

## Programs remain intact AS elections to go online



AMANDA WOOLLEY/The Western Front

Western juniors Dori Greenway and Mary Thurston and senior Kat Castaldi gather signatures in Red Square Tuesday in support of the Resource and Outreach Programs they work for.

### AS drops proposed cuts, but further review is likely

BY MELANIE VALM  
The Western Front

The Associated Students board of directors announced at a public forum Tuesday that it was no longer considering a proposal to consolidate various Resource and Outreach Programs offices.

The board gave a letter to every person at the forum stating its wish to collaborate with the ROP offices and the general student body to make evaluation process improvements in the AS. The previous proposal would have consolidated the Legal Information,

Drug Information, Peace Resource, Sexual Awareness and Veteran's Outreach centers into one resource center.

In the letter, the board members said they are "committed to establishing an effective, fair and sustainable review system," highlighting the concerns of ROP staff members and students that the evaluation process undertaken to review the ROP was unfair.

Although the original intention was to approve the letter at the Wednesday board meeting, the board decided not to approve the letter and its implications

until members could discuss it further among themselves. The board will vote on the final version March 9.

Holly Mattson, director of Resource and Outreach Programs, presented a petition to the board containing 875 signatures from students against the task force proposal. While the proposal already had been taken off the table, Brian Gettmann, vice president for academic affairs, said a petition of such significance did not go unnoticed.

"I heard about the petition after coming

see PROGRAMS, page 5

BY BLAIR WILSON  
The Western Front

Punch-card voting will be replaced with online voting in April's student elections.

At a Wednesday meeting, the Associated Students board of directors approved \$1,000 in addition to the \$2,500 needed each year for elections, to be used to switch Western's student elections voting system to online voting.

"Trends in past years have shown that we (Western) do not have a high involvement by students in the elections," president Rachel Zommick said. "Leaders at Western have looked at other schools' success with online voting."

With the online voting system in place this year, the elections committee expects more students to vote, elections coordinator Tyler Kimsey said.

"Last year, just over 1,900 students voted in the election," Kimsey said.

A small increase is expected the first year, and a larger increase is expected the next year when students are more familiar with the system and the committee has more time for marketing, Kimsey said.

Since fall 2003, student leaders, including the board of directors, have been looking into online voting by researching the best company for Western to use, Zommick said.

The vote will allow Kimsey to work with Western's purchasing department to create a contract with the online voting company, Votenet Solutions Inc., Zommick said.

The additional \$1,000 will be used by the elections committee to cover the cost of electronic ballots through Votenet Solutions Inc., as well as marketing costs, Zommick said.

Eligible students will be e-mailed a login identification password to their myWestern e-mail account, Kimsey said. The e-mail will include a link to a server where students can find the ballot

see VOTING, page 5

## Bellingham soldier prepares for third trip overseas

*Editor's note: This is the third in a series of stories examining the effects of the war in Iraq on Bellingham and Whatcom County residents.*

BY MOLLY JENSEN  
The Western Front

During his previous deployments to the Middle East, former Bellingham resident Sgt. Jerad Crawford missed his daughter Kylie's first steps, and during his next trip overseas he will be absent during another formative year of her life.

Crawford is scheduled to leave for Afghanistan April 1 for a yearlong tour of duty with the U.S. Army.

"By the time my daughter is 4, I will have been gone for two years straight," Crawford said. "There are day-to-day things that go on at home — both good and bad — that I don't get to be there for."

On the phone from Fort Bragg, N.C., Crawford, 25, said this will be the third time he has been sent abroad since he joined the 1st Brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division of the U.S. Army in 2001. Of the 3,500 members of his brigade, he said approximately 3,000 are being deployed.

He was in Afghanistan from December 2002 to July 2003

and Iraq from January 2004 to April 2004. During these deployments, Crawford acted as a forward observer — traveling with the infantry and calling in artillery and motor support when it was needed, he said.

Crawford's parents, Tami and Chuck Crawford, live in Bellingham. He said they usually travel to Fort Bragg before he leaves or when he returns from his deployments.

Tina Crawford, 24, said her husband's deployments are difficult for the whole family but were even harder on him because he missed important events in Kylie's life.

"You go from being a family to being a single mom," she said.

Tina said their daughter was too young to understand what was happening while her father was overseas but is now old enough to recognize his absence.

"I think this one's going to affect her more, because she's old enough to understand now," she said.

Jerad graduated from Sehome High School in 1998 and has been in the military nearly five years.

"I was 20 years old and really didn't know what I wanted to do as far as a career," he said. "I figured the Army was

see CRAWFORD, page 4



Photo Courtesy of the Crawford Family  
Jerad Crawford stands with his mother, Tami, in April 2004 after he returned from Iraq. Crawford is scheduled to leave April 1 for Afghanistan.



### BACK AT ONE

Western defeats Western Oregon, moving up to the No. 1 spot once again.

SPORTS, PAGE 10

### HIP-HOPCRISY

Athletic department's ban on hip-hop dance team is hypocritical.

OPINIONS, PAGE 14

### A NEW TWIST

Western students put a new spin on the old classic "Romeo and Juliet."

ACCENT, PAGE 7



## COPS BOX

### University Police

**Feb. 24, 5:01 a.m.:** UP responded to a report of a suspicious person in the Communications Facility. Officers found a person sleeping in the area.

**Feb. 24, 12:26 a.m.:** UP investigated a mysterious odor in Miller Hall. Officers smelled a gasoline odor coming from the vents.

**Feb. 23, 8:34 p.m.:** UP responded to vandalism in Highland Hall. Someone spray-painted in the area.

**Feb. 23, 12:04 p.m.:** UP discovered a vandalized stop sign in a parking lot near Higginson Hall.

**Feb. 23, 11:05 p.m.:** UP responded to an intrusion alarm at the Performing Arts Center. They found a student in the area.

### Bellingham Police

**Feb. 24, 2:45 p.m.:** Officers arrested a man on suspicion of third degree assault and shoplifting. He was booked into Whatcom County Jail after receiving a lifetime trespass warning.

**Feb. 23, 1:15 p.m.:** Officers cited and released two subjects for drinking alcohol in public.

**Feb. 23, 3:41 a.m.:** Officers received a report of an attempted burglary report on the 1300 block of Cornwall Avenue. When officers arrived, they saw that the front doors of a building were damaged.

**Feb. 22, 5:05 a.m.:** Officers contacted a man on the 100 block of Prospect Street to issue him a warrant. The man attempted to lie about his identity and tried to run from officers after he was handcuffed.

*Compiled by Trevor Swedberg*

# Viking Voices

How do you feel about the Associated Students board dropping the proposal to consolidate Research and Outreach Program centers?

*Compiled by Brittany Greenfield*



**Bryan Knowles**  
Junior, biology

*I'm ecstatic that a travesty such as consolidating the ROP did not occur!*



**Julie Freitag**  
Senior, communication

*I guess it's better that way — then people can just go to the specific office and have their questions answered.*



**Bryce Daifuku**  
Sophomore, psychology

*If it's all in one place, I think it would be easier for students to get what they need. If the programs are everywhere, it seems like it would be more of a hassle.*

## AP Wire

## news briefs

### STATE NEWS

#### Bill would extend Key Arena through King County taxes

At the request of the Sonics and Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels, state lawmakers will consider a bill that would extend the restaurant, car rental and hotel/motel taxes in King County.

After Qwest and Safeco fields are paid off, the taxes would finance a \$205 million expansion of Key Arena and fund county art programs.

The Sonics' current lease on Key Arena expires in 2010. The legislation calls for the Sonics to commit to a new 20-year lease and manage the expansion and operation of Key Arena.

#### 'Magic Mike' sues Seattle Center for violating his rights

In a lawsuit filed in federal court in Seattle, "Magic Mike" said he

is suing the Seattle Center because performer rules violate his First Amendment rights.

Mike Berger, 57, likes to make balloon animals and perform magic tricks for passers-by at the Seattle Center.

Rules that went into effect two years ago require freelance performers to wear photo identification, to stand only in specific spots and not to ask for donations. The performers also are required to buy a \$5 annual license.

An assistant city attorney said the rules are necessary to prevent fights between performers and to control crowds.

### NATIONAL NEWS

#### Jury chosen in Michael Jackson molestation case

A jury has been seated to hear the child molestation case against pop star Michael Jackson. Judge Rodney Melville announced the selection of

the panel Feb. 23. The jury includes four men and eight women, ranging in age from 20 to 79.

After the jury was sworn in, attorneys moved on to the selection of eight alternates.

The 46-year-old singer is charged with molesting a 13-year-old boy, supplying him with alcohol and conspiring to hold him and his family captive at his Neverland Ranch.

#### California governor's job approval drops since September

A new statewide poll indicates that a majority of residents, approximately 55 percent of registered voters surveyed, approve of how California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is handling his job.

But that number is down from September, when 65 percent said they approved of his performance.

An overwhelming majority of Republicans — approximately 84

percent — said Schwarzenegger is doing a good job. But support from Democrats dropped from 54 percent in September to 34 percent.

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

#### Prince Charles' marriage plans legal, Britain officials affirm

The British government said Prince Charles won't break the law when he marries Camilla Parker-Bowles in a civil ceremony in April.

Constitutional experts had argued that Britain's 1836 Marriage Act bars civil marriages for royalty. But the country's chief legal officer said Charles can marry Bowles "like anyone else" in a civil ceremony under the Marriage Act of 1949.

Since 2000, the British Human Rights Act required laws to be observed in a way that extends marriage rights.

*Compiled by Molly Jensen  
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](mailto: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," X15-9117, faxed to X 4343, or brought to Commissary 113F. DO NOT SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS DIRECTLY TO THE WESTERN FRONT. Phoned announcements will not be accepted.

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

**LOT RESERVATIONS.** • Twenty spaces in lot 12A will be reserved at 7 a.m. Feb. 25 and March 2-3 for those attending scholarship luncheons. • Lot 17G will be reserved at 5 p.m. Feb. 24 and Feb. 26 for Viking Permit holders. • Lot 14G will be reserved at 5 p.m. March 2 for those attending the Women of Color Empowerment 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 Friday, March 11. Applications and instructions are available in OM 230.

**STUDY ABROAD IN MORELIA, MEXICO** through AHA International. Spend winter quarter 2006 in Mexico with Wendy Walker (assistant professor, environmental studies). For more information, call X/3298 or send e-mail to [ipe@wwu.edu](mailto:ipe@wwu.edu).

**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](http://www.ets.org/praxis/prxwa.html) for a description and online registration information. Registration bulletins are also available in MH 216.

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

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

**BIOLOGY SEMINAR.** David Keys (Joint Genome Institute, U.S. Department of Energy, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Walnut Creek, Calif.), "Functional Genomics in a Basal Chordate: High-throughput Screens for Regulatory DNA." 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 23, BI 234. Refreshments, 3:50 p.m.

**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.

### Employers on campus

For complete and updated information, including locations and deadlines, visit [www.career.wwu.edu](http://www.career.wwu.edu) or stop by OM 280.

• Camp Vega, counselors, Web designer, March 10 • Campaign to Save the Environment, canvas directors, March 7-10 • Disney College Program, various hospitality and entertainment positions, March 8 • Lutherwood Camp, summer positions, Feb. 23 • Newell-Rubbermaid, sales and marketing representative, Feb. 14.

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## Crawford: Depending on where he is stationed, staying in contact with family can be difficult

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

something productive to do while I was deciding, and I get college money while I'm here."

Chuck said Jerad and Tina have lived in Fort Bragg for four years. He said it is difficult for them to be away from their families, but Jerad and Tina have made the best of their situation.

Tina, who is a business administrator for two fitness clubs, is from Birch Bay. She said she met Jerad through her mom's friend from work, and they married in August 2001.

Jerad Crawford said he tries to call or e-mail his family at least every other day when he is abroad, but this often depends on where the Army stations him.

"If we're somewhere where there are 200 soldiers and only four computers, I'm not able to contact them as often," he said.

Chuck said Jerad had a difficult time accessing a phone while in Afghanistan, but in Iraq he worked a night shift near a phone and was able to call his family frequently.

Tina said the amount of contact she has with her husband while he is overseas varies greatly. While Jerad was in Iraq, he had access to a computer and a Web camera and could contact his family on a regular basis. She said when he is on patrol it can be as long as two weeks before she hears from her husband.

"The big thing with military wives is that they don't know if their husband is coming back or not," she said.

Tina said she is in contact with Jerad's parents approximately once a week, and his mother usually comes to visit Tina and Kylie while he is gone. During Jerad's first deployment to Afghanistan, which lasted eight months, Tina Crawford said she returned home to Birch Bay.

Chuck Crawford said his family watches the news daily for updates on the atmosphere overseas while Jerad is gone, but said he gets most of his information from military Web sites.

"Mainstream media usually shows you only what people want to see," Chuck said.

Jerad said his duties change depending on his location. During his first deployment to Afghanistan, he participated in missions looking for members of Al-Qaeda, and the majority of his time in Iraq was spent doing police patrol. His second deployment to Afghanistan will focus on rebuilding the country, he said.

Jerad said his deployments have exposed him to different cultures, especially in Iraq.

"You get a feel for what they think about us being over there," he said. "Being out in the general public you get to see what it's like and how they live."

When Saddam Hussein was taken out of power, Jerad said he witnessed the positive reactions of the Iraqi people.

"They were really happy when Saddam was caught," he said. "They were really supportive of us being over there, because something was getting done."

He said he experienced fewer positive reactions while in Afghanistan.

"In Afghanistan you don't really get much support — they

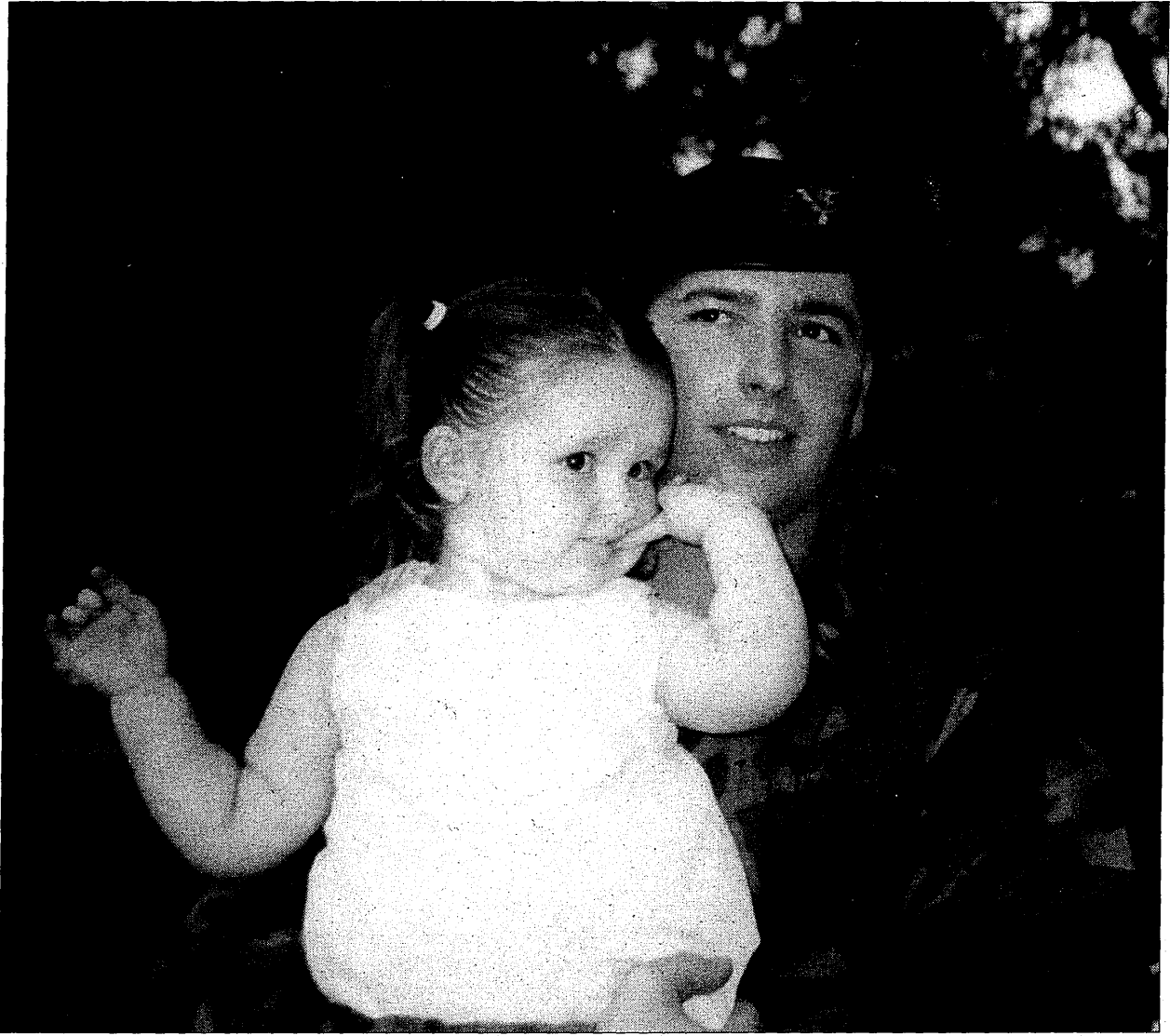


Photo courtesy of the Crawford family

In a photo taken in November 2003, Jerad Crawford stands with his daughter Kylie prior to his first deployment to Iraq. Jerad has spent time in both Iraq and Afghanistan, and is being deployed to Afghanistan again in April.

oppose U.S. forces being over there," he said. "They've been fighting wars since the beginning of time, and it's the way of life they're used to."

Tina said Jerad shares few details of what he experiences while he is overseas.

"I tell them anything that I can, but I try not to get into too much detail," Jerad said. "I try to share more of the positive things — like what the people are like and what the countries are like."

Chuck said Jerad doesn't share specific information about his duties while he is deployed. He said their conversations are usually about Jerad's well-being and news about Jerad's family and his child.

Tina said one of the most difficult aspects of her husband's deployment is the uncertainty of plans. When Jerad was returning from Iraq, she received multiple phone calls saying his flight had been postponed, she said.

Chuck and Tami went to greet Jerad when he returned

from Iraq, Chuck said. Jerad's arrival was postponed four days, and he was the last member of his battalion to come home, he said.

Jerad said everyone at Fort Bragg has been deployed at some point during the past two years, and this has changed the atmosphere there.

"There is a feeling of anxiety for everyone leaving," he said. "No one really wants to go over there, but everyone knows when they sign up that it's a risk they have to take and it's part of your job."

Jerad said most of his division was together during his previous trips to Iraq and Afghanistan, and their close working and living conditions resulted in strong bonds between members of the group. He said he has witnessed how difficult it is for everyone to leave their families when they are deployed.

"I think about all the people in the Army, the Air Force and the Marines — they don't get to see their children be born or their families grow up," he said. "That's definitely the hardest part."

*No one really wants to go over there, but everyone knows that it's a risk they have to take and it's part of your job*

**JERAD CRAWFORD**  
Army sergeant

### The Western Front Online

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**Programs: Board may propose new task force that would include program staff and students**

*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

to the personal conclusion that the proposal was flawed," Gettmann said. "But anytime you hear from so many students, it has a powerful impact."

Although the board will not be voting on the proposal to eliminate or consolidate offices, the letter they introduced at the forum provoked more debate. One sentence in the letter caused students to ask the board for more deliberation over the matter before voting on the letter.

"If the volunteers, employees and supporters of the Resource and Outreach Program offices make a good-faith effort and active commitment to achieving these goals, the board will commit to maintaining these offices until at least spring 2006," the letter said.

One of the staff members who questioned the definition of the term "good-faith effort" was Stuart Brewster, program coordinator of the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Alliance. Brewster said making a good-faith effort should not necessarily mean having a larger attendance at programs, one of the goals outlined in the board's letter.

"No matter what evaluation process you come up with, quality of the experience should not be sacrificed for quantity," he said.

Gettmann and Matthew Wood, vice president for Activities, wrote the proposal and presented it last

week to the boards. The proposal suggested creating the single resource center, while the Women's Center and the LGTBTA would remain separate.

The task force created to review the ROP offices consisted of Gettmann, Wood and Tony Russo, vice president for Business and Operations. Russo provided an alternative proposal.

Wood said he thought the board would take the opinions heard at Tuesday's forum and use them to connect with Western students.

The forum, in Viking Union room 565, was filled to capacity at approximately 183 students — an additional 100 students were turned away after the board deliberated for 20 minutes about space constraints.

After Gettmann and Wood presented the proposal to the other board members, AS president Rachel Zommick said the board met to re-examine its review process and come to a compromise. She said the board was divided over issues involved in the proposal, but the main concern was that the process undertaken was flawed and needs to be reviewed. Zommick said more focus on concerns from both sides of the issue needed to take place.

Many qualms over the

effectiveness of the review process resulted from lack of communication and an imperfect assessment model, Zommick said.

Students expressed concerns at the forum that the process was undertaken only by board members and without student involvement. The speedy nature also called into question the quality of assessment.

At the forum, vice president for Diversity Jesse Moore said a new process can be developed to give the staff of the ROP more control on how to present changes, instead of one task force.

"I don't know the Drug Information Center as well as the current coordinator does," Moore said.

*'I don't know the Drug Information Center as well as the current coordinator does.'*

**JESSE MOORE**  
AS vice president for Diversity

Mattson gave a statement on behalf of all ROP coordinators to the board Wednesday. In the statement, the ROP thanked the board for its letter and acknowledged that changes need to be made.

The ROP statement also expressed a need for a more effective review process. Zommick said the board may propose the creation of a new task force to examine all ideas presented. The new task force would include staff of the ROP as well as board members and students at large. The previous task force consisted of only



MELANIE VALM/The Western Front

At a public forum Tuesday night, students gather to discuss the AS board of directors' proposal, which was dropped.

board members, resulting in much of the debate over the fairness and accuracy of the review process.

Western senior Afia Agyei said the Women's Center has been a valuable part of her life. She said the resources are available to students, so when they need them, they can find them. Agyei said the number of students who visit an office cannot always be accurately determined because of the confidential nature of the offices, but the impact on student's lives is often times profound.

Mattson said the ROP staff is now also concerned that nothing will be changed this year in the offices. In the last week, the

ROP has generated its own list of suggestions and methods for improving the offices she said that they would discuss with the board in the near future.

"The board should not be an obstacle to move over, but a vehicle to work through," said Megan Farwell, coordinator of the Sexual Awareness Center.

Russo said the review process should not have happened the way it did and that the forum was a good chance to see the impact ROP have had for people.

"A lot of board members didn't really understand how significant the ROP is to a lot of people," he said.

**Voting: Eastern, Central and the University of Washington all use online voting for elections**

*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

and vote by checking the boxes of their choice, Kimsey said. The site also will include candidates' biographies and a space for write-

ins, Kimsey said.

Polling stations for students to cast their votes will be set up in Red Square, similar to elections in the past. This year, however, the polling

stations set up will be computers, possibly laptops, and students will be able to vote on any computer with an Internet connection, Kimsey said.

Eastern Washington University, Central Washington University, the University of Washington and Washington State University all use online voting for school elections, Zommick said.

Online voting will simplify the voting process by eliminating the need for paper ballots to be hand-counted twice. Also, results of the election will be available faster,

Kimsey said.

At the meeting, students expressed their worries regarding security and potential voter participation.

"One of my main concerns is that people will not check their e-mails to get the password," Western junior Teresa Mathiesen said.

Kimsey has discussed the security issue with the online voting company and members of the board.

"With anything you always have

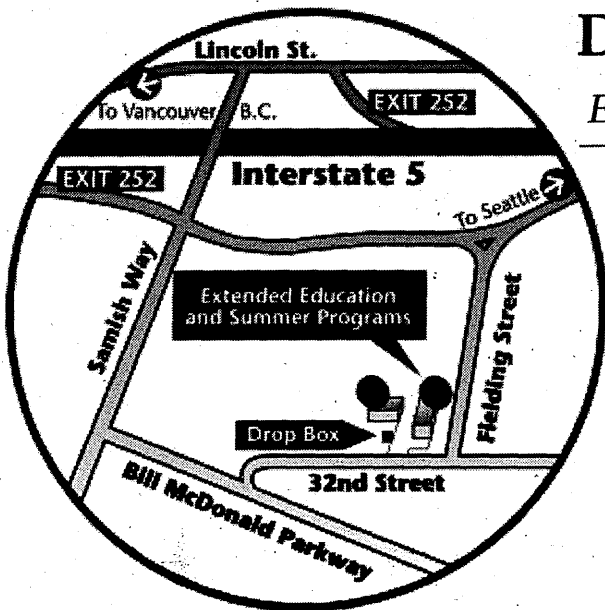
to worry about security, nothing is hacker-proof," said Peter Graves, vice president for Legislative Affairs. "The company we're going with has good records."

Organizers are taking security measures, including random passwords and a 24-hour backup system, to ensure votes are saved, Kimsey said.

To vote, students must be in good standing academically. Students in good standing have a cumulative grade-point average of 2.0 or higher, said Ellen Hartstirn, program coordinator for the registrar's office.

**More Info**  
*AS Elections will be held April 26 and 27.*

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# Iraq journalist brings war horrors to Western

By KATHRYN BRENIZE  
The Western Front

Fraser Hall was packed with students, faculty members and Bellingham residents in attendance to hear an independent journalist recently returned from Iraq. Dahr Jamail spoke about his experiences in the Middle East and his concern for the coverage of the war in the mainstream media.

After the 2000 U.S. election and the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, Jamail, who lives in Anchorage, Alaska, said he became more concerned about politics and decided to publish his opinions on unanswered issues in the Middle East.

In November 2003 he went to Iraq for the first time as one of the few independent journalists focusing on the reconstruction of the country. When he arrived he was horrified at the situation, he said.

"There are so many aspects that mainstream media ignores,"

Jamail said.

The absence of some of the most important issues in Iraq had been left out of reports from the mainstream media, Jamail said, leading to shocking misconceptions about political concerns.

Joleen Forest, a Bellingham resident, attended the forum to educate herself about what is going on in Iraq.

"How can we make informed decisions without knowing all the information?" Forest said.

One area Jamail covered in depth while reporting in the Middle East was the siege on Fallujah.

Jamail said he was able to hop onto a medical vehicle going to a clinic in the center of the city. As they approached, he could see war planes, gun battles and ambulances with bullet-shattered windshields, he said.

"In Fallujah it is the civilians that suffer the most, especially the women and children," Jamail said.

Fairhaven College Adjunct Professor Osterhaus said the

photos that accompanied the presentation added a whole new depth to the issues in Iraq.

"Dahr was seeing everything from the inside," Osterhaus said.

While in Iraq, Jamail cut his hair and had to dress like locals and refrain from speaking English in the streets.

Jamail said his security lies in "no security." He tried to draw as little attention to himself as possible.

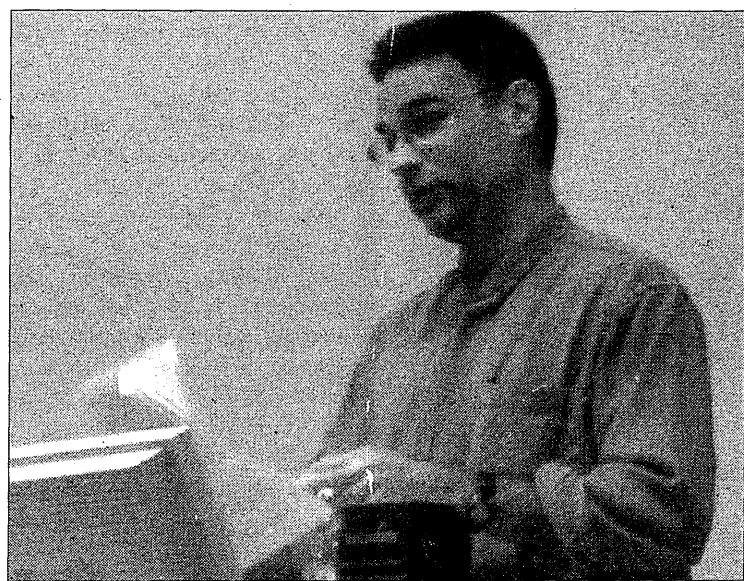
"Personal safety is a lot of luck. It isn't always safe and sometimes I can't leave my hotel room," Jamail said. "It's an assumed risk."

Jamail believes, however, he has the responsibility to report the real facts.

"I have given up on mainstream media," he said. "I think we have to make our own."

As one of the few independent journalists who reports in Iraq, Jamail said he often finds himself facing questions by readers of alternative media about the accuracy of his vivid photos — including casualties disfigured beyond recognition — and his reports.

"Anyone who challenges me, I say, 'Go to Baghdad and really



KATHRYN BRENIZE/The Western Front

Dahr Jamail, an independent American journalist, spoke at Western Tuesday about his recent return from Iraq and the misconceptions in mainstream media.

look around and observe," he said.

Osterhaus said Jamail, as one of the few unembedded independent journalists in Iraq, was an opportunity that couldn't be missed.

"I think it's critical for young people to have a clearer understanding of what is going on in the world," Osterhaus

said, "especially since the people that will be most affected in the long haul will be today's students."

Barbara Rofkar, an adjunct professor at Fairhaven College, said she wants people to have a heightened understanding of the world.

"It's our life, our future and our ability of being a part of the world community," Rofkar said.

## Hip-hop team discontinues halftime performances

Team rejects athletic department's offer for reinstatement of shows for remainder of school year

By MICHELLE ACOSTA  
The Western Front

Despite being offered reinstatement by athletic director Lynda Goodrich, Western's hip-hop team has decided to stop performing during halftime shows at the men's and women's basketball games for the remainder of the school year.

Goodrich said members of the hip-hop team said they couldn't work with one of the athletic department's interns responsible for overseeing halftime performances.

Western senior Mary Moro, cap-

tain of the hip-hop team, said her colleagues didn't feel comfortable performing because they said they were being discriminated against by the athletic department.

Steve Brummel, Western director of athletic marketing, said the athletic department did not discriminate against anyone from the hip-hop team.

"The athletic department gave the team an opportunity to perform again and left the ball in their court," Brummel said.

Moro said the team decided not to perform for the rest of the school year, but team members hope to work everything out with

the athletic department so things run smoothly next year.

"We work hard to support the basketball teams and look forward to performing again during next year's basketball season," Moro said.

Goodrich said with her hectic schedule and the season's coming to an end, it seemed as though no quick solutions could be provided for the hip-hop team to continue performing.

"We've run out of time and there are only two games left," Goodrich said. "Since we're pretty much done with the season, we're going to leave it to next year to take care

of this."

Moro spoke with Goodrich on Wednesday, agreeing to perform next year and later work out a solution that will benefit both the department and the team.

Moro said Goodrich offered to let the hip-hop team work with other interns during the next basketball season, as long as the team followed the required time guidelines for halftime shows and did

not dance too provocatively. She said Goodrich would contact the hip-hop team in the spring to discuss more detailed plans on performances.

"I think one of the main problems was having to deal with all these middle people and not being able to go straight to Lynda with the problem," Moro said. "Everything is fine now, and the team is looking forward to next year."

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## Shakespeare with a **TWIST**

By **STEFANI HARREY**  
The Western Front

Four wooden chairs, a large piece of red cloth, four composition notebooks and a tattered copy of "Romeo and Juliet" are all the props needed to act out Shakespeare's "R & J" in a way he never could have imagined.

Eight Western students act as the cast of "R & J" and play out the lives of four Catholic students exploring the things they never will learn in the classroom, Western graduate student and assistant director Willow McLaughlin said.

"'R & J' is a really different take on the traditional play," McLaughlin said.

Each night an all-female or

all-male cast consisting of four students will perform the show, McLaughlin said. She said each actor plays multiple characters, both male and female.

"It is almost like sex doesn't matter," Western senior and actor Kevin Malgesini said. "It's not about male or female."

The women actors said they tried to make the show "gender-blind."

"At the beginning of the quarter when we started rehearsing, we did both casts at once," McLaughlin said. "We would discuss everything together."

Soon after, the casts began rehearsing separately and created two completely different versions of the same story, she said.

The shows are different, Western senior and actor Nick Edwards

said. He said people should see both productions to see how different the same play is with different sexes.

"It could be kind of confusing," Western senior and actor Allison Evans said. "It is so multidimensional."

McLaughlin said that because the show was produced so simply — not using a lot of props and only a few actors to play all the parts — the show could be difficult for the audience to follow. The cast worked to make sure the audience understands what is happening the entire time, and she said the cast achieved that.

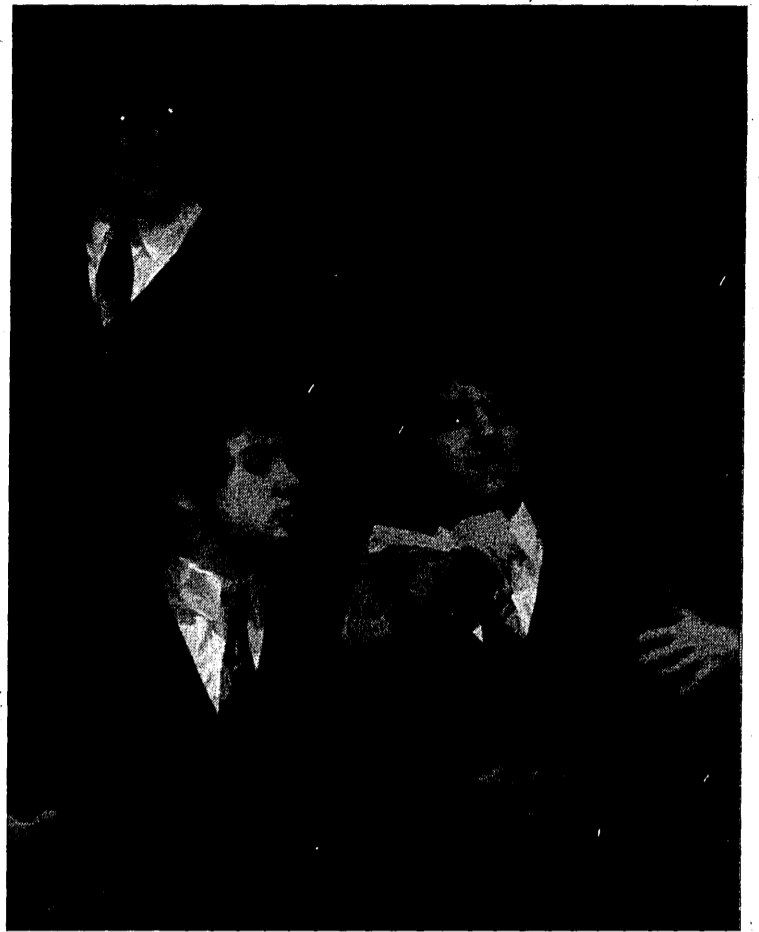
The play opens with the students attending their classes and acting conservative, but as soon as the final bell rings, a whole new side of the students is seen.

The cast does a great job opening up each character, as a student first and exploring the impulses every teenager experiences — sexual, emotional and physical, said Jackie Mickel, Western junior and actor.

The cast plays the roles as students first and then develops the "R & J" characters from there, Western freshman and actor Dayo Anderson said.

The show is directed by Mark Kuntz, theatre arts department chair. Western senior and actor Amber Burroff said Kuntz directed them, but since no blocking was done with the stage movements, actors were mostly allowed to do what they wanted with each movement.

"It is a challenge to keep it fresh," Evans said.



**STEFANI HARREY/The Western Front** Western junior James Brooks, top, senior Nick Edwards, left, and senior Kevin Malgesini, right, read from the "R & J" script to announce the next scene during dress rehearsal Wednesday.



**STEFANI HARREY/The Western Front** Western senior Amber Burroff and junior Jackie Mickel act out a scene in "R & J." The cloth acts as one of the only props used throughout the performance.

Each time the cast rehearsed the show, the movements were a little different. The actors said they tried not to get stuck in the same movements each performance.

McLaughlin said people watching the show will find the themes presented worthwhile of

the play progresses, Burroff said, but how that happens is left for the audience to witness at the show. McLaughlin said the characters are not homosexual.

The play switches back and forth between modern English and the English of Shakespeare. The show itself feels extremely modern. The casts are dressed in Catholic school uniforms and the students they play act as most students do. They laugh, play and explore all of the questions they have about life, love and sex — except

they do it all while acting out "R & J."

"The show has all the juicy stuff," Mickel said. "And the students are discovering this."

The women's cast will perform tonight and Sunday and the men's cast will perform on Saturday.

### Performance Details

When: Tonight and Saturday at 7:30 p.m.,  
Sunday at 2 p.m.

Where: PAC Underground Theatre

Cost: \$4

discussion. She said it explores homosexuality and homophobia.

"There is no shying away from physical contact," McLaughlin said. "Even though it's all men or all women."

The idea of homosexuality and homophobia comes full circle as



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# Rocky returns

BY KATHRYN BRENIZE  
The Western Front

As the house lights dim, a dark-haired musician enters the darkness of the stage, with only the shadows of his guitar visible. With the tuning of guitar strings still ringing in people's ears, a soft yet rugged voice fills the room.

A similar setting will take place Saturday in the Fairhaven Auditorium for Seattle resident Rocky Votolato's show.

The 27-year-old said he is steering away from rock music to focus on his solo career as an acoustic guitarist and songwriter.

Votolato, lead singer of Seattle band Waxwing, said the band was active

for almost six years. Now many of the other members are taking part in other bands, including his brother, Cody, who is the guitarist for Seattle band The Blood Brothers.

"Waxwing is mostly in the past," Votolato said. "We never had an official breakup; it was a natural progression for all of the band members."

Votolato said he has played guitar for more than 10 years. While he was playing in

Waxwing, he said he always worked on his own music on the side.

"For the past two years, I always had the band and my own projects, but now I am definitely centering my work on my own songwriting," Votolato said.

In September 2003, Votolato released his third full-length solo album, "Suicide Medicine."

"I think 'Suicide Medicine' is the most developed album and the one I had the most focus on because I wasn't concentrating on the band," Votolato said.

By the end of this year, Votolato said he hopes to release his next album. He describes his music as a combination of indie rock and folk.

"I hate putting things inside boxes. By putting yourself

in a specific (music) category you really limit yourself," Votolato said.

The musician said that before the release of his new album he will start touring, an aspect of his music which he loves.

"I would just like to be able to keep playing my music and have people enjoy what I create," Votolato said. "Yet it is tough to find a balance, since I am also caring for my family."

## Concert Details

Who: Rocky Votolato, Jon McIntyre, Ian Denning  
When: Saturday at 7 p.m.  
Where: Fairhaven Auditorium  
Cost: Free



Courtesy of Rocky Votolato

Solo artist Rocky Votolato will perform on Western's campus in the Fairhaven Auditorium Saturday night.

Votolato, though juggling busy schedules and working on new songs, always seems to find the time to play for his fans and said he loves coming to Western to play.

Votolato played at Western last year and Loa Records was able to book him again, said Joe Olmstead, Western senior and Loa Records member.

Loa Records is an Associated Students club that offers two free shows per month for Western students, Olmstead said.

"Rocky always brings a big crowd, and we wanted an acoustic show," said Bo Stewart, a 2004 Western graduate and Loa Records member. "Also, he is readily available, since he lives in Seattle."

Stewart said the latest album by Votolato was by far his favorite of the three.

"He's such an awesome songwriter with really interesting and non-commercial lyrics," Stewart said.

Votolato will be performing after opening acts by Ian Denning and Jon McIntyre, both solo musicians.

Denning, a Western sophomore, has played at the Underground Coffeehouse and Stuart's Coffee House. Denning said he hopes to produce his first album this spring, as he has already completed his demo CD.

Denning writes most of his own songs and sometimes throws in a few covers, he said. Some of his past covers include hits from the Smashing Pumpkins, Death Cab for Cutie and The Steve Miller Band.

"My music is kind of an acoustic folk pop, but very simple," Denning said. "It's just me and my guitar, which is the way I choose to express myself."

Denning said he is excited and looking forward to performing with Votolato.

"It should be a night of good music from singer songwriters," Denning said.

# Coffeehouse jams

Featuring bands  
Jimes and Great Guy

BY GRETA SMOKE  
The Western Front

In an off-the-wall concert on campus, a comedic musician who lacks the ability to play instruments will perform with his band Jimes.

The show will be opened by a self-proclaimed superhero, Great Guy, who plays the keyboard and sings on the side.

Western graduate Brandon Ivey will be back on campus to perform at the Underground Coffee House for the second time with his band Jimes, which consists of him and any other available musicians, for a free show March 4, Ivey said.

As the only lyric writer and permanent member of Jimes, Ivey said he has the most influence on the Jimes sound. He describes his music as original, eclectic and unlike other bands.

"My music is kind of non-music," Ivey said. "It's unique, something you've never heard before."

The show is part of the Associated Student Productions concert series, which has different shows and performers every Wednesday and Friday at the Underground Coffeehouse, said Meghan Kessinger, Western senior and Underground co-coordinator.

"It's important to get events on campus. A lot of students

don't have cars and don't want to walk downtown," Kessinger said. "It is also a good way for students to de-stress."

Aside from good music, Jimes is known for its comedic style, Kessinger said.

"They're the kind of band that has a different trick up their sleeve every time," she said. "The only thing you can expect is to be well entertained."

The last time Jimes did a show at Western was in fall 2003, Ivey said. For the upcoming show, Ivey hopes to gather some friends with instruments to make up a band.

"I just find whoever I can get to play with me at the time," Ivey said. "I do not know how to play any instruments. I cannot read music."

He said although he does not know how to play a guitar, he plans to attempt to at the Underground Coffeehouse show if he can get one in time.

Ivey, 24, graduated from Western in 2003. He is a communications intern at the Jane Goodall Institute in Washington, D.C., and is making a eight-day trip back to Washington state to do three shows, including the one at Western, Ivey said.

While Ivey lived in Bellingham, Jimes performed frequently at house parties and other venues in Bellingham. Jimes' August 2004 show at Stuart's Coffee House was voted one of the top shows of the year in Bellingham by the Bellingham Weekly.

Jimes has released four albums, which were recorded mostly in bedrooms throughout Bellingham and at Ivey's parents' house in Seattle. Jimes also has recorded with Jackson Long, audio recording instructor at Fairhaven College and drummer of the band Racetrack.

Jimes' third album, "In the Casino," is based on Ivey's experiences working at the Skagit Valley Casino while living in Bellingham. Jimes just released a fourth album in February titled "Jimes Less than or Equal to Music." Ivey said he chose this title because his songs are not like typical music.

Jimes' albums are available for purchase at their shows and at Viva La Vinyl in Bellingham. Jimes' record label MASA



Courtesy of Jimes

Great Guy will open the Underground Coffeehouse show on March 4.

("music as social awareness") records donates all profits to a variety of charities, Ivey said.

The opening act for Jimes is 31-year-old Seattle artist Great Guy, an aspiring superhero who can sing and play guitar and keyboard.

While performing always has been a hobby for Great Guy, he now uses his musical talents to make money. His ultimate goal is to become a full-time superhero and fight crime in Seattle, which, unfortunately, has been unsuccessful so far without the support of the Seattle Police Department, he said.

"I quit my day job three years ago to become a superhero and stop crime, but I wasn't making money," Great Guy said. "This helps pay the rent."

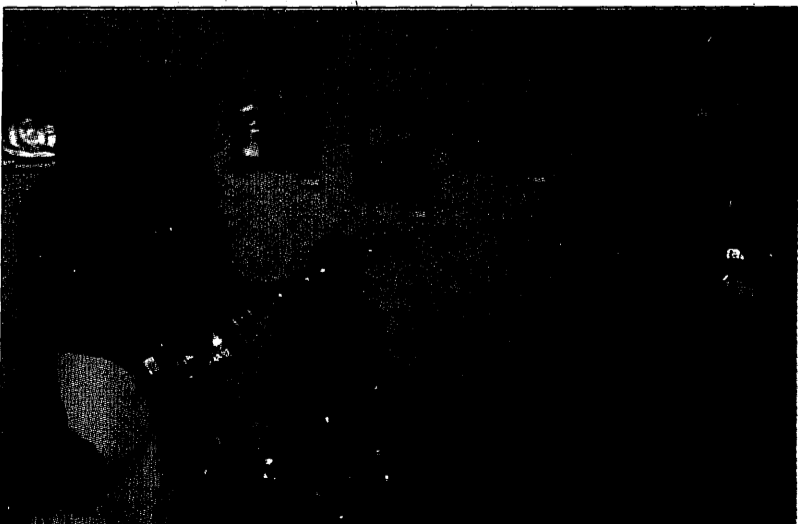
Great Guy goes by his superhero name and said he is cautious to reveal too much about his past or his real name to avoid conflict with his archnemesis.

His part-time job performances got recognition when he was awarded second place in a talent contest held by the Seattle newspaper The Stranger at Bumbershoot in 2004, Great Guy said.

His other job is selling songs written and customized for the buyer on eBay. His highest-selling song went for \$25, Great Guy said.

Kessinger said she expects to see a healthy crowd at the show because it is a homecoming for Ivey, who has a solid fan base in Bellingham.

"Expect some street justice," Great Guy said. "If you come and you're expecting music, we'll kick your ass."



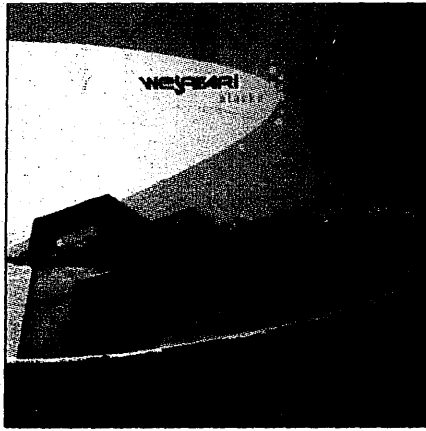
Courtesy of Jimes

Jimes will perform a free show in the Underground Coffeehouse at 8 p.m. on March 4.



# CD Reviews

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



**Wesafari**  
*Alaska*

When the dorm room starts to feel stuffy or too many hours have been spent in the car, a breath of fresh air is needed. Instead of opening the windows, just turn on Wesafari's album "Alaska," and the small space will turn into a cool night out in unknown frontier.

The Seattle quartet's debut album has successfully mixed acoustic and electronic elements to create a sound that breaks the boundaries of any category. The band has referred to its music on its Web site and myspace.com as "space tundra" and "sea space." Whatever category it falls in among the rows of CDs at the music store, the word space is the key descriptor of the music they create.

With this feeling of open space and unknown territory, it is easy to fall under the assumption that the music is sparse, without many instruments. That is not the case. Adding such different instruments as pianos, tambourines, trumpets, wind wands — which sound similar to a didgeridoo — a harp and samples to the guitar, drums, bass and vocals, the music seems to open up instead of sounding cluttered.

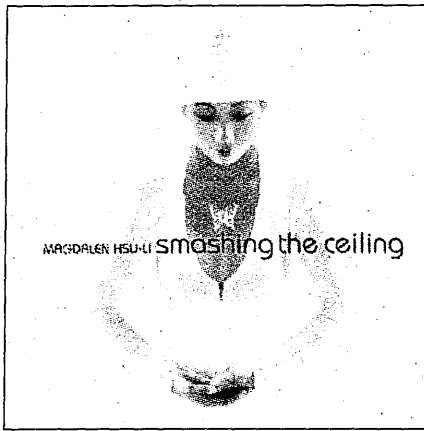
Wesafari used many strange objects to create sounds on the album. In "From Glacier to Sea," a ping-pong shaker made an appearance as well as a tin whistle. "Path of Least Resistance" used the chimes of a grandfather clock and a tape deck.

According to the band's Web site, "Alaska" is a journey into the unknown world of the brute and brine of lost love." The lyrics did leave behind a sense of longing but were subtle enough to be passed over by the wonder created by the music itself.

First-time listeners should skip to track five, "Whale Boy," because it is the best song on the album. Close to the end of the song the vocalist sings the words "animal sensitivity." Be prepared to bask in the amazing percussion that follows. It fills the ears and causes hands and feet to start tapping whatever is closest to them.

"Alaska" shouldn't be listened to at 2 a.m. while studying for a test; the music will distract the mind from the task at hand and potentially will cause a pleasant sleep. Instead, listen to the album on a cloudless evening when all senses are alert, maybe on a cruise down Chuckanut Drive. Wherever the CD is played, be prepared for a cool breeze to appear out of nowhere and the landscape to turn itself into an open Alaskan tundra where every star is clear in sight.

— Taylor Williams



**Magdalen Hsu-Li**  
*Smash the Ceiling*

Anyone who thinks Britney Spears' songs possess profound lyrics and enjoy the gritty voices of Alanis Morissette and Björk will enjoy Seattle resident Magdalen Hsu-Li's third full-length album, "Smashing the Ceiling."

The first track on the indie-pop CD, "Change the World," is about as original as blue jeans. "If you wanna change the world / then you gotta change yourself / and though you may feel that everything you do is small / you can't deny the ripple that you send through it all." The only original thing about this song is the presence of a violin in the background.

The most frustrating thing about the song is how insanely catchy it is. Halfway through the song, it's easy to begin singing along. When the song is over, don't expect to sing anything else for a few hours — it's likely to be the only song any the listener will have in his or her head.

"Mary Magdalene," the second track, puts an unexpected pop-music spin on religion. That's right, for those who find the Bible confusing and dry, Hsu-Li has provided an upbeat musical version to make it easy. The track begins with the lyrics, "She always showed them things they didn't like / Hangin' with Jesus / She was just his type / Washin' his feet / Showin' him a real good time / lovin' his body while he worshipped her like wine."

The best track on the album is track nine, "Sweet Hereafter." Lyrics aside, this track sounds powerful. With a dramatic accompaniment full of bass and guitar, any listener will get lost in the music. It is a welcome change from the fluff the rest of the album offers.

While that may have the deepest impact on the listener, the stand-out track would be number eight, "Northern Light." In the midst of danceable pop songs is this track, straight from a ho-down. It sounds like a blend of banjos and fiddles. Any listener would be on the end of his or her seat waiting for Hsu-Li to start yodeling or calling out a square dance.

"Smashing the Ceiling" is the perfect album for anyone looking for music that is not thought-provoking. Most of the album is upbeat, making it perfect for working out to. It is a nice, feel-good CD to listen to. But Hsu-Li should stay away from the rhyming dictionary and just write from her heart.

— Tiffany Sheakley

Magdalen Hsu-Li will perform a free show in the Viking Union Multipurpose Room at 7 p.m. on March 1 with Afrose Ahmed and Stephany Hazelrigg opening with spoken word.

# What are you listening to?

Reporter Adam Rudnick wandered campus asking people wearing headphones what they were listening to. Below are his findings.



**Sondra Johnson**  
*Junior, psychology*

Gwen Stefani  
"What You Waiting For?"



**Robert Tierney**  
*Freshman, undecided*

Love Psychedelico  
"Last Smile"



**Scott Clifford**  
*Junior, philosophy*

Modest Mouse  
"Lounge"



**Alex Wigley**  
*Freshman, undecided*

Slick Rick  
"Mona Lisa"



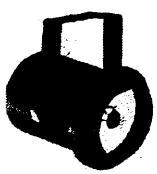
**Cody Arashiro**  
*Sophomore, history*

Relient K  
"Be My Escape"



**Colin Chamberlain**  
*Freshman, undecided*

The Crystal Method  
"Keep Hope Alive"



# In the spotlight



## Friday, Feb. 25

### Rock concert

Nightlight Lounge; 650-0331; \$15; 21+  
Portland band Sleater-Kinney will play a show with The Juggers. Doors open at 8 p.m. The show starts at 9 p.m.

### Art gallery closing reception

B-Gallery; 650-2119; \$15  
The art exchange show with University of Washington will hold a closing ceremony at 5:30 p.m.

### Jazz and folk concert

Mount Baker Theatre; 734-6080; \$27.50 - \$37.50  
The David Grisman quintet blends jazz, blues, swing and latin music. The concert starts at 8 p.m.

## Saturday, Feb. 26

### African culture night

Performing Art Center; 650-7577; \$8  
African cuisine, music, dance, poetry reading and a slide show will take place at 5:30 p.m. Presented by Western's African-Caribbean Club.

### Rock concert

3210 Meridian; 733-3993; \$2 donation; all-ages  
Bands Strange Attractor, Final Bow, Charly Able and Duke Daniel and Tount will perform. It starts at 7 p.m.

### Blues concert

Wild Buffalo House of Music; 752-0848; \$8  
Badd Dog Blues performs at 9 p.m.

## Monday, Feb. 25

### Fashion show

Viking Union Multipurpose Room; 650-6804; free  
The show will display a multitude of women from different backgrounds. It delves deep into common stereotypes and will help the audience see past negative preconceived notions.

## Friday, March 25

### Rock concert

Viking Union Multipurpose Room; 650-2846; \$5 student, \$6 general  
Seattle bands Vendetta Red and The Divorce will perform with Idiot Pilot and The Treasures at 7 p.m.

# SPORTS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2005 • WESTERNFRONTONLINE.COM • PAGE 10

## Vikings vanquish Wolves, tie for league lead

By ANDREW SLEIGHTER  
The Western Front

The Western men needed a second-half comeback, along with 18 points from Western junior center Tyler MacMullen, to beat Western Oregon University Thursday night in Carver Gym.

MacMullen led the Vikings in scoring on 5-8 shooting and kept the Vikings close as his teammates went 6-16 from the field in the first half.

"Sometimes on offense we're impatient," MacMullen said. "We get in a hurry and anxious and throw up shots rather than working all the way through our offense."

Western Oregon came into the game leading the Great Northwest Athletic Conference in defense and attempted to slow the tempo by rarely shooting with more than 10 seconds left on the shot clock.

MacMullen said the slow-down style of the Wolves made it difficult for the Vikings to keep up their intensity on defense.

Western Oregon senior forward Evan Kieling scored 14 first-half points almost exclusively in the paint and shot 7-10 from the field. Kieling was held to 1-3 shooting in the second half.

"We did a much better job (in the second half) of helping on the post," Western head coach Brad Jackson said.

Jackson said that in the second half the team changed its defense

and became more animated.

The Wolves shot 57 percent from the field in the first half, but, after switching to a 2-3 zone, Western held them to 36 percent in the second half.

After being outscored 42-24 in the key, Western made up for the disparity by outscoring Western Oregon 34-9 from the free-throw line.

After a back and forth first half that saw 17 lead changes, the Vikings were down 37-34.

Western junior guard Ryan Diggs began the first half cutting through the defense, dishing the ball to Western junior guard Grant Dykstra for a layup on the first possession and then to MacMullen, who was sent to the free-throw line.

Western began to pull away as the tempo increased, allowing the Vikings to score in transition.

The Vikings scored 6 fast break points to the Wolves' zero.

Western Oregon junior guard Kevin Tyner led the Wolves with 22 points, but was limited by foul trouble, picking up his fourth with 18 minutes remaining.

Western led 45-41 when Tyner returned with 13:30 left and immediately brought the Wolves to within two points with a soft floater over the Western front line.

With the Wolves trailing by two, Tyner again tested Western's interior defense with a running scoop-shot. This time, Western junior forward Tyler Amaya spiked the ball straight back down

toward Tyner with so much force, it bounced back up and nearly hit the shot clock.

The play drew the largest ovation from the 1,127 fans in attendance and sparked a 6-0 run and gave the Vikings an 8-point lead.

"It was almost like you're playing against your kid brother, and he runs in and throws one of those haymakers right to your arm," Amaya said. "It was the easiest block I've made all year."

Amaya said the excitement from the fans makes a difference on the floor.

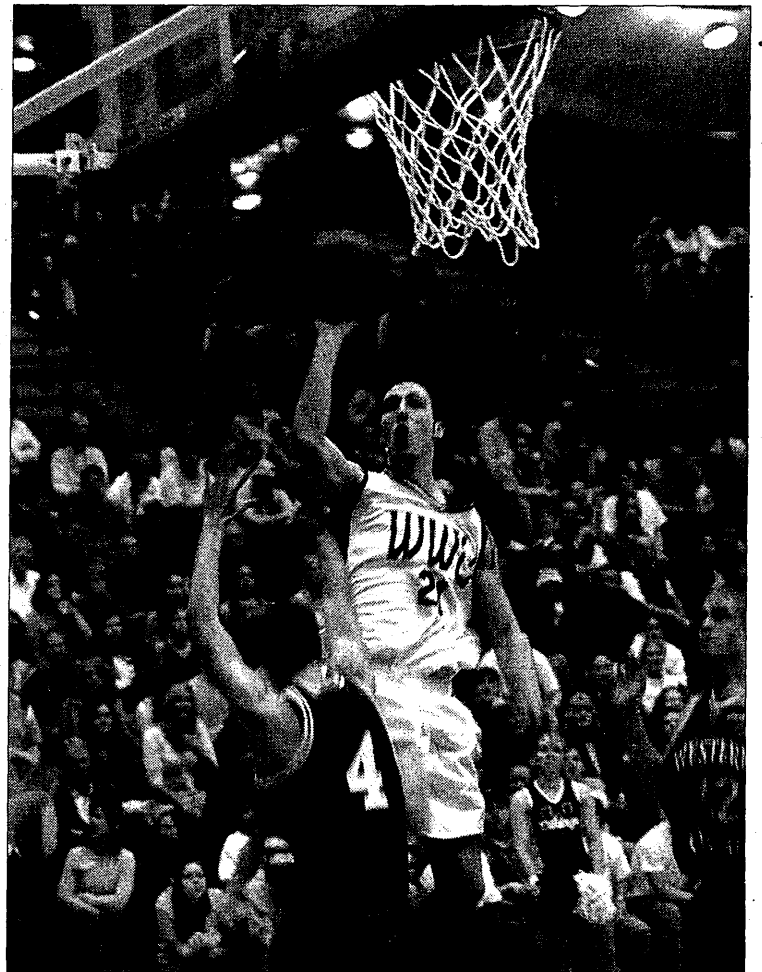
"I really like getting the crowd going, whether it's a block or a dunk," Amaya said. "When the crowd is going, then we just feed off the energy of the crowd."

With the win, the Western men improved to 12-4 in the GNAC and 19-5 overall, and eliminated any conference title hopes for Western Oregon.

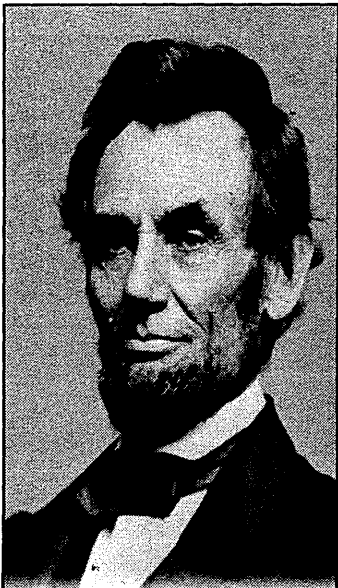
The team also broke Western Oregon's three-game winning streak, pushing its record down to 15-9 overall and 9-6 in GNAC play.

The Western men are ranked No. 19 in the latest NABC/NCAA Division II Top 25 poll and No. 2 in the West Region.

The Viking men, who are 12-0 at home, will play their final home game of the season against defending league and region champion Humboldt State University Saturday at 7 p.m. in Carver Gym.



AMANDA WOOLLEY/The Western Front  
Western junior forward Tyler Amaya shoots a layup Thursday night on Haggen Court as the Vikings beat the Western Oregon Wolves 80-69.



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# Hockey team ends season in high spirits despite loss

By ERIC SANFORD  
The Western Front

The Western ice hockey team's season came to an end Saturday night with a tough overtime loss to Gonzaga University at the Bellingham Sportsplex.

The Vikings had strong leads throughout the first two periods, but defensive errors in the third period led to Gonzaga tying it up at 5 goals apiece and scoring the game-winning goal three minutes into overtime.

The Western club team won the previous match the night before, 6-4.

"The first two periods were really good for us, but then there was a serious momentum shift," said J.R. Bynum, Western senior forward and team captain. "They picked it up a notch and we fell behind."

Overall, the game was physical and full of minor scuffles, Bynum said. Players on both sides took every opportunity to inflict some extra punishment on their opponents.

"It's a pretty big rivalry, so I was expecting more scraping, actually," Bynum said.

Gonzaga junior forward Matt Pfarr got things started with a quick goal two minutes into the first period. Western junior forward Michael Olbani answered with a power-play goal.

The score was 1-1 until both teams scored a flurry of goals in the second period. Western freshman defenseman Sean Naman nailed the left top shelf of the goal to take the lead.

Western senior forward and alternate captain Delane Williams added to the lead with a quick slapshot from the top of the left face-off circle. Gonzaga senior forward Andrew Cisakowski struck back 11 seconds later with an unassisted goal.

Then Olbani got lucky on his second goal with a shot that flew over the goal, bounced off the glass and ricocheted off the goalie's back into the goal.

Things were looking great for the Vikings until the third period. Gonzaga's Pfarr scored again with 9:35 remaining on the clock.

Western's Williams scored his second goal seconds later. It would be Western's last offensive push as Gonzaga went



CHRIS HUBER/The Western Front

Members of the Western hockey team cheer on their teammates as they wait to enter the game against Gonzaga University Saturday at the Bellingham Sportsplex.

on to score three unanswered goals, including the game-winning power-play goal Gonzaga junior forward Pat Keogh scored.

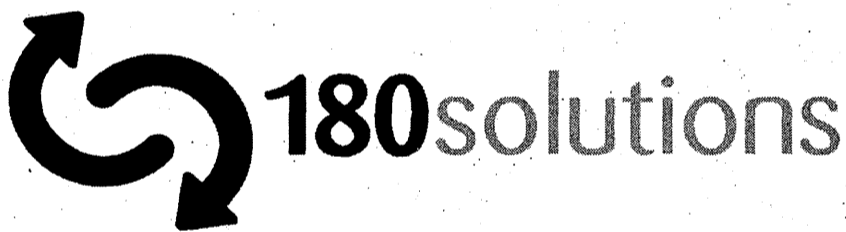
The Western players were not disappointed by the loss, Western head coach Collin Christianson said.

"Since it was the last game, we wanted to try to have a good time," Christianson said. "It's tough to rotate

everyone in so they can get playing time."

Christianson commented further on the physical nature of the game and how vital it is to winning.

"It comes down to who is putting plays together better," Christianson said. "The physical intimidation is a big part of the game, too. You've got to fight back, you know. You can't just sit there and take it."



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# Western dodgeball: dodge, duck, dip, dive and dodge

BY **MARISSA HARSHMAN**  
The Western Front

Players crouch down on the base line, fingers on the ground like a sprinter preparing to explode from the starting blocks. The gym is quiet with anticipation, all eyes narrowed to the eight people on the other side of the basketball court. And then the signal to go — dodgeball!

After listening to the rules of the game and chanting the famous "Five D's of Dodgeball" as recited in the movie "Dodgeball," the game begins with five rubber balls lined on the half-court line.

The intensity and dedication of players in Western's intramural dodgeball league has caught many people by surprise, Western freshman and Anteaters team captain Andrew Hansen said.

"(The dodgeball league) is pretty competitive," Hansen said. "We weren't expecting it to be as competitive as it is, but we're having fun with it."

This is the first year the recreation center has offered a dodgeball league, intramural sports supervisor and Western senior James Nardo said.

One-day dodgeball tournaments were offered this past spring and fall, he said.

Center officials listened to feedback from students who participated in the one-day tournaments and decided to form a dodgeball league, Nardo said. Students were given the option to sign up for an all-men division, an all-women division or a co-ed division, he said.

The dodgeball league comprises 35 teams, co-ed and all-men teams, Nardo said.

Nobody signed up for the all-women

division. The number of people involved with dodgeball is continuously growing because each team is allowed to add an unlimited number of players to its roster every week, he said. More than 300 people are involved with the dodgeball league, Nardo said.

"Our goal is to get as many people involved with intramural sports as possible," Nardo said.

Teams in Carver Gym play two matches per week. Games are Monday and Wednesday evenings. Each match consists of three to five games and the first team to win three games won the match.

Each team starts with eight players on the court. In the co-ed division, teams must start with four men and four women on the court. The games cannot go longer than eight minutes and end when one team eliminates all of the players on the other team, Nardo said.

If time runs out in the game, the team with the most players on the court wins. If both teams have an equal number of players, the game goes into sudden-death, where the first team that has a player eliminated loses the game, Nardo said.

Teams use a wide range of strategies when on the court, Nardo said. Some teams stay near the back of the court and just try to catch the ball, whereas others play more aggressively, throwing several balls at one player, Nardo said.

"We use our slacker skills — go in with no game plan and hope everything turns out," said Chris Hahn, Western sophomore and Average Schmos player.

The movie "Dodgeball" has inspired many people to get involved with the sport, Nardo said.



**MATTHEW ANDERSON**/The Western Front

In just its first year, dodgeball has been hugely popular at Western. These competitors are just a couple of the 300 players involved in the dodgeball league.

"The timing of the movie release with the dodgeball league was perfect," Nardo said.

After seeing the movie and hearing about the dodgeball league offered at Western, Hansen put a team of freshman guys together, he said.

"We started getting pumped up about (dodgeball)," Hansen said. "We made shirts, bought matching red shorts and got wristbands."

Hansen's team, The Anteaters, has matching red headbands, wristbands, shorts, mouthguards and shirts with images of anteaters throwing balls. The Anteaters have a large fan base that faithfully shows

up to games dressed in red and white.

"Everyone wants to play (The Anteaters) because they have such a big fan base," Hahn said.

"We had our first lost (Jan. 7) and the cross-country guys have a team and they yelled 'overrated' at us," Hansen said. "That really pissed us off, so we want a rematch against them. They're about as intense as we are."

Dodgeball is not all about competition and intensity to everyone who plays, Nardo said.

see **DODGE**, page 13

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# Playing crossword with Piniella



**MATT DEVEAU**  
WEST COAST OFFENSE

It wouldn't be right starting this week's column without paying respect to one of the great writers of recent history, Hunter S. Thompson, who died Sunday from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Thompson did many things, but in the sports world, he was a regular contributor to ESPN.com Page 2, the bastion of sports columns.

He was also a pioneer of gonzo journalism, a style in which the writer, among other things, inserts him - or herself into the article and occasionally uses quasi-fictional elements to tell a true story.

So, somewhat in keeping with the spirit of the Good Doctor — and hopefully I can do this one-one thousandth as well as he could — let me tell you a mostly true story.

The worst part about hanging out in the Seattle Mariners' clubhouse and meeting a bunch of major league baseball players was that I was pretty sure no one would believe me.

Maybe "no one" is a bit too strong, but when I was a junior in high school, most of my friends weren't about to believe me without some physical proof.

So when I got to the ballpark to job-shadow a beat writer for a Seattle newspaper, I was disappointed — on the visitor's pass in big, bold letters was the phrase "No autographs."

Great. I wasn't some nut for autographs or sports memorabilia or anything, but I needed proof of the visit — not just to aid my own memory, but to be able to hold up a personalized autograph and say, "I told you so."

But it wasn't going to happen. So I went on with the job shadow, and pretty soon I met Freddy Garcia, Alex Rodriguez and Dan Wilson. The latter of these wore little more than ... Actually, he was just strategically "holding" up a washcloth.

Anyway, things changed an hour or so before gametime when I walked into former manager Lou Piniella's office.

The reporter introduced me to Lou and the two began to talk about an article, and I — nervous as all hell — sat across the desk from the skipper.

A moment later, Lou turned to me and said, "Hey ki—"

Wait — I have to stop the story for a second. When you read the Piniella quotes, do a Lou impression in your head. Seriously. It makes even a mundane quote sound funny as hell. OK, back to the story.

Lou turned to me and said, "Hey kid, ya mind if I smoke?"

I said I didn't.

I did — the room was about as

well-ventilated as a Dumpster in the July sun — but you can't say no to a World Series-winning manager.

So Lou started smoking and somehow managed to pay attention to the reporter and a crossword puzzle at the same time.

For a while, Lou and the reporter bantered about some trade rumors, but then Lou ran across a stumper in the puzzle. To no one in particular, he asked, "Hey, uh, what's a five-letter word for a Caribbean Island starting with 'A'?"

"Aruba," I snapped.

I immediately began to panic. I thought, "Oh crap, I don't think Aruba is in the Caribbean. I might have just given Lou Piniella the wrong answer ..."

Lou looked down, spelled it out in his head and began writing.

"Thanks kid," he said.

When I got home later that night, the first thing I did was check whether Aruba is a Caribbean Island. (It is.) The second thing I did was have an epiphany.

I realized that I had just been through an experience so rare that I would never forget it. (I just did a crossword puzzle with Lou-bleeping-Piniella!) I didn't need a piece of paper covered with illegible squiggles to help me remember.

I also didn't need to prove to anyone the event took place. I mean, if I ever were to make up a story to make me look cool to my buddies, it probably wouldn't involve a crossword puzzle.



**MATTHEW ANDERSON**/The Western Front  
Western sophomore Zach Guy, a member of the team Off Each Other, wings a ball during a Feb. 16 contest in Carver Gym.

## Dodge: Players practice for the title

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

"Dodgeball is just fun. It brings you back to the elementary school days," said Frazier Coe, Western senior and AA Team player.

The AA Team, which stands for Alcoholics Anonymous, started telling people, as a joke, that it was court-ordered for them to form a team and play dodgeball, Coe said.

Guys are not the only ones enjoying the dodgeball league at Western, Nardo said.

"My friend Anna is really intense

about (dodgeball) and asked me if I wanted to play on a team with her," said Maria Manza, Western sophomore and Ramrods player. "I thought an intramural sport would be fun."

The guys on the opposing teams rarely single out the girls — only a couple of guys have blatantly tried to aim for them, Manza said.

The four-week season ended Feb. 17, and playoffs will begin at the end of February.

Each team in the league will make it to the playoffs regardless of its win/loss record, Nardo said.

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## Frontline

### Students should realize the importance of the First Amendment

Many college students attend bars and clubs in their spare time. At dance clubs such as the Royal, those who attend get ravingly drunk and shake their asses to any hip-hop song that is playing.

While these people are willing to bare all at the bars, it is ironic that many of those same people think that the First Amendment's freedom of expression clause goes too far, according to an August 2004 study conducted at the University of Connecticut. Thirty percent of the 100,000 students surveyed said they agree the First Amendment goes too far in the rights it guarantees.

The survey also found 11 percent said they feel Americans have too much freedom to speak freely, 44 percent said they would restrict speech that might offend religious groups, 63 percent said they would restrict speech that might offend racial groups and 38 percent said they would restrict music that might offend anyone, according to the study.

In addition, only half of the students surveyed said newspapers should be allowed to publish freely and without government control of content, and 42 percent said the press has too much freedom to do what it wants, according to the study.

It is ironic that students feel like their freedoms go too far, since they belong to the demographic that is likely to benefit from them the most. Western students often engage in protests, open discussions about taboo subjects and have viewpoints that dissent from the status quo. But it is only because of this clause in the First Amendment that they have this freedom.

In addition, public colleges and universities are often the first place where formerly-sheltered suburban youth are allowed to experiment with new ideas and concepts to form their own opinions. For these reasons, freedom of expression should be held in the highest regard.

Some argue the media takes freedom of expression too far by focusing too heavily on relatively unimportant events such as Janet Jackson's Super Bowl boob show or Howard Stern's radio antics, which have some conservatives in a moral uproar.

But while it may be appropriate to censor certain programs during times when children tend to watch or listen, an absence of press freedom is likely to lead to an authoritarian state. It is because of this that the importance of freedom of the press should not be overlooked.

In addition, students need to realize that Western, like many other public colleges and universities, thrives on the ability to openly discuss controversial ideas and opinions.

And universities must take better care to teach the importance of the Bill of Rights not just as an archaic document framed and hung on the wall as decoration, but rather by backing it up with action.

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

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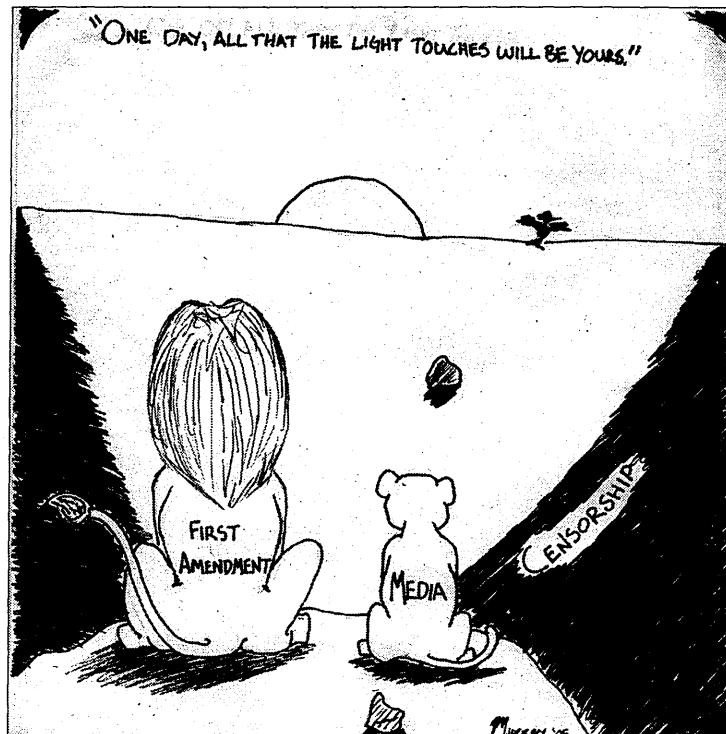
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**Editor's note:** The views expressed on The Western Front opinion pages are the views of the authors or cartoonists and are not necessarily the views of The Western Front staff, managers or adviser.

### And we quote:

*"What is freedom of expression? Without the freedom to offend, it ceases to exist."*

— Salman Rushdie, English author



## Ban of hip-hop dance team hypocritical



TIFFANY SHEAKLEY

Western departmental officials seem to be selective when it comes to enforcing censorship. And Western students seem to be allowing it.

This generation, compared to previous ones, has a different level of tolerance with certain issues. One look at the latest entertainment trends proves this.

For most college-age people to have danced a summer away to Sisco's "Thong Song" or be amused, not disgusted, by Janet Jackson's bare-all Super Bowl halftime performance, it takes a lot for them to deem something worthy of being censored.

College students should — at least in theory — be smart enough to view something for what it is and not be offended. Yet ironically, it is those in this demographic that claim free speech has gone too far.

Meanwhile, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College, in Salisbury, N.C., suspended a professor for showing

Michael Moore's documentary "Fahrenheit 9/11" to his class, according to a Nov. 19 FOXNews.com article.

Inconsistent censorship also is present on Western's campus. Western's athletic department recently banned the hip-hop dance team from performing at basketball games based on complaints from some community members that the music and routines were too racy, athletic director, Lynda Goodrich said.

But dancing is an art form, and the hip-hop dance team represents a popular culture. While it may make people who do not understand the culture uncomfortable, banning their performances is like banning Michelangelo's statue of David.

Two years ago, the Sexual Awareness Center caused controversy with its week-long celebration of Outdoor Intercourse Day, including the National Pornfest event. During the festival, the center showed pornography in some lecture halls on campus.

As a result of the complaints about the pornography shown on campus, Western's Associated Students Board of Directors put an end to the annual event.

The center received national attention for their controversial festivities, including coverage in an article in WorldNetDaily, a news Web site.

see EXPRESSION, page 16

## Death of gonzo journalist raises important issues



TRAVIS SHERER  
LOOKING UP

My hope is that even in death, gonzo journalist Hunter S. Thompson can still get us to talk about those subjects Americans tend to shy away from.

You know you've thought about it — never as a logical means to an end, of course, but maybe just in theory. Maybe your life isn't working out exactly the way you wanted it to, and you think suicide could be the only way out.

You're not getting any attention from anyone else and you figured nobody would care if you were gone — so why not do it?

Maybe you suffer from clinical depression and you're on such a high dosage of serotonin reuptake inhibitors or tricyclic antidepressants that you don't really know if you have already

killed yourself or not.

Or maybe, just maybe, you don't fit into any of these typical categories people all too quickly associate with suicide.

Before we go on, I want mention that I have never had anyone close to me commit suicide, and I'm not writing this to make fun of the

situation because it is, indeed, a serious subject.

The interesting part is that it's so serious that nobody is talking about it. Even though this probably wasn't what he intended, Hunter S. Thompson's final act should be viewed as a segue into another uneasy topic: suicide.

I'm only asking a question. When you've heard someone has committed suicide, have you ever thought, or heard someone say, "That sounds about right"?

Why not? You would think we would. In fact, anytime the media in this country actually are compelled to cover this serious topic, it's

always the interview of the friend, mother or neighbor saying, "He was always such a happy-go-lucky guy, I don't understand why he would do it."

I'm sure we can put people such as musicians Kurt Cobain and Elliot Smith, and possibly Thompson, into these clean-cut molds of tortured

souls because we don't want to admit that anyone could be just one moment from reaching for the razor.

I, like most people, think of myself as more stable than those who actually consider ending their own lives — but am I

really? I couldn't tell you.

Nor could I tell you what events would have to occur in my life to make me want to end it. But that's just it — once those moments you can't think of happening actually do happen, you don't think as logically as you would if you were reading about it in the paper.

see SUICIDE, page 16

*Hunter S. Thompson's final act should be viewed as a segue into another uneasy topic — suicide.*

# Bush's budget proposal excessive



ADAM RUDNICK

President George W. Bush's top military officials urged Congress on Feb. 16 to approve the president's 2006 fiscal budget that includes \$419 billion for defense, according to a Feb. 17 Associated Press article.

Officials said terrorists are regrouping for possible strikes against the United States. The only way to counteract these strikes is for Congress to approve the budget, they say in the article.

The federal government, however, has pitched this same line to Congress since Sept. 11, 2001. Instead, the government should stop spending a disproportionate amount of money fighting wars and increase spending on struggling domestic programs, such as education.

Of the \$2.57 trillion proposed for the 2006 fiscal year, \$419 billion of the budget will go toward military spending — a 41 percent increase since 2001, according to the White House's Web site.

To put these numbers in perspective, the United States will spend more money on defense spending in 2006 than all other countries in the world spent on defense in 2003 combined, according to a Feb. 17 Baltimore Chronicle article.

The United States does not need \$419 billion to defend itself against terrorism or other threats of national security. No country, no matter how powerful, is any match for the United States' military, and increasing its power does nothing but rub in other countries' faces that America's military reigns supreme.

It seems that Bush thinks throwing money at an international problem such as terrorism will fix it. A Feb. 7 Reuters article said military spending also

is expected to increase beyond 2006, from \$443.1 billion in the 2007 fiscal year, to more than \$500 billion in 2011. Bush must foresee dozens of countries to liberate and police in the future — his foresight is impeccable.

America should forget about liberating countries and spreading democracy. Instead, it should limit overseas spending and increase funding for domestic programs.

Instead of the \$147 billion of the 2006 budget allocated to operating and maintaining tanks and ships and "spreading freedom," it could use 10 percent of the military's current \$41 billion budget and put it toward improving public education.

Bush's proposed 2006 budget already appropriates nearly eight times the amount of money for military spending than for Department of Education spending, according to the White House's Web site.

Adding \$41 billion to the Department of Education's budget would nearly double it, and if appropriated properly, the United States could show other countries how the world's strongest country spends its money — on education, not war.

The United States could still have the world's strongest military, even with this budget cut. If implemented effectively, the United States would have more educated citizens.

Through education, Americans may learn terrorism is not something the United States can simply fix by throwing money at it.

Military spending is not going to simply go away. The United States is at war, and Congress must appropriate sufficient funds to aid soldiers overseas. But spending 16 percent of the annual budget on the military is unnecessary at best and counterproductive at worst.

Terrorist groups will not be able to tell the difference between a U.S. military that receives \$375 billion and one that receives \$419 billion. With additional funding, however, America's teachers and students could see a difference.

*'Spending 16 percent of the annual budget on the military is unnecessary at best and counterproductive at worst.'*

## Letter to the editor

Plastics are an indispensable part of life for many

I would like to shed some light on the "shifty" and "standoffish" members of the plastics engineering technology department in response to a Feb. 4 commentary by columnist Travis Sherer. He mentioned that he was afraid of an uprising of the less popular majors. In fact, he went so far as to insist our "less desirable" department leave the campus.

But without us, you have nothing.

I defy him to survive one day without interacting with plastics. Even his blasphemous article would not exist without plastic — no pen to write notes, no keyboard to type on, no case for the monitor, no case for the computer, no insulation on the wires, no chair to sit in, no removable media to transfer data, no wrapper for his midnight snack, no bottle to hold water to wash it down, no shoes to walk to and from school. And he would probably be missing some other pieces of clothing as well.

So, for someone who claims to know everything, did you know, Travis, that without us you would be sitting on the floor with a pencil and piece of paper, hungry, thirsty, half-naked, trying to write an article that would receive no distribution because technologists, who apparently are "extremists who hate you for your popularity," had their major removed from the system? I didn't think so.

Could I get along without journalism? You bet.

I also wouldn't have had to waste my time defending an amazing academic program which has been sorely underestimated.

If the time was taken to look at what has been accomplished in the depths of the Ross Engineering Technology Building, you would be amazed.

Would you rather have a newspaper or a Kevlar vest between yourself and an incoming bullet? That's a simple choice. Have journalists researched innovative ways to save lives in car crashes lately? Nope. They're just worried about Brad and Jen.

When was the last time a journalist found a way to so thoroughly amuse us like only a Wacky Wall Walker can? OK, Dave Barry doesn't count.

My point is that Travis has said we were not worthy of being stereotyped, yet by calling us unpopular, he stereotyped us anyway.

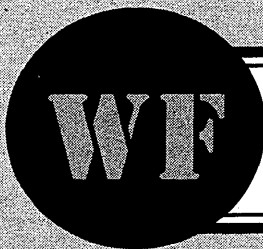
I urge you all to think twice about who and what you stereotype. We are all Vikings. Travis was afraid of us taking over the world, but if you look at the global dependence on plastics, you will see our "shifty" little community already has.

Nathan Slesinger  
Senior, plastics engineering technology

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**Expression: More censorship not the answer**

*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14*

If the hip-hop dance team's performances and Pornfest made so many people uncomfortable, then Western took proper action.

But plenty other events on campus also make people uncomfortable. Female students, for example, on their way to class should not have to worry about religious activists calling them whores.

Many Western students fall victim to the fundamental zealots in Red Square with their giant signs condemning those who do not agree with their religious beliefs.

Basketball games as well as showings of pornography in closed rooms are voluntary events, therefore, it is not

required that students or community members attend them so if one is uncomfortable with the content of these events, he or she can easily boycott them.

Students, however, cannot simply skip classes to avoid being called derogatory names for having their own beliefs or for wearing what they feel comfortable in during warm weather.

If the separation of church and state

can ban the routine recital of the Pledge of Allegiance in public schools in several states because of its reference to God, it also should ban the routine aggravation — if not harassment — of passing students by members of the community pushing religion on campus.

It is not impossible to take a step back from censoring everything. In Wheaton, Ill., Wheaton College lifted a 143-year ban

on dancing on or off-campus just two years ago, according to a 2003 CNN.com article.

It is ironic that Wheaton College — which is situated in a more conservative area of the United States — lifted its dance ban and, two years later, Western places one.

It is ridiculous for schools such as Wheaton to become more tolerant while schools such as Rowan-Cabarrus and Western to become less so.

Satisfying everyone is unlikely but censoring to please one group is likely to lead to a different group being upset. If Western and other campuses continue on their rampage of banning, eventually no one will be satisfied and the situation will grow more and more contentious.

*Satisfying everyone is impossible but censoring to please one group is likely to lead to a different group being upset.*

**Suicide: No longer just for depressed people**

*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14*

This trigger could be anything. For some people, it could be losing a loved one. The loss of a girlfriend or mother could be enough. For others, it could be a feeling that you have accomplished all that you think you could — and why keep going?

Maybe it's because you think your life would gain more meaning after you are dead.

That's right, suicide can happen because someone has everything going his or her way. Why must we insist on thinking that someone has to fit this mold and be some severely depressed soul? Why do we think that only certain people are capable of killing themselves?

Fear.

A person does not have to be disturbed to kill themselves, just like a person doesn't have to be disturbed to kill another person. In many instances it is likely to be purely circumstantial.

Americans love their sovereignty — both internationally and individually. The idea that I can't control something in my life is foreign and scary to me, which is why suicide is so dangerous.

Sure, everyone can control it to a degree, but everyone has a breaking point. If you don't question your limits, how are you going to be prepared to cross them without losing it all?

I don't remember learning anything about suicide other than "don't do it" when I was in school — which has to be a problem. I read "Romeo and Juliet," watched Dead Poet's Society, viewed Vincent van Gogh and learned about Jack London, Ernest Hemmingway and Sylvia Plath as part of the curriculum and we never discussed it. I was there for 12 years, but what did they teach me about? Sex and drugs.

Let me get this straight: Sex creates life and drugs could ruin it, but suicide ends it. Which is worse? I'll take my chances experimenting with sex and drugs rather than suicide.

Of course, learning more information about the subject isn't the only contributor to suicide. And under the right circumstances, people are apt to do anything.

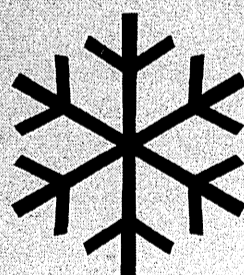
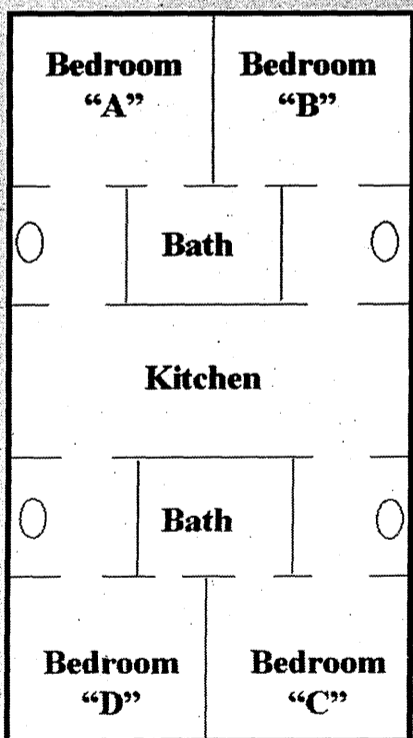
Like I said, this is a dark subject, but it's one that shouldn't be dismissed simply to make us feel more secure about ourselves.

By this lack of discussion, however, you are only hurting yourself.

*'Suicide can happen because someone has everything going his or her way.'*

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