

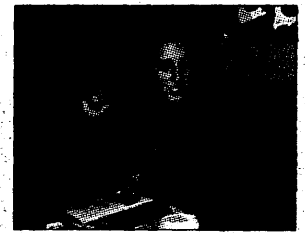


Fantastic voyage

Western student travels the world to reach the highest peak. See Story, Page 12.

Bellingham nights

Go on a pizza delivery, visit a porn shop and relax with coffee. See Story, Page 7.



FRIDAY, December 6, 2002

The Western Front

Western Washington University

Volume 123 Issue 20

Bellingham, Washington

Deficit might hinder next year's group of freshmen

BY GERALD CRAFT

Western might have to turn away a record number of applicants after enrollment reached 12,409 students this fall, the largest it has ever been. With the state facing a \$2-billion deficit, legislative funding has been unable to keep pace with the growing number of college applicants.

The state's Higher Education Coordinating Board asked the Legislature on Oct. 29 for \$1.1 billion in new funding at public colleges despite the deficit. The board wants the money to create more class space and retain faculty.

During the past decade, higher education has frequently lost budget battles to other programs, such as Medicaid and welfare.

"Western will continue to work diligently in Olympia to make the case that higher education is an investment in the future of our state," said Bob Edie, Western's vice president for external affairs.

Western Registrar Joe St. Hilaire said adequate state funding is essential to maintain and attract quality professors.

"We had a teacher move to the Midwest and double her salary," he said. "We just can't compete with that."

He said the legislature gives every state college a budget and a minimum number of students who must be accepted. Sixty-three percent of Western's 2003

See MONEY, Page 4

Winding down the eight days of Hanukkah

BY HEATHER TRIMM



Heather Trimm/ The Western Front

Bellingham resident Shirley Davis helps Naomi Schapiro, 4, and her brother Raphael, 2, learn to spin a dreidel. Davis said the dreidel has four sides with Hebrew letters that make the statement: A great miracle happened here. The trio was celebrating at a Hanukkah dinner at the Eytz Chaim Synagogue on Thursday night on Walnut Street.

As Bellingham residents are bombarded with the lights and sounds of Christmas, members of local synagogues are wrapping up their own celebration — Hanukkah.

"It's the celebration of the first great victory for religious freedom," Bellingham resident Susan Golden said.

Marta Brand, the president of Eytz Chaim Synagogue on Walnut Street, said Hanukkah usually takes place in the home.

Hanukkah is an eight-day religious celebration in which Jews light candles on a menorah, exchange gifts and spin dreidels.

Mike Golden, Susan's husband, said Hanukkah is not the most important holiday in the Jewish religion.

"Unfortunately, it's always been equated with Christmas," he said.

The holiday officially ends at sundown on Saturday.

Roommates' belongings taken after forgery arrest

BY KATIE JAMES

On the afternoon of Nov. 15, former Western student Rick Segreda came home to find members of the Bellingham Police Department loading his computer into the back of a squad car.

"My heart just leapt into my mouth," he said. "I was like, 'what the hell is this?'"

Police confiscated Segreda's personal belongings following the Nov. 15 arrest of his roommate Ricardo Bowman. Bowman was arrested on suspicion of printing and distributing counterfeit checks.

"As far as roommate horror stories go, mine is probably the worst," Segreda said.

The police department had a warrant to seize any computers, hard drives, printers, monitors and paperwork in the house that could be used for printing checks, BPD Detective Sgt. David Richards said.

"We don't have a crystal ball that tells us what equipment was and was not used to make the counterfeit checks," Richards said. "We had to confiscate everything."

Segreda said police took his computer and laptop, as well as some mail and financial

records.

"At first I was just in shock," he said. "I felt violated because I had a lot of personal information on the computer they took."

The police sent the confiscated equipment to Seattle where they made copies of all the hard drives to look for check-duplicating programs. Police assured Segreda that the copy would be returned after Bowman's trial.

"The police were pretty understanding about the whole thing," Segreda said. "I was able to get my computer back within three days."

Segreda considered taking action against the city because he felt that his Fourth Amendment rights had been violated. The amendment guarantees "the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures."

"The whole thing just felt way too intrusive to be legal," he said.

Western sociology professor James Inverarity said it is not unusual for innocent people's property to be seized during a search, and Segreda's Fourth See CONFISCATION, Page 4

El Niño forces cold weather south, leaving Cascades dry

BY PETER MALCOLM AND BRIANNE HOLTE

The usually creaking gears of the chair lifts at Mt. Baker are silent. The empty chairs are swaying in the breeze. No one is skiing because no snow has fallen.

El Niño and a high-pressure system are creating a slow start to the ski season, leaving local skiers and snowboarders waiting for the ski areas to open. Mt. Baker Ski Area and other regional ski areas remain closed, resulting in slow business for winter sports retailers.

Western geology professor Scott Babcock said the warm weather is a result of a combination of El Niño and a split jetstream. He said the cold weather is being forced south to California, causing record snowfall

in the Sierra Nevada mountain range and a snow deficiency in the Cascades.

Kelley Redmond, regional climatologist for the Western United States, said El Niño has caused fewer storms than usual to hit the Pacific Coast, resulting in what is known as a "dry winter." A dry winter in the Pacific Northwest is still what most others would consider a wet one, he said.

Redmond said the slow start will not necessarily doom the entire ski season.

"You cannot conclude that a slow start means it will end up that way," he said. "All it takes is one really good month, and things will turn right around."

Babcock said snow will probably start falling by the middle of next

week.

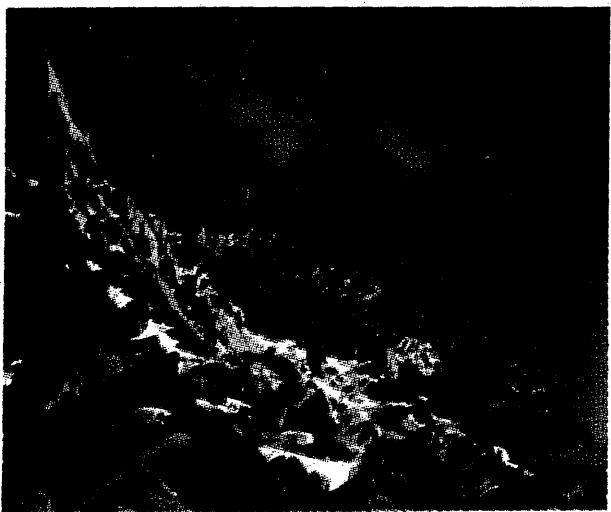
"When it rains here, it will snow in the mountains," he said.

Employees of the Mt. Baker Ski Area are eagerly awaiting snow, Mt. Baker spokesperson Gwyn Howat said.

"We're ready and anxious to go," Howat said. "Right now we're in a holding pattern — a hibernation."

The ski area typically opens during the last week of November. In the last five years, the ski area has never opened later than Nov. 28. Mt. Baker employees are not distressed, however, because late winters do not necessarily mean bad seasons, Howat said.

"Looking back, this is not a unique phenomenon," she said. "At least one in 10 years brings a late See BAKER, Page 4



Colin McDonald/ The Western Front

The North Cascades have accumulated only two inches of snow this year. At the same time last year, Mount Baker had 40 inches.

COPS BOX

University Police

Dec. 2, 1:01 p.m.: UP responded to several people walking onto campus with "I'm homeless" signs. UP was unable to locate the people.

Dec. 2, 6:30 a.m.: UP responded to the report of a fire alarm malfunction due to a generator power surge in Fairhaven Stack 3.

Dec. 2, 6:20 a.m.: UP responded to a report of a female screaming near campus. She had slipped but required no medical attention.

Dec. 1, 12:49 a.m.: UP detained four undocumented aliens after stopping them for a traffic violation. They were then transported to the Whatcom County Jail by Border Patrol.

Bellingham Police

Dec. 4, 9:46 p.m.: Officers responded to a liquor law violation in the 1300 block of Humboldt Street.

Dec. 3, 9:46 p.m.: Officers responded to a suicide threat. The person was taken into protective custody for an involuntary mental health evaluation.

Dec. 3, 7:40 p.m.: Officers responded to vehicle theft in the 500 block of West Holly Street.

Dec. 3, 7:42 a.m.: Officers responded to graffiti incident overnight in the 400 block of Academy Street.

Compiled by Jeanna Barrett

Viking Voices

Do you think differently about the Catholic church after allegations that priests' problems with drugs, alcohol and sexual abuse went unpunished?

*Compiled by Tim Ballard
Photos by Colin McDonald*



Elisabeth Hay
English, sophomore

'Despite the faults of some of the religious leaders, the religion itself shouldn't be questioned, but the people in the positions should.'



Amber Potter
Botany, senior

'That kind of thing goes on anyway. The fact that it was covered up is shocking.'



Beth Tereno
English, freshman

'You can say what you want as long as it doesn't infringe on other people's rights.'

Online Poll Results: 42.9 percent of voters said yes. 33.3 percent said no. 23.8 percent were undecided.

www.westernfrontonline.com

AP WIRE NEWS BRIEFS

STATE NEWS

Court approves random vehicle checks

Arrests stemming from random checks of vehicle and drivers' license data do not violate the state constitution's privacy protections, the Washington state Supreme Court ruled Thursday.

The 9-0 ruling upholds the arrests of three men after checks of their license plates prompted their arrests.

Woman pleads guilty to selling baby

Kent resident Virginia Ramsey, 28, pled innocent in King County Superior Court on Wednesday to a charge of selling her baby.

Prosecutors said Ramsey sold the 4-month-old boy two years ago for \$2,000.

Ramsey and her ex-boyfriend, the alleged arranger of the sale, said they thought it was a form

of adoption.

The ex-boyfriend and the woman who bought the baby also face charges.

NATIONAL NEWS

Storm ravages Eastern United States

Millions of people shivered without electric heat Thursday in the Carolinas as one of the worst ice storms in years snapped tree limbs, delayed air travel around the country and kept children home from school in a large part of the East.

At least 20 deaths have been blamed on the storm since it blew across the southern Plains earlier in the week.

Nearly a foot of snow fell in places from New Mexico to North Carolina.

Lobbyists favor 'soft money' campaign contributions

Opponents of a ban on "soft money" campaign contributions

argued Wednesday in Washington, D.C. that such contributions are necessary.

The campaign-finance law passed this year bans unlimited campaign contributions to national parties for use on non-candidate-specific activities.

Defenders of the law claim it prevents large campaign contributions from corrupting elections.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Spanish fishermen clean up cracked oil tanker

Nearly 5,000 fishermen in Spain are working to clean up an oil spill before it reaches Spain's northwest coast.

The hull of an oil tanker cracked Nov. 13, causing it to leak oil. It sank and broke apart six days later while being towed.

Spanish officials said they believe the ship leaked at least 17,000 tons of fuel oil.

The slicks have polluted more than 179 beaches and threaten a national park in Spain.

Iraqi official calls weapons inspectors 'spies'

Iraq's vice president claimed Wednesday that U.N. weapons inspectors are spies for the United States and Israel.

General Hossam Mohammad Amin, chief Iraqi liaison to the UN weapons inspectors teams, said the inspectors found nearly a dozen Iraqi artillery shells containing the liquid agent for mustard gas.

Taliban leader warns U.S. Army not to attack Iraq

Al-Jazeera television said it has received a one-page fax from Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar warning the U.S. Army not to attack Iraq.

The statement declares that the United States will face more hostility if it attacks Iraq.

Omar has been in hiding since fleeing Kandahar, Afghanistan last December.

*Compiled by Jeremy Edwards
AP Wire courtesy KUGS 89.3-FM*

The Western Front is going on vacation!

Look for it again Friday, Jan. 10, 2003

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.

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/4343, or brought in person to Commissary 111. DO NOT SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS DIRECTLY TO THE WESTERN FRONT. Phoned announcements will not be accepted. All announcements should be signed by originator.

PLEASE POST

ALERT TO ALL ENGLISH MAJORS. Beginning winter quarter, English majors cannot register for most upper-division English courses without having completed English 202 or 203 at Western with a C- or better or completing a 202/203 credit form, available from English advisers for those who have taken a comparable course at Western or elsewhere.

THE MATH PLACEMENT TEST (MPT) will be given in OM 120 at 3 p.m. Dec. 9 and at 9 a.m. Dec. 12 and each day at 9 a.m. Jan. 6-10. No registration required. Students must bring picture identification, student number, Social Security number, and No. 2 pencil. A \$15 fee is payable in exact amount at test time. Allow 90 minutes.

WEST-B TEST. Admission to state-approved educator preparation programs requires a minimum passing score on the basic skills assessment. Residency teaching certificate applicants who completed an educator preparation program outside Washington and have not passed the WEST-B may be granted additional time to meet this requirement. The first test date is Jan. 11. Registration is required at www.west.nesinc.com.

THE MILLER ANALOGIES TEST (MAT) will be given at 2 p.m. Jan. 14 in OM 120. Registration is required in OM 120 or by calling X/3080. Not administered on an individual basis. A \$42 fee is payable at test time. Registration is limited to 16 students. Allow 1 1/2 hours.

CLIMBING LEGEND JIM WHITAKER will present a slide show, "A Life on the Edge," at 7 p.m. Dec. 5 in AH 100. The show is sponsored by the Associated Students Outdoor Center. Cost is \$5 at the door, with advance tickets available at the PAC box office.

ACCOUNTING SERVICES, including Accounts Payable, Accounting Services, Contract Administration, Purchasing, and the Travel Desk — has moved to the Administrative Services Building on 32nd Street. Mail stops are now MS-1390 for Contract Administration and Purchasing, and MS-1420 for Accounts Payable and Accounting Services. Phone/fax numbers remain the same.

THE MILLER ANALOGIES TEST (MAT) will be given at 2 p.m. Dec. 3 in OM 120. Registration is required in OM 120 or by calling X/3080, and is limited to 16 students. A \$42 fee is payable at test time. Not administered on an individual basis. Test takes about 90 minutes.

STUDENTS WHO INTERRUPT STUDIES AT WESTERN, other than for a summer quarter, must apply for readmission by April 1 for summer continuing into fall quarter, and for fall quarter; by Oct. 15 for winter quarter; and by Jan. 15 for spring quarter. For applications, stop by OM 200 or call X/3440.

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

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINES are noon Wednesday for Friday editions and noon Friday for Tuesday editions. Special deadlines sometimes apply, and the Western Front doesn't publish following most holidays. Limit announcements to 50 words, and fax them to X/4343, send them to pubs@cc.wvu.edu clearly marked Official Announcement, or to MS-9117.

Few females occupy Congress seats

BY LYNSEY NYLIN

Part 2 of a 2-part series

Although the nation has more female politicians than ever before, women are still under-represented in the U.S. government, said Western senior LesLee Bickford, co-coordinator for the Associated Students Women's Center.

Only 13.9 percent of congressional representatives are female, even though 52 percent of the American population is female.

"Women are seen as nurturers instead of breadwinners in the public eye, which is why they are not welcomed into the political field," Bickford said.

Joan Grzenda, executive director for the Women's Rights Information Center in New Jersey, said voters are prejudiced against women.

"Traditionally, women stayed home to care for their family,"

Grzenda said.

Voters view female politicians with families as too busy to devote the time and effort needed to serve the country, she said.

Western junior Michael Swanson, president of the WWU College Republicans, said stereotypes about women should not affect their ability to be in politics.

"Men have families too," Swanson said. "When I vote, I do not look at gender. I look for the person most qualified for the position."

While men do have families, they do not address issues involving women, such as reproductive rights because they do not have experience regarding those issues, Grzenda said.

"Men in power seek to keep the power," she said. "By men having power, issues important to men are addressed, and issues important to women are dismissed."

Issues such as reproductive rights and breast cancer research funding need to be addressed and represented in politics, said Western senior Bethany Ryles, acting vice president of the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance, an Associated Students club.

"Giving women a voice is important because women represent the majority of the population," Ryles said.

Women also have limitations in the campaigning, Bickford said. Women have a substantial disadvantage because they do not typically earn as much money as men and do not have the money to finance campaigns, she said.

"Politics is slow to include women because of the prejudices of family life and limitations on campaign finance involved in the campaigning process," Bickford said.

Ticket amnesty period ends, collects more than \$240,000

BY MICHELE GIRARD

The Whatcom County District Court and Bellingham Municipal Court collected more than \$240,000 during an extended amnesty period for drivers with unpaid traffic and parking tickets.

Whatcom County courts extended the October program into November, which allowed drivers more time to pay their fines without the added expense of interest and collection fees. More than 100 courts in Washington participated in the October amnesty program.

In Whatcom County, the program removed approximately 1,000 accounts from court databases and allowed many drivers to regain their driver's licenses and insurance, said Linda Storck, Bellingham Municipal Court judicial services director.

"It was very successful," Storck said. "I wish even more people had used it."

A large number of people called at the end of October to express interest, so the program was extended until Nov. 27, she said.

"People called in the last week of the month and panicked," Storck said. "Some people weren't able to gather the total amount they had to pay by the end of the month."

District and municipal courts send unpaid tickets to North

Washington Collections agency in Bellingham.

The agency charges a collection fee, and the tickets gather interest until they are paid, Storck said. During the two-month amnesty period, drivers paid a maximum of \$20 in addition to each ticket.

"There are reasons people don't pay their tickets," said Mike Loyd, president of North Washington Collections, "but I think for those that needed a little motivation to pay, (the courts) accomplished that."

Storck said the municipal court mailed information about the amnesty program to the last known address for everyone with outstanding fines.

Unpaid tickets can tarnish drivers' credit records, and they can lose their licenses if they have outstanding tickets. The amnesty period also benefited the courts because they can process current cases without a backlog of parking violations, she said.

District Court administrator Bruce VanGlubt said the court cleared 287 suspended license citations.

The courts do not plan to offer the program again, Storck said.

"If you do this often, it encourages people to wait for one of these amnesty periods," she said. "We won't do it again for a considerable amount of time."

Viking Xpress pass sells in record numbers

BY MATT DELONG

Joining thousands of other Western students, Western junior Elizabeth DeBolt said she takes the bus to campus each day because parking costs are high, and the bus makes her commute quick and worry free.

"I don't have to remember change or anything," DeBolt said. "I just swipe the card and go."

Western's alternative transportation coordinator Carol

Berry said Western sold 5,620 Viking Xpress bus passes during fall quarter this year.

"That's an increase of about 700 passes from last year's totals," she said.

Berry said the increased sales are because of consumer confidence in the bus system, the desire to save money and the increased bus routes running through Western's campus.

Whatcom Transit Authority created a new route this year to

transport students from campus to Bill McDonald Parkway in the afternoon, said Rick Nicholson, Whatcom Transportation Authority transportation services specialist.

"The Civic Field route in particular is just busting at the seams," Nicholson said. "More cars can still fit at Civic Field, but if we have another year like we did this year, then we will be pushing the envelope as far as parking at Civic Field."

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PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED Some Material May Be Inappropriate for Children Under 13

areyouhot.com Touchstone Pictures

STARTS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13TH AT THEATRES EVERYWHERE

Money: Large number of applicants and a limited budget forces Western to reconsider fall enrollment

Continued from Page 1

operating budget comes from the state and the remaining 37 percent comes from tuition, according to Western's 2002-2003 institutional profile.

St. Hilaire said compared to other state colleges, Western has been underfunded for many years and receives approximately \$300 less per student than other state colleges.

With the state population growing, the legislature is steadily increasing pressure on colleges to enroll more students, but it has not awarded additional funds.

"To accommodate demand without diminishing quality, we have set the goal of increasing enrollment gradually to 12,500 full-time equivalent students by the period 2010-2012," Edie said.

Because the legislative session is closed, said he cannot speculate on what the final budget might look like or how Western will be affected, he said.

Western has been forced to cut costs in several ways, such as putting more than one faculty member in offices and moving non-academic offices off-campus where new structures can be built more quickly and without state interference, St. Hilaire

said. Cutting costs also resulted in hiring fewer faculty members, which leads to larger classes.

The shortage of space has been a problem for the last 25 years, and Western has always been more limited than other state colleges, St. Hilaire said.

"In 1978, we were scheduling 550 sections into 89 classrooms," he said. "Now we're scheduling 1,000 sections into only 104 classrooms."

Western must lobby the legislature for money to create new space, St. Hilaire said.

The state gave Western its largest budget ever when Gov. Gary Locke signed the 2001-2003 capital budget, which awarded Western \$57.1 million in state funds, Edie said.

He said the funding provides Western with \$32.5 million to construct a Communications building, \$11.7 million for campus infrastructure development and \$12.8 million for preservation and renovation projects. Edie said \$115,000 will be used to develop plans for a new Academic Instructional Center.

Constructing new buildings is a difficult and timely process, St. Hilaire said. Building a structure on campus requires funding, planning and construction, each taking two years.

"By the time (construction is complete) we have an additional 500 students," St. Hilaire said.

Despite receiving a record budget, Western is still unable to contend with the massive number of applicants.

The influx of students can be attributed to the Baby Boom Echo. According to the Office of Financial Management, 73,000 students should graduate from state high schools this next year.

The slumping economy and unfriendly job market has also caused an increase in higher education applicants, making colleges more selective, according to the Office of Financial Management.

"We purposefully cut down the number of our freshmen and transfer students this year," President Karen Morse said in a press release. "We are being selective because (of) the number of applicants that we have, and because we will not sacrifice quality for quantity."

Assistant director of admissions Michael Barr said administration considers grade point average and SAT scores when assessing applicants, and places a large emphasis on students who have challenged themselves in the past with difficult courses or classes geared toward their intended major.

"Realistically, we set the bar really high," Barr said. "We look at the quality of courses taken in high school to ensure students move through the system effectively."

'We purposefully cut down the number of our freshman and transfer students this year.'

Karen Morse
Western president

Baker: Experts say snow is coming

Continued from page 1

winter. Once we open, things really start rolling."

A similar weather pattern occurred in the 1997-1998 season, and the mountain bounced back with 120 inches of snowfall in December and 259 inches in January, Howat said. She said snow enthusiasts who have already bought season's passes to Mt. Baker need not worry.

Most people visit the mountain between December and March, and the ski area will open before the second week in December. Skiers and snowboarders will still be able to take advantage of more than 100 days of snow, she said.

Even so, many skiers and snowboarders are upset at the absence of snow.

"(The lack of snow) has put a damper on people's spirits," said Bram Role, Western senior and Outdoor

Center employee. "I'd like it to snow. It would make me and a lot of my friends happy."

Role bought a season's pass to Mt. Baker this year. He said he is not worried about losing money because of the lack of snow.

"At this point in the season, (the lack of snow) wouldn't have made a difference," he said. "I don't think you can put a monetary value on a powder day."

Not everyone is concerned about the season starting late.

Ariel Blanc, Western senior and Outdoor Center employee, said she is happy about the light snowfall this year.

"This is the first year since I was 11 that I didn't buy a season's pass," she said. "If there was a lot of snow, I'd go crazy because I have too much schoolwork."

Blanc said she will snowboard at Mt. Baker after snow has fallen and school is over.

In addition to a late start for skiers and snowboarders, local businesses are also feeling the crush of shattered expectations.

Thad Quinn, an employee at Fairhaven Bike & Mountain Sports, said ski and snow-

board rentals and demos, which are usually off the shelf by Thanksgiving, are sitting shiny and unused. Quinn said he is not worried about the weather and he is looking forward to the start of

the season.

"It's going to snow eventually, that is for sure," Quinn said, but it would be nice if it happened soon. We would definitely be doing better here and the boss would have a merrier Christmas."

Business motives aside, Quinn said he anticipates the opening of the mountains for a more personal reason.

"I'm just itching to get up to the mountain and shred," he said.

'We're ready and anxious to go. Right now we're in a holding pattern—a hibernation.'

Gwyn Howat
Mt. Baker spokesperson

Confiscation: Computer analyzed for forgery ring ties

Continued from Page 1

Amendment rights were not violated.

"The key word in the Fourth Amendment is 'unreasonable,'" he said. "It is reasonable for police to gather items of evidence the judge has approved

in the search warrant. It is just not practical for the police to determine ownership on the spot."

Segreda said he hopes his story serves as a cautionary tale to other students who do not know their roommates

well. "(Bowman) seemed OK, but you just can't be too careful," he said.

Richards said Bowman is still in custody and has been charged with additional counts of forgery since the arrest.

Happy Holidays from The Western Front

December 8 3:00 PM

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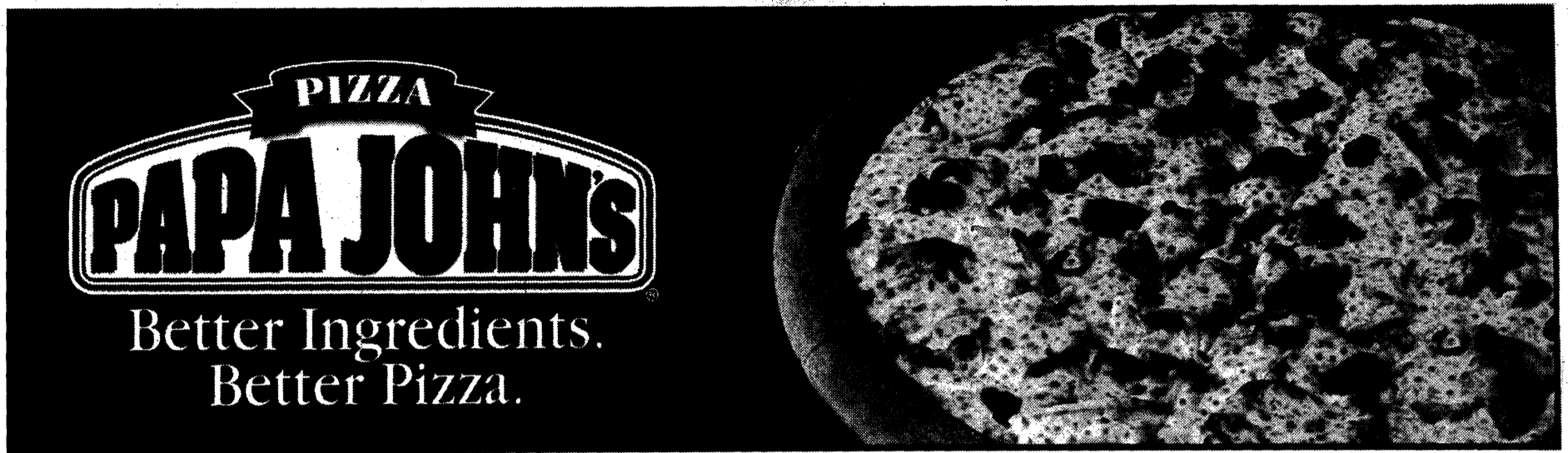
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Professor studies media coverage of campaigns

By JUSTIN BERRETH

While scanning the crowd at media events that U.S. Rep. Rick Larsen (D-Wash.) and his challenger, Republican candidate Norma Smith presented, Western political science professor Todd Donovan noticed a lack of reporters.

Donovan participated in a nationwide study on congressional race media coverage, funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts, a nonprofit research agency. The agency's goal is to determine what information voters retain from political campaigns and how the media covers the campaigns.

"In this district, there's a lot more advertising than press coverage," he said. "The only way these guys are going to get on TV is if they pay to go on or go to Baghdad."

Donovan plans to meet with other researchers in April to compile the information and prepare the study's results, he said.

Participants in the study watched local congressional elections. The researchers are trying to find out what information people receive from campaigns, the tone in which the information is presented and the media's treatment of the campaign.

Bellingham is in the 2nd District, which stretches from the Canadian border to Everett. The 2nd District was an important part of the research because it was one of only a few competitive races, Donovan said.

The Seattle television media's coverage of Washington state's

2nd District campaign was nonexistent, Donovan said.

Concerned with keeping viewers' attention by providing news that is interesting to the most viewers, the television media often neglect local congressional races, he said.

"The Seattle media encompass five congressional districts," Donovan said. "They're not going to cover five different stories. They make a lot more money by not covering elections than by covering them."

Charla Neuman, a spokeswoman for Larsen, said it is not economical for Seattle television stations to send reporters to Everett or farther north. The media prefer to stay within half an hour of the station, Neuman said.

"Essentially, what you have to do to get on TV is go to Seattle," Neuman said. "Usually we won't do it because Seattle is not part of our district."

Western Washington television station's coverage was irresponsible, Neuman said.

Scott LaPlante, news operations manager at KIRO television, said all candidates in the general election were given a 15-minute segment during an election special.

Because the races were not competitive and did not address many issues important to viewers, KIRO's coverage was minimal, LaPlante said.

"We do cover issues more than we cover candidates," he said, "and in this year's campaign, there was not a lot of news in those races so we didn't cover them."

AIDS event stresses awareness

By ERIC BERTO

Approximately five times the population of Washington is currently infected with AIDS in the sub-Saharan region of Africa.

UNAIDS, a U.N. program educating about HIV and AIDS, estimates the number of AIDS cases to be 29.4 million in the region, which includes 47 countries south of the Sahara desert.

Supporters and allies of HIV-positive and AIDS-infected people gathered Sunday throughout the world to mark the beginning of World AIDS Month.

"The focus this year is reducing the stigmas and discrimination surrounding AIDS," said Kerry Heaps, executive director of the Evergreen AIDS Foundation.

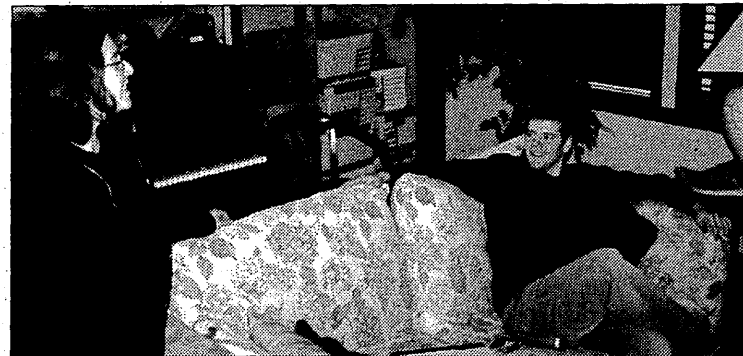
Western's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Transgender Alliance set up an informational table in Red Square on Monday. Most students were receptive, but some students were not concerned about AIDS, LGBTQA coordinator Emily Stansifer said.

"Some people told me, 'I don't need a ribbon; I'm aware of AIDS,'" she said. "A lot of people know it exists, but they have become really disillusioned about AIDS."

Throughout school, students are taught the dangers of AIDS, how it affects the body and how it can be transmitted, Stansifer said.

"It's not something that was a problem just in the '80s," she said. "It's still a big problem. Our age group is the fastest-growing population that is getting AIDS."

The LGBTQA also sponsored a presentation of "Simon and I," a



Eric Berto/ The Western Front

Sean Humphrey House volunteer coordinator Michael Little talks with caretaker Cassie Hernandez.

film about the gay and lesbian movement in South Africa.

Western freshman Kelsey Giese helped organize the screening. Events during the month will open community members' eyes to the reality of AIDS, she said.

"It really brings it home when you can see how many people (in the community) are affected by AIDS," Giese said. "People in Africa aren't the only ones who can get AIDS."

The foundation, which has served Whatcom, Skagit and Island counties for 15 years, offers a supportive atmosphere for people with AIDS, Heaps said.

Later this month, the foundation will have a fund-raising dinner, which will serve as a platform to inform community members of the perils of the disease, he said.

"The community in general isn't as accepting as we would like it to be," Heaps said.

The foundation estimates that between 200 and 250 people in Whatcom and Skagit counties have AIDS, Heaps said.

The Sean Humphrey House serves as a shelter for AIDS

patients who have no friends or family to support them, said Western graduate Michael Little, volunteer coordinator for the house.

The house offers services such as access to medicine and doctors and assistance with daily activities.

Since the house opened in 1996, it has served 52 residents, the majority of whom have re-entered the community, Little said.

"In order for people to be able to stay at the house, they must meet two criteria," Little said. "They must be HIV-positive and must need assistance with daily activities, such as bathing or cooking."

The house provides six of 75 beds in the state for AIDS treatment, Little said. Currently, only two beds are filled, and he expects two more to be filled next week.

One of the most important functions of World AIDS Month is getting the word out about the disease and its impact on society, Little said.

"This is a college town," Little said. "We should be able to get the word out easily."

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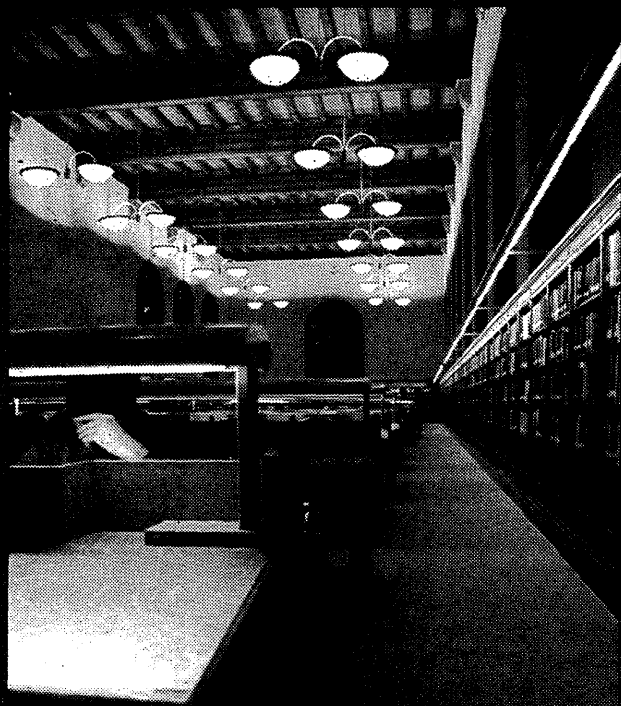
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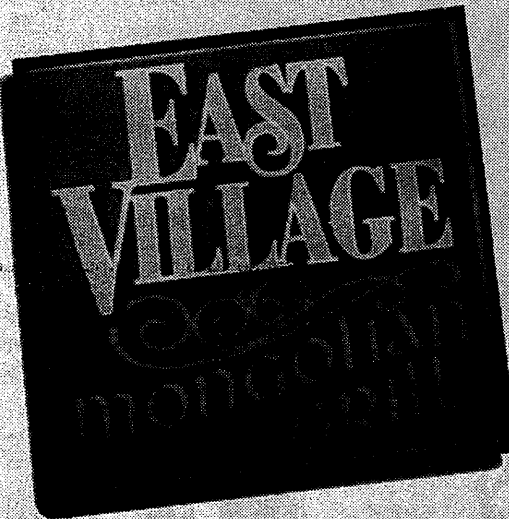
Just an Ordinary Friday

As the library empties and Western students run for the bus, another Friday night begins. To capture a typical night in Bellingham, eleven reporters and photographers scoured the town to find out how people kill time, have fun and socialize.

Friday, Nov. 22

Western junior Peter Martinson studies minutes before the library closes at 6 p.m. He says he will prepare for an accounting final all night. Caffeine really has no effect on me anymore, he says. The only thing to keep yourself awake for so long is the utter fear of failure.

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Just an Ordinary Friday



Derek Sheppard/The Western Front

Boulevard Park, 4:18 p.m.

The gentle, rippled waters of Bellingham Bay softly brush the shore. Only the thinnest sliver of an orange hue skirts the horizon's edge, breaking the overcast, slate-colored sky.

The chill evening air and threatening clouds do not keep Western senior Shannon Ross from her daily jog through the park.

"Any day it's not raining is a nice day to me," Ross says as she traverses a small path along the waterline.

Although an injury sidelined Ross from Western's cross country team last year, she makes the effort to go running to stay in shape because she wants to join the Western track team this spring. She also jogs through the serene park to relax.

"This is the time of day when I'm not distracted," Ross says. "I think about school, studying and other stuff."

Bellingham resident Rosemary Ryan is finishing her brisk walk as the sun creeps below the horizon. Ryan not only pencils an occasional stroll into her schedule, she also ditches other obligations for a break at Boulevard Park.

"I try to get down here at sunset," Ryan says. "I skipped out of work early today and left at 3:30 p.m. so I could make it here before sunset."

Ryan, who usually walks the paved loop twice around Boulevard Park, says she sees many of the same faces.

"I don't know them by name, but I say 'hi' to them," Ryan says. "I can't walk around here without seeing somebody I recognize."

— Paul Nicholas Carlson

Performing Arts Center, Western, 6:21 p.m.

Western senior Daphanie Nelson puts a giant martini glass and a giant tobacco pipe into a baby carriage. She pushes the carriage from one end of the stage to the other. Nelson, the propmaster for the play "Kind Ness," did not build the props, but she is responsible for them before, during and after the performance.

"I'm a pretty anal-retentive person, so to be in charge of every little detail works out perfect for me," Nelson says.

Nelson hopes nothing will go wrong during the performance. In one performance a blind character's cane broke in the middle of a scene, and the actors had to ignore the bright red shard on the floor for the rest of the play.

"That's the whole point of acting," Nelson says. "It's not supposed to faze you. You just pretend it's not there."

During the same performance, the "tobacco" fell out of the giant tobacco pipe, and an entire scene played out before an actor kicked it offstage.

After dropping off the baby carriage near the left side of the stage, Nelson sets out the rest of the props.

Tape marks out approximately 15 squares on a table. Each square is labeled with the name of a prop. The play is postmodern, so many of the items are painted white and seem deliberately banal.

Nelson methodically places a banana, a drinking glass, a flask, a lighter, a pack of gum, a letter, a clipboard, a rectangle of black cloth and other items into their corresponding squares. Her job is done until the play starts.

"The theme of theater is 'hurry up and wait,'" Nelson says.

— Mike Baab

Bus station, Fairhaven, 3:23 p.m.

Western freshman Kate Sandbo has already been waiting for 23 minutes at the Bellingham bus station for her 4:45 p.m. ride.

She has 82 minutes to go until her Kirkland-bound chariot arrives to escort her to her parents' home.

Sandbo's head whips over to the front entrance each time the door opens. People-watching has become her main source of entertainment.

An enormous duffel bag, a backpack, a water bottle and a purse, an imposing what-the-hell-kind-of-shit-can-she-possibly-have-in-there purse, clutter her bench and the floor near her feet. Sandbo is reluctant to admit that she over-packed, but the raw flesh pulsing from underneath her knuckles tells a different story.

"I was going to get out some books to read from my backpack, but they were packed too tightly," she says, shrugging her shoulders.

Sandbo decided to embark on her Thanksgiving break a full six days early. She has a perfectly valid reason for ducking out of a two-day week.

"I only have one class that week, and we're just doing group presentations," she says. "I don't need to be there."

Sandbo says the excursion is only her second trip home since she arrived at Western in late September. She has yet to experience homesickness.

"I was pretty impressed with myself," she says. "I expected to go home every weekend, but ... I have a sister who lives up here. Plus I have no real way of getting there on my own. It's like 18 bucks for a bus ticket, so I don't want to spend that every weekend."

During her break she plans to visit her friends who attend the University of Washington and spend time with her siblings.

"We're going to do a lot of bonding," she says.

Her entire fate rests upon the arrival of her knight in shining Greyhound.

At 3:44 p.m., Sandbo anxiously glances down at the watch on her left wrist. She still has another 61 minutes to wait. — Helen Hollister



Candace Ne

Video Extreme 9:50 p.m.

"Ding-a-ling. Ding-a-ling." A pornographic splendor. Phallic as they walk among shelves la

A synthesized vibe of '80s where Western juniors and Vid elbows and watch the men dis

Before leaving on his honey chores to complete while runn

Christy casually leans back and striped faces biting each

"That man doesn't know wh adhere the picture of a naked will not earn the "silver star,"

"I wish we had a new shipm pings into a garbage can. "The Her comment gains the atte

gle at the display of massage

"Ding-a-ling. Ding-a-ling." W bag down the counter in the g

away and continues a convers

Moments later, Steinhorst d customer left and lets out a sc

"Whatever that guy rented,"

— Peter Louras

The Waterfront 521 W. Holly

Two big-screen televisions b but none of the Waterfront Tay

Five electronic dartboards s

Instead, everyone is sittin

Riot, a generic '80s rock band,

Night cook Rich Smith, 32, s

"We don't get the college cro

Smith says fishermen and h

"It's like an old-folks home d

A few serial killers supposed

is the only reference to the su

about the sniper suspects' ties

Smith says publicity about t

the Hillside Strangler — who r

"People really dig it," Smith

Serial-killer buffs are not th

"Cops come in once or twice

Smith says the police showe

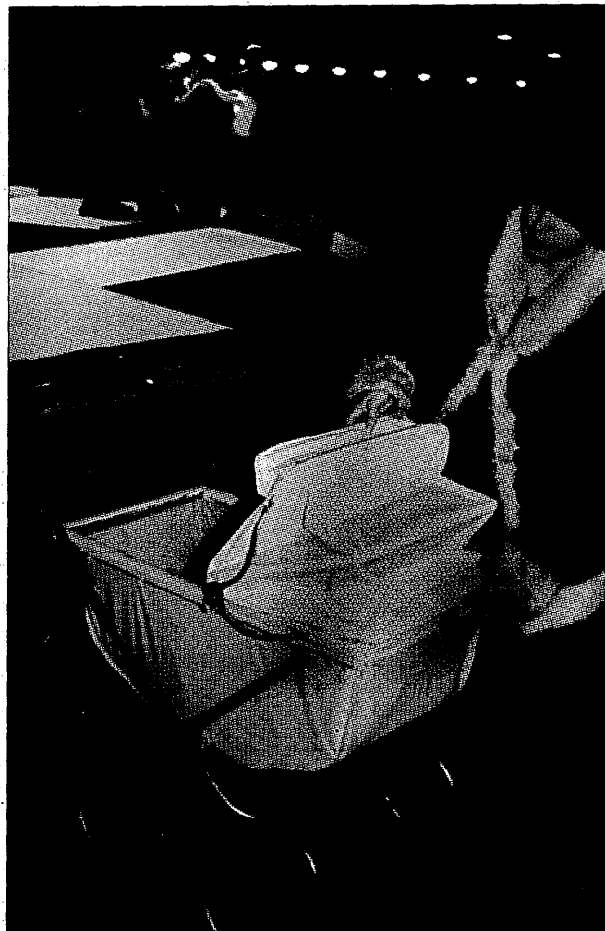
to break into his own car. Sm

"I think of this place as a so

Smith steps outside for a br

clean the kitchen. Smith sums

"They're good people," Smith



Peter Louras/The Western Front

Starbucks Coffee, Sehome Village, 8:11 p.m.

"We're not really getting our homework done," Western junior Lisa Kristin says, taking another sip of her gingerbread latté.

"Yeah, we're socializing," Western junior Rachel Bradford says.

The two say they often use homework as an excuse to go to Starbucks to catch up with each other.

The brief conversation stops as they lean back in their seats and turn their attention to their open textbooks. Kristin is studying for a Monday sociology test while Bradford reads for her communications class.

The two read quietly for several minutes, pausing occasionally for another sip of coffee.

Bradford looks over at her friend while taking a drink of her white chocolate latté and say "we're coffee addicts."

— Candace Nelson

Old Main paths, Western, 8:03 p.m.

They walk five abreast through the fog, shrugging their shoulders and laughing on their way to Carver Gym.

"(We are) gonna see the Viks play . . . Who? — the Trojans?" asks Western freshman Toby Phillis. The group, made up of Western freshman Jeff Handy, Phillis and three others, usually meets with friends to drink on Friday nights, Handy says.

"We party everywhere," Handy says. "By the lake, on High Street, on Lakeway."

With Carver Gym only a three-pointer's distance away, Handy suddenly stops in his tracks.

"What the hell is that shit?" he shouts, startled by the Western Shuttle suddenly breaking through the fog.

The group freezes as the Western Shuttle slows, swings around them and disappears back into the fog. "Party!" Handy yells to the driver as the shuttle rumbles by.

The men loiter at Carver's entrance while weighing their options.

"If we wait 15 minutes, 'til halftime is over, we can get in for free," Handy says.

They decide to roam around campus until the end of halftime because they need to save their money to buy beer. — Jeremy Edwards



/The Western Front

1012 W. Holly St.,

ss bell welcomes a small group of middle-age men into a world of elty items and lifelike latex limbs capture the curiosity of the men d with various fetishes.

enades customers near the neon glow of a butt-plug display case extreme employees Melissa Christy and Bree Steinhorst rest on their ar through a door labeled "Video Section."

n, the storeowner "John the Man" left the two employees a list of he shop on their own. At the moment, the young women are busy t to advertise the store's Web site.

her project to get a better view of a couple in leopard-skin costumes one of three small televisions behind her.

's doing," she says to Steinhorst, who is busy using a glue-stick to an on all fours to a piece of green paper. They agree that the video mp of shop approval.

f toys tonight," Steinhorst says while brushing loose magazine clip- could allot an hour for playtime."

from a young couple browsing a rack of "employee picks," who gig- ribrators with names like "Slender Sensations" and "Aqua Rocket."

another jingle from the entrance, a teenager slides a crumpled black direction and escapes before the door closes. Christy pushes the bag with a man about the wonders of a Pyrex dildo.

s to remove the returned DVD cases from the plastic bag the young before dashing for a towel in the back room.

yells while shaking her head, "he returned it covered in lube."

at Seafood and Bar, t., 11:35 p.m.

ast the latest showdown between the Los Angeles Lakers and the Chicago Bulls, s 20 patrons pay attention.

iting to be pierced, but nobody is playing darts either.

bar, conversing about general bar topics such as love, or lack thereof, while Quiet s in the background.

usiness at the bar is dead this week, but not because of a lack of Western students. t all," Smith says. "Maybe one person out of 100 who comes here goes to college."

ess people frequent the bar.

ere," Smith says. "A lot of drunken, loud people who got no place to go come here."

sited the bar as well. A newspaper clipping from October tacked to a bulletin board ed serial-killer connections. The clipping shows Phil Donahue interviewing locals Birmingham.

niper suspects and other serial killers such as Ted Bundy and Kenneth Bianchi — edly drank at the bar, helped business.

"People even come down from Canada and are all jacked about it."

y people interested in the bar.

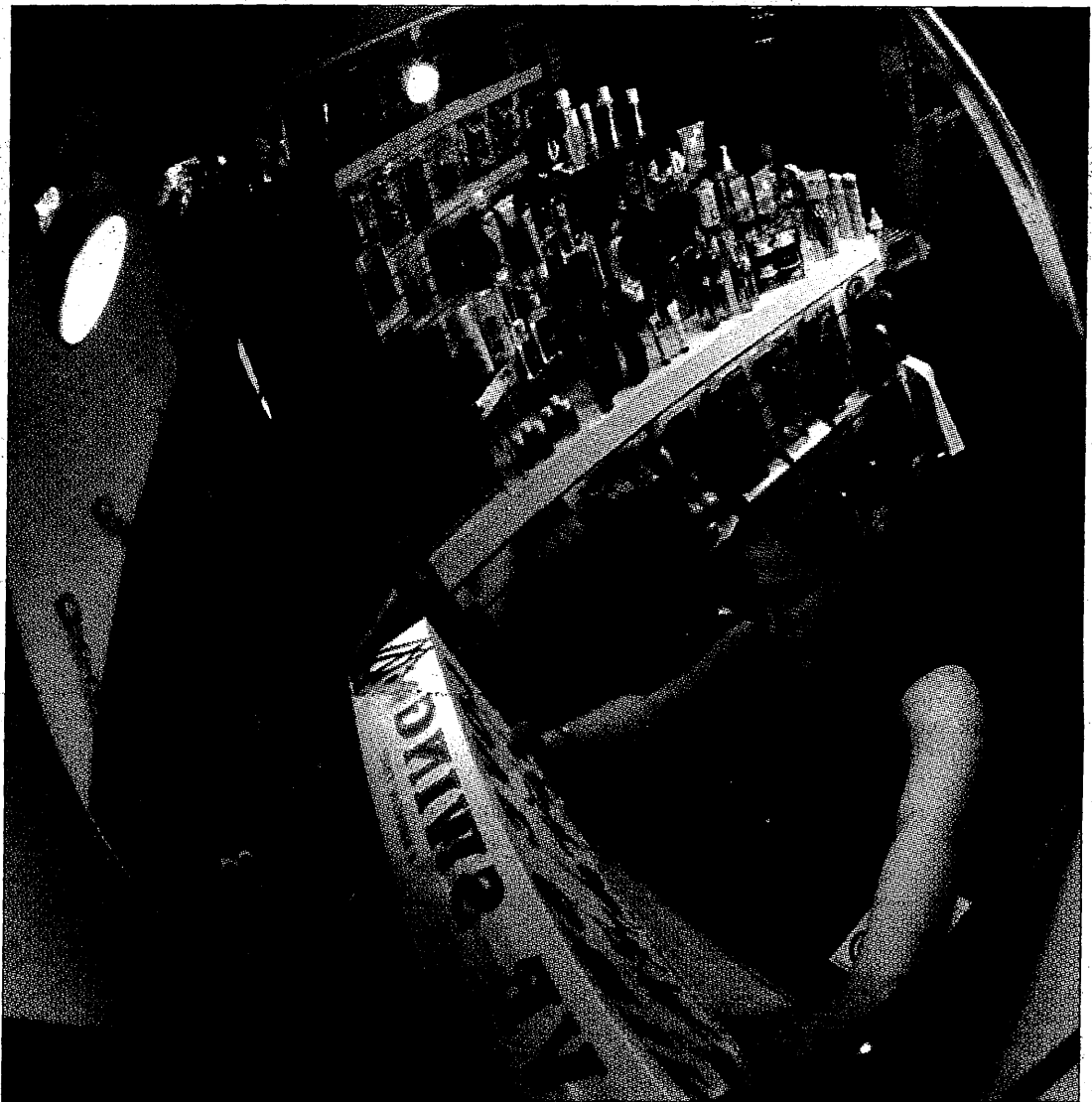
ek," Smith says.

this week after some kids threw beer bottles outside the bar, and a patron tried y he is used to such occurrence.

pera and a circus," Smith says. "I'm just an entertainer."

and smokes a cigarette. The bar closes at 2 a.m., but he will stay until 3 a.m. to he bar's patrons with a smoky exhale.

s. "They're cranky, old, bored and lonesome; that's all." — Brandon Ivey



Peter Louras/The Western Front

House party, 800 block of Indian St., 12:45 a.m.

A man urinates in the bushes while two "pimps" argue on the front porch of a house. A "pimps and hos" party happens to be next door to Todd EntriKin's 21st birthday party. Earlier, EntriKin visited the house, where many partygoers were scantily dressed and performing explicit dance moves.

"Everyone was bumping and grinding over there," EntriKin says. "I said 'we need some variety,' so my friends cleared off the dance floor, and I break danced."

He says his moves went over well with the "hos" in attendance. Back at his party, 20 people drink and mingle while a Beck CD plays in the background.

"Everybody I wanted to show up showed up," he says. "I'm just hanging out with my friends."

Hormones overwhelm some of EntriKin's male friends, and they decide to ask a female to show them her breasts. She says she will, for a fee.

With no more than \$6 collected, she gives in and pulls up her sweater. Most of the guys complain the flash was too quick, but she says it was supposed to be a present for the birthday boy's eyes only.

The partygoers' sexual energy escalates as a "firmest non-flexed ass" competition begins with participants standing in a circle. They take turns grabbing each other's bottoms, testing for flabbiness.

The party quiets for a moment as a police officer is spotted roaming the neighborhood. He stops at the bottom of the stairs and surprises the partygoers with a revelation.

"You think I'm looking for the party," the officer says. "I'm not. I'm looking for a guy."

As the policeman walks away in search of the suspect, the Red Hot Chili Pepper's "Blood Sugar Sex Magik" is turned up and people go back to talking and drinking.

A woman returns to the party and makes an offer to anybody who will listen.

"Do you want some beer?" she asks. "I got it from the neighbor's refrigerator."

— Brandon Ivey

Pizza Pipeline delivery, 1:16 a.m.

Three girls giggle and stumble in front of Western senior Greg Moench's white 1984 Honda Accord, blowing kisses, waving and mouthing, "call me." A smile spreads across his face before speeding off toward Pizza Pipeline to pick up another delivery.

"Somebody told me once that pizza delivery guys are women's number-two fantasy, right behind the postman," Moench says. "I didn't like hearing that we lost out to the postman."

In addition to receiving money, candy or beer for a tip, Moench says women often flash him.

He says one of his co-workers delivered a pizza to a woman wearing only a thong who performed a striptease for free pizza. Cheap thrills from ladies seem to be common in pizza delivery, but on Halloween, a scantily dressed man greeted Moench.

Moench was delivering an extra-large pizza and an order of Tricky Stix to Michigan Street. After arriving at the house, he noticed cars crammed along the curb and loud music drifting out from the house.

When the door opened, a woman's bare breasts greeted him, along with a cowboy wearing nothing but chaps and a G-string.

"I didn't want to stare at the woman like an idiot, and I didn't want to stare at the guy with his junk hanging out," he says. "I honestly spent the rest of the time at the door concentrating on trying not to look."

Moench says although the couple invited him in for drinks, he was relieved it was a busy night and that he didn't have to make excuses to exit the scene.

"I can brace myself for seeing a lot of stuff when I open the door at a party," he says, "but that just isn't one of those things I expect to see."

He says if he has the option, he still prefers seeing women's breasts for a tip. — *Jeanna Barrett*

Horseshoe Café, 113 E. Holly St., 2:32 a.m.

Every booth is crowded with customers; some are overflowing into the aisles, and the waitresses bump past them with trays of greasy fries held high. The Horseshoe Café — it's cheap, it's open all night and it's full of strange characters.

In the back of the downtown all-night diner, three people sit in a booth talking. Western senior Aaron Tapscott, one of the three in the booth, says he frequents the cafe a "disgustingly high" number of times — every day for the past two weeks.

"It has the best hot chocolate in town," Tapscott says. "I get two. I don't even have to order them anymore. They just bring them when I walk in the door."

The girl who sits across from him laughs at his obsession with the café. Krista Kelly, 18, says she runs into Tapscott at the diner often. Matt Fuller, 25, joins the group's conversation about the peculiar crowd at the Horseshoe.

Many eccentric people mingle among the artsy, musical and student customers at the Horseshoe. Kelly says she sees a lot of drunken homeless people and "crazy downtown kids."

"There's a guy who paints his face like the Insane Clown Posse clowns," she said. "He walks back and forth in front of the window with his head bobbing, rocking out and smoking a cigarette."

Meanwhile, Fuller is drawing in a spiral notebook. His comic strip, "Adventures of Squash and Chocolate Bar," is his task.

Fuller explains that he works on the comics when he is bored or for the simple reason that it is a random thing to do. Fuller has accumulated a collection of comics from customers at the café because he passes the book around and invites people to add their own comic strips.

"If you read it, you're going to have to write one," he says.

— *Jeanna Barrett*



Donica Hinman-Burnett / The Western Front

Cruisin Coffee, 800 Alabama St., 3:30 a.m.

Barista Phil Paull is the after-hours "bartender," except the Irish cream, B-52 and crème de menthe he slings gives drinkers a different kind of buzz — caffeine.

"There are always people who are pretty messed up coming from the bars," he says. "The hardest part is communication because they usually want me to play counselor and listen to what happened (during the night)."

He says police officers often encourage him to turn in drunk drivers, but he doesn't feel comfortable getting people in trouble, unless they are an obvious danger.

"I'm not in the business of turning people in who come through," he says. "If somebody is really messed up or on something I would probably call the police though."

His regulars include cab drivers, police officers and graveyard hospital workers.

"The people need their coffee fix," he says as he leans out the half-door, surveying the chilly night, anticipating his next regular so he can begin preparing the drink before it is ordered.

"Of course I would rather be out with my friends," he says.

When the occasional weirdo visits him, he just shrugs off whatever happens as part of the job.

"I had a car come through one night," he says, "and there was a luggage rack on top, and when I went to take their order, somebody popped out of it. I guess they were trying to freak me out or something." — *Eric Berto*

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This week in Viking sports

Men's basketball

Defeated Saint Martin's College 70-64, despite being down by 15 points in the second half. Senior center Mike Palm led the Vikings with 26 points and 14 rebounds.

Football

Sophomore punter Michael Koenen was named D2football.com West Region all-star. Koenen lead the NCAA II in punting with a 44.9 average.

Women's soccer

Junior sweeper Amy Bouska named second team coach's NCAA II West Region all-star.

Women's games postponed due to illness

BY MEGAN BURCHAM

The sign outside the athletics office in Carver Gym reads, "All ill athletes are to stay out of the office — feel better soon."

The No. 11 Western women's basketball team was forced to reschedule two games because more than half the team is suffering from a flu-like virus called gastroenteritis. The games against the University of Alaska Anchorage and the University of Alaska Fairbanks that were originally scheduled for Thursday and Saturday have been rescheduled for Monday, Feb. 10 and Tuesday, Feb. 11.

"We were in a team meeting on Sunday night when the first player became sick," head coach Carmen Dolfo said. "It just spread from there to the other players."

Senior Megan Quarterman said Dolfo's children were the first to contract the virus.

Dolfo said the illness usually lasts 24 to 48 hours.

Dolfo is not sick, but assistant coach Sara Nichols and the trainer experienced symptoms.

"It's like a really bad flu bug," Nichols said. "It knocked me out for a few days. I couldn't even move."

The symptoms appeared on Sunday, but she was able to come back to work Thursday, she said.

"We just came back from a tournament last weekend in Seattle, against Seattle Pacific University," Nichols said. "We were around each other all weekend, staying in the same hotel rooms together, so it spread to many players."

Quarterman said the team was watching basketball films

on Sunday night when she first started feeling sick. She said her symptoms included nausea and vomiting.

"We thought I would be the only one to get sick," Quarterman said. "But then it just kind of spread like wildfire through the team."

She said the team's doctor forced them to cancel practice on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The team had practice as usual on Thursday, but the players were all tired from being sick, Quarterman said.

"Everyone made it, but no one was full speed," Quarterman said.

She said she expects everyone

to be well by Dec. 14 for their home game against The Evergreen State College.

A game against Saint Martin's College was originally scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 13 at Western but it has been changed to Feb. 17 at Western.

Nichols said the illnesses and the schedule changes will make the season more difficult.

The game changes will require the team to play four games in three different states within a six-day period.

"Things are going to be tight, but we are a team of fighters," Nichols said. "We'll make the best out of the bad situation."

"We thought I would be the only one to get sick, but then it just kind of spread like wildfire through the team."

Megan Quarterman

Senior guard

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Reaching the peak of existence, halfway around the world

By COLIN McDONALD

Running office errands, delivering mail and building a Web page are typical tasks of an intern, but for Western senior Seth Hobby, the office was in Katmandu, Nepal, and the mail stop was base camp for Mount Everest.

"My passion is alpine climbing," Hobby said. "The ideal climb would be a long approach in the back country leading to some glacier travel, then onto a knife-edge rock ridge or an ice route. That's what I do."

Well known within the Western climbing community, Hobby tries to spend as much time as possible climbing. He and two friends recently went up the North Couloir of Eldorado Peak, a steep snow and ice route made of several short pitches of vertical ice and snow ramps of 60 to 70 degrees.

"The really great thing about Hobby is that he goes climbing a lot," said Tim Schultz, a local climber and store manager at Base Camp Inc. "That's not easy to do year-round, and he does it."

Hobby spent last spring quarter in Nepal teaching guides and trekking companies how they and their clientele could reduce impact on the environmentally sensitive alpine areas of the Himalayas. As a geography major in environmental resource management, the internship and project coordinated well with Hobby's schooling, but the real draw was the beauty of the mountains.

"The mountains there are just huge," Hobby said. "From the distance, you could look at them and see how to climb them, but when you got close, it was a whole different story."

Surrounded by the world's tallest peaks, Hobby was in a climber's paradise. At the Mount Everest Base Camp, he was able to work with a team of climbers from Korea, making a push for the summit. He was able to do some climbing on his own, making attempts on two 20,000-foot peaks.

The summits of Lobuje East and Imja Tse are one vertical mile higher than Mount Rainer, adding lack of oxygen and strong winds as new elements for Hobby's climbing list.

"It was the perfect climb," Hobby said, "glacier travel, then a knife ridge. It was a totally new experience. Everything on that trip was."

The mountains have always fascinated Hobby. He grew up staring at Mount Rainer and going hiking whenever he could. But it was not until 1998, when he

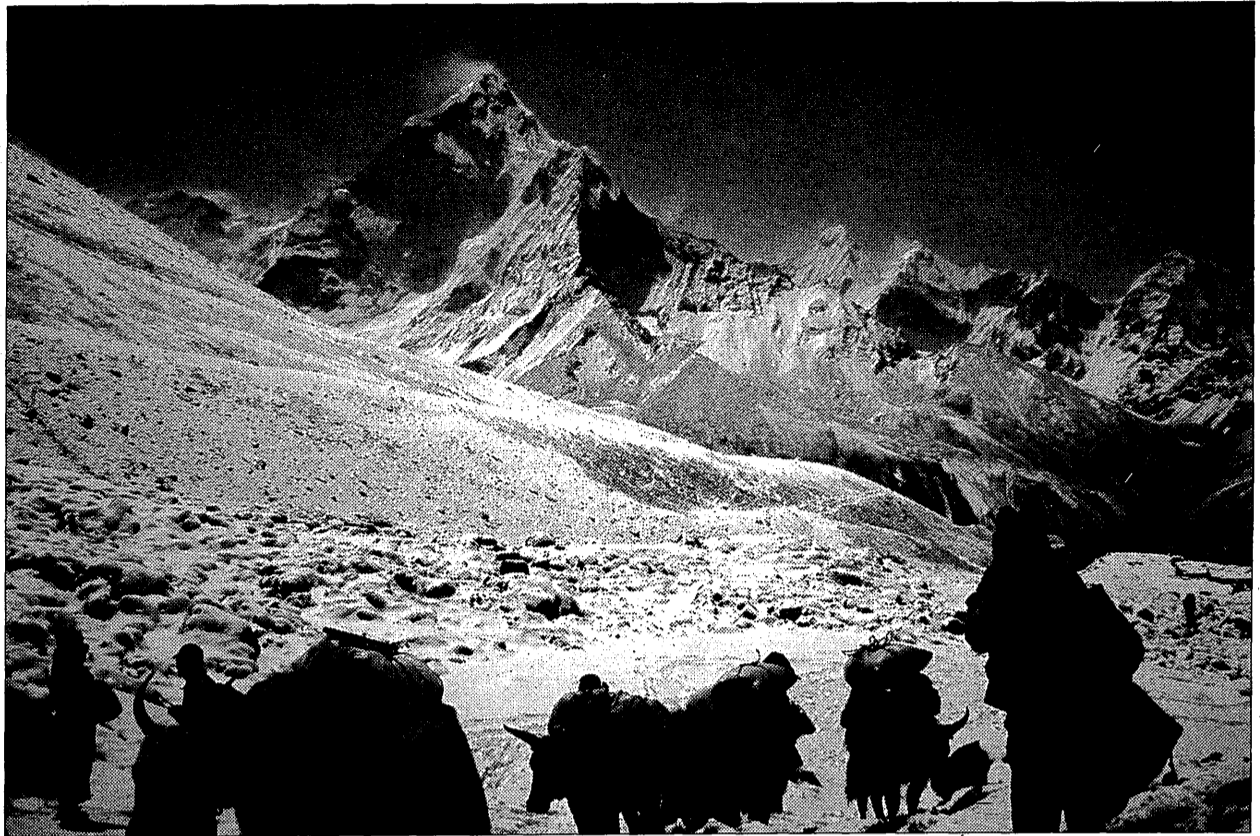


Photo courtesy of Seth Hobby

On his trek to Mount Everest, pictured in the background, Seth Hobby would often see yak trains moving gear and supplies for the growing tourism industry of Nepal. As part of his internship, Hobby taught guide services how to reduce impact on the high mountain areas.

went on a backpacking trip through Alaska with the National Outdoor Leadership School that Hobby began to obtain the skills necessary to climb.

"I learned pretty fast," Hobby said. "I had some great teachers."

After the Alaska trip, Hobby got a job with the American Alpine Institute packing rations for Alaska climbing trips. The next summer he was working in the gear shop and tagging along with the guides on their climbs in the Cascades. He later became a guide himself.

"I had the advantage of learning things right the first time," Hobby said. "I never had to overcome (bad) habits."

Coley Gentzel, who works at the American Alpine

Institute, is one of Hobby's greatest regular climbing partners.

"The coolest part about Hobby is that he climbs everything," Gentzel said. "Most climbers specialize in just one aspect of climbing, but Hobby does everything from alpine rock to glaciers."

After the climb on Eldorado Peak, Hobby was able to clear his mind and get ready for finals when he returned to Western.

"It was one of those climbs where falling was not an option," Hobby said. "Without doing the climb, I don't think I could have made it through the week."

After graduating winter quarter, Hobby plans on going to Alaska for spring climbing.

"I got summit fever," Hobby said. "I can't wait."

HE SAYS
it's no sweat running the latest software.

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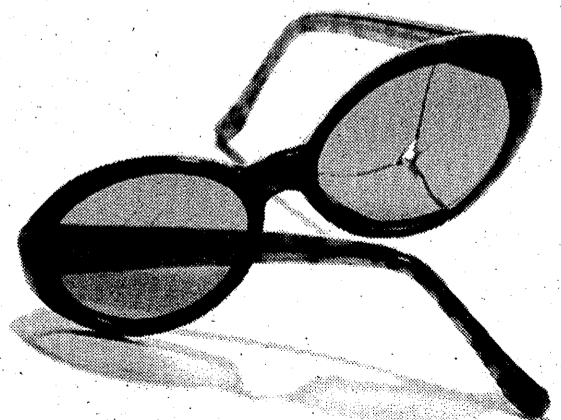


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Frontline

Now is not the time to reorganize college structure

Once again, Western administration is confronted with the decision regarding whether to divide the College of Arts and Sciences into two separate colleges.

The faculty senate voted to recommend the current proposal that would split the College of Arts and Sciences into a College of Humanities and Social Sciences and a College of Sciences and Technology.

Western President Karen Morse is scheduled to present a recommendation to the board of directors Dec. 13. Whether she will support or oppose the proposal is still unknown. Morse should employ her common sense and oppose.

Re-arranging the university structure on paper is a waste of money. The new proposal would only shuffle a couple of job titles and course categories.

Provost Andrew Bodman said the split of colleges would cost \$375,000 per year, \$280,000 of which would go toward the salary of the new dean. The remaining \$79,000 will provide benefits for the new head honchos.

The costs are disproportionate to the benefits the split would provide. No compelling reason exists to justify the immense expenditure.

One of the reasons the administration cited to rationalize restructuring is that Western could receive more grant funds if the arts and sciences were separated.

Administrators have no data to back up their claim. If the issue is a lack of funding for departments at Western, then the issue should be dealt with directly.

A college should not be drastically overhauled in hope that it will goad more private donors and organizations into giving grant money to the new colleges.

The restructure might even hurt some grant proposals. Some departments, such as sociology and psychology, partly fit the definition of arts and partly fit the definition of science. If either was defined strictly as an art or science, some organizations might become more reluctant to donate money.

Now is not the time to restructure. If Western administrators had to increase student tuition by 14 percent this fall just to make ends meet, then they have no right to invest hundreds of thousands of dollars into what amounts to little more than shuffling paperwork. The school should focus on more important things.

None of the proponents of the restructure have demonstrated how it will help students. For the expense it will impose on the students and school alike, it will not make paperwork, classes or advising any simpler for students.

Morse must not approve the futility that is the restructuring proposal. Spending any more time, and possibly truckloads of money, on the restructuring proposal is a gross waste of resources.

Frontlines are the opinion of The Western Front editorial board: Candace Nelson, Andrea Jasinek, Paul Nicholas Carlson, Michael Baab, Brianna Holte, Derek Sheppard, Lisa Mandt and Ailey Kato.

The Western Front

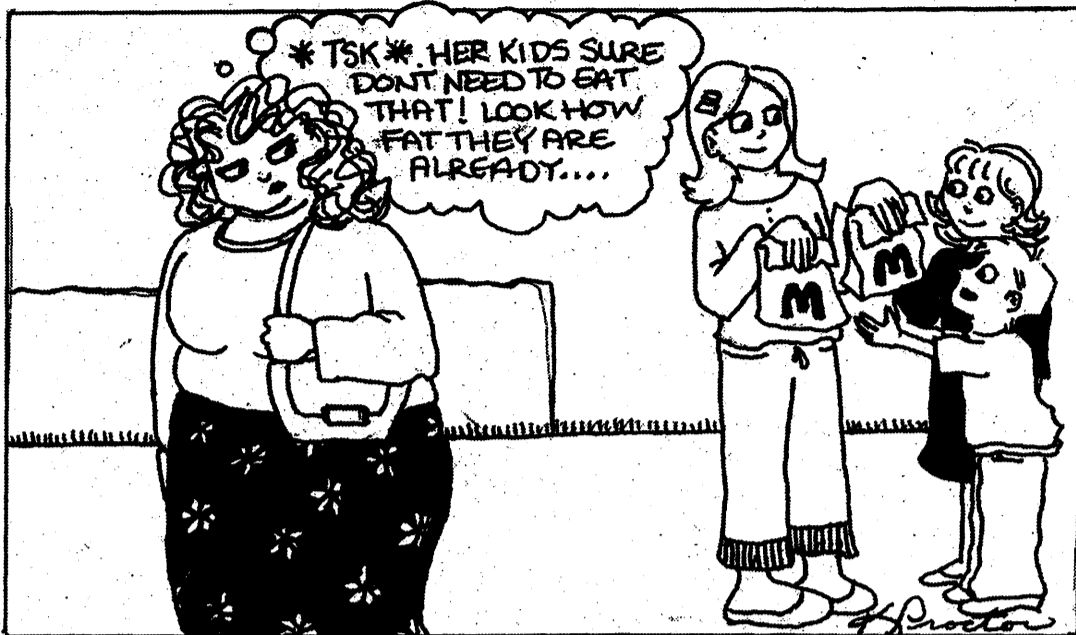
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And we quote:

"It's better to have a gun and not need it than to need a gun and not have it."

- Clarence to his friend Dick in the film "True Romance"



Blame parents, not fast food, for fat children



Kathy Dasovich

COMMENTARY

Courts should not hold fast-food restaurants accountable when children become obese. Parents need to take responsibility for their children instead of blaming their negligence on a fast-food chain.

Parents in New York are suing fast-food chains for contributing to their children's obesity. McDonald's is asking the courts to dismiss the suit, claiming the company is not liable for children's weight problems.

The lawsuit should be dismissed as a petty attempt to pass the buck.

McDonald's doesn't force anyone to eat Big Macs and Chicken McNuggets. Customers should be prepared to accept the cottage-cheese thighs that result from eating deep-fried fat.

A Big Mac, medium french fries and a medium Coke stuffs

a person with 1,250 calories and 56 grams of fat, according to McDonald's nutrition facts sheet. A child-sized, four-piece order of Chicken McNuggets satisfies a kid's tummy with 210 calories and 13 grams of fat, which amounts to 20 percent of their daily value of fat, based on a 2,000-calorie diet.

Parents should be aware of their children's health before it becomes a problem. Instead of trying to remedy obesity, they must prevent it by feeding their kids well-balanced meals.

Fast food is not the only quick meal available — macaroni and cheese is as quick to prepare as ordering at a drive-thru. One serving of Kraft Macaroni and Cheese contains 259 calories and 2.6 grams of fat, according to Kraft. The only items on the McDonald's menu that have less fat are the Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad and an 8-ounce cup of 1 percent milk, both of which have 2.5 grams of fat.

If parents are worried about their children's health, they should not buy them Happy Meals, no matter what Treasure

Planet toy comes with it.

The parents suing McDonald's claim they were not aware of how unhealthy the food is because they never saw the nutritional facts poster on the wall.

Asking the worker behind the counter is all it takes for the curious consumer to determine the nutrition facts about McDonald's food. A handout of complete ingredients and nutrition tables of all standard menu items is given to any customer who requests one.

Customers simply have to add the nutritional sheet to their order the next time they stuff their children with greasy fries.

The availability of nutritional information places the responsibility of knowing the food's content with customers.

Parents pay for their children's cheeseburgers, fries and Triple Thick Shakes. They cannot blame McDonald's for the fattening effects of eating there too often.

If someone super sizes an order of grease and lard, that person should expect their waist to be Super Sized as well.

Final thoughts from the departing columnist



Brandon Ivey

ALWAYS FRESH

Finally.

I finally saw Karen Morse in person. For those who don't know, and many don't, Morse is the president of Western.

I first wrote about her being a hologram three months ago because nobody sees her in person. I can confirm that she is alive and well, though I did not see her on campus.

I rang up her groceries at a local grocery store. I thought it was her but was not certain.

As I handed her a receipt, I mustered up the courage to ask if she was indeed the phantom president. She verified my suspicion and asked why I cared.

We had a short discussion about my status as a student struggling to graduate before the ivy grows back on Old Main, and she wished me luck.

Finally.

It was only a matter of time before our cousins to the east got into trouble.

The Associated Press reported that Eastern Washington

University Associated Students President Dan Clark was arrested on suspicion of committing a drive-by shooting while under the influence.

The shooting happened after Clark had at least three physical confrontations during a party Nov. 27. Clark is no longer the student body president.

Obviously Clark is innocent until proven guilty, but the story made my jaw drop, raise and drop again with laughter. Drunk driving is one thing. Shooting a gun while driving is something else. But the combination of those is mind boggling.

Finally, unfortunately.

The Pedal Project, a local bike shop and music venue, played host to its final show because the landlord said so. That is weak.

The Pedal Project was a place where anybody could show up and put on a show. Popularity was not the point. Oftentimes fewer than 10 people would attend its shows.

Venues such as the Pedal Project are vital because they promoted creativity, not bland mainstream monotony. Also, rational people don't have to ask why "Jenny from the block" sells millions of albums.

In an effort to be pro-active, I implore the landlord of the

Pedal Project's to allow musicians to play there. I hope numerous other venues open in the city so creative people can in an affordable way share their art with others.

Finally.

I finally get to be Jesus. This might surprise those who think I'm anti-religious after reading about my visit to The INN. But the play is not about religion, so you might be right.

The play, "War Hawks," is student-written and will be performed at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 6 and Nov. 7 at Western's Underground Theater. I will perform free bar mitzvahs after the show.

Finally.

This is my last column. Some other hapless soul will take the columnist position next quarter.

With that in mind, my final words will be a poem:

Always Fresh by Brandon Ivey

*Thanks for reading my column.
I hope you laughed once or twice and learned about Miami Vice.*

Sure, I've received death threats but I digress my words are always-fresh.

Anti-sodomy laws infringe on the rights of all Americans



Justin Berreth

COMMENTARY

The U.S. Supreme Court will consider a case this month that could repeal anti-sodomy laws that are still effective in 13 states. Anti-sodomy laws violate not just the rights of homosexuals, but heterosexuals as well. The government should not make laws that limit its citizens to penetrating only government-designated orifices.

The laws were created as a way to outlaw homosexuality in a time when the culture found it to be immoral.

The laws were upheld as recently as 1986, when the Supreme Court voted 5-4 in favor of banning homosexual activity.

In most anti-sodomy statutes, sodomy is defined as "abnormal or deviant sexual activity." In most states, this means anal and oral sex are illegal.

Clearly the American populous today is open to homosexuality. Fighting to increase the rights of homosexuals by passing non-discrimination laws, equal protection laws and legalizing gay marriage in some states prove this.

The laws governing the United States should reflect the morals of its society. America is becoming more accepting of homosexual lifestyles, and laws should be rewritten accordingly. This is the task before the Supreme Court.

The anti-sodomy laws in Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas only apply to same-sex sodomy. In these states it is legal for a man to sodomize a woman but not another man.

This is simply not fair. Americans should feel free to consensually sodomize

anyone they want, regardless of sex.

Morality aside, the government should not waste valuable time or resources on stopping people from consensually sodomizing each other.

Homosexual couples are clearly not violating anyone else's rights. They are just as aware of the risks of anal sex as heterosexual couples who engage in the same activity. One is not worse than the other; both activities carry the same risk.

The laws put the government in charge of regulating which orifices should be filled by whom and what.

The government is essentially trying to create a hierarchy of holes, prioritizing which are moral to fill and which are not.

The court's job is not to enforce morality, especially when it involves policing the nooks and crevices of the human body. Even Americans who oppose homosexual lifestyles will agree that the government should not regulate citizens' sex lives.

Ruth E. Harlow, of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, said 600,000 same-sex households exist in the United States today.

These laws are unfair, not often enforced and failed as deterrents.

In Louisiana, it is illegal to perform or receive oral sex. It's not realistic to believe that all upstanding heterosexual couples of Louisiana have ceased this activity.

Asking homosexuals to obey a law heterosexuals are not expected to obey is wrong. In order to be fair to all its citizens, a country's laws must apply to all of its citizens.

The government should stay out of the orifices of its citizenry. Anti-sodomy laws are discriminatory and unconstitutional.

The U.S. Supreme Court should make consensual sodomy legal for all Americans, regardless of race, religion or sexual preference.

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