

IN THE FRONT

SPORTS



PAGE 10

**Men and women's
B-ball win weekend
tournaments**

OPINION



**Vandalism or
free speech?**

*Stall walls
meant for
expression*

PAGE 13

FEATURES



PAGE 8

**Students lend a
helping hand at
home and abroad**

Weather

TUESDAY → 26° / 14°

← **WEDNESDAY** 34° / 26°

THURSDAY → 40° / 30°

INDEX

Features	7
Sports	10
Opinion	13
Frontline	13
Viking Voices	15
Letters	15

Campus buried in 15 inches of snow

Katie Regan
THE WESTERN FRONT

Bellingham was treated to a snow day on Monday, Nov. 26. Heavy snowfall the day before blanketed the town in up to 15 inches of snow and ice, closing many stores and businesses, city government, and even Western and other local schools.

Snowfall began early Sunday morning and stayed strong until about 10 p.m. Many businesses began shutting down Sunday due to dangerous driving conditions.

"I was supposed to work a closing shift at Old Navy," Western junior Brandi Cole said. "But the mall closed at 4:30 p.m., so I got to play in the snow instead."

By noon the roads were covered in snow and ice, and cars were sliding into ditches and getting stuck.

"I tried to drive to the store and my car didn't make it out of my driveway," Western junior Kim Coulter said. "Now it's sitting on the street buried in snow."

Many people gave up on cars that day and walked where they needed to go.

"Walking wasn't much better," Coulter said. "I walked to Haggen and it was the worst thing ever. With the wind and the snow, it hurt so bad I was almost crying."

Western president Karen Morse and vice president George Pierce made the decision on Sunday to close the university Monday due to



Above: Former Western student Nick Ennen launches clear over the Stadium Piece sculpture using a high-speed winch system known as the Grinch. **Bottom right:** On Monday afternoon a blanket of snow paints the lawn in front of the Environmental Sciences building a flawless white. **Bottom left:** Both man and beast stop to enjoy the snow as Lily (left) and Murphy dress up in their winter gear to frolic in Red Square.

photos by Mark Malijan THE WESTERN FRONT

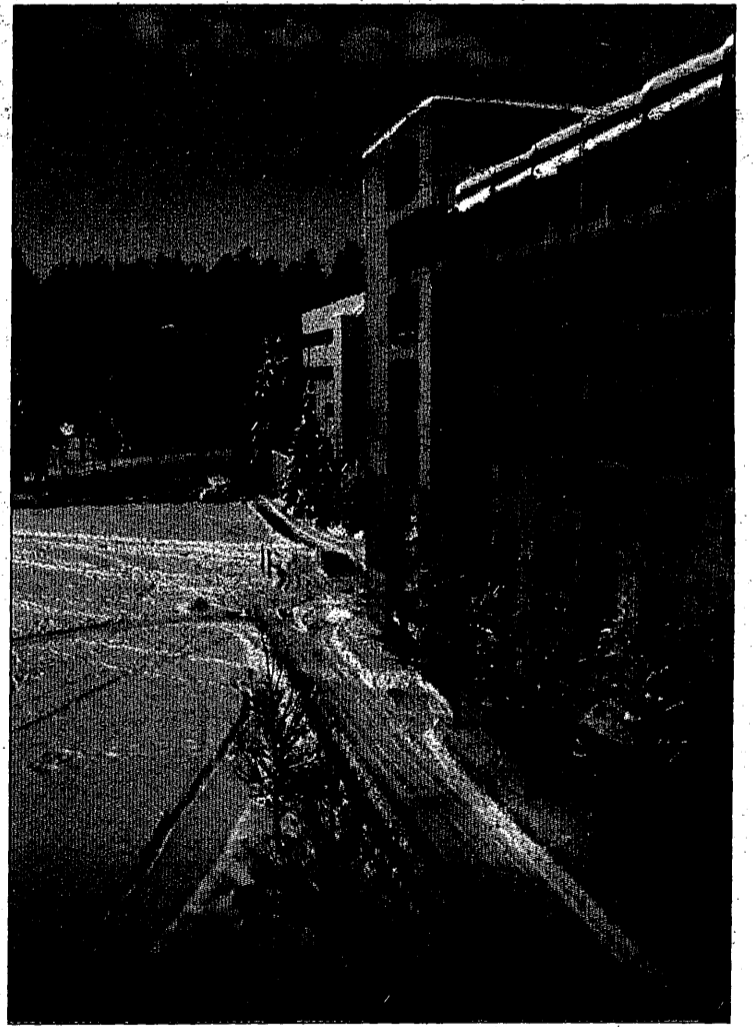
dangerous conditions.

"It's really rare for Western to close in bad weather," said University Communications employee Amy Cloud. "Closing the school is a really big decision that the president has to make."

The last time Western closed was in January of 2005 because of ice on the roads.

The heavy snowfall also made it difficult for a lot of students to get back into town after the Thanksgiving weekend.

see **SNOW** page 6 ▶



New building will house animal testing labs

G.S. Raugust
THE WESTERN FRONT

It is an unlikely place for potentially life-saving research to occur, but down a skinny stairway in Miller Hall, past a sign that reads "restricted access," that is exactly what is happening.

Visitors walking into Western's widely-debated animal research labs on the bare

concrete floors beneath exposed pipes and wires might never have a clue they are entering an area where arguably some of the most crucial research on campus is being done.

Built in 1943, Miller Hall is one of the oldest buildings on campus. In the basement labs, scientists spend long hours researching topics such as schizophrenia and drug/alcohol

addiction, in a lack of natural lighting and ventilation.

But Western researchers won't be stuck in the dark for much longer. The Academic Instructional Center (AIC), scheduled to be completed just south of the Communications Facility in fall 2008, will house new human and animal research labs, updating and expanding Western's neuroscience program

to make it safer and more comfortable for the animals and scientists.

"Poor lighting and the absence of natural light is not optimal for areas where people spend their entire workday," Western behavioral neuroscience professor Janet Finlay wrote in an e-mail.

see **LAB** page 4 ▶

Cops Box

Campus Police:

- » Nov. 22, 3:16 a.m.: Police responded to a smoke alarm in Buchanan Towers and found suspected drugs and drug manufacturing materials.
- » Nov. 21, 12:08 a.m.: A man was transported off campus on suspicion of being a minor in possession of alcohol.
- » Nov. 20, 7:46 p.m.: A man was arrested on suspicion of possession of stolen property.

Bellingham Police:

- » Nov. 25, 4:37 a.m.: Police responded to a report of gasoline theft on the 900 block of Lakeway Drive.
- » Nov. 25, 9:29 a.m.: Police received a report of a suspected possession and attempted use of a stolen credit card.
- » Nov. 24, 11:24 p.m.: Police responded to a complaint of a loud party.
- » Nov. 24, 11:15 p.m.: Police arrested a man on suspicion of trespassing on the 400 block of Holly Street.
- » Nov. 24, 2:09 p.m.: Two people were arrested on suspicion of shoplifting on the 2000 block of James Street.
- » Nov. 24, 12:48 p.m.: Police responded to a report of a suspected hit-and-run collision on the 4200 block of Meridian Street.

Compiled by Nick Rohde

Bellingham residents Bill Watts and son, Liam, sled down the hill outside Old Main on Nov. 26. The snow storm dropped more than 12 inches of snow in many places.

photo by Mark Malijan
THE WESTERN
FRONT



>>News Briefs<<

Distinguished professor to speak at fall quarter commencement

Fall quarter commencement will be held at 10 a.m. on Dec. 16 in Carver Gymnasium. Suzanne Paola, a professor of English at Western, will be speaking. She is the author of several non-fiction books and the recipient of an American Book Award. Admission into the ceremony requires a ticket. Guests may view a televised ceremony in the Sciences Mathematics and Technologies building room 150. Tickets are not required for the televised ceremony.

Holiday tree lighting scheduled

The city of Bellingham and the Bellingham Farmers Market are partnering to sponsor the lighting of a giant holiday tree. The tree will be 30-40' tall, and will be placed in the Depot Market Square. The tree,

which is being donated by land development firm Trillium Corp., will be set up the week after Thanksgiving. A tree-lighting ceremony is planned for 5 p.m. Dec. 2 and will include Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Western choir and Whatcom

Symphony present holiday concert
The Western choir and the Whatcom Symphony Orchestra will be combining to present a holiday fund-raiser concert at 3 p.m. on Dec. 3 at the Mount Baker Theatre. The concert will raise money for Western music scholarships. The program will include a variety of choral and orchestral works, including solo performances by concertmaster Grant Donnellan. Tickets are \$30 and \$35 and are available at the Mount Baker Theatre ticket office.

Speaker postponed due to accident

Associated Student Productions (ASP) Civil Controversy's featured speaker,

Francis Fukuyama has postponed a Nov.16 engagement at Western due to a recent motorcycle accident. According to ASP Civil Controversy Assistant Coordinator Jamie Wulfekuhle, Fukuyama is recovering well and has rescheduled his appearance for winter quarter.

City to return to normal operations

Mayor Tim Douglas has determined that the city will resume normal operations tomorrow and city employees shall report to work per their normal work schedule/shifts beginning Tuesday, Nov. 28. Employees are reminded to keep their personal safety as an utmost priority and can elect to use vacation/compensatory time if they feel they cannot safely report to work tomorrow.

Compiled by Justin Steyer, Katie Regan
and Keeli Archer

Corrections for Nov. 21 issue

> In the article "Western students respond to rising river," on News page 4 the students responded to Skagit County's need for sandbaggers for the Skagit River.

The Western Front regrets these and any other errors. Any errors should be reported immediately to the Editor-in-chief at thewesternfronteditor@yahoo.com.

THE WESTERN FRONT

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The Western Front is published twice weekly in the fall, winter, and spring quarters and once a week in the summer session. The Western Front is the official newspaper of Western Washington University, published by the Student Publications Council and is mainly supported by advertising. Opinions and stories in the newspaper have no connection with advertising. News content is determined by student editors. Staff reporters are enrolled in a course in the department of journalism, but any student enrolled at Western may offer stories to the editors. Advertising inquiries should be directed to the business office in CF 230 or by phone at 650-3161. Members of the Western community are entitled to a single free copy of each issue of The Western Front.

WWU Official Announcements – PLEASE POST

Deadline for announcements in this space is noon Friday for the Tuesday edition and noon Wednesday for the Friday edition, except when otherwise noted. Announcements should be limited to 50 words and be typewritten or legibly printed. Announcements may be sent to FAST@wwu.edu — in the subject line include a one-word topic and clearly note that the item is for Official Announcements. Items also may be sent to "Official Announcements," MS 9117, faxed to X 4343, or brought to Commissary 111. **DO NOT SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS DIRECTLY TO THE WESTERN FRONT.** Phoned announcements will not be accepted.

THE MATH PLACEMENT TEST (MPT) will be given at 3 p.m. Mondays in OM 120 on Nov. 27, Dec. 4, 11, and at 9 a.m. Thursdays in OM 120 on Nov. 30; Dec. 1, 8 and 15. Registration is not required. Students must bring photo identification, their student number, Social Security number, and a No. 2 pencil. A \$15 fee is payable in the exact amount at test time. Allow 90 minutes.

LOT RESERVATIONS. Lot 17G will be reserved at 5 p.m. Nov. 23-24 for the Lynda Goodrich/Chuck Randall Classic.

FACULTY ARE REMINDED THAT RESERVED PARKING SPACES are available for their use after hours and on weekends with a valid parking permit or Vking Xpress bus pass, as posted in lots 10G, 17G and the Parks Hall lot.

BIOLOGY. Vett Lloyd (Mount Allison University, Sackville, New Brunswick), "Dolly the Fly – Why the World Needs Cloned *Drosophila*." 4 p.m. Nov. 29, BI 234. Refreshments, 3:50 p.m.

AN APPOINTMENT TO TAKE THE MILLER ANALOGIES TEST (MAT) must be made either in person in OM 120 or by calling X/3080. A \$60 fee is payable at test time. The test takes approximately 1½ hours. Preliminary scores will be available immediately. Official results will be mailed within 15 days.

WEST-B TEST. Anyone applying for admission to state-approved teacher education programs must meet the minimum passing score on the basic skills assessment by the application deadline. Visit www.west.nesinc.com for registration information and a study guide with sample test questions. Test dates for 2006-07 are Jan. 20, March 10, May 12, and July 14. Registration deadlines are several weeks in advance.

THE DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR THE RECREATION DEGREE PROGRAM is Friday, Nov. 17. Application materials and a pre-scheduled faculty interview must be completed by that date. For more information, stop by the Recreation Program Office in Old Carver 6, call X/3782, or go to www.wwu.edu/pehr/Recreation/index.shtml.

WASHINGTON EDUCATOR SKILLS TEST — ENDORSEMENTS (WEST-E PRAXIS) Washington state requires individuals seeking teacher certification and teachers seeking additional endorsements to pass a subject knowledge assessment in the chosen endorsement area (the Washington Educator Skills Test — Endorsement, or WEST-E). Washington state has chosen specific Praxis II series tests to meet this requirement, now referred to as the WEST-E Praxis. Visit www.ets.org/praxis/prxwa.html for description and online registration information. Registration bulletins are also available in MH 216.

WEST-E (PRAXIS) test dates for 2006-07 are Jan. 13, March 3, April 28, June 9, and Aug. 4.

On-campus recruiting

For complete, updated information, see www.careers.wwu.edu or stop by Old Main 280.

Huxley teams place in conference challenge

Tom Callis
THE WESTERN FRONT

Nine students from the Huxley College of the Environment won several awards for their research on biofuels presented at the Pacific Northwest International Section (PNWIS) of the Air and Waste Management Association conference from Nov. 8-10 at the Empress Hotel in Victoria, British Columbia.

Western senior Chad Weldy received third place for his research on lipid production by microalgae for the use of biodiesel in a competition comprised completely of graduate students except for himself.

Two teams of eight Huxley students from Western's chapter of the Air and Waste Management Association took first and second place in the conference's environmental challenge. Students had to come up with their own proposals of how to accommodate a hypothetical biodiesel plant in downtown Victoria, British Columbia and give recommendations on how Vancouver Island can reach its goal of 75 percent energy self-sufficiency by 2020, said Linda McGuiness, Western senior and environmental challenge participant.

Brad Smith, Dean of Huxley said the achievements of these students reflect on the department's focus on alternative fuels.

"Our program is directed at the future across the board," he said. "Biofuels are part of the future and these students are the future leading policy makers."

Steve Rybolt, student program chair for PNWIS, said the goal of these conferences is to provide a forum for discussion and education on environmental concerns facing the region.

Weldy's presentation consisted of a 20-minute lecture in front of 40 to 45 professionals on the research he did over the summer at his internship at the Pacific Northwest Laboratory Department in Sequim.

Weldy said he felt fairly confident going into the conference even though he was facing graduate students.

"I definitely felt like they had an advantage because they had more time for research," he said. "They had years to prepare while I had 10 weeks."

His research found that with high amounts of lipids produced by the microalgae species *Dunaliella salina*, if mass cultured, could be an economically valuable source for renewable oil and biodiesel.

The first place Huxley team won \$1,400 for its proposal of temporarily importing the raw oil from feedstock used to make biodiesel from the mainland while developing technology to produce biofuel from algae and plant matter.

The group also proposed using conservation techniques such as green building technologies as well as the construction of offshore wind farms to meet the energy needs of the island.

The second place Huxley team won \$1,000 and took a different approach. After finding the location on Victoria's waterfront not suitable for the biodiesel plant due to zoning and soil contamination, the team proposed moving the location of the plant to the industrial port of Nanaimo on the east side of the island.

McGuiness said by moving the plant to Nanaimo the plant could also be used to power the rail line that runs up the east side of the island — if it was made electric. Since the rail line runs through the agricultural area of the island it could provide easier access to feedstock such as oil seed and soy beans, which can be used for biofuels.

Weldy will also be presenting his research in February at the American Association for the Advancement of

Science conference in San Francisco.

Rybolt, who founded the Western chapter of the Air and Waste Management Association in 2003, said he is impressed by the work of the students who participated in the environmental challenge.

"I am always cheering them on," he said. "They are a great group of students — they are definitely going somewhere."

Rybolt works as an air quality specialist for the Olympic Region Clean Air Agency. He graduated from Western in 2005 with a Masters in geography with an emphasis on resource management and environmental policy.

"It was an awesome experience," said Jamey Stoddard, Western senior and environmental challenge participant. "There is nothing like getting your name out there and showing professionals what kind of work you can do."



Photo courtesy of Linda McGuiness

The first-place team from left to right: Western senior Kyle Peiti, Western senior Dave Van Dyk, Western senior Jamey Stoddard and Western junior Stacey Glenewinkel.

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Conducted by David Elkayam, M.D.

Miller Hall testing labs 'not optimal for areas where people spend their entire workday,' says professor

► LAB from 1

The existing labs are safe for humans and animals — or else the university would not allow them to be occupied — but they are hardly well-suited to their current function, Finlay said. The labs in Miller Hall have limitations that do not impact animal welfare, but impact the teaching needs of Western professors, she said.

For instance, the labs do not have a cage or bottle washer, which limits the number of experimental animals that can be accommodated since the cleaning must be done by hand, Finlay said.

Overhead noise can disturb measurements, there are no walk-in refrigeration or freezer units for storage, and there is no emergency power — which meant that to prepare for a power outage during a mid-November windstorm, dry-ice had to be packed into the facility to make sure frozen specimens stayed that way, she said.

There is also no teaching laboratory space.

All of these limitations will be addressed by the design of the new building, Finlay said.

The fifth floor of the Academic Instructional Center will have five 735-square-foot animal research lab suites, each with a surgery room, behavioral testing rooms and a central research area.

Controversy

In 1999 members of the Animal Liberation Front broke into and vandalized the Miller Hall labs, releasing four rabbits and 37 white rats on campus. The animals had never lived outside of captivity and probably all died, said Western psychology professor and researcher Mike Mana.

"It often isn't as liberating as they'd like it to be," Mana said.

Besides the moral implications of experimenting on living beings, the main contention for Western Animal Rights Network (WARN) president Shawn Herbold is that public money is being spent on the labs.

"The money could go to way more important things on campus — better food, raises for teachers, other facilities students use more often," Herbold said. "It just seems like a very wasteful endeavor."

However, for every dollar in grants that Western researchers receive, the school gets money to cover the costs of research, Finlay said.

Research does bring in grants, but it's just the

wrong thing to do ethically, said Western professor of management information systems Chris Sandvig, a member of WARN.

"There's a lot of research money available for it, but animals feel pain just like humans feel pain — we think it's a poor use of money, unethical and of dubious scientific merit," Sandvig said. "Scientifically, it's very difficult to extrapolate how animals behave to how it affects people."

There have been cases where a drug has been released for use by people after testing that turned out to have negative side-effects because people are different than animals, Herbold said.

The medication Thalidomide is just one case of many where a drug caused humans harm even after extensive animal testing. In the late 1950s doctors started giving Thalidomide to pregnant women to combat morning sickness. After six years of using the drug, approximately 10,000 children were born with severe deformities that were traced back to it. Despite having been tested on more than 50 types of animals, there was no way to know the devastating effects the drug would have on human children.

"Nobody is saying a rat is the same as a human — there are many differences in the nervous systems," Mana said. "But there are also many similarities."

The way cells function, the chemicals used to communicate in the brain and how one part of the brain is connected to another are all similarities that research scientists use, Mana said.

"The issues are important enough to warrant investigation, but it's impossible to do that kind of work on humans for ethical reasons," Mana said. "WARN would extend that to all species."

Students who are opposed to this sort of research need to voice their opinion and let the school know, Herbold said.

Research at Western

Although Western is not a major research facility like the University of Washington, important research does take place here, said Geri Walker, director of the

Office of Research and Special Programs at Western.

The Office of Research and Special Programs oversees all research on campus and coordinates the Animal Care and Use Committee, a six-member committee that includes experts in a variety of fields such as a veterinarian, an environmental health and safety specialist, and someone who is not affiliated with the university. All research applications, or protocols, at Western must be approved by the Animal Care and Use Committee.

Twice a year the committee inspects all animal research facilities on campus to make sure the facilities are clean, the animals are well cared for, and the researchers are keeping the appropriate records and following their approved protocols.

"The researchers have to convince us that there are no alternatives to using the animal, and we provide them with online sources to search for alternatives," Walker said. "If they indicate that anything they are doing is going to cause pain or distress, they have to document the searches they've done, and justify if and why alternatives aren't appropriate for the research being conducted."

For the academic year that ended in June, there were nine protocols submitted to the committee and seven were approved, Walker said.

"The committee frequently asks for revisions, clarifications and/or changes in the actual procedures to make sure the animals are treated and cared-for properly," Walker said. "Taking care of animals in research is extremely important for good science — it's to nobody's benefit not to provide the utmost care."

Most of the research is funded by peer-reviewed grants from federal agencies, such as the National Institutes of Health, and private research foundations, Walker said.

"When we receive federal funding we're required to follow federal regulations, but the university even goes beyond those regulations," Walker said. "Most federal policies cover warm-blooded vertebrate animals, but the Western policy covers all vertebrate animals whether the project is externally funded or not."

Construction on the Academic Instructional Center is scheduled to begin in March 2008.

The approximately 120,000-square-foot building will house not only the psychology department's human and animal research labs, but also lecture rooms, faculty offices, computer labs and the Communication Sciences and Disorders department.

"We think it's a poor use of money, unethical and of dubious scientific merit."

- Chris Sandvig, member of Western Animal Rights Network

"The issues are important enough to warrant investigation, but it's impossible to do that kind of work on humans for ethical reasons."

- Mike Mana, Western psychology professor and researcher

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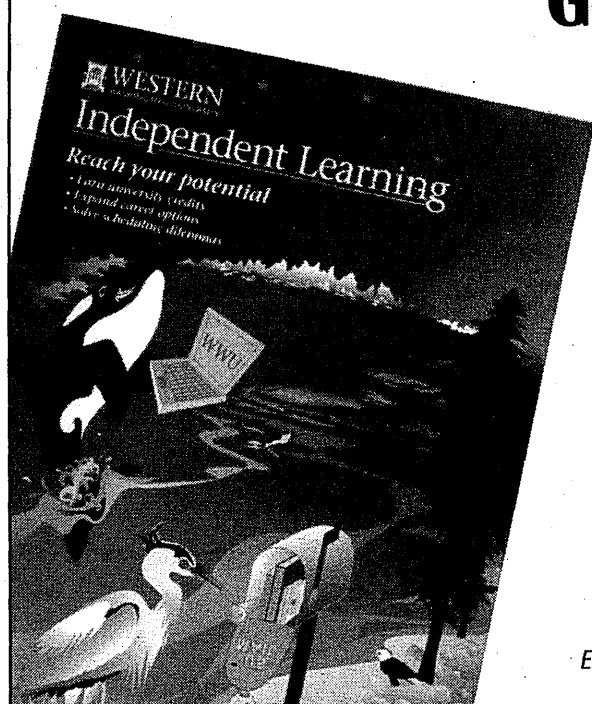


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Bellingham prepared in event of a tsunami

Lauren Ross
THE WESTERN FRONT

Tsunami. A word we all know. But is Bellingham prepared for what it involves?

On Nov. 15, the National Weather Service issued a tsunami warning for California, Oregon and Washington following an 8.1 magnitude earthquake near Japan. The warning was canceled more than four hours later.

Don Boyd, Director of Whatcom County Division of Emergency Management, said that most of Bellingham would not be threatened by a tsunami.

"Everyone at Western should be fine as long as they're not at Boulevard Park," Boyd said.

Boyd said if a tsunami does occur, the management team is prepared. Emergency management is solely responsible for notifying the majority of the waterfront areas, as well as the police and fire departments in the event of a crisis.

By using an automated telephone system, they are able to call 6,000 phone numbers per minute. If phone lines are not operating, loud speakers and sirens would be used to alert residents.

"Our first priority is to make sure the people are safe, then we worry about the rest," Boyd said.

A tsunami is caused by a rapid displacement of water, most commonly

caused by an underwater earthquake, geology assistant teacher Jackie Caplan-Auerbach said.

The speed of a tsunami depends on the depth of the water. Tsunamis are at their fastest in the middle of the ocean and as they move closer to shore their speed decreases.

"Imagine it as a bunch of people jogging at the same speed and the person in front slows down," Caplan-Auerbach said. "Suddenly everyone piles into each other and ends up in a big heap."

As tsunamis slow, water begins to pile up and the height increases.

"Since a tsunami's wavelength is likely to be miles long, it acts like a rapid tide that continues to approach the beach for 20 minutes sometimes," Caplan-Auerbach said.

A tsunami is not just one wave, but multiple, Caplan-Auerbach said. People need to realize the first one is certainly not the last.

Bellingham Fire Department Chief Bill Boyd said as soon as the department is notified it begins its emergency response plan. Crews use a pre-planned route to check on locations with anticipated damages.

The results of the territorial routes are relayed to a dispatcher and used primarily to assess damage and provide immediate assistance to areas that need it most.

"A school that collapses on a Saturday

with nobody in it is much different than if a three story apartment building collapses at four in the morning," Bill Boyd said.

Being prepared for such an event is also important, Bill Boyd said. He encourages all residents to have enough supplies available to be self-sufficient for a week, along with a battery-powered radio.

"You will be relying on your neighbors in the event of a disaster for a period of time," Bill Boyd said. "We can't respond to everyone's needs all at once, so take care of yourself first and your neighbors second."

David Hale, a "watch stander" for the Washington Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Center said it is important to be aware of the possibility of a tsunami because Washington sits on the Cascadia Fault line.

"Whether or not one of the fault lines is going to rupture is something no one can predict," Hale said.

If a warning is issued, Hale said residents who live by the coast are recommended to seek refuge at least a mile inland and 100 ft. above sea level in a concrete structure or a high-rise building.

Director of the warning center, Paul Whitmore said that the last significant tsunami was in 1964 that sprang from an earthquake in Alaska.

Warm clothing collected for the needy

Amanda Downs
THE WESTERN FRONT

Circle K, a community service club at Western, helped curb the winter chill by handing out soup and warm clothing at its monthly outreach event on Tuesday. The club gave out coats and mittens donated by students, along with the regular soup and sandwiches, to the needy in Bellingham.

The club held a warmth drive Nov. 21 in Red Square to collect coats and other items to give to the needy. The event occurred before the temperature dropped and snowflakes took over the city.

Donations from students included hats, scarves, mittens, sweaters, socks, coats and blankets. Some students donated money that was used to purchase socks and mittens.

Circle K has held blanket drives in the past, but this year the club decided to accept winter clothing as well.

"We wanted to give everyone the opportunity to donate," said Nikki Olson, vice president of membership for Circle K and coordinator for the warmth drive. "Blankets may be too expensive for a student to purchase, but a pair of mittens or a scarf may be something they can afford."

see CLOTHES page 6 ▶

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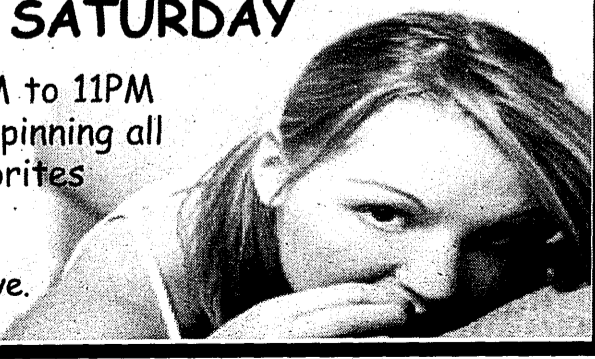
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Winter blast prevents many students from returning to Bellingham after 4-day Thanksgiving weekend

► **SNOW** from 1

Western freshman Jacob Zarnecki took the train from his hometown of Poulsbo to Bellingham. What was supposed to be a two-hour trip turned into a four-hour ordeal.

"The electronic switches that tell the train when and where to go weren't working right because of the snow," Zarnecki said. "It took forever."

Once students on the train finally reached Bellingham, it was a struggle to get rides home.

"My suitemate was supposed to pick me up, but his car got stuck in the snow," Zarnecki said. "I didn't make it into my dorm until 11 p.m."

Western junior Sharayah Lewis left Everett by car with her roommate at 2 p.m. and didn't make it back to Bellingham until almost 10 p.m.

"We sat 10 miles outside of Bellingham for over two hours," Lewis said. "It was fun at first. People were getting out of their

cars and playing in the snow. Then it started to get dark and we were hungry and cold and had to use the bathroom."

Lewis and her roommate were unsure of how long they would be waiting, or even why.

"We think there was a wreck," Lewis said. "We saw a snow plow, a tow truck and a police SUV while we were waiting."

Local news radio station KGMI aired unconfirmed reports of a downed tree blocking the freeway, a jackknifed semitruck, and multiple instances of cars sliding off the freeway.

Even Bellingham city government closed down for the day. An announcement on its Web site stated that only essential employees need report for work, while everyone else should remain at home.

However, students and community members could still get around in the snow.

Buses were running normally, said Whatcom Transit

Authority employee Shelley Davis.

"The only buses not running are the 90s, which are the ones that run to Western," Davis said. "We shut those down when the school is closed."

While the snow caused an inconvenience for some, others were enjoying the free day. Students could be seen on some roads sledding, throwing snowballs, skiing and snowboarding.

"I love the snow," Coulter said. "I'm so glad to be out of school. I get to play around in it."

Some students used the day off as time to catch up.

"It's like that episode of The Simpsons where Bart prays for a snow day because he didn't do his homework," Western junior Xandra Lauch said. "God knew I needed a snow day."

Western freshman John Goetz rides down the south campus stairs between Parks Hall and the Environmental Studies Building on Nov. 26.



photo by Mark Malijan THE WESTERN FRONT

Western club collaborates with local outreach group

► **CLOTHES** from 5

Donations were given to a soup-and-sandwich project called Coffee And Sandwiches on Tuesday nights (CAST). The program also hands out warm clothing during the winter.

Jeanne Brotherton, the outgoing coordinator for CAST, said the program started six years ago when people from local Lutheran churches and Jewish synagogues wanted to help out the growing number of street kids in Bellingham.

"They set it up every Tuesday downtown, and anyone in need could come and get something to eat, no questions

asked," Brotherton said.

The weekly event drew a huge turnout. "It soon became obvious that one day a week wasn't enough," Brotherton said.

CAST now operates Monday through Thursday evenings year round, and Western clubs, including Circle K, continue to support the program.

"We are regular participants in CAST, and they always need more donations for clothes," Olson said.

Olson said Circle K's first choice to donate to was CAST. "I like CAST because I can actually directly give someone

in need a meal and clothing or blankets," Olson said. "I know it is going to those most desperate."

Peace Arch Lieutenant Governor Barbara Bryant said she sees whole families coming to CAST in need of help. "We might have a coat lying around in our closet that doesn't matter too much to us, but it would mean a lot to someone else," Bryant said.

Although the drive in Red Square has ended, Olson said Circle K will accept donations during the club's meetings at 7 p.m. every Tuesday in Viking Union room 567.

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Seeing stars

Western's planetarium features the winter sky from the warmth of Haggard Hall

Emily McMahon

On a clear, cold winter night, gazing at the sky reveals a sea of stars. Winter is when the Orion constellation dominates and the Big Dipper descends closest to the horizon. Many people looking at the winter sky don't last long due to the chill and may have trouble distinguishing one constellation from another without training. Those who wish to learn more about the night sky in the warmth of the indoors need only look as far as the cushy blue seats of Western's planetarium.

The planetarium is situated on the top floor of Haggard Hall and accessible by a private staircase.

It has 45 theater-style seats and a dome ceiling that seems like a window to the night sky when the star simulations are projected on it.

The planetarium's "Winter Skies" show debuts at 7 p.m. Nov. 30 with future showings Jan. 26 and Feb. 23. The show is presented by Brad Snowder, the planetarium manager. Snowder uses the Konica Minolta Medialoglobe, which has the ability to project 6,000 stars from 30,000 years forward or backward in

time, from any point on earth.

Snowder not only shows audiences where stars and planets are, he tells them everything from what star Jodie Foster's character visited in the movie "Contact," to how astrological signs are assigned to birth dates and how the constellations got their names. Snowder said there are more

Comet Hyakutake peeks through the night sky from this view in Spangle, Wash. in 1996.

Photo by Brad Snowder

important things to learn about, but the universe is something one can't change only try to understand.

"It's romantic, non-political, non-religious," Snowder said. "It's just a

pretty thing."

Western senior Aisha Womack said her planetarium show experience was, in one word, exciting. She is a resident adviser and said after seeing it for herself, she scheduled a show for her Birnam Wood stack so she could share the experience with other people.

"It seemed real," Western senior Ashley Baer said. "It seemed like you were really looking at the sky and seeing all the stars."

Shows tend to fill up more quickly when they are heavily advertised, said Snowder. For example, Snowder said during Western's Really Big Weekend, there were enough people to fill five shows with 70 people per show. There are only 45 seats available for the Nov. 30 show but groups of 20 or more can schedule a private show with Snowder or one of the student planetariumers.

"It's something different to do," Snowder said. "It's a great date."

Tickets for "Winter Skies" \$3 for students and \$5 for non-students, and may be purchased through Western's box office.

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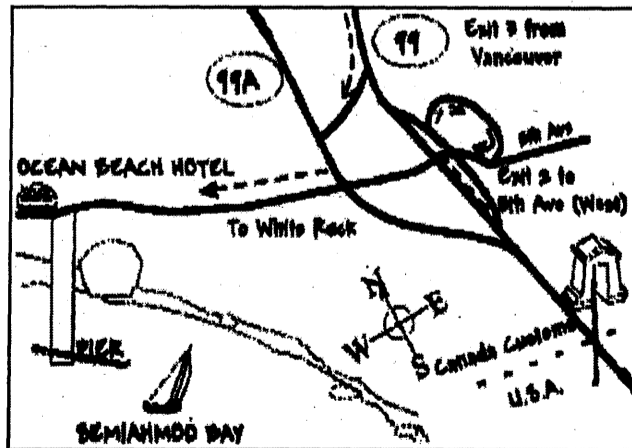
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Helping

Students gather winter wear for Bellingham homeless

Jenny Leak
THE WESTERN FRONT

On Railroad Avenue, in a parking lot across the street from the bus terminal, music drifted away from five white tents sheltering a live band, a rack of clothing and hot dogs. Campfire smoke lingered in the crisp air and light rain sprinkled the ground. Children, men and women chatted with friends under the moonless sky, some with their belongings piled nearby.

The gathering looked like a neighborhood party, except it included the Western chapter of The Inn Ministries, a Christian service organization. The Inn organized a winter-jacket clothing drive to help the homeless combat cold weather, said Western graduate Theresa Carpine, an Inn intern. Many of Bellingham's residents do not have a warm dry place to live and take shelter under bridges, trees and bus stops, she said.

Nov. 18, student leaders at the Inn took students for the first time to volunteer at Salt on the Street, a local service group organized by Cornwall Church to aid the homeless community in Whatcom County. Every Saturday Salt on the Street raises its tents across from the bus terminal and volunteers provide food, warmth and company for those in need.

The Inn delivered the winter jackets from the clothing drive, said Western junior Tyler Chang, a human services major and student leader for the Inn. Approximately 40 Western students helped the organization under the tents and in the community, said Western senior Serina Holmstrom, a student leader at the Inn.

Teams armed with clothing, hygiene products and sack lunches went to various places in Bellingham, such as bridges and parks, to find people who may need supplies. When teams deliver supplies around the city, bottled water is usually the most requested item because people often do not have enough clean drinking water, Chang said.

Near the Salt on the Street's hot dog stand in the parking lot, an 8-year-old girl named Ana-Leya danced to music from the band with her sister Ashlyn, 6, and Western senior Sarah Condrey. The sisters come down from Blaine with their family every week, Holmstrom said.

Western volunteers gathered around the warmth of the hot dog stand, including Western freshman Austin Jenckes, who walked from Del Mar with a man going to Salt on the Street. Jenckes had volunteered because he wanted to see life from someone else's perspective.

"Many of the people who come here are not unhappy," Jenckes said. "Their goals are just different."

Several students at the hot dog stand said they enjoyed visiting and sharing life stories with people from different backgrounds. One man said he feels better when he doesn't worry about material needs, even though he had some money stolen that night, volunteer and Western junior Brittany Young said.

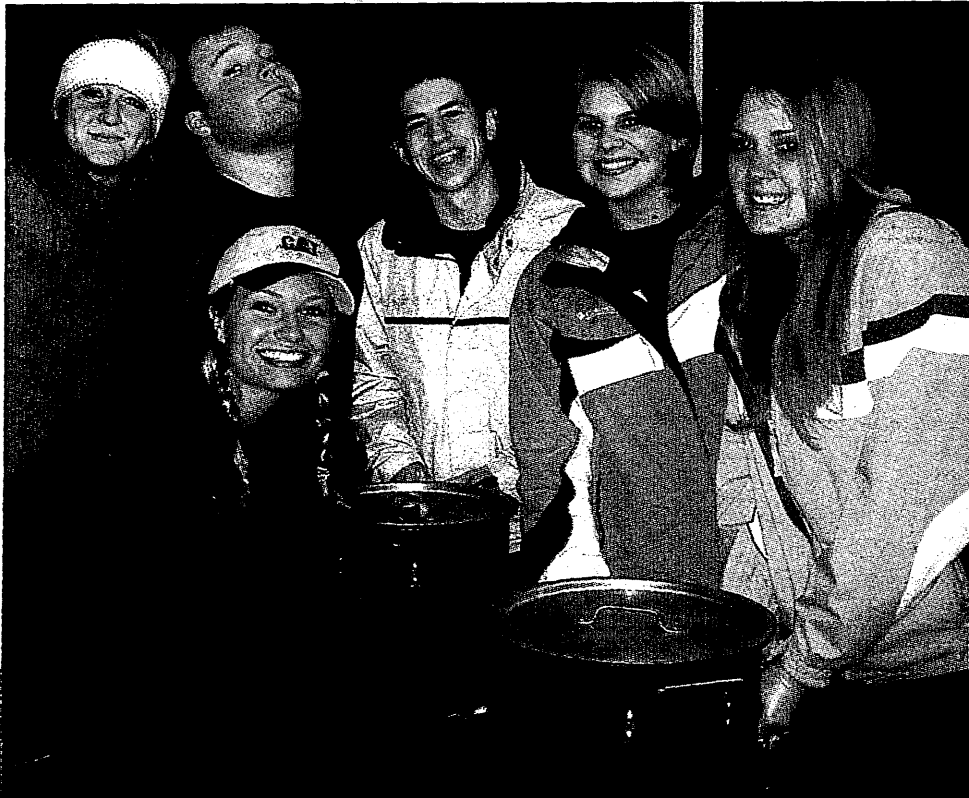
"I think you get more out of life when you realize that you don't need all of life's luxuries," said volunteer and Western sophomore John-Paul Lamansoc.

The people helped by Salt on the Street defy many of the assumptions made by the mainstream community about why someone is homeless, Jenckes said. For example, if someone does not have an address, it's nearly impossible to apply for a job, Chang said.

Most of the homeless people are appreciative that the volunteers take the time to visit and offer supplies, though some people ask not to be bothered and the volunteers respect their personal space, Chang said.

"I developed relationships with people I normally wouldn't have had the opportunity to get to know,"

Chang said. "It's shown me a lot about what life is really like on the streets."



Jenny Leak THE WESTERN FRONT
Students gathered around the hot dog stand at Salt on the Street in Bellingham, Nov. 18. The students were helping to deliver winter jackets and supplies to the homeless community.

Stand

Communication Club extends holiday spirit to soldiers in Middle East

Megan Marquett
THE WESTERN FRONT

No lights, ornaments or tinsel decorated the Christmas tree that resided in the communication department's entrance from Nov. 14-27 — instead the green branches bore tags with wishes for snacks and magazines from U.S. troops in the Middle East.

The Communication Club started plans for the Treats-for-Troops giving tree on Oct. 10, said club member and Western senior Cara Black, whose boyfriend is deployed in the Middle East.

Students, faculty and staff picked tags from the tree and purchased specific items to donate toward the packages, which included beef jerky, gum, candy bars and reading materials, said Communication Club Web master and Western senior Chika Machida.

The club also provided paper hearts for anyone who wished to write a message to include with the care packages. Some of the soldiers don't receive packages and letters, Black said.

"They are going to appreciate the hand-written notes people send them even more than the snacks and magazines," Black said.

Black said cooperation from Fort Lewis personnel, who agreed to mail the 50 care packages, made it possible to get the treats overseas.

The club takes a special interest in the efforts in Iraq because Matt Sarkos, a club member and Whatcom Community College student, was called to report for active duty, said Western senior and club co-president Leslie Stose.

Veteran's Outreach Center coordinator and Western junior Ramiro Espinoza said it was great to receive packages from family and friends when he deployed during the first two years of the war. At the beginning of the war in Iraq, mail wasn't delivered on a regular basis, but delivery is better now that there is an infrastructure in place, Espinoza said.

"I remember when my husband was in Vietnam," club adviser Anna Eblen said. "I sent him books. He said they were gold because it was something to read."

The donations give students, faculty and staff members, even those opposed to the war, a chance to participate because it is person-to-person contact, she said.

"Each individual has their own take on what we should do in Iraq," Espinoza said. "Supporting our troops, the men fighting there, is a different issue. Many want to go home, but are fulfilling their obligation to their country."

The Veteran's Outreach Center, the Associated Student senate and Residence and Outreach Programs are planning winter quarter projects to send care packages of luxury items, such as books and magazines, to the troops serving in the Middle East, Espinoza said.

"Yes, there is this big controversial war going on, but I think people need to put that aside and look at the issue on a personal level," Stose said. "There are people overseas who are away from their families during the holidays."



Women heat up Carver

Vikings overcome 10-point deficit to win 10th annual Lynda Goodrich Classic

Kimberly Higginbotham
THE WESTERN FRONT

Outside, snow fell peacefully on to the bricks in Red Square. The night was cold, white and quiet.

Inside Carver Gym, however, Haggen Court was heating up. Sounds of squeaking shoes and cheering fans echoed off the walls, and the smell of nachos and hot dogs filled the air for the second night in a row.

The women's basketball team hosted the 10th annual Lynda Goodrich Classic during Thanksgiving weekend. The tournament began for Western Friday night with a 68-61 Viking win against Pacific Lutheran University, and closed Saturday with the 81-74 defeat of Northwest Missouri State University.

"We came out with fire," said sophomore center Claire Pallansch. "It's just what we needed to do to win."

Aside from the tournament victory, sophomore guard MacKenzie Flynn was named most valuable player of the tournament. Viking guard Mollie Stelmack,

senior, and forward Krystal Robinson, junior, were awarded all-tournament team honors.

Western was down by 10 going into halftime in Saturday's game. Head coach Carmen Dolfo said she didn't know why the team got off to a slow start.

"I don't know if we weren't ready to go," Dolfo said. "We needed to work together and play hard, and in the last 14 [minutes] we did just that."

In the first four minutes of the second half, Missouri pulled ahead 51-37. The Vikings fought back with fervor, closing in the 14-point deficit.

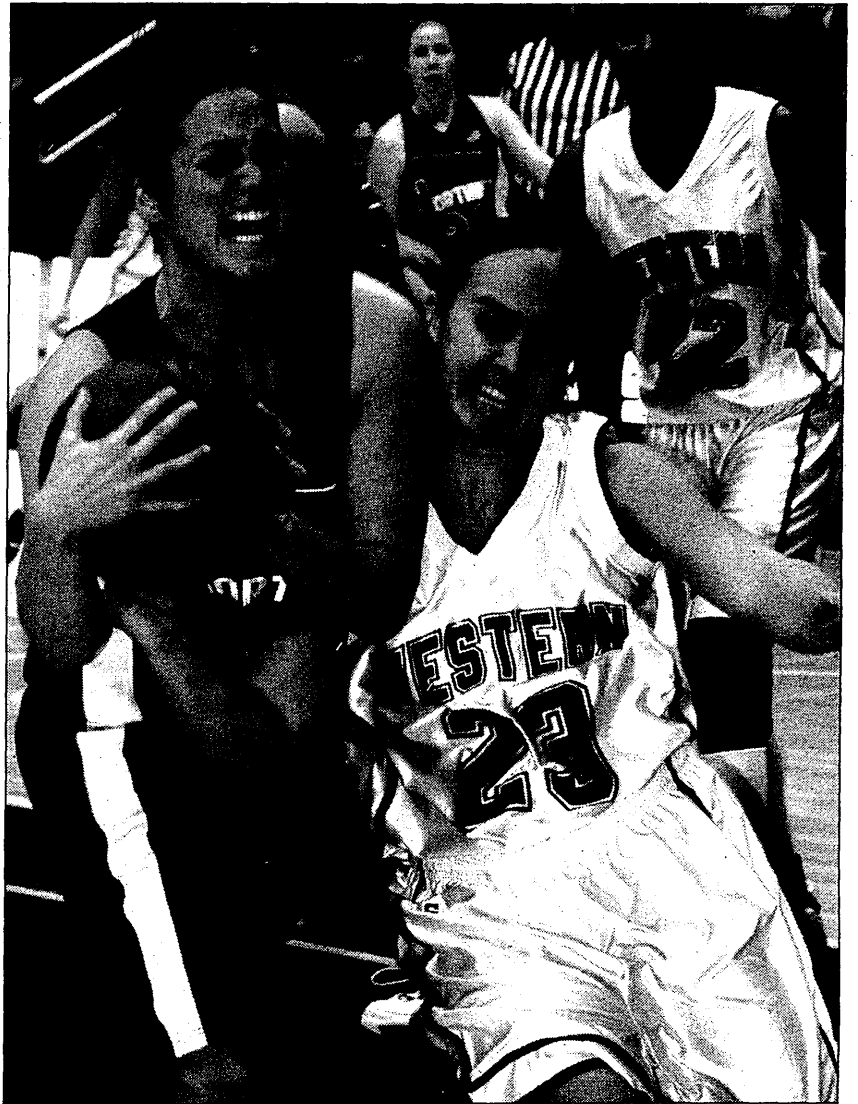
"We came alive in the second half," Pallansch said. "Everyone stepped up and hit big shots."

With 11:40 on the clock, a defensive rebound by sophomore Sarah Schramm set Flynn up with the ball for a three-point shot — her first of four. Her second three-point

see **WOMEN** page 12 ▶

Guard India Soo fights for the ball against a Northwest Missouri State player. Soo, a sophomore, had seven rebounds in the game at Carver Gym.

photo by Mark Malijan THE WESTERN FRONT



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Men bounce back

Vikings overcome slow start to win Thanksgiving Classic

Kimberly Higginbotham
THE WESTERN FRONT

Good fundamentals, good conditioning and team play are the strategies for success for the men's basketball team said head coach Brad Jackson.

In the ninth annual WWU Chuck Randall Thanksgiving Men's Basketball Classic this past weekend, these goals proved to work as the team had a 96-88 win over Northwest University Friday night and a 77-67 win over Grand Canyon University Saturday night at Carver Gym.

The team won the tournament with a 2-0 record. Senior center Lukas Henne was named the tournament's most valuable player and sophomore guard Ira Graham was named to the all-tournament team.

Both games were comebacks for the Vikings.

The Vikings were down 35-31 going into halftime against Grand Canyon, shooting only 30 percent on the field compared to Grand Canyon's 43.3 percent.

Sophomore and Viking co-captain Ira Graham finds a hole in the Grand Canyon University defense and drives to the hoop for a lay up. The Vikings beat Grand Canyon 77-67 to win the Chuck Randall Thanksgiving Men's Basketball Classic.

photo by Mark Malijan THE WESTERN FRONT

"We didn't shoot well the first half," Jackson said. "But we hung with it and had some big shots when we needed to and had some big stops in the second half."

Sixteen minutes in to the second half, Henne tied up the score with a three-point shot. The score was tied six more times in the following eight minutes, before the Vikings pulled ahead 61-59 with a lay-up by Calin Schell at 7:01.

The Vikings kept their lead for the rest of the game, with a three-point shot by freshman Brandon Williams, a slam dunk by Henne, multiple lay-ups and two completed free throw shots by Graham.

Henne said despite the wins, the team needs to work on playing hard throughout the game and not be dependant on comebacks.

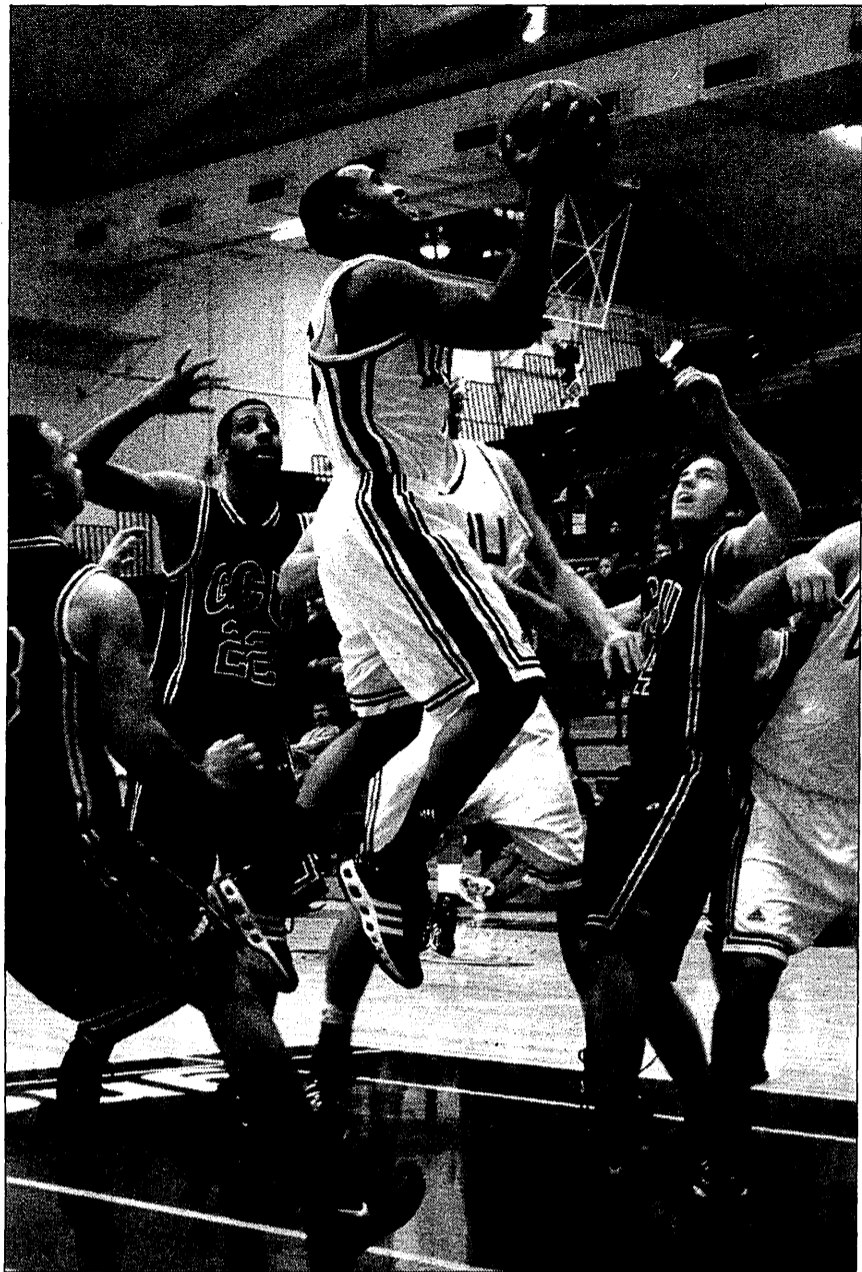
"We need to focus on coming out strong right off the bat and scaring the other team off with our intensity," Henne said.

Henne had a game high 27 points in Saturday's game. Calin Schell, sophomore, had a game-high 12 rebounds. Graham had game-high and career-high scoring Friday night with 27 points. Graham said the tournament was a big team win, especially being such a young team.

"Each day we're getting better and better," Graham said. "This was a great tournament for us."

The tournament is named for former Viking basketball coach Chuck Randall. Randall coached the men's team from 1962-

see **MEN** page 12 ►



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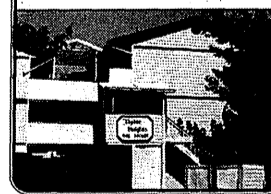
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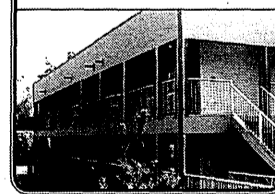
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Flynn, Stelmack, Robinson gather honors in Goodrich tournament

► **WOMEN** from 10

came 22 seconds later.

Flynn said the comeback was the highlight of the night for her.

"Looking up and seeing the [deficit] getting smaller and smaller was amazing," Flynn said. "We put our heart and soul into the last 15 minutes — 20 minutes with overtime."

The Vikings took the lead with 29 seconds left in regulation play with a jump shot by Krystal Robinson. Two completed free throw shots by Flynn brought the score to 70-67. With three seconds left, it looked like victory for the Vikings, but a three-point shot by Missouri's Jessica Burton tied the score.

Eight completed free throw shots and a three-point shot by

Flynn secured the win for the Vikings.

"[The team] had a great second half, with a real spark," Lynda Goodrich said.

The tournament was named for the former coach, and current director of athletics. Goodrich was the women's coach from 1971 to

"We came out with fire. It's just what we needed to do to win."

- Viking center
Claire Pallansch

1990. During that time she led Western to five national tournaments and had more than 400 wins. She was inducted into the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame in 1986, the WWU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1999 and was named WWU Sports Impact Person of the Century.

"Women's basketball is close to my heart," Goodrich said. "It's an honor."

10th annual Lynda Goodrich Classic Nov. 24-25

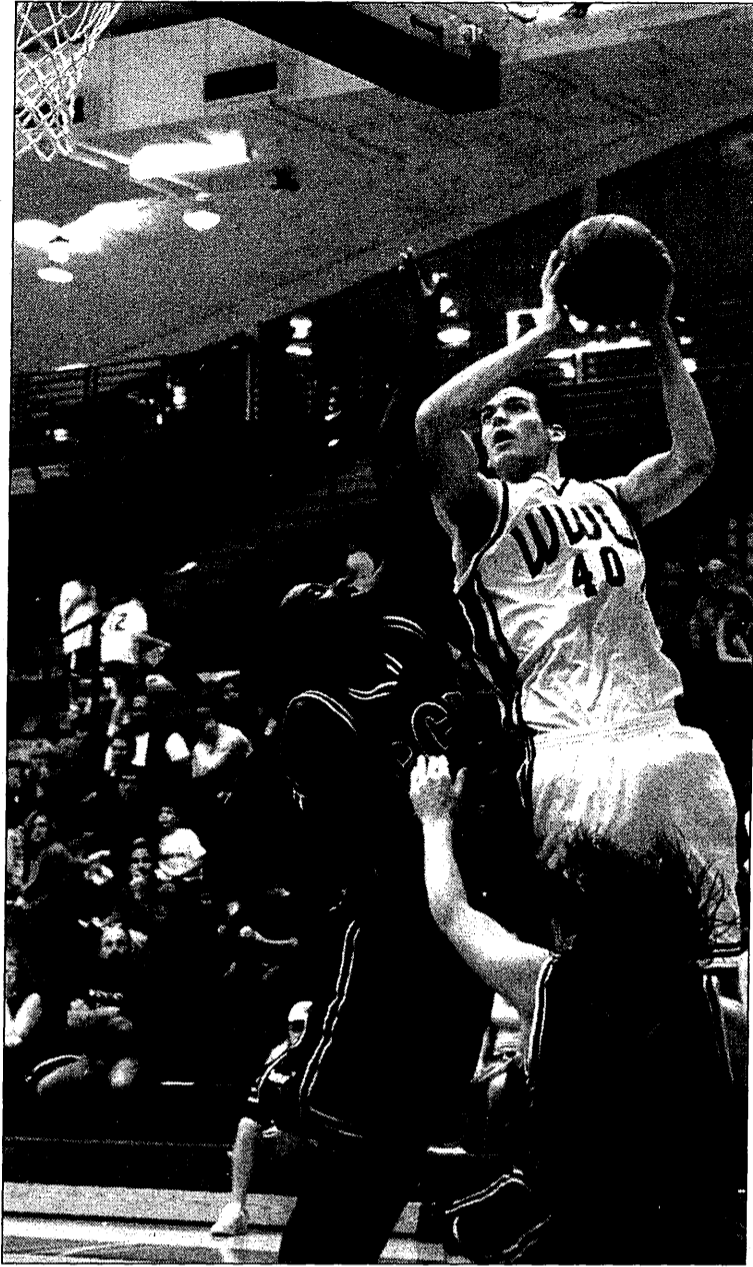
VIKINGS 68

Pacific Luthern 61

VIKINGS 81

Northwest Missouri State 74

NEXT GAME vs. Northwest University Tuesday, Dec. 5 Carver Gym



Henne, Schell score 27 to lead Vikings in tourney

► **Men** from 11

1981, missing one year during his leadership. He led the Vikings to a 26-4 season in 1972, which was the best season for the men's team in Western's history. Randall was awarded Western's Men's Coach of the Century title and was inducted into the National Association for Intercollegiate Athletics in 1985 and the WWU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1981.

9th annual Chuck Randall Thanksgiving Classic Nov. 24-25

VIKINGS 96

Northwest 88

VIKINGS 77

Grand Canyon 66

NEXT GAME vs. Pacific Lutheran Tuesday, Nov. 28 - 7 p.m. Carver Gym

Vikings co-captain Lukas Henne powers through Grand Canyon University defenders. Henne scored a career high of 27 points and was awarded MVP honors for the Chuck Randall Thanksgiving Men's Basketball Tournament.

photo by Mark Malijan THE WESTERN FRONT

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Speak up on the walls of campus stalls

Taylor Scaggs

THE WESTERN FRONT

When someone walks into a restroom to do his or her business, the unmentionable task at hand is the only game plan.

Unless he or she has set foot in one of Western's restrooms. In this case, the stall occupant might be enticed to engage in a chicken-scratched war of words with an anonymous Bush-hater or Manticore legionnaire claiming that particular stall as his or her master's territory.

Bathroom stall writing isn't vandalism — it's free speech and pure artistic entertainment at its finest.

In grade school it was a contest to see who could scribe the largest iteration of the F-word, and in middle school it was who kissed whom.

But in college, the wild world of bathroom stall scrawling has evolved from childish outbursts to political arguments, mythological references and witty fecal jokes, all of which make for a good read when a newspaper isn't within immediate reach.

To the dismay of stall readers everywhere, the day always comes when the paint shop, which is responsible for all the painting done on campus, makes its rounds and scrubs away these priceless words, leaving nothing to look at but a shoddy paint job.

Much like Red Square has its free speech area and the Viking Union has its free

speech board, the partitions in Western's restrooms should be an uncensored outlet for anonymous free speech because the results come more from the heart than any agenda-driven Red Square protest.

Western's policy on the clean-up of bathroom vandalism and vandalism in general is non-existent, said Western Paint Shop supervisor Ron Henspeter.

Henspeter said the paint shop doesn't search for graffiti or vandalism. The employees deal with it when someone

"Bathroom stall writing isn't vandalism — it's free speech and pure artistic entertainment at its finest."

reports it, he said.

The problem with this policy, or rather lack of a policy, is that what is offensive is all in the eye of the beholder. Some people may take offense at people protesting in Red Square with eight-foot wide posters of aborted fetuses or a man telling them they're going to hell because they love their pet more than Jesus, but the paint shop doesn't run out and toss buckets of white paint on them.

Richard McCrae-Lauba, a Western junior and library employee, said he has seen his fair share of stalls around the library. The majority of the writing in bathrooms is either jokes or debates, and rarely does he see something extremely offensive, he said.

The content on partitions varies from building to building,

but the hotbed of scribing seems to come from the restrooms in Western's libraries.

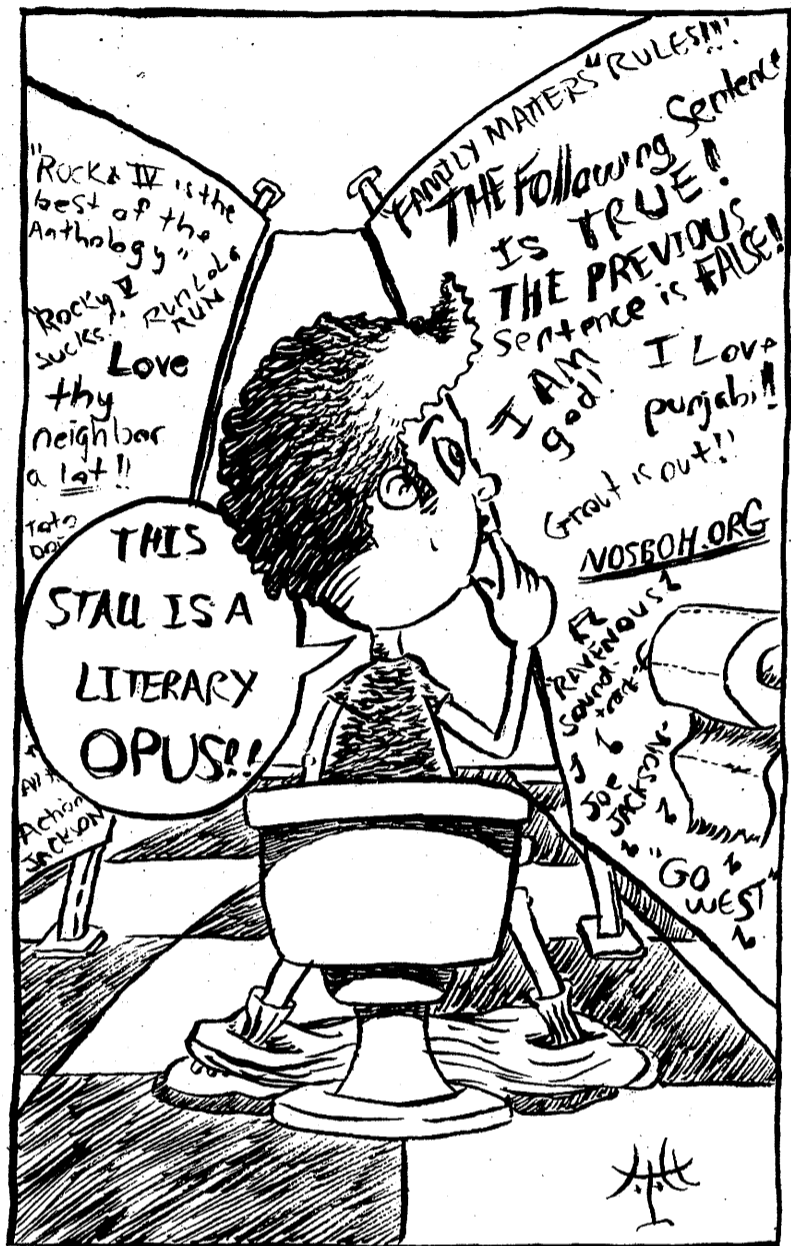
Long hours of studying lead students into a delirious frenzy, and the results are undoubtedly comical.

The most creative in stall humor has to be "grout talk," where stall occupants insert an iteration of the word "grout," into a sentence and write it in the grout between tiles. Examples include "Oscar the grout," "Grout it, grout it, grout it out loud," "Grout St. Helens," which are scattered all over the wall in the bathroom on the bottom floor of Haggard Hall. Comments such as these are what keep students sane after long hours of boring textbook reading.

The flip side of a call for bathroom stall free speech is that such speech is controversial. It is important for Western to be a presentable university.

Henspeter said he estimates his staff spends more than 80 hours cleaning graffiti from the bathrooms per year, at a cost of approximately \$3,500.

The answer isn't to let graffiti just go wild, but to find better means of dealing with it. The vandalism and artwork won't go away and it's ridiculous to waste so much money each year cleaning it up when the installation of a white board or dry-erase or chalkboard paint would lead to easy fixes with the swipe of wet two-cent



cartoon by Tristan Hobson THE WESTERN FRONT

paper towel.

The bathroom stall artists and debaters should continue their quest, whatever it may be. They say people do the best

thinking on the john, and this brand of artwork and ranting shows it's better than the rest of the so-called free speech artists on campus.

Red Square made for student protests

On Nov. 16, approximately 200 people wearing red lay down in Red Square for five minutes in a "die-in" to advocate U.S. troop withdrawal from the war in Iraq. While some passers by sympathized with and even joined the demonstrators, some became annoyed by the presence of the people in red because they disagreed with their message or thought the demonstrators were ineffective cop-outs.

We may not always agree with the message various protesters in Red Square shove in our faces, but it is important that those messages are shared.

Where would we be if college students had not joined others in the Civil Rights movement protesting the treatment of minorities and women in the United States?

Where would we be if students had not gone on strike after the Ohio National Guard fired on students protesting the Vietnam War at Kent State University killing four students?

Critics of college campus protests such as the Nov. 16 Die-in against the war in Iraq might argue that the university is not a place for such protests to be held because some protests would be better aimed directly

at the government, either by protesting in Olympia or in Washington, D.C.

However, protests are suited for an educational environment. A university is supposedly the place where we learn how to live in the outside world. Protesting is a part of that world.

The right to assemble as a community and the right to petition the government for a redress of wrongs are included in the Bill of Rights. These rights are a privilege, and a necessity.

Red Square has traditionally been a forum to protest whatever students feel is wrong with the world. Without Red Square, what forum here would we have to reach the entire student body?

In May 2003, a student used Red Square to protest the cover of the Winter 2003 Blue Book, which she felt objectified women, according to a May 30, 2003 Western Front article.

Approximately 750 people — Western students, high school students and Bellingham residents — filled Red Square as part of a walkout, rally and march to the Bellingham Federal Building to protest the war in Iraq in April 2003, according to an April 8, 2003 Western Front article.

The College Republicans used Red Square for a pro-Iraq war rally in November 2001, according

to a Nov. 15, 2001 Western Front article.

Red Square is not a forum only for liberals or only for conservatives. It is not a forum only for crazy men waving signs telling us we are going to hell if we don't immediately love Jesus. Red Square is a forum for all of us.

see **FRONTLINE** page 14 ►

POLLSTER

What do you think Red Square should be used for?

- A. Walking, duh
- B. Protests on student issues
- C. Protests on nation/world issues
- D. Never go there

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Raise the student technology fee

Kamryn Masters
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western seems to have made access to advanced technology for its students a top priority. In 2001, Yahoo last published its list of the nation's "100 most wired colleges" with Western rising nineteen spots from 88th in 1999 to 59th. If Western wishes to continue climbing the ranks of this illustrious list, it is time for the student government to raise the Student Technology Fee.

According to the Western Web site, students pay \$17 per quarter for the technology fee, supplemented by \$150,000 from the university, as well as smaller amounts of money from departmental and grant programs.

Western's technology fee amounts to less than half of the \$35 per quarter Washington State University students pay, according to the Western Web site. Coincidentally enough, the only other school in Washington state to outrank Western on the "100 most wired colleges" list is Washington State University.

This year the technology fee helped fund the replacement and/or addition of two-hundred fifty computers, said Rod Galbraith, Assistant Director of Classroom and Computer Lab Services at Western.

John Lawson, vice provost for information technology, said with the mounting costs of replacing and repairing the technology Western already owns, students find themselves in the unfortunate situation where maintenance of said technology threatens to consume the majority of funds available.

Lawson said if the technology fee is not raised Western students will find themselves running the risk of either slowing down the rate of technological innovation here at Western or degrading the current technology because Western cannot afford to upgrade or repair its

computers and other technologies.

The student government also has to be sure they don't just throw money at the issue. Despite the fact that the University of Washington students pay a technology fee of \$40 per quarter, UW does not appear on the "100 most wired colleges" list.

Smart spending, specifically on student access to various technologies, is what has made Western such a well-wired school in the past, Lawson said.

Student access to technology is incredibly important to Western, Lawson, said because the majority of the technology fee goes toward the computer labs, laptop loan program and student e-mail.

Lawson said if Western were to raise the technology fee to somewhere near the levels of its peer institutions it would make sense to put the extra money toward the replacement cycle for the various computer labs scattered throughout campus.

Schools that have a higher technology fee can afford to put the money toward not only replacing outdated equipment, but funding two people in the central information technology groups to focus on managing and providing support to the student technology fee projects, Lawson said.

Western is falling behind in the ability to provide replacement machines and still maintain the possibility of new initiatives such as storage area networks for students, Lawson said.

The student government needs to raise the technology fee significantly if Western is to remain near the top of the high-tech-heap. Otherwise it will be too late and Western will be just one more technological dinosaur struggling under the weight of its obsolete technology.

Use Red Square to share your opinion

► FRONTLINE from 13

Last May, an anti-abortion display dominated Red Square, blocking off the pathways and showing students large photos of lynching and Holocaust victims, along with aborted fetuses.

The Nov. 16 Die-in did not show images of dead Iraqi children or maimed U.S. soldiers.

Instead, participants wore red to symbolically represent the dead.

Perhaps the protests were futile in creating results — but perhaps not.

Whatever the case, neither the Die-in nor the "Abortion is Genocide" protest should have been prevented from taking place in Red Square.

And if you didn't like the protest, well, why don't you protest it in Red Square?

Free e-mail worth the scans

Jon Brandenburg
THE WESTERN FRONT

For any person who has ever taken a digital stroll on a little thing called the Internet, it is noticeable that cyberspace is filled with liars and cheats keen on swindling saps with promises of free services. On the Internet, services are rarely free.

For the frugal college student looking for an e-mail service that doesn't require an "@cc.wvu.edu," Google provides Gmail, a service that gives its users two gigabytes of free space, compared to the 250 megabytes given by services such as MSN. Gmail is completely free to whoever is willing to sign up for the service — the only price is the human soul.

Actually, the only price is that personal e-mails are scanned for advertising purposes. But if some people were asked, they'd probably liken this perceived invasion of privacy to a reaping of the soul.

"E-mail scanning is a trade-off that allows Google to make the services available for free."

Google's practices with Gmail are not the work of some evil mega-corporation hell-bent on stealing the secrets of American citizens. Google is simply conducting highly intelligent market research.

When a person signs up for Gmail he or she enters into an agreement with Google, said Matthew McGowan, a contract law student at the University of Washington. When signing up for Gmail people agree to allow Google to scan their e-mails, McGowan said.

Hotmail and Yahoo both say they do not participate in e-mail scanning, he said, but they also do not boast the same benefits as Gmail. E-mail scanning is a trade-off that allows Google to make the service available for free.

This information is also needed to gain valuable research on how Google can better serve its customers, said Aaron Pyon, former

Western student and senior programming analyst at City University in Bellevue. For example, the increase of storage space and the inclusion of Gmail instant messaging all stem from information from users, Pyon said.

The e-mail scanning isn't done by a bunch of creepy guys in their parents' basements, getting their jollies off of personal messages. The scan is done by a cold calculating computer program that uses a series of algorithms to find repeating words or phrases.

Pyon said Google uses the information to display personalized ads on the sidebar of the screen. The information scanned by Google is not sent to advertisers. It is simply used as an indicator of which Google advertisers a user would be most interested in, Pyon said.

Sure the scanning software is not always the most accurate. Mistakes can happen.

In an e-mail sent by his local comic book store, Gmail user and Western computer science major

Garrett Wood, was rewarded with ads for free personality tests. Wood said perhaps it's just a fluke in some algorithm or maybe Google is of the mind that a 21-year-old man should probably stop reading comics. Regardless, Wood said the ads themselves take up only a tenth of the screen. He said the ads do not overtly draw his eye and even when he does notice the ridiculous ones, they are a source of amusement.

Besides, a few ads that are generally catered to a user's tastes are a small price to pay for a free service that filters out obnoxious and disgusting spam. If users feel so truly violated by Google's scanning practices that they cannot live with the service, they can move on to paid services that tend to offer less for more. But be forewarned — without Gmail, they may miss an advertisement that could change their lives.

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Letter to the Editor

Don't immediately remove U.S. troops

The Nov. 17 Western Front covered a protest of the war in Iraq calling for America to withdraw our troops. Although I protested the war in Iraq before it began, I believe an immediate troop withdrawal would be irresponsible and could allow a full-scale civil war in Iraq.

When we invaded Iraq, we gained partial responsibility for that country's future. If, as General Abizaid told Congress on Nov. 15, an immediate phased withdrawal would lead to civil war, withdrawing now would be wrong.

A classified report issued by U.S. Central Command in mid-October showed sectarian violence is increasing according to a Nov. 1 New York Times article.

Iraq's own army is incapable of maintaining the country's stability. Iraqi troops are insufficiently trained and have little incentive to stay in the army according to a Nov. 1 Washington Post article.

The protestors in Red Square last Thursday and everyone else in the world want the violence in Iraq to stop.

Withdrawing from Iraq might save our own soldiers, but it would abandon innocent Iraqi civilians to brutal civil war sparked by the United States' actions over the past three and a half years. The United States has a responsibility to protect the Iraqis we endangered by invading their country.

-Tracy Durnell
Western senior

viking voices

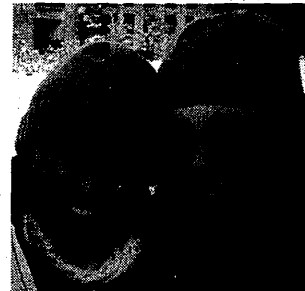
What is your favorite thing to do in the snow?



Doug Clark
GEOLOGY PROFESSOR
"Back-country skiing."



John-Paul Lumansoc
SOPHOMORE
"Tackling people in the snow."



Suzi Moore and Celeste Kahn
FRESHMEN
"There's snowboarding, sledding, snowball fights, snow forts, snow angels, rolling down snow-hills — everything — just being out in it!"



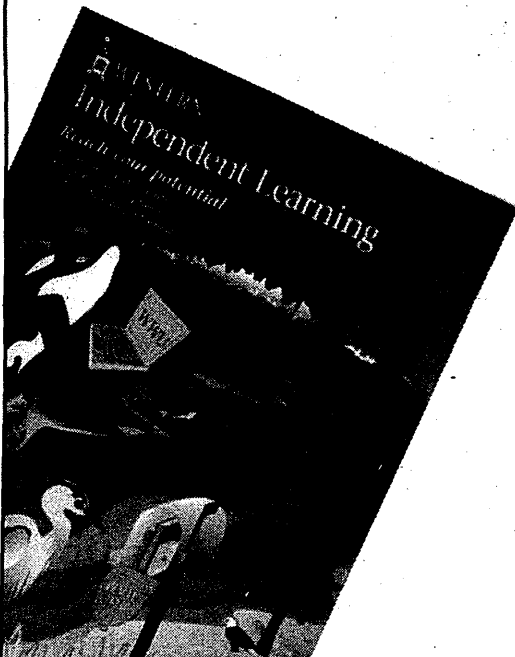
Ray Bannon
FRESHMAN
"Drink hot chocolate."



Christina Berger
SOPHOMORE
"I like to build some big snowmen."

Compiled by G. S. Raugust

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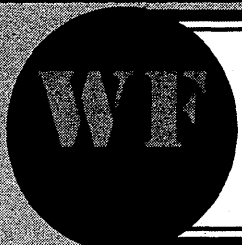


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Nurture keeps women out of math, science

Gender stereotypes rather than nature stop women from pursuing careers, education in male-dominated fields

Tom Callis
THE WESTERN FRONT

In January 2005, Lawrence Summers former president of Harvard University asserted the reason women are underrepresented in areas such as math and science is due to genetics.

While his remarks came as quite a shock to a lot of people in the academic world, they encouraged social scientists to take another look at why women continually are underrepresented in areas of math and science, reinvigorating the debate of nature versus nurture.

A study published in the Oct. 20 issue of Science Magazine found the latter is best at explaining women's under representation in those fields.

The Science Magazine study found women who read of supposed genetic differences in the abilities of women and men in areas such as math and science performed worse on math tests than women who did not.

The study labeled this occurrence as "stereotype threat" where self-relevant stereotypes lead people to show stereotype-consistent behavior, according to

Science Magazine.

Such studies should shed light on the fact that providing equal opportunity to members of each sex in all fields of study requires confronting such stereotypes.

These stereotypes could also explain the under representation of women in politics, Western women's studies program assistant Shurla Thibou said.

The image of certain occupations, such as politics, as a "boys club" can make a woman think twice about running for office, she said.

Western sociology professor Karen Bradley said while overt discrimination has decreased, certain ideas and attitudes about women's ability to succeed in math and science make it less likely for some capable women to pursue careers in those areas.

Bradley found in her study of a dozen countries that nations such as Turkey and Ireland that require students to take higher levels of math and science classes in secondary school have the most equal representation of

women and men at the college level.

Bradley said a possible explanation is that sexual stereotypes are of little influence when students are required to study these fields more extensively in secondary school compared to the United States.

While the door is certainly open to everyone who wishes to pursue his or her field of interest, such studies show that negative stereotypes are still pervasive in this country and most of the western world.

To overcome these stereotypes it is important that such fields are not portrayed as a "boys club."

The roles of women in areas of math and science need to be emphasized so young girls can imagine themselves doing that work and to ensure sexual stereotypes don't keep them from pursuing further education.

This needs to be done by middle school when Bradley said gender identities are formed. Not only to balance the ratio of men to women in certain fields but to ensure that those Turks and Irish don't have the upper hand. Sexual equality is something everyone can get behind when American preeminence is at stake.

"To overcome these stereotypes, it is important that such fields are not portrayed as a 'boys club'."

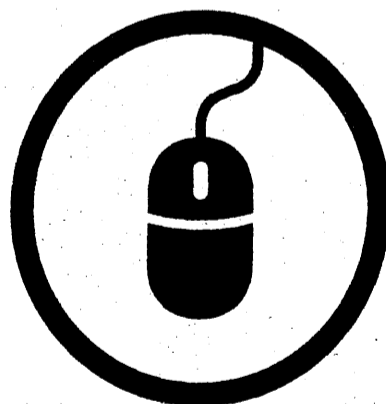
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