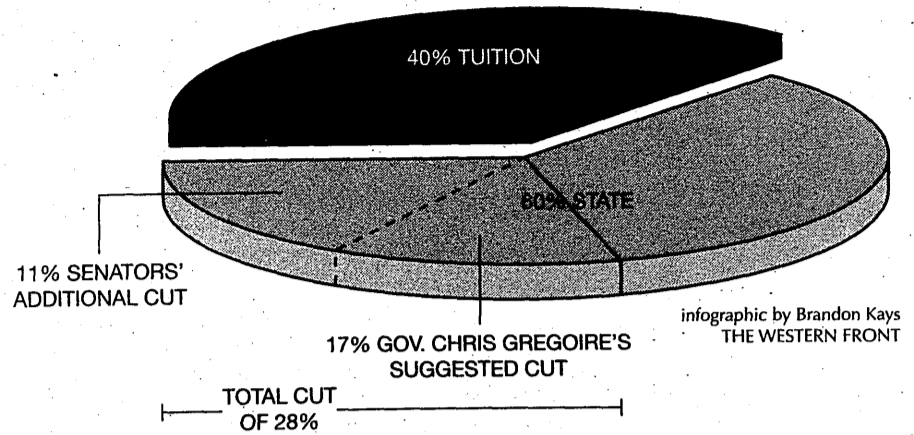
The senators asked Shepard to provide his ideas for which programs, faculty and/or staff could be cut or reduced by Feb. 6. The deadline is intended to give the senators a more realistic impression of the damages Western could suffer and assist in the state policy committee's hearing, which predicts where state funds are to be allotted. Information from the hear-

ings will help refine preparation for further hearings later in the legislative session.

"This is the dance we have to dance," Shepard said. "The senators are asking [Western] to explore options. We're looking at [all of Western] to make strategic decisions instead of slashing across the board."

After Western's football team's demise, no other programs have been discussed for reduction or elimination, Shepard said.

"When things look positive, they don't turn out that well," Shepard said. "When things look really bad, they never turn out that badly."



Sens. Derek Kilmer and Rodney Tom's proposed budget cut would increase Western's cut from \$21.7 million to \$36 million. Western's current operating budget is \$128 million.

DESK: Focus is on informing students about alternative modes of transportation

from 1

desk also offers information about using the bus system, biking, walking or hiking around the area.

Headed by Carol Berry, Western's sustainable transportation program manager, the travel desk is open in Buchanan Towers from 6 to 8 p.m. and is financed by Western's Sustainable Transportation Office.

"I know it can be kind of intimidating to ask 'I want to go there but I don't know how,'" Berry said.

While the desk is meant to be a source of information to students, Berry said she would also like to use it to see what Western students already know about alternative transportation options, she said.

Another goal is to find out how many students have cars on and around campus

and use that information to help determine if Western actually needs more parking, Berry said. She said students do not want new spaces because they would be expensive and destroy lawns.

Building parking lots can cost anywhere from \$500,000 to \$2 million and parking permit revenue, which would pay for the construction, has not increased due to students using alternative transportation, Berry said.

Kim Edwards, fiscal specialist for Western's Public Safety Department, said parking revenue has decreased from \$600,000 in December 2007 to \$559,000 last December.

Western's budget did not include any large parking projects this year, but lower parking revenue can delay the time it takes to raise funds for projects like resurfacing parking lots, Western's Parking Services

Manager Julia Gassman said.

Gassman said the decrease in revenue is because more students are deciding to walk, carpool or take the bus instead of buying a parking permit.

Part of the growth in bus ridership came from the universal bus pass Western students voted on last year. All students taking six or more credits pay a mandatory \$25 fee per quarter for a bus pass, which pays for the bus staff and the late night shuttle that runs from campus to downtown Bellingham until 2 a.m.

The travel desk will be open through the end of spring quarter. The decision to renew the program will be up to University Residences, and depends on how often students use it, Berry said.

Kay McMurren, program assistant for student transportation, said the Sustainable Transportation Office and University

Residences finalized how the travel desk would work last summer and advertised a job opening during the first week of fall quarter.

Fairhaven senior Zoey Brodsky, who was hired to pilot the program, works the desk and fields student questions about transportation around Bellingham.

The Sustainable Transportation Office interviewed 15 applicants to run the desk and ultimately hired Brodsky, an English literature major.

"I think they chose me because I'm a senior and I know the student body pretty well," Brodsky said. "I'm also really experienced with the local buses and other forms of transportation."

The most popular transportation option Brodsky has given to students recently is the \$5 bus route to Seattle using the student bus pass on local buses.

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Caring for campus

Western's Associated Students Child Development Center offers students, faculty and staff options

Amanda Halle
THE WESTERN FRONT

While many college students may feel overwhelmed by their responsibilities and school workload, some Western students have a commitment that takes precedence over all else: a child.

To help manage these responsibilities, Western offers a licensed preschool that gives children a chance for education while their parents pursue theirs.

Since the early 1970s, Western's Associated Students Child Development Center has been making life a little easier for student-parents. Located underneath Fairhaven residence hall stacks 11 and 12, the Child Development Center offers affordable, high-quality child care to students and faculty who have children ages 2-5.

Of the 56 children the center currently serves, 60 percent are children of Western students and the other 40 percent are children of faculty and staff, said Patricia Ashby, director of the Child Development Center. The center has a waiting list of children wanting to be enrolled, but top priority goes to student-parents, she said.

"Our student-parents are very motivated students because they see that by getting their education they will be able to better support their children," Ashby said.

Western senior Erin Greer, 26, and her 3-year-old daughter Sophia came to Western and the Child Development Center in the fall of 2007. Being a single student-parent, Greer said she knows the importance of having a schedule and prioritizing her responsibilities.

"You have the responsibility of class and homework, but you also have this little person to watch over as well," she said.

Greer's day begins at 6 a.m. when she wakes up and gets herself and Sophia ready for school. She drops Sophia off at the Child Development Center in time to get to her 8 a.m. class, works on either homework or exercises at the gym between classes and then picks Sophia up in the afternoon.

Once Greer gets home, parent responsibilities take priority, she said. After making dinner, starting laundry and doing other household



Western senior Aurora Edwards, 31, and her 3-year-old son Bridger watch a bulldozer from the Fairhaven playground Monday.

chores, Greer puts Sophia to bed. "If I am not completely exhausted, I do homework until about 11," she said. "It's a hard economic time especially for me."

The center's fees are offered on a sliding scale based on the parent's monthly income. The scale also depends on the parent's household. Western students pay a projected income.

To receive the lowest available "parent hours," volunteering at least one hour per week as the center's assistant in their child's class, Ashby said.

"It gives parents a chance for help with their child's education as well as forming relationships with other parents," she said.

The center's classes focus on the child's age. The center is split into two age groups: 2- and 3-year-olds, and 4- and 5-year-olds. The children are taken to the Wade King Student Recreation Center, the art studios, and the library.

Parents may choose to have their child attend 22-50 hours a week and may drop out of the program at any time on their own schedule and what they can afford.

Western senior Aurora Edwards, 31, and her 3-year-old son Bridger are working toward an early childhood education degree. She said she loves engaging in parenting and child care. Edwards and the Child Development Center have been in the program until Bridger moves to kindergarten.

Like many areas of the university, the center will suffer from the recent state-wide budget cuts. The center will lose their two part-time employees, and Ashby said they will have to pay their salaries run out, and Ashby said they will renew them. The center's goal is to keep the child care tuition rate, which is currently \$100 a month, she said.

"It is a hard economic time especially for me."



Students board a 80X Shuttle Monday. Going to Mt. Vernon is the first bus in an alternative route home for southbound students.

Tight budgets

Kendall Mercer
THE WESTERN FRONT

Traveling by either plane, train or automobile, Mercer makes a trek off campus every quarter, leaving behind the rolling hills and frigid bay waters of Bellingham to head back to his family and friends.

Students who do not own their own car and look to travel home often use Bellingham's various forms of public transit, Amtrak and Greyhound.

A trip to Seattle and back costs students from \$80 to \$100, depending on the chosen mode of transportation.

Western sophomore Rebecca Jensen said taking the bus home had been more cost-efficient than driving in the past, but she is no longer sure that she is getting her money's worth.

A luggage limit and the extra time added to the scheduled stops has led her to consider other modes of transportation, such as carpooling, she said.

"Now that gas is so cheap, compared to when I took the bus, it's a little bit too expensive, I think, because I could just fill up a tank of gas and be done," Jensen said.

With gas prices declining over the past several months, it is difficult to assume that alternative transportation providers will be able to keep their rates low.

Kids

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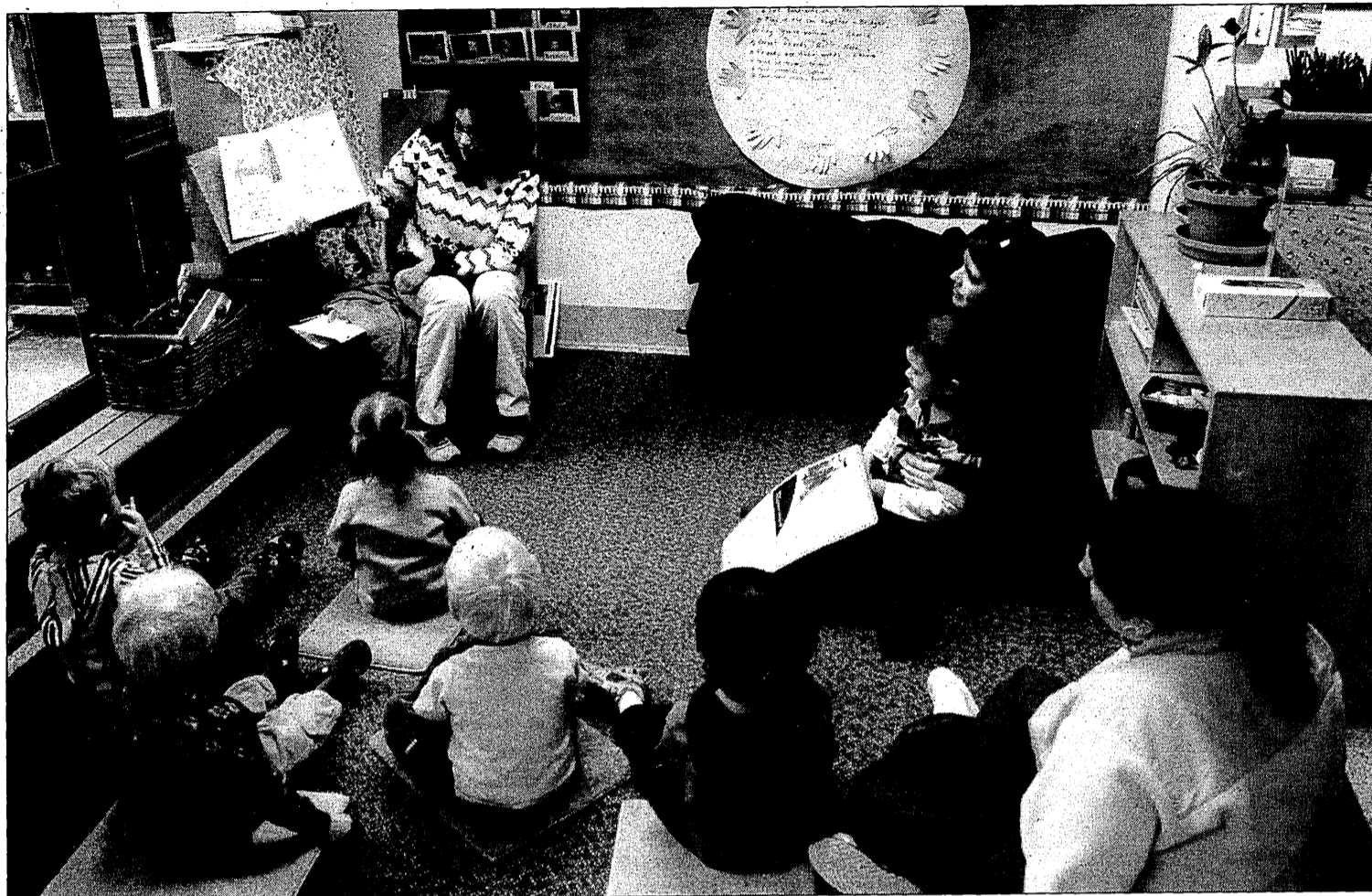


photo by Katie Greene THE WESTERN FRONT

Mary Hall reads a book, "The Fire Cat," Monday while Edwards sits with her son Bridger. Parents who want to pay a lower tuition rate for child care can volunteer two hours per week to help teachers at the Child Development Center.

ing the tuition] will be our last resort," Ashby said.

Barbi McLain, 27, is a graduate student in Western's English department and the mother of 5-year-old Ella. She said she finds the center helpful because she is teaching an English 101 course and taking graduate courses.

"Finding affordable child care that allows me time for school is almost impossible," she said. "But here, Ella can get a good education while I get mine."

Four full-time teachers, two part-time teachers and 35 student employees staff the center.

Most of the students working in the center are early elementary education or special education majors from Woodring College of Education.

Ashby said she thinks being connected with Woodring through student teachers is one of the reasons their child care is high quality.

"We work closely with [Woodring] to make sure we are providing

the most up-to-date and research-based methods of childhood education," Ashby said.

Western junior Emily Foster has been working in the center since her freshman year, and said the experience is what made her decide to major in special education and early elementary education.

She said she feels her experiences working in the center's classrooms are preparing her for her future career.

"We have so many great projects and ideas here at the center that I have literally started writing them down on my own to use in future classrooms," Foster said.

Even with the center's resources, Greer said being a student-parent has its trials.

But she said she believes any parent can finish their education if they put their mind to it.

"It's all about seeing into the future," she said. "With a good goal in mind, anything is possible."

s urge students to find cheaper fares

hound would lower their ticket prices since they are not paying as much for fuel. Yet despite economic turmoil, there has been little change.

"[Amtrak and Greyhound] can put a monopoly on it," Greyhound ticketing agent Dan Salazar said. "They have the ability because they are an alternative transportation."

Associated Students Alternative Transportation Coordinator AJ Garcia

"The cheapest option is to use public transit to take you down to Seattle. It costs \$4.50."

- AJ Garcia, Associated Students alternative transportation coordinator

advises against expecting fluctuations in bus or train ticket prices anytime soon.

"Amtrak and Greyhound, they generally keep their tickets pretty much the same," he said.

Round-trip refundable tickets for Greyhound and Amtrak are approximately \$40.

Fortunately, Garcia said, there is an affordable alternative for students who are looking to travel outside of Bellingham without burning a hole in their wallet.

"The cheapest option is to use public transit to take you down to Seattle," he said. "It costs \$4.50."

So how does it work? Garcia explained:

Students can take the 80X Shuttle, a Whatcom Transportation Authority bus, from Bellingham to Mount Vernon for free with their Western bus pass. From there, take the 90X Skagit Transit express bus from Mount Vernon to Everett, which costs \$2.

To end in Seattle, students can take the Sound Transit 510 bus for \$2.50.

According to Community Transit's Web site, a \$3.50 fare from Everett to King county can be reduced by \$1.50 when a transfer from another transit authority is shown.

For those who might be overwhelmed by the many different stops and transfers, Garcia said it is not nearly as complicated or time consuming as it sounds.

"Once you have it kind of all planned out, and you know what to expect, it's really not that tough," he said.

Traffic between Everett and Seattle may delay the trip, which usually takes approximately three hours.

"As people can basically find out about it more and more, we're seeing more people use it, because they think 'Hey I can get to Seattle for \$4.50 and it doesn't take that much longer [than riding Amtrak or Greyhound]," Garcia said. "I mean, it's a no-brainer."

Study revitalizes endangered language

Rod Lotter
THE WESTERN FRONT

There are approximately 5,000 languages spoken in the world today. By the end of the next century that number is estimated to drop to 1,000.

Western modern and classical language professor Ed Vajda, has taken 16 trips to the Siberian taiga (forest) of Russia over the past decade, as part of his research and efforts to preserve the Ket language.

The Ket language is spoken by only 100 people and may not exist in two decades, but it could be the lost link in the history of human migration, Vajda said.

In November, Vajda published a book, "Subordination and Coordination Strategies in North Asian Languages," which he edited and contributed a paper to about Ket. The book is number 300 in the Current Issues in Linguistic Theory series.

"The world is rapidly changing and there is an urgency to document these languages," Vajda said. "They are dying at an unprecedented rate and are leaving behind huge gaps of history that won't be filled."

When Vajda started as a professor at Western 23 years ago, he became interested in the Ket language while studying non-European languages spoken in the former Soviet Union.

Vajda said he noticed striking similarities between the Yeneseian language family, of which Ket is a part, and the Na-Dene language family, spoken by Native American tribes ranging from Alaska and the Yukon Territory to the American Southwest and Mexico.

Through his research, Vajda has un-

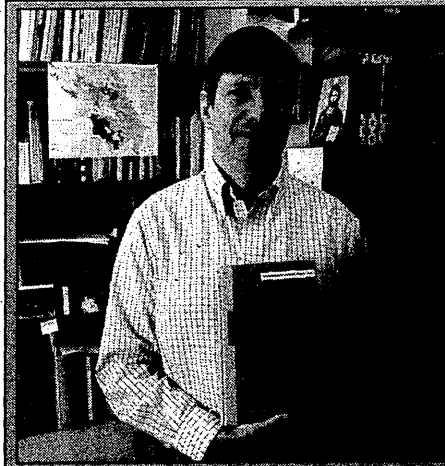


Photo by Todd Green. THE WESTERN FRONT
Western professor Edward Vajda poses with a copy of "Subordination and Coordination Strategies in North Asian Languages," which he edited and contributed to.



Edward Vajda (right) stands with Irena Kuznetsova in the taiga of the Yenisei River. Kuznetsova is one of the last native speakers of Ket, the language Vajda has studied, and Vajda was the first American to visit the taiga area.

covered several links between the two language families.

These discoveries have propelled him to international prominence among linguists due to the various articles he has published in journals, and the speeches he has given at conferences in Russia, Germany and Alaska.

"What Ed has done, through his persistent and dogged research, is [shown] that these two cultures are related in some way," said Shaw Gynan, head of Western's linguistics department.

Anthropologists, in their research of human migration patterns since the dawn of mankind, have found that approximately 12,000 years ago, humans migrated from

Asia to North America by crossing the Bering Strait.

The crossing was possible because of a land bridge that was formed during the ice age, when sea levels dropped drastically due to large icebergs, Gynan said.

Most linguists claim that when a group of language speakers, such as the relatives of the Ket, separate from each other, the languages evolve separately and become incomparable after 5,000 years, Gynan said.

"Ed showed that is not the case," Gynan said. "He found many examples between the two languages, which proves that linguistic reconstruction can go much further back than anyone thought, in this case

about 12,000 years, possibly."

As part of his research, Vajda created a list of words between the Yeneseian and Na-Dene languages that are especially similar, if not almost identical.

"Who could have guessed that the ancient words Native American and Native Siberian boarding-school children were punished for speaking aloud just a few decades ago would prove to wield a power vast enough to reunite entire continents?" Vajda said.

The Ket live along the mid and lower Basins of the Yenisei River, the fifth longest river in the world, stretching over 3,400 miles in the heart of Siberia, which is only accessible by either a four-hour helicopter ride provided by the Russian government, or a two-day excursion on a riverboat, Vajda said.

During his first trip in 1998, Vajda said he temporarily lost hearing in one ear because the heat in his room shut off while he was asleep and the ear that was exposed to the air began to freeze in the minus 40 degree weather.

Vajda said he is probably the only American who has ever been to that area of the world and felt more people should reconsider places once deemed unimportant.

"Because dying languages are important," Vajda said. "hopefully I can pressure others to begin documenting other languages before they go extinct."

Vajda is currently working on a Ket dictionary, grammar book, ethnography and translations into Russian, German and English, and plans to incorporate his research into the East Asian Studies 201 curriculum next year.

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Knowledge is power during dark times

Frontline

Opinions of the Editorial Board

In an age where the Internet is transforming virtually everything about the news industry, it's important to remember the oldest, most endangered member of the media: the newspaper.

Granted, many may find the news difficult to read during times as dark as these. It's hard to find a publication whose headlines don't contain at least some reference to the dismal state of the economy—this newspaper included.

As our state sinks deeper into recession, the news seems to be getting exponentially worse for Western (see the front page). Yet it is precisely during a crisis like the one Western is currently mired in when students need reliable newspapers the most, and vice versa.

The press was designed by the founding fathers to act as a "Fourth Estate" to serve as another branch of checks and balances on the government.

Thomas Jefferson said in 1786, "Our liberty cannot be guarded but by the freedom of the press, nor that be limited without danger of losing it."

In ideal conditions, the media is a vehicle of democracy; it is the voice of the people. Newspapers provide the citizenry with the information it needs to act.

Today it's important not just as citizens, but as students, to be involved in government, if by no other means than simply staying informed about local issues upon which our actions can potentially affect change.

History has shown us that when the press does its job correctly during times of great need, massive numbers of people are mobilized to fight for a common cause through

the power of words and images. Originally that cause was independence, then slavery, women's suffrage, the Civil Rights Movement, expediting an end to the Vietnam War, and so on.

While it pales in comparison to the heady topics listed above, the budget crises Western currently faces is a scenario that will almost certainly require activism in response to news that directly threatens students' livelihood.

Here at Western, important decisions are being made about students' money and the future of this university, which has just been told by two state Senators to prepare for the worst.

Take some time to research the options facing the administration on how to cut the school's budget and learn about the money-saving alternatives Western is examining, which include raising tuition. Consult local newspapers about what other schools in the state are doing to get back into the black.

The Western Front strives to provide the most accurate, unbiased coverage of the crises looming over this university and its student body. But simply reading the news is not enough; simply knowing what is about to happen to you will not prevent it from happening.

Act on the words and ideas being conveyed to you in the coming months. A time will come soon when student solidarity and unity of purpose might be the only thing that preserves Western life as we know it.

The Editorial Board is comprised of the Editor-in-Chief Zack Hale, Managing Editor Rebecca Rayner, Opinion Editor Kera Wanielista and community member-at-large Eddie Verhulst.

Viking Voices

Opinions from around campus

Where do you get your news from?

Compiled by: Selah Prather



Peter Hogg
Senior

"From the internet predominantly. I think there's a large diversity of news there."



Kenny McMillon
Senior

"News comes in all forms, just accidentally walking around you catch news."



Chris Craft
Freshman

"I usually get my news from friends; word of mouth."



Billy Harrell
Freshman

"I don't really get much news anywhere. There's too much controversy, so I try to avoid that."

Cutting football despite past triumphs leaves questions

Jeff Kramer

Guest Columnist

I played football for Western in the early 80s, so you won't get any over-hyped war stories from me.

We won one game during my two seasons. About the only tale of gridiron glory I have is that I once gained nine pounds at dinner in an ill-fated attempt to maintain my heft during training camp. With the entire Viking squad urging me on plate after plate, I felt a powerful bond with my teammates. Then I felt really full. Then I felt ...

It was a rough night.

The only other story I'll share also happened off the field. It was spring of 1982. A student referendum to eliminate football had destroyed recruiting efforts and nearly killed the program. Our undersized team met at Carver Gym to debate whether to play the upcoming season knowing we might not win a game for the second straight year. The vote was unanimous: play on. To walk away, we understood, would mean the end of Viking football forever.

All the good things that came years later—the

appearance in the NAIA Championship game, the five playoff appearances in the 90s, the bowl win this past season—would not have happened if we'd given up. We were young, but we understood the value of continuity.

Your new university president—apparently not so much. I've never met Bruce Shepard excluding a recent e-mail exchange. He seems friendly enough. Surely he's brilliant. But from where I live, in Syracuse, N.Y., he's making me nostalgic for the relative transparency of the Bush Administration.

The Western Washington University I attended celebrated open discourse and dissent. Certainly its leaders did not kill programs in secret and then belittle impassioned efforts to save them.

Yet how else to describe Shepard's treatment of Western's 100-year-old football program?

Since Jan. 8, the day Viking football officially died, \$500,000 has been pledged to save it. These are game-changing numbers—or should be.

Everyone realizes that more must be raised to secure the program's long-term future, but that doesn't diminish a minor miracle in the making. In a few short days, enough money has been pledged to seriously defray football's expenses. If soaring travel costs were a major reason for dropping the sport, as administrators

claim, my response is that half a million dollars buys a lot of bus fuel.

Here's the real problem: With every dollar pledged, the administration's claim it did everything possible to save the program smells more like my practice jersey did between laundings. That's the trouble with doing public business in private. People get cynical—and they start asking questions.

Why did the administration establish a policy weeks before the decision that effectively precluded public discussion of dropping football?

Why didn't the university aggressively pursue alumni donors in the first place?

Why has Shepard dismissed as "fanciful" this fundraising effort? Wouldn't it make sense to work with boosters to save a long-standing program? Or does he not want it saved? If not, why not?

What programs, athletic or otherwise, are next in line for covert elimination?

It sure would be nice to get some answers. I'd hate to think I gained nine pounds in one sitting for nothing.

Jeff Kramer, a contributing columnist for the Post-Standard in Syracuse, N.Y. graduated from Western in 1985 with a degree in journalism.

Letter to the Editor:

Parents, teach your children well

I hope your generation does a better job of raising your kids than my generation did. Our kids are running amok!

I am not quite sure where we went wrong. Perhaps it was because most of us parents just took it for granted that one is supposed to be considerate of others when in a public setting. We apparently didn't think it was necessary, for example, to teach our children to not stop walking right in the middle of a crowded public passageway to chat with friends.

We must have assumed that our kids would know better, without having to be told. I'm sure we never dreamed that our youngsters would be so inconsiderate as to stand in the middle of a doorway, hallway or stair-

well, chatting on a cell phone. Maybe we shouldn't even have given them cell phones at such an early age.

Please don't make the same mistake that my generation made!

Teach your children to flush toilets and to wash their hands afterward. Teach them that objects should not be left on the floor in walkways or aisles lest they become tripping hazards for other people.

Make your children understand that it doesn't hurt to hold a door for someone if they are following close behind—it is certainly nicer than letting the door slam in their face. Teach them to pick up after themselves and to use trashcans instead of the floor or the ground. With our population still rising and conditions everywhere becom-

ing increasingly crowded, it is more important than ever that you teach your children common courtesy.

Don't assume that your kids will "pick it up" through osmosis or genetics like my generation apparently did. You must actively teach your children that courtesy and consideration for other people are the lubricants that keep our civilization running smoothly. Otherwise, they won't get it. I see the evidence of my generation's failure to educate our children every single day.

You see, I work here at WWU and I am of the same generation as your parents.

Jeff Sterling
University Dining

Western women sting Yellowjackets

All 10 players score as women's basketball program eyes 800th all-time victory

Western: 86
MSUB: 73

Dan Balmér
THE WESTERN FRONT

With an offense running on all cylinders, the Western women's basketball team beat the Montana State University Billings (MSUB) Yellowjackets in a hard-fought 86-73 victory in a Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) game on Saturday in Carver Gym.

The win bumped Western's record up to 10-5 and 2-2 in GNAC. The Vikings are now only two wins away from a historic milestone—800 all-time victories.

All 10 Western players scored as Western head coach Carmen Dolfo substituted players in and out throughout the game. Western's bench players scored 55 points, compared to 16 from MSUB.

"Carmen does a great job of interchanging everybody in the game," Summers said. "We have a lot of players who

can score."

Three Western seniors led the team in scoring. Forward Jessica Summers scored 17 points, pulled in 6 rebounds and blocked 3 shots. Forward Liz McCarrell came off the bench and scored 12 of her 14 points in the second half. Center Claire Pallansch returned after missing two games due to a back injury and scored 11 points and added 7 rebounds.

"It's great to have Claire back, and Jessica had a great game," Dolfo said. "Those two make a big difference for us."

After building a big lead, Western fell into a lull in the second half, Dolfo said.

Western led 42-32 at halftime and held a 14-point lead midway through the second half. MSUB put together a 22-12 run that cut Western's lead to four. The score was 66-62 with less than four minutes left in the game.

"It was a game full of ups and downs," Dolfo said. "We found our post players, worked the ball around and had a

balanced scoring attack."

The Vikings shot 53 percent for the game while holding the Yellowjackets to 39 percent shooting. Western senior India Soo had a game-high 5 assists.

"[This win] gives us confidence, and the biggest thing was that we had fun and played together," Dolfo said.

MSUB junior guard Alira Carpenter led all scorers with 19 points. She came into the game leading the conference with an average of 24.2 points per game.

"It didn't seem like [Carpenter] had as many points as she did," Soo said.

Western used taller defenders McCarrell and senior forward Gabby Wade to guard Carpenter, which kept her from scoring in the last 13 minutes of the game.

"We tried to keep [Carpenter] from getting the ball because she's such a good shooter," Summers said.

The Vikings now look to avenge an 85-68 loss Jan. 8 against Seattle Pacific University. The game is at 7:30 p.m., Jan. 29 at Carver Gym.

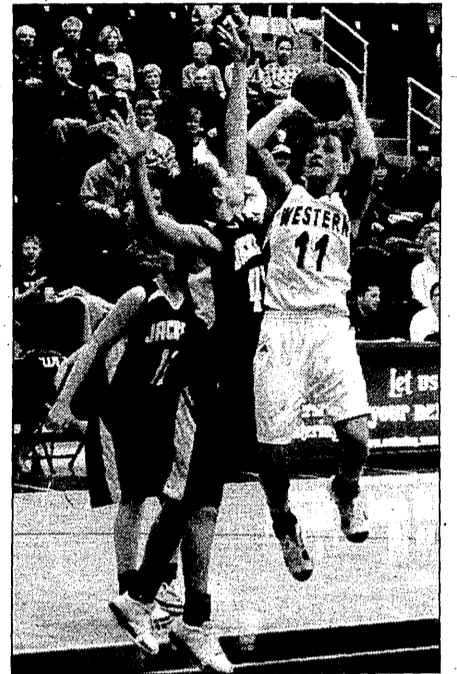


photo by Alex Roberts THE WESTERN FRONT
Senior forward Liz McCarrell shoots over a defender Saturday night in Western's win over MSUB.

Men's basketball topples Central by twenty

Vikings avenge last season's 20-point loss to Wildcats, Ira Graham scores season-high 29 points

Western: 95
Central: 75

Andrew Sprague
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Western men's basketball team assumed second place in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) standings after defeating the Central Washington University Wildcats 95-75 Saturday

night on Central's home court in Ellensburg.

It was the Vikings' first win at Central since the 2006-07 season, and was the Central Wildcats' first defeat at home this season.

Western senior guard Ira Graham led the Vikings with a game-high 29 points, Graham's highest point total this season.

"We needed this win," Graham said. "It feels wonderful."

Graham said he was happy with the team's performance, and said this Western team is one of the best he has seen since his freshman year.

The Vikings started the night strong, sinking their first five three-pointers and leading Central 29-15 ten minutes into the first half. Western refused to let up, scoring eight unanswered points later in the first half. The Vikings headed to the locker room at halftime with a score of 52-36, a

16-point lead.

The Wildcats pulled within 13 points of the Vikings in the second half, but with Graham scoring 18 of his 29 points in the second half, this was as close as they would get.

"We were very focused and very intense," Western head coach Brad Jackson

see MEN'S page 12

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EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARDS
Nominations Due March 2, 2009

President Bruce Shepard has announced that two "Excellence in Teaching" awards have again been made possible by The Western Foundation.

A faculty member from the College of Humanities & Social Sciences or College of Sciences & Technology will be chosen to receive the *Peter J. Elich Excellence in Teaching Award*, and a faculty member from one of the other Colleges (Business and Economics, Fairhaven, Fine and Performing Arts, Huxley, and Woodring College of Education) will be chosen to receive an *Excellence in Teaching Award*. Nominations are solicited from alumni, students, or faculty members by completing the attached form. Letters of recommendation may be attached.

The following criteria and policies are used for selection:

- * No person shall receive this award more than once.
- * Only winners will be announced; candidates' names will not be published.
- * Tenure is not a requirement, but candidates must be full-time faculty members. Visiting faculty are not eligible.
- * If a nominee wishes to be considered, he/she will be asked to submit supporting materials to the committee. Nominees from previous years may elect to remain under consideration for a subsequent year and resubmit supporting materials.
- * The award is a teaching award, not a research award. Submitted materials should relate to teaching.
- * During the consideration process, evaluations of current and previous classes may be sought; recommendations from students and colleagues may be sought, and a class visitation may be conducted. The committee may devise additional or alternative criteria. The committee will evaluate all the material and make selections according to its best judgment.

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Faculty nominations for the Colleges of Humanities & Social Sciences and Sciences & Technology may be sent to: Arlan Norman, Dean, College of Sciences & Technology, MS 9126. Other college nominations may be sent to: Roger Gilman, Dean, Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies, MS 9118.

Winter intramurals swing back into action

New coordinator Kendra Jackson looks to improve upon fall intramurals with training, Facebook

Brooke Loisel
THE WESTERN FRONT

After taking a quarter to settle into her role as the coordinator for Western's intramurals and sport clubs, Kendra Jackson is changing how intramurals are run this year—while keeping future goals for the intramural program in mind.

Jackson began working at Western in July 2008 after transferring from Georgetown University in Washington D.C., where she was in charge of sport clubs and student activities.

This quarter, the intramural program is offering 5-on-5 basketball, volleyball, dodgeball and indoor soccer and hockey.

Jackson said she hopes to increase participation and make it easier to get involved with the intramural program.

"[Students] can play and have fun," Jackson said. "Some people don't know the sport and they just want to have fun and play."

Jackson said she has 60 employees in the intramural program, and together they oversee games and provide each match with scorekeepers and referees.

With 2,175 players that competed fall quarter, Jackson said she needs a strong staff to make sure the program operates correctly. Many of Jackson's hired officials and supervisors also play on intramural teams.

"We are way more organized with training," R.J. Lincoln, an intramural supervisor, said. "I never even knew who the coordinator was before."

Jackson is taking time to change how team sign-ups operate. A team captain can now sign up their team electronically on the Wade King Student Recreation Center Web site and pay \$50 at the Rec Center to have a registered team.

"We are trying to use existing university resources to keep costs low but make



photo by Katie Greene THE WESTERN FRONT

Western freshman Gina Guariz defends against Western senior Derek Veenstra in an intramural game between 'The B-ham Playas' and the 'Average Joes' Monday in the Rec Center.

it more convenient for the students," Jackson said.

With the help of the Western Washington University Intramurals Facebook group Jackson created, players looking for a team to play on are instantly connected with team captains. New members can join teams any time during the season.

If someone is a fan of the Facebook page they can receive automatic updates about the intramural sports they are interested in, she said. Besides monitoring Facebook, people can also attend games to see if players are needed.

"Strong internal communication is important—people want people to play," Jackson said.

Jackson also created quizzes for team captains to take on Blackboard to elimi-

nate the mandatory captain meetings.

"The captain meetings were someone reading the rules to a huge group—online is way better," Lincoln said.

Western senior Briana Martinez, a volleyball official, volleyball team captain and team member, stays busy by competing on three intramural volleyball teams, refereeing two days a week and teaching two volleyball classes for the physical education department. Martinez spends about 15 hours a week involved in volleyball-related activities.

"Volleyball is a giant community," she said. "People form teams just from meeting people."

Last year, Martinez experienced problems refereeing games because of a lack of scorekeepers. She said Jackson

now makes sure there are two referees and a scorekeeper at each game. The intramural program is becoming more organized, she said.

Jackson is also revamping officials training.

"I am creating a more hands-on approach to training my officials," Jackson said. "They were great last quarter, but I think they'll be better this quarter."

Jackson said she wants to eventually integrate leadership, wellness and health training into the intramural program. She said she wants her officials and team captains to be supported in their role.

Jackson said she heard about Western's wellness and prevention program before she came to campus and wants to expand the wellness program to the intramural program. She said she hopes to establish training sessions on nutrition, sexual health and first aid.

"Intramurals give the team something great to have in common besides alcohol and drugs," Jackson said.

Jackson said she wants everyone involved in intramurals to learn about proper nutrition and how alcohol affects them and their sport. By awarding teams points for participating in these programs, Jackson would be increasing competition between teams. Teams that receive the most training would be awarded points toward a prize, such as a T-shirt for each team member.

Western sophomore Brendan Pape has played intramurals each quarter since coming to Western. He participated in flag football in the fall, and this quarter captains a floor hockey team and plays on a volleyball team. Pape said he plays intramurals for fun and his teams are not worried if they win or lose.

"A lot of the same people from last quarter are playing," Jackson said. "People just really love to play."

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SidelineChat Q & A with a Western athlete

Compiled by Brooke Loisel

Name: Gabrielle "Gabby" Wade
Position: Forward
Height: 5'9"
Age: 20
Year: Junior
Hometown: Lacey, Washington
Major: General Studies

What are your superstitions?

I don't break mirrors. I also do the same routine before every game, and I always wear the same sports bra. Washed of course.

Who is your role model?

My parents. We've been through so much together. It is nice to know I'll always have their support.

What is your most memorable basketball moment?

Freshman year we were playing SPU [Seattle Pacific University]. We were down by one point, and in the last five seconds India Soo went coast to coast and we won the game by one point.

What are your personal goals for the season?

I'm going to try to get more rebounds that I got last year. I was ranked pretty high up in our league, so I want to beat that.

What are your team goals for the season?

I would like for us to win the GNAC [Great Northwest Athletic Conference], the regional championship and go to nationals. This is our year. I'm going to do everything I can to help my team.

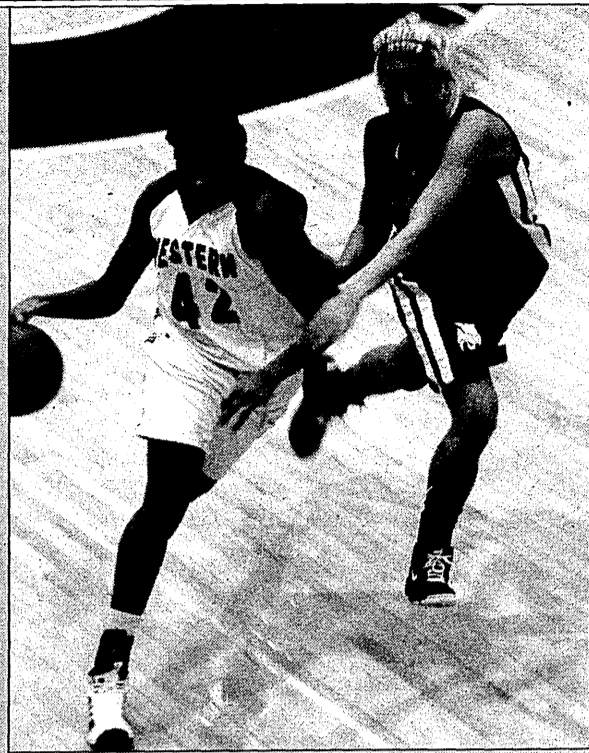


photo by Katie Greene THE WESTERN FRONT

MEN'S: team can move into first place with upcoming GNAC wins

from 10

said. "We shot the ball well and had five players in double figures."

Jackson said the GNAC is a tough conference and getting a win like this helps the team's confidence.

Western senior guard Steve Alford helped the Vikings take the early lead, scoring 10 points in the first 10 minutes.

He totaled 18 points, pulled down five rebounds and added four steals.

Western junior forward Michael Duty gave the Vikings 20 points and pulled down four rebounds.

"We are a better team this year," Alford said. "We played as a team, and we found each other for shots."

Alford said he was happy Western got to show Central how good they are this year.

Central beat Western last year by 20, and Alford said he was glad they returned to beat Central by 20 this year.

Duty said he likes the big rivalry games because the fans get more into it. The Vikings played in front of 2,320 people on Saturday.

"Everyone came out with a lot of focus," Duty said. "It was a good win. We went out there and battled for it."

The Vikings now have a chance to move into first place in the conference if they win their upcoming games

against Saint Martin's University and Northwest Nazarene, two GNAC match-ups.

Next game:



vs. Saint Martin's University
 5 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29
 in Carver Gym

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FACULTY OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD
 Nominations Due March 2, 2009

President Bruce Shepard has announced that the Faculty Outstanding Service Award, which includes a \$1,500 WWU Foundation fund, has again been made possible by the Western Washington University Foundation. The award is intended to recognize a faculty member who has made outstanding efforts to serve and enrich the intellectual vitality of the campus and the broader community. These service-focused contributions may include service to the university, service-learning programs, outreach programs to the local and broader community, and service to the profession.

The following criteria and policies are used for selection:

- No person shall receive this award more than once.
- Only winners will be announced. Candidates' names shall not be published at any time during or after the process.
- Tenure is not a requirement, but candidates must be full-time faculty members. Visiting faculty are not eligible.
- Nominees will be asked if they wish to be considered, and, if so, will be required to submit supporting materials to the evaluation committee. Nominees from the previous year may elect to remain under consideration for the subsequent year and resubmit supporting materials.
- This is a service award, not a teaching or research award. Submitted materials should relate to service.
- The evaluation committee may devise additional or alternative criteria and/or process upon announcement.
- The evaluation committee will evaluate all material and make a selection according to its best judgment.

Nominations are solicited from alumni, students, or faculty members by providing the following information.

FACULTY OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

FACULTY NOMINEE _____ Department _____

Nominator _____ Address _____

Signature of Nominator _____ Date _____

Letter of recommendation/evaluation may be attached. Nomination deadline: March 2, 2009

Nominations and letters of evaluation should be forwarded to Roger Gilman, Dean, Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies, MS 9118

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