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WESTERN SWEEPS MULTI-EVENT TRACK AND FIELD MEET

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Friday, April 10, 2009

THE WESTERN FRONT

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Western withholds money from tech fee

AS hopes to reclaim \$830,000 collected in separate reserve fund

Jeremy Schwartz THE WESTERN FRONT

For reasons the current administration is investigating, Western has not directly contributed any money to the Student Technology Fee proposal fund since the 2004-05 school year.

Associated Students (AS) President Erik Lowe delivered an address on April 3 to Western's Board of Trustees about the AS Board of Directors' concern regarding the university's failure to contribute \$150,000 per year to the technology fee proposal fund, which pays for technologyrelated projects proposed by Western's departments.

The Board of Trustees has endorsed this contribution since the 2005-06 school year when the contribution was reduced from \$200,000 per year, Lowe said. Western's contribution was supposed to help fund technology-related projects that directly benefit students, he said.

"[The contribution] was mandated by the Board of Trustees and has been widely advertised by the university and has resulted in a violation of the trust between students and our school," Lowe said.

Western President Bruce Shepard said he has ordered an investigation into why Western's previous administration established the reserve fund. Shepard said budget documentation did not clearly show the money in the reserve fund was supposed to be set aside for the technology fee proposal fund.

The university reclaimed approximately \$630,000 at the beginning of 2009

see FUND page 6

Second provost search nearing its conclusion

Coral Garnick THE WESTERN FRONT

A search that began in June 2008 may now finally be coming to an end as Gerard Voland, the final candidate for Western's provost/vice president for academić affairs visited campus Wednesday and Thursday.

Craig Dunn, chair of the provost search advisory committee and associate professor in the marketing department. said, he will not consider the search to be successfully complete until five years after a new provost has been hired.

"It is much like with my students," Dunn said. "I'm not looking to measure my student's achievements at graduation; I'm looking at how they are living their lives five years down the road."

Voland held an open forum Wednesday to explain his qualifications and interest in Western and to answer questions from the campus community.

At the start of the forum, Voland said one thing that attracted him to Western is its focus on liberal arts education. He said too many universities are adapting a trade-school mentality and forcing students strictly down a career-oriented path. With a liberal education, students learn how to think, learn, communicate, be creative, make decisions wisely and use good judgment, he said.

"I'm very conscious and appreciative of the need for liberal education as the foundation of a university," Voland said. "Of course, I also want a university to complement liberal arts with the professional skills, and that balance is here at

Voland has a doctorate in engineering design from Tufts University in Medford, Mass., a master's degree in physics

see **PROVOST** page **5**

MEN'S CREW TEAM PREPARES FOR HOME REGATTA THIS WEEKEND



photo by Keith Daigle THE WESTERN FRONT EARLY MORNING PRACTICE: The Western men's crew team hits the lake at 6 a.m. Thursday, April 9 in pre iaration for the Western Invitational tomorrow at Lake Samish. Both the men and women's crew teams will compete in their only home regatta this season.

Dean hired for College of Fine and Performing Arts

Lisa Carrougher THE WESTERN FRONT

Daniel Guyette, the current dean for the College of Fine and Performing Arts at the University of South Dakota, has agreed to fill the same position as Western's new dean for the College of Fine and Performing Arts (CPFA) beginning July 1.

Guyette received his bachelor's degree in theater arts from Northwestern University and received a master's degree from Pennsylvania State University in scenic design. He has been at the University of South Dakota since 2004. He

also worked at the University of Northern Colorado for 11 years. In 1992, he was honored as Artist of the Year while at Utah State University.

Ron Riggins, Western's current dean of CPFA, said faculty and staff are excited for what lies ahead in the near future.

As Riggins prepares to step down from his two-year position, he said Guyette will bring stability in leadership and build strong, positive relationships throughout the campus.

Guyette's responsibilities as dean will include overseeing the art, dance, theater and music departments as well as manag-

ing the Western Art Gallery and the Western Outdoor Sculpture Collection.

As dean, Guyette will be the administrator of CPFA. Guyette will work directly with the faculty and address any issues and/or concerns, Riggins said.

"His job will be to facilitate, so goals can be realized," Riggins said. "I believe he will be a strong leader who will dive into different tasks."

In order to select a new dean for the college, a Western search committee was

see **DEAN** page 5

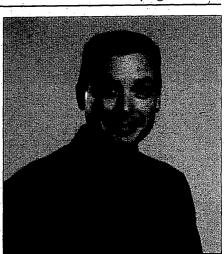


photo courtesy of University Communications Daniel Guyette takes place as the dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts.

21 NEWS

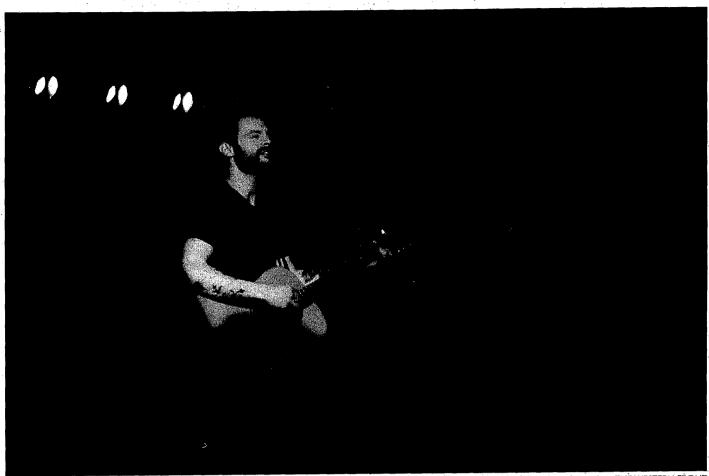


photo by Rebecca Rice THE WESTERN FRONT

Rocky Votolato performs April 8 in the Viking Union Multipurpose Room. Votolato played several new songs during the concert, some which he said he had not played for an audience before. In a Q&A session during the show, a concertgoer asked Votolato how long it had taken him to grow his beard. "About three weeks," Votolato replied.

Two cars collide along Bill McDonald

Andrea Davis-Gonzalez THE WESTERN FRONT

At 8:50 p.m. Tuesday evening, two cars collided at 2900 block of Bill Mc-Donald Parkway.

Western freshman Hallie Sinclair was driving northbound on Bill McDonald Parkway when a blue sedan containing three people, pulled out of the Birnam Wood Apartments striking the silver Subaru Sinclair was driving.

"I didn't know there was a car waiting, and I didn't see it until it hit me," Sinclair said.

No one was seriously injured in the crash, but Sinclair said her legs were sore and she had some minor bruises.

The Subaru, owned by Sinclair's friend Western freshman Emily Barry, was hit near the front right tire causing the airbags to deploy and block Sinclair's view of the road.

Sinclair said she hit the brakes and swerved to the opposite lane. Luckily, no cars were approaching at the time of the crash, she said.

University Police and Bellingham Police responded to the accident, blocking off the road in both directions and detouring traffic around the scene.

Police swept car pieces off the road and sprinkled cat litter to absorb the antifreeze that leaked from Barry's car following the crash.

Sinclair called Barry immediately to

notify her of the accident. Barry arrived at the scene with two others who hugged Sinclair and told her everything would be OK.

The damage to the front of Barry's Subaru includes a bent, damaged hood and broken headlights. The left side of the blue sedan appeared to have suffered less damage.

Sinclair said the driver of the other vehicle apologized to her before police arrived. The driver and the two passengers in the sedan declined to comment.

Although she didn't think her friend was at fault, Barry said she didn't like the possibility of her insurance having to cover the cost towing and repairs.

"I don't need a car," Barry said. "I have my friends. That's all I need."

COPS BOX

University Police

April 4

 Officers responded to a report of students smoking marijuana in a Ridgeway residence hall. The residents reportedly refused to answer the door for police.

April 6

 Police responded to a report of a possible stolen vehicle on campus. Police discovered the vehicle's license plates had been switched.

Bellingham Police

April 6

Police responded to a report of vandalism at the 1300 block of Railroad Ave. Officers found broken glass from a store window and blood on the sidewalk.

Cops Box compiled by Thomas Bennett

WEATHER REPORT SAT High: 56° F

High: 56° F Low: 44° F Cloudy \$ (50% chance of showers)



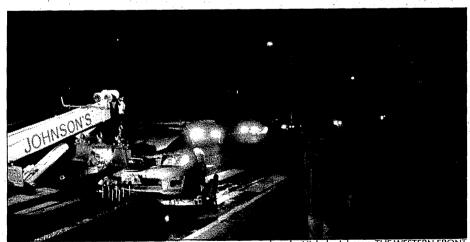
SUN High: 54° F Low: 38° F Rain



MON
High: 50° F
Low: 36° F
Mostly Cloudy
(scattered showers)



TUES
High: 52° F
Low: 35° F
Mostly Cloudy
(chance of showers)



Surrounded by her friends, Western freshman Hallie Sinclair sits on the sidewalk of Bill Mc-Donald Parkway across from the Birnam Wood apartments Tuesday night after her car was struck from the right forcing her to swerve into the on-coming lane. "I wasn't really hurt," Sinclair said. "But, my shins feel pretty bruised."

Corrections

An article in the April 7 issue of The Western Front titled "Vikings blow out Eagles" had a subheading with inaccurate information. The subheading should have said, "Club baseball is one step closer to the National Collegiate Baseball Association World Series."

In the photo accompaning the story, the player pictured is actually Toraj Nowkhasteh. The Western Front apologizes for this and any other error. Errors should be reported to the managing editor at managing@westernfrontonline.net

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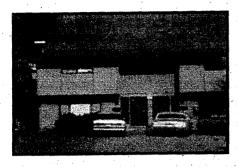
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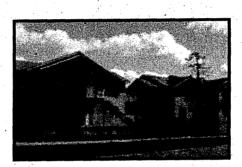
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Tues. 4/21, 2 - 4pm 2211 Douglas Ave. / Alexandria Apts Studio / 1 bdrm / 2bdrms



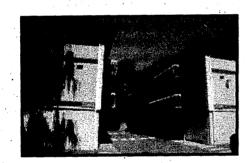
Tues. 4/21, 2 - 4pm 1018 23rd Street / Sweetwater Apts Studio & 2 Bedrooms



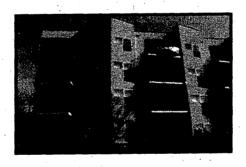
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Undocumented students fear deportation

Selah Prather THE WESTERN FRONT

Being a college student can be mentally stressful and financially challenging. But imagine being a college student who is ineligible to receive financial aid, apply for loans or even get a job in the United States.

Tom Nerini, director of Western's Student Outreach Center, said many immigrant Western students who do not have the proper documentation necessary to become legal residents often encounter similar problems.

"There are approximately 25 to 30 undocumented students on Western's campus who face difficult issues, such as fear of deportation, ability to pay for college and whether or not they will be able to get a job once they graduate," Nerini said.

Currently, no federal or state laws prohibit undocumented immigrants from being admitted to U.S. colleges or universities. Furthermore, U.S. law does not mandate proof of citizenship in order to be accepted to a higher education institution. Although, according to the College Board Web site, a non-profit organization that facilitates college success and opportunities for students individual institutions can create their own policies.

On Feb. 24, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers raided Yamato Engine Specialists, a local business. According to the ICE Web site, 28 undocumented immigrant employees were arrested and taken to Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma where they awaited deportation. Since then, most of the detainees have been released, with at least one immigrant who has been deported.

Nerini said the recent ICE raid has increased the fear level of undocumented students on campus. He said he began studying issues surrounding undocumented immigrants in 2005 while working on a thesis for his doctorate in education.

"[Undocumented students are] really nervous about going out or doing anything," Nerini said. "I've gotten e-mails and calls from students wondering if they should be worried."

Nerini said many immigrants flee from countries such as Mexico for economic and safety concerns. Alex, a Western senior and undocumented student whose name has been changed to protect his identity, is no exception.

"We come here to get a better life because we know that back at home we don't have anything. I mean, we're freaking dying from hunger," Alex said. "So it doesn't matter what it takes, just as long as we get food in our system."

Two years ago, Alex's worst fears became a reality. He was at the Fairhaven Greyhound station waiting to catch a bus to Seattle, when a Border Patrol agent overheard Alex speaking Spanish on his cell phone and asked where he was from.

whether the university would allow ICE to come on campus.

"As it stands now, if ICE comes to campus they have the power to investigate anyone," Nerini said.

University Police Chief Randy Stegmeier said his department has not had to deal with any issues regarding undocumented students so far.



photo by Selah Prather THE WESTERN FRONT

Bellingham community members stand outside the Federal building downtown Feb. 24 to protest the raid of undocumented illegal immigrants at Yamato Motors.

Alex told the agent he was from Mexico, and when he could not provide proper documentation, he was taken into custody and eventually deported to Mexico. Remarkably, Alex made his way back to the U.S.

"It was the scariest thing that has ever happened to me," Alex said.

Supervisory Border Patrol agent Mike Bermudez said agents often patrol airports, bus stations and other transportation hubs.

Bermudez said these places are where individuals who have violated U.S. laws usually can be found.

Bermudez said Border Patrol Agents do not racially profile. However, Bermudez said agents are allowed to strike up a conversation with any person they choose. If that person volunteers any information regarding his or her country of origin, it provides agents legal grounds to demand documentation of legal U.S. residency or citizenship.

Nerini said Western needs to take a closer look at its policy regarding hard-ship withdrawals, which allow students to withdraw from a class due to unforeseen illness or personal emergency, for students affected by deportation issues and

"We have not detained any [undocumented students] or referred any to other agencies," Stegmeier said.

Stegmeier said Western police officers have the ability to report anyone who may have questionable identification to custom agencies. However, he said officers are mainly concerned about protecting students, regardless of their legal status.

"We want anyone to feel that if they are a victim of a crime, or if they are in danger, they could come to us for assistance without worrying whether or not we would question their status," Stegmeier said.

Western junior Abraham Rodriguez is co-chair of Western's chapter of El Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano/a de Aztlan (M.E.C.H.A.), a national organization dedicated to confronting educational and social justice issues facing Latino, Chicano and Mexican Americans.

"We are currently focusing on supporting minority high school students who want to enter college and educating people about the Dream Act and how it benefits immigrants," Rodriguez said.

According to the National Immigration Law Center Web site, the Dream Act, which has presidential support, would grant permanent resident status to certain immigrants who came to the U.S. before the age of 16 and at least five years before the Dream Act passed.

However, the Dream Act is riddled with restrictions. For instance, undocumented immigrants would be required to graduate from a U.S. high school or obtain a GED and have no criminal record to be eligible for permanent residency.

During the first six years of the process, applicants would be granted conditional permanent resident status, giving them the ability to live and work freely in the U.S. without fear of being deported.

Within that time, they would be required to obtain a two-year college degree, serve in the military for two years or perform at least 910 hours of community service. After the 6-year conditional period, eligible immigrants would be granted permanent resident status.

"[The Dream Act] is the most likely and best case scenario," Nerini said. "But even with the Dream Act, [immigrants] still aren't eligible for financial aid. They can get loans but they still can't get gift aid like the Pell grants."

Although U.S. colleges can admit undocumented students, it is difficult for colleges to provide these students with protection from potential deportation once they are on campus.

Paul Cocke, director of Western's communication and relations department, said Western abides by all state and federal regulations, including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). This act states that if any person or federal agents come to campus seeking information regarding a particular student, they can only obtain directory information, unless particular students have "opted out" of making their directory information available.

According to the FERPA, directory information consists of a student's name, telephone number, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, participation in sports activities and the most recent educational institution attended.

"If someone contacts us with a subpoena, we have to abide by it," Cocke said. "It's really a question of law."

ICE spokeswoman Lorie Dankers said ICE does not have a particular policy regarding raiding colleges for undocumented students. Donkers said she is not aware of any college raids in the Northwest.

"We have the authority to enforce the law anywhere at any time," Dankers said. "But we enforce the law at the appropriate time and the appropriate place."

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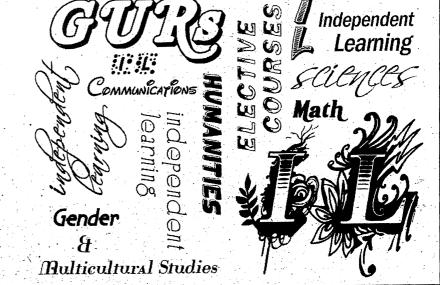
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DEAN: Search committee voted unanimously for Guyette

from

search committee was put together to perform the search. From the three finalists, the committee had unanimous support for Guyette, Riggins said.

Roger Gilman, the dean of Fairhaven College and head of the search committee, said it was a unanimous vote because the committee worked well together and had a clear idea of what the college needed.

"In the end, he was experienced, level-headed and had creative ideas," Gilman said. "This all contributed to a vote that was natural and was an easy consensus."

Western Art Gallery Director Sarah Clark-Langager and a member of the search committee said it was a long and thorough process before the committee arrived at a decision.

"We gave ourselves a goal, and we arrived at an excellent choice," Clark-Langager said. "He brings a lot of energy and he connects, which will make the department more visible."

Riggins has been the dean for the last two years, and said he is comfortable that Guyette will be great for the college.

"It makes [the transition] easier for me," Riggins said.

Guyette said he is excited for his new

position at Western, as well as the transition into the university. He said Western is a good-sized university and has a wonderful arts environment.

"I like Western's reputation, the quality of the faculty and the administration," Guyette said. "I looked at all those factors and where it is located, and all those things are excellent at Western."

Guyette said he sees opportunities for enhancement and growth in the dean position, and he hopes to create flexibility between business and areas of the arts in order to create more job opportunities for students. One area to enhance might be film studies, he said.

Guyette said he hopes to formulate the curriculum in different ways. He said he hopes to do this by enhancing what is already done well at the school.

Guyette said he also likes the Bellingham school system and looks forward to his 3-year-old son attending these schools

"As a family, we are very excited and appreciative," Guyette said.

Riggins said he has no immediate plans for the future once Guyette takes over the position and his schedule opens

"I always have my motorcycle," Riggins said.

PROVOST: Voland addresses diversity and fundraising in forum

from 1

from UCLA, and has been the dean of the College of Engineering, Technology and Computer Science at Indiana University and Purdue University (IUPUI) at Indianapolis, Ind., for the last six years.

Before working at IUPUI, Voland taught for 22 years at Northeastern University in Boston, Mass., as the special assistant to the vice provost for undergraduate education and was the interim director of the School of Engineering Technology.

Voland also served as the associate vice president for undergraduate education and dean of the Undergraduate College at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, Ill. for four years.

Voland said his range of campuswide positions at the undergraduate level has prepared him for the role of a provost. His inclusive, transparent, collegial and collaborative management style, which allows him to bring people together around one compelling vision, would be beneficial for Western's provost position, he said.

"It is important to listen to people and to respond to their concerns and to make certain their aspirations are met in every possible way by providing them with the resources and the opportunities that are needed so their aspirations can be met," Voland said. "That is the role of provost, or any administrator: to help people meet their aspirations."

In regards to fundraising, Voland said that the provost has a duty to help faculty and students achieve their aspirations and provide them with the resources needed to have those aspirations met. In terms of fundraising, he said he has been successful in securing outside funds for 20 years.

Voland said three key elements are needed to secure those funds: a compelling vision, a practical plan of implementation and a theme that is mutually beneficial. Voland said if those three things are there, funds can be found even in difficult economic times.

When asked about diversifying Western's campus, Voland brought the forum to a more personal level. He took the opportunity to explain that he thinks it is important to have diversity on Western's campus.

Voland's three children were all adopted from Russia four years ago. When the children arrived, they were prejudice, he said. Voland and his wife enrolled the children in the most diverse elementary school they could, and as a result, his children each have friends with a wide variety of racial backgrounds, he said.

"If they had not been immersed in a diverse population, their biases would have been retained," Voland said. "So, I very much believe in diversity. I have seen, on a personal level, how important it is to have diversity in populations for the benefit of all concerned."

Kevin Majkut, director of student affairs, said he appreciated what Voland said about diversity and was generally satisfied with the forum.

"He seemed pretty focused and answered the questions that were asked of him," Majkut said. "He also answered questions well on his feet."

Dunn said he likes that Voland is an orderly thinker and often describes things in list form.

"You hear him come up with lists these are three things for this; these are three reasons for this - you would expect that of an engineer," Dunn said. "But he clearly also has interests that go well be-

yond engineering and technology and computer science, and that is why he is here. If he had a narrow disciplinary perspective, he would never have been brought in as a finalist for this position."

Western President Bruce Shepard said he has met with the dean of every college on campus, the search advisory committee and the vice presidents, and he has seen the feedback forms submitted from the campus community, he said. For him, what is next is to have further conversations

"What I like to do is to not just talk about the candidates, but also talk about what it is we need," Shepard said. "The process starts with a position description, but often as you go through this and you see different people, it gives us a chance to think through more clearly what our priorities are – what we are looking for in a provost."

Shepard said it is important for whoever is selected as provost to understand that the provost needs to lead by listening to people, not by telling people what to do, and needs to not only ask questions, but also hear the answers. A person who understands that the central mission of the university is its academic mission, is key, Shepard said.

At this time, Shepard is unable to project when a candidate will be selected. He said many more conversations are to come.

Dunn said when a selection is made, it will be some time before it is announced because negotiations will have to take place between the candidate and Shepard.

Salary is set at this point, but other issues may be raised that fall under the category of spousal accommodations, for example, Dunn said.

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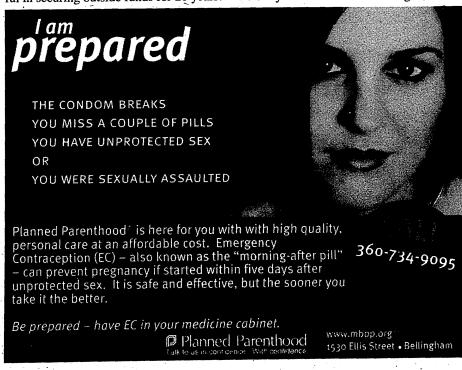
Spousal accommodation means the

candidates spouse needs assistance finding a job in the community or, if he or she is a professor, a job within the university, he said.

"We want to be sure we remove any barriers that might prevent a good candidate from coming to Western," Dunn said.



photo by Carolyn Copstead THE WESTERN FRONT Western provost candidate Gerard Voland addresses an audience of approximately 50 faculty, staff and students in an open forum 4 p.m. Wednesday in the Academic Instructional Center. Voland is currently the dean of the College of Engineering, Technology and Computer Science at Indiana University - Purdue University Fort Wayne. The hour-long forum was an opportunity for faculty, staff and students to ask questions of Voland and to hear his vision for the university if he is selected as Western's next provost.





FUND: University promised to use money for tech fee proposals

from 1

because the reserve fund did not appear to be funding anything specific, Shepard said. Due to the current budget situation, he said appropriating the funds back into the university so the money could be used elsewhere was the financially responsible move to make.

"We're in a budget situation; we're looking for every nickel that's not nailed down," Shepard said.

Since the university contributed only \$150,000 to the technology fund during the 2004-05 school year, before the Board of Trustees reduced the payments, the total amount the university has not contributed to the technology fee proposal fund including the \$630,000 Western reclaimed comes to a total of \$830,000, Lowe said.

Despite the looming budget cuts, Shepard said the university will fund the projects proposed by departments approved for the 2009-10 school year with the money in the reserve fund. However, Shepard said Western will no longer contribute any money to the technology fee proposal fund.

Lowe said he became aware of the university reserve fund contributions after a winter quarter management council meeting with Western's Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dennis Murphy and AS Vice President for Academic Affairs Andrea Goddard.

Goddard said she expressed concern to Murphy about the university's contribution to the technology fee proposal fund due to the possibility of budget cuts. Murphy told Goddard the university had not contributed to that fund for a few years. Goddard said she informed Lowe of this and scheduled a meeting with President Shepard March 19.

Shepard said he was unaware the money in the reserve fund was supposed to go toward technology fee proposal's, but he was aware the money was accumulating since his early months at Western.

Shepard said the way the Student Technology Fee Committee handles the funding made it seem as if the money in the reserve didn't have a specific purpose.

Since administrators who are no longer at Western made the decision to establish the reserve fund, Shepard said he could not speculate on any of the decisions.

Western President Emeritus Karen Morse, was president at the time the reserve fund was established and declined to comment.

Goddard said the confusion about the purpose of the money in the reserve fund most likely stemmed from the way money paid through the Student Technology Fee accumulates in the technology fee proposal fund.

As a result of the \$150,000 per year going to the reserve fund, Goddard said money from the Student Technology Feehas been the sole source of financing for project proposals from departments for four years.

Lowe said he sees the promised \$150,000 per year as the students' money since it was meant to pay for technology directly beneficial to them.

The confusion in regards to distributions of the funds could have been avoided if the financing of the Student Technology Fee had better student oversight and was more transparent, he said.

"When you're dealing with such a large amount of money, in the students' eyes, someone needs to be held accountable," Lowe said.

In the future, Lowe said the AS Board of Directors should keep track of the financing of the Student Technology Fee in the same way the AS Board does for the Alternative Transportation Fee, which pays for each student's bus pass and use of the Late Night Shuttle.

A specific committee oversees the money brought in from the Alternative Transportation Fee and presents annual finance reports to the AS Board.

Shepard said he agrees with Lowe about making student fees more transparent. Shepard said he provided budget information to Lowe and Goddard during their March 19 meeting in an attempt to figure out the details of the money distribution.

The next step in figuring out why this happened is to start an investigation that will delve into Western's internal budget information from the past few years in an attempt to figure out why the reserve fund was created, Shepard said.

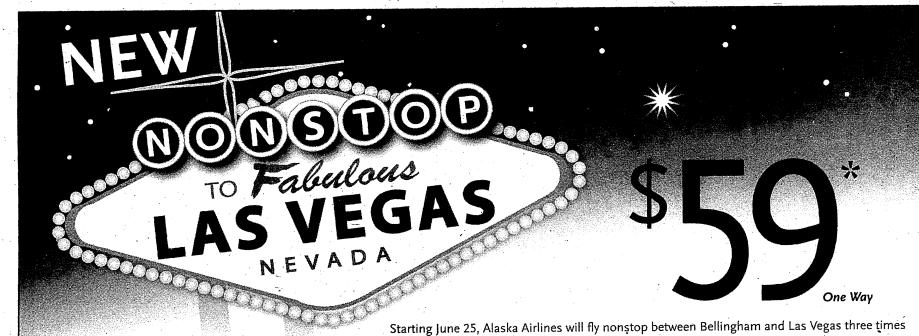
"I want to figure out what happened," Shepard said. "Not to point fingers, but to find solutions."

Shepard said he has instructed Provost Murphy to conduct the investigation because Murphy would know best what to look for because of his background in business and economics.

Having Murphy conduct the investigation would also save Western the cost of hiring an outside source, Shepard said.



photo by Keith Daigle THE WESTERN FRONT AS President Erik Lowe addresses the Board of Trustees about money held in a reserve fund that was originally intended to support technology fee project proposals.



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Fairhaven dorms win waste reduction challenge

Western residence halls combine to reduce electricity usage by 20 percent during winter quarter

Megan Jonas
THE WESTERN FRONT

After months of intense competition among residence halls, the results of the Go for the Green Challenge are in. Fairhaven won the challenge, playing the biggest role in helping reduce overall electricity use for University Residences by more than 20 percent during winter quarter.

"Our goal for electricity reduction was between 10-15 percent overall, so to have an overall 20 percent reduction is huge," said Rebekah Hook, coordinator of Western's Resident's Resource Awareness Program (ResRAP).

This was the second year ResRAP and Western's Office of Sustainability led the Go for the Green: Total Waste Reduction Challenge, but this year was the first year that all residence halls participated. The challenge aimed to educate residents about easy lifestyle changes they can make in order to reduce their environmental impact.

Because of the competition, Western saved more than \$17,500 on electricity in the residence halls and prevented approximately 275,700 pounds of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere, Hook said.

The challenge awarded points for reduced electricity use, water use and land-fill waste, Hook said. Because it is hard to measure water use reduction and landfill waste reduction for each hall, progress in those areas were measured by collecting pledges from residents to take shorter showers and produce less waste, Hook said

"We are educating residents on how to live sustainably," Hook said. "We hope that they will take those small changes and implement it into their lives for years to come."

Each hall had at least one Eco-Rep, students who encouraged participation by

educating residents on resource use reduction, collecting pledges and organizing events. Overall, the representatives got an average of 31 percent of each hall to sign pledges, but some halls, such as Mathes and Nash, exceeded that and had more than 50 percent, Hook said.

Western freshman Rachel Tomchik, one of the three Fairhaven Eco-Reps, said one of the hardest things for students to pledge was keeping showers between five and eight minutes.

Tomchik told students who were hesitant to take shorter showers to simply turn the water off while they lather up, or spend the same amount of time in the shower, but reduce the water pressure by only lifting up the handle halfway.

The challenge even inspired Tomchik to be more energy-conscious by motivating her to unplug appliances, such as cell phone chargers, from the wall when they were not in use. Even if a computer is off or a phone is not connected to the charger the appliances use electricity, she said.

"I've even gotten better about unplugging things," she said. "I mean, once you do it for a couple months, it just becomes habit."

Ronna Biggs, a coordinator for ResLife, said the competition aimed to educate students about habits involving energy conservation they can take with them beyond Western.

"Those habits foster responsible environmental stewardship that truly has a global impact and turns into cost savings for an individual, a household and the university," Biggs said.

Facilities Management Operations Support Manager Ron Bailey said sometimes the university cannot implement environmentally friendly upgrades because it is not worth the expense. The great thing about behavioral changes on the part of the individual is that it is free, he said.

"One of the most encouraging things is being able to see the impact of personal choices," Bailey said.

While the competition reduces waste

and helps Western financially, it also helps students be more aware of how to save money once they move off campus and start to pay their own utility bills, Fairhaven resident director Matthew Tombaugh said

"It can be a shock when students move off campus for the first time and realize what their own consumption is," he

Students from all residence halls were invited to the Performing Arts Center April 2 to be rewarded for their hard work with \$850 worth of raffle prizes, donated by local businesses. The Upfront Theatre also put on a free improvisational comedy performance.

The top raffle prizes for the top two residence halls, Fairhaven and Kappa, included five \$50 Associated Students Bookstore gift certificates and a pair of Segway Personal Transporter rentals from Chispa, were reserved

The Fairhaven Eco-Reps rejoiced when it was announced they won, and accepted a trophy with a currant bush inside of it. Tomchik said the bush was planted in the Fairhaven courtyard, and Fairhaven residents are invited to come to a meeting later next week with Fairhaven Hall Council to discuss the challenge results and to water the plant together.

Hook said improvements will be made to the challenge next year, including having better challenge prizes. She hopes the challenge will be able to do better next year in showing actual reduction in landfill and water usage, something that was difficult to measure this year, she said.

Hook said the challenge results met all of her goals. The results were a direct representation of all the work put in by the Eco-Reps, she said.

"I cannot thank my Eco-Reps enough," she said. "They really are the lifeline of this challenge and of these results."

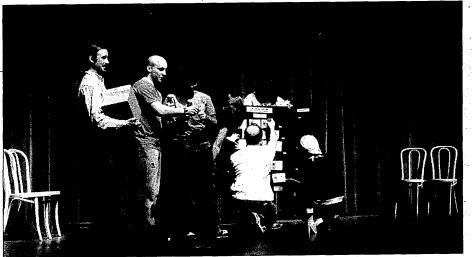
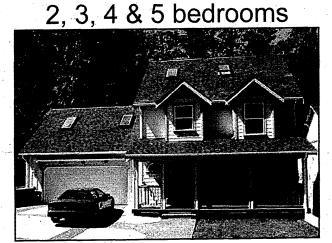


Photo by Becca Rice THE WESTERN FRONT

(From left), Organizers Seth Vidana, Jack Lally and Rebekah Hook of the Go for the Green Total Waste Reduction Challenge hand out raffle prizes April 2 to resident participants during a celebration in the Performing Arts Center.



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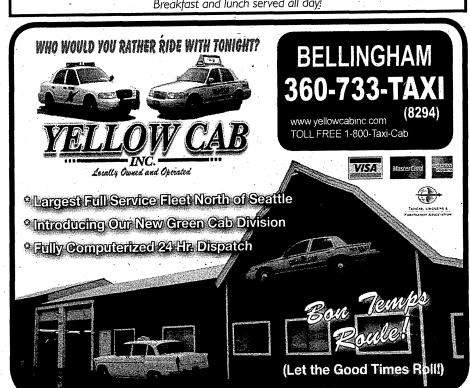
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ARTS &

One person's

Western undergraduates delve deep into the Dum pieces for the the Viking Union Gallery's second a

> **Kevin Minnick** THE WESTERN FRONT



nimal bones, scrap and shredmetal grocery are things normally

found in a Dumpster. But, in Western's 2nd installment of the recycled-art show, "ReArt," they are part of creative works of art.



Invoking the old adage, "One person's trash is another's treasure," -ReArt highlights the work of Western undergraduate students who have fashioned sculptures out of discarded materials.

The exhibit premiered April 6 in the Viking Union (VU) Gallery and will show through Friday, April 24. This is Western's second ReArt showcase, but ReArt exhibits have been around in Bellingham for much longer.

For the past eight years the RE Store, a Bellingham shop that sells used building materials, has held ReArt exhibits in its conference rooms. These showcases were started to demonstrate the artistic potential of dis-

"I think there's something naturally magnetic about trash," said Jason Darling, Outreach and Marketing manager for the RE Store. "People

Four years after ReArt's inception, the RE Store was approached by professional art gallery Allied Arts of Whatcom County to collaborate on

"Being able to draw on [Allied Arts'] expertise, contacts and reputation as a professional arts organization really helped us to get [ReArt] to the next level of credibility," Darling said.

Two years after the RE Store's partnership with Allied Arts, Darling contacted Western about joining the exhibit. Western's Industrial Design program has included sustainable themed projects dating back to 1995.

"Found art allows people to work with what they already have because trash is dirt cheap. It's open to everybody, not just the people who can afford art welders, kilns, designer paint brushes and so on. It's a medium for the people."

> - Jason Darling, RE Store Outreach and Marketing

"Western has a great, thriving student art community," Darling said. "They had just done a green design theme, so I approached them and asked if they wanted to do a more straightup recycled art show exhibit."

Arunas Oslapas, Western's Industrial Design program director, has several recycled-material art installations currently on display at the Allied Arts Gallery in downtown Bellingham.

"It runs really deep within me to use raw materials that have been 75 percent recycled materials, Ass discarded," Oslapas said. "It's a challenge to make sense out of all these

While the Allied Arts Gallery is displaying pieces by Oslapas and other professional artists, the Western VU Gallery is hosting work by var-



Clockwise from top: "Refreezerator" by Carissa Mann, made with used clothes and wood, was intended to be a whimsical piece to stand out from others art with more serious themes. "Forever Young" by Anna Dicklhuber, mixed media. "Skinny Slider" by David Wall, made with charts, wood, and acrylic resin, is the artist's attempt to redefine and explore cartogra-

ious undergraduate students, primarily Western students, with the exception of one artist from Vancouver, B.C., and a Seattle second-grader.

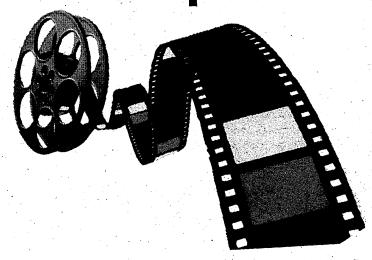
The artwork featured in ReArt represents a reinvented approach to conventional sculpture. In the gallery, a chandelier of from the ceiling. A mass of multice opposite the entrance. At the cente sandals made of clay, wood and bo

VU Gallery Coordinator Cory submissions to be able to accept clutter. They are displaying 17 pied

Besides a requirement that all said there is no overarching theme explore whatever idea they preferre

Western senior David Wall cre display. Wall's pieces all revolve;a

Reel Perspective: Women's Center organ



Carmen Daneshmandi THE WESTERN FRONT

Picture a typical Hollywood film, the lead characters are a heterosexual male superhero, and a white heterosexual damsel in distress. With these images at the core of what makes up mainstream Hollywood, marginalized citizens of the film world, such as queer women of color, have a difficult time defining their culture.

"We don't really have any culture because we're watching 'The L-Word' and saying 'We got it. We're on television. We conquered, we got what we asked for!" said black lesbian filmmaker Cheryl Dunye. Wednesday at her "Films That Fuel" lecture. "Now

where do we go? Tha Dunye, who writ ern's campus as a pa Color Film Festival ti and took place in the

Women's Center Henley helped organ and Wednesday's "F ing a more realistic id resentation in the me

"With [the Quee pay homage to peopl

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psters to create art nnual ReArt exhibit fine art

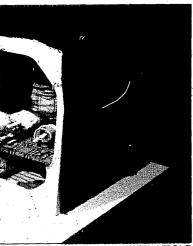


photo by Rebecca Rice THE WESTERN FRONT



photo by Rebecca Rice THE WESTERN FRONT



photo by Carolyn Copstead THE WESTERN FRONT

of papier-maché arms and legs hangs olored broken records adorns the wall of the exhibit, a pair of high-heeled ne shards sit atop a pedestal.

Budden said they received just enough everything without causing too much ces, the lowest number to date.

installations be comprised of at least istant Gallery Coordinator Allie Paul to the exhibit. Each artist was free to

ated several of the pieces currently on round cartography, presented through

glass plates.

"I layer found documents of mapping," Wall said in his artist statement. "Placing my mappings of unknown landforms onto glass allows me to explore a theoretical cartography."

Wall used scrap wood from the back of the Western Gallery, glass from the RE Store and maps from Pacific Marine Exchange, a new and used marine supply store, in assembling his artwork.

Budden and Paul said their biggest challenge was figuring out an arrangement that allowed gallery visitors to see the mixed media sculptures from all angles, as opposed to simply walking around looking at the walls

"We tried to balance things out," Budden said. "Everything is so random and kooky that you can't necessarily find a rhyme or reason for

displaying it in a certain order."

Some pieces, such as Wall's, are small and easy to display. However, many of the pieces are comparably bizarre and don't lend well to a conventional wall mount. Take, for example, the work of Western senior Carissa Mann.

Mann created "Refreezerator," a model freezer made entirely out of wood and used clothing. Inside it are popsicles, ice cream containers and pizza slices all made out of fabric. An ice cube compartment with multiple cloth cubes is fastened in the upper left corner, and denim jean pockets line the inside of the door.

"When I was a kid, I had one of those plastic toy kitchen sets," Mann said. "I was trying to work that whimsical quality into 'Refreezerator,' because a lot of art is really serious."

Mann has another wood and fabric piece on display, a model cloth dryer titled "Wash Your Washing Machine." She said this piece deals with the cycle of consumerism and the idea of use/reuse through the concept of washing clothes.

Darling and other RE Store employees, with the help of professional artist Kuros Zahedi, are participating in "Urban Alchemy" on April 25 at Maritime Heritage park. They will spend the day cleaning up litter and forming it into a temporary art installation on site. The RE Store is also helping sponsor the "Appliance Art Revival" on May 2nd at the Chuckanut Brewery and Kitchen. There will be an appliance art auction, recycled art workshop and live music.

Darling is also helping organize the "Haute Trash Fashion Show," a recycled material fashion show April 11 at the Wild Buffalo. An entire wedding dress, crocheted from hundreds of plastic bags, was displayed at the 2007 show.

"Found art allows people to work with what they already have because trash is dirt cheap," Darling said. "It's open to everybody, not just the people who can afford art welders, kilns, designer paint brushes and so on. It's a medium for the people."

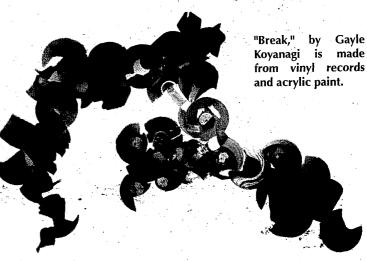


photo by Rebecca Rice THE WESTERN FRONT

zes Queer Women of Color Film Festival

t's what I'm trying to figure out."

es, directs and acts in her films, visited Westart of the Women's Center Queer Women of hat took place Tuesday. Both events were free Academic Instructional Center.

co-coordinators Kime McClintock and Jenny ize the Queer Women of Color Film Festival ilms That Fuel" lecture with the intent of givlea of marginalized groups and what their replia does and can look like.

r Women of Color Film Festival] we want to e who have multiple identities," Henley said. "I feel like whenever you are talking about complex identity, it's so much more important for self-representation than misrepresentation."

The film festival was brought to Western in coordination with the California-based Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project and featured eight curated short films created by up-and-coming filmmakers. The films were handpicked from the Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project's fifth annual film festival and will be shown in San Francisco.

"This way we were able to bring the film festival here and make it accessible on campus and that's really important," McCling took said.

The films touched on a range of topics featuring queer women of color. For example in "Labels Are Forever," a queer Asian female secret agent is on a mission to retain a suitcase filled with labels. The film has a comical take on bringing the act of social labeling into recognition and helps show the absurdity of labels.

"That's the kind of cool thing about film. You support people in your community, and they make films and with these films you see women speaking their own truth in a creative way without using

see FILM page 10

FILM: Festival features experiences not included in the typical Hollywood movie

from 9

sterile and technical jargon," Henley said.

In contrast, "Slang It Like You Own It" humorously tells the story of an black lesbian from the suburbs who is put to the test when she must translate slang in front of her friends. The short film brings attention to issues such as language and cultural communication, which are typically outside of those preconceived and associated with the queer experience.

"'Labels Are Forever' was funny and got at the serious topic of defining identity in a really humorous way," Western senior Melissa Derry said.

The film had a good way of opening up dialogue by engaging people in a nonconfrontational manner with its use of humor, she said.

The film festival not only attracted students from Western's campus, but also brought interest to people from the offcampus community, like Bellingham High School senior Dustin Hahn who plans to attend Western in the future.

"The films takes [the topic of the queer experience] that used to be taboo and makes them more relevant to society," said Hahn, who was invited to attend the film festival by a friend. He said film is a good outlet since it is visual, captivating and universal in helping people relate to them.

The lecture also brought attention to queer women in the media when Dunye talked about her films, struggles and experiences as a black lesbian filmmaker. Dunye's "The Watermelon Woman" was the first feature film to ever be directed by a black lesbian.



A still from the film The Early Works of Cheryl Dunye, a collection of short films by the lesbian African American filmmaker. Dunye (right) often acts in her films, which are combinations of narrative and biographical documentry that use humor as a device to raise questions as well as entertain her audience.

"Back when I started, it was an awful time period in the media. I couldn't see myself in the picture ... my learning to speak in film grew from my invisibility. It was a form of activism and of correcting something that wasn't there by putting myself into the pic-

- Cheryl Dunye, filmmaker

self in the picture; I wasn't a Cosby kid or any other variety of African American folks on television," Dunye said. "My learning

"Back when I started, it was an awful to speak in film grew from my invisibility. time period in the media. I couldn't see my- It was a form of activism and of correcting something that wasn't there by putting myself into the picture."

Dunye, who started with the support

of The Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project, spent time as an artist in residence at Walker Art Center in Minnesota. During her time, she taught screenwriting and storytelling to the female inmates of the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Shakopee for her movie "Strangers Inside."

The movie, which is about a mother and daughter who find each other in jail, called for the insight of the inmates and for them to open up. Listening was the most important thing, Dunye said.

"No one listens to them; that was really the big thing. I let them go on with whatever because I wanted to know. They were just amazed that I wanted to hear anything from them and tell stories with them,"

Dunye also promised the inmates that if any of them were released in time for the making of the movie that they could be in the movie. One of the original inmates ended up being in "Strangers Inside."

You have to empower people through process." Dunye said. "I am interactive with who I work with, and I acknowledge people about that contribution. I can't take culture without giving back."

Dunye said the media is currently at a critical moment where activism and queer culture are turned into a moment of commercialism. With events like the Queer Women of Color Film Festival, films that strive to find their own image outside of the Hollywood mold can push people to find their own voice.

"The commercial world is taking over cultural production and we need to investigate where the culture comes from," Dunye said. "Go out, do your own art and change the world."





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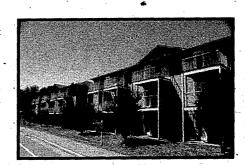
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New York Times editor Gail Collins lectures on covering 'all the news that's fit to print'

Andrea David-Gonzales THE WESTERN FRONT

While the economic recession has caused many newspapers all over the country to stop going to print, one newspaper still stands strong: The New York Times.

Times Opinion Editor Gail Collins came to Western's campus Wednesday to talk about the 2008 presidential election in a lecture called "The Election and

Collins said she wrote columns about the election as she learned about presidential candidates John McCain, Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama, whom she followed around the country to hear them

Collins started her journalism career writing about politics in Conn., where she founded the Connecticut State News Bureau in West Hartford, Conn. to provide news coverage of the state's politics.

She began working for the New York Times as a member of the editorial board in 1995 and was the first woman appointed to the editorial page for the Times in

Collins spent most of the hour of the presentation answering questions about Obama's current and future plans. She said she initially thought the election would be centered around the possibility of electing America's first woman president, but as time passed, she realized the race was about bringing change to America.

The American Democracy Project, which helped sponsor the event with The New York Times, is an initiative to inform college students in the United States about the importance of democracy and to be active in their communities.

The Times has a partnership with the program to encourage college students to read newspapers, which help promote a strong democracy.

Western is part of The New York Times Readership Program, which provides students with free copies of The Seattle Times and The New York Times to increase newspaper readership among college students.

American Democracy Campus Coordinator Ann Carlson said Western is fortunate to have Collins speak because she gets to share what the elections were like from her personal experience.

"It scares me that many people aren't reading the news," Carlson said. "If you want to make a difference in the world, it's important to know what's going on."

Collins said Clinton was a strong, qualified candidate, and she [Clinton] and Obama shared similar views, but the inspiration Obama brought allowed him to win the Democratic nomination.

"Despite the fact that they had all of the same opinions, [voters] wanted change, and that's why they chose Obama," Collins said. "There's a certain point where people are expected to handle what's handed in front of them, and that's where I think McCain lost the election."



New York Times Opinion Editor Gail Collins hosted a lecture Wednesday in the Academic Instructional Center. She fielded guestions about the 2008 election and the state of newspapers

"If you decide you don't want to be bothered [by educating yourself in politics], you give up your chance to influence decisions [made in this country] and other people make those decisions for you," Collins said.

As to the future of newspapers, Collins said many corporations own news organizations and they are now in a lot of

debt because of the poor economy. The Hearst Corporation that owns the Seattle Post-Intelligencer (P.I.) announced it was struggling financially, so its news would be delivered strictly online. The last newspaper the Seattle P.I. distributed was on March 17.

Newspapers help to provide everyone with information about the world they live in, which helps influence their decisions in politics, Collins said.

Western senior Tim Van Slooten said he doesn't access the news from the mainstream media because he believes it contains bias. He said he seeks news from seminars such as Collins' and researches information online and at Western's li-

"It's important to care about things larger than yourself," Collins said. "To find things you can really participate in as a citizen, you have to know what's going on. That's what a newspaper does. It opens up the world to you."

Western senior Kristin Hung said she only reads the newspaper while she's waiting for a friend or for a class to start. Hung said some students may not read the paper because they don't feel news directly involves or concerns them.

Collins said a demand for news will always exist, and new technologies will make news more accessible. She said since The New York Times is such a widely distributed newspaper, the paper will remain in print for many years to come, but it twill eventually end up online like the P.I.

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12 I OPINION

Friday • April 10, 2009 | The Western Front

Policy changes shouldn't affect safety

Frontline

Opinions of the Editorial Board

The warm, sunny spring weather upon us naturally brings with it an increase in pedestrian, cyclist and skateboarder traffic at Western. Beginning June 1, Western's rules and regulations regarding this traffic will change.

On April 7, Western's Central Health and Safety Committee announced it is proposing new rules regarding the use of bicycles, skateboards and similar devices on campus. The new rules would allow previously banned skateboards on campus and would allow cyclists to ride their bikes instead of dismounting them during the 15-minute transition time before and after classes.

It's about time.

Encouraging alternative modes of transportation such as bicycles and skate-boards helps Western promote its agenda of sustainability and persuades students to implement green alternatives to everyday activities, such as driving.

Because of the June 1 implementation date, the effects of the rule changes may not be fully realized until next year, but it is a welcome change regardless of when the rules take effect.

However, the new privileges bring greater responsibility to cyclists, boarders and pedestrians who share campus roads and walkways.

Cyclists and boarders will be required to dismount in high traffic pedestrian areas, including Vendor's Row, Red Square and the narrow walkway between the engineering building and Carver Gym. However, this doesn't mean they can assume the right-of-way in other less populated areas.

Cyclists and boarders will also be expected to respect the safety of pedestrians by limiting their speed to walking or jogging pace depending on how crowded a particular area is. Failure to abide by these rules can carry a hefty fine of up to \$60 for repeat offenses.

With the days getting warmer and sunnier, pedestrians, bicycles and boarders clog the streets en masse in and around campus creating a dangerous mix of distraction and carelessness.

However, this is the time of year

when everyone-motorists and pedestrians alike-must be vigilant to protect their safety and the safety of others.

The best way to protect personal safety is to be aware of your surroundings. In the technological world of new gadgets and multitasking, it can be difficult to be plugged into your environment. Cell phones, iPods, coffee thermoses and busy schedules can be a distraction to pedestrians, cyclists and boarders.

Looking both ways when crossing the street is something many people learn at a young age. This doesn't mean it should be overlooked as people get older. People always need to be wary of safety on the roadways or walkways.

Whether walking, driving or riding everyone needs to share the responsibility of acting safely in and around campus by putting aside distractions and paying attention to his or her environment.

The Editorial Board is comprised of Editor-in-Chief Jeff Twining, Managing Editor Gabrielle Nomura Opinion Editor Danielle Koagel and community memberat-large Joel Holland.

Viking Voices

Opinions from around campus

What performer would you like to see the AS bring to Western?

Compiled by: Rhys Logan



Angela Tsui Freshman "The Beach Boys, they're still alive and kīckin'."



Jamie Muller Junior

"All they had was rap last quarter. I like local bands like Yogoman and Rocky Votolato."



Sean Stanley Freshman

"Andre Nickatina, I just started listening to him again."



Kait Powell Freshman

"I'd like to see Lady Gaga. Everybody likes her new song."

No-laptop policies hinder classroom learning

Matthew Hale Guest Columnist

I am writing this after returning from my economics class, where my instructor informed me that laptops are not allowed in the lecture. I respectfully disagree with this policy and propose that all lecture classes be open for laptop note taking for a number of reasons.

Personally, I find typing to be a much more efficient manner in which to take notes than handwriting. I can keep eye contact with the teacher while typing, whereas handwriting usually requires watching the page.

Typing is also much faster and allows me to keep up, particularly during a fast-moving lecture.

Electronic copies are much easier to study from. In a bound notebook, I must rip pages out to study more than a single page at a time.

Tuition is approximately \$1,600 a quarter, part of which goes to teacher salaries. I find it insulting that I can't use a tool which, I believe, aids me in succeeding in class.

This is not like high school; we are actually paying money for a service (education), and I find it a lack of return on my investment to limit me in any way that may legitimately help me succeed.

Western needs to make up its mind. We are one of the most wired schools in the nation with unparalleled access to great technology. The new Academic Instruction Center even has plugs for each student's laptop at the tables.

It sends a counterintuitive message when teachers do not allow the use of technology that is touted throughout campus and supported by our Student Technology Fee.

I find it insulting when it is assumed that I can't responsibly use my laptop in

There are people who will use the internet in class and learn nothing from the class itself, but the no-laptop policies automatically assume that I am at the level of those people, which, as a legal adult, is very demeaning.

I reject the argument that the mere presence of a laptop in class is distracting. I find it highly unlikely that the careers that we go into will be devoid of distractions.

If a student is unable to ignore a 13-inch screen somewhere in class, how are they going to succeed in a professional situation?

This doesn't mean that I condone improper behavior, however, and it is completely legitimate to punish individual students who misuse laptop privileges.

The Student Technology Fee is expected to rise soon, and regardless of the price I will happily pay it. That is my vote for the further integration of technology in the classroom because I firmly believe it aids academic growth.

Fees aside, there is an additional way for Western to promote technology without spending a dime: allow students to use their own resources for the advancement of learning.

Banning laptops in a classroom is no different than rejecting the calculator in favor of the abacus because the calculator may have games.

A legitimate educational tool is being rejected on an assumption of the student body lacking responsibility.

Matthew Hale is a Western sophomore considering a degree in accounting.

Letter to the Editor:

Military recruiters should be banned from career fair

According to the Western Career Center policy for outside agencies recruiting students, only employers that meet strict standards of non-discrimination and ethics will be allowed on campus. The U.S. military discriminates on the basis of sexual orientation, gender, age, disability and nationality, and obviously do not meet the discrimination standard set by Western administration for being allowed on campus.

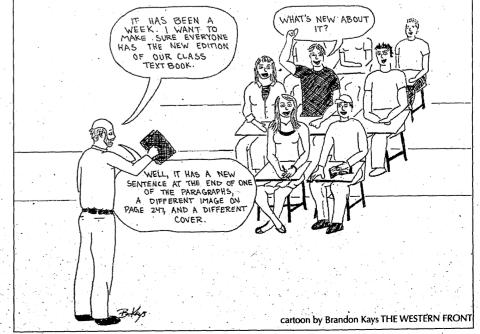
Because of the more than 10,000 official complaints lodged against military recruiters last year, I would argue that they do not meet the ethics standard either.

Because the Western administration

is afraid to protect their students from the unethical, money- and power-driven military recruitment industry, it falls on the students to do the right thing.

Stop Recruiters WWU is an unofficial group dedicated to seeing an end to military recruiters on campus, and I encourage everyone to contact us at stoprecruiters WWU@riseup.net and get involved in planning how to ensure the transparency and inherent fairness of employment practices both on campus and in the military.

Evan Knappenberger Whatcom Community College Student Operation Iraqi Freedom Veteran



13 I SPORTS

Friday • April 10, 2009 | The Western Front

Western Warthogs come up short in regional playoffs



Photo courtesy by Marc Staiger

From left: Western freshman Daniel Esponoza-Gonzalez, senior Jason Boyd and graduate student Lucas Chafee prepare for battle against Western Oregon University in their Pacific Northwest Rugby Football Union Division II semi-final game.

Jennifer Farrington THE WESTERN FRONT

After three consecutive winning seasons and Western's decision to drop the football program, the Warthogs, Western's club rugby team, think that now is the ideal time for growth.

This season, the Warthogs were undefeated in their league finishing 6–0. The Warthogs qualified for the Pacific Northwest Rugby Football Union Division II tournament and won their first playoff game against Eastern Washington University. Western hosted the tournament, but on March 28, their season came to a halt after losing their second game 47–17 against Western Oregon University in the semi-finals.

Although the upcoming rugby season won't begin until the fall, the Warthogs hope to begin recruiting new players now.

"We are always looking for more players," Warthog player Rowan Ringer said.

Warthog coaches and players encourage anyone who is interested in the rugby program to get involved. The team always appreciates additional fan support as well.

"Whoever has the desire, fitness and aptitude will play," said Bart Higgins, Warthog head coach. "I personally think it's the greatest game there ever was."

Established in 1958, Western's club rugby team is one of the oldest and longest running rugby

programs in the United States, Higgins said.

"The depth of the alumni support really makes Western's rugby program unique," Higgins said.

The Western Warthogs have a record of 21–5 during the last three years with three consecutive league championships and two consecutive regional championships. Last season, the club was ranked 14th in the nation, the highest national ranking in the team's history, Higgins said.

Higgins' coaching philosophy is centered around three key points that he said he strives to instill in his players: possession, communication and support.

"Possession is everything in rugby," Higgins said. "You have to maintain possession."

Looking ahead to next season, Higgins said he has high hopes for the team's success. Currently, the Warthogs have 15 players returning next season. Ideally, Higgins said he hopes to have 30 to 35 players on the roster by the beginning of the season.

"I hope to do as well as the last two years, at least. We will be focusing on recruiting but we have a lot of good players returning, too." Higgins said. "We've developed many of [the players] over the course of the season."

Recruiting has been one of the biggest obstacles for the club. Higgins said it should not be as

see RUGBY page 16

Western places eigth at golf invite

Kendall Mercer THE WESTERN FRONT

Western's women's golf team finished No. 8 out of 18 teams April 6 and 7 at the 7th annual Grand Canyon University Women's Golf Invitational at the Palm Valley Golf Club in Goodyear, Ariz.

The Vikings played 36 holes during the two-day event and ended with a team total of 634 strokes.

"We're not super disappointed, but we're not too pleased with our finish," Western Head Coach Bo Stephan said. "It's one of those tournaments where the course is set up to score on, and if you don't, then you get left behind by other teams. I think that's what happened to us."

California State University, Monterey Bay won the invitational with a 16-stroke lead with 608 strokes.

Western freshman Sophie

Elstrott tied for ninth place in medalist play. She shot 154 strokes and shot a final round of 78 to secure her second top-10 ranking in a row and third for the season.

Elstrott said the last day of the tournament was one of the most emotional days of golf she has experienced.

"I wasn't playing very well

see GOLF page 16

Upcoming events April 10-14

Today

Softball doubleheader on campus. Western vs. Northwest Nazarene at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Track and Field at Civic Stadium.

WWU Ralph Vernacchia
Invitational vs. Seattle University,
University of Washington, Central
Washington University and 12 other schools.

Tomorrow

WWU Invitational at Lake Samish.

Men and women's only home crew regatta. Event lasts all day.

Baseball doubleheader (away)
Western vs. The Evergreen State
College in Tumwater, Wash.

Softball doubleheader on campus. Western vs. Northwest Nazarene University at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Monday

Men's golf (away).

Cal State Stanislaus Invitational in Turlock, Calif.

Tuesday

Softball doubleheader on campus. Western vs. Central Washington University at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Vikings suffer first loss of the season

Men split doubleheader against Shoreline Community College, ending a six game winning streak

Andrew Mitchell THE WESTERN FRONT

Western club baseball suffered its first loss of the season at the hands of the Shoreline Community College Dolphins Tuesday at Joe Martin Field, but used the sting of that loss as motivation to win the second game of the night, splitting a doubleheader with the Dolphins.

"The first loss of the year was hard to take, but it showed us that we needed to step up our game," Western senior and assistant coach Adam Cochran said. "They are the best team we have seen this season by far, and we needed to play much better to beat them."

The Vikings started out well, and the first game was loaded with offense, with both teams going back and forth. The Dolphins scored the first run of the day in the top half of the first inning, but the Western offense responded quickly with three runs in the bottom half of the inning to take the lead.

Shoreline put up two more runs in the top of the second to tie the game, but Western continued their early offensive onslaught and added two more runs in the bottom of the second off hits by Western senior Mike Morris and Western sophomore Joe Fike to take a 5-3 lead.

The bats for Western quieted after the quick start. The Vikings managed to get only two hits and one more run the rest of

"Our offense was the key in the first game because we started out well, but we lost focus," Western senior Blair Wyman said. "The team as a whole didn't perform well the rest of the game."

Shoreline took advantage of Western's lack of offense and capitalized on the Vikings' defensive and pitching miscues, Shoreline hitting coach Ryan Browne said. The Dolphins took the lead and control of the game with a four-run inning in the top of the third. In that inning, Western gave up two hits, walked three batters, hit one batter and committed two errors.

"Our approach at the plate was better, and we played better defense out of the two teams in the first game and that was the difference," Browne said.

Shoreline scored three more runs to add to the lead in the sixth and seventh inning. Western continued to struggle at the plate throughout the game, and Shoreline took the game 10-6.

"We made a lot of physical and men-

left from their win in the first game and capitalized on Western's slow start. The Dolphins put up three runs quickly in the first inning when Western sophomore pitcher Bryan Simpson hit two batters and gave up a two-RBI double. The Dolphins' pitching was able to hold Western scoreless until the third inning.

Western began to rally in the third inning after Tait's two-out walk was followed by Morris' single and Tait later scored on Fike's RBI single. Cochran hit a ball in the gap, causing a collision between the left and center fielders, and ended up on third after the error. Cochran's hit cleared

cially on your own hit."

Browne said Oughton was calm after the incident. Although Browne expects Oughton to be fine, he will be out of the lineup for a while. Browne said the loss of Oughton was big in this game, and it will be a huge loss for the Dolphins this

Western's offense picked up the momentum afterward and broke the tie after scoring two runs in both the fourth and fifth innings. Western scored off a pair of RBI doubles, Tait's sacrifice fly, and Western freshman Alan Kennedy's basesloaded walk, stretching their lead to 7-3.

The Dolphins fought back valiantly and narrowed the gap to one run in the sixth inning and had the bases loaded with one out, but Wyman forced a groundout and struck out the final batter to end the inning. The Dolphins never threatened again and the Vikings secured the win.

"After the loss in the first game, we took it personally and we realized we might not have taken it serious enough because it was a non-league game," Wyman said. "Losing definitely changed our mentality and improved our focus for the second game, which helped us win."

After Tuesday's split, the Vikings' record stands at 7-1. The loss will not affect Western in the league standings, but will count toward their overall record.

Tait said Shoreline was the toughest opponent the Vikings have played this year. He said it was a good test for the team and showed the Vikings they can compete with higher quality teams.

"It was good for our hitters to see that high quality of pitching; it will only make us better," Tait said. "We are just starting to come together as a team. We are not playing our best right now, but we are taking the right steps and are headed in the right direction."

computer service specialist

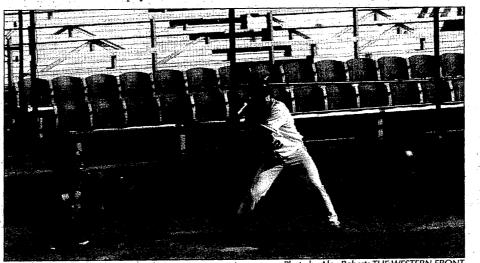


Photo by Alex Roberts THE WESTERN FRON Western senior and coach Kyle Tait hits a sacrafice fly in the second game of the Vikings' doubleheader against Shoreline Community College. The Viking's won the game 9-6.

tal errors in the first game," Western senior and head coach Kyle Tait said. "We let the game slip through our hands because of those mistakes. It was definitely an eyeopener for our team."

Cochran said suffering the first loss of the season was the perfect motivation for the second game of the doubleheader against Shoreline.

The Dolphins picked up where they

the bases and tied the game at three.

On the play, Shoreline centerfielder Shawn Oughton broke his leg severely, and an ambulance was needed to cart him off the field. Play was delayed for more than an hour.

"When I hit it, I just ran hard and really didn't realize what had happened," Cochran said. "You really never want to see someone get hurt on any play, espe-

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Track goes the distance; wins decathlan, heptathlon

Steven Houck THE WESTERN FRONT

Western swept the Multi-Events Track and Field meet by winning both the men's decathlon and women's heptathlon April 5 and 6 at Bellingham's Civic Stadium.

Western Head Coach Pee Wee Halsell said Western hosts the multi-events meet so track athletes have an extra meet to qualify for the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) championships and national meet. Halsell said qualifying for nationals in track is based on a point system, rather than where the athlete places in the meet itself.

Western senior Clara Cook won the heptathlon with her best performance of the season, finishing with 4,261 points. Her performance was just shy of the NCAA women's Division II provisional national qualifying mark of 4,400 points.

Athletes can only qualify for the NCAA Division II National Track and Field meet if they meet the national qualifying mark. An automatic mark for the heptathlon is 4,800 points, and an automatic mark for the decathlon is 5,900 points.

The heptathlon consists of seven track and field events over the course of two days. The first day included the 100-meter hurdles, high jump, shot put and 200-meter dash. The second day included the long jump, javelin and 800-meter run.

Cook finished first place in the high jump, clearing 5 3/4 feet, giving her 818 points. She also placed first in the long jump with a mark of 16 1/2 feet, giving her 530 points. She won the 800 with a time of 2 minutes, 28:06 seconds.

"My goal definitely, this season, is to qualify for nationals in the heptathlon," Cook said. "This is my last chance to make it there again."

In 2006, Cook qualified for nationals her freshman year in the high jump.

Western sophomore Alex Harrison won the men's decathlon with 6,085 points, beating his previous record by

more than 450 points.

The decathlon consists of 10 track and field events over the course of two days. The first day's events include the 100, long jump, shot put, high jump and the 400. The second day's events include the 110 hurdles, discus, pole vault, javelin and the 1500.

Harrison said he had not been satisfied with any of his track performances since last season.

"I have been waiting for a successful day in track for a long time now, and this day finally came," Harrison said. "This was a big relief."

Harrison finished first in the 400 with a time of 54.22 seconds gaining 631 points. He also placed first in the javelin with a mark of 149 feet and 3 inches, adding 637 points to his score. Based on his latest track performance, Harrison said his new goal is to qualify for nationals in the decathlon.

"It's going to be very hard to do, but I feel it is definitely doable," Harrison said. The top 16 individuals in the nation for every track and field event get to compete in the national meet.

This year nationals will be held May 21-22 in San Angelo, Texas.

Other top performances in the track meet came from Western freshmen Tim Clendaniel and Sabrina Schwindler, who finished second place overall in the meet. Clendaniel scored 5,924 points in the decathlon, and Schwindler scored 3,863 points in the heptathlon.

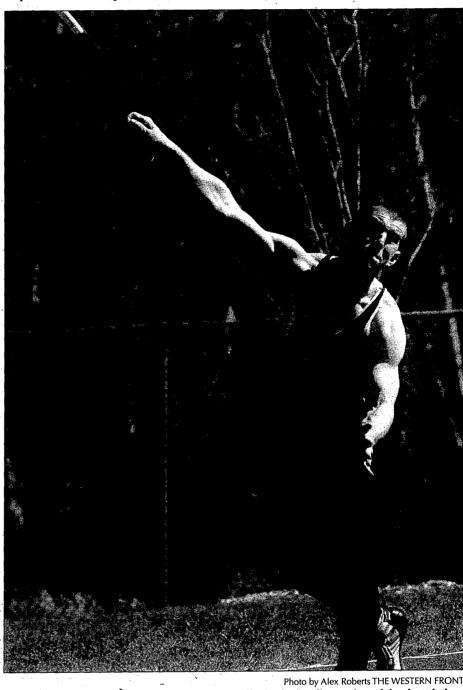
"We all fought together and had great success," Clendaniel said. "I am very proud of all the teammates."

Western sophomore Michelle Howe and Western freshman Devon King also qualified for the GNAC meet with scores of 3,704 points and 3,341 points, respectively. It takes 4,500 provisional points to qualify for conference in the decathlon, and 3,000 points to qualify in the heptathlon

"Two guys qualified for the GNAC meet, and all four girls qualified as well,"

Halsell said. "Now it's time to qualify for nationals."

The GNAC Multi-Events Championships will be held April 20-21 at Central Washington University. This will be the last track meet where Western track and field athletes can compete to qualify for nationals in the heptathlon and decathlon.



Western Sophmore Alex Harrison competes April 6 in the javelin portion of the decathalon. Harrison went on to win the men's decathalon.

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GOLF: Four Western golfers place in medalist play at Arizona invitational

from **13**

to lose so I should just try my hardest," Elstrott said. "I got about five birdies, and I ended two under [par] on the last six holes; it was a weird day."

Four other Western golfers placed in medalist play.

"We all had different aspects of our game that were going well," Taylor said. "As a team we struggled, and I think that we all wish that we could have placed higher."

Although the team improved, Stephan said the team's overall performance was relatively average. . .

at one point, but then I realized that I had nothing left anything great," Stephan said. "Our mindset is just not where it needs to be."

> The women's golf team is ranked No. 19 in the most recent Golf World/National Golf Coaches' Top 25 Poll.

> Stephan said to improve for their next tournament, the members need to focus on getting their heads into the game and becoming more confident.

"We just need to get that confidence and swagger," Stephan said.

Elstrott said while it is a little late in the season for

"There just wasn't anything terrible, and there wasn't the team to work out any major technical difficulties, succeeding at the next invitational may simply be a matter of practice and perspective.

"[It's important to] just practice and just be positive about golf in general when you get to that tournament," Elstrott said with a laugh.

Western's next tournament and last match of the regular season is the Notre Dame de Namur University Invitational on April 20 and 21 at the Roddy Ranch Golf Club in Brentwood, Calif.

RUGBY: Men lose 47-17 to Western Oregon in the semifinals

from 13

difficult as it has been in the past due to the club's recent success. Raising athletes' awareness of the program has been a challenge in previous years. Higgins said he hopes more interest in the rugby program will be generated after the decision to drop Western's football program.

"Rugby is the perfect sport to fill the void in athletes affected by the cut of the football program," said Craig Brown, Pacific Northwest Rugby Football Union match official.

Higgins said rugby is a unique sport because of what it requires of its athletes both mentally and physically. It has always been a player's sport rather than a spectator's sport, he said.

"It's a thinking man's game. There are constantly five or six options you have with the ball at any point in time depending on what's going on," Higgins said. "You've got to be able to think on your feet. There's a lot more to it than people give credit."

Higgins said that it's about more than just the game. The sport is also unique in regards to the relationships between players that are developed and upheld over the course of the season, he said.

"What makes rugby different from other sports is the camaraderie that goes along with the game," Higgins said. "After a game, we leave our differences on the field. The home team always hosts a social where we all come together and have fun and discuss the game."

Rugby is played in more than 120 countries internationally and is an emerging sport in the United States, growing in popularity each year, Higgins said. Western holds potential for a successful rugby program, especially because of its proximity to Canada where rugby is a popular sport, allowing for more potential recruiting opportunities, Higgins said.

"If rugby was built up more here at Western, it would make it much more attractive for Canadians and other athletes. to come here. It's just a great growing opportunity for our program," said Neil

Gardner, Western alumnus and member of the Chuckanut Bay Rugby Club.

Higgins said a number of things can be done to help Western's rugby program, including increasing the amount of alumni support, boosting fundraising efforts and striving to develop a better relationship with the university.

working hard to change that," Higgins said. "We are trying to bring up the team at every level, on and off the field. I'd like to eventually see it become a lettered club sport or a varsity club sport."



"Even though rugby doesn't have the greatest reputation among sports, we are

