

Alumna witnesses tsunami



Courtesy of Kris DeBruine

The village Dehiwela, Sri Lanka, was devastated after the Dec. 26 Indian Ocean tsunami. Therese Koelmeyer, who attended Western from 1982 to 1986, runs an orphanage and relief organization in Dehiwela.

Western grad lives in Sri Lanka, provides aid after disaster

BY MARISSA HARSHMAN
The Western Front

Nearly 20 years ago, Western graduate Therese Koelmeyer made a decision to move across the world, a decision that would later thrust her into the aftermath of the tsunami that crashed onto the shores of Asia this past month.

With the recent destruction in Asia, Koelmeyer and her organization, Community Concern Society, have been working overtime, providing medical supplies, food, clothes and water to people who have lost everything from the tsunami, she said in an e-mail to her friends and family on Dec. 27.

The tsunami hit Dehiwela, Sri Lanka, where Koelmeyer lives. She has been in contact with family and friends since the tsunami hit, but was unable to be reached for comment.

Koelmeyer became involved with the relief and development organization when she arrived in Dehiwela in 1987.

The organization assists the poor through feeding programs, and provides a drug rehabilitation center called Power House. It also runs a school for street children called Morning Star School and a children's home for abandoned youth called the Lotus Buds Children's Home, said Kris DeBruine, a Western graduate and friend of Koelmeyer.

While in Bellingham, Koelmeyer attended Hillcrest Chapel, and in 1985 she asked Pastor Jim Murphy for his support for her desire to work in Sri Lanka. Hillcrest Chapel has collected \$77,000 for tsunami relief from the congregation, Campus Christian Fellowship, and from people around the country, Murphy said.

The money will be sent to Community Concern Society, where the board members, including Koelmeyer, will decide how to distribute the funds, Murphy said.

Koelmeyer attended Western from 1982

see KOELMEYER, page 6

County to consider vote-by-mail system

BY BRITTANY GREENFIELD
The Western Front

Taxpayers will save money and elections will be more accurate if Whatcom County switches to a vote-by-mail system, county auditor Shirley Forslof said at a Bellingham community forum Saturday.

The forum was sponsored by the county Democratic, Republican and Libertarian parties and six local organizations such as Whatcom Fair Voting. The forum allowed community members to learn about the proposal Forslof will introduce at the Whatcom County Council meeting Tuesday.

The proposed changes would limit the size of voting precincts in the county to fewer than 200 voters each. Forslof said this would allow her, as county auditor, to designate all precincts as vote-by-mail.

Forslof said Whatcom County will phase out the punch-card system by 2006 as required by the Help America Vote Act. This act, passed by the U.S. Congress in 2002, established a program that provides funds to states for replacing the punch-card voting system. Forslof said the county has the option of replacing them with either a full vote-by-mail system or a combination of absentee ballots and touch-screen polls.

Citing that 73 percent of Whatcom County voters used absentee ballots in the November general election, Forslof said voters already have shown they favor mail-in ballots.

Forslof said the convenience of at-home voting also would increase voter participation and allow voters to study the candidates and issues, as well as educate future voters by encouraging family involvement.

see VOTING, page 4

Congress funds border research institute

BY ADAM RUDNICK
The Western Front

Students interested in studying the Canadian-American border will receive a belated Christmas gift in early 2005 — a Congress-approved \$1 million grant to establish a border research program.

Although the details of how the money will be appropriated are unclear, the grant will help Western establish the Border Policy Research Institute, responsible for researching issues pertaining to the border, said Donald Alper, Canadian-American Studies director and political science professor.

Border security, transportation and the flow of goods between Canada and the United States are examples of issues the institute hopes to examine, he said.

"Land use is connected to transportation, which is connected to security issues, which is connected to trade issues," Alper said. "It kind of got broadened out

to focus on wider impacts of the border."

Alper said it is not yet known how Western students can become directly involved with the institute.

Research experts from around the United States may lecture on a variety of topics, Alper said.

"We also will be holding conferences and bringing in guest speakers and so on to talk about the importance of having a border with Canada that not only works for security but also works to ensure the flow of goods and people back and forth," Alper said.

Western's institute would help coordinate international trade and security issues within North America, said Jim Miller, Whatcom Council of Government's executive director.

"I hope the institute will coordinate our effort within North America so we can have efficient trade while still maintaining issues of security," Miller said. "Those sort

see INSTITUTE, page 4



AMANDA WOOLLEY/The Western Front

The Peace Arch stands at the Canadian-American border. A federal grant will enable Western to establish an institute devoted to border issues.



SPRAY MY NAME, SPRAY MY NAME

Bellingham's graffiti task force limits illegal tagging.

FEATURES, PAGE 9

50,000 VOLTS

Should Bellingham City Council ban the use of Tazers?

OPINIONS, PAGE 14

COPS BOX

University Police

Jan. 9, 11:44 a.m.: UP responded to a report of several individuals snowboarding near the Communications Facility. Officers found no property damage and the individuals left without incident.

Jan. 9, 12:34 a.m.: UP responded to a report of an injured sledder south of campus. Aid transported the sledder, who does not attend Western.

Jan. 8, 11:39 p.m.: Officers arrested a resident of Ridgeway Beta on suspicion of possession of alcohol. Police cited and released the resident, who was a minor, with a minor-in-possession.

Bellingham Police

Jan. 10, 12:15 p.m.: Officers responded to a malicious mischief report regarding a damaged window on the 2700 block of Xenia Street.

Jan. 10, 10:40 a.m.: Officers responded to the 1100 block of Franklin Street in reference to a domestic disturbance. Police arrested a 22-year-old man on a charge of two counts of fourth degree assault.

Jan. 8, 11:01 p.m.: Officers responded to a large crowd of more than 200 people being loud and unruly on the 2500 block of Douglas Avenue. Police arrested three people for disorderly behavior.

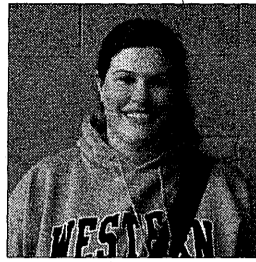
Jan. 7, 2:09 p.m.: Officers issued a citation to a man charged with shoplifting on the 800 block of Lakeway Drive. Police issued the man a lifetime trespass from all properties.

Compiled by Houston Flores

Viking Voices

What did you do on your snow day?

Compiled by Michelle Acosta



Kelly White
Senior, English

I tried to walk to Hagggen without slipping.



Colin Patrick
Freshman, political science

I slept in, threw snowballs and built two snowmen with sexual connotations.



Ryan Huetter
Junior, recreation

Got drunk, made snow angels and went urban snowboarding on Jersey Street.

AP Wire

news briefs

STATE NEWS

Local children collect money for tsunami victims

Children from across Oregon and southwest Washington have been donating money to help the tsunami relief effort in Southeast Asia.

Principal Craig Hornic, of Lincoln Elementary in Vancouver, Wash., said the students gathered \$175 in one day for Northwest Medical Teams, a Portland-based relief organization.

Governor-elect Gregoire to be sworn in Wednesday

The state House of Representatives and Senate held a joint session Monday to decide whether to certify the election of Democrat Christine Gregoire as governor.

Democrats control both houses and turned back a Republican request for delay.

Republicans challenged Gregoire's 129-vote victory, asking a Chelan County judge to order a revote. They collected 150,000 names on a petition on the Web site www.revotewa.com.

Gregoire is scheduled to be sworn in at noon Wednesday in the Capitol and will celebrate that evening with the inaugural ball in Olympia.

NATIONAL NEWS

Supreme Court refuses to hear gay adoption challenge

The U.S. Supreme Court will not accept an appeal from four Florida men who challenged a state ban on adoption by gay couples.

Justices offered no comment in rejecting the case. Florida is the only state with a blanket law prohibiting homosexuals from adopting children.

Opponents argued that the 1977 law is not logical because

it excludes potential parents for thousands of abandoned children.

But supporters said Florida has the power to promote traditional mother-father families.

Trial date for Texas mom in beheadings postponed until May

Attorneys for a south Texas woman on suspicion of helping her common-law husband kill and behead her three children protested orders to turn over psychiatrist reports — delaying the trial until May.

The defense for Angela Camacho contends she is not competent, even though a judge has ruled otherwise.

Defense attorneys have argued that she scored 51 in an IQ test administered in the year after the deaths. A person who scores below 70 is considered mentally retarded.

The Texas Supreme Court ruled in 2002 that mentally retarded

criminals cannot be put to death.

The 25-year-old faces three capital murder counts for allegedly stabbing, strangling and beheading her three children in March 2003.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Ukrainian president plans to remove troops from Iraq

Ukraine wants to move its troops out of Iraq — quickly.

The country's president has ordered officials to plan for a complete troop withdrawal by the middle of 2005. This order, the president gave on Monday came one day after eight Ukrainian soldiers died in an explosion in Iraq.

Ukraine has approximately 1,600 soldiers in Iraq. That's the fourth-largest contingent, behind the United States, Great Britain and Poland.

Compiled by Lauren Allain
AP Wire courtesy KUGS 89.3-FM

The Western Front Online



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The Western Front is published twice weekly in fall, winter and spring; once a week in summer session. Address: The Western Front, Western Washington University, CF 251, Bellingham, WA 98225. The Western Front is the official newspaper of Western Washington University, published by the Student Publications Council, and is mainly supported by advertising.

Opinions and stories in the newspaper have no connection with advertising. News content is determined by student editors. Staff reporters are enrolled in a course in the Department of Journalism, but any student enrolled at Western may offer stories to the editors.

Advertising inquiries should be directed to the business office in CF 230, or by phone to (360) 650-3161.

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

WWU Official Announcements - PLEASE POST

Deadline for announcements in this space is noon Friday for the Tuesday edition and noon Wednesday for the Friday edition, except where otherwise noted. Announcements should be limited to 50 words and be typewritten or legibly printed. Announcements may be sent to FAST@wwu.edu — in the subject line include a one-word topic and clearly note that the item is for Official Announcements. Items also may be sent to "Official Announcements," MS-9117, faxed to X/4343, or brought to Commissary 113F. DO NOT SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS DIRECTLY TO THE WESTERN FRONT. Phoned announcements will not be accepted.

MATH PLACEMENT TEST. The Math Placement Test will be given in OM 120 at 3 p.m. Mondays on Jan. 24, 31; Feb 7, 14, 28; March 7 and 14, and at 9 a.m. Thursdays on Jan. 13, 20, 27; Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24; March 3, 10, and 17. Registration is not required. Students must bring: picture identification, student number, Social Security number, and a No. 2 pencil. A \$15 fee is payable in exact amount at test time.

MATH PLACEMENT TEST SCHEDULE AND SAMPLE TOPICS may be found at www.ac.wwu.edu/~assess/tc.htm.

LOT 17G WILL BE RESERVED beginning at 5 p.m. Jan. 13 for Viking permit holders attending the basketball game. A shuttle will run from lot 12A for all others.

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

THE MILLER ANALOGIES TEST (MAT) is a computer-based test available by appointment only. Make an appointment in person in Old Main 120 or by calling X/3080. A \$42 fee is payable at test time. Test takes approximately 1½ hours. Preliminary scores available immediately; official results are mailed within 15 days.

WEST-E PRAXIS. Washington requires individuals seeking teacher certification and teachers seeking additional endorsements to pass a subject knowledge assessment in the chosen endorsement area beginning Sept. 1. The state has chosen specific Praxis II series tests to meet this requirement. See www.ets.org/praxis/prxwa.html for a description and online registration information. Registration bulletins are also available in MH 216.

REMAINING WEST-E PRAXIS TEST DATES for the academic year are March 5, April 16, and June 11 (June 11 test not available at Western; see the Praxis Web site for location).

WEST-B TEST. Applicants for admission to state-approved educator preparation programs and those from other states applying for a Washington residency teaching certificate must have a minimum passing score on the basic skills assessment test. Residency teaching certificate applicants who have completed an educator preparation program outside Washington and have not passed WEST-B may be granted additional time. See www.west.nesinc.com to register. Test dates: Jan. 22, March 12, May 14, July 9.

READMISSION. Students who interrupt studies at Western other than for summer quarter must apply for readmission. Students pursuing a first bachelor's degree are generally assured readmission if they follow -application instructions and apply by priority deadline (summer, continuing into fall and fall quarter, April 1; spring quarter, Jan. 15). Post-baccalaureate readmission is more stringent. Applications available in OM 200 or call X/3440.

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

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Institute: Western could become central location for border issues

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of things is what I think Western is looking at. This (institute) will make our job easier, and I think it will strengthen our efforts."

Miller directs the Whatcom Council of Governments, an associated group of smaller city governments and Whatcom county government officials that researches border and transportation issues in Whatcom county. The council's primary objective changes as research dictates, but generally the group's research will coincide with Western's new institute, Miller said.

Western senior and Canadian-American Studies major Krista Martinez said the institute could help Western.

Economically, Alper said one of the best aspects of the new institute is a minimal university-funding requirement because of the grant. Western will provide

some staffing and classroom space only, he said.

Finding building space for lectures is always difficult, not to mention finding additional sources of funding beyond the grant to bring in guest speakers, Alper said.

"One of the things that is envisioned is that we will have affiliate positions so that somebody could come in for six months or a year and be affiliated with this institute and conduct research or even teach a class," Alper said.

After 16 months of proposals and uncertainty, Alper said he hopes Western will become a central location where information relating to the border can be brought together in one place.

"(My long-term goal) is if you want to know anything related to the border, you go to Western," Alper said. "Their border research institute will have all of the information you need."

Voting: \$1.6 million could be saved with vote-by-mail

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"It's a change in custom," she said. "Instead of voting at the polls, you vote around the dinner table."

Forslof said that with the new system, all voters would use optical-scan, mail-in ballots that are similar to absentee ballots but with fill-in bubbles rather than punch-out chads. The only polling places, Forslof said, would be those the 2002 act requires for voters with disabilities who are unable to use a mail-in ballot.

Forslof said implementing the vote-by-mail system would cost Whatcom County taxpayers an estimated \$1.6 million less than keeping the polls open. The county would save money on things such as "poll workers" salaries and rent of the poll locations, as well as the cost of replacing punch-card machines with the touch-screen equipment the act requires.

Forslof said these savings would significantly outweigh the printing and postage costs of the additional

mail-in ballots.

At the forum, Zach Frazier, a Western junior and political science major with experience in debate, presented reasons why he opposes the new system. He said he values the tradition and the community contact that voting at the polls represents. As a student, Frazier said he always has had to vote by absentee ballot but wants to vote at the polls in the future.

"I would like at least the option," he said.

Larry Williams, 62, a Bellingham voter who attended the forum, said he was concerned that the vote-by-mail system would isolate voters.

"We're losing contact of each other," Williams said. "It's our society, not the technocrats' society."

County Councilman Seth

Fleetwood said he always has voted at the polls.

"I feel a certain nostalgia for keeping it a certain way," he said.

But although Fleetwood said he was trying to remain open-minded about the proposal, he said he was leaning toward supporting it because of the vote-by-mail system's reliability and potential for attracting more voters.

Forslof said another advantage of the vote-by-mail system would be more secure voting. Mail-in ballots would create an auditable paper trail, require signature verification and give election officials more control because all ballots would be handled the same.

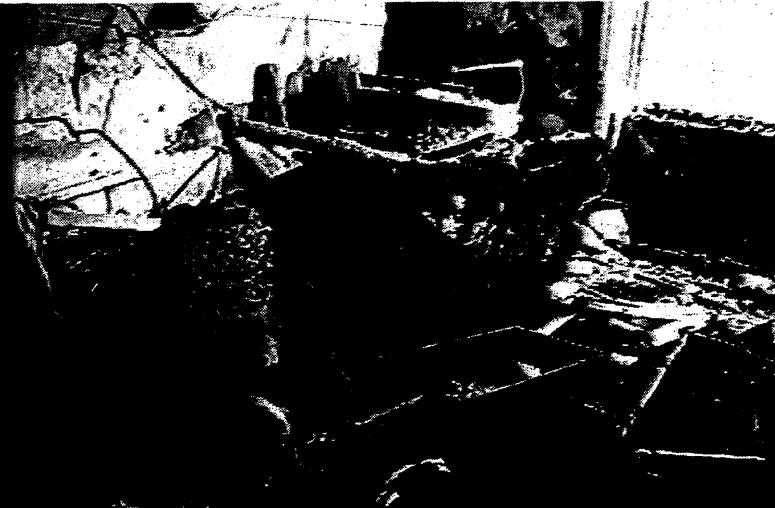
Forslof will present the proposal at the Whatcom County Council meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

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Summer Study In Mexico
Morelia and Oaxaca Interest Group
There will be an initial meeting and DVD screening for all students interested in summer travel to Mexico during Summer 2005 at: Fairhaven College 340, on Tuesday, January 18, at 6:30 P.M. This Course, Contemporary Culture of Mexico, 6 credits (FC-310V), is open to all WWU as well as non-WWU students. The course will automatically satisfy a number of ACS, Fairhaven College and TESOL core requirements. Students can also receive credit for foreign language requirements with approval from the WWU Modern and Classical Languages Department.

Fire Safety for Your Life



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GETTING OUT

FEEL THE DOOR HANDLE

- If the handle is hot, don't open it.
- Go to a window and call for help.
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- Check for smoke or fire before going out

GET OUT OF THE BUILDING BEFORE PHONING FOR HELP

- Don't take time to phone before leaving.
- Get out and find a phone.

PULL THE FIRE ALARM ON YOUR WAY OUT

DON'T LOOK FOR OTHER PEOPLE OR GATHER STUFF

- Knock on doors as you leave
- Yell "FIRE" as you leave
- Don't hesitate or stray from your path.

CRAWL LOW TO THE FLOOR

- Thick smoke can make it impossible to see
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CLOSE THE DOOR BEHIND YOU

- Keep the fire from spreading.
- Protect your possessions from fire and smoke damage.

GET SOMEONE'S ATTENTION

- **YELL and SCREAM!**
- Hang a sheet from a window.
- Stay low. There is less smoke and toxic gas close to the floor.
- **WAIT**, never panic or jump.

FIRE

- 1) Notify persons in the area
- 2) Evacuate the building.
- 3) Pull the nearest fire alarm or call 911 from a safe place.
- 4) Use a fire extinguisher, if trained.
- 5) Close doors and windows.
- 6) Assemble in a safe place.
- 7) Meet and inform responders.
- 8) Provide assistance.

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CASAS 650-3700
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Chemical Emergency 650-3064

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- Take trash outside.
- Never overload electrical outlets.
- Use power strips plugged directly into outlets.
- Keep space heaters and halogen lamps AWAY from flammables - clothing or paper.
- Put out candles when unattended (**NOT** allowed in residence halls).
- Put out incense when unattended.
- Extinguish smoking materials.
- NEVER smoke in bed or if tired.

CHECK SMOKE ALARMS

- In off-campus housing, install new batteries every quarter.
- In residence halls, smoke alarms don't need batteries.

PLAN ESCAPE ROUTES

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- Practice your plan.
- Tell your roommates about your plan.

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Party Patrol contributes to increase in alcohol citations

By **HOUSTON FLORES**
The Western Front

In the first 10 months of 2004, University Police issued 474 percent more alcohol related offenses including minor-in-possession citations than in 2003, which UP Chief James Shaw said is because of UP's involvement with the Party Patrol.

2004 marked the first year in which UP has teamed with Bellingham Police in the off-campus operation.

"We work together in response to what they call the Party Patrol, which is responding to events that become unruly and have a lot of underage drinking," Shaw said. "So what you're seeing in the statistics reflects our actions, in addition to what we did on campus, to what we did in the surrounding areas in response to calls."

Shaw said UP became involved after meeting with two on-campus programs, the Campus Community

Coalition and Prevention and Wellness Services. He said he requested that UP become involved with the Party Patrol partly because he wanted to get a read on how many students were involved with the parties.

Shaw said the University Police have learned that many of the underage drinkers whom the Party Patrol are citing are not Western students.

"All too often, Western students are attributed to loud parties, disruptive behavior and those kinds of things. And that's not always the case," Shaw said. "There's got to be a differentiation. Drinking underage doesn't necessarily mean you are a student. Many of the people we deal with are not students."

Campus Community Coalition Coordinator Lara Welker said although last year was the first time University Police participated with the Bellingham police, Western has helped fund the Bellingham Police and the Party Patrol in previous

years.

Welker said state and federal grants made Western's involvement with the Bellingham Police possible. Pat Fabiano, director of Prevention and Wellness Services, said that in the past the university partially funded the Party Patrol with a state-level grant from the Department of Social and Health Services.

This fall, in addition to the state-level grant, Fabiano said Western received a grant from the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism/National Institutes of Health.

These two grants will fund several different programs, including the Neighborhood Engagement with Students Project, which Fabiano said encourages a stronger relationship among students and the community through service and research programs.

Welker said the program allocates portions of the grants toward the funding of the Party



Courtesy of Grant Goodall

Police officers break up a large party on Douglas Avenue late this past Friday night.

Patrol, to go along with other underage drinking prevention and enforcement programs.

"It's an appropriate way for the coalition to support the police

department in working towards a goal that the coalition and the police department have in common, which is reducing and addressing underage drinking," Welker said.

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Friday, January 21 Disco Magic
Johnny Cash Tribute
Saturday, January 22 Disco Magic
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and the Voo Doo Dollz
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Koelmeyer: Trip to most devastated area of Sri Lanka and stench of corpses were difficult

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to 1986. At Western she became involved with CCF and began to learn about the needs of people throughout the world, said Brady Bobbink, a CCF pastor.

"(Koelmeyer) decided that before she settled down and took a job in the work force, she would like to go on a mission," said Maria Callen, Koelmeyer's sister. "She truly believed she was being called."

Koelmeyer believed that God called her to Sri Lanka to serve the needs of others and to live among the world's poorest, DeBruine said.

"I admired her courage to go to such a challenging place as a young single woman and believed that she was following God's direction for her life," Murphy said.

When Koelmeyer moved to Dehiwela, she became acting director for the Community Concern Society, established to assist the poor in the city, DeBruine said.

The Community Concern Society center in Dehiwela provides a feeding program that normally feeds 400 women, children and babies, but now is struggling to provide for more than 4,500 people in tsunami

devastated Dehiwela, Callen said.

The people living on the Dehiwela beach lost their homes. Those who lived further inland had their homes flooded and their supplies ruined, Koelmeyer said in the e-mail she sent to friends and family.

The tsunami flooded the entire first floor of the center with sand and water, destroying all the windows in the building, Callen said. The center was cleaned and repaired and is back in operation, she said.

Koelmeyer started the Lotus Buds Children's Home in 1989, DeBruine said. She and her husband Roger, a Sri Lankan native, now care for 22 foster children and three children of their own, DeBruine said.

Koelmeyer, her family, and her organization are involved with the relief effort in Dehiwela, Callen said. The family has been purchasing, sorting, packing, delivering and distributing relief items throughout Sri Lanka, she said in the letter.

Between caring for her 22 foster children and three children of her own and interacting with suppliers and aid organizations, purchasing supplies and coordinating and delivering relief items, Koelmeyer is bone weary, running on two to three hours of sleep each night, Koelmeyer said in the Jan. 4 letter.

Koelmeyer, her husband, their 12-year-old daughter Hannah and



Courtesy of Maria Callen

Homes were destroyed in Dehiwela, Sri Lanka after the tsunami.



Courtesy of Kris DeBruine

Koelmeyer sits with children from Lotus Buds Children's Home, the orphanage she founded. This photo was taken in 1989.

a group of volunteers traveled to the East Coast of Sri Lanka, where the worst devastation occurred, with three truck loads of supplies on Dec. 30, Callen said.

The trip, which is equivalent to the distance from Seattle to Bellingham, took nine hours because the roads were destroyed, Callen said. They were forced to travel through the darkness in an area where wild elephants roamed freely and approached the trucks throughout the trip, Callen said.

Besides the elephants and the dangers of traveling at night, the group had to endure the stench of corpses — both a physical and emotional challenge, Koelmeyer said in the letter.

Koelmeyer's husband is a pastor

at a church in Colombo, just outside Sri Lanka, and members of his congregation are pulling together to help in any way they can — but the sheer number of people who have been left homeless is overwhelming for them, Callen said.

"They went to Peta, the wholesale area of Colombo, and bought 500 pairs of underwear to distribute the other day," Callen said. "Most people have lost the very basics."

Although Koelmeyer never planned for her move to Sri Lanka in 1987 to be a life-long mission, the work she and her husband have been doing there has made them heroes in the eyes of her family and friends, Callen said.

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FEATURES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2005 • WESTERNFRONTONLINE.COM • PAGE 7

Strange days

Trading cards purchased with Canadian government credit

Canadian Royal Mounted Police charged a former senior federal bureaucrat with fraud this past Friday, alleging he used government credit cards to fund his passion for collecting sports cards.

Donald Billing, a former director of Measurement Canada, which ensures the accuracy of meters and scales, was charged with 11 counts of fraud. Police say he used government credit cards to buy hockey trading cards valued at approximately \$150,000 U.S. and tried to pass off the purchases as office supplies.

"It's certainly different," said Cpl. Howard Adams of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. "I don't think there have been many cases where government employees have been purchasing hockey cards."

Christiane Fox, a spokeswoman for Measurement Canada, said Measurement Canada suspended Billing without pay in September 2003, pending the outcome of an internal investigation. In January 2004, he was fired and was reported to the Mounties.

"There's now an increased monitoring of credit-card purchases, and the number of credit cards in use by Measurement Canada

has been reduced," Fox said.

When contacted at his Barrie, Ontario, home, Billing refused to comment on the charges. He is scheduled to appear in court on Feb. 11.

Man is suspected of stabbing his long-lost best friend

British police arrested a man this past Friday on suspicion of repeatedly stabbing his recently reunited best friend, whom he had traced via the popular "Friends Reunited" Web site.

Brendan Walsh is under suspicion of stabbing Noel Duff seven times in a drunken rage because he mistakenly believed his friend had attacked his sister, Karen, whom Duff had started dating.

The victim said he still wants to be buddies.

Record cigar rolled in Puerto Rico

A cigar maker in Puerto Rico has hand-rolled a 62-foot-long cigar, which would be the world's largest if the Guinness Book of World Records confirms it.

Patricio Pena, 43, took approximately four days to manufacture the cigar in a plaza

outside a farmer's market in the Santurce district of San Juan, finishing the project late Saturday.

Pena is attempting to displace Cuba — the king of cigar-making — as the home of the world's largest cigar. The current Guinness record-holder is Jose Castelar Cairo of Havana who made a 45-foot-long cigar in August 2003.

It took 20 pounds of tobacco from Puerto Rico and Pennsylvania and 100 leaves to roll the huge cigar, Pena said. The materials cost about \$2,000, but he was sponsored by San Juan's city government, the Bacardi rum company and the Telemundo television station.

Pena said he started the cigar on Wednesday. He let it sit for the next two days so the tobacco would gain consistency and would be easier to wrap.

Dozens of curious onlookers including legendary Cuban percussionist Carlos "Patato" Valdes, were on hand to watch the final stage of the feat Saturday. Pena had nine assistants turn the cigar as he wrapped it with leaves during an hour-long process.

Pena said he does not plan to smoke the cigar or cut it into smaller ones. Instead, he plans to hang the cigar in the market so tourists can to see it.

British mail sent to South America

Britain's Ascension Island has been without mail since October because the Royal Mail has been sending its mail to South America.

A British territory with a population of just more than 1,000 people, Ascension Island is 703 miles northwest of St. Helena in the South Atlantic.

The Britain-based Daily Mirror reported that the mail was sent to the Paraguayan capital Asuncion as well as Guyana's capital Georgetown, which shares the same name as the Ascension Island's capital, by mistake.

"Steps have been taken to make sure it doesn't happen again," a Royal Mail spokeswoman told the Mirror. "The number of flights we can use is limited, so it is taking time, but this mail is not all lost."

Providing an important communications staging post, the island is used as a relay station for underground cables between South Africa and Europe.

During the Falkland Islands conflict in 1982, it was a halfway-house for the British task force.

Compiled by Greta Smoke

WESTERN BASKETBALL

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

vs Humboldt State

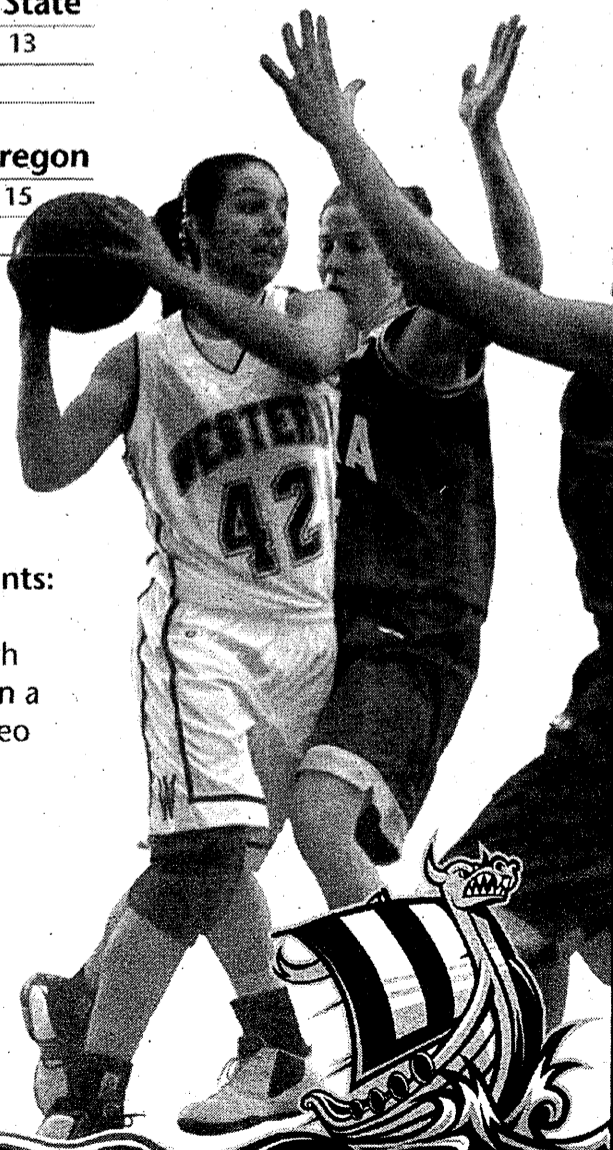
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vs Western Oregon

Saturday, Jan. 15

7:00 P.M.



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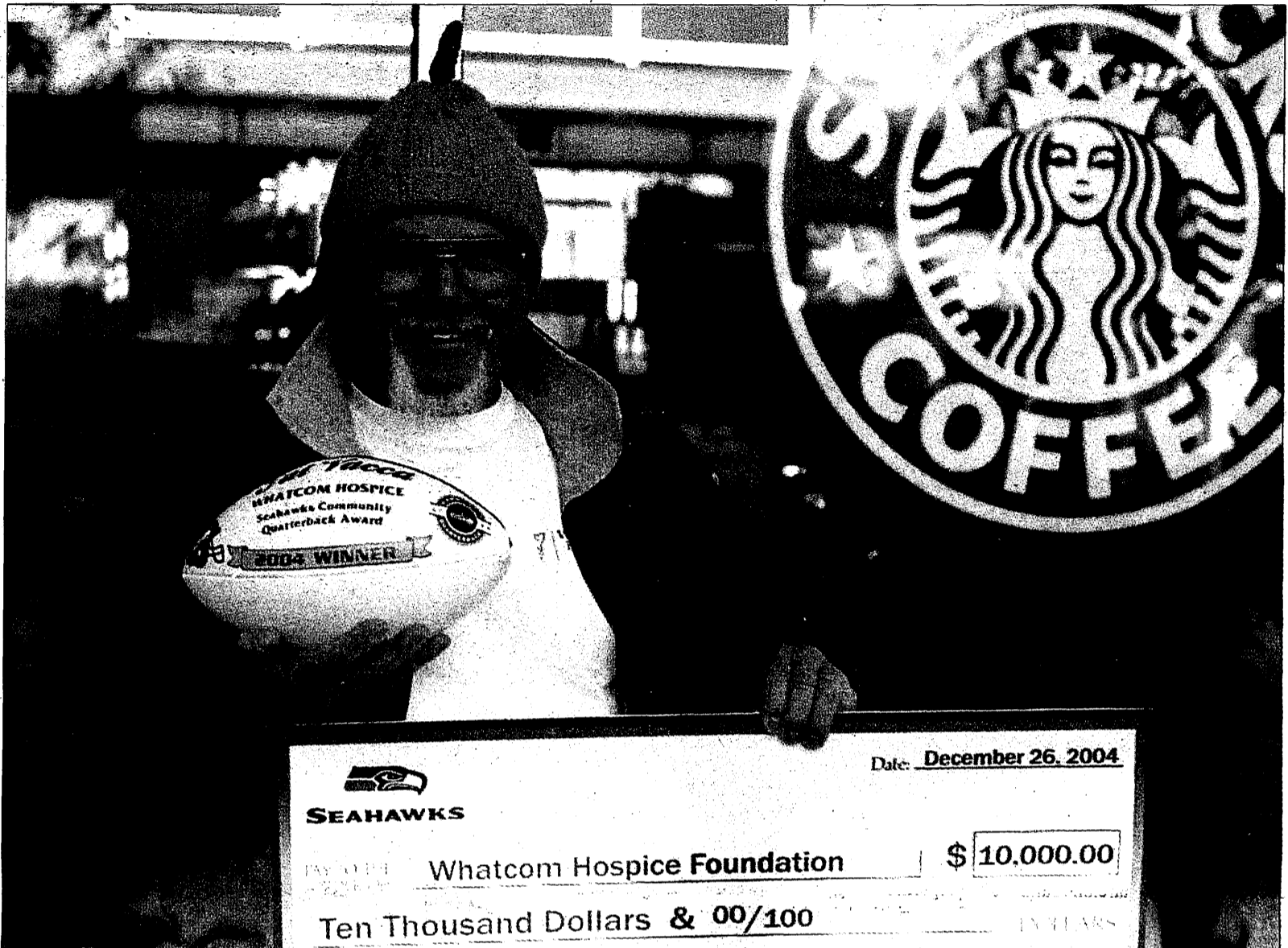
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HOSPITABLE GARDEN



AMANDA WOOLLEY/The Western Front

Sal Vacca stands with his check, awarded for his fund-raising work for the Whatcom Hospice Foundation, in the Barkley Village Starbucks Coffee shop this past week.

BY TAYLOR WILLIAMS
The Western Front

Bellingham resident Sal Vacca never guessed his passion for gardening would help him raise more than \$100,000 in the past four years. Vacca used his gardening skills to create a pumpkin patch and dahlia field in Barkley Village, and gave all proceeds to the Whatcom Hospice Foundation.

In December, Vacca received the Seahawks Community Quarterback Award for his accomplishments with the Hospice Foundation.

"This award really belongs to these people and to everyone who helps with this program," Vacca said.

Sitting at the Barkley Village Starbucks, which he frequently refers to as his "office," Vacca shows regulars and other customers a Seahawks football with his name on the front and the cardboard \$10,000 check donated in his name by the Seahawks to the Hospice Foundation in recognition for his dedication to the community.

Vacca said he learned of the hospice from his friend Stephanie Feeney. Feeney's mother died in hospice care, and Feeney sponsored a fundraiser at her house that raised \$13,106, only a few months before she herself died of breast cancer.

Vacca parked cars at the event and spent the end of the evening talking with Whatcom Hospice volunteers about their work.

With the Hospice Foundation fresh in his mind, Vacca spoke with the leasing manager for Barkley Village and asked what would be placed in the vacant lot in the corner of the village. The manager asked what Vacca wanted to see there, Vacca said.

"A garden, where people can take what they want and leave a donation, which we can give to a charity," Vacca said.

The charity became Whatcom Hospice.

Although he may have brainstormed the initial

idea for the pumpkin patch, the community has not been shy in helping him along, Vacca said.

Vacca said he remembers the second and third years of the patch, when grade-school teachers who saw him in Starbucks asked him if they could bring their classes to plant seeds.

He remembers a group of Western students who went to the patch to supply their annual pumpkin-carving party.

Only a handful of people are out on the field at a any one time, but that scene is deceiving, Vacca said. Many people help who are not on the field. Vacca's aunt knit a lot of orange beanies with green leaves at the top — like the one Vacca wears — for him to sell at the patch. He remembers the first harvest, when deer got to the pumpkins before he could, and before he could put a fence up.

"The pumpkins were coming along well, but we kept seeing huge bites taken out of them every morning," Vacca said.

He had never thought deer would be a problem, he said.

Mike Hammes, a partner in Ram Construction, frequently drove by the patch and saw Vacca putting up the fence.

"I found out the money was coming out of the donations," Hammes said.

Hammes offered to pay for it, and Ram Construction has been doing something for Vacca every year since then. One year, Ram Construction bought 400 T-shirts to sell.

"(We) try to do different things that can potentially generate revenue," Hammes said.

The program's success was a surprise, Vacca said.

"I just thought (I would) raise and sell (the pumpkins) and donate the money. (This project) went every way other than the way I planned," Vacca said.

Correne Cook, an executive assistant at

Olympic Health Management, the pumpkin patch's most prolific sponsor, said she can look out her office window and watch the activity on the patch.

"(Vacca) is always there, rain or shine, especially during October," Cook said.

From her window, she saw Vacca giving children train rides around the patch on small carts connected to a tractor.

"It brings joy to see the kids smiling," Cook said.

With Vacca's experience in volunteerism, he has one piece of advice: "Translate what you know into something."

Vacca knows about gardening, so he volunteers his gardening skills.

Vacca, who has seen friends spend their last moments in hospice care, said he always wanted to help out in some way but didn't believe gardening could directly help.

"I couldn't work around a person who was terminally ill," Vacca said, "but I can provide for the person who can."

Vacca also encourages volunteers to be aware of what the organizations need.

The patch's greatest need is during October, with transportation and the sale of pumpkins, Vacca said.

The Community Quarterback Award is part of a national volunteer recognition program sponsored by NFL Charities, Vacca said.

Out of 109 candidates, 10 received a \$1,000 donation. Vacca received the \$10,000 award. After each NFL team has selected a Community Quarterback, the NFL will donate \$15,000 donated to the charity for which the winner volunteers.

"How many teams are in the NFL?" he said. "Maybe 30. Can't be much more than 30. I don't want to get my hopes up. But 30 is less competition than the last round."

BELLINGHAM GRAFFITI

BY LAUREN ALLAIN
The Western Front

An unconventional form of writing is visible on freeway overpasses, bathroom stalls, train cars and sanctioned walls. This untraditional writing is graffiti.

A 21-year-old Western junior, who wishes to remain anonymous because some of the work he has done is illegal, considers himself a graffiti writer or artist, going by the tag name of tare.one. He began his graffiti career in 2000 while living in Hamburg, Germany.

In the United States, graffiti is a more offensive crime than it is in Germany, tare.one said. Because Bellingham has an anti-graffiti task force, not many writers are creating what tare.one calls "pieces," the mural form of graffiti.

On Western's campus and in the city of Bellingham, illegal graffiti is a crime of malicious mischief, and the perpetrator is fined for the cost cleaning up the paint. The cost to repaint a train car is \$10,000, said University Police officer Bianca Smith.

Writing names is what Smith calls tagging. Every graffiti writer has a stage name. It is either the writer's own or a tag used by the group the writer paints with, Smith said. The tag tare.one uses is NWC — meaning "Northwest crew," "never without cans," or "nights we control," he said.

"I got arrested once in Germany," tare.one said. "It was like a \$500 fine."

Because of the anti-graffiti task force, tare.one mainly paints legal pieces now. Painting illegal pieces is called "bombing," he said.

"Graffiti is all about getting fame and being recognized — those are the bombers," tare.one said. "They just go out there and put their name everywhere."

Among the most popular mediums for tagging and piece graffiti are trains, tare.one said.

"I love painting on trains because there's nothing else like it," tare.one said. "Trains are hardcore. People who do trains know the security routes. They know the time and place the guards will be."

Because of the graffiti task force, Bellingham does not generate much train writing, tare.one said. But it can be seen passing through frequently, he said. Vancouver, B.C., and Portland have big train scenes, and most train paintings spotted in Bellingham have come from one of those locations, tare.one said.

Train tunnels also are popular, tare.one said. He has painted one in the Fairhaven district, he said.

Prior to painting the tunnel, a group, which typically consists of at least two people, will paint the wall white to block out any previous work, tare.one said. Fifteen minutes to an hour later, they begin painting. Writers frequently end up painting over other pieces, he said.

"Graffiti is a double-edged sword," tare.one said. "Other people want the opportunity to do walls, too."

If the piece is better than the one that was previously there, no feelings are hurt and respect is given for doing a better piece, he said.

When painting a train or train tunnel, the writers typically have only approximately 15 minutes to complete the piece during dark hours, tare.one said.

"You gotta do it at night — like 3 a.m.," he said. "There's something really addicting to doing illegal stuff. It's an adrenaline rush."

Legal, or sanctioned walls, however, allow the writer to have a much calmer, more artistic approach, tare.one said he recently painted a retaining wall in an alley near campus with permission of nearby neighbors. With this wall, he took nearly six hours to complete the piece in a two-day period.

"It's fun to have 12 or 13 dudes come out, have a barbecue, drink beer and paint all day," he said.

Few sanctioned walls exist in Bellingham, but one of the most well-known is located at the Up and Up Tavern in downtown Bellingham.

"The Up and Up was the icebreaker," tare.one said.

Owner Ian Relay said he was working the door approximately eight years ago, when he was approached by writers suggesting they paint the wall. The writers were given permission by Relay after they brought in portfolios, and as long as the writing did not include anything blatantly offensive or related to gangs.

"Every six months or so, when the writers come up with the money for paint and time in their schedules, they come paint something new," Relay said.

But not all Bellingham residents condone graffiti.

"A lot of people find it, at the least, annoying," said Bellingham Police Lt. Craig Ambrose.

Many victims of unwanted and illegal graffiti or tagging often pay to remove it themselves, Ambrose said.

According to the Physical Plant and grounds maintenance, Western spent \$13,563 on graffiti and sculpture vandalism cleanup last year, Smith said. Greencoats and custodians constantly are watching for new graffiti, Smith said.

"It's a crime of opportunity where there are no eyes. Rarely, people get caught in the act," Smith said. Smith is a member of Pacific Northwest Tagnet, a regional anti-graffiti network covering the coast from British Columbia to California.

Both the Bellingham Police Department and UP are involved with Tagnet. The group exchanges information on current graffiti or tagging issues.

"We share information on taggers," Smith said. "We can kind of track through the Northwest areas anyone who's doing regular graffiti."

A tag that has been an issue in California may show up in Bellingham, Smith said.

"It's not on the rise by any means," Smith said. "But it's not decreasing, either."

Writers wishing to avoid illegal activity paint frequently for friends who want pieces in their homes, tare.one said.

"I've got, like, five or six people I need to do stuff for," tare.one said. "You get the bug and you just have to paint."



Part of a sanctioned wall located on the Up and Up Tavern building on State Street displays this mural, painted eight years ago.



Illegal tagging is a method of graffiti notoriety. This tag is located in an alley on Railroad Avenue and State Street.



PHOTOS BY LAUREN ALLAIN/The Western Front
On a part of the wall at the Up and Up Tavern, this mural was painted by the group Crest and Serve.

SPORTS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2005 • WESTERNFRONTONLINE.COM • PAGE 10

Men's basketball

Western loses despite second half comeback against Central

The Western men, ranked No. 10 in the NABC/NCAA Division II National Poll and No. 1 in the West Region, lost a Great Northwest Athletic Conference game against Central Washington University Saturday at Nicholson Pavilion. The team, trailing by 17 points in the second half, closed to within one point of the Wildcats but fell short losing by a final score of 105-100.

The men travel to Seattle Pacific University for another GNAC game at 7 p.m. Saturday.

Women's basketball

Western women celebrate 11th consecutive victory

Western sophomore guard Devin Dykstra made her first career start Saturday against University of Alaska Anchorage and led the team with a game-high 21 points.

Saturday's game marked the 11th consecutive victory for the women, who are 3-0 in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference.

The Western women will return to Bellingham for their first GNAC home game against Humboldt State University at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 13, in Carver Gym.

Western physician nationally recognized for contributions

By PETER JENSEN
The Western Front

As a child, Western team physician Dr. Warren Howe used to watch his family's physician treat sick and injured patients.

He said he knew then what he wanted to, devote his life to — medicine.

Now, having spent his life as a sports physician and having gained international recognition for his work, Howe, 64, said he stands at the top of his profession as the recipient of the 2005 Citation Award from the American College of Sports Medicine.

"I'm incredibly honored and incredibly humbled to receive this award," he said. "There have only been 146 winners, so I am in select company. But I'm not sure why they selected me."

Friend, ACSM member and fellow physician Dr. Don Christie said he has an idea why.

"I hope that Western understands what a jewel of a resource it has in the person of Dr. Warren Howe," he said.

Howe has served as a team physician at Western since 1992, working with all varsity sports teams in addition to working in the Student Health Center.

Howe, a team physician, helps athletes eat and exercise correctly and tends to their inevitable injuries, he said.

"(Western athletes) are plain fun to take care of," he said. "You get to watch highly motivated people attempt to achieve incredible feats."

The job is not without its difficulties. The worst aspect of the job is telling athletes they will not compete for a while because of injury, he said.

One such athlete is Western senior wide receiver Zach Russell, who split his pelvis his sophomore year and received treatment from Howe.

While Russell did not return that season, he said

Howe's treatment made the recovery quicker.

"He knows what he's doing," Russell said. "He tries to get you back on the field as soon as possible."

A member of the ACSM since 1972, Howe is best known for his work at Western, Christie said.

Howe's greatest contribution was his effort to classify the knowledge and skills needed to be a competent sports physician, Christie said.

Such efforts made the profession more respected, Christie said.

"By example, Dr. Howe showed that the practicing physician could understand and care for the special problems of the athlete and that this was a calling as deserving of praise and respect as any other," Christie said.

The ACSM is an international organization that helps sports physicians by conducting scientific research and offering them further education, Howe said.

The ACSM's Citation Award is presented every year to three individuals who have made significant and important contributions to sports medicine.

Past winners include astronauts Alan Shepard and John Glenn, as well as cardiologist Albert S. Hyman, who developed the pacemaker. And, come June, the list will include Howe.

Before coming to Western, Howe worked as a family physician in Oak Harbor and as a team physician for Oak Harbor High School.

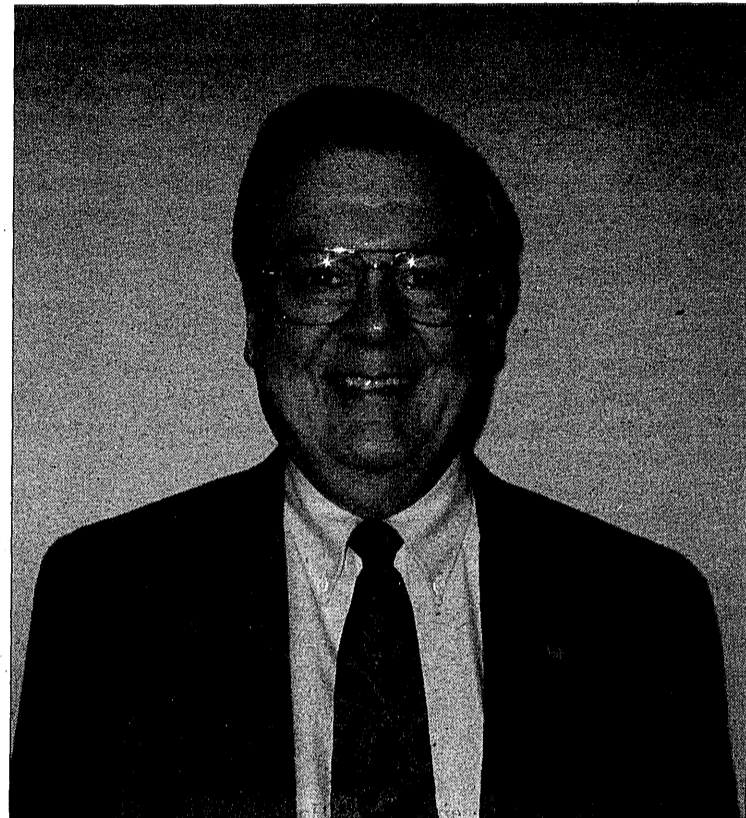
He has been involved with high school wrestling, working at the state wrestling championships since 1979.

Additionally, he served as attending physician at the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics national wrestling championship in 1976.

In recognition for his longtime service in the medical profession, Howe was inducted into the 2003 National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

'He knows what he's doing. He tries to get you back on the field as soon as possible.'

ZACH RUSSELL
Western senior wide receiver



AMANDA WOOLLEY/The Western Front
Western team physician Dr. Warren Howe received the 2005 Citation Award from the American College of Sports Medicine.

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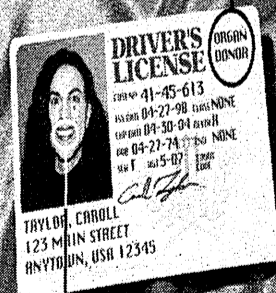
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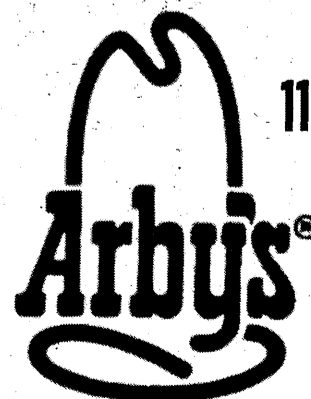
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Diary of a loser: The disappointment of the Seahawks



MATT DEVEAU
WEST COAST OFFENSE

When the Seattle Seahawks' bandwagon breaks down, it doesn't just get a flat tire. An axle snaps, the transmission drops, the engine starts smoking — even the CD player craps out.

Yes, there's nothing in sports quite like a Seahawks collapse. Fans of the team are so used to soul-crushing losses that they can sense when one is about to occur — even if they don't want to believe it.

I wouldn't call myself a Seahawks fan, but I, too, could sense one of these losses prior to the Seahawks' Saturday playoff game against the St. Louis Rams. Don't get me wrong, I was rooting for the Seahawks, but I knew that they would invariably find a way to blow it.

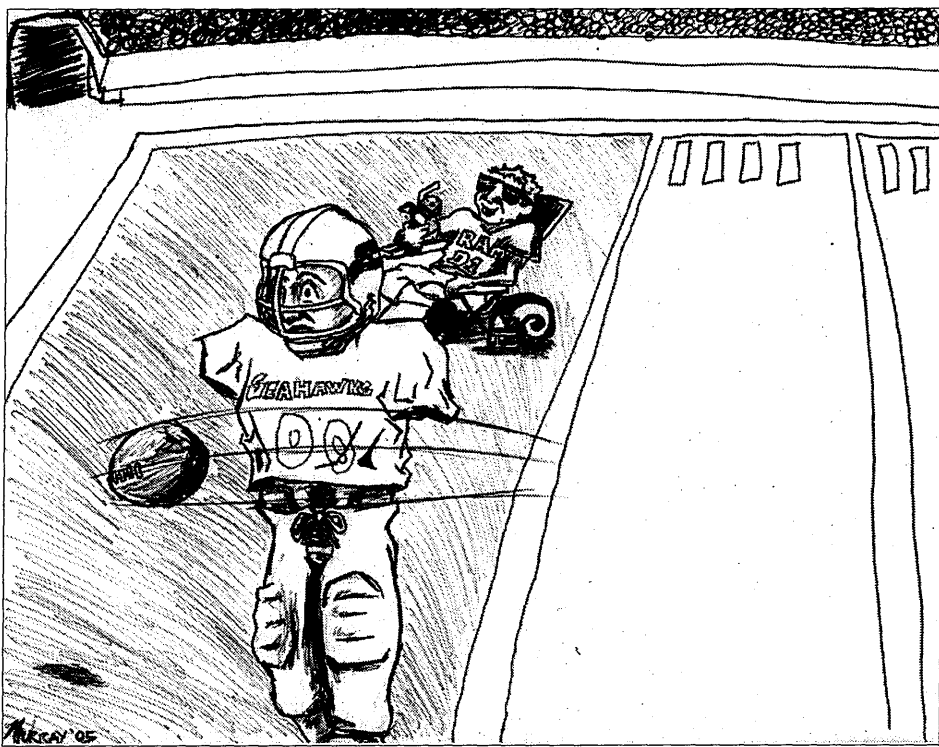
I kept a "paper blog," otherwise known as notes, during the game to try and pinpoint the exact point or points — we'll call them "uh-oh" moments — at which the team self-destructed.

1:34 p.m. Minutes before kickoff, ABC sideline reporter Suzy Kolber's pre-game interview with Seahawks coach Mike Holmgren reminds fans of the 20 years it has been since the team won a playoff game. Holmgren even stumbles on what could be next year's marketing slogan: "We've had some games we could have won, but we didn't." Sadly, though, Big Mike doesn't try to kiss Kolber.

1:37 p.m. In ABC's starting lineup montage, Rams wide receiver Torrey Holt introduces himself as "Torrey 'Big Game' Holt." If you're a Seahawks fan, that's your first "uh-oh" moment.

1:40 p.m. ABC commentator Joe Theismann told us in the pre-game that Rams quarterback Mark Bulger doesn't want to throw short passes, he wants to go deep. Guess what? With fewer than two minutes gone in the game, Bulger throws a 52-yard strike to "Big Game" Holt on the third play from scrimmage. We have our second Uh-Oh moment of the game and the line for \$7 beer is still snaking around the concourse.

1:49 p.m. The crowd has really perked up and Bulger can't hear a thing. Then the



Cartoon by Michael Murray

Seahawks inexplicably come out with seven defensive backs, giving Bulger time to hit a sliding Holt in the end zone. Touchdown Rams!

1:50 p.m. But wait — it's instant replay time! The ball may have hit the ground before Holt caught it. Upon further review, the video evidence won't be conclusive enough to overturn the call. On the plus side, the Seahawks have a storied history of getting screwed on instant replay (or a lack thereof). Nice use of a timeout.

1:53 p.m. Yep, call stands. 7-0 Rams, 11:36 first quarter.

1:57 p.m. It's the Seahawks' first possession and ... oh no! We've got our first dropped pass. This time, wide receiver Darrell "D-Jack" Jackson bobbles a ball thrown at his numbers and the Rams pick off the ensuing pop-up for great field position. I don't even have a "dropped balls" joke to make here. "uh-oh" moment No. 3.

1:59 p.m. Bulger finally looks like the "pedestrian" quarterback he is when he throws a deep ball to Holt on the sideline — right into double-coverage and the arms of Seahawks safety Ken Hamlin. Cancel that last "uh-oh" moment for the time being.

2:16 p.m. Seahawks quarterback Matt Hasselbeck scampers for a big first down, but D-Jack doesn't even look back when running his route. The ABC announcers said

his head wasn't in the game. On the next set of downs, D-Jack doesn't even know where to line up. Man, if the Hawks are still playing like this come playoff time — oh, wait.

2:26 p.m. After a Seahawks field goal, the Rams get the ball back and, at the start of the second quarter, Bulger throws a 50-yard bomb to wide receiver Kevin Curtis. First and goal Rams.

2:27 p.m. Touchdown Rams! Rams running back Marshall Faulk isn't even touched until after he breaks the plane of the goal line. 14-3 St. Louis, 13:32 2nd quarter.

2:32 p.m. Sure-handed Seahawks wide receiver Bobby Engram drops a ball. I didn't drop this many passes in my snow football game Saturday.

2:35 p.m. Seahawks running back Shaun Alexander is on the sidelines, in pain. If I didn't know better, I'd say it looks like someone stabbed him in the back. In reality, he took a shot in the arm from Rams safety Adam Archuleta.

2:43 p.m. Immediately after a penalty negated a Rams interception, Hasselbeck hits Engram for a touchdown on a perfectly thrown ball. Normally, a sequence like that goes against the Seahawks. Maybe the team does have a chance. 14-10 St. Louis, 8:18 2nd quarter.

(Programming note: ABC's pink color scheme and promos for "The Bachelorette"

probably aren't playing well to the NFL demographic. Nothing against other "demographics," I just thought I'd point that out.

3:07 p.m. The Seahawks finally bring pressure on third and seven and sack Bulger, but cornerback Ken Lucas gets flagged for hands to the face and keeps the Rams drive alive. The call was ticky-tack and had no bearing whatsoever on the play, and the violation was not flagrant. Classic Seahawks.

3:18 p.m. The Seahawks' final drive of the half dies on fourth and 10, too far out for kicker Josh Brown's field goal range. Had a few other things gone the Seahawks' way — not challenging the touchdown, the Lucas penalty, another penalty on a punt return — Brown may have had a shot at a field goal. Instead, the Rams are up by four at halftime.

3:38 p.m. Hasselbeck comes out in an Elway-esque rhythm. D-Jack wakes up long enough to catch a pass and then run for a first down, and Hasselbeck's strike to Robinson digs the team out of a third-and-long. Even Robinson's second fumble of the game rolled out of bounds instead of going for a turnover. Are the bounces actually going the Seahawks' way?

3:45 p.m. No. With the Seahawks second-and-goal on the 5 yard line, Hasselbeck takes a sack and after a false start and incomplete pass, Brown boots a field goal. A drive in which Hasselbeck went 6- of- 8 for 63 yards that didn't result in a touchdown has to be the new "uh-oh" moment No. 3. 14-13 St. Louis, 8:54 3rd quarter.

3:56 p.m. The Seahawks must be listening to the ABC commentators and me. The defensive pressure is finally getting to Bulger, who burns a timeout after Seahawks linebacker Chad Brown rings his bell. More Seahawks pressure forces the Rams to settle for a field goal. 17-13 St. Louis, 2:38 3rd quarter.

4:07 p.m. Alexander and D-Jack briefly remember that they're in a playoff football game and come up with big gains to give Seattle good field position at the start of the fourth quarter. I can feel it now — this game is setting up to crush souls all over the Puget Sound.

4:11 p.m. Is D-Jack back? Two more catches and the Seahawks are in the end zone ... and ahead in the fourth quarter. If

see **HAWKS**, page 12

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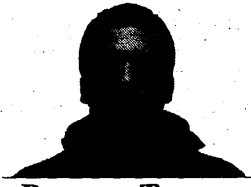
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Coaching college football is not comparable to the NFL



BRADLEY THAYER

Pete Carroll, coach of the University of Southern California Trojans football team, has been rumored by The Miami Herald, among other publications, to be considering a return to the NFL as head coach of the 49ers. Carroll has led the Trojans to consecutive Orange Bowl victories the past two years.

Despite that, however, Carroll should not coach the 49ers. He should not even entertain the idea.

Miami Herald reports have been gaining momentum the past couple weeks as Carroll himself denies them.

"I haven't been contacted by them at all, and I'm not interested," he told Miami Herald reporters Jan. 6.

If he were to take another chance in the NFL, he probably would fail again.

The college dynamic and the NFL game are

too different for coaches to make a successful jump from one to the other. Players at colleges are typically more willing to do anything necessary to please the coach, win and make the pros.

Athletes who are highly paid professionals and who have already made it to the big leagues would be more likely to dissent in many cases.

According to the same Miami Herald article, Carroll witnessed this while head coach of the New England Patriots. After the loss to the Steelers in the American Football Conference playoffs his first year at the helm, his team fell apart in the locker room with the defense blaming the offense for the loss. From that point on, Carroll could not bring the team back together. In his next two years as head coach, the team continued to fall short of the Super Bowl with disappointing records.

Criticisms about Carroll being too friendly and personable circulated in the media at the time that word got out about Carroll's potential career change. At the college level, friendly goes far when in constant contact with the players.

In the NFL, being friendly lasted Carroll four weeks.

For the first four weeks of his initial season with the Patriots, the team won every game. After that, the team was mediocre at best. According to a Jan. 9 article in Maine Today, Carroll attributed the team's generally poor performances to his lack of control over the Patriots. Carroll also had one season as head coach of the New York Jets. It was a losing situation as well.

At USC, Carroll has a talented roster he employs perfectly. If he were to coach the 49ers, however, the roster would look like a young and raw team with many free agents. They are not a good match.

From 1995 to 1996, Carroll was the defensive coordinator for the 49ers, so he is no stranger to the organization. The owner of the 49ers, John York, seems set on Carroll.

According to a Jan. 6 article in The Los Angeles Times, the cause of the initial speculation in the first place was York coming out and listing off Carroll's résumé as qualities he wanted in his new head coach.

He mentioned that the candidate must have NFL experience — not necessarily successful NFL head-coaching experience — and he must come from a winning program.

Carroll fits on all fronts. Carroll's return

to San Francisco and the NFL would be convenient.

He has accomplished everything but winning a Super Bowl and is not content with being labeled as a "college-only" coach. Carroll also has backing from several 49ers alumni. It almost sounds perfect.

But it should not happen. Even if he were interested in the position, Carroll should stay in the college game.

He has breathed new life into the program at USC. He has proven his abilities with back-to-back titles coaching the Trojans.

Though Carroll's approach fits college football perfectly, it does not translate to wins on the professional level.

"(Carroll is) the most dynamic coach in all of football right now," Bill Walsh, former 49ers head coach, wrote in a Jan. 5 article in The Los Angeles Times.

The question is this: Should the most dynamic coach in football be coaching some of the most dynamic players in football right now? No. Not right now.

"I'm having so much fun that I can't imagine living without that," Carroll said in the same Jan. 6 interview. If he is wise, he will not have to. Stick with USC, Pete.

Hawks: Shoddy pass ends the season

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

they lose after this, it will rank up there as one of the worst losses in team history. 20-17 Seattle, 14:43 4th quarter.

(Programming note: Theismann just compared a Mark Bulger pass into double-coverage to a Michael Jordan jump shot. I think that may be the worst analogy since someone compared the Seahawks to a car.)

4:21 p.m. I think I just saw Phil Luckett tag-team into the game to flag Seahawks cornerback Marcus Trufant for the team's fourth "illegal contact penalty." Here we go, the bandwagon's gears are slipping ...

4:24 p.m. The Rams kick a field goal and we're all knotted up. 20-20 tie, 8:07 4th quarter.

4:30 p.m. With just more than six minutes in the game, Hasselbeck faces a big third and seven on his own 46. I liked his "We're going to get the ball and we're going to score" proclamation in last year's playoffs, but a lot of people didn't.

A big drive here could erase those memories. So what does he do? Throws behind Jackson.

Seahawks punt.

4:40 p.m. The Rams have the ball in scoring position, third and three, just before the two-minute warning. Bulger hits tight end Cameron Cleeland for a touchdown. It's only fitting a guy who only caught seven passes all season comes up big against the Seahawks. 27-20 St. Louis, 2:11 4th quarter.

(Programming note: Theismann just said the Seahawks need to "catch the football" to come back in this game. I disagree. I think they need Michael Jordan to come in and shoot jump shots.)

4:46 p.m. With the Seahawks on the move with less than two minutes to play, D-Jack lets a would-be first down catch go through his hands and then makes a grab on the next play that brings the Seahawks the 25-yard line.

4:50 p.m. After Hasselbeck took a sack and misfired on a pass, he hits Ingram, who gets down to the 5 with 27 seconds remaining, setting up what could be the Seahawks' last offensive play of the game.

Have the Seahawks ever won an important game in this fashion?

4:52 p.m. If they have, it wasn't

today. It appeared as if Hasselbeck had a chance to run the ball in, but he sidearmed a throw to Ingram, who dropped the ball falling to the turf.

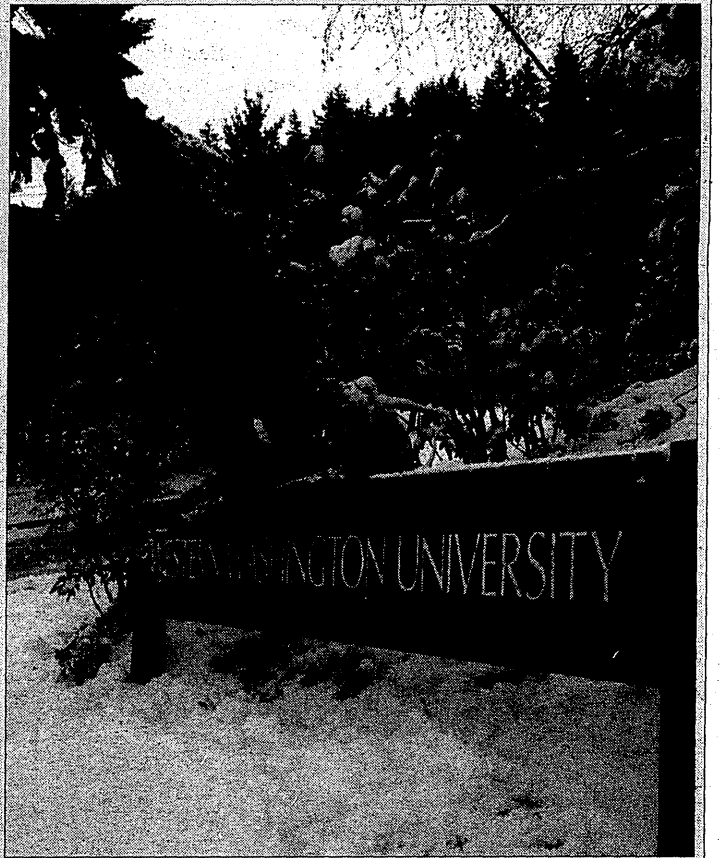
The catch would have been remarkable had Ingram come down with it — but how fitting that the Seahawks' season ended with a ball falling to the turf after hitting the receiver's hands.

The crowd is stunned. Hasselbeck is pounding his fists into the ground. Holmgren looks as if he just saw a car accident — and in a sense, he did. The Seahawks players and coaches brought their fans to the brink of ecstasy and then stalled inches from the finish line.

The "uh-oh" moments in this game didn't completely define the outcome — the Seahawks still had a chance to win in the game's final minute. But sloppy play to end the first half, questionable calls and opponents as determined as Holt don't usually add up to playoff wins.

All that's left to do is tow the bandwagon to the shop and fix it up for the July drive over the mountains to Camp Cheney.

Celebrating the snow



Courtesy of Chris Taylor
Senior Dave Goto enjoys his day off from classes Friday by board-sliding the Western sign in front of Nash Hall.

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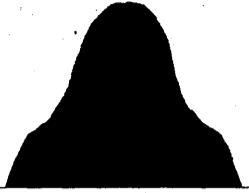
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OPINIONS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2005 • WESTERNFRONTONLINE.COM • PAGE 13

Fashion: Red thighs, blue lips are not hot



LAUREN ALLAIN

Mark Twain knew what he was talking about when he said, "Clothes make the man. Naked people have little or no influence on society."

Frigid temperatures and winds

blow as winter quarter looms, and since being naked is no longer socially acceptable, some fashion ground rules are needed.

First, to the general population, the election is over. It was a long time ago. Bush won and 52 percent of the United States is ecstatic, according to CNN.com. The other 48 percent are still bitter about having to apologize to the rest of the world. Some backpacks still advertise a candidate but no upcoming election means

their patches are old news. But regardless of which candidate a person voted for, wearing any sort of Bush or Kerry paraphernalia is not going to change anything at all — so take it off.

Second, Western women need to figure out the message their outfits portray — either they didn't have time for a shower this morning or they woke

up at 6 a.m. to shave, fix their hair and makeup and stop by the mall.

'Wearing a fleece and ripped jeans with Stilettoes just doesn't work.'

Wearing a fleece and ripped jeans with Stilettoes just doesn't work — it's mixing two extremely different looks. The same applies to wearing chandelier earrings with a hooded sweatshirt. It's like mixing ice cream with chili — the combination of which is a recipe

for becoming ill.

Another obscene sight on campus is girls wearing a miniskirt in the middle of winter. Sure, they accent the outfit with furry Ugg boots, but face it — it's 32 degrees outside and with the wind chill factored in, it feels more like five.

No matter how attractive the girl is, red thighs and blue lips are not hot. This is simply not the appropriate time of year for

see FASHION, page 15

Beware the danger of genetically modified food



AMANDA RAPHAEL

In the year 2000, more than 300 kinds of chips, cornmeal, tacos and other foods were recalled in the United States for fear that the genetically modified corn used to make them would be harmful.

Starlink, the manufacturer, had not gained approval from the Food and Drug Administration for human use of the corn and had accidentally contaminated the nation's

corn supply. Itchy rashes, raised blood pressure and anaphylactic shock were just some of the allergic reactions reported.

But corn is just one of many genetically modified crops produced in the United States and the rest of the world. Little is known about the long-term effects these alterations could have on humans, other plant species and the agriculture industry. Before people can rely on them as a solution to pests and low crop yields, they should know how they might affect them in the future.

According to the Alliance for Bio-Integrity, no evidence exists that genetically modified crops have passed all of the FDA's crucial safety tests.

According to the Pew Initiative on Food and Biotechnology, the United States is the largest producer of genetically modified foods; following are Argentina, Canada and Brazil. Genetically modified crops are planted on more than 167 million acres throughout the world.

According to a study by the American Institute of Biological Sciences, more than 60 percent of all processed foods in the United States contains ingredients from genetically modified corn, soybeans or canola.

Genetically modified "Roundup-Ready Soybeans," which were altered to resist the popular herbicide Roundup, contain the chemical glyphosate, which the plants release

and pollute the surrounding groundwater.

Also, little research has been done regarding the reaction of the neighboring environments and animals that surround them. A study by Cornell University showed that 44 percent of monarch butterfly caterpillars died when fed pollen from genetically modified corn.

Genetically modified foods have had their DNA altered to resist pests, diseases and sometimes to create higher crop yields. This sounds like a perfect solution for farmers — their crops can kill pests on their own and are stronger and more resilient to many viruses. But, according to the Genetic Society of America,

see MODIFIED page 15

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Frontline

Washington state citizens should vote down I-330

President George W. Bush announced his renewed campaign to limit the amount of damages a person can collect in the event of a medical malpractice lawsuit.

The Washington State Medical Association, the American Medical Association and the National Association of Insurance Commissioners have echoed this mission by backing initiative 330 for the November 2005 ballot in Washington State. They claim the initiative will protect patients' access to care by maximizing the amount of money patients receive and create a \$350,000 limit for non-economic damages, or monetary compensation for pain and suffering, according to the WSMA's Web site.

If the Republican-controlled U.S. Congress adopts Bush's plan, it would further limit the amount of pain and suffering damages to \$250,000. But it also would deny citizens the due process — in this case, the ability to punish large medical companies or doctors in the event of malpractice.

In addition, it will most likely lower the overall quality of health care by creating a disincentive for doctors to take more preventative measures. It's just basic economics. Even Bush's Council of Economic Advisers said last year, "The ability of the individual to pursue a liability lawsuit in the event of an improper treatment ... provides an additional incentive for the physician to follow good medical practice."

What's worse is it could ultimately result in physicians making strategic decisions based on the hypothetical chances of litigation — decisions that ultimately could result in risking a patient's safety to save costs.

Proponents of this initiative, such as the WSMA, argue that doctors are "hanging by their stethoscopes," financially, so to speak, as a result of skyrocketing malpractice suits that are forcing them to close their doors, leave the state or shift costs onto the patients.

But according to the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, a commission that advises Congress, the average increase in insurance rates as a result of malpractice suits was only 4.4 percent per year. And a 2001 Physician Insurers Association of America study found that nearly all patients and their lawyers eventually withdraw their malpractice claims. In addition, the study found the total amount of claims filed has decreased along with the median jury award — which decreased by 30 percent in 2002.

Citizens of Washington state should see malpractice suit reform for what it is — a propaganda effort aimed at misleading people into believing ambulance-chasing attorneys are bringing up a plethora of frivolous lawsuits — and should vote to keep the power of deciding the outcomes of malpractice suits in the hands of elected judges rather than in the hands of private organizations that stand to benefit from it financially.

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

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

And we quote:

"Trying to win a war on terror is like trying to win a war on jealousy — you ain't gonna win it."

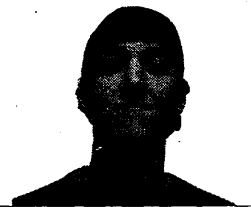
David Cross, comedian

ATTENTION POLICE OFFICERS!



In depth: The Bellingham City Council's Taser ban: Is it just?

Council was right to ban use of Tasers



TREVOR SWEDBERG

The Bellingham City Council's Dec. 16 6-1 vote to pass an ordinance prohibiting the use of Taser guns among civilians doesn't correct the real problem at hand. The council needs to take a step back and see that the majority of Taser abuse in this country is coming from those who brought the ordinance forward in the first place — the police.

According to Taser International, a market leader in non-lethal weapons, Tasers use compressed nitrogen to fire two probes into clothing or the skin and instantly conduct an electric current, effectively incapacitating the target. Unfortunately, law-enforcement agencies repeatedly have shown that they don't have the restraint to use these powerful weapons in a responsible manner. Taser guns are termed non-lethal weapons, but according to a November 2004 report by Amnesty International, 69 people have died from being shocked with Tasers by police since the year 2000.

the Taser device by an insulated wire. An electrical signal is then transmitted through the wires to where the probes make contact with the body or clothing, resulting in an immediate loss of the person's neuromuscular control, according to the organization.

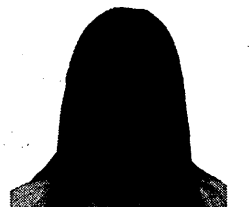
These guns pack a wallop, too. According to Taser International, the so-called "electrical signal" transmitted is actually 50,000 volts of electricity — roughly five times the equivalent of peeing on an electric fence.

Sure, it was probably a smart move to take these dangerous electroshock weapons away from

The probes are connected to

see FATAL, page 16

Tasers should be legal with restrictions



MICHELLE ACOSTA

The Bellingham City Council passed an ordinance 6-1 on Dec. 16 that would ban city residents from owning Tasers, a non-lethal gun that has a capacity to deliver 50,000 volts of electricity and inhibit an individual from movement. The council cited a lack in training and proper use.

But rather than banning Tasers from the public, it should have restricted use to those who have passed proper background checks and obtained licenses.

According to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation News Online Web site, a shot from 6.5 meters away is strong enough

to penetrate five centimeters of clothing. Through the years, Tasers commonly have served as law-enforcement weapons but are steadily falling into the hands of the public, according to the Web site.

This means anyone can have access to Tasers. The main issue is accessibility. In areas

outside Bellingham, these weapons are available online for as low as \$1,000, allowing ownership to virtually anyone, regardless of intent or maturity. In such states as Missouri and Illinois, ownership of Tasers are legal and do not require permits or background checks, according to the site.

According to ABC News Online concerning the public sale of Tasers, firearm-related

regulations does not apply to the sale of distribution because a Taser are not classified as firearm by the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

"The same safety procedures (that apply to guns) should be implemented for ownership of Tasers."

Registration and licensing for personal handguns require thorough background checks and a waiting period. In addition, depending on background checks, personal handguns can potentially be denied to consumers who could be considered dangerous. The same safety procedures should be implemented for ownership of Tasers instead of being completely outlawed.

Several law-enforcement agencies claim that Tasers are a safer form of non-lethal self-defense. Such a need to defend oneself is an important issue that should not be overlooked. A weapon can be used for personal

see TASERS page 15

Flu vaccine surpluses should be made available



BLAIR WILSON

Chills, hot flashes, sweats, sneezing — these are all symptoms of the dreaded flu. After an October 2004 announcement of tainted flu vaccines in a British manufacturing plant, Americans began to panic over a possible vaccine shortage.

According to a Jan. 1 article in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, however, 30,000 adult doses and 40,000 pediatric doses are still available. Now clinics have those unused vaccines.

Some may say that having a surplus of flu vaccines is a good thing. This is true, but not if those vaccines are going to waste.

The flu vaccine, which is given yearly, minimizes the symptoms of the virus in affected people. The vaccine is successful in preventing the influenza virus in 70 to 90 percent of young, healthy adults, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Web site.

Since the shortage, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued strict limitations on people considered high risk of catching the flu. Individuals with top priority for the vaccine include children six to 23 months and adults older than 65 as well as anyone who suffers from a chronic medical condition.

With the announcement of the shortage, high-risk patients had to face the harsh truth that for the first time in years they might not

be able to receive their annual flu shot.

According to a Dec. 13 article in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, people needing the vaccine, including the elderly and ill, began standing in long lines often in the cold for the possibility of receiving the shot. Clinics were bogged down with phone calls and people needing the vaccine were turned away. Hospitals are supposed to help patients, not deny them service.

While citizens were concerned about receiving the vaccine, numerous senators received the shot. According to a recent Seattle Post-Intelligencer article, Sen. Bill Frist, R-Tenn and Md., made his office into a clinic and offered flu shots to other senators.

While it is true that government

men and women are in constant contact with people — shaking hands and kissing babies — their health should not be put before the health of the common people. Perfectly healthy men and women should not be receiving the vaccine when children and the elderly who need protection from the flu are denied it.

Hope, however, still exists for those in search of the vaccine. According to the Victoria Clipper's Web site, the Clipper offers a flu package, including a round-trip ticket to Victoria, B.C. from Seattle and a flu shot. The ticket price, including the vaccine, is \$150. The fact that American citizens find it necessary to travel to Canada in hopes of being injected is depressing and speaks volumes about the viability of the United States' medical system.

Now, after three months since the flu shot debacle, and the CDC's limitations still in place, clinics

have found themselves with a surplus of unused vaccine.

Even with a surplus, drug distributors have yet to broaden the definition of those considered high risk. Patients not fitting this definition are unable to receive the available vaccines. High-risk patients fitting within the limitations who have not received their shots probably are still under the impression that no vaccines are available.

In addition, clinics with the unused vaccines need to try and contact as many high-risk patients as possible before the vaccines expire.

The college setting is a prime place for the flu virus to spread quickly. If students were unable to receive a vaccine and are unwilling to travel to Canada, the CDC suggests avoiding close contact with other people, staying home if the flu virus arises and cleaning hands regularly.

'The health of government officials should not be put before the health of the common people.'

'Feeding the planet has more to do with politics than science.'

Modified: Bio-engineered crops more prone to disease

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

genetically modified plants, because of the reduction in their gene diversity, can actually be more susceptible to invasion by a single powerful pathogen. Even if a crop is genetically engineered to repel a specific disease or pest, it is possible that a virus the crop was not modified to repel could wipe out the entire crop.

In addition, these altered plants are producing bacteria and toxins to kill insects. It is possible those same toxins will have negative long-term health effects on humans who eat these foods.

Genetically modified crops have only been produced and consumed widely since 1996 and, as a result, information is scarce as to health hazards in the future. So far, only a few cases of negative human health effects have surfaced, but scientists are unsure of their long-term effects. According to a study by the World Health Organization, it is not yet possible to make any general statements on the safety of all modified crops.

Proponents argue for their economical benefits — the possibility of better-quality foods and the ability to increase

food production to match growing world populations. Supposedly farmers, after purchasing the more expensive modified ones would later save money on pesticides since the plants would create them naturally. These altered plants, however, must be purchased from a specific company on an annual basis because the seeds are often self-terminating.

In the long run, farmers could lose money by being forced to buy higher priced seeds from a monopoly.

Research done by the University of Nebraska in 2001 found consistent yield decreases with the Monsanto Company's Roundup-Ready soybean seeds. The study found farmers faced yield losses between 5 and 10 percent when compared to conventional seeds.

Bioengineering companies that hope their patented species will produce higher yields that could someday be able to ease hunger in less developed countries.

But according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Association, food

distribution, not production, is the main problem relating to world hunger — hence, feeding the planet has more to do with politics than with science.

In other words, bio-engineered crops are not critical to meet world agricultural demand. The required amount needed to meet world demand could be reached by 2030 without genetic engineering, according to the UNFAA.

Before bio-engineered crops can be assumed safe for consumption, many questions still need to be answered and tests performed to ensure that they are safe to humans, animals and the environment. So far, the negative effects have outweighed the benefits. Crop yields are not higher in most cases and the herbicides produced by the genetically-modified crops harm the surrounding environment and make the crops themselves more susceptible to foreign viruses. Most importantly, the danger to human health in the future is simply unknown.

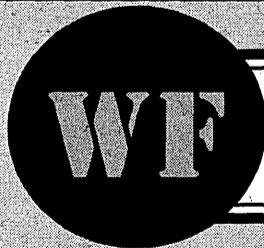
Tasers: With licenses

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

reasons, which is why background checks and restrictions are applied and strictly emphasized. If Tasers were allowed to be sold to the public without proper background checks, someone as dangerous as a criminal could easily attain these stun guns and use it for immoral reasons.

A Canadian study conducted in 1989 found that pigs with pacemakers were susceptible to heart attack because of the use of stun guns. Ten years later, an American study concluded that people with heart conditions receiving volts of electricity weaker than Tasers could result in cardiac arrest, according to CBC's Web site. Certainly, a Taser shot of 50,000 volts could increase those chances. While there is no evidence of death by Tasers, it still is a harmful weapon if used improperly by the wrong person.

Banning Tasers altogether could be like taking away a person's only form of self-defense. Some people truly need it in order to feel safe, others might not take the effect and dangers of the weapon seriously and use it as a toy. But those are the kinds of people who don't deserve to own one. As with personal handguns, only those who qualify based on firm restrictions deserve to own such a weapon.



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Fatal: Police killed 69 people with Tasers in 2000

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

the public, especially in this age of "Jackass" imitators who have finally graduated from the played-out game of riding and crashing carts into curbs and are looking for bigger, better and more shocking stunts.

And don't forget those easily excitable Republicans who lock and load whenever the all-knowing government raises the homeland-security level from salmon to burnt sienna. So maybe it is wise to take a proactive approach and keep these powerful weapons out of the hands of the public.

But the fact of the matter is Johnny Knoxville and George W. Bush don't tase people — police tase people.

Bellingham police and the Whatcom

County Sheriff's officers are among 6,000 law enforcement agencies throughout the country that have equipped some or all of their officers with the pistol-styled devices, according to a Dec. 16 Bellingham Herald article.

According to FreeRepublic.com, a conservative, nonprofit Web site forum, within a two-week span in the fall of 2004, police in Miami-Dade County, Fla., tased two children — one of them a suicidal 6-year-old boy holding a broken piece of glass.

Just two weeks later, according to the

same site, Miami-Dade police zapped a 12-year-old girl who tried to run from them after she was caught skipping school. Good thing the officer was

"The so called 'electrical signal' that is transmitted is actually 50,000 volts of electricity — roughly five times the equivalent of peeing on an electric fence."

packing his Taser, or, God forbid, he might have had to run after her.

According to a Nov. 30 article in The Seattle Post-Intelligencer, this past year Seattle police didn't have any fatal shootings involving an officer for the first time in 15 years. Some may attribute this to

the emergence of Tasers in the law-enforcement community. Seattle was

fortunate to avoid any fatal shootings in 2004, a job well done. But other, less violent means are able to achieve this goal. The threat of pepper spray can be just as intimidating and certainly less dangerous.

For those who argue that Bellingham's new ordinance is a violation of the Second Amendment right, the right to bear arms, the clear rebuttal is this: Times have changed — and the laws need to change with them. Redcoats and scallywags are no longer a threat, so put down the guns.

The power of these guns obviously isn't being taken seriously enough, which necessitates a ban of this weapon from not only civilian, but also police use.

Fashion: Birkenstocks not Birk 'n' socks

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miniskirts. They should be hung up for several more months.

This year, people also should avoid posing as a walking advertisement. All too often, Abercrombie and Fitch receives free publicity by selling a sweatshirt for \$50 that has two letters and an ampersand on it.

"Just because you can afford to wear logos head to toe doesn't mean you need to wear them for the entire world to see," said Deanna McFadden and Nadine Silverthorn, hosts for British Broadcasting Corporation's show, "What Not to Wear." "We suggest

keeping all labels on the inside of your clothes, but if you must brand yourself like cattle, keep your Tommy's, Ralph's your (Louis Vuitton's) to one item of clothing only."

'Stick to basics and adapt attire daily based on how frozen the ground looks.'

Birkenstocks seem to be a popular choice among students, but barefoot is more stylish than wearing them with socks. "Birkenstocks not Birks and socks," McFadden and Silverthorn said. "There's a place for Birks and socks

— it's at the cottage, where no one can see you."

The worst, however, is socks and flip flops. At least with Birkenstocks and socks, toes don't get cracked into

unnatural positions as they do with thongs. But wearing any type of sandal between November and April should be avoided altogether.

Some will argue that no one who attends Western cares enough to notice what anyone else is wearing. Those people are either too high, hung over or busy dealing with the inverse of logarithms to realize what their peers are wearing. A person's attire is arguably the first thing people notice about one another.

Western appears to represent a majority of styles, but to avoid being seen as fashion roadkill, stick to the basics and adapt attire daily based on how frozen the ground looks.

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