

On top and at home

Men's basketball team has first seed in today's tournament

By BRADLEY THAYER AND BLAIR WILSON
The Western Front

Western's men's basketball team will play host to the NCAA West Regional Division II National Tournament starting tonight and running through Monday.

The Vikings are competing in the tournament for the second time since the men's basketball team became a full member of the division in 1999. The Vikings also play host to the West regional bracket of the tournament for the second time. In 2001, the last time they played host to the event, the team reached the national semifinals.

The Viking men ended the 2004-2005 regular season with a 21-6 record. Western is the top seed in the West Region and will face No. 8 seed Brigham Young University-Hawaii, which went 16-8 during the 2004-'05 season. The opening round is Friday at 7:30 p.m. on Haggen Court at Sam Carver Gymnasium.

Head coach Brad Jackson said having familiar surroundings is going to be a major plus for the team.

"It is a good situation for our players, obviously — not having to travel, and being in a comfortable scenario," he said.

More information

For previews of the teams playing in the tournament, see page 14.

see **BASKETBALL**, page 7



AMANDA WOOLLEY/The Western Front

Western senior Craig Roosendaal makes a 3-pointer at Western's last practice in Carver Gym Thursday.

Council considers clearing ban

By ADRIANA DUNN
The Western Front

The Whatcom County Council will vote March 15 on a proposal banning the clearing of land for home development near Lake Whatcom. The ban would take effect Sept. 1 and is another measure being considered by the council in an effort to stop pollution of Bellingham's drinking water.

The council passed a temporary moratorium Feb. 9 prohibiting development until May 1, the end of the wet season.

"The ban itself is useless in terms of doing anything to help the water," said Bill Quehrn, executive officer of the Building Industry Association. "What it has effectively done is increased the number of building permits that have been applied for, which have probably been asked for several years."

The short-term effect is that the clearing of land exposes soil, making it prone to erosion, and during the wet season the rain washes the soil into the lake, said Steve Hood, environmental engineer for the Washington State Department of Ecology. The state has classified Lake Whatcom as polluted because of low levels of oxygen. Hood said the algae growth caused by the phosphorus in the soil washed into the lake reduces oxygen levels.

The long-term effect is the development itself will cause rain to enter the lake more quickly because the land that previously absorbed it

see **LAKE**, page 7

Firefighter races up tower for cancer cure

By MICHELLE HIMPLE
The Western Front

With the exception of Brent Molsberry, not many people could run up 69 flights of stairs in the Bank of America tower in downtown Seattle, much less do it in under 12 minutes.

Molsberry, a Whatcom County volunteer firefighter and 2001 Western graduate, set a new record for stair climbing last Sunday as part of the Scott Firefighter Stair Climb charity event.

The firefighter stair climb, organized by the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, is a fundraising event that will apply the proceeds to finding a cure for blood cancers, said Kris Howard, campaign director of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and 1998 Western graduate.

The stair climb is divided into

separate categories for male and female participants. Out of 842 male firefighters, Molsberry, a Whatcom County volunteer firefighter from District No. 6, won first place with a time of 11 minutes and 8 seconds.

Molsberry, 25, said he maintains an active lifestyle by participating in a variety of other races throughout the year. This winter, he has done some trail running, snow shoeing, cross-country skiing and playing soccer on a couple of teams. He continues to ski daily in his ski-patrol job in Utah, he said.

Molsberry said this was not the first time he has broken the stair climb record. In the last six years, he has participated in the stair climb and has taken first place three times, including this year and in 2002.

"I just found a good rhythm this year and just went with it and was

see **FIREFIGHTER**, page 6

Marine center addition breaks ground

By KATHRYN BRENIZE
The Western Front

Western's Shannon Point Marine Center in Anacortes marked its official groundbreaking ceremony Monday as it entered into the construction of a new 12,700 square-foot facility, said Stephen Sulkin, director of the marine center and professor of marine science.

Shannon Point Marine Center, a Western facility, offers upper division and specialty classes for biology and environmental science majors through Western and the Huxley College of the environment, Sulkin said.

"There are three main things that draw students to take classes at Shannon Point," Sulkin said. "It provides direct access to the marine environment, there is running sea water in each lab able to hold plants and animals for research and there is 3,000 feet of beachfront available for the

advantage of the students."

Shannon Point Marine Center has suffered from overcrowding issues because of the popularity of the classes offered, Sulkin said.

Sulkin said the current construction is the first substantial addition to the facility since it was built in 1973 and should be completed within nine to 10 months.

"The new facility will nearly double in size from our current center," Sulkin said. "The concept of our new construction is to resolve the overcrowding."

David Shull, Western assistant professor of environmental science, taught oceanography classes in spring and fall 2004 at

see **ADDITION**, page 6



Artist rendering courtesy of Western University Communications. Western's Shannon Point Marine Center's new 12,700 square-foot addition will nearly double the size of the center.

WEEKEND FUN

Four all-ages venues provide entertainment for everyone.

ACCENT, PAGE 10

THE POOR TAX

National sales tax would shift tax burden onto the middle and lower classes.

OPINIONS, PAGE 17

TOURNEY PLAY

A breakdown of times and locations of today's men's and women's basketball games.

SPORTS, PAGE 14



COPS BOX

University Police

March 10, 12:38 a.m.: UP responded to a report of malicious mischief at the Performing Arts Center. A person had written graffiti in the area.

March 9, 11:03 p.m.: UP responded to a report of an intrusion alarm at the Performing Arts Center.

March 9, 4:20 p.m.: UP responded to a staff member on south campus concerned about a suspicious male continually contacting her. Officers did not find anyone in the area.

March 9, 6:36 p.m.: UP responded to a report of a bike theft near the center of campus.

Bellingham Police

March 9, 1:00 p.m.: The program director at an assisted living center asked that a resident be checked because he was suicidal. The individual was transported to St. Joseph Hospital for an evaluation.

March 9, 10:05 a.m.: Officers responded to an assault complaint on the 1200 block of North State Street. The suspect was cited on suspicion of assault and issued a trespass warning.

March 9, 1:31 a.m.: Officers responded to two complaints of ongoing noise on the 1500 block of G Street.

March 9, 12:55 a.m.: Officers cited two subjects on suspicion of being minors in possession of alcohol on the 200 block of North Chuckanut Drive.

March 8, 8:05 p.m.: Officers cited and arrested an individual on suspicion of third-degree theft on the 800 block of Lakeway Drive. The suspect also had two warrants.

Compiled by Tiffany Sheakley

Viking Voices

What are you doing for spring break?

Compiled by Mark Reimers



Bjorn Whitney
Senior, theatre arts

Going to Long Beach, Calif., for a comic convention.



Matt Dohm
Junior, communication

Going home to party with my friends.



Jamal Muthala
Junior, psychology

Going to make money in Tacoma.

AP Wire

news briefs

STATE NEWS

Mount St. Helens has most powerful blast since fall

Vulcanologists said they were surprised — but not too worried — when Mount St. Helens started spewing steam and ash seven miles into the air.

It was the most powerful blast since the volcano reawakened last fall. But Jon Major, the volcano's hydrologist at the U.S. Geological Survey, said the mountain's bark was worse than its bite.

The Wednesday emission lasted roughly 10 minutes. Scientists will spend the next few days carefully reviewing the hours of data just before the plume to see if they missed any markers.

Man drives through barricade, dies in Seattle

A man drove through a barricade and went off the lower West Seattle

Bridge. He dropped 60 feet and died as his car hit the ground.

Seattle Fire Department officials said it happened on Wednesday afternoon on the older bridge connecting the city and West Seattle.

Department spokeswoman Helen Fitzpatrick said the turntable bridge had opened for traffic on the Duwamish Waterway and traffic on the bridge was stopped.

Witnesses said the man pulled out of line and crashed through the barrier.

NATIONAL NEWS

Country singer dies of complications from liver cancer

Country singer Chris LeDoux died from complications of liver cancer on Wednesday in Casper, Wyo.

LeDoux, 56, was a former world champion bronc rider who started writing and playing music

in his teens while he competed in rodeos.

In November, LeDoux cancelled several tour dates while being treated for cancer of the bile duct. He had a liver transplant in 2000 after a long illness.

Homeland Security chief facing resistance to budget proposal

The Department of Homeland Security secretary found that his department's budget plan for next year is a tough sell on Capitol Hill.

Senators said the \$34 billion proposal drastically would cut money for state and local authorities who are the first to respond to an emergency.

Secretary Michael Chertoff said the money needs to go to areas that are high threats for potential terrorists.

The head of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee said the spending plan cuts as much as 80 percent of

grants for small states.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Food-poisoning deaths increase in Philippines

Authorities in the Philippines said at least 27 elementary-school children who ate a snack of cassava root have died. Another hundred are hospitalized.

Cassava root has many food uses, including snacks made by deep frying and caramelizing. But it can be toxic if eaten raw.

The cassava snack apparently came from a vendor outside the school in Mabini. A hospital official said the 68-year-old woman who prepared the food with another woman also is hospitalized.

The victims suffered severe stomach pain, then vomiting and diarrhea. The cassava is undergoing analysis.

Compiled by Jenae Norman
AP Wire courtesy KUGS 89.3-FM

The Western Front Online



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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 when 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. March 14, and at 9 a.m. Thursdays on March 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.

LOT RESERVATIONS. • Lots 11G and 14G will be reserved at 5 p.m. March 11-12 for those attending performances of Die Fledermaus. • Lot 14G will be reserved at 7 a.m. March 12 for those attending the Northwest Regional National History Conference. • Lot 14G will be reserved at 2:30 p.m. and Lot 10G at 5 p.m. March 12 for Adventures Under the Stars. • Fifteen spaces will be reserved in lot 10G at 2 p.m. Friday, March 11, those attending a board of directors meeting and dinner.

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 today (Friday, March 11). Applications and instructions are available in OM 230.

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: May 14, July 9.

THE COMPUTER-BASED MILLER ANALOGIES TEST (MAT) is available by appointment only. Make an appointment in person in OM 120 or by calling X/3080. A \$42 fee is payable at test time. Test takes approximately 1½ hours. Preliminary scores are 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 April 16 and June 11 (the June 11 test is not available at Western; see the Praxis Web site for location).

READMISSION PROCEDURE. The Office of Admissions reminds the University community that all 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 have followed the application instructions and apply by the priority deadline (summer, continuing into fall, April 1; fall quarter, April 1. Readmission for post-baccalaureate students is more stringent. Applications are available in OM 200, X/3440.

STUDY ABROAD WITH LEXIA INTERNATIONAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR Vernon Johnson in Cape Town, South Africa this summer. Johnson will teach "South Africa in a Global Perspective." For more information, contact International Programs and Exchanges at ipe@wwu.edu, X/3298.

STUDY ABROAD IN OVIEDO, SPAIN WITH AHA INTERNATIONAL AND ANTHROPOLOGY PROFESSOR James Loucky next fall. Loucky will teach "Migration in a Global Age: The Changing Face of Spain and Europe." A minimum of one year of college-level Spanish language experience is required. For more information, contact International Programs and Exchanges, ipe@wwu.edu, X/3298.

Western's business development center counsels entrepreneurs

BY COURTNEY WALKER
The Western Front

Struggling businesses can visit Western's Small Business Development Center for advice on how to handle difficult decisions.

Businesses can go to the center to get advice on different ways to problem-solve and also ways to improve. According to a recently released 2004 annual report, the center advised 481 clients and saved 415 jobs in Whatcom County. The center has been part of Western's College of Business and Economics for the past 20 years but relocated off-campus a few years ago to an office in Bellingham Towers on North Commercial Street, center director Tom Dorr said.

"The center has always been a part of the (college)," Dorr said. "It's a great way for the university to give back to the community."

Currently, 22 centers in Washington state and approximately 1,000 nationwide assist businesses with a wide variety of issues, Dorr said. Eighty percent of the businesses the center helps are existing businesses, and 20 percent are start-up companies, Dorr said.

The center would not disclose which businesses it has helped. It prefers to keep that information confidential to protect the rights of their clients, Dorr said.

The center provides several different advising areas for businesses, including developing a business plan, gathering marketing research, analyzing costs and

developing a marketing strategy. Although the center provides many services and creates many success stories, Dorr said one area of his work is the most rewarding.

"Probably our greatest success is when we help an entrepreneur accomplish their dream and helping them through the process of problem solving," Dorr said.

Several Western students work at the center, including Western senior and marketing major Ann Leonard-Shannahan. She said she enjoys her job as a research analyst for many reasons.

"I love it," Leonard-Shannahan said. "We never have the same type of project, and every project requires different research."

Leonard-Shannahan also said she enjoys the different types of businesses that come into the center for assistance.

"I get exposure to many different types of industry," Leonard-Shannahan said. "It's a great job."

Western graduate student Tara Crawford said she has been at the center since July and is working toward getting her MBA. Like Leonard-Shannahan, Crawford said she loves her job and the people she gets to work with.

"I have gotten to work with a lot of local businesses," she said. "It's a great opportunity to see how different businesses work."

Crawford said she enjoys her job because she gets an opportunity to work with actual businesses in a research-based environment. Counseling is free for clients, Crawford



COURTNEY WALKER/The Western Front
The Small Business Development Center office is located in the Bellingham Towers. Program assistant Marilyn Grady works in the front office.

said, and they are pleased with the work the center does for them.

The center is a nonprofit organization and is funded by many local organizations, including Western's College of Business

and Economics. Community donations, the cities of Bellingham and Sumas, the Port of Bellingham and the U.S. Small Business Administration also helps support the center.

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Humphrey House receives county funding

BY ADRIANA DUNN
The Western Front

The Sean Humphrey House, the Bellingham YWCA and Northwest Youth Services are among 11 nonprofit organizations in Whatcom County receiving funds this year from a surcharge on county document recording fees.

The Sean Humphrey House, located on H Street in Bellingham, received \$5,000, manager Ireland Perry said. The money is used for maintaining the residence, which is one of only three HIV/AIDS care facilities in Washington state. The group provides medical support, counseling, housing and comparable services.

"We receive some funding from the Ryan White Act and from the Housing Authority, but the majority of the funding comes from fund-raising events," Perry said.

The Ryan White CARE Act is a federal law passed in 1990 to improve the quality of care for HIV/AIDS patients and their families.

The organization receives funds from Washington state depending on the number of residents living there and what they qualify for as far as care, Perry said. The house is home to six people, which is its maximum capacity, she said.

The funding collected from the \$10 surcharge is distributed among local agencies that provide aid to low-income families. Whatcom County applies the fee to the processing of property deeds and documents. A total of \$211,000 will be distributed this year.

Since 2002, Whatcom County has collected approximately \$900,000 from the surcharge, which is 60 percent of the total amount collected.

The Act was passed by the Legislature in 2002. Part of the responsibility of the county was to then convene an interlocal group between the county and the municipalities of the county, said Gary Williams, human services supervisor for the Whatcom County Health Department. The

group establishes how the funds are to be used, he said.

The remaining 40 percent of the money goes to the State Office of Community Development, part of the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development. CTED invests in communities, families and businesses to build a stronger future.

The Whatcom County Housing for Low Income People Advisory Committee submitted recommendations to the Whatcom County Council for agencies to receive money to the County Council. Council members have the ultimate authority over what agencies will receive money.

"In the first round there were 11 agencies that requested funding. The amount asked was almost twice what was available," Williams said.

All the agencies that applied received funding, but not always the total amount hoped for.

The \$25,000 Northwest Youth Services received will go toward starting a long-term shelter for 16- and 17-year-olds who are homeless or for other reasons cannot return home, Executive Director David Webster said.

"We provide a variety of services to children, youth and families during times of high stress or transition in their lives," Webster said.

Northwest Youth Services provides foster care, housing and a variety of other services. The headquarters are located in Bellingham, although they provide service to five counties: Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, Island and San Juan.

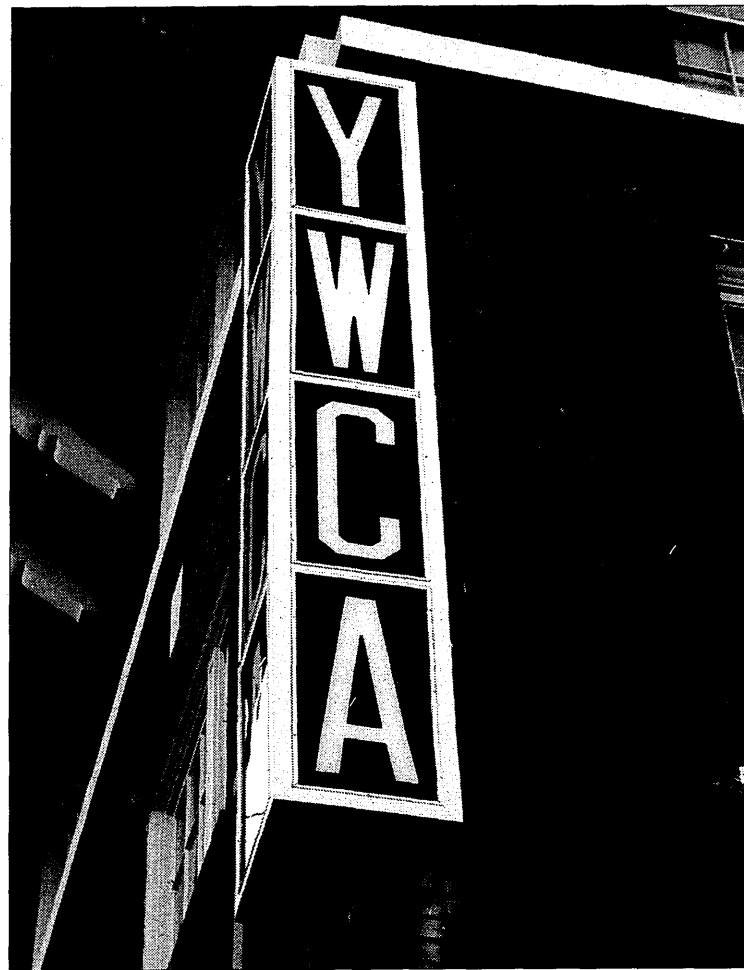
The agency receives federal, state and local money along with private, corporate donations and grants and funds earned, he said.

Webster requested an additional \$15,000, but it was not granted to the youth service. He said he was hoping to use the money for a transitional living program, which is longer-term housing, and he will reapply next year for that amount.

YWCA Executive Director Julie Foster said the association received \$10,000 in funds from the surcharge. The YWCA, located on North Forest Street, provides transitional and free housing for single women. The association is using the money to hire some skilled maintenance workers to assist volunteers who have been helping with building maintenance, Foster said.

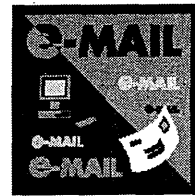
The building holds five free beds and 27 single-occupancy rooms. The YWCA provides the only housing in Whatcom County specifically for single women, Foster said. It also receives funding from United Way, the city's Community development block grants, and federal emergency housing. It raises the rest through fund-raising events and private donations, she said.

"I was really pleased because there were some restrictions on the legislation having to do with the emergency housing people and organization which have received housing trust fund money," Foster said. "We really didn't know for sure when we were starting to send out the requests for proposals how many applications were going to qualify."



ADRIANA DUNN/The Western Front
Bellingham's 89-year-old YWCA building, located on North Forest Street, houses up to 36 women. The residence program helps women transition to permanent work and housing.

Western Washington University....



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billing and payment
services.

In February, the QuikPay™ electronic billing system became the official means of generating tuition bills to all Western Washington University students. All currently enrolled students with activity on their account were sent an electronic bill notification to their WWU assigned e-mail account. Beginning April (Spring quarter) paper bills will no longer be mailed to enrolled students.

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Artist's work depicts life during WWII

BY CRYSTAL OBERHOLTZER
The Western Front

Renowned artist Isamu Noguchi's photographic study of leisure is on display at the Western Gallery throughout spring quarter in an exhibition titled "Isamu Noguchi's World," gallery director Sarah Clark-Langager said. Noguchi created "Skyviewing Sculpture," the suspended cube-like steel sculpture in Red Square.

"Noguchi: The Bollingen Journey Photographs 1949-1956" is half of a two-part exhibit the Western Gallery is presenting to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the artist's birth, Clark-Langager said. The photographs document the ways leisure time was used and perceived by varying cultures following World War II, Clark-Langager said.

"We're looking at past history through an artist's eyes," Clark-Langager said.

Noguchi was a Japanese-American artist known worldwide for his sculpture, furniture and stage designs, she said. She said the increase of industrialization led to more leisure time, and Noguchi was interested in the role art played in enhancing the influx of leisure in different cultures.

"He wondered how people could find a great emotional release through leisure," Clark-Langager said. "And he said, 'I hope it's connected to art.'"

Noguchi's study of art and leisure greatly impacted his life's work, Clark-Langager said. His art incorporates physical environments and often is displayed in a garden or university. His work designing stage settings for choreographer and modern dance pioneer Martha Graham was an example of how he intermingled leisure and art, Clark-Langager said.

"He wasn't going to do art just in his studio or for a museum," she said. "He wanted his art to be public."

The second half of the exhibit, "Noguchi and Dance," features a wall-sized projection of a recorded performance by a group of nine Western dance students using Noguchi's "Skyviewing Sculpture" as a part of their performance,

Clark-Langager said.

Also featured in "Noguchi and Dance" is a wall-sized projection of a dance choreographed by Graham performed on a stage set designed by Noguchi, Clark-Langager said. Other Noguchi pieces Western owns will be displayed as well, including furniture and a small-scale design of "Skyviewing Sculpture."

Pam Kuntz, Western dance department faculty member, choreographed the "Skyviewing Sculpture" dance for the 2003 celebration of Japan week at Western.

"After experiencing the sculpture with the dancers, I decided to base it around the number three, suspension, balance and surge and retreat, a wave-like movement," Kuntz said.

Western acquired Noguchi's "Skyviewing Sculpture" in 1969 after the board of directors decided art should be

available to Western students as part of the university setting, Clark-Langager said. She said the Noguchi museum chose the Western Gallery to receive the Noguchi photographs for this exhibition because of its history with the artist. She said a showing of his work typically would not be available to a gallery as small as Western's.

"The Noguchi museum realized we were very much aware of his work and very much recognized his importance," Clark-Langager said.

Branko Curgus, Western mathematics department professor, contributed a mathematical analysis of Noguchi's "Skyviewing Sculpture" to a 2003 Noguchi symposium held during Japan week at Western.

After looking at the sculpture from his office window for eight years, Curgus said he found a relationship between the sculpture and math. He said his interest in the artist led him to travel to New York to see more of Noguchi's work.

"He adds a new dimension to geometry," Curgus said. "With some artists you connect easier than with others."

"Isamu Noguchi's World" is on display at the Western Gallery April 4 to June 10.

'(Noguchi) wasn't going to do art just in his studio or for a museum. He wanted his art to be public.'

SARAH CLARK-LANGAGER
Western Gallery director

Western professor emeritus to exhibit art in a Texas show

BY PETER JENSEN
The Western Front

With drawings displayed in art galleries nationwide, Thomas Schlotterback, Western professor emeritus of art, said he will have another drawing titled "Missile Man" exhibited at Del Mar College's Drawing and Small Sculpture Show on April 1.

"Being accepted is very gratifying," Schlotterback, 76, said. "My first reaction to hearing about it was that I had to pack. My second reaction was that I had made it again."

The show is held annually at Del Mar College's campus in Corpus Christi, Texas. American pop artist Mel Ramos will judge this year's drawings, and first prize is \$1,000, Schlotterback said.

Schlotterback taught art history and drawing at Western from 1965 to 1993. Schlotterback was chair of the art department from 1973 to 1983, Western art professor Thomas Johnston said.

Schlotterback said all his drawings are of people. He often draws his people nude and in situations that bring out their worst to depict the faults of humanity, he said. One drawing, exhibited in March 2004 in the Wiford Gallery of Santa Fe, N.M., shows several men trying to spy on a nude woman bathing.

"The greatest fun I have is seeing the look on people's faces when they see my drawings," Schlotterback said. "You can tell I've hit a button. That's fun."

Despite the graphic nature of Schlotterback's drawings, his art remains in high demand among art galleries, said Wade Marlow, owner of the Blue Horse Art Gallery on Holly Street. The Blue Horse Gallery has exhibited Schlotterback's drawings for years, Marlow said.

After graduating from the University of Kansas in 1956 with a master's degree in fine art, Schlotterback taught art in Texas, Iowa and finally at Western, he said.

Schlotterback said his greatest achievement has not been featured in art galleries or making money from drawings, but rather teaching his students to love art as much as he does.

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Firefighter: Whatcom County firefighter Markell takes second in women's race

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

able to maintain that pace," Molsberry said. "I didn't have to push until the last 10 floors, which were a bit of a struggle."

Although Molsberry has had success three times, the climb has taken its toll on him in the past. Last year he said he felt good when he started the climb, but toward the end he almost blacked out and does not even remember the last few flights of stairs. He was able to cross the finish line before passing out and being rushed to the emergency room to get three liters of fluid pumped back into him, he said.

As far as beating his record in next year's stair climb, Molsberry does not time himself because he said trying for a specific time could screw up his pace.

"My time doesn't really matter," Molsberry said. "I just go as hard as I can, and this year I just happened to come out on top."

In 2004, the firefighters climb helped raise \$190,000 to fund the battle against cancer. The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society expects the number of contributions to rise this year. The fund raising continues through the end of March and the final results will not be known until the beginning of April, Howard said.

More than 900 firefighters completed the 14th annual firefighter climb, Howard said. The climb, which started as a small local event, has grown by word of mouth and now includes participating firefighters from nine other states around the country and from New Zealand as well, Howard said.

"As far as we can tell, it is the largest single firefighter competition in the

world," Howard said.

Molsberry's friend, Bellingham firefighter Beau Whitehead from District No. 3, took ninth place with a time of 12 minutes 51 seconds. He also has participated in the stair climb for the past six years.

Whitehead, a 1993 Western graduate, said the climb gets easier every year because he knows a little bit more of what to expect. He said he does not specifically train for the climb, but attributes 99 percent of his physical fitness to bike racing.

"The first few years I did it I actually hated it, because I would get about 15 or 20 flights (of stairs) and it's like, 'Oh my God, I can't go any further,'" Whitehead said. "But you get used to it."

Of the 67 women competing, Whatcom County volunteer firefighter Amanda Markell of District No. 4, placed second in the women's category and first in her age group with a time of 18 minutes and 16 seconds.

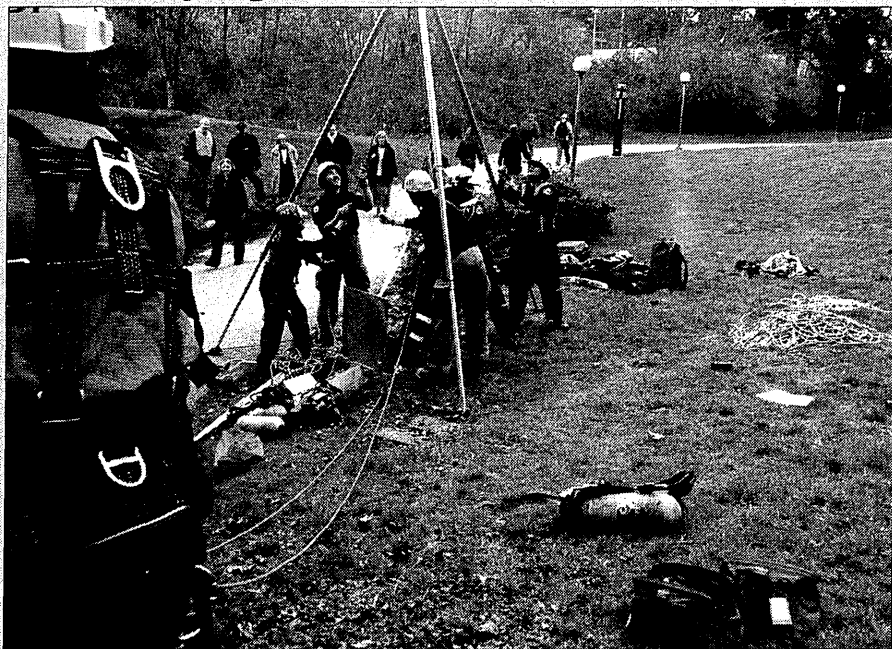
"I didn't even think I did that well after I finished. I over-paced myself and I had just gotten off of a 24-hour shift," Markell, 23, said. "I had to get up the next morning for work at 2:30 a.m."

Markell said the firefighter stair climb was the first climb of any sort that she has participated in. Although she said she ran some stairs the week before the climb, her physical fitness level can be attributed to running. A 2004 graduate of Western, she was on Western's cross-country team, where she ran 40 miles a week.

Markell said she plans on participating in the stair climb again next year.

"If I can do this well casually, who knows how well I can do if I really try," Markell said.

Firefighters in the hole



MARK REIMERS/The Western Front
Bellingham firefighters conduct a drill Tuesday south of the Communications Facility, simulating an injury in an underground facility.

Addition: More room for classes and research

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Shannon Point Marine Center and plans on teaching again this spring.

"It's a great place to teach, because it allows me to take students out on research vessels to collect samples and then use the great analytical instrumentation at the marine lab," Shull said.

Shull, who started teaching at Western winter quarter 2004, said that one of the reasons he came to Western was because of its great research facilities, but as the newest faculty member in the environmental science department he found it difficult to teach a class at the marine center because of the

demand of lab use.

"As a new staff member, there was no room to teach a class at Shannon Point because in the spring the lab is packed with people doing research," he said.

For spring quarter, the most common quarter to take courses because of weather conditions, Shannon Point Marine Center is offering eight classes, Sulkin said.

Funding for the marine center is provided from the Washington State Legislature through Western's capital budget. The total cost of the facility, including the design by a Seattle firm, is estimated at \$4.9 million, Sulkin said.

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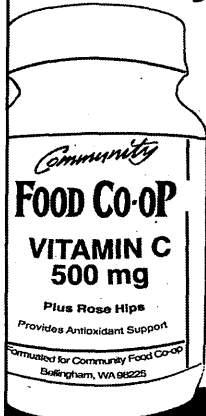
Each year, one out of every three older people falls, often resulting in hip fractures — a severe injury in this age group. For helpful tips on how exercise and home environment adjustments can reduce the risk of falls, visit aaos.org.

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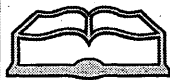


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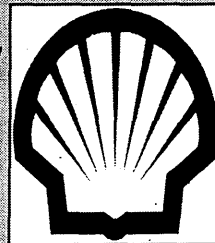
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Basketball: Conditioning should help Western in tournament

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The team has gone undefeated at home this season, a major boost to the team's overall confidence, said Western senior forward Craig Roosendaal.

"We are definitely happy that we are hosting, because we haven't lost yet at home," he said.

"We anticipate to sell out Friday night. Fans, especially the students, have been awesome this year. Our goal was to host the tournament as an extra boost. Playoffs are an exciting time," Jackson said.

Attendance has been excellent this year. Jackson and the players expect tonight's tournament to be just as crowded.

"Since we're hosting, we expect the crowd to be more rowdy — no, way more rowdy," Amaya said.

The Vikings last met Brigham Young-Hawaii in the 2002-2003 season — Western won the game by a 9-point margin. The final score was 74-65. The two schools have met 10 times, and each has won five games.

Roosendaal said no match-ups this weekend will be easy.

"They will all be tough," he said. "All we need to do right now is beat BYU-Hawaii."

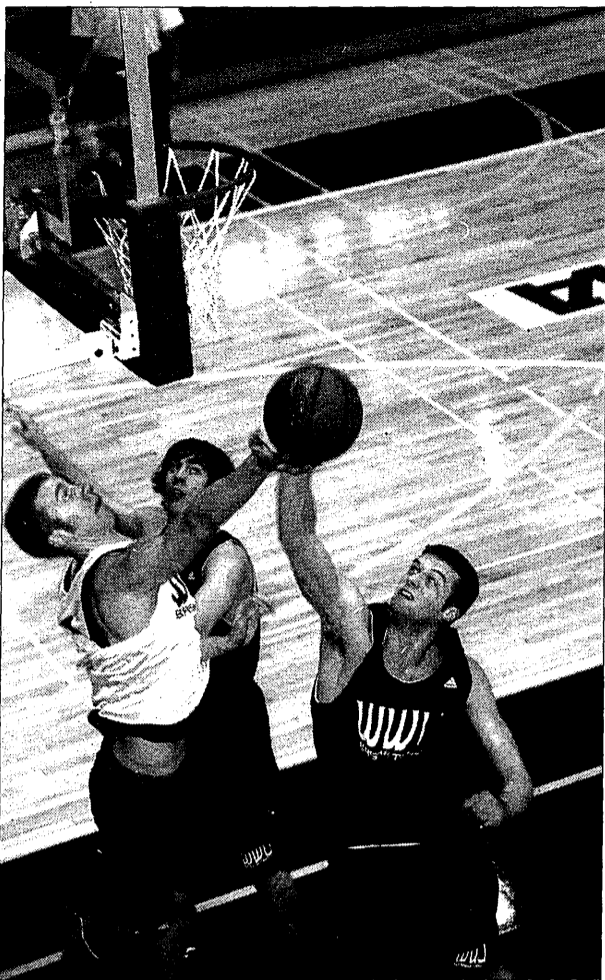
Roosendaal is convinced, however, that the team's hard work ethic when it came to conditioning throughout the season will pay off for the team throughout the tournament.

"I think the thing our team has an advantage with is just how in shape we are and our conditioning," he said. "With three games pretty much back-to-back, teams are going to get tired and we'll be able to run."

Other opening-round games include third-ranked California State Polytechnic University, Pomona (21-6) facing Seattle Pacific University (20-8), at 12:30 p.m. University of Hawaii at Hilo (24-3), and California State University, Chico (18-9), will play at 2:30 p.m. Also, the fourth ranked team California State University, San Bernardino (21-5), is scheduled to play University of Alaska, Fairbanks (19-8) at 5:30 p.m.

The teams that succeed in the first two games on Friday will face off in a semifinal at 5 p.m. Saturday. The other two teams play at 7 p.m. Saturday.

The regional championship game will take place on



AMANDA WOOLLEY/The Western Front

Western junior center Tyler MacMullen, freshman forward Calin Schell and junior forward Darrell Visser get some last minute scrimmaging in on Thursday evening in Carver Gym.

Monday at 7 p.m. The winner of that game advances to the NCAA II Elite Eight, which will take place in Grand Forks, N.D., on March 23 to 26.

Tickets are \$10 for reserved seating, \$8 for general admission and \$5 for youth in the general admission section. The tickets are good for the day.

Lake: Permit process slowed

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

is gone, Hood said. Once the land is cleared, planting and fertilizing lawns also increase the amount of phosphorus in the runoff, he said.

Lake Whatcom is the only place in Washington state that is evaluated by a point system to either approve or deny applications for building permits during the wet season, Hood said. The county rates plots of land based on the soil infiltration rate, time of year, slope, size of land and proximity to the water.

"I think we should eliminate how much land is to be cleared from the point system," County Councilwoman Barbara Brenner said. She said the system can be modified to be more effective. She voted for the temporary ban in February to allow the administrative staff time to catch up with the backlog of permits.

"I think the biggest problem is with the people who are doing clearing who pass the point system. There's not enough inspectors to make sure the people are doing the right thing," Hood said. "On a rainy day, when you have a problem, all of those sites that are operating are potential problems."

Sam Ryan, Whatcom County Planning and Development Building Services manager, said the general feeling is the system is not working as well as it should have been.

"From what I understand during heavy rain, there was about 15 percent (of sites) that weren't working like they should have been," Ryan said.

Whatcom County Planning and Development officials have been discussing alternatives to the ban, such as making retention systems throughout the Lake Whatcom Watershed for already developed areas. She said these areas are the source of much pollution during the heavy rain season.

The ban is affecting local construction business, and the wait to get an appointment with Planning and Development to get a building permit is backed up until September because of the high volume of requests, Ryan said.

She said she has dealt with complaints and has visited four different jurisdictions to review possible different ways to deal with incoming applications. The point system worked well until last year, but the department now is experiencing high volumes of applications. A new system will be up in two months, she said.

Hood said the county needs to balance the cost of enforcement by either hiring more inspectors or banning activities with high risk.

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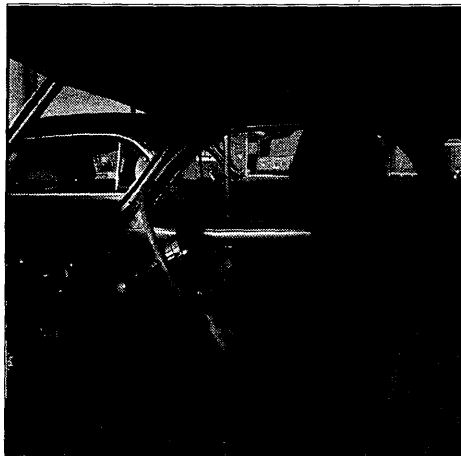


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CD Review

The album is given a score out of 10. The score can found behind the text of the review.



The Mars Volta
Frances The Mute

"Frances The Mute" may go beyond the casual rock fan's comfort zone, but listeners who appreciate brutally raw yet amazingly emotional music of any kind should head to their local music store and pick up The Mars Volta's follow-up to 2003's "De-Loused in the Comatorium."

"Frances," the band's second full studio album, takes the listener on a musical voyage by combining hard-rock elements similar to Led Zeppelin with atmospheric Pink Floyd-style compositions while throwing in an occasional Latin-inspired rhythm.

Despite the potential for confusion, "Frances" does not sound borrowed from any other genre. Instead, the album creates its own sound throughout its five exhausting songs.

The only minor problem with "Frances" is the multiple breaks between each song. In the first song, "Cygnus...Vismund Cygnus," lead singer Cedric Bixler-Zavala's screaming vocals sound similar to early Jane's Addiction until a strange two-minute segment of distorted voice samples takes

over. The strange samples provide contrast to the overall heaviness of the album, but often go on for too long.

The album is broken into five distinct songs throughout 12 tracks, similar to a symphony. One of the songs, "Miranda That Ghost Just Isn't Holy Anymore," is divided into four tracks and is nearly 30 minutes long. After digesting all five movements, listeners will realize that the band is not concerned about promoting "Frances" as a commercial album but simply as an album.

Lyricaly, "Frances" is as haunting as it is descriptive. Late band member Jeremy Ward found a journal that inspired the lyrics, which reflect The Mars Volta's anguish, according to a Feb. 24 review on RollingStone.com.

In "The Widow," the album's second track, Bixler-Zavala's lyrics paint a dark picture — "He's got fasting black lungs made of clove-splintered shards / They're the kind that will talk through a weezing of coughs." Using a combination of English and Spanish, Bixler-Zavala's lyrics often

become lost in the album's heavier tracks. Fortunately, the distorted lyrics rarely take away from the powerful tracks.

Most of the time, "Frances" is a musical onslaught that rivals a tornado touching down inside the listener's stereo, but on "L'via L'Viaquez," the album's best track Bixler-Zavala's creepy lyrics echo over a Latin-inspired beat.

The slow rhythm will play again and again inside the listener's head for hours, if not days, afterward. Meanwhile, an occasional raging guitar solo keeps the listener from forgetting The Mars Volta's rock roots. The result is something that must be heard to be appreciated.

Listeners interested in expanding their concepts of rock music should listen to this album, not once, but at least three or four times. Only then can they appreciate the production intricacies of "Frances," an album that will keep rock fans content for a long time.

— Adam Rudnicki

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Rockin' for a cause

BY JENAE NORMAN
The Western Front

For less than an hour's worth of work at minimum wage, people will be able to rock out with a punk band, hear ballads and sing along to classic covers during an all-ages tsunami benefit show at the Pickford Dreamspace.

Coordinating his first show, Western senior Jason Long said he included punk, rock, acoustic, pop and reggae in the lineup so something will appeal to everyone.

"The lineup is all over the board as far as genres go, which is excellent for a benefit show because you can have waves of people coming in and out for whatever shows they like," said Derek Rickard, 23, guitarist and vocalist for Bellingham band Typical Ace.

The bands agreed to play for free so the proceeds can go to Mercy Corps' tsunami relief effort, Long said.

Mercy Corp is a group of humanitarian agencies that reach more than six million people each year.

"I was reading awhile back that it might take up to 10 years to clean up the tsunami disaster, so even though this benefit show is a little later than other shows, I think it will still make an impact on the relief efforts," said Erik Oien, a junior at Evergreen State college and bass player of Seattle band isa.

Mojo Music in Bellingham also contributed to the benefit show by donating a PA system, including speakers, a mixing board, microphones and stands.

"We decided to donate to the show because it's for a worthy cause and definitely something we should support," said Jennifer Karnecki, head of the community music department at Mojo Music. "It's the way the whole community should be going."

Long spent 100 hours coordinating the event and said he hopes to be able to donate \$2,000 to Mercy Corps after the show.

"I wanted to make it so that everyone would go check it out and, even though they may not like all of the bands, there will be something for everyone," Long said. "I didn't pick the bands based on only what I like. I picked bands that draw large crowds so the show can make a lot of money to donate."

Western senior and musician Kris Orlowski is known as "the Bellingham heartthrob," and has a sound and style that hints to singer/songwriters including Dave Matthews and Jack Johnson, Long said.

"It is fun being a heartthrob, but I'd like to be known for more than that," Orlowski said. "At the show, I want people to hear the passion in my music and to educate about the tsunami disaster."

Orlowski said he wanted to do a tsunami benefit show because it's a way for his friends and fans to make a difference.

The disaster hit home for Devin Roberts, lead singer for isa. He said he had a friend in Asia who saw everything firsthand, so he knew how big the disaster was.

Roberts said that members of isa always jump at the chance to help out, but they did this one because they thought they would have a significant chance of being part of a successful benefit show because of the community and people.

"Our crowds usually really like the show," Roberts said. "It's the type of thing where we ease them into it and by the end of the show, everyone is clapping. We've never had a show where we don't have people coming up to us afterwards and telling us how much they like it."

Static Recall, another band from Bellingham, covers pop, punk and rock songs in their shows, Long said.

"The only way to imagine their sound is if you could picture throwing Jimmy Eat World, Foo Fighters, Kid Rock, Blink-182, The Smashing Pumpkins and Finch into

a blender for an hour, set on purée," Long said.

Playing the longest set at the show is Typical Ace.

"Rock is a good way of describing what our music sounds like, but it's punk influenced," Rickard said.

Scott Karalius is a Seattle musician who plays the acoustic guitar, electric guitar and the piano.

"Scott is like 'Goose' in 'Top Gun.' Everyone likes him," Long said. "His crowd and fans range from football players to vampires."



ERIC SANFORD/The Western Front
Bellingham band Typical Ace unleashes its rock 'n' roll onslaught at the 3B Tavern on Feb. 26.

Concert details

Who: Typical Ace, Static Recall, Kris Orlowski, isa, Scott Karalius
When: 7 p.m. March 12
Where: Pickford Dreamspace
Cost: \$5

Long wants the crowd at the tsunami benefit show to be just as large and full of variety, he said.

"The show is affordable and there's good, talented bands," Long said. "Even if people aren't into bands, it will be a good way to start a hellish finals week."

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Bellingham's

Reporter Lauren Allain covers four venues in Bellingham that give students a reason to leave the dorms and head downtown. All photos by Chris Huber.



The question "What are we doing tonight?" frequently echoes through dorm rooms, apartments and houses throughout Bellingham on any given Friday or Saturday night. The 21-and-older crowd debates which bar to spend the evening at as the younger generation scrounges for rides to the mall. In between these groups are the students sitting in the dorm rooms. It may seem to those individuals that Bellingham has nothing to offer. Well, fear not Western students: Bellingham has a plethora of all-ages activities that cater to students and make for a lively and memorable weekend.

iDiOM Theatre

1418 Cornwall Ave.

The 3-year-old theater is located in downtown Bellingham and is the only original playwright theatre in Bellingham. Krissa Woiwod, managing director and Bellingham resident, said the theater puts on 26 shows in a single season — four times what the average theater produces.

"We produce original, local work," she said. "We focus on contemporary, modern theater that hasn't been produced yet."

A specialty at the iDiOM Theatre is the 48-Hour Theatre Festival. The festival is open to anyone who wishes to participate, Woiwod said.

Teams consisting of a playwright, director and three or four actors meet on Thursday at 8 p.m. to choose a theme on the weekends when the theater has scheduled a 48-Hour Festival. The team then writes the script that night and turns it in at 9 a.m. Friday. The script is produced

and performed in the 94-seat iDiOM Theatre Friday at 8 p.m. and again at 10 p.m., Woiwod said.

Western senior Kamarie Chapman has acted in the 48-Hour Theatre Festival six times and has served as playwright once, she said.

Chapman said the 8 p.m. shows typically sell out, and the 10 p.m. shows are crowded as well.

Immediately following the 10 p.m. show Friday, the audience chooses the theme for Saturday night's shows. Then the process is repeated with the script due at 9 a.m. on Saturday.

Playwright invitations also occur frequently at the iDiOM Theatre. These are open to any playwrights, with the only restriction being the title, Woiwod said. This month the theme is Blank Fever. The playwright fills in the "blank" with a new word and leaves the last word as "fever," creating the title.

Chapman will be producing her play next month with the theme being Blank Musical, she said.

"It's a great venue for college students," she said. "(The theatre is) a really big alternative to going to a bar and drinking."

Chapman said many Western students involved in the theatre arts department also are active at the iDiOM Theatre, but the theater always is looking for new faces for acting as well as in the audience.

The iDiOM Theatre will be showing Blank Fever Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$8 at Village Books and the Community Food Co-Op or at the door for \$10. Prices decrease to \$6 for 10 p.m. shows. Occasionally, the iDiOM Theatre puts on shows at midnight, which are cabaret-style sketch comedy and are always \$5.



The Pickford Dreamspace

1318 Bay St.

The Pickford Dreamspace serves as one of Bellingham's only rental facilities. Used for concerts, festivals, films, speakers and other special events, the Dreamspace is open for anyone to rent, coordinator and Bellingham resident Tamara McDonald said.

The space can be used as an all-ages venue if the renter wishes to do so, McDonald said.

Several Western professors and students planned the International Women's Day festival that recently took place at the

Dreamspace, McDonald said. Other events that have occurred at the Dreamspace include the Tin Hat Trio Project, which put live music to vintage films, and a reggae festival.

"It acts as a community center," McDonald said.

Western senior Jason Long is coordinating a tsunami benefit show at the Dreamspace that will take place on Saturday.

"I was searching for an all-ages location and found the Dreamspace," Long said.

The cost to rent the space for the entire day is \$350, McDonald said. The cost is a flat rental and does not include any equipment, she said.

The capacity of the Dreamspace varies, but with standing room only the space can hold as many as 350 people, McDonald said.

The space will become the new location for the Pickford Cinema in a year, McDonald said. It was renovated and opened one year ago.

The Whatcom Film Association, owners

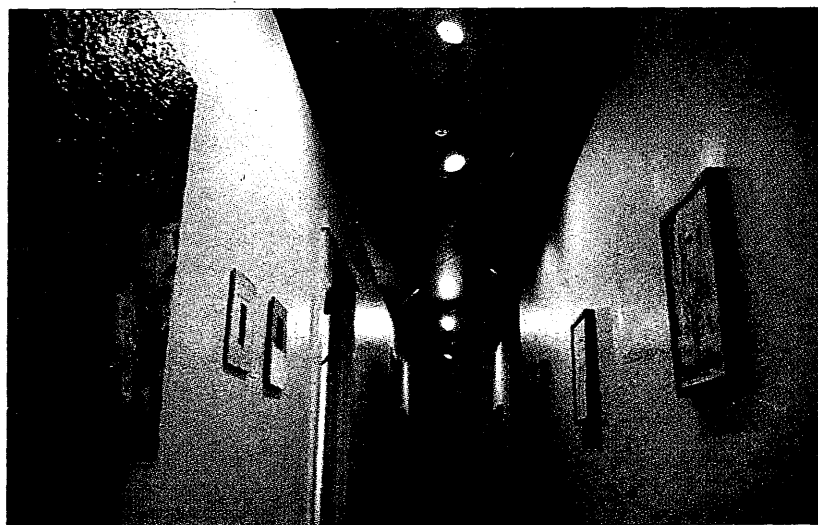
of the Dreamspace and Pickford Cinema, are using the money from renting the Dreamspace to cover the costs of renovation.

"It's a great space to be used like this," she said. "I get a number of calls daily about booking all-ages concerts."

Long said not many other all-ages venues are available in Bellingham.

"There's hardly anything all-ages," he said. "It's really a shame there's not more of them in Bellingham."

all-ages venues



Hand to Mouth Gallery

205 E. Chestnut St.

Catering to student artists is the Hand to Mouth art gallery, studio and darkroom.

With the company of her two cats, Napoleon and Bunny, 31-year-old Bellingham resident Michelle Schutte owns Hand to Mouth and is the sole employee.

Schutte said she opened the gallery in July 2003 to connect Western's art department and local art galleries.

"I went to Western and I noticed we didn't have enough studio space," she said.

Hand to Mouth not only displays students' work but also includes six work studios and one darkroom available for rent, Schutte said.

Studios range from \$125 to \$175 per month and the darkroom is rented at an hourly rate of \$6, which includes the chemicals used for film development, she said.

Themed shows take place regularly. A Polaroid theme

will be on display starting April 7, including actual Polaroids and paintings of Polaroids. Schutte said anyone is welcome to submit artwork that would be entered in a show as it fits the current theme.

Gallery space also can be rented weekly for \$150. The gallery is located in the lobby of Hand to Mouth, and work also is hung in hallways.

Western photography associate professor Garth Amundson worked with Hand to Mouth in the past. He instructs a studio seminar class in which students are encouraged to display their work publicly, he said. Historically, many students have displayed in the Viking Union, but Amundson said he likes to see students connect the community to Western in a gallery like Hand to Mouth.

Last fall, 29-year-old 2004 Western alumnus Amanda Norenberg displayed her photographs with 14 other art

students from Western at Hand to Mouth, she said.

"It's a great facility," Amundson said. "We're really lucky to have an exhibition space like Hand to Mouth in the Bellingham community. It's a wonderful opportunity for students and the community at large."

Schutte receives 25 percent of the profits from all work sold in the gallery, which is slightly more than half of what normal studios require, she said.

Schutte said few spaces exist in Bellingham that offer her services to beginning artists, particularly students.

"I think it's important to have room for beginning artists to have room to display their work without worrying about beans being sprayed on it," she said.

Schutte said she hopes her space can mimic the support local music has received in the Bellingham community to local artists.

Upfront Theatre

1208 Bay St.

Tucked on the outskirts of downtown Bellingham is the Upfront Theatre. Formed by comedian and owner Ryan Stiles and project manager Sheila Goldsmith, the theater opened to the public in August.

The theater focuses on live, improvised comedy, Goldsmith said, with performances by improv groups ranging from Portland to Vancouver, B.C.

"We wanted to give people a place to see and perform improv," Goldsmith said.

The theater can seat 130 to 135 people. Small, circular tables with red candles create an intimate feeling in the dark theater.

The Western Associated Students group The Dead Parrots Society performed at the Upfront Theatre in October, Western senior and improviser Nick Edwards said. At the last minute, an improv group cancelled so the society was called as backup, he said.

Goldsmith said she is picky about who she invites to perform at the Upfront Theatre and does not see many improv groups from Bellingham asking to perform.

"Personally, I wish they would use more local people," Edwards said. "We'd like to perform more shows there."

Shows take place every Friday and Saturday night at 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and \$8 for students with identification.

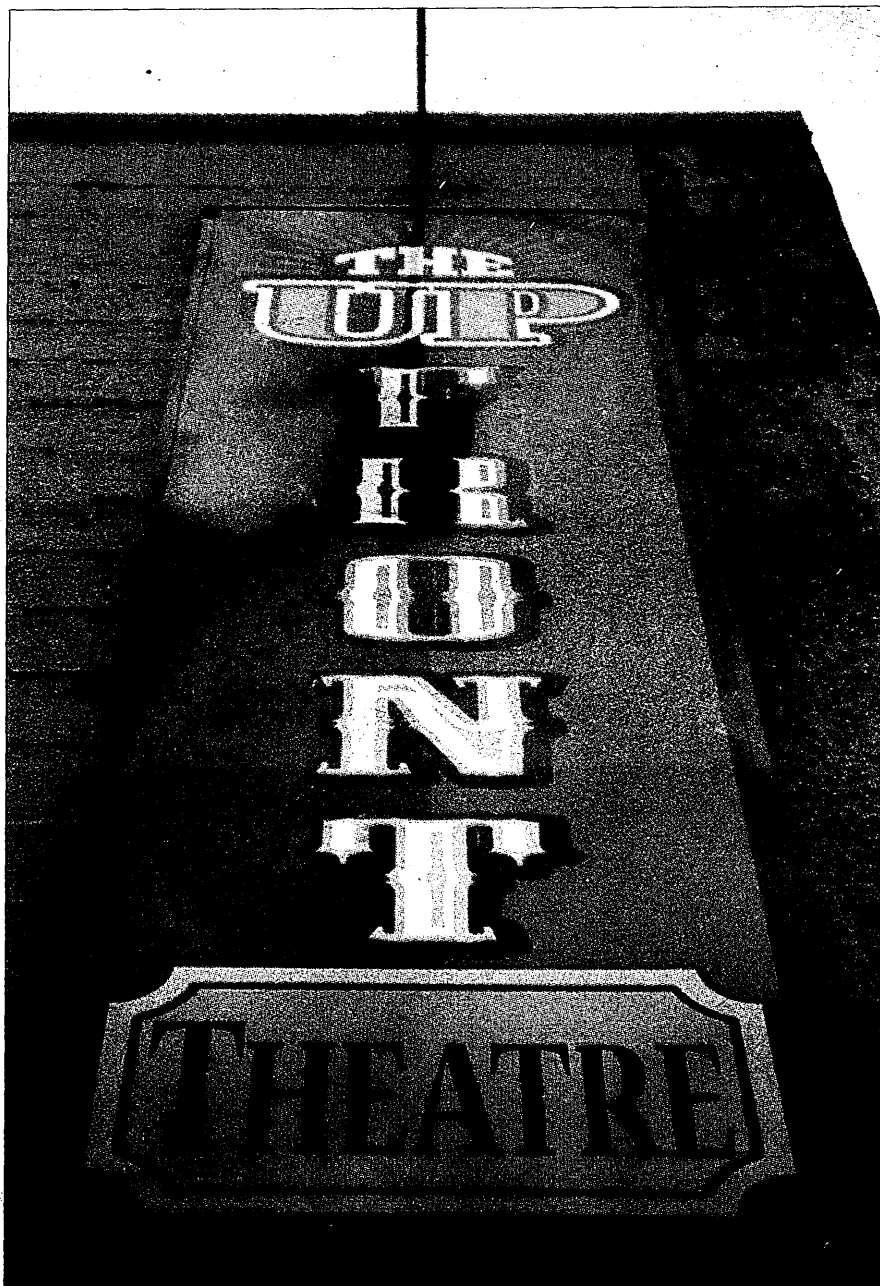
Goldsmith also teaches an improv class at the Upfront Theatre. The class meets once a week for two hours during an eight-week session.

Improviser's workshops from around the Northwest also are held at the Upfront.

Tim Eisner, the Upfront Theatre's house manager and 2002 Western alumnus, said Ryan Stiles normally attends acts as the master of ceremonies at half of the shows and performs every two months.

Stiles' next appearances will be Mar. 31, April 1, and April 2. Tickets go on sale March 30 and can be purchased at the theatre or in person.

This weekend, the Spolin Players from Seattle and the Upfront Players, the Upfront's in-house group, will be performing.



Western pole vaulters launch their way to nationals

By KATHRYN BRENIZE
The Western Front

Western juniors Tyler Thornbrue and Hunter Verner hope for high heights after hearing they would be attending the NCAA Division II Indoor Track and Field Championships for pole vaulting today and Saturday.

The national championships will take place for the sixth consecutive year at the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center in Boston, where a total of 400 athletes will compete.

Verner and Thornbrue attended the Seattle Pacific Last Chance meet Feb. 26, where they both cleared 16 feet 1 inch, leaving them in 10th and 11th place respectively for the national competition.

"You get three jumps. I cleared 15 feet 8 inches and then 16 feet 1 inch both on my third tries, so



CHRIS HUBER/The Western Front Western junior pole vaulters Tyler Thornbrue (left) and Hunter Verner take a break during practice last Thursday.

I was very close," Verner said. "I was trying to calm myself down, both for the excitement and the possibility of going to nationals."

The indoor track season started Jan. 16, and athletes have been participating in meets since then to improve their provisional national qualifying marks, Verner said.

"I set two goals for this season. One was to clear 16 feet and the other was to make it to nationals," Verner said about his first indoor track season. "I made both of them, so I'm just ridiculously excited."

Throughout the season, he and Thornbrue have been able to challenge and push each other, Verner said.

"It was great having Tyler (at nationals) because that was another incentive to jump higher," Verner said. "We encouraged each other, and I couldn't have done it without him."

Thornbrue said he recently began pushing himself extensively into a more relaxed way of thinking.

"I've changed my mindset from putting a lot of pressure on myself to just realizing how many blessings and opportunities I have been given," Thornbrue said.

Thornbrue and Verner said they were unsure if they cleared the minimum of 15 feet 10 inches to be considered for the national competition.

"I don't know if I was expecting to clear it, but I just started enjoying it more and that really helped me focus," Thornbrue said.

Head track and field coach Pee Wee Halsell said he is incredibly pleased both athletes made it to the national competition.

"Now my hopes are that they can make it into the top eight, which would make them All-American athletes," Halsell said.

Skulley left with Verner and Thornbrue for nationals early Wednesday morning.

"I'm very excited to go to Boston with them," Skulley said. "I think at this point I will be providing support and helping them adjust their jumps."

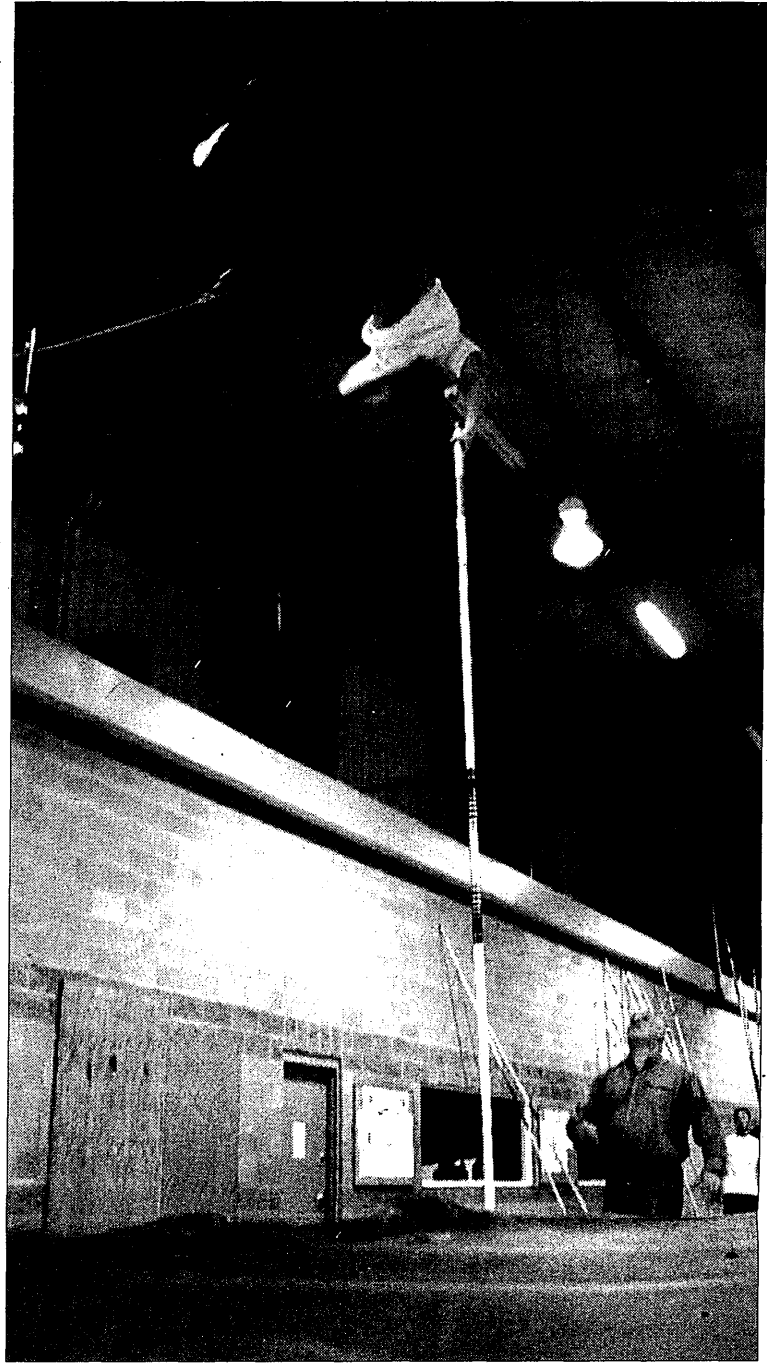
Skulley, who has been coaching at Western for two years, said Verner and Thornbrue definitely have been the leaders of the team.

"Hunter is so relaxed and easy-going, and Tyler is always there for people if they need someone to talk to," Skulley said.

Verner said he is still recovering from a pulled muscle in his leg.

Thornbrue and Verner also were named Great Northwest Athletic Conference Indoor Track and Field co-athletes for the week of Feb. 20 to 26.

Western junior and fellow pole vaulter Scott Romney cleared 15 feet 8 inches at the Last Chance meet, just missing a spot for nationals.



CHRIS HUBER/The Western Front Western junior pole vaulter Hunter Verner clears the rope as his coach Dick Henrie observes during practice last Thursday at the Bellingham Sportsplex. Verner, along with Western junior Tyler Thornbrue, will compete in the NCAA Division II National Indoor Track and Field Championship today and Saturday in Boston.

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Western splits doubleheader with Western Oregon University

By ERIC SANFORD
The Western Front

The Western Vikings split a double-header with the Western Oregon University Wolves, winning the first game and losing the second.

"In the first game, we hit the ball hard and had a good rhythm going," Vikings head coach Lonnie Hicks said. "In the second game, we just weren't giving the same attack, and ball was going right to the fielders."

In the first game, the score was tied at two until the Vikings unleashed a barrage of hits in the fifth and sixth innings, scoring

three runs in the fifth and four runs in the sixth. The final score was 9-2.

"The first game was our best offensive game so far," said Western senior captain and right fielder Megan McPhee.

McPhee went 6-for-7 during the double-header, with three triples.

In the second game, the Wolves scored two runs in the first inning off a double by Western Oregon junior catcher Lydia Foster and held onto the lead for the rest of the game.

The Viking's only run was scored on a sacrifice fly by Western senior third baseman Adrienne Moore in the bottom of the fourth inning.

"The other team hit well and found good gaps in the second game," Western freshman catcher Liza Teichler said.

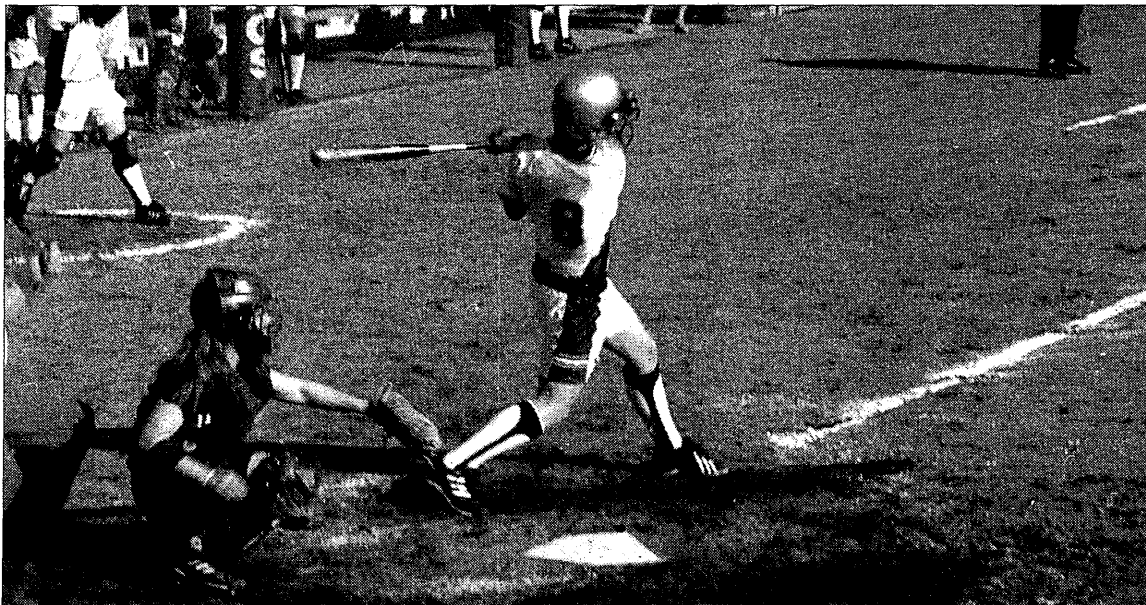
The double-header was the Viking's first home game of the season, and the team's record is now 4-6.

Teichler said the team has a few things it can improve on.

"We need to try to keep our intensity up and focus hard on the game," Teichler said.

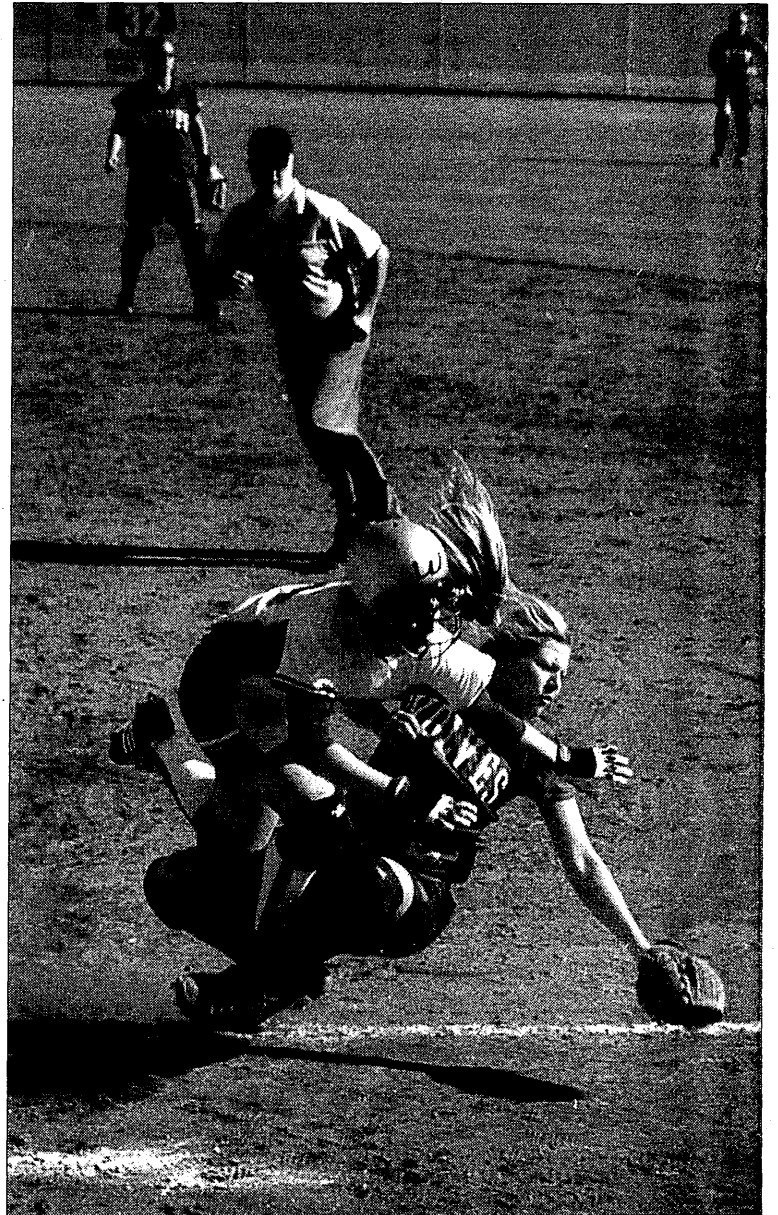
After the games, many of the players said they had good feelings about the day.

"Overall, the games were positive," McPheesaid. "Everyone had fun."



AMANDA WOOLLEY/The Western Front

Western senior infielder Adrienne Moore hits a foul ball during the first game of Thursday's double header.

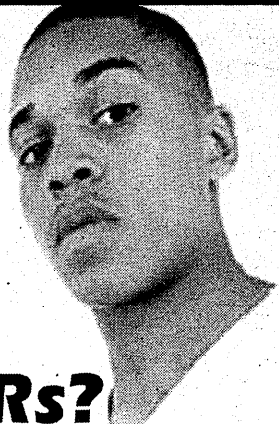


AMANDA WOOLLEY/The Western Front

Western freshman utility player Lisa Pendergrast collides with the Western Oregon University first baseman in the first game.



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Western Washington

Western Washington University



Bellingham, Wash.

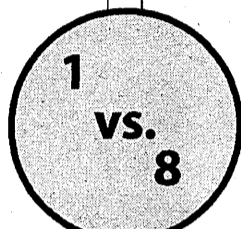
Founded: 1893
Affiliation: Public
Enrollment: 12,900
Colors: Navy, slate blue, silver and white
Mascot: Vikings
Conference: Great Northwest Athletic

2004-05 Records: 21-6, 13-5 conference (T-1st place), 13-0 home, 8-6 road
Coach: Brad Jackson (20th year, 374-216)
Regional history: 2nd appearance (3-1, in 2001), 2001 regional champions

Probable starters and key reserves

F	Grant Dykstra	Jr.	17.4	ppg
F	Tyler Amaya	Jr.	12.4	ppg
C	Tyler MacMullen	Jr.	10.7	ppg
G	Ryan Diggs	Jr.	18.3	ppg
G	Kyle Jackson	Jr.	9.9	ppg

F	Craig Roosendaal	Sr.	12.0	ppg
G	Preston Vermuelen	Jr.	3.8	ppg



Facts: Western is playing host to its first West Regional tournament since 2001, when the Vikings advanced to the national semifinals ... Dykstra will receive the U.S. Basketball Writers Most Courageous Award for 2005 on April 4 in St. Louis ... Dykstra, who has only partial use of his right arm after a childhood accident, also is a finalist for the V Foundation Comeback Award for the second year in a row ... Amaya has been on four straight conference championship teams at three colleges since winning a state championship at Mt. Vernon High School ... Diggs has averaged 22.2 points per game since missing three games earlier this season with a hairline fracture in his right (shooting) hand.

BYU-Hawaii

Brigham Young University-Hawaii



Laie, Hawaii

Founded: 1955
Affiliation: Private
Enrollment: 2,400
Colors: Crimson, gold and gray
Mascot: Seasideers
Conference: Pacific West

2004-05 Records: 16-8, 11-4 conference (2nd place), 12-1 home, 4-7 road
Coach: Ken Wagner (14th year, 289-144)
Regional history: 5th appearance (1-4), in 2004

Probable starters and key reserves

F	Austin Smylie	Jr.	17.0	ppg
C	Jake Chrisman	Sr.	20.7	ppg
G	Michael Stowell	Sr.	14.3	ppg
G	Thomas Watkins	Sr.	12.9	ppg
G	Jason Solis	Sr.	4.6	ppg

G	Paul Peterson	Fr.	6.7	ppg
F	C.J. Fellars	Jr.	5.5	ppg

Facts: Chrisman received Daktronics Inc., West Region first-team honors for the second straight year ... Chrisman and junior guard Shawn Opunui are both transfers from Division I Brigham Young University. BYU-Hawaii is a branch campus of BYU, which is located in Provo, Utah ... BYU-Hawaii put a scare into the University of Louisville, a top-10 Division I team, in November. The Seasideers lost 89-79 after leading in the second half ... In August, the Seasideers played three games in China ... In 2004, Yuta Tabuse, who played with the Seasideers in 2001-02, became the first Japanese player to sign a contract in the NBA. Tabuse played for the Phoenix Suns before being waived on Dec. 18.

CSU San Bernardino

California State University, San Bernardino



San Bernardino, Calif.

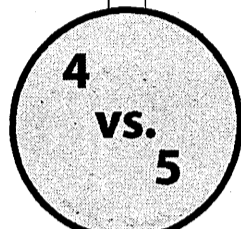
Founded: 1965
Affiliation: Public
Enrollment: 17,000
Colors: Columbia blue and black
Mascot: Coyotes
Conference: California Collegiate AA

2004-05 Records: 21-5, 16-4 conference (T-1st place), 11-1 home, 10-4 road
Coach: Jeff Oliver (3rd year, 70-15)
Regional history: 7th appearance (10-6), in 2004, 1999 and 2002 regional champions

Probable starters and key reserves

F	Brian Pruitt	Sr.	9.7	ppg
F	Kaneem Pelt	Sr.	4.8	ppg
C	Chris Davis	Sr.	9.5	ppg
G	Kenneth Sims	Jr.	13.8	ppg
G	Trenell Eddings	Sr.	14.6	ppg

F	James Perkins	Jr.	8.7	ppg
C	Joseph Dural	Sr.	6.5	ppg



Facts: The last time Western and the University of California, San Bernardino met in the West Regional, the Vikings defeated the Coyotes 58-55 on Hagen Court in Carver Gym to advance to the Elite Eight ... The two teams met on Dec. 19 in Las Vegas. Western won 73-69 ... San Bernardino finished the 2003-04 season ranked 8th nationally in the final Division II Bulletin poll ... The Coyotes played host to last year's West Regional but lost in overtime to Alaska Fairbanks in the second round ... Eddings is the lone returning starter from last season ... San Bernardino won at least a share of the CCAA title this season for the sixth year in a row ... This is the Coyotes' fifth straight West Regional appearance.

Alaska Fairbanks

University of Alaska Fairbanks



Fairbanks, Alaska

Founded: 1917
Affiliation: Public
Enrollment: 10,487
Colors: Blue and gold
Mascot: Nanooks
Conference: Great Northwest Athletic

2004-05 Records: 19-8, 13-5 conference (T-1st place), 9-5 home, 10-3 road
Coach: Frank Ostanik (1st year)
Regional history: 4th appearance (2-4), in 2004

Probable starters and key reserves

F	Brad Oleson	Sr.	25.1	ppg
F	Justin Bourne	Sr.	6.8	ppg
C	Andrew Smith	Jr.	14.9	ppg
G	Kenny Barker	Fr.	5.3	ppg
G	Chris Smith	Sr.	8.5	ppg

C	Ivan Miskovic	Jr.	7.0	ppg
G	Chris Jordan	Fr.	8.8	ppg

Facts: Oleson received Daktronics Inc., West Region Player of the Year and first team All-Region honors this season ... He also won GNAC Player of the Year for the second consecutive season ... He is University of Alaska Fairbanks' all-time leader with 1,829 career points ... Oleson attended Peninsula College in Port Angeles in the 2001-02 season ... In 2002, UAF became the first Division II team in NCAA history to win an 8-team Division I tournament when it won the BP Top of the World Classic ... Oleson was an all-tournament selection that year ... The Nanooks lost all three games in this year's classic ... Andrew Smith and Bourne received honorable mention GNAC honors this season.

Spring Break Parking Information:

During finals week, March 14-18, valid parking permits will be required in all lots and regular parking regulations will be enforced.

During spring break, March 21-25, permits or bus pass will be required.

Vehicles must display a winter, academic, or annual parking permit, or a winter or academic Viking Xpress bus pass. Permits/ Xpress passes will be valid in any lot with the exception of 6V, 8G, 10G, 23V, 25G, 24G, Parks Hall, the Chemistry-Biology-Sciences lot, or the Engineering Technology lot.

Permits/ Xpress passes are not valid at parking meters.

Permit holders will need to return to their regular assigned parking lot on March 26.

Those who do not have a current permit may purchase a temporary permit for the break at Parking Services between 7:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, or use the meters or pay boxes in lot 6V all day/night, or in other G lots after hours as posted on the pay box.

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Cal Poly Pomona

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Pomona, Calif.

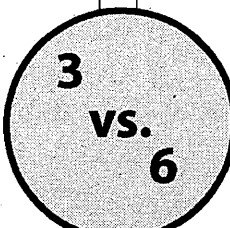


Founded: 1938
Affiliation: Public
Enrollment: 19,500
Colors: Green and gold
Mascot: Broncos
Conference: California Collegiate AA

2004-05 Records: 21-6, 16-4 conference (T-1st place), 13-1 home, 8-5 road
Coach: Greg Kamansky (5th year, 100-39)
Regional history: 5th appearance (1-4), last 2004, 1964 and 2003 regional champions

Probable starters and key reserves

F David Sybesma	Sr.	16.3 ppg
F Jeff Bonds	Sr.	17.3 ppg
C Kevin Neveu	Fr.	3.9 ppg
G Hervey Malone II	Jr.	8.8 ppg
G Jonathan Boyd	Jr.	7.9 ppg
G Dion Cook	So.	8.6 ppg
C Kaelen Daniels	Fr.	4.8 ppg



Facts: Last season, two Cal Poly Pomona players, Sybesma and Bonds, were second and first-team West Region all-stars, respectively ... Bonds also was West Regional MVP in 2002-'03, when Pomona advanced to the national quarterfinals for the first time since 1964 ... The Broncos have won 44 games throughout the past two seasons, which is the best two-year run in the program's history ... Humboldt State University knocked the Broncos out of the 2004 West Regional, winning 86-83 in the first round ... Kamansky's .705 winning percentage is the best among all Broncos men's basketball coaches ... Western defeated Cal Poly Pomona 99-82 on Nov. 27 in Carver Gym.

Seattle Pacific

Seattle Pacific University

Seattle, Wash.



Founded: 1891
Affiliation: Private, Methodist
Enrollment: 3,728
Colors: Maroon and white
Mascot: Falcons
Conference: Great Northwest Athletic

2004-05 Records: 20-8, 12-6 conference (3rd place), 12-1 home, 8-7 road
Coach: Jeff Hironaka (3rd year 50-32)
Regional history: 16th appearance (18-13), last 2002, 1965, 2000 regional champions

Probable starters and key reserves

F Dustin Bremerman	So.	12.9 ppg
C Chad Williams	Jr.	8.3 ppg
C Jason Chivers	Sr.	15.9 ppg
G Jordan Lee	Sr.	13.7 ppg
G Tony Binetti	Jr.	13.4 ppg
G Ralph Steele	Sr.	7.6 ppg
F Mike Bushmaker	Jr.	4.2 ppg

Facts: Seattle Pacific returns all five starters from last season's team, including Chivers, a second-team Daktronics Inc., West Region and first-team GNAC all-star in 2004 ... Chivers, of Los Angeles, was a minor league baseball pitcher and first baseman in the New York Mets organization for four years ... Steele, who went to high school in North Birmingham, Ala., made 82 of 90 free throws in 2003-'04 and is hitting his foul shots at a 90.9 percent clip this season ... Seattle Pacific defeated Western 76-68 Jan. 15 at home and lost to Western 91-87 Feb. 12 ... Western's win against Seattle Pacific put the Vikings in a tie for No. 1 in the GNAC ... Former Falcon Eric Sandrin has played with the Harlem Globetrotters this season.

Hawaii Hilo

University of Hawaii at Hilo

Hilo, Hawaii

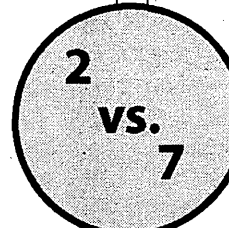


Founded: 1947
Affiliation: Public
Enrollment: 3,300
Colors: Red, white and navy blue
Mascot: Vulcans
Conference: Pacific West

2004-05 Records: 24-3, 12-3 conference (1st place), 16-0 home, 8-3 road
Coach: Jeff Law (7th year 111-75)
Regional history: 2nd appearance (0-1), last 2003

Probable starters and key reserves

F Terrance Troupe	Jr.	5.4 ppg
F Osadonor Esene	Sr.	21.3 ppg
C Alex Graham	Jr.	4.0 ppg
G Brian Graham	Jr.	11.6 ppg
G Alex Cabagnet	Sr.	14.4 ppg
F Justin Dobson	So.	8.3 ppg
G West Hawthorne	Sr.	6.8 ppg



Facts: The University of Hawaii at Hilo Vulcans' record was the best among West Region teams this season ... Senior forward Esene, nicknamed "Skip," sat out the 2003-'04 season ... In 2002-'03, he received honorable mention all-conference honors ... Cabagnet was born in Quezon City in the Philippines and attended high school in Los Angeles ... The Vulcans feature two Washingtonians, Troupe and freshman guard Rocky Jorgenson ... Hawaii Hilo won the last ever Pacific West Conference title ... Western New Mexico and Montana State-Billings will move to the Heartland Conference next season, and the four Hawaii schools, including Hawaii Hilo and BYU-Hawaii, will play as independents.

Chico State

California State University, Chico

Chico, Calif.



Founded: 1887
Affiliation: Public
Enrollment: 16,000
Colors: Cardinal and white
Mascot: Wildcats
Conference: California Collegiate AA

2004-05 Records: 18-9, 13-7 conference (2nd place), 11-2 home, 7-7 road
Coach: Puck Smith (18th year, 264-236)
Regional history: 8th appearance (1-12), last 2004

Probable starters and key reserves

F Jason Van Eck	Sr.	12.9 ppg
C Will Bonner	Sr.	10.3 ppg
G Scott Land	Sr.	15.5 ppg
G Andy Butcher	Sr.	8.1 ppg
G Tim Haley	Sr.	7.5 ppg
G Colin Carr	Sr.	8.9 ppg
F Chuck Webster	Sr.	7.0 ppg

Facts: Of the 14 players listed on the team roster on the Cal State University, Chico Wildcats' Web site, 11 are seniors ... The team's top nine scorers are in their final year of eligibility ... The Wildcats led the CCAA in scoring this season with an 81.2 points-per-game average ... The team lost three of its final five games after winning seven games in a row ... Land, who missed most of last season with a knee injury, was a first-team all CCAA selection in 2002-'03 ... Bonner was the 2001 CCAA Freshman of the Year ... Smith served three years in the late-1960s in Vietnam as an infantry officer in the United States Army. He received the Bronze Star and the Army Accommodation Medal for Valor.

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Vikings travel to Seattle for West regional tournament

By BRITTANY GREENFIELD
The Western Front

Western junior forward Tina Donahue will lead the women's basketball team's charge against the No. 7 ranked California State University, Dominguez Hills at 2:30 p.m. today at the Royal Brougham Pavilion at Seattle Pacific University.

The team is making its eighth straight trip to the West Regional NCAA Division II National Tournament, this time as the No. 2 seed and its 33rd post-season appearance in the team's 34-year history.

If the Vikings win their first game, they will compete in the semifinals at 5 p.m. Saturday. The championship game will be at 7 p.m. Monday.

Donahue led the Vikings in scoring this season, averaging 14.1 points per game. She also ranks 20th in the nation for free-throw percentage at 86.3 percent.

Western guard Jodi Gerald, the team's

only senior, was not far behind with an average of 12.7 points per game. Gerald set a Great Northwest Athletic Conference and Western record this season, hitting nine consecutive 3-point shots.

She made six in a Feb. 24 game against Central Washington University and another three in the following game against Seattle Pacific on Feb. 26.

With Donahue and Gerald's sizeable point contributions, the team racked up 23 wins and just four losses this season. Western's 78-55 win at Seattle University Saturday brought a victorious end to the season.

Western is ranked No.14 overall in the USA Today/ESPN Women's Basketball Coaches Association NCAA II Top 25.

The Vikings placed second in the GNAC standings at 15-3.

Cal State Dominguez Hills is making its third appearance at the West Regional NCAA Division II National Tournament. The past two came in 1995 and 1996.

Western Washington

Western Washington University



Bellingham

Founded: 1893
Affiliation: Public
Enrollment: 12,900
Colors: Navy blue, slate blue, silver and white
Mascot: Vikings
Conference: Great Northwest Athletic

2004-05 Records: 23-4, 15-3 conference (2nd place), 12-1 home, 11-3 road
Coach: Carmen Dolfo (14th year, 301-110)
Regional history: 2nd appearance (3-1), in 2001, 2001 regional champions

Probable starters and key reserves

F	Tina Donahue	Jr.	14.1 ppg
F	Krystal Robinson	So.	6.7 ppg
C	Courtney Clapp	Jr.	11.5 ppg
G	Jodi Gerald	Sr.	13.1 ppg
G	Samantha Hubbard	Sr.	4.4 ppg

F	Devin Dykstra	So.	7.6 ppg
G	Liz McCarrrell	Fr.	5.0 ppg

Facts: Western is making its eighth straight trip to nationals, the last seven of which have been to the NCAA Division II West Regional ... It is the team's 26th straight post-season appearance and 33rd in the 34 year history of the program ... It is also the schools 26th straight 20-win season ... The program has 733 victories in its history ... Western's head coach Carmen Dolfo returned to the bench this season after a one-year sabbatical in 2003-04 ... Gerald received first-team all-GNAC honors and Donahue garnered 2nd-team recognition ... Donahue was also a second-team Daktronics Inc., West Region all-star ... Western has not defeated tournament host Seattle Pacific in its last seven attempts.

CSU Dominguez Hills

California State University, Dominguez Hills



Carson, Calif.

Founded: 1960
Affiliation: Public
Enrollment: 13,500
Colors: Cardinal and gold
Mascot: Toros
Conference: California Collegiate AA

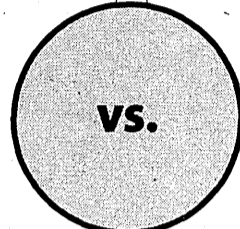
2004-05 Records: 17-9, 15-5 conference (T-2nd place), 11-3 home, 6-5 road
Coach: Van Girard (17th year, 222-233)
Regional history: 3rd appearance (0-2), in 1996

Probable starters and key reserves

F	Brittney Blankenship	Fr.	8.7 ppg
F	Alana Bailey	Fr.	12.3 ppg
C	Michelle Kribell	Fr.	4.9 ppg
G	Octavia Askew	Sr.	10.2 ppg
G	Tameka Blue	Jr.	13.2 ppg

F	Karen Shirley	Sr.	4.7 ppg
G	Jessica Liang	Fr.	4.7 ppg

Facts: Blue and Askew are the only starters back from last season's 11-16 team ... In a season preview on the team's Web site, Girard referred to Askew as "our all-everything" player ... Blue was a first team all-conference selection and California Collegiate Athletic Association Freshman of the Year in 2002-'03 ... Dominguez Hills has one Washingtonian on its roster, junior forward Tiare Alailima of Interlake High School ... Alailima also played as an outside hitter for the Dominguez Hills volleyball team ... Dominguez Hills is averaging 69.4 points per game this season ... The Toros won back-to-back CCAA titles in 1995 and '96 ... Western is 1-1 all-time against Dominguez Hills.



Tournament information

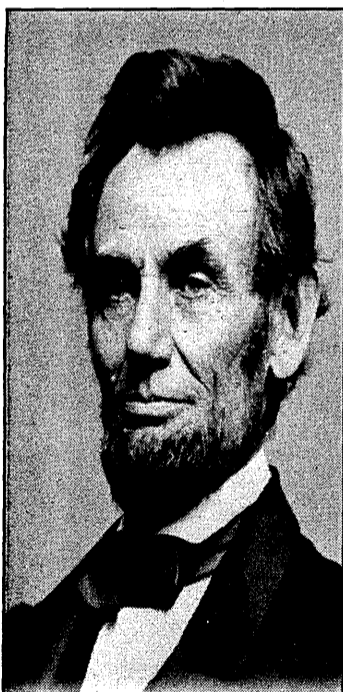
What: 2005 NCAA Division II Women's Basketball West Region Championship

When: Western plays its first round game today at 2:30 p.m.

Where: Royal Brougham Pavilion at Seattle Pacific University (capacity 2,650)

Directions: Brougham Pavilion is located on the northeast corner of Nickerson and Third Avenue West in Seattle. Detailed directions and maps are available at www.spu.edu/athletics.

Tickets: Ticket prices range from \$5 to \$10 and can be purchased at the Brougham Pavilion box office or by phone at (206) 281-2085.



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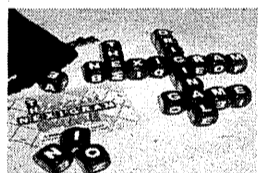
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Frontline

English-only laws would make immigrants' assimilation difficult

Efforts by a majority of U.S. House Republicans to push English-only legislation are a crude display of America's xenophobia.

Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa, along with 57 additional members of Congress, introduced the bill HR 997, the English Language Unity Act of 2005, this past week. The bill would require federal, state and local governments to conduct business only in English, according to King's congressional Web site.

Advocates of the bill say it will encourage immigrants to learn English and fully assimilate into American culture. They also claim it will save money from printing government forms in more than one language as well as create a sense of unity among all Americans.

Most immigrants, however, not only already speak English, but also display an overwhelming willingness to assimilate — even without the laws. Approximately 70 percent of foreign-born Latino/Latina residents said they identify more with the United States than their countries of origin, according to an August, 2003 New York Times poll. And, in San Diego, approximately 90 percent of second-generation immigrant children surveyed speak English well or very well, according to a John Hopkins University study cited on the Cato Institute's Web site.

In addition, a report by the National Academy of Sciences found that immigrants may add as much as \$10 billion to the economy each year — an amount that would wholly offset any kind of printing costs for bilingual government documents.

Even Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan testified on Feb. 27 to the Special Committee on Aging in the U.S. Senate that immigration could prove a potent antidote for slowing growth in the working-age population, according the Federal Reserve's Web site.

But that did not stop King from appearing on CNN's Lou Dobb's Tonight show this last Tuesday, using emotionally divisive language to paint a picture of how Latino and Hispanic Americans ostensibly are "taking over" and "conducting naturalization services in Spanish."

What he didn't mention was that naturalization laws already require applicants to speak, read and understand English when applying for citizenship. The bill, therefore, wouldn't add anything to the system.

Perhaps the most harmful aspect of the legislation, though, is that it would leave new arrivals at the mercy of a complicated system, which could — ironically — make it even more difficult to assimilate.

Most immigrants want only to play by the rules and eventually become citizens. Advocates of this bill should realize this country is founded on immigrants and, in the future, support legislation that honors diversity instead of cultural imperialism.

Frontlines are the opinion of The Western Front editorial board: Matthew Anderson, Lauren Miller, Anastasia Tietje, Amanda Woolley, Caleb Heeringa, Laura McVicker, Aaron Apple, Michael Murray, Krissy Gochnour, Tara Nelson, 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:

"To err is human, but it is against company policy."

— Ross Perot, former presidential candidate



National sales tax will hurt poor most



SARAH BERGER

If President George W. Bush has anything to say about it, middle- and lower-income Americans may not be able to afford the Saturday matinee soon.

A national sales or "consumption" tax on retail purchases could be levied on everything from food, drinks and movie tickets to cars, according to a March 4 Seattle Times article.

A consumption tax also could inhibit purchases like a new car or clothing. Essentially, a consumption tax hurts those least able to pay for goods and has little effect on those who have the most money.

Bush said he is concerned that Americans have too much paperwork to do during the tax season.

"I've told the American people I want to work to simplify the tax code to make it easier to understand so that people are spending less time filing paper," Bush said, according to a March 3 article on ABCNews.com.

To remedy that, he is in favor of a tax-system overhaul. It's a gallant proposition on his part, but a hard

blow to the people he loves to ignore — the poor and the middle class — who would pay a disproportionate amount of their disposable income on the tax.

Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan said last week the nation should create a "hybrid" tax system that taxes not only income but also personal consumption.

Greenspan also said he agrees with the president on a national sales tax.

Greenspan said one of the first decisions the panel must make is whether to tax consumption or income, according to a March 4 Washington Post article.

Many economists, including some White House advisers, have advocated taxing consumption more heavily through a national sales tax.

The basic difference between an income tax and a consumption tax is that the former taxes all money earned, including savings, while the latter only taxes what is spent.

Because the poor have to spend a higher percentage of their income, a sales tax will hit them the hardest.

Advocates say a consumption tax can be made less difficult for the poor, such as not taxing essentials including food and medical care.

Replacing income tax with a national sales tax would make it harder for the poor and the middle class to create investments.

see TAX, page 18

College should not be an excuse for stupidity



TRAVIS SHERER
LOOKING UP

What you're drooling on is the final installment of "Looking up."

So now is the time to start exploring other activities, such as skee ball and skin wearing.

It also could be the perfect time to start consulting with Charles Schwab about my future retirement plan. When I'm done accounting for my vast finances, I will get a prostate exam, see a nutritionist and buy a life-insurance policy. Why not? I'm in college.

I know what you're saying. "What does attending a university have to do with acting like a white, middle-aged conservative?" Well, what does going to college have to do with drug experimentation or unabashed irresponsibility?

As a response to so many of the stupidest things done because of the excuse, "go ahead, you're in

college. Now is the perfect time," someone should do something smart for a change to show off his or her college education. After all, college is supposed to be filled with the smartest people in the country,

Perhaps because after college is the "real world," which is supposedly such a boring and depressing hellhole that you, as a liberated college student spending all your parents' money, are doing everything in your power to prolong entering it. That means getting the most out of the five years by doing the craziest shit possible.

So go ahead and have that threesome with your girlfriend and a baby goat while on your ether binge, because this will be your last opportunity to have any kind of real fun.

The fact is many of us are just looking for any excuse to do whatever we please, no matter how

stupid. But why should college be the only excuse?

Why can't somebody break the mold, be a leader and just say "I'll try crack, after all, it is Tuesday"?

But the fact that an idea is wild

Nothing says, "look what I've accomplished with my education quite like showing how many bottles of poison you've consumed." While you're at it, why don't you show off your herpes sores as well?'

And to the guys who display empty alcohol bottles in their windows as trophies, I just would like to thank you for the best example of college stupidity I can think of. Nothing says, "look what I've accomplished with my education," quite like showing everyone how many bottles of poison you've consumed.

While you're at it, why don't you show off your herpes sores as well?

Ruining your credit also is a bad idea, but many college students have one Abercrombie and Fitch credit card and one American Eagle

see EXCUSES, page 18

Etiquette: Being poor is no excuse for not tipping



TIFFANY SHEAKLEY

Life for a college student is undoubtedly difficult between studying for finals, holding a job and maintaining some shred of a social life. These, however, are not excuses for rude behavior while dining at a restaurant.

A steady diet of McDonalds and Top Ramen only can last so long before a trip to a restaurant such as

the Olive Garden is necessary.

A casual dining experience was simpler when one had parents around to deal with the bill and tip, but as college students, the responsibility falls elsewhere.

Many of Bellingham's food-service workers are students dealing with the same hectic schedules as those without jobs. These students are not as lucky as others and need the money to cover rent and bills.

Classes and tests affect any student's mood, so students should keep in mind that if a waiter or waitress is having a bad day, a simple smile or sympathy can go make a huge difference in the

quality of the service received.

Students also should learn the proper amount to tip. The standard tip is 15 percent of the bill.

Don't worry if math is not a strong point. Students having trouble figuring out 15 percent of the bill, and can take the easy way out. Washington's state tax is approximately 8 percent, and if that is doubled, the result is approximately 15 percent.

Western's Blue Book is filled with coupons for local restaurants for students to use. The standard 15 percent tip, however, should be

calculated before any savings or discounts are deducted.

Of course, this is not required. If the service is poor, tipping less or not at all is acceptable.

Individuals who decide not to tip, though, should do so sparingly and should also follow it up with a formal complaint to the manager or owner. If a server exceeds the standard expected service, however, it is appropriate to show appreciation by tipping more.

Students, however, should bear in mind that when they reduce the tip, they only punish the

waiter or waitress. Although many restaurants have the wait staff share tips with the cooks, it is not likely a small tip will give the cook the hint that the food was not up to par. It is far more effective to take any complaints to whoever is in charge.

If the food or any other aspect of the dining experience outside of the waiter's control was lousy, students should calmly ask to speak to the manager.

These things as well as being a poor college kid are not excuses for not tipping. A good job deserves positive feedback — or, if anything, some constructive criticism will do.

'(Academic stress) is no excuse for rude behavior while dining at a restaurant.'

Tax: Poor spend higher percentage of income Excuses: Don't make the rest of us look bad

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

Giving tax breaks only to those who save money is based on a faulty assumption that everyone is in a financial position to save money and invest. Many middle-class families and most poor families, however, have little income left after bills are paid.

Advocates for the consumption tax say it would encourage saving rather than spending and also would prevent people from having to file complicated tax forms.

But people with the most money are not the ones who need help. Nor is it a good idea to discourage the middle-class from spending money on goods and services that the national economy relies on to thrive.

Levying a national sales tax drastically

decreases the buying power of working-class citizens who hold the economy together.

The economic system is based on a high standard of living, allowing the average consumer a comparatively large amount of disposable income.

Middle-class Americans spend this money on goods, services, travel and luxuries — which sends their wages straight back into the economy — fueling even greater demand for these commodities.

The old ideas of trickle-down economics — that what benefits the rich also benefits the poor — is fundamentally wrong.

If the national tax is passed, it is likely that the poor will become poorer and the rich will find more tax loopholes to protect their way of life.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

credit card. And for those of you planning to claim bankruptcy after graduation to start fresh, just remember that Chapter 11 is granted, not handed out.

This excuse is only making us college students look bad, and we don't need any help earning our bad reputations.

The only college movies made portray us as a people who spend all our time streaking at block parties or pulling off outrageous pranks just for the sake of pissing off the crusty old dean instead of going to class.

I'm sick of going home and having to explain all the actions of other students.

Relatives always ask me how college life is and they often give me that look

as if I'm going to break out my cockring and a bong, blow smoke in my newborn cousin's face and run off naked screaming the whole way.

I will admit that because of all the stupid things we've done and gotten away with, it's nice sometimes to have that leeway with older age groups that most don't have.

This includes showing up drunk to your aunt's funeral service in a sweatshirt, flip-flops and ripped jeans and arguing the benefits of communism with random strangers on the street. Rest assured, though, you probably can get away with this sort of behavior for a couple more years.

But for our sake, don't act like this and give those boring adults more to generalize about the rest of us.

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Building Industry Association was wrong to use sneaky tactics



BETHANY GRONQUIST

about the results of the governor's race. Some are angered because 45 names of supposed voters who are dead were found, as well as 1,135 ballots from felons who voted illegally, according to a March 6 Everett Herald article.

But many recipients of the survey also were angry. Some residents said they felt tricked into giving their signature and that the survey was an underhanded way to accomplish things, according to the Times article.

If Governor Christine Gregoire did in fact win because of forged votes, voters could consider the win deceitful.

The trickery, however, used to check on the votes was deceitful as well. It is a hypocritical act to use such a dishonest method to check another form of possible fraud — not to mention that the evidence could not even be used in court.

In addition, the survey did not even serve as an accurate way to compare signatures because several voters said they use

different signatures for official and unofficial documents.

The Seattle Times investigated by going to the homes of the recipients to compare signatures.

The surveyors found several voters said they use different signatures for official and unofficial documents.

In some cases, voter ballots received the official signature and the survey received the generic signature, thus making it harder for the association to accurately compare the two.

The association's survey set out to find signature inaccuracies, but the inaccuracies found did not necessarily denote fraud.

And although the association found evidence of illegal voting by felons and brought more attention to the fact that the election results may be distorted, it did so by deceitful means.

Groups attempting to check on the validity of votes in the future, should do so in an honest way as the former method left a bitter after-taste in voters' mouths.

Residents who received the "Home Ownership" survey felt tricked into giving their signature because the survey was not a true attempt to project housing trends in the Puget Sound region.

One survey participant, Cheryl Triplett, said she would have shown the Republicans her signature if they had been honest about their plans and just asked, according to the Times article.

The best way to avoid the possible variance in voting signatures in the future would be for everyone to re-register.

This would reduce the amount of signatures disputes in further elections by allowing voters to submit signatures used for official documents.

Prior to the controversy surrounding Washington's most recent gubernatorial race, people were more ignorant of the importance of their signatures and their impact on election results.

In the case of Gregoire's victory, every last vote counted. Whether the votes were accurate or not, the association's attempt to verify the legitimacy of the votes was hypocritical and dishonest.

'Whether the votes were accurate or not, the association's attempt to verify the legitimacy of (them) was hypocritical and dishonest.'

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ing Adventures fishing lodge currently has openings for the 2005 summer season (May-Sept) for Boat Deckhand. The lodge is located in Sitka, Alaska. Must be self-motivated and be able to work well with others. Job Description: Washing Boats, Boat Maintenance, Cleaning/Filleting fish, Tackle rigging, Daily boat preparation. Our days start early; a positive attitude and being a team player are a must. If you're not a morning person, don't have a cheerful outlook and cannot work well with others, please don't apply. Monthly Salary \$1,800.00 includes lodging. Email Resume to: Greg Kain Email: email@kainsfishingadventures.com Phone: 253-229-1674.

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