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Tuesday, October 14, 2008

# THE WESTERN FRONT

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

## Controversial fast-food venue sparks discussion

Allison Milton  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Several campus groups are coming together to provide an open-panel discussion on the controversial new campus eatery, Chick-Fil-A.

The Research and Outreach Programs and the Associated Student Productions Civil Controversy will host the discussion "Serving up Controversy: The Politics of Chick-Fil-A at Western" at 7 p.m., Oct. 16, in the Viking Union room 565.

The panel will address student concerns and the process of bringing Chick-Fil-A to Western's campus.

Some students object to Chick-Fil-A because the founder of the company was part of a group called Focus on the Family.

The Colorado-based group is a conservative Christian organization which has certain anti-gay and potentially sexist beliefs, said Shanti Zunes-Wolfe, assistant coordinator of the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Alliance.

The discussion is meant to be an unbiased open panel and community dialogue where students, faculty and staff can share their opinions and find out more about the new Chick-Fil-A, which opened this quarter in the VU Market, said Devin Majkut, coordinator of the Social Issues Resource Center and discussion panel moderator.

"We wanted to provide an open forum for people to discuss [Chick-Fil-A], so they didn't feel their voices were not being heard," Majkut said.

The intention and goal of the discussion is to have people talk about how they feel about the franchise's presence on

see **CHICK-FIL-A** page 3

## WTA sees record ridership

Lack of funds maxes out buses, no relief in sight for students



photo by Michael Leese THE WESTERN FRONT

Students pack in tight on a WTA bus heading to campus Oct. 13. The buses are often overcrowded due to recently-increased ridership.

Stephanie Sarff  
THE WESTERN FRONT

In 2007, a \$25 mandatory bus pass fee was added to the tuition of all students taking six or more credits per quarter, but Western senior Alex McDaniel said the

overcrowded buses makes him not want to pay the fee.

"I swear, I always end up standing next to someone that smells," McDaniel said. "It stresses me out."

Compared to the first six months of 2007, WTA ridership is up 20 percent,

said Rick Nicholson, service development director for WTA.

"I've been at the WTA for 20 years," Nicholson said. "But I've never seen anything like this."

see **TRANSIT** page 4

## New lights brighten old campus buildings

Kwihwa Lee  
THE WESTERN FRONT

A campus-wide project by Western's electrical personnel could mean one less headache for students and teachers.

Western's Electrical Services are removing the old linear fluorescent lights and magnetic ballasts, which control the electrical current, and are replacing them with the newest energy efficient ballasts and lights.

Some people experienced headaches and eyestrain due to the flickering of the

old lights, said Scott Stilts, supervisor of electrical services.

Unlike the previous lights and ballasts, the replacements have no strobing and do not cause headaches, he said.

The crew of Western's electrical services started replacing lights in Arntzen Hall Aug. 12, and have already replaced the old lights and ballasts in Old Main, Bond Hall, the Fine Arts building, Parks Hall and Environmental Studies building.

Next, they plan to replace ballasts and lights in the Ross Engineering Technology building.

He said by replacing the lights, lu-

mens, a measurement of the light's power, are increased from 2,350 to 2,800, which makes the surroundings brighter.

Some professors have even asked that not all the units be installed due to the intensity of the light.

"There is a very definite change in any room you enter," Stilts said.

The replacement lights will increase light output by more than one third and increase the longevity of the lights by nearly three months, Stilts said.

The increased longevity will save maintenance and replacement costs, he said.

Installing new lights and ballasts are part of Western's energy saving program with Puget Sound Energy, its electrical provider.

Rebekah Anderson, Puget Sound Energy's media contact, said demand for electricity is growing in the Bellingham area because of population growth and new construction.

In order to accommodate all of the energy demands, saving energy is vital, she said.

The electrical crew is also replacing

see **LIGHTS** page 3

## Cops Box

### Bellingham Police

Oct. 11

• Officers responded to a report of a male swinging a two-by-four at people while making threatening comments on the 1500 block of North State Street.

Oct. 12

• A Western student reported someone entered her apartment through the bathroom window and stole her bike while she was not home.

• Four people were arrested on Meridian Street on suspicion of violating state liquor laws.

### University Police

Oct. 11

• A 55-year-old woman was arrested on suspicion of driving with a suspended license on the corner of Indian Street and Maple Street.

Oct. 12

• Officers investigated a man on suspicion of engaging in a domestic dispute in his ex-girlfriend's residence hall.

Cops Box and News Briefs compiled by Kaylin Bellingier



photo by Graig Hill THE WESTERN FRONT

Western football fans cheer on the Vikings at the Battle in Seattle Saturday at Qwest Field. The Vikings lost 50-28 to Central Washington University.

## Students, neighbors talk it out

The Campus Community Coalition will host three nights of "Let's Talk" discussions.

"Let's Talk" discussions are designed to bridge the gap between students and their neighbors by bringing both groups together to work toward finding solutions for community-based issues.

The topics will include "Living together in Bellingham: Students and Parties;" "Enforcement Practices" and "Neighborly Relations."

The talks will take place Oct. 22, 27 and 29 in the Sehome, Happy Valley and York neighborhoods.

All sessions are free to attend.

## Steam whistle to be tested again

Western will conduct a campus-wide test of its emergency steam whistle 1 p.m. Oct. 19.

In the event of a real emergency, the whistle will sound to alert Western students, faculty and staff.

In addition, Western also plans to send out e-mails and text messages to inform students, faculty and staff with details of the situation and a suggested course of action.

Western asks students to update their information on Web4U if they haven't done so already.

The whistle could blow intermittently until 5 p.m.

## October is Western Archives Month

Western's Archive Month is dedicated to promoting a better understanding of historical records and how to use and preserve them.

Displays will include historic images from many collections housed across campus.

An open house will be held Oct. 25 in the Goltz-Murray Building during Western's Fall Family Weekend.

The open house will include behind-the-scenes tours, displays of unique historical records, and opportunities to conduct research. Participants may discover how archival records can document and connect one's family history to campus.

## Coast Guard band to perform

Western's Department of Music will present a free concert featuring the United States Coast Guard Band 7 p.m. Nov. 23 in the Performing Arts Center concert hall.

The band will perform a program titled "An American Journey." The program will include musical selections by numerous American composers.

Alto saxophonist Joshua Thomas will perform Piet Swert's "Dance of Uzume." Soprano Lisa Williamson will also perform. The concert will serve as a prelude to a series of performances in the greater Tokyo Metropolitan Area.

## Flu shots

Flu vaccinations for Western students, faculty, staff and family members aged 13 and older will be available at the Student Health Center beginning Oct. 20.

Students with chronic diseases such as diabetes or asthma, or those taking immune-suppressing medications are strongly encouraged to come in for flu shots any time the Health Center is open.

For others, vaccinations will be available from noon to 4 p.m. Oct. 21 and 23 and 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Oct. 28 and 30.

Patients must check in with a receptionist to schedule a flu shot. Vaccinations are \$18 and will be billed directly to students' accounts.

## Corrections

An article that appeared in the Oct. 10 issue of The Western Front mistakenly described Dindo Pangilinan's involvement in an attempted sexual assault case. Pangilinan is a suspect in the case and has yet to be charged. The Western Front apologizes for this and any other errors. Errors should be reported to the managing editor at managing@westernfrontonline.net

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
COMMUNICATIONS BUILDING 251  
BELLINGHAM, WA 98225

SEND PRESS RELEASES TO: [press@westernfrontonline.net](mailto:press@westernfrontonline.net)

### EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT (360) 650-3162

Editor in chief.....Gabrielle Nomura, editor@westernfrontonline.net  
Managing editor.....Jeff Richards, managing@westernfrontonline.net  
News editor.....Zack Hale, newsfront@gmail.com  
News editor.....Amanda Winters, newsfront@gmail.com  
Arts editor.....Kaleb Gubernick, artsandlife@westernfrontonline.net  
Life editor.....James Andrews, artsandlife@westernfrontonline.net  
Sports editor.....Katie Greene, sports@westernfrontonline.net  
Opinion editor.....Lisa Hust, opinion@westernfrontonline.net  
Photo editor.....Graig Hill, photo@westernfrontonline.net  
Online editor.....Paul Suarez, online@westernfrontonline.net  
Copy editor.....Rebecca Rayner, copy@westernfrontonline.net  
Copy editor.....Audrey Dubois-Boutet, copy@westernfrontonline.net  
Faculty Adviser.....Carolyn Nielsen, carolyn.nielsen@westernfrontonline.net

### ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT (360) 650-3161

Advertising manager.....Michele Anderson  
Business manager.....Alethea Macomber

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# LIGHTS: Longevity, energy efficiency increased with replacements

from 1

the plastic prismatic acrylic lenses—a special kind of thermoforming plastic—over the fixtures discolored from age.

The importance of replacing lights and ballasts is not only for saving energy, but also because the replaced T12 linear fluorescent lights will be discontinued Jan. 1, 2009, Stilts said.

The lights used for this change are more environmentally friendly and con-

tain less mercury, he said.

Along with this replacement program, Western's personnel are closely working with the Environmental Health and Safety office at Western to recycle the ballasts and lights and make sure it is all done properly, he said.

Replaced lights go to EcoLights, which is part of the company Total Reclaim.

EcoLights then takes the electronic waste and recycles the materials, said

Gayle Shipley, director of environmental health and safety at Western.

EcoLights accepts all types of lights and ballasts, including straight fluorescent lights.

Recycled fluorescent lights can be used for glass products or as cement aggregate, according to Total Reclaim environmental service's Web site.

Western's electric personnel work from 6 a.m. until the area is unavailable, Stilts said.

They are concerned with safety and don't want to be in the way of students, so they work around scheduled classes, he said.

Although the schedule for replacement is tentative due to the limited number of maintenance electricians and their obligation to their other work on campus, the lamp replacement in Arntzen Hall and the Ross Engineering Technology building will be done by no later than the end of February 2009, he said.

# CHICK-FIL-A: Multi-faceted panel set to speak on eatery's politics

from 1

campus, she said.

Also, the panel will provide students with an appropriate outlet in speaking about the controversy, said Research and Outreach Programs Director Casey Hall.

"Whether or not you agree with Chick-Fil-A and the things they stand for, you should at least know where your money is going," said Johanna Brown, creator of the Facebook group "Boycott Western's Chick-Fil-A."

Students have raised other concerns about the franchise being on campus.

Students at the Environmental Center are concerned about having a large company serving meat at Western because of the school's support for local food businesses, Zunes-Wolfe said.

"We want people to make informed

decisions about their eating choices," she said.

Chick-Fil-A has already brought in big business to the VU Market, said Ira Simon, director of University Dining Services.

"Chick-Fil-A is doing very well and exceeding our expectations," he said.

There is already a 50 percent increase from last year's profits for the VU Market, he said.

"I don't expect every student to use [Chick-Fil-A]," he said. "That's why we're trying to create different destinations on campus to offer students other choices."

The panel will include Willy Hart, director of University Residences and chair of the Executive Dining Committee, Erik Lowe, Associated Students president, Amber Aldrich, concerned student of the

LGBT community, Ronna Biggs, chair of the LGBT Concerns Committee and coordinator of ResLife, Seth Vidana from the office of sustainability and Brendan Lind, student coordinator of Students for Sustainable Food.

Majkut said the main focus of the panel discussion is on the open question and answer session at the end.

Audience members will have the opportunity to share their opinions and have their questions answered, he said.

An ad for Chick-Fil-A (right) is up in the VU next to the new fast-food chain location. Profits have increased 50 percent for the VU Market after it opened this fall, but some students refuse to support the business due to its affiliation with the religious organization Focus on the Family.

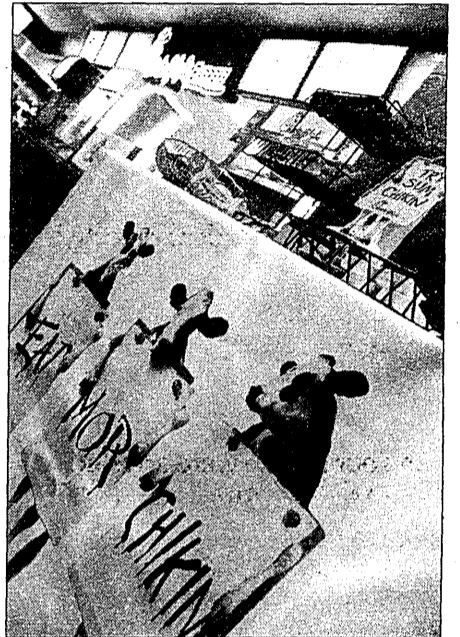


photo by Michael Leese THE WESTERN FRONT

# TRANSIT: Overcrowding inevitable, additional routes not likely

from 1

Western sophomore and AS Alternative Transportation Coordinator for Western, AJ Garcia, said the WTA is the fastest growing transit system in the country.

Before fall 2007, student bus passes were not incorporated into tuition.

As of Oct. 8, 2008 approximately 11,500 bus passes were distributed to Western students alone, Garcia said.

With the economy suffering and ridership at the highest it has ever been, Nicholson said WTA buses are in extreme demand but funding is not available for more routes at this time.

Seventy percent of WTA's budget coming from local sales tax and with the poor economic state right now, Garcia said the WTA's funding is dwindling.

Many students and community members are trying to save money by riding the bus to and from school, WTA spokesperson Maureen McCarthy said.

Gas and parking on campus is expensive, so buses are being bombarded, she said.

Along with saving money, the bus helps students get around town without using their own car and shortens walks in the rain, Nicholson said.

Garcia said although some students would rather not pay the fee, it was a decision made by the student body and will stand until the 2011-12 school year.

Western does not make a profit from the bus pass fee, and the fees paid by students represent only 3 percent of WTA's entire budget, he said.

Nicholson said WTA is trying to meet



Students get on a bus outside the Viking Union Oct. 13.

photo by Michael Leese THE WESTERN FRONT

the needs of students and keep costs low by providing headers, which are buses that come more frequently during peak times, instead of starting completely new routes.

Although WTA wishes it could promise a seat to everyone, Nicholson said standing on the bus for a short ride to campus is not unreasonable.

"Overcrowding is inevitable right now," Nicholson said. "WTA is maxed out."

Nicholson advises students to be patient and wait for the next bus if a full bus passes them.


He said many students get to the bus stop too late to catch the first available

bus, and are often frustrated if they are unable to board. He encourages students to contact WTA with criticism.


Garcia said WTA is doing the best it can to get students to class on time and is trying to avoid leaving anyone behind.

"Students don't like being packed in," Garcia said. "It's still a huge issue."

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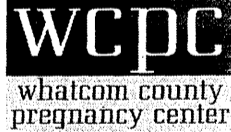


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# New position rewards faculty with better pay, more job security

**Andrea Davis-Gonzalez**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western anthropology instructor Kathleen Saunders has been working at Western for the past eight years. As a limited-term faculty member, she has renewed her contract annually.

A new "senior instructor" position now available to limited-term faculty could provide them with more job security and would make it easier for them to plan how and what to teach students, Saunders said.

Senior instructors are eligible for a contract that can last up to three years, while non-tenure contracts vary between a quarter to a year.

"The position takes away instability and insecurity that comes with not knowing if you're going to have a job from year to year," Saunders said.

The senior instructor position was created as a result of Western's first-ever faculty contract created by the faculty and administration bargaining teams.

Section 8.2.2 of the contract, which was ratified in June, creates the new status. Limited-term faculty can earn a 7 percent salary increase when advancing to senior instructor.

To be eligible, limited-term faculty must have worked half-time or more for at least five consecutive years at Western and have "demonstrated excellence in teaching and performance of responsibilities," according to the faculty contract.

Individual departments, college deans and the provost can approve the applications. Each department and college should

currently be creating the criteria for senior instructor, said Bill Lyne, president of the United Faculty of Western Washington. Because individual colleges and departments must develop their own unique criteria, it is difficult to determine who is currently qualified for the position, Saunders said.

The colleges' requirements for senior instructor will be broader than the departments' requirements because they have to include all of their departments.

The colleges' criteria should parallel the standards in the faculty contract, Lyne said. Eligible instructors may apply this winter and spring and if approved, can begin their new position next fall.

"[A good candidate should show] substantial achievement, interact well with students and effectively communicate information," said Joann Otto, biology department chair and professor.

Saunders has been working at Western for more than five years at half-time or more and said she would apply for senior instructor if she met the all the criteria.

Last spring, approximately 67 limited-term faculty would have been eligible for the rank, said Buff Schoenfeld, administration bargaining team member and executive assistant to the president.

Ron Riggins, dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts, said the new status is a way to keep quality limited-term faculty at Western.

"Many part-time faculty are among our most effective teachers," Riggins said. "You want to do as much as you can to support them and give them greater stability."

Western has three types of faculty: tenured, tenure track and limited term. Tenure-track faculty have titles such as associate professor, assistant professor and professor. Limited-term faculty are considered lecturers and instructors.

Tenured and tenure-track faculty are paid to teach, do service work, conduct research within their field and write and publish articles based on that research. Limited-term faculty are paid to teach only. They typically carry higher course loads because they don't have as many responsibilities as tenured faculty, Schoenfeld said.

Before the faculty contract was rati-

fied, tenured faculty were eligible for a 9 percent salary increase when promoted, while limited-term faculty had little room to progress, said Kevin Leonard, faculty bargaining team chief steward and history professor.

The new contract allows tenured faculty to receive a 10 percent salary increase with their promotion and non-tenured faculty to advance to senior instructor.

The senior instructor position is like an award for non-tenured faculty for their successful performance, Leonard said.

"[The position] is a way to recognize their long-term service to the university," Lyne said.

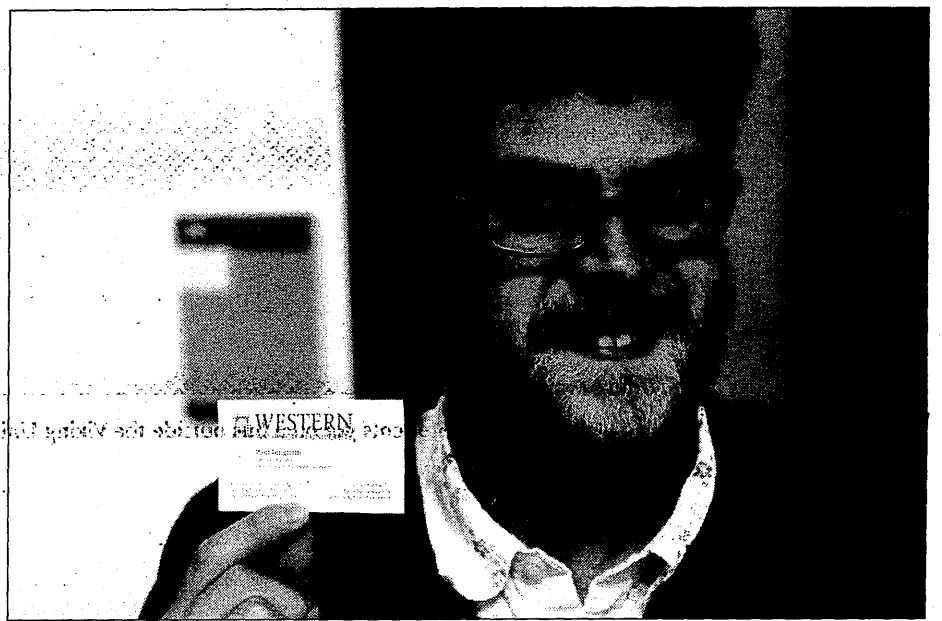


photo by Graig Hill THE WESTERN FRONT

Paul Bingham poses with his Western business card Oct. 7. The title on his card reads Adjunct Faculty, Department of Communication. Bingham has been teaching at Western for three years and is unsure what his official title is now, he said.

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# New powder

## Student prices for Mt. Baker passes ascend financial p



photo by Graig Hill THE WESTERN FRONT

Skiers and snowboarders ride Chair Three at Mt. Baker Ski Area last season.

**Kaylin Bettinger**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

This ski season, Western students waiting to get to the nearest mountain may soon encounter a problem: a student pass at Mt. Baker will drop their bank account \$605.

With the rising price of gas making the hour and a half drive more expensive than ever before, Western junior Kati Schmidt said it's difficult to make a season pass worth the money.

Schmidt started the Mt. Baker group on Facebook to help coordinate carpools and keep lines of communication open for anyone who plays in the snow at Mt. Baker.

"I bought a pass last year and it was \$585 total and it was so expensive and I almost missed my rent payment," Schmidt said. "It was worth it for the powder days but I still think it's too much."

In comparison with other areas in Washington and Canada, Baker has high rates for season passes. Baker competes with Whistler, which sells college passes for \$439 plus tax and Stevens Pass, which sells college passes for \$299 plus tax.

With these prices, students could be paying twice as much to ski at Mt. Baker than Stevens Pass.

Western alumnus Pat Bateman, who also started a Facebook group called Baker Snowboarders Unite!, said with the discount other areas give to college students, it should be cheaper to ski at other mountains.

With additional costs such as gas, however, Baker's price is more comparable, but he said the price should still be lower.

"I think it's interesting because in the last couple years Whistler has tried aggressively to promote to Western students," Bateman said. "The pass is so cheap but the cost of gas and the exchange rate makes it prohibitive. Baker has a kind of monopoly on Bellingham."

Even with the high price tag, Mt. Baker Ski Area representative Amy Trowbridge said the ski area has good reasons for not giving students a larger break on their passes.

Trowbridge said because Baker isn't a resort type area, the owners don't have income from lodging, restaurants or bars to keep the area running.

"Baker has but we have and bars and no bridge said. "What other resort board. It's not a We try to keep everyone."

For many said about Baker isn't in cor ingham style. S to stay that way

"I like Baker Schmidt said. "rate everyone is Bellingham is s porting town."

Trowbridge geared towards

"We defini people' in from are trying to ke people because brige said. "We off of people fr People are from land counties an large city incom

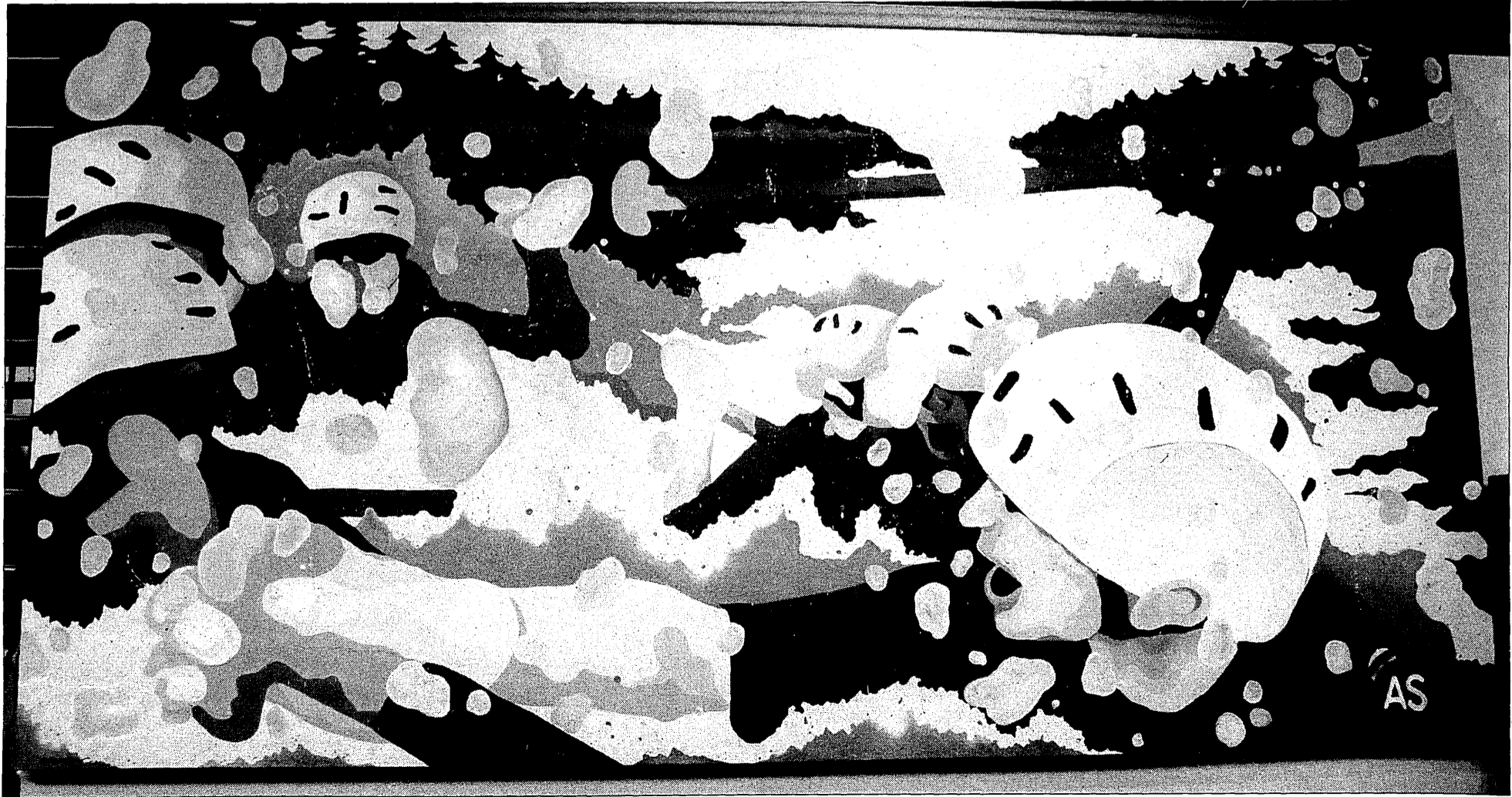


photo by Michael Leese THE WESTERN FRONT

A contest-winning, 8-by-10 foot acrylic painting by Western junior Ashley McDaniels hangs above the front desk in the WWU Outdoor Center.



# er, new prices

## er ski eaks

two food service areas, pretty limited restaurants to accommodate," Trowbridge can't really afford to do what other areas do. It's across the board a lot of smoke and mirrors. Everything is affordable for

students, what Trowbridge says is true. The mountain is corporate hands. True to Bell-schmidt said she wanted it

not being corporate," I think if they went corporate would be so upset because such a local-business-sup-

agreed that Baker is the Bellingham local.

are not trying to draw in North Carolina and we keep it affordable for local people that is our base," Trowbridge aren't making our money by coming in from other areas. Skagit, Whatcom and Is-land that income base isn't a



photo by Graig Hill THE WESTERN FRONT

Western seniors Jake Bankson and Sakeus Bankson pose with their 2008-09 Mt. Baker season passes Oct. 13 at the Mt. Baker business office.

# Painting the outdoor spirit

Danielle Perry  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Among the racks of snowboarding magazines and dismantled bicycles in the WWU Outdoor Center, bright colors and splashing water stand out.

Above the front desk hangs a large painting of a group of whitewater rafters, happily basking in the thrill of the untamed waters and the joy of the great outdoors.

The painting, an 8-by-10 foot acrylic scene of people whitewater rafting, was created by Western junior Ashley McDaniels as the winning submission of the Outdoor Center's art contest last year.

The contest was originally conceived by Harrison Holtz-Knott, an employee who interned with the staff last year, Outdoor Center manager Frederick Collins said.

"Harrison thought that we should ask people to send in drawing ideas for a possible mural for the Outdoor Center. You know, something to brighten up the atmosphere," Collins said. "After we received around 15 submissions, we put together a group of about 10 coordinating staff to decide what piece we liked best, and hands down, Ashley's was the winner from day one."

Among the staff selecting McDaniels' piece was Arielle Furtado, the current supervisor of the Outdoor Center, which is located in Viking Union room 150. From the moment she saw it, she knew McDaniels' design was the one they should choose, she said.

"What I really liked about Ashley's piece was the way she captured the energy of the scene," Furtado said. "The movement of the water, the portrayal of the people. The whole thing was great."

The specific guidelines for the art contest were simple: create a scene which takes place in the outdoors and includes people having fun and enjoying nature, Collins said.

Although she's an art studio and design major and made mural commissions on the side, McDaniels said she hadn't heard anything about the art contest until it was mentioned to her last year by a friend.

"My friend Tim Barnaby showed me an art contest flyer he had found on campus and said that he thought I should enter," McDaniels said. "At the same time, my roommate was urging me to submit something, so I thought 'why not?' and ended up doing a mock-up."

Collins said after McDaniels' artwork

was selected, the two of them sat down to discuss what minor changes could be made to improve the final concept for the piece.

Among these revisions were changes to some skin tones to present a more racially-diverse scene, along with making the genders of the people rafting more visually apparent.

The biggest change, however, was the decision to change the idea of a mural into a canvas painting that could be moved anywhere; McDaniels said.

"Although I was excited about winning the contest, I was a little intimidated by the project," McDaniels said. "Painting smoothly on a wall is really hard with acrylics, especially if the scene is high on the wall. Luckily, we decided to change to a portable canvas, so that took a lot of the pressure off."

Although she had to construct the canvas twice due to a sizing error, McDaniels said she was able to work on the painting diligently throughout the summer. Her favorite part of the piece was the splashing water, which she portrayed by looking up reference photos online and throwing paint at the canvas, she said.

While the grand unveiling of the whitewater-rapid painting at the Outdoor

Center was last week, fans of McDaniels will be happy to know this isn't the last they'll see of her work, Collins said.

"We're planning on adding to Ashley's painting so there are three individual parts," Collins said. "Over time, we hope to include a winter scene and a green camping scene, to sort of represent the whole range of outdoor activities in one painting."

Until that time comes though, McDaniels said she is keeping busy with school and her own ideas for the future. She recently was hired as an art instructor for a home-schooled family, and she looks forward to a career in design after graduation.

Collins said fans of art and the Outdoor Center should keep their eyes open for another art contest in the near future. With a friendly staff and amazing deals for students, aspiring artists should make sure their designs stand out and reflect the outdoor spirit, McDaniels said.

"Whatever you decide to turn in, above all make sure it's exciting," McDaniels said. "While it's important that you personally like the piece, you have to make it appealing to the people, because that's who you're really making the art for."

# COOKING IT UP IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Associated Students Outdoor Center course brings gourmet to the hiking trails

Christine Karambelas  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Backpacking through mountain valleys in Chile requires not only long hours of physical activity but the skills to navigate, evaluate dangers and analyze the environment a hiker crosses. What more could Western seniors Ellie Chatman and James White want to learn on their one-month hike through Patagonia?

How to cook lasagna.

Through a student program led by the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS), Chatman and White went to the Patagonia mountain range in Chile where, after a 10-day first-aid training course, they backpacked and sea kayaked for 70 days. Chatman and White learned about survival in the backcountry facing hands-on experiences in rescuing, mapping, awareness of the environment and cooking.

Cooking in Patagonia did not include following directions saying "just add water" in freeze-dried meals, Chatman said. Instead, students were given ingredients every 10 days and were taught to cook meals such as fresh baked breads, cakes, pasta dishes and tuna casserole.

Chatman said not only were backpackers taught how to prepare these meals but how to be creative with their utensils. For example, cooking oven-style by raising a cooking pot above the flame, allowing food to cook slower on a low heat.

When backpacking for long periods of time, freeze-dried foods can seem repetitive, but cooking provides good flavors and is a fun activity to do in the backcountry, Chatman said.

Chatman and White now plan to teach about homemade cooking in the backcountry at 7 p.m., Oct. 16 at the Associated Students Outdoor Center.

Attendees will learn how to cook food such as cinnamon rolls and calzones with a simple stove kit, which includes a pot, silverware and a gas canister stove.

The purpose of this class is to teach backpackers, when they have the time to do it, how to cook independently for themselves, Chatman said.

"Cooking [homemade meals] is great for people who want to camp with friends and hang out," Chatman said. "Why not cook when you get to the lake and have a good meal?"

On a quick hike to a mountain summit and back, a backpacker may not want to take the time to sit and cook a meal. But for those who are camping in a location for longer periods of time, cooking is another great way to enjoy the outdoors and each other's company, Chatman said.

"When you get to camp and don't have much to do, [cooking] is something that will take up a good amount of time," White said.

Along with teaching how to cook a homemade meal, the class will also incorporate how to prepare meals to eat on a backpacking trip.

Freeze-dried foods are definitely the lightest and easiest to pack, but packing in-

redients for homemade meals requires a little more thought and planning, REI Outreach specialist Pat Kennedy said.

Kennedy teaches backcountry cooking classes at REI that explain how to choose backpacking-efficient food items.

Nutrition content, ingredient weight and understanding how to cook in a simple pot or pan are all incorporated in educating campers on how to appropriately prepare their meals.

"[Homemade cooking in the backcountry] is all about planning before you go out," White said. "Usually, I'll mix my dry ingredients together and put them in one Ziplock bag."

If one plans his or her meal in advance, he or she can pack food ingredients almost equal in weight to dry-freeze foods, most likely spending less money, White said.

The longer people have been camping, the more bored they are with eating freeze-dried foods, Kennedy said. Campers are planning to cook more homemade meals and are becoming more creative in their menu choices.

Kennedy is currently experimenting with all the different meal options he can make with pre-cooked bacon, including adding it to scone mix.

White said he gets excited to plan his meals before he goes camping and hopes by teaching the outdoor cooking class, backpackers can find cooking as another element to adventures in the backcountry.

"I hope that other people can see the value of going outside and being active," Chatman said. "[Cooking while camping or backpacking] is a different way to bring people together."

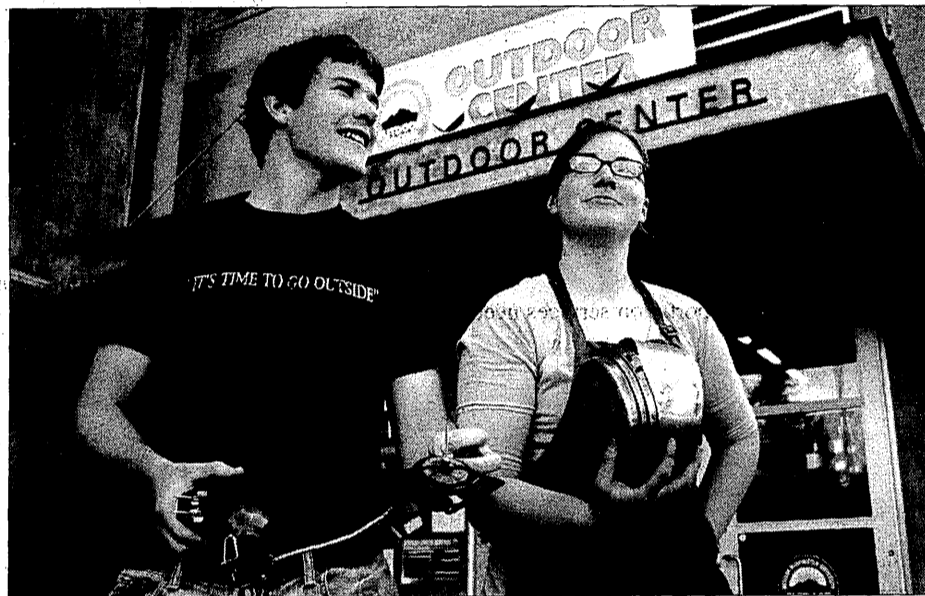


photo by Michael Leese THE WESTERN FRONT

Outdoor Center employees James White and Ellie Chatman show off cooking gear they will be using for a backcountry cooking clinic they will be teaching at the Outdoor Center October 16. The clinic starts at 7p.m. and is \$10 for students.

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## WTA works hard for Western students

### Frontline

Opinion of the Editorial Board

Every day, students are crammed on the Whatcom Transit Authority (WTA) buses riding to and from school. Students groan as they watch buses pass them by. What students may not know is the employees at WTA are doing the best they can.

It is not easy to transport the 11,500 students who have picked up their bus passes since the beginning of the school year.

The people at WTA have done everything they can to help out Western students. They have added and subtracted routes in order to better accommodate the needs of students.

Western students account for a large majority of WTA's ridership, but student passes provide only 3 percent of the budget. The largest chunk of WTA's budget, 78 percent, comes from sales tax revenue. With the economy not doing so well, WTA is not pulling in enough money. WTA also has to deal with the rising cost of gas.

Though students are able to take the bus to save gas money, WTA cannot do the same. It is providing the alternative transportation students and residents desire but is not getting enough support for its services.

WTA was one of the fastest growing transit agencies in the nation last year and is working with scarce resources. It is working at full capacity and cannot add another bus to their routes in the morning.

WTA employees diligently spent the summer thinking of ways to use the resources they have to provide the best possible service.

Last year the Route 95 bus was added to lessen congestion along Bill McDonald Parkway. However, students either did not take advantage of or did not know of the route. There were only 27 riders per hour, a very low number for Western routes.

To help students further, WTA has made some changes this year. It dropped Route 95, and replaced it with the 105 and 108 shuttles on Bill McDonald Parkway. Additional trips were added to help students get to classes on the half hour. WTA also added another route from downtown to the Lincoln Creek Park and Ride at 6:25 p.m.

WTA does not just service Western students around campus, although Western gets the majority of WTA's attention. WTA also provides services all over Bellingham and Whatcom County. WTA provides transportation to Lynden, Ferndale and Mount Vernon. Many of these express routes end up having standing room only.

Alternative transportation services need more support from local and federal governments. The federal and state government provides only 7 percent of WTA's budget.

As students, we cannot do much to support WTA other than riding the buses and appreciating the hard-working employees.

It is sad to see a system so many students rely on suffering when it is raking in record increases in ridership.

It is disappointing when students constantly complain about having to stand on buses or having to wait for the next shuttle to come along. WTA provides a vital service to the community and needs to be appreciated for its efforts.

Students should stop complaining to WTA and Western faculty about the failings of WTA and take those complaints to City Hall. Having strong community support will bring about the help WTA needs. Students are residents of Bellingham too and deserve to have their voices heard. Students can work with the community to work for more funding for WTA or promote ridership beyond Western students.

In the meantime, take this week to get off your usual route and try something new. Take the bus to Bellis Fair Mall or Sunset Square. Ride the bus to Fairhaven and check out Fairhaven Park.

Take advantage of the incredibly efficient and easy to use transportation system in Bellingham before you graduate and venture out of here.

When students get off the bus, don't forget a friendly "thank you" or "good-bye." These employees work hard everyday for students and residents across Bellingham and deserve recognition for that.

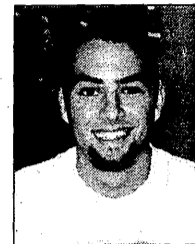
*The Editorial Board is comprised of Editor in Chief Gabrielle Nomura, Managing Editor Jeff Richards, Opinion Editor Lisa Hust and director of AS Alternative Transportation A.J. Garcia.*

### Viking Voices

Opinions from around campus

Compiled by: Danielle Perry

## Do you ride the bus and where do you go?



Marshall Banks  
Freshman

*"Yeah, I ride the buses about everyday to campus. I really like the late night shuttle though. It's really handy when you need to get somewhere at a weird time."*



Danielle Dadashi  
Senior

*"Yes, I ride the bus everyday. I live along the Blue Line, so it's a good way to get from home to campus."*



Erin Hurley  
Senior

*"I rode the bus more last year but since I live closer to campus this year, I walk a lot more."*



Elise McCulloch  
Junior

*"Yeah, I ride when I have class in the afternoon, a few times a week, though I use the free parking when I have the chance."*

## Drinking and driving hits close to home



Glenn Smith  
Columnist

One day when I was not home, a young man driving drunk in a nice car hopped the sidewalk and drove onto the lawn of the townhouse I rent, severing the gas main.

The house is built on the hill on the north side of Lincoln Creek Park and Ride. From the sidewalk, there is a 10-foot decline of about 45 degrees to the house. The gas main faces the sidewalk; it sticks out about a foot.

My brother, who shares the apartment with me, was there at the time and gave me the full story when I came home the next morning.

Additional details come from my downstairs neighbor Lance Henderson, reporter for The Bellingham Business Journal.

At about 1:20 a.m., the driver drove over the sidewalk and went down the hill, freaked out and tried desperately to drive out of there, all the while digging his car farther down the hill, closer to the house.

In the car with him he had a passenger, who told the driver to stop and call a tow truck.

Unconvinced, the driver then hit the gas main, causing a loud swooshing sound as 50 pounds per square inch of natural gas shot into the air.

Imagine if it had caught fire—the ensuing explosion could have killed my very own brother, whose bedroom window is almost

directly above the gas main.

The Bellingham police and fire department showed up and evacuated the house's three apartments. The tenants waited outside for two hours, until 3:30 a.m., when the gas problem was temporarily fixed.

The driver had plowed through a cool tree with bright red leaves outside my living room window, and tore up lots of grass.

More importantly, he endangered the lives of my only sibling, the house's other tenants, the tenants of the two houses on either side of mine, anyone who was within several feet of his car at any time during that drive, his passenger, and himself.

**"We are not a violent student body, just an irresponsible one."**

- Glenn Smith, Columnist

Another drunk driving story with which we are all familiar is the one involving former Western student Ashley Wick.

Wick had a blood alcohol level of .096, and may or may not have been under the influence of Xanax when she hit Western exchange student Un Kyu Choi, who later died from his injuries.

This happened on Bill McDonald Parkway, where students walk and ride their bikes all the time. Close to the intersection of Samish Way and Bill McDonald Parkway, there is a memorial of flowers and a sign telling the name of someone who was hit by a car on that very spot.

This is a prevalent problem which will not go away any time soon. There will always be people who drive while intoxicated.

What the rest of us need to do is be extra cautious.

More likely than a Western student intentionally killing someone with a hand-held weapon is the possibility one of them will accidentally kill someone with a vehicle.

We are not a violent student body, just an irresponsible one.

If you're drunk and you need to travel somewhere beyond walking distance, have a designated driver (who is committed to staying sober) drive you, and don't distract the driver with your drunken flailing—they will hate you.

At Western, students have a lot of options. If you do not have a designated driver, get on the Late Night Shuttle at Haggard Hall or the Viking Union. You can use the shuttle if you've got a bus pass or a Western student identification card. It runs through downtown Bellingham and Western's campus until 2:30 a.m.

If you do a lot of non-drunk walking, watch where you walk. If you're a biker, watch where you ride your bike. It's dangerous out there.

By all means, do not drink and drive. You cannot control yourself while drunk; that's the fun part about drinking, right? Watch out for your friends and make sure they do not drive while intoxicated.

If they are at your place and obviously incapable of driving, ask them to stay or call a taxi.

Take it from me, a guy who passed the wow-it's-cool-to-drink-legally stage of life five years ago and who still likes a good beer or cocktail once in a while. Driving drunk and endangering the lives of others is not okay, ever.

### Want to write a guest column?

The Western Front is looking for professors, faculty members, staff, students and community members who want to write a 400- to 500-word column about an issue at Western.

Send your column ideas to  
opinion@westernfrontonline.net

## Western outbattled in Seattle

Western falls 50-28 to Central in shootout led by quarterbacks of both teams

Jesse Amorratanasuchad  
THE WESTERN FRONT

In front of a crowd of 12,258, under the lights of Qwest Field, the quarterbacks from both Western and Central Washington University produced stellar performances, each throwing for over 300 yards and multiple touchdowns.

The record-breaking night ended with Central defeating Western 50-28 in the sixth-annual Battle in Seattle on Saturday.

Central senior quarterback Mike Reilly threw for four touchdowns, setting a school record for career touchdowns with 103. Reilly finished the game with 371 yards through the air along with 58 yards rushing. A fourth-quarter interception by Western senior linebacker

C.J. Green ended Reilly's conference-record 184 pass attempts without a pick. Central's 50 points were a Battle in Seattle record for most points scored in the game's six-year history.

"[Reilly] is a great player, probably the best [Division II] quarterback in the country," Western senior quarterback Adam Perry said. "He may be better than some [Division I] quarterbacks out there and has a great chance to go play in the pros after this. I have a lot of respect for him."

Western senior quarterback Adam Perry displayed sharp passing of his own, throwing for 320 yards, two touchdowns and zero interceptions.

Western fell to 3-2 in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference while Central remained undefeated at 5-0 after Saturday's game. Central stayed in first place in the conference, increasing the distance between them and Western and Western Oregon University, who are currently tied for second place.

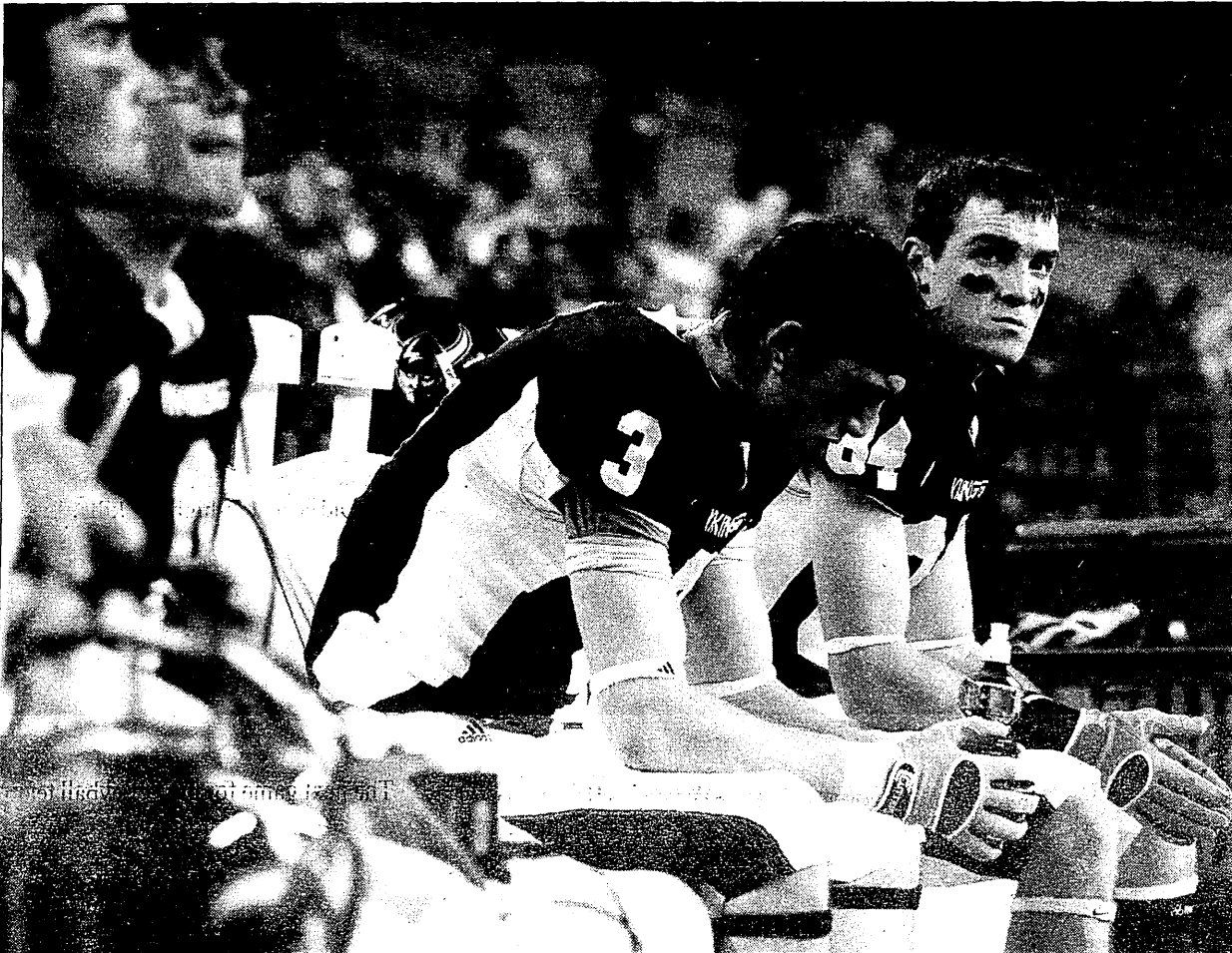


photo by Katie Greene THE WESTERN FRONT

Western senior wide receiver Travis McKee (3) and Western freshman wide receiver Dirk Dallas (84) sit on the sidelines in the fourth quarter Saturday. McKee had three catches for 55 yards and one touchdown and Dallas had one catch for 15 yards in Saturday's game at Qwest Field.

"[Reilly] is a great player, probably the best [Division II] quarterback in the country. He may be better than some [Division I] quarterbacks out there and has a great chance to go play in the pros after this"

- Adam Perry, Western senior quarterback

Western fell behind 16-0 early in the first quarter, courtesy of a safety and two Reilly touchdowns. Perry led a second-quarter rally by the Vikings, as he rushed for a touchdown and connected with Western senior wide receiver Travis McKee for a score. Western trailed Central 22-14 going into halftime.

"We had our opportunities," Western head coach Robin Ross said. "We had some great efforts and some big plays on offense and defense, but our field position didn't help us [throughout the game]. This is a big game, but it's one game; you deal with the wins and you deal

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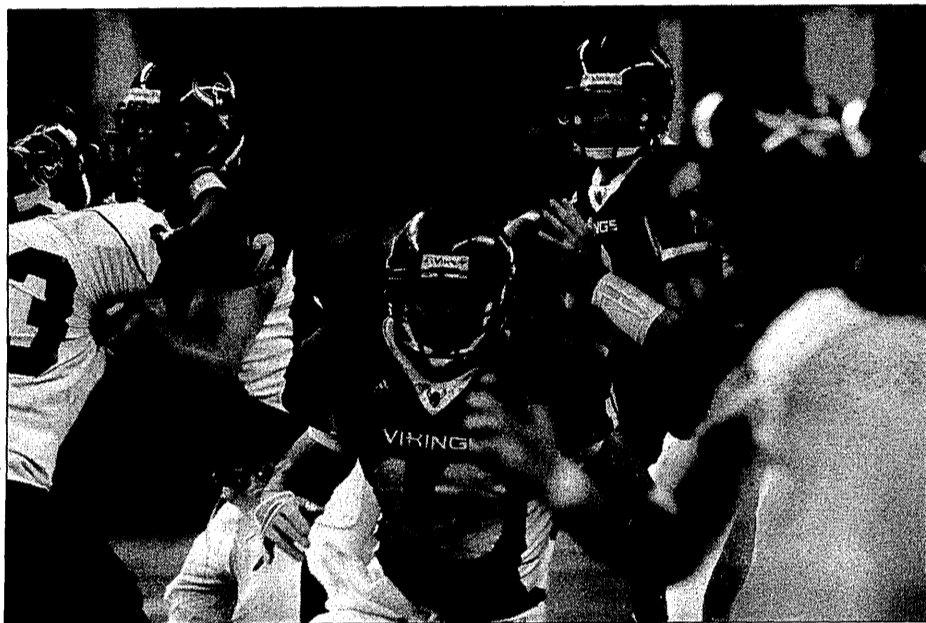
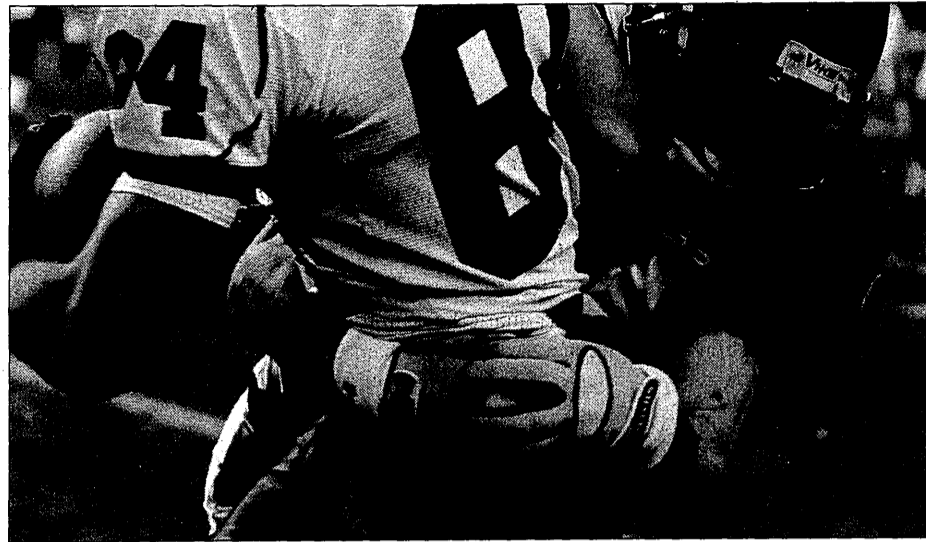
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with the losses.”

The Wildcats came out firing in the second half, as Central junior running back Jerome Morris converted a fourth and

inches for a 15-yard touchdown on Central's first possession. Western responded with a touchdown by Perry to senior wide receiver Pat McCann to bring the Vikings



photos by Jon Bergman THE WESTERN FRONT

Top: Western defensive back Zach Schrader wraps up Central wide receiver Johnny Spevak after making a catch late in the second quarter. Bottom: Western senior quarterback Adam Perry drops back to pass late in the first quarter.

to within a 29-21 margin.

“I thought it was going to be a high-scoring game and we would have to score a lot of points to win,” Central head coach Blaine Bennett said. “It was neat to be back in the state of Washington, back at Qwest Field and involved with a great rivalry like the Western-Central rivalry.”

The efficient Central offense continued to score at will, as Reilly connected with senior wide receiver Johnny Spevak for a touchdown to make the score 36-21.

On the ensuing possession, Western could not convert a fourth and goal on the Central six-yard line as the Wildcats began to take control of the game going into the fourth quarter.

Central's Morris scored his second rushing touchdown with twelve minutes and 41 seconds left in the game and Reilly finished another quality performance, throwing his fourth touchdown with 5 minutes, 5 seconds remaining.

Western scored in the last three minutes of the fourth quarter, courtesy of a two-yard rushing touchdown by Western junior running back Randall Eldridge.

Western will travel to Grand Forks, ND to play the University of North Dakota Oct. 18 before coming back to Civic Field to play Humboldt State University in the Vikings' final home game Oct. 25.

# Volleyball suffers first season loss

Meaghan Cox  
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Western volleyball team lost their first match of the season on Saturday, falling short in the fifth set against University of Alaska Fairbanks.

“When you come out of a game like this, you feel horrible,” Western senior middle blocker Tiana Roma said. “But this forces us to focus on what we’re doing wrong and fix it.”

Western had a close first set but lost 29-27. In the second set Western dominated 25-13. The Vikings continued their momentum through the third set and won 25-21.

Alaska Fairbanks came back in the fourth set and won 25-22. In the fifth set, the Vikings led, but attack errors by multiple players gave Alaska Fairbanks the victory, finishing 15-13.

Western senior middle hitter Angie Alvord had a match-high 22 kills, but it wasn't enough to offset the 30 attack errors by the entire team.

“It's always hard to come up here and play,” Alvord said. “[Alaska Fairbanks] is always good on their home court.”

Western's volleyball record is now 13-1 and 5-1 in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference.

The next game for the volleyball team is against Northwest Nazarene University at 7 p.m. Oct. 16 in Carver gym.

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# Cross country runs past competition

Marisa Willis  
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Western cross country team ran to victory Saturday at Lake Padden Park in Bellingham. The men's and women's team beat rival Seattle Pacific University (SPU) and earned a first-place team title in both races at the 35th annual Western Invitational.

The Vikings' dual victories were led by Western sophomores Jordan Welling and Bennett Grimes for the men and sophomore Sarah Porter and junior Courtney Olsen for the women.

Western head coach Kelven "Pee Wee" Halsell said both the men's and women's performances at the meet were encouraging as the team gets closer to their post-season meets.

"We're coming around and we're running faster," Halsell said. "We're

where we need to be, to be running at [the national championships on Nov. 11]"

This was the fourth year in a row the Western men's team has received first-place honors on their 10-kilometer course and the first victory for the Western women since 2002 on their 6-kilometer course.

Porter and Olsen placed first and second in the women's race with times of 21 minutes, 24 seconds and 22:20 consecutively. This led the Viking women to post the lowest team score of 25, putting them ahead of SPU and Central Washington University (CWU).

Porter said it felt good to finish more than 30 seconds under last year's winning time, posted by SPU's Jessica Pixler, especially on Western's home course.

"I just felt a lot of pride coming in because people were yelling, 'Go Western! Go Western!' because it was our meet," Porter said. "That we were able to

represent ourselves like that was really, really awesome."

Pixler, the 2007 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II National Champion, opted to attend an invitational meet in San Diego instead of racing against Western at Lake Padden.

Now that Porter has won her sixth cross country meet this season, she said she is looking forward to Western's next meet, the Great Northwest Athletic Conference Championships Oct. 25 in Yakima.

"[Conference] will be my first chance to race Pixler head-to-head, so I would really like to give her a run for her money," Porter said.

On the men's course, it was a sprint to the finish with less than four seconds between the first and third place times. Saint Martin's University John Riak won the race with a time of 31:44, Welling fin-

ished second at 31:45 and Grimes came in a close third at 31:48.

"It felt really relaxed for the first four and a half miles," Welling said. "Then we hit the last hills [on the course] and we just started moving. We were just flying."

Because St. Martin's did not race the meet with a full squad of seven men, their two top-finishing times did not count toward an overall team score. This default allowed the Vikings to take over the first through seventh places for the race.

The Viking men received the lowest team score of 15, placing them ahead of SPU, Seattle Running Club, CWU and the University of British Columbia.

Welling said he had expected the race would be a battle between Grimes, Riak and himself, but said he had not imagined the race to be as close as it turned out. Riak was the NCAA Division II West Regional champion in 2007.

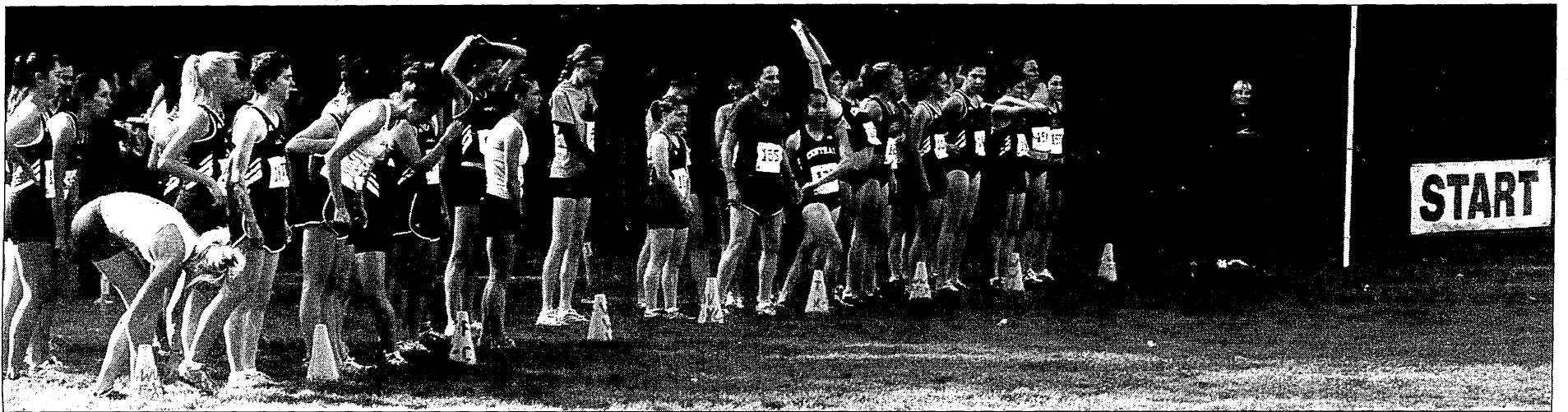


photo by Jon Bergman THE WESTERN FRONT

Women participants prepare for their 6,000-meter run at the start of the 35th Annual Western Invitational Cross Country Classic Saturday Oct. 11 at Lake Padden.



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