



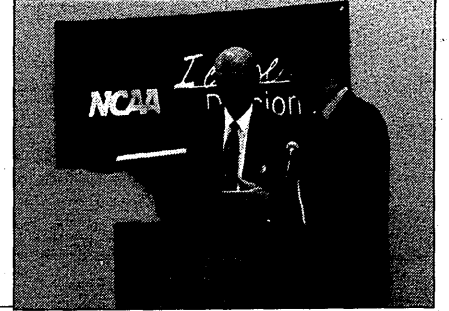
INSTALLATION ART CLASS CREATING PEICES FOR THE ENTIRE CAMPUS

PAGE 8

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WESTERN ALUMNIS BILL WRIGHT KICKS OFF NCAA NATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



PAGE 13

Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009

# THE WESTERN FRONT

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## Fire sprinkler installation will displace half of Buchanan Towers

Julia Means  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Beginning spring 2010, the east wing of Buchanan Towers will be closed for the installation of fire sprinklers, displacing up to 207 students to other residence halls on campus.

Currently, Buchanan Towers has an alarm system to alert the residents and staff in the building in the case of a fire, but Western is in the process of setting up a sprinkler system that will stop a fire, said Martin Reed, associate director of facilities in university residences.

Students living in the west wing while the east wing is under construction could expect to have no parking spaces in Buchanan Towers' lots, construction noise from approximately 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. as well as periodically losing electricity and having no water, Reed said. Students will be warned ahead of time when these instances will occur, Reed said.

The level of noise disturbance should not be much different from the construction that happened in Higginson Hall two years ago, said Willy Hart, director of university residences.

"We have had multiple projects while students were living on campus and have had very little complaints," Hart said. "Although there will be an impact, it is such as it will not be a big deal."

The construction company will be informed of approximate dates for midterms, as well as Dead Week and finals week, Reed said. The company will also

see **RENOVATIONS** page 3

## Major summer construction ahead

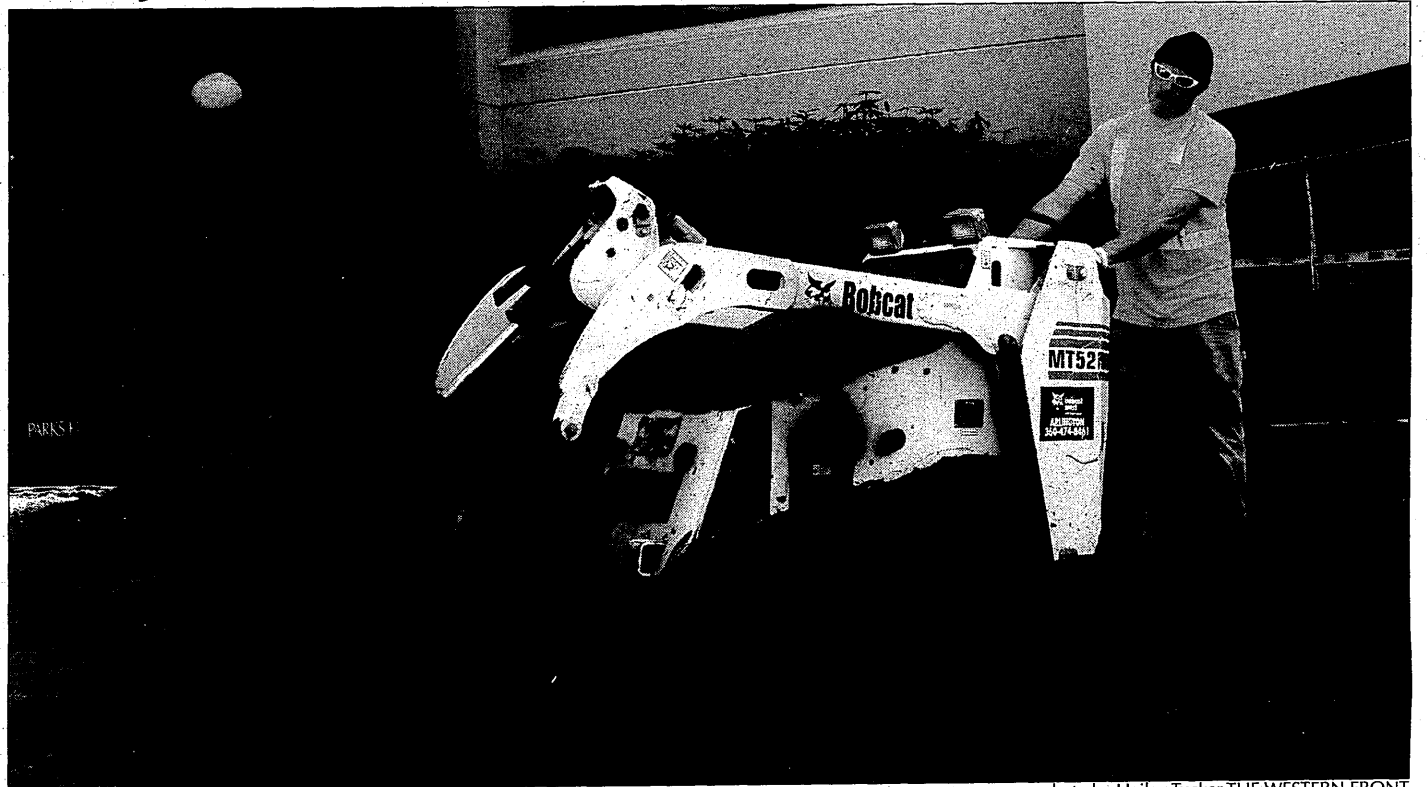


photo by Hailey Tucker THE WESTERN FRONT  
Rod Steele levels the ground near Parks Hall after the bricks had been removed earlier that day. The construction in Haskell Plaza will replace cracked and loose bricks and prevent unlevelled ground.

Hailey Tucker  
THE WESTERN FRONT

The number of chain link fences and blocked off construction zones will continue to increase on campus over the remaining weeks of spring quarter as Western enters into a summer of major construction and renovation projects.

Tim Wynn, director of Facilities Management, said seven major construction projects are currently underway, but during the summer, on-campus construction will increase to 20 major projects. All of the current and upcoming projects are funded by either the 2007-09 or 2009-11 biennial capital budgets.

Wynn said construction and renovation are necessary to the learning envi-

ronment at Western. If buildings are not maintained, then structural problems, such as leaking roofs or poor ventilation, begin to detract from students' experiences and ability to learn, he said.

The construction will block off a number of areas on campus, requiring Western students, faculty and staff to find alternate routes through campus, Wynn said. Facilities Management has worked to try and make the construction as un-disruptive as possible, but some disturbances are unavoidable, Wynn said.

### Projects to aid bicyclists and keep old buildings up-to-date

A majority of the on-going renovation projects are intended to maintain the qual-

ity, create accessibility in old buildings on campus and encourage more students to use alternative transportation, Wynn said.

The first of the seven major projects currently underway includes installing an elevator in College Hall. Wynn said construction in College Hall began in January and is expected to be complete by the end of May.

Wynn said the building has never been accessible for individuals with disabilities, so the addition of an elevator had been a long-time goal of the Facilities Management staff. The new elevator will allow access to 90 percent of the building when

see **CONSTRUCTION** page 7

## Apartment complex near Western will house released inmates

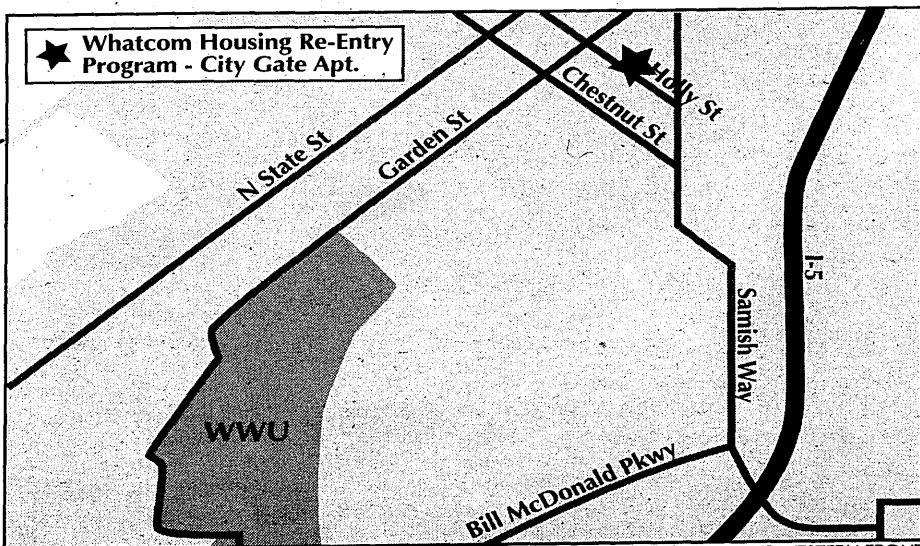


photo illustration by Brandon Kays THE WESTERN FRONT

Katelyn Yruretagoyena  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Thirty-nine former inmates who have been released from Washington state prisons and Whatcom County Jail will be moved to City Gate Apartments at 607 E. Holly St., about five minutes from Western, on June 1, 2009.

This is in addition to the 16 former inmates from federal prisons who moved into a halfway house at 1641 Baker Creek Place on May 1.

The housing is designed to keep the inmates from becoming homeless and committing any further offenses after being released, said Wendy Jones, chief corrections deputy with the Whatcom County

Sheriff's Office.

City Gate is permanent housing for former inmates who are homeless with mental health issues, such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, and substance abuse issues, Jones said. A majority of these inmates have committed misdemeanor offenses, such as criminal trespassing, disorderly conduct, shoplifting and low-level assault. However, about 12 of the inmates moving into City Gate are from prison and considered higher-risk offenders, she said.

Thad Allen, re-entry specialist for the Department of Corrections, said a total

see **INMATES** page 5

## Western junior awarded NOAA scholarship

Brian Conner  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western junior Wesley Dyer, an environmental science and economics major, won the Earnest F. Hollings scholarship through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for his academic achievements in the environmental science department.

The scholarship will provide Dyer with up to \$8,000 per year for tuition and a paid internship through NOAA. The scholarship was designed to help students study oceanic and atmospheric science.

Dyer heard about the scholarship from a professor and had to submit his official transcript, two essays and a general application to be eligible. The competition was tough because thousands of people applied, he said. The Western Front recently sat down with Dyer to discuss the scholarship, his research and career plans.

**Q:** Why do you think NOAA chose you for the scholarship instead of other candidates?

**A:** I'm very dedicated to the environment. I hope that showed on my application. I could see myself doing this kind of work.

**Q:** What inspired you to major in environmental science and economics at Western?

**A:** Ultimately, I want to go into environmental law, and I know that economic majors do really well in law school. Economics really helps the way you have to think about law. So much of environmental policy affects economics and vice-versa.

**Q:** Has Western's environmental and economic departments presented you with any interesting opportunities?

**A:** I've had the opportunity to study in the field and the opportunity to get a combined environmental and economic degree. I don't know of any other colleges that have an interconnectedness between the college of economics and the college of environment.

**Q:** How do your future plans correlate with NOAA?

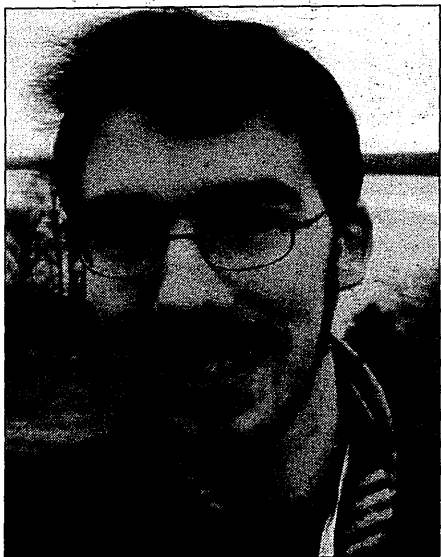


photo courtesy Wesley Dyer

Western junior Wesley Dyer.

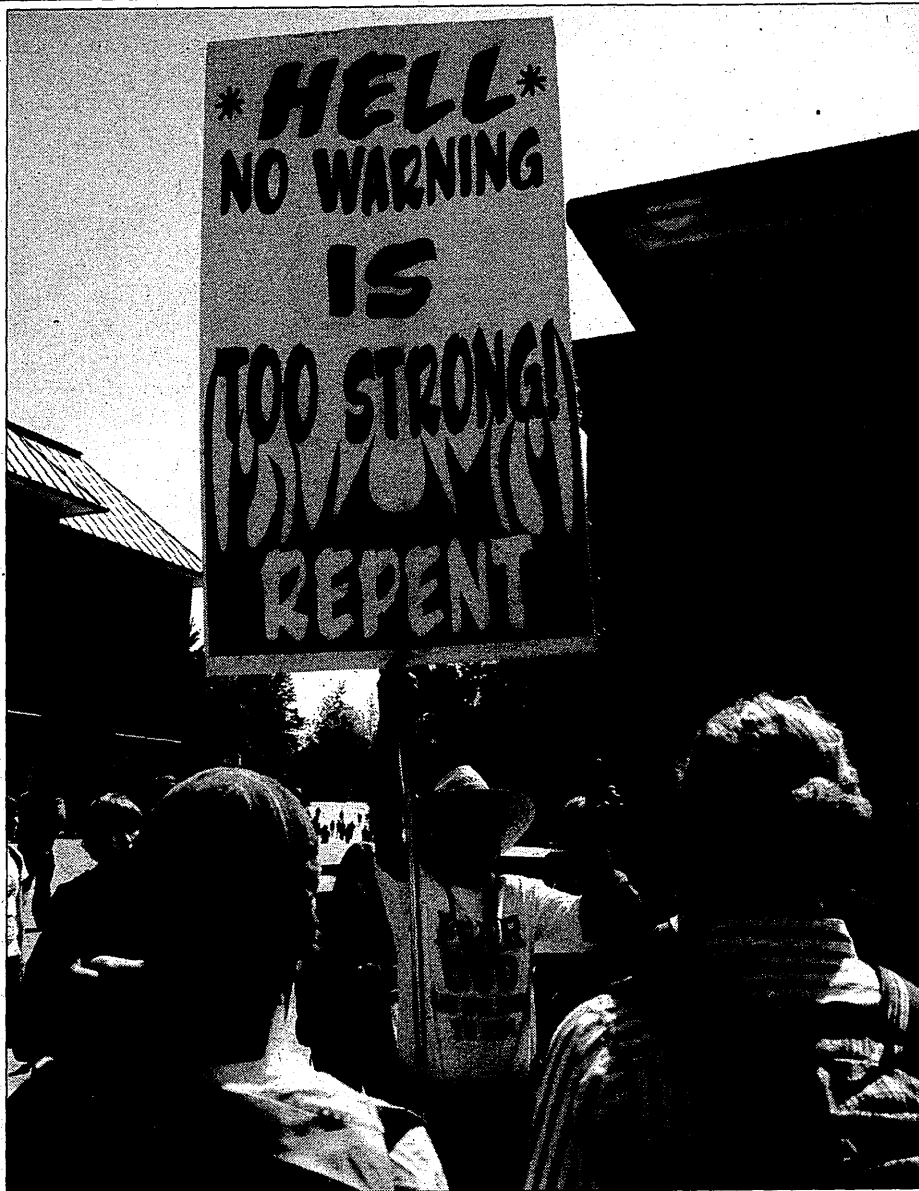


photo by Katie Greene THE WESTERN FRONT

Western students gather in Red Square to listen to Robert Ephrata speak Wednesday.

**A:** NOAA deals with a lot of marine and air policies, and they have specific departments that also focus on socioeconomic analysis of their policies. I am interested in both marine and atmospheric processes. I could really fit in anywhere. I don't want to limit myself to purely the coast though.

**Q:** What has prepared you to do field research?

**A:** I took general chemistry III, which is a good lab class. I've also taken environmental science courses and have learned how to do formal policy write-ups, which will certainly help when I do my internship. I have also taken geology classes that have helped me work with weather maps.

**Q:** After graduation, what are your career plans?

**A:** I'm interested in all aspects of law and will have a hard time choosing one area. I imagine myself going into environmental law as a whole. I find the marine and atmosphere very interesting.

**Q:** How will you shape law and the environment?

**A:** I would basically fight against corporations who are polluting and against businesses that aren't adhering to environmental policies and the laws of the land. I think it would be really cool to work for an organization such as the Sierra Club, because they make sure policies are followed. I will also fight for species who can't make their claim in a court, such as a polar bear.

**Q:** How do you plan to make an impact on the environment or planet as a whole?

**A:** I've always wanted to help the planet in some way, shape or form. I didn't know

what that entailed. The way we have been treating the environment over the past decade, with the climate changing, the best way for me to make an impact is through environmental law.

**Q:** Do you have any suggestions for Western in regards to the environment?

**A:** The lights left on bother me. I don't see the whole benefit of them being left on, especially in bathrooms. People often leave the lights on in bathrooms when nobody is in them. I do really appreciate that Western buys all of its energy from renewable sources. It would also be cool if Western could get more solar panels.

### Cops Box

#### University Police

May 20

- University Police responded to a report of males in the Sehome Arboretum tossing lit toilet paper from Sehome tower onto surrounding trees. When police arrived, the suspects had fled the area.

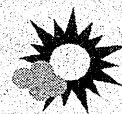
#### Bellingham Police

May 20

- Officers responded to a report of an auto theft at the 900 block of Harris Avenue. A golf cart was stolen and driven into a pond.
- Officers responded to a report of a man throwing a can of soda at the leg of another man at the 1300 block of Railroad Avenue. The suspect was arrested on suspicion of misdemeanor assault.

Cops Box compiled by Lauren Sauser

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**SUN**  
High: 63° F  
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**MON**  
High: 65° F  
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**TUES**  
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## RENOVATIONS: Next years' residents may endure noise interruption

from 1

take into consideration the fact that students will be studying, he said.

A feasibility study will take place this June for the sprinkler installation project, which will set the budget as well as decide which construction company will take on the project, Reed said.

Western is unsure of exactly how much the installation will cost, but Reed said the Ridgeway Gamma sprinkler installation project last summer cost about \$3.4 million, Reed said.

Western has been working on installing sprinklers in all the residence halls for the past 10 years and plans for all residence halls to have sprinkler systems, in addition to fire alarms, between now and 2017, Reed said.

"We want to know that all of our residence halls have safe and effective sprinklers," Reed said.

The west wing of Buchanan Towers is set to close down in spring 2011 for the installation of a sprinkler system and will follow a similar plan to the east wing construction, Reed said.

Reed said students living in the east wing of Buchanan Towers will move out of their rooms at the end of spring break and be placed in other residence halls throughout Western's campus.

At the beginning of the 2009-10 school year, approximately 207 students will live in the east wing. As students leave the residence halls throughout the school year, for reasons such as graduating, poor grades or personal reasons, the beds will not be reassigned and remain vacant, Reed said.

Western residence halls typically have about 250-300 available beds at the end of winter quarter each year, said Karen Walker, assistant director of occupancy management and assessment.

"We know that we can accommodate people," Reed said. "We have planned so that there will be enough [room]."

Western has been in a situation similar to this twice before, with renovations in Higginson Hall and Birnam Wood and Western has a good operating plan, Walker said.

"It's always a little challenging, but it always works out since we have so much room," Walker said.

As new and returning students ap-

plied for housing, information was posted on the housing Web site letting students know they will be moving into a construction zone, Walker said.

However, Western freshman Samantha Weis has a different story.

"I actually didn't know they will be doing construction until the other day," Weis said.

Weis said she lives on the eighth floor in the east wing in Buchanan Towers and will be living in the same room next year.

Students planning to live in Buchanan Towers next year will be sent an e-mail next week to remind them of the construction project in case they want to change their mind because there is still time to

choose, Walker said.

Western sophomore Natalie Hoyt is in her second year in Buchanan Towers and currently lives on the fourth floor of the east wing. Hoyt said she plans to move to the west wing next year to remain in the same dorm all year long.

"I like the community of Buchanan Towers, and the way the rooms are set up," Hoyt said. "I think [the construction] will be a pain, but I'm willing to put up with it."

The Buchanan Towers parking lot will be the location for the construction company to set up their equipment, and students will not be able to park near the residence hall, Reed said.

"I'm leaving [Buchanan Towers] because they are eliminating parking in Buchanan Towers, and I need a car," Western freshman Allyson Fleming said.

Fleming said she thinks it is ridiculous to stay in Buchanan Towers and park in the C Lots because students who go home for the weekend would then have to lug all of their stuff to the residence hall.

One of the most common questions Reed receives is why both wings in Buchanan Towers cannot be under construction at the same time and for the construction to only take place during the summer when the dorm is already closed.

Reed said money is the main reason. The cost of materials and labor is expensive to begin with, and the extra labor needed to complete the project in a shorter amount of time is not feasible, he said.

Also, if both wings are under construction, Reed said he is not sure if the project would be done before students return.

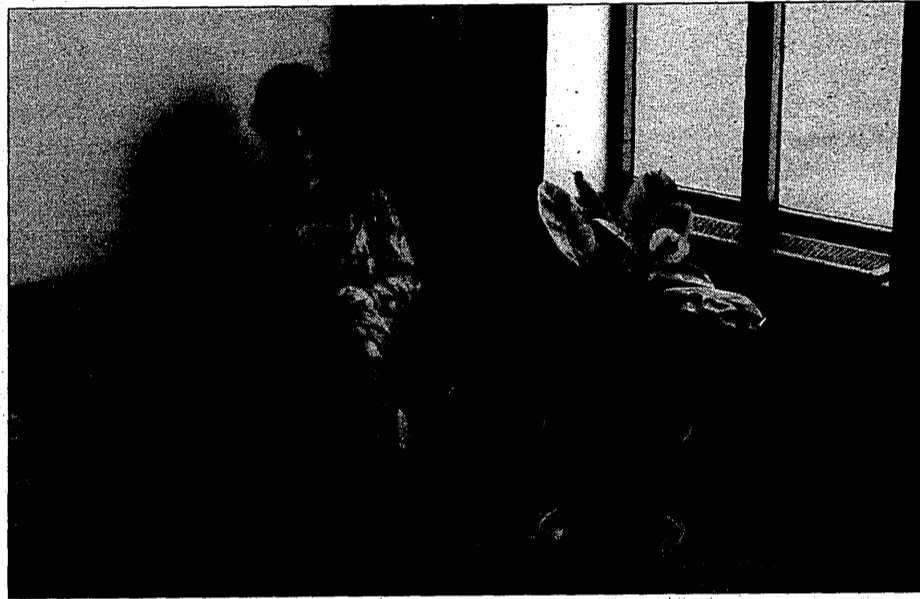


photo by Carolyn Copstead THE WESTERN FRONT

Western sophomore Natalie Hoyt poses in her Buchanan Towers (BT) room. Hoyt, who is planning on living in BT again next year, said she specifically requested to live in the opposite part of the building with the hopes of lessening the impact of the renovation when it begins next spring.

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# AmeriCorps awards grant to Western program

Student volunteer program awarded \$375,000 to promote community service

**Brian Conner**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western's Students in Service AmeriCorps program received a \$375,000 grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service to promote community service and provide students with scholarships.

Students in Service is associated with the Washington Campus Contact AmeriCorps program, a national service network that offers students the opportunity to work in the community in almost any capacity and receive a scholarship to help finance higher education, said Patrick McGinty, director of the Students in Service program.

According to the AmeriCorps Web site, AmeriCorps was created in 1993 as part of the National and Community Service Trust Act, which established the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Western's Students in Service program currently has 45 students enrolled who have completed 20,000 hours of community service and generated \$78,000 in scholarships, McGinty said.

He said the minimum amount of service for a member is 300 hours during a one-year term of service, and the students can earn an education award of \$1,000.

According to a press release, the Washington Campus Compact will be receiving a \$100,000 grant from the College Spark Washington Foundation to fund the Retention Project, a new mentoring pro-

gram that pairs college students with middle school and high school students.

Western senior Ilyssa Plumer is joining the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps for 10 months in Sacramento, Calif., where she will be helping people with disaster preparedness and relief.

"I am eager to find out who I'll get to help," Plumer said. "I am very focused on getting communities together."

Plumer volunteered in Chehalis, Wash., after the floods in spring 2008 and has worked in Western's Lifestyle Adviser program for two years. Plumer said volunteering is crucial for any community to function because not everyone has a strong support system and available resources.

"Don't knock it until you try it," Plumer said. "Find something that you love and get involved."

McGinty said he encourages students to volunteer because they can earn money and help other people. He said students who are considering an internship for a non-profit organization should apply for the Students in Service program because they could be eligible for a scholarship.

"Western students have skills and knowledge that can help the community," McGinty said. "You can sit at home or you can do volunteer work, but doing volunteer work is a win-win situation because it gets you out in the community and allows you to learn."

Ninety percent of students who enroll in the Students in Service program have an idea of a non-profit organization that

they are interested in helping, McGinty said. If a student needs help finding an organization the Whatcom Volunteer Center can help.

Sue Ellen Heflin, executive director of the Whatcom Volunteer Center, said volunteer opportunities are available for any student in any major. She said the center currently has 400 volunteer positions.

Heflin said volunteering provides students with an excellent opportunity to learn in areas outside the classroom.

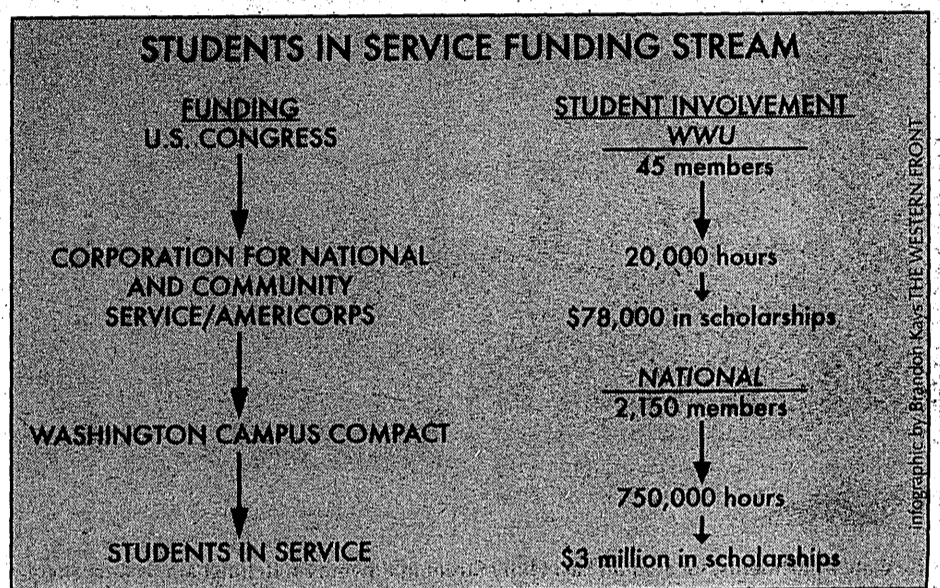
Volunteering is a great opportunity to meet people who might think differently and have had different life experiences, she said.

"Often times, students start volunteering, and they usually become happier

here," Heflin said. "Unfortunately, sometimes students think Bellingham isn't their community and don't feel connected, but everyone should be invested in this community."

Western graduate Joel Holland began working for the AmeriCorps State program in September 2008. Holland works full time as a mediator at the Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center. He said volunteering at a non-profit organization allows a student or recent graduate to start in a higher position than at a corporation.

"There aren't a lot of jobs for recent grads, and non-profits give professional experience, which has lots of benefits," Holland said. "You figure out really quickly that you can live on very little money."



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# INMATES: Local residents uncomfortable with location of housing

from 1

of 40 City Gate apartment leases will be taken over by Pioneer Human Services, a non-profit, Seattle-based organization. He said none of the individuals in the housing program will be sex offenders or arsonists.

Jones said the housing will be operated by Pioneer Human Services and fully funded by the Homeless Grant Assistance Program, which gave \$3 million to Whatcom County for the project. Therefore, if the individuals living in the housing cannot afford to pay a portion of their bills, they will not be penalized.

Allen said the City Gate Apartments were chosen because their location has the

benefits Pioneer Human Services needs to manage the program. For example, City Gate only has one entrance, which will make it easy for the residential manager to monitor. Also, he said it is close to important services, such as food banks, employment services, transportation, the Department of Corrections and police.

Jones said a residential manager will live on-site, and case managers will make visits to the City Gate Apartments. She said the residents are free to go as they please, and City Gate is not a lock-down situation. However, the residential manager will call the police if there is illegal activity, such as drug dealing.

Joseph Nagel, case manager for re-entry programs at City Gate, said he will

work with the residents on a regular basis to help them with things, such as health care and finding jobs.

"This is a hardcore group of individuals to try and treat," Jones said. "And we know that they keep rotating back through the criminal justice system because there is nothing else for them."

Jones said it costs \$65 per day to keep a person in jail, and many of the same people keep cycling through the system because their behaviors are out of control, but police have nowhere for them to go.

Jones said many homeless people also commit crimes purposely to be arrested so they can be somewhere warm and get fed. She said of the 8,300 people booked in Whatcom County jail each year, about 75 percent of them have been in jail before.

Allen said it costs \$30,000 to keep a person in prison for a year, compared to approximately \$6,000 for rent payments of one person in a City Gate apartment.

Jones said the county jail spends around \$60,000 on medications each month, especially for the 18 to 23 percent of the jail's population diagnosed with mental health issues. She said this "housing-first" option significantly drops the amounts of expensive emergency room visits and jail costs.

"Once they are here, the criminal justice system was not designed to take care of people with mental illness, so they sit and they stay," Jones said. "This will help keep them stable in the community, and we know without that stabilized housing the probability they are going to reoffend and come in to the system is very, very high."

Once the residents of City Gate re-

ceive medications and support, they can take the next step by receiving an education or finding a job, Jones said.

She said the experience in other areas that have tried similar re-entry programs is many of the residents decide to move to different housing, which will make room for others in need of support.

Mike Harka, manager of the Shangri-La Downtown Motel next to the City Gate Apartments, said he is not happy about former inmates moving in next door. He said it is hard enough to keep the area drug-free and crime-free without the added risk. He said he is concerned for the safety of his customers, but he understands the inmates need a place to go. But he said he would prefer if it was not at the City Gate Apartments.

Western freshman Alyssa Olson said she is also unhappy about the location choice.

"That's ridiculous they are moving them downtown, because downtown is a family-oriented environment," Olson said.

Western freshman Kyle Evans said he would not feel comfortable living next to former inmates, especially since many of them have had drug abuse problems.

Jones said she is aware community members are angry or unhappy with the situation. However, Jones said she thinks the community will be more comfortable with the housing system after a couple of years because it will not be such a new idea, but it is going to be a transition for everyone. She said the current residents of the apartments are not being kicked out next year, but their yearly leases are not being renewed.

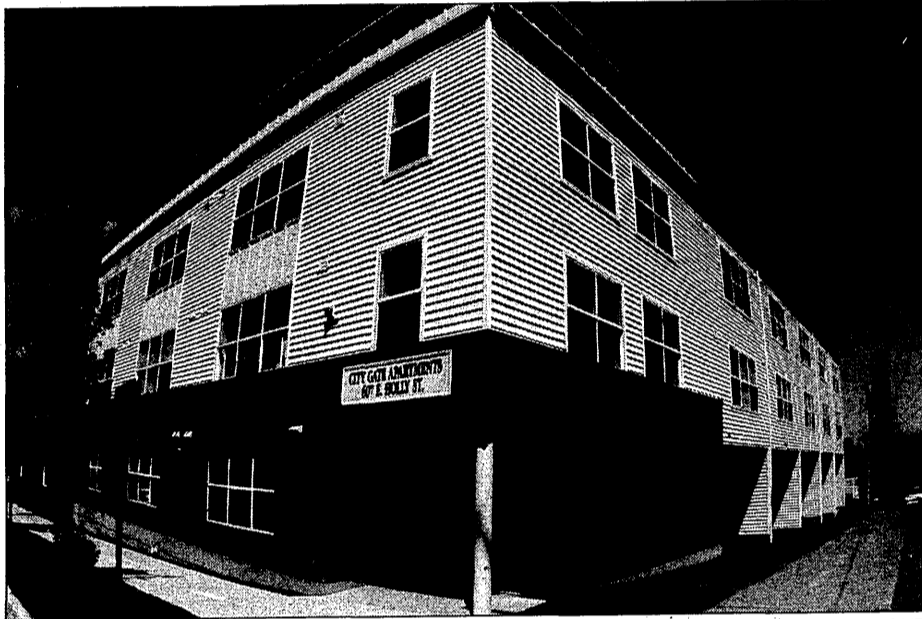


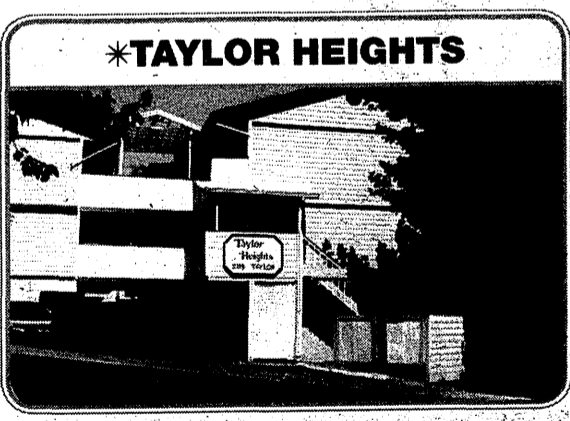
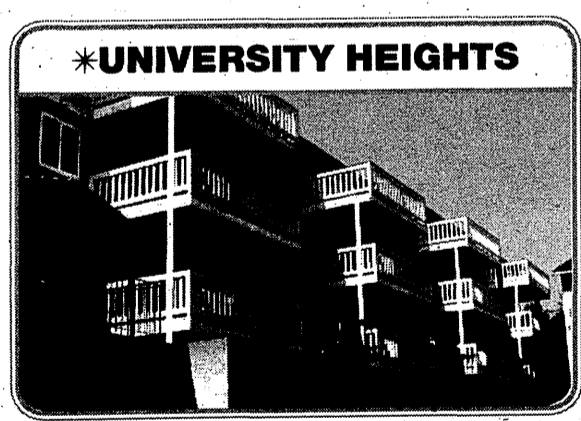
photo by Keith Daigle THE WESTERN FRONT

City Gate Apartments, located on East Holly Street in downtown Bellingham, is not renewing the leases of its current tenants to allow 39 former inmates to live.

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# 'Team Teresa' walks to cure brain cancer

Tiana Day  
THE WESTERN FRONT

A daughter of former Western employee Teresa LaFreniere has compiled a cancer walk team and is raising funds for the Seattle Brain Cancer Walk in honor of her mother who has struggled with brain cancer for a year and a half. The walk will take place 8:30 a.m., May 30, at Mercer Island High School.

LaFreniere worked at Western for nearly 43 years and was diagnosed with brain cancer shortly after retiring from Western in January 2008.

LaFrenier's 40-year-old daughter Gina Weigum, a 1992 Western graduate, and her 9-member team are pushing to meet their \$5,000 fundraising goal for the brain cancer walk. Weigum said her team has raised more than \$4,000 since the team was created April 1, 2009. Weigum said she is on the committee that is planning the Seattle Brain Cancer Walk.

According to the Seattle Brain Cancer Walk Web site, all proceeds go to benefit the Center for Advanced Brain Tumor Treatment at the Swedish Neuroscience Institute, a multidisciplinary cancer research and treatment center. Last year, more than 500 people participated in the cancer walk and raised \$120,000 for the center, according to the site.

"I really wanted to do [the walk] in honor of my mom," she said. "Even the name of our team, Team Teresa, is in honor of my mom."

Though brain cancer is a terminal disease, Weigum said her mother is holding up, but LaFreniere has her ups and downs. LaFreniere has undergone three surgeries in two years, the first craniotomy was on Dec. 18, 2007 and the second on Dec. 31, 2008.

LaFreniere underwent a third surgery mid-February 2009 to run a shunt from her brain to her stomach to alleviate the pressure from the excess blood in her brain. She will begin undergoing heavy chemotherapy this week to get rid of some new

small brain tumors doctors found.

Weigum said LaFreniere is now in physical therapy regaining her strength to walk after being in a wheelchair for five months and using a walker, Weigum said.

LaFreniere was first diagnosed Dec. 13, 2007, the day Weigum found her fallen in the bathtub in her mother's home. Weigum, who was pregnant, said she called the paramedics who discovered some paralysis on part of LaFreniere's face.

After being taken to St. Joseph's Hospital in Bellingham, doctors told LaFreniere that a cancerous mass had formed on the right frontal lobe of her brain. Weigum said her mother has always been a very positive, upbeat person.

When the doctors gave her the news, Weigum said her mother's initial reaction was, "Oh, bummer."

Each year more than 220,000 Americans, with more than 1,200 from the Pacific Northwest, are diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor, according to the Seattle Brain Cancer Walk Web site. There is no cure for brain cancer, and life expectancy is typically around one to two years, according to the site. It has been nearly a year and a half since LaFreniere was first diagnosed with brain cancer, but Weigum said LaFreniere is doing OK.

LaFreniere is not the first Western employee to be diagnosed with brain cancer. Penny Britton, a former Western communications professor, passed away December 2008 from a malignant brain tumor. Britton was 67.

Weigum, who is currently one of the top 10 individual fundraisers for the Seattle Brain Cancer Walk, said she first found out about the walk from the surgeon who removed the tumor from her mother's brain. For Weigum, it is about fighting as a team and as a family, she said.

"I'd love to see Western out there walking for my mom," Weigum said. "I think this coming together for people who have cancer... is hugely important."



photo courtesy Gina Weigum  
Teresa LaFreniere with her daughters Gina Weigum (left) and Diana LaFreniere after her graduation from Western.

LaFreniere said her family is everything to her. She said she loves and appreciates Weigum for putting the team together.

"I think it's incredible," LaFreniere said. "I feel like I don't deserve it, and [Weigum] tells me all day that I do. I feel so blessed that they're doing this walk in my honor, and they're just my pride and joy. Everybody should be so lucky to have children who would step in when needed."

LaFreniere said Western played an important role in her life by being able to help students. She said this was one of the most satisfying aspects of her job.

"It was never just a job," she said. "It was more like a calling."

LaFreniere said her favorite Western memory was standing in a doorway on graduation day watching students get their caps and gowns. She said she felt like she got to make a difference in their lives.

"I helped 140 of those students," she said. "It gave me just such a thrill."

Cheryl Hamack, 59, is a member of Team Teresa and has worked with LaFreniere during the early 1970s in the sociology and anthropology departments. Hamack said LaFreniere was kind, inspiring and a role model and was always there to greet everyone with a smile.

Hamack said LaFreniere helped her become her personal best and helped her give back to others because of the seeds LaFreniere planted in her life.


"I've taken Teresa with me and have had that pay-it-forward effect," she said.

Hamack said she loves and admires LaFreniere's smile and eyes. Hamack said the way LaFreniere talked about her daughters as her fondest memories.

Hamack said she joined Team Teresa when she came to Bellingham to explore the town and visit Western. She said she missed LaFreniere and came across a woman in Old Main who told her about LaFreniere's cancer diagnosis and put her in contact with Weigum. Hamack said she became part of the team because she thinks it is important to raise awareness and to get people to talk about things that make them uncomfortable.

Hamack said LaFreniere is the seventh person she has known personally to have been diagnosed with brain cancer. Hamack said she is excited to be participating in the Seattle Brain Cancer Walk.

Hamack said she is grateful for all LaFreniere has done for her, and said she cannot wait to see LaFreniere at the walk and watching from the sidelines.



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## CONSTRUCTION: Summer projects will minimize impact on campus life



photo by Hailey Tucker THE WESTERN FRONT  
Kurt Miller puts a no trespassing sign on a fenced-off area in Haskell Plaza Wednesday afternoon. Brick replacement in the plaza is one of many recent construction projects taking place at Western.

from 1

construction is complete, Wynn said.

The cost for the project was roughly \$415,000, Wynn said.

"We did as good of a design as we could, but whenever you go into an old building you uncover things," Wynn said. "But we had anticipated that, in regards to having the funds available to deal with that, so we're OK right now."

Another large project currently underway is the installation of new covered bike racks in four locations. The racks are being installed near Haggard Hall, Bond Hall, Carver Gym and the Biology Building. The racks are expected to be ready for use by the end of June, said Rick Benner, executive director of Facilities Planning.

Wynn said the Bike and Transportation Committee had been requesting more covered bike racks dispersed across campus, and Western finally received the funds to meet that request.

Benner said the new racks will create 176 additional covered lock-up spots, and the old racks will be relocated to different areas around Haskell Plaza, where students have been requesting more bike racks.

"Over the last couple years, we've seen increases in bike usage, and so this is trying to meet that need," Benner said.

Wynn said the new racks and the construction cost to install them will add up to roughly \$142,000.

The bottom floor of Parks Hall is also being renovated. The area used to house the Communication Sciences and Disorders Department, which has been moved into the Academic Instruction Center. The space is being redone to create new offices and conference rooms for the College of Business and Economics, Wynn said.

"We really need to get as much office space as possible," said Brian Burton, dean of the College of Business and Economics. "We've got a lot of folks around the university; we've got some people in Arntzen Hall, and we've got some people in Bond Hall, who would be much better placed here."

The \$800,000 project is supposed to be finished by the end of summer, Wynn said. "We've really got a constraint because we're taking Miller Hall down with a lot of offices and a lot of classrooms, and we need places to move people," Wynn said. "So we really need to get that done before class starts in September; it's going to be close."

Of the construction projects, two are complete, installing new floors in parts of Carver Gym and building a green house near Arntzen Hall, Wynn said.

The remaining two projects include redoing the exterior of the Chemistry Building by sandblasting it to remove dirt and replacing cracked bricks in Haskell Plaza.

### Major construction to reroute students

Starting over the next few weeks and into the summer, more major renovations will begin. The renovation of Miller Hall will begin summer 2009 and take around two years to complete.

Aside from the Miller Hall renovation, the other large projects involve reconfiguring the pathways on south campus and major additions to the Buchanan Tower residence halls and the Chemistry Building.

Benner said East College Way is going to be heavily trafficked by construction vehicles when the Miller Hall construction renovation begins.

Facilities Planning and Management saw this as a safety concern, so it began planning a way to direct most students away from the construction site, Benner said.

"What we need to do is try to find a way to reroute both pedestrians and bicycles off of [East College Way] and over to the main part of campus," Benner said.

The new lane will redirect riders and pedestrians from behind the Fairhaven Commons on a new path that crosses over East College Way, across the pathway to Fairhaven College, and over into the plaza by the west wing of the Academic Instruction Center, Benner said. Stop signs will be installed on both sides of the road where the path crosses East College Way, Benner said.

The project is out for bidding now, but Benner said he expects the construction to total almost \$250,000.

The pathway project is scheduled to begin at the end of June and be completed by the end of August, Benner said. After the construction of Miller Hall is finished, the new routes will remain as a permanent change, Benner said.

The Chemistry Building addition is scheduled to begin sometime during the summer as well and will add almost 6,000 square footage near the grass field behind the building, Wynn said.

The addition will house staff and fac-

ulty offices currently located in the central building, and the old office space will be remodeled into labs, Wynn said.

"The whole idea is to make more labs there," Wynn said.

An addition to Buchanan Towers is also on the schedule this summer, which would add a new wing onto the current structure. Wynn said this project will begin as long as they receive good bids and the board approves the bids.

The Humanities Building will have a new ventilation system installed, and a new sprinkler system will be installed in the Fairhaven residence buildings, Wynn said.

Interior construction in Haggard Hall and Wilson Library will also be taking place, as well as roadwork on West College Way and potentially in parking lot 17G, Wynn said.

The construction in Haggard Hall will create new space for Western's Technology Services, which will be moving out of the Miller Hall construction zone, Wynn said. The interior changes in Wilson Library will involve renovating the top floor to house Western's University Special Collections, Wynn said.

### Campus construction will impact students, faculty and staff

Wynn said although arrangements have been made with the Parking Office to try to minimize all of the projects' impacts to campus, the large number of construction projects this summer will make more areas around campus inaccessible to Western students, faculty and staff.

Inaccessible areas students may need to work around will include Miller Hall, the backside of the Chemistry Building, areas around south campus where the pathways are going to be constructed and areas around Wilson Library and the Humanities building, Wynn said.

Wynn said Facilities Management has made an effort to talk with Western's staff and faculty to try and mitigate any potential problems in advance. He also acknowledged, however, that noise, fences and fumes are unavoidable.

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# INSTALLATION ART

## Art students get out of the gallery mindset, install their artistic creations

Hailey Tucker  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Marching up to the Fairhaven dining hall, students have been confronted by oversized, three-dimensional vegetables and fruits pierced by black paper spears that appear to be sprouting corn. Pieces of black paper sprawl out from each painted cardboard morsel, clinging to the stairwell's walls like ivy. Students who have eaten dinner in the Fairhaven dining hall in recent weeks, whether they acknowledged the giant eggplant, broccoli, pineapple and tomato, have been a part of second-year Fairhaven student Jack Lipke's installation art piece.

Other installation art pieces have been appearing and disappearing around campus in recent weeks as part of two installation art classes, one being taught through Fairhaven College and the other through Western.

The Fairhaven class has put out the majority of pieces that may have been spotted near south campus, including Lipke's piece and others. A parade of students dressed in buckets stomping around north campus and a piece that was shown May 14, 2009, titled "I hate my mother ... I don't want to clean my room" in the B Gallery of the Fine Arts Building were the cooperative effort of the eight-student Western class.

Fairhaven assistant professor John Feodorov and Western associate professor Sebastian Mendes said both classes have taken time to look at the history of installation art for examples, but the classes are primarily taught as workshops for the students. Feodorov and Mendes both require the students to produce a few pieces during the quarter to explore the purpose, meaning and application of

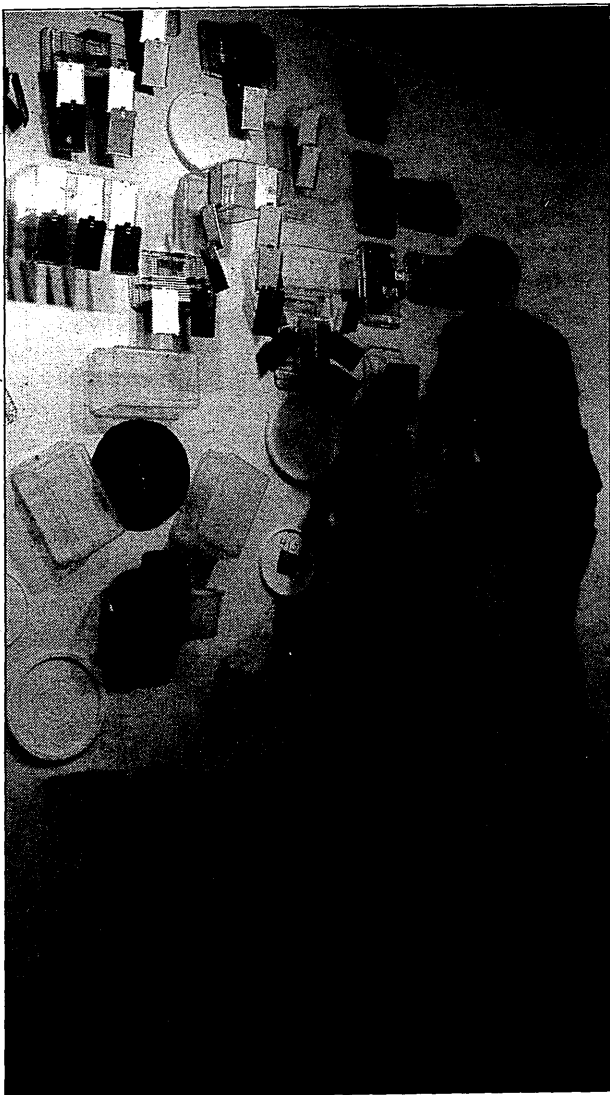


photo by Hailey Tucker THE WESTERN FRONT

Western senior Matt Harnetiaux climbs a ladder to add more recycled and discarded materials to the walls of his class' installation art piece in the B Gallery space.

installation art.

Lipke said everyone seems to have their own definition of installation art, which it can incorporate a broad range of ideas. Other students from both classes agreed that installation art can be hard to define.

"[Installation art is] usually something that exists in a space and defines it or redefines it," said Western senior Matt Crosbie, who is enrolled in Mendes' class. "Decorating a bathroom can be installation art depending on how

a piece that formed piles of trash with the word "away" written above cut-out human silhouettes, who were posed digging through the piles. The piece was installed, nearly filling a tunnel walkway, near Fairhaven College. Taylor said piece was site-specific, and they thought their message was more effectively conveyed by the location.

It was meant to make students question where their waste goes, and why humans are the only creatures that produce waste that does not get reused in the natural life-

**"One of the most interesting and appealing things about installation art is that it is totally open-ended. Whatever constrictions there may be, they are only constrictions that are imposed upon the space by the artist themselves."**

- Sebastian Mendes,  
Western associate professor

you do it and why you do it."

Crosbie's description met the broad definition of installation art described by Mendes and Feodorov. Mendes said installation art transforms the ideas of space and time. Feodorov said installation art aims to create an environment that includes the viewer in the piece.

Mendes said there are almost no constraints on installation art. He said installation art can include objects, sound, video, performance, scent, texture and even temperature and humidity to change the viewers perception of a space.

"One of the most interesting and appealing things about installation art is that it is totally open-ended," Mendes said. "Whatever constrictions there may be, they are only constrictions that are imposed upon the space by the artist themselves."

The final pieces for Feodorov's class are due during the remaining weeks of the quarter, so he said to expect to see more pieces around south campus, turning the space into an interactive art gallery.

Mendes' class will be taking over the Northwest Computer building at 1211 Cornwall Ave. to turn the area into an installation art exhibition.

The class will start transforming the space May 26, 2009, which will give them time to see the space and design pieces that work within it before the exhibition opens on the evening of June 5, 2009, Mendes said. The exhibition will open during one of Bellingham's downtown art walks and is expected to stay open until June 12, 2009, Mendes said.

Many installation art pieces are site specific, which means a specific location is selected for the piece to be built and viewed in. Installation art pieces make the space they are in part of the piece, so even if the same piece were moved and viewed somewhere else, it would not represent the same message or necessarily be the same piece, Feodorov said.

The site-specific element often places installation art outside of galleries or transforms starch-white gallery walls into a piece themselves, Mendes said.

The idea of placing art outside of where viewers are expecting to see it often changes the experiences and understanding of viewers, Lipke said.

"Art in a room that says 'this is art' is something totally different than art that's kind of left ambiguously outside, and is on the active part of the viewer to decide what it is," Lipke said.

First-year Fairhaven student Ruthie Taylor and second-year Fairhaven student Dillon Thomson constructed

cycle, Thomson said.

"Rather than it being a painting hanging nonchalantly on the wall that no one really sees, it's standing up in the middle of where people go," Taylor said. "People have to walk around it, or through it, to get where they are going, so it's forcing people to confront the idea."

Thomson said the tunnel guaranteed their piece would have a big audience and almost gave a sense of claustrophobia to people walking through the tunnel.

After putting their piece up, Taylor said she witnessed various reactions. While some of the reactions were positive, Taylor said she heard some students walking by complain about the piece, saying it was just garbage and not art.

Taylor said even though the piece did not fully convey their message to those students, it at least made them confront the topic at some level. She said the piece literally was garbage and was meant to be disgusting to point out how unpleasant our waste is.

"We're reaching those people because whereas they would probably normally look past something like that, they noticed it and it pissed them off," Taylor said. "Whether or not they know the reason why it makes them angry to see all that trash there, on the most basic level, at least we reached them."

Mendes said installation art often receives a stronger reaction than other forms of art because of its interactive nature.

"The best installation art has a direct and transformative effect on the people who go there," Mendes said. "Gallery art, except for the activity that occurs within your mind, is a very passive kind of experience, whereas the best installation art often invites direct participation with the artist, or between the artist's work and the viewer."

Mendes said there are no themes specific to installation art, and most installation art pieces in the genre deal with the same subject matter as other types of art.

Installation art has almost no restrictions or qualifying factors except that the piece affects the viewer's perception of a space, he said.

By the standards outlined by Mendes, garbage piles in a tunnel can be art as long as the piles change the space they are in.

The idea that some viewers did not accept piles of trash in a tunnel as art exemplifies that installation art can often make viewers ask where the line between art and garbage is.

"Our professor says all the time, 'Well, what is art?'"



## Turning the world into an exhibit

Installations around campus while redefining the way we think of space



photo by Hailey Tucker THE WESTERN FRONT

Western senior Donald Gillham screws one of many discarded, metal rat cages onto the back wall of the B Gallery in the Fine Arts building. The exhibition, "I hate my mother...I don't want to clean my room" was open to the public on May 14, 2009.



photo by Hailey Tucker THE WESTERN FRONT

Western senior Matt Crosbie positions metal nameplates, originally meant to label rat cages, in a pattern on the floor of the B Gallery May 13, 2009.

You can grab a toilet and say it is art, so I don't think really there is a line," Lipke said. "I think it's if [the piece] is effective or not, and putting some garbage in the tunnel was effective, but is that art? I think it is."

Lipke said he thought Taylor and Thomson's piece was art, but it took a guerilla approach, which he said he considers a less effective route.

"I think there has to be an element of mutual respect by the viewers and the artist," Lipke said. "You can go the guerilla way ... or you can propose something that might be attractive to look at, and that might get people thinking instead of turning them off."

Thomson said he could tell someone had tried to tear down some of the silhouettes in their piece, which is part of the negative reaction Lipke wanted to avoid.

Mendes said installation art is almost always temporary because its unconventional location prompts either the artist or someone else to eventually take the piece down.

"Sometimes those ongoing dynamics are an important element in the artist's consideration of what they do, and where they do it," Mendes said. "The element of change can be a welcome part of it."

Lipke said he tried to make it apparent he had spent time constructing the vegetables for his piece, so viewers would give his piece a chance. He said he spent time painting the vegetables and making them visually appealing. Lipke said he has had students ask to keep the vegetables when his piece is taken down, which shows students appreciated the visual aspect of his piece.

Lipke said his piece was about a recent paranoia he developed about how corn, in some form, seems to be in almost every manufactured food product today. From what he heard in passing, Lipke said most students seem to understand the piece, although some walk past it without taking a second glance.

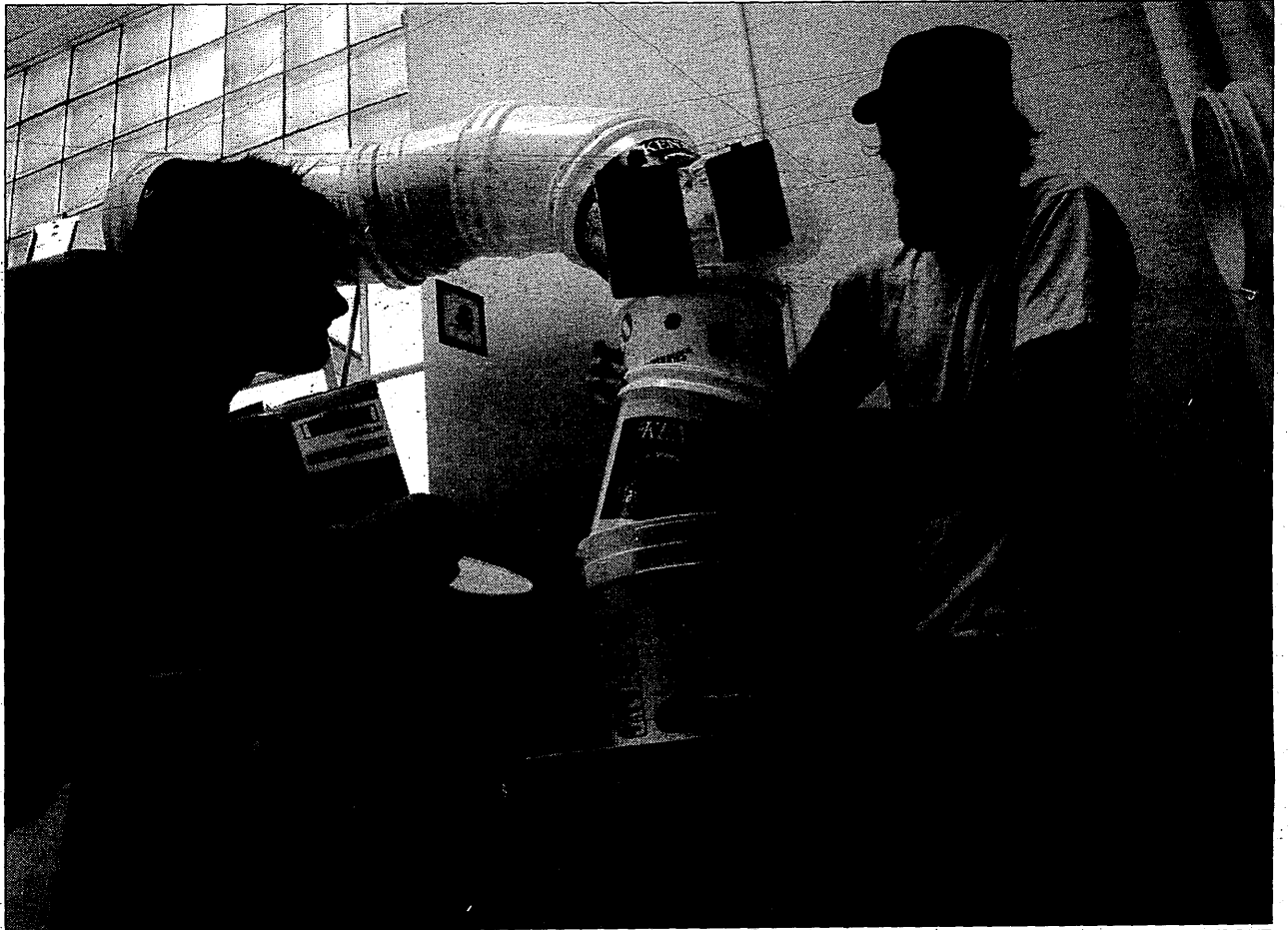


photo by Hailey Tucker THE WESTERN FRONT

Western senior Matt Crosbie helps David Wall stack recycled, plastic food buckets for their class' installation piece in the B Gallery. Wall later lined the walls and ceiling entering the gallery with maps. Many of the materials used in the exhibition were recycled materials that served to redefine viewers' perception of the space the pieces were in, but also how they were constructed.

While waiting in line for the dining hall Wednesday night, Western freshman John Dobler said he liked the piece. He said he thinks the site specific location helps to convey the message behind the piece. Before reading the artist's statement posted on the wall, Dobler said he interpreted the piece to be about how corn is taking over the agricultural market.

The collaborative pieces done by the Western class held an environmental theme as well. Both "I hate my mother...I don't want to clean my room" and the costumes for what Mendes called the bucket people were created using recyclable materials, which the Viking Union dining services had saved for Mendes during the quarter.

Hundreds of metal rat cage feeders that the university had ordered, but was not using, were also included in both pieces.

"We weren't attempting to achieve any particular goal except that maybe people would see that it was all made from discarded, recycled materials, and that there was an abundance of them," Mendes said. "So it might make people aware of the fact that there is so much stuff that Western throws away, and perhaps needlessly, because here we have used it as creative material for an art course."

The recurring themes of reusability and environment are not the only themes that installation art can convey but have been coincidentally expressed in the recent pieces on campus. The students in both classes were allowed to make pieces about any topic, but the pieces displayed so far have portrayed similar themes.

Mendes said it is likely that the materials used for their previous pieces will be used in their upcoming exhibition as well, but the materials will be used in different ways because of the different space. The exhibition will be done in conjunction with Mendes' Art 494 class, Advanced Studio Seminar.

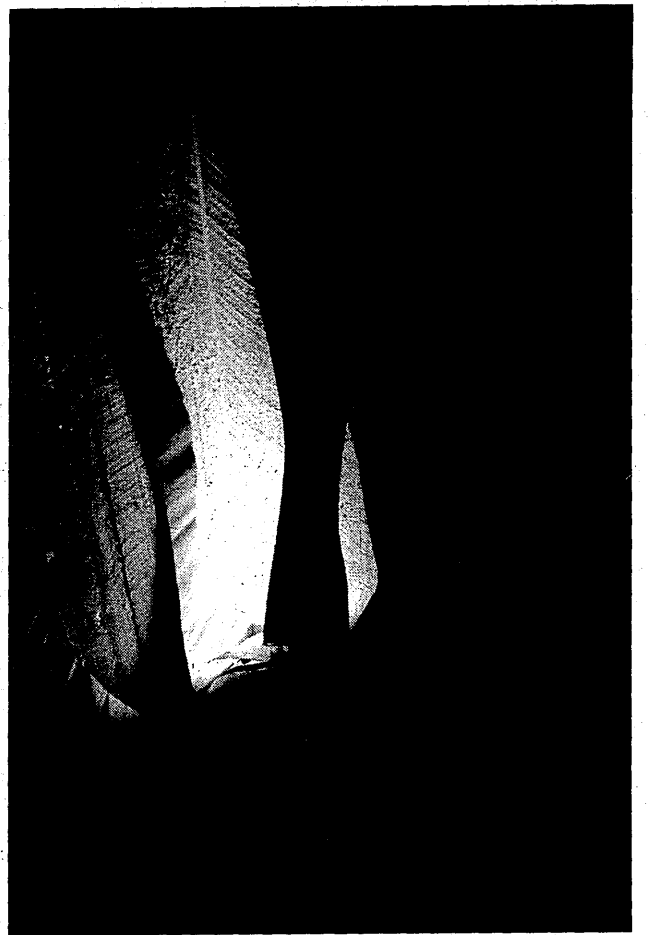


photo by Hailey Tucker THE WESTERN FRONT

The tomato in this photo was one of five fruits and vegetables that second-year Fairhaven student Jack Lipke constructed for his installation art piece. Lipke made an ear of corn sprouting out of the tomato to draw attention to the increasing amounts of corn products in today's processed foods.

# Blog comments and craigslist: how the Web is defining the new sexual revolution on college campuses across the nation

Rod Lotter  
Carmen Daneshmandi  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Since its inception in 1999, craigslist has become the go-to Web site for classified ad seekers. With a few clicks of the mouse, a person can find a cozy, two-bedroom apartment in Fairhaven for \$995 a month, a dishwashing job at Boston's Pizza, a free lawnmower with a broken pull-chord in the York neighborhood and no-strings-attached, any-way-you-want-it sex in the fourth floor bathroom of Wilson Library.

With 65 postings in the "casual encounters" section of Bellingham's craigslist by self-identified Western students in the last month, casual, anonymous sex is "in." Although determining how many of the ads are serious or successful is unclear.

Sex blogger Lena Chen spoke on May 18 about the college hook up culture and the role the Internet has played in her love life as a graduate student at Harvard University.

Chen's blog, Sex and The Ivy, received 2,000 visitors a day on two Web sites.

Initially, her first 19 posts provided a glimpse into her experiences involving relationships, casual sex, self-image and everything else one could find, filed under "college dating."

Chen said she does not look at casual sex in terms of good or bad.

"I think it is really naïve to say you can't go through life without having emotional attachments," Chen said. "I think what is most important is communication."

Chen said as long as casual sex is right for the person and his or her partner and they both understand the other expectations, that is all that matters, regardless of whether or not they met on craigslist.

While Chen said she considers the Internet to be a form of communication, Western's Sexual Awareness Center coordinator Ashley Thomas said she does not necessarily agree.

"Having real human contact and open communication in a sexual relationship would be ideal," Thomas said. "The faceless, humanless aspect of craigslist is kind of scary to me. Healthy sexual experiences come from communication and human contact."

Thomas said she finds the craigslist phenomenon interesting because of the anonymity associated with the postings. Every "casual encounters" posting on craigslist is anonymous, with the person usually only providing their age, sexual preference, general location, self-

description and what they want done to them or what they want to do to the reader. Some of them read like jokes, some read like plugs for pornographic Web sites, while others seem to be at least somewhat genuine.

Thomas said anonymity gives people a space to express themselves without judgment. It also gives them a way to seek out an outlet and community that may have been hard to find otherwise.

"With the Internet, people just don't have to try that

**"The faceless, humanless aspect of Craig's List is kind of scary to me. Healthy sexual experiences come from communication and human contact."**

- Ashley Thomas,  
Sexual Awareness Center coordinator

hard anymore. It's just about getting what you want and then just walking away. It's easier than actually getting to know someone."

"Genevieve," who was listed as a 19-year-old music student at Western, posted a casual encounters advertisement on craigslist in April. On her posting, Genevieve wrote she was new to town and looking for someone to have fun with but nothing serious.

In an e-mail interview, she said she mistook The Western Front's request for an interview as a role-playing fantasy.

"I'm very open-minded and want someone who knows what they're doing, if you know what I mean ;-)," she wrote.

Her e-mail contained a link to her personal Web site, which featured a picture of a girl in a bikini. At the bottom of the page, she provides a link to a pornographic Web site that offered the same kind of casual sex services as craigslist.

"This [craigslist] thing is crazy!" Genevieve said in the e-mail. "I've never posted on here before, but I figured 'what the heck.' It's a good way to meet people and have some fun!"

Genevieve did not respond to a second request for an e-mail interview. Her ad is no longer on craigslist.

Two Western students, who preferred to remain anonymous, decided to conduct an experiment last quarter concerning the role the Internet plays in modern sexual relationships, especially since there is no way to really know who is on the other side of the computer screen.

For the experiment, the students created a fake Internet identity. They gave her a name: Sophia Hanson; they gave her a look: a random Google image

search for "Female college student," and they gave her a voice through postings on casual sex Web sites.

So far, the experiment has yielded hundreds of responses via e-mail, the students said. The responses from people who wanted to meet Sophia ranged from friendly people who wanted to go on a date to people who expressed very misogynistic sexual desires in explicit and sometimes violent detail.

On May 20, craigslist removed the "erotic services" section of its site after receiving criticism stemming from a murder in Boston. A woman, who offered "masseur services" in the erotic services section is suspected of being murdered by a client who found her through craigslist.

The erotic services section was replaced with adult services. The new section will be screened by craigslist employees for content, prohibit sexually explicit photos, charge a \$10 fee and require a phone number and credit card for the advertisers.

Craigslist offers some tips to its users regarding meeting people through their Web site. The site's suggestions include meeting in public place, bringing a cell phone and trusting one's instincts.

Western, much like Chen's description of Harvard, has a prominent hook up culture, Thomas said.

"[Hooking up] is a common conversation on campus," Thomas said. "I can't remember a weekend in which someone hasn't talked to me about casual sex that they've had."

Chen, the blogger who became the poster child for the college hook up scene, said women, in particular, have trouble expressing themselves sexually, which may explain why 56 of the 65 casual encounter posts on craigslist are written by men.

"Even at a place like Harvard, there are a lot of people that issue a judgment on how harmful hook up culture is for women," Chen said.

As a sexually open female, Chen said she experienced negative backlash because of her supposed promiscuity, which she called "slut-shaming."

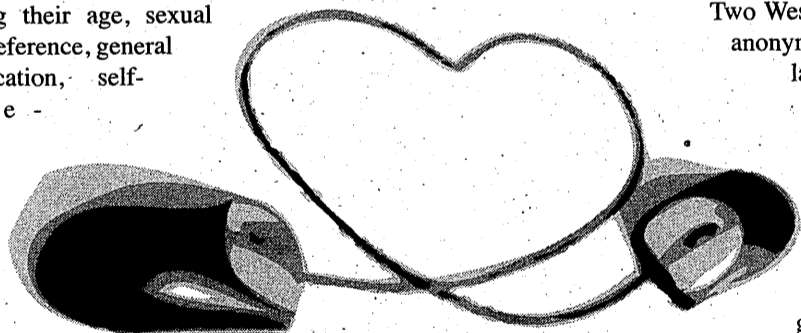
"I began to see real malice in people," Chen said. "It opened up my eyes that people nowadays don't see anything wrong with punishing women for being sexually active. It shows the extent of society's bigotry towards sexually open women."

Western junior Emily Ohmann attended Chen's talk.

"As a sexually active and 'promiscuous' girl, I feel like [Chen] reaffirmed a lot of the ideas I already had about sexuality," Ohmann said. "Hearing Chen speak will help me move forward, past a lot of my guilt issues over [sexuality]. Just knowing her experience helped reaffirm my beliefs."

Thomas said she thinks the reason casual sex and promiscuity are big topics on campus is because college students are at the age when they want to start experimenting and exploring their sexuality.

"Sexuality colors our experience of life," Thomas said. "This campus is an enclave of culture. [College] is about education and growth, and sex is a component of that."



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# Campaign seduces students to safer sex

Lauren Sauser  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Using a condom has never looked so sexy.

Western's Sexual Awareness Center (SAC), located in Viking Union (VU) room 518, offers free condoms in a variety of different colors, flavors, sizes and textures to students in a bin outside its door.

Students can take handfuls of assorted sexual items, including lubricants, dental dams, condoms and non-latex condoms from the bin. Non-latex condoms, which cost roughly \$19 for a pack of three at a drug store, are used if either partner is allergic to latex, said Ashley Thomas, Sexual Awareness Center coordinator.

"Condoms sold in the store are really expensive, especially for people who are allergic to latex and have to buy non-latex condoms," Thomas said. "The SAC is a great resource for students that need condoms but can't afford them."

The Safe is Sexy campaign is an event that takes place weekly. Every Friday in Red Square, the SAC encourages the Western campus community to get tested for STIs. The SAC offers information, safe-sex pledge forms and condoms, Thomas said.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a study in 2008 that revealed 3.2 million female

teenagers between the ages of 14 and 19 are infected with at least one of the four most common sexually transmitted infections: syphilis, chlamydia, gonorrhea and human papillomavirus (HPV).

Director of Western's Student Health Center Emily Gibson, M.D. said the most widespread infection is HPV, which can cause genital warts and cervical cancer. She said HPV is spread by skin-to-skin contact with the infected area, and the virus can live in the skin without causing symptoms. This is why people with HPV often do not know whether they have it or that they could spread it to others, she said. HPV is estimated to infect more than half of sexually active adults at some point, Gibson said.

"We encourage students that being safe is sexy, each student should determine what their own definition of 'safe' is," Thomas said. "It could be refraining from having sex altogether, or using condoms, birth control and dental dams."

Western senior Travis Brown said he knows students sometimes do not use condoms when they have sexual intercourse. In his opinion, condoms decrease sensitivity and many females are on birth control, which makes couples think they do not need condoms, Brown said.

"Being drunk and not having a condom around will really impair a person's judgment," Brown said. "Sex is a powerful thing, which causes people to make stupid decisions that could affect their sexual health forever."

The only way people can 100 percent protect themselves from a sexually transmitted infection is to not engage in any sexual activity, Gibson said.

Condoms, unless broken, are the most effective way to prevent infections and pregnancy if a person is already having sex, Thomas

said. Dental dams and condoms used during oral sex will help prevent the spread of STIs orally, Thomas said. The SAC goes through approximately 150 condoms every two days.

"I fill up the condom bin every couple days. I am always amazed and happy that all the condoms are gone, Thomas said. "I mean, students do pay for them as part of their student fees."

The SAC is a program of the Associated Students and is funded primarily by the Service and Activities student fee, said Kevin Majkut, director of student activities.

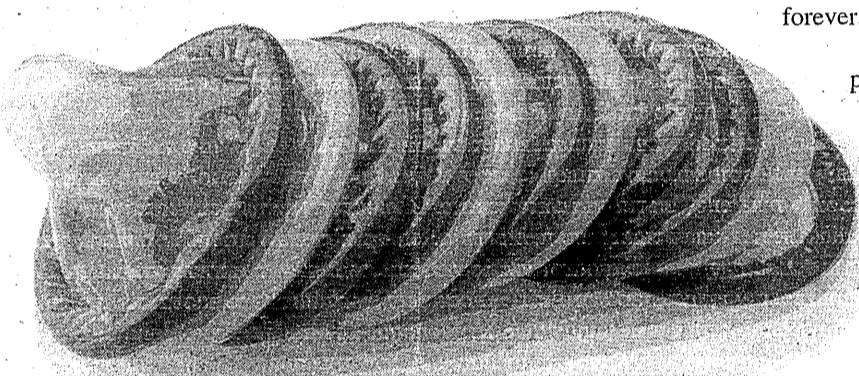
Majkut said each student pays 38 cents per year to fund the SAC's annual budget of \$5,021, which does not include the two student staff positions that are funded by the administrative budget.

Students not only receive unlimited condoms, lubricants and dental dams, but advice as well, Thomas said. The SAC staff is trained to answer sexual health questions and concerns. The staff also plans sexual awareness events, such as "Sexploration," which take place every Wednesday in VU room 714. Thomas said students can discuss the female orgasm and other sex questions in a safe space intended for sharing and learning.

University of Washington senior and fraternity member Conrad Hutton said Western students should feel lucky to have access to free condoms and other sexual items.

"At the University of Washington, free condoms are not available on campus or even at the health center," Hutton said. "I know not only the UW campus would benefit from free condoms, but the Greek system would as well."

At UW, students can get what is called a Condom Club Card. Students can purchase a membership card for \$15 that is good for up to ten uses. Each time members show their card, they receive 5 condoms. When the card is first purchased, members also receive a starter pack, which includes 15 condoms, lubricant, condom directions and candy, Hutton said.



## summer session

### JUNE SHORT COURSES

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ART 397B	Screen Printing Workshop (2)	June 24-July 3
ART 497B	Photo Explorations: Alt. Photographic Processes (5)	June 23-July 10
BIOL 445G	Wetland Delineation (4)	June 23-27
DSGN 397A	The Poster as an Agent of Change (2)	June 23-July 2
EGEO 201	Human Geography (4)	June 23-July 17
EGEO 203	Physical Geography (4)	June 23-July 17
EGEO 209	Geography and World Affairs (2)	June 23-July 2
EGEO 250	Geographic Information Systems Survey (2)	June 23-26
ESTU 397V	Natural History of NW Birds (3)	June 24-July 15
ESTU 397V	Natural History of NW Birds (3)	June 28-July 12
PLSC 423	The American Presidency (3)	June 23-July 10
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## Volunteer programs have much to offer

### Frontline

Opinions of the Editorial Board

In three weeks, graduation music will fill the air and the class of 2009 will walk down the aisle toward a bright, shiny future. But some students will be walking down the aisle with a looming burden in their future: student loans.

According to a 2007 article published in the Seattle P.I. entitled "U.S. college students buried under debt," most Washington state college students graduate with \$19,000 in debt. With skyrocketing tuition, set to go up as much as 30 percent over the next two years, that number is likely to increase.

Add up the average debt, mix in increasing tuition and factor in the rapidly diminishing job market and you have an equation that leaves college graduates, with or without student loans, feeling stressed.

While some students might seriously be considering an escape to Canada, there are viable alternatives to student loans that

include the added perk of giving back to the community at a time when American communities could really use a helping hand.

Programs such as AmeriCorps present opportunities for recent college graduates to volunteer anywhere in the country, earn a living wage and at the end of a year of service, AmeriCorps volunteers are granted \$4,725 to pay off student loans or to put away for graduate school.

Similar programs include the Peace Corp and Teach for America, which offer financially-based educational incentives, in addition to giving students an opportunity to apply the skills they have learned in college. In fact, Western has a long tradition of Peace Corps service and boasts a total of 750 Peace Corps alumni.

Recently, Peace Corps and AmeriCorps volunteer opportunities have expanded since the Obama administration increased federal funding to both programs to encourage a spirit of service among Americans.

In fact, service can begin at Western

in the "Students in Service" AmeriCorps program, which recently received a grant of \$375,000 to help recruit volunteers for community activities, such as mentoring and service learning.

While the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps are not for everyone, we would like to take the opportunity to encourage upcoming Western graduates to respond to President Obama's call to service.

We hope Western students continue to embody a spirit of service when the economy recovers, because the generosity of Western students truly sets our school apart.

Volunteer programs are a great way to apply the skills learned in college to a worthwhile goal of improving our community while also paying back student loans or investing in graduate school.

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

## Student deserve health care reform now

Laura Hughes  
Guest Columnist

This is not a test.

All over television screens last month, MTV used this slogan in a campaign to Get Yourself Tested. This was a nationwide effort encouraging young adults to take control of their sex life by preventing, screening and treating sexually transmitted infections. Despite major efforts to raise awareness, STIs are still on the rise in Washington state and are heavily affecting college campuses.

According to the Washington State Department of Health, the highest rates of gonorrhea in Whatcom County were among people ages 20-25 and affects men and women almost equally.

These statistics raise a crucial question: Are you in control of your sex life?

Although many students agree that reproductive health care is important, cost can be a major challenge. Students who are not on medical insurance must pay out of pocket for STI screenings, yearly exams and birth control. These services are all part of routine health care at clinics, whether it is campus based, such as the Health Center, or a non-profit such as Planned Parenthood.

But is the price of reproductive freedom out of a college student's price range?

Fortunately for strapped college kids, there are programs set in place to help. Take Charge is a program offered at Planned Parenthood to connect youth with affordable methods of contraception. This program has been highly effective and served roughly 4,800 low-income people in the Whatcom, Skagit and San Juan regions in 2008, according to Mount Baker Planned Parenthood's annual report.

However, state cutbacks and regulations imposed two years ago have since dropped roughly 51 percent of Take Charge clients from the program.

This is particularly relevant to non-U.S. citizens and young adults utilizing parental insurance who no longer qualify for Take Charge. Are you on your parents' insurance but still want the right to affordable reproductive health care while keeping your freedom and confidentiality?

We all need comprehensive, affordable health care, and we need it now. Reproductive health is not where it ends, but it should not be excluded by any means.

Health care reform is an issue currently on the table in every doctor's office and on every government official's desk. President Barack Obama is pushing for a change in the health care system this year,

limiting the amount of power given to private insurance companies and expanding provisions to a comprehensive program which will meet more needs for more people.

This is a major shift from what we see today, and it cannot come soon enough. Between inflation's rise and the economy's decline, there are now higher costs for health care with less people on medical insurance. According to a recent study by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, health care has doubled in cost between 1999 and 2006, and cost is only expected to increase.

This is a real, relevant issue that affects you and your campus community; you can help create change by taking action.

Nationwide, people are coming together in support of health care reform by participating in marches, rallies and other major events this season. In Washington state, there is a rally and march on Saturday, May 30 in Seattle: Health Care for all in 2009. People from across the state are joining in to speak out, stand up and meet community members who support the right to affordable health care. Join in on the fight for reform!

*Laura Hughes is a Western junior and an intern with Planned Parenthood.*

### Viking Voices

Opinions from around campus

## What are your plans for Memorial Day weekend?

Compiled by: Lauren Sauser



Kevin Grimstad  
Sophomore

"Going to Smith Rock in Oregon to rock climb with a couple buddies."



Claude Atcho  
Senior

"I am going home to Olympia to visit my mother as a make-up for missing Mother's Day."



Kevin Ng  
Sophomore

"I am planning on swimming and relaxing before finals start."



Aryn McKenzie  
Senior

"I am going to be stuck in a library basement studying 100-year-old dead bodies."

## Letter to the Editor:

Response: Shepard addresses question of cutting his salary

Way to go, Bruce.

People need to understand that smugness doesn't come cheap.

All across the nation, "sitting" university presidents have taken voluntary pay cuts to show solidarity with faculty, staff and students.

If only these administrators understood—as Bruce Shepherd does—that such sacrifice merely imperils the bloated salaries of their successors.

I suppose you could technically keep your \$300,000 per year, but donate some of it back to the University, perhaps to some of the programs you are destroying.

But I suspect you've already taken that option under advisement and deemed

it not in Western's best long-term interests.

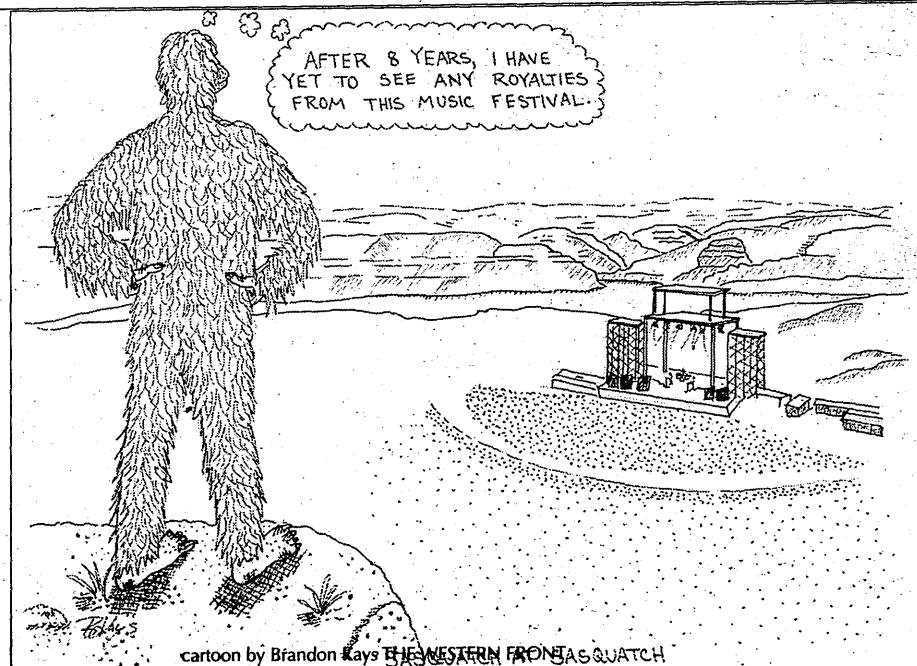
Enough already.

I've spent the past 25 years bragging to anyone who would listen what a great school Western is.

No more.

Here's one East Coast alumni who hopes the Western Board of Trustees will swallow its pride and put a quick and merciful end to an administration whose patronizing tone and willful disregard for the truth mock everything Western has stood for.

Jeff Kramer  
Western alumni



cartoon by Brandon Kays THE WESTERN FRONT AS SQUATCH

## Hall of Fame golfer honored at nationals

Former Viking Bill Wright celebrates the 50th anniversary of becoming the first African-American to win a USGA-sponsored title

Nicholas Johnson  
THE WESTERN FRONT

The warm, welcoming scent of freshly steamed corn and thick-cut prime rib lingers in the air as 73-year-old Western alumnus Bill Wright slowly rises from his seat at the head table and makes his way to the podium.

The room of collegiate golfers and their coaches from around the country begin clapping vigorously as Wright approaches Jim Vernon, president of the United States Golf Association, who stands ready to present Wright with an honorary scroll commemorating his 1959 U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship.

As he accepts the scroll, Wright nonchalantly waves to the audience provoking an immediate standing ovation. As the crowd is on its feet, Vernon leaves the podium.

"Thank you," Wright said, as he leaned down to speak into the microphone. "I am so happy to be here."

The Semiahmoo Resort hosted the NCAA Division II National Men's Golf Tournament banquet. Twenty Division II golf teams, eight individual golfers from non-qualifying teams and their respective coaches converged at the banquet to not only kick off Western's first time hosting an NCAA championship event, but also honor the 50th anniversary of Wright becoming the first African-American to win a USGA-sponsored national title.

Wright also placed first in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) District I meet to earn All-District honors in 1958 and 1960. Also in 1960, Wright captured first-team All-American honors at the NAIA National Tournament.

He was invited back to Western in 1968 to be one of the first seven athletes



Photo by Alex Roberts THE WESTERN FRONT

Western Alumnus Bill Wright accepts the plaque he was awarded in 1959 for winning the Public Links Championship. Wright had not seen this plaque since the day he won the tournament because he had to hurry to campus to take a physical education test.

inducted into Western's Athletic Hall of Fame. Only two other golfers have been inducted since: Paul Rudis, Wright's friend and teammate was inducted in 1984, and Claudia Lindor-Uhrig in 1980. As Western's Player of the Century, Wright is also a member of Western's All-Century Men's Golf Team.

Wright and his wife, Ceta, said they did not realize he would be honored at the

banquet until seeing details of the event in local press coverage.

"We thought [Jim Vernon] was coming for the NCAA [tournament]; we thought he might be connected with that, and it might just be a coincidence," Ceta Wright said. "But then I saw it in some other articles, and I said, 'Bill, look. It says they're going to do a presentation.'"

As the first African-American to win

such a prestigious title, Monday night's applause was in recognition of Wright's performance in the summer of 1959 Public Links Championship at the Wellshire Golf Course near Denver, Colo. In six nine-hole matches, Wright birdied the 1st, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th rounds. While

see **WRIGHT** page 15

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# Western volleyball signs two high school standouts

**Mandi Brady**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Two of the recruits joining Western's women's volleyball team this fall are Burlington-Edison High School senior Kinsey Davis, who will play as an outside hitter, and Marysville-Pilchuck High School senior Emily Boerger, who will play as a middle blocker. Each recently signed a national letter of intent to play with Western, said Diane Flick, Western's volleyball head coach.

"Both of them are very physical athletes, who have a lot of potential in the game," Flick said. "They're good students, and with training, they're going to add a lot more depth to the program."

Davis and Boerger will be joining a recruiting class which includes outside hitter Marlayna Geary from Tacoma's Bellarmine Prep and middle blocker Bailey Jones from Mukilteo's Kamiak High School. Both Geary and Jones signed letters of intent earlier in the season, Flick said. Davis and Boerger will be taking a year off, red-shirting, to train because they are less experienced while the other incoming freshmen, Geary and Jones will be available their first year, Flick said.

"Emily and Kinsey played a little bit smaller clubs that played more regionally, so they just need to get more experience," Flick said.

Boerger is a 6 foot, 1 inch middle hitter, who plays the game with a lot of fire and makes decisions off what she sees, Flick said.

"She's a very, very good student; she's valedictorian of her class, and she plays volleyball that way—very cerebral," Flick said.

Flick said having a high volleyball IQ, or knowing which moves to make and when, is just as important as having a high, vertical jump.

Flick said Davis is strong and can jump well.



Photo courtesy of Rick Jones

One of Western's new recruits, Burlington-Edison High School senior Kinsey Davis, spikes the ball for her Washington Volleyball Academy team.

"She is 100 percent hard work all the time," Flick said. "That kind of physical talent sometimes goes off of just what their God-given talents are."

Flick said she thinks Davis wants to learn the game the right way and will become a better player as she gets older.

Flick said she starts putting a list together of possible recruits during their sophomore year in high school. During that time, if there are three spots open she said she looks at approximately 50 students. The number of recruits Flick looks at is dependent on the number of spots open. She then narrows the list down to three students by the time the students are juniors so she can begin making offers.

Flick builds the recruiting process to find people with similar values and work ethics, said Western senior Tiana Roma, a middleback during her career at Western who is graduating in June.

"There's always some sort of commodity that works really well together," Roma said.

The team meets the new recruits on their official visits before the fall, and by the time they start practicing, they really know who each other are, Roma said.

"The last thing we learn is how they play, and that's something you trust your coach with," Roma said. "There's a lot of trust to it, but things should go relatively smoothly."

Flick said the physical skill of the athlete is important, but players should also bring good chemistry to the team. To do this, she said she talks to their coach and watches how they interact with their teammates and parents to see if they are the ones taking the initiative on the court.

"There's a lot of different scenarios where you can figure out what kind of player or kid they are," Flick said.

Davis said she has been playing volleyball since elementary school and was accepted into Western's art department, where she will be majoring in graphic design. Other than volleyball, Davis also runs for her school track

see RECRUITS page 16

# Track star could go the distance at nationals

**Lisa Carrougher**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Despite Western sophomore Sarah Porter's ultimate fear of being chased, she has broken numerous school records and will compete in the NCAA Division II National Track Championships May 21-23 in San Angelo, Texas, along with eight other Western track athletes.

Fear aside, Porter said she still "runs scared," feeling

nervous with 100 people behind her in a race.

"I like to run in the front, so I run out as far ahead as I can, running away from everyone else," Porter said. "So my fear might be an asset."

Porter automatically qualified for nationals in the women's 5,000 meter with a personal best time of 16 minutes, 50.87 seconds and the 10,000 with a time of 34:58.37. Porter set school records in both events and is now ranked fifth nationally.

This year's track nationals will be Porter's sixth appearance in national championships in sports. She has also made two national appearances for cross country and indoor track. Porter is striving to be an All-American this year. She has previously placed 13th nationally in cross

see PORTER page 16

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# WRIGHT: Dual-sport athlete excelled both on and off the field

from 13

most golfers carried 14 clubs, Wright said he carried 12 because that was all he had at the time.

Approximately two weeks after Wright won the Public Links, Western's newspaper at the time, The Collegian, published his July 31, 1959 story, under the headline, "Champ Wright Tells Of Amateur Tourney."

The first sentence of the story read, "Western's Bill Wright took only a few days to go from obscurity to the top ranks of amateur golf when he won the national Public Link's tournament two weeks ago."

However, the reporter had forgotten to ask one thing: where was Wright's trophy?

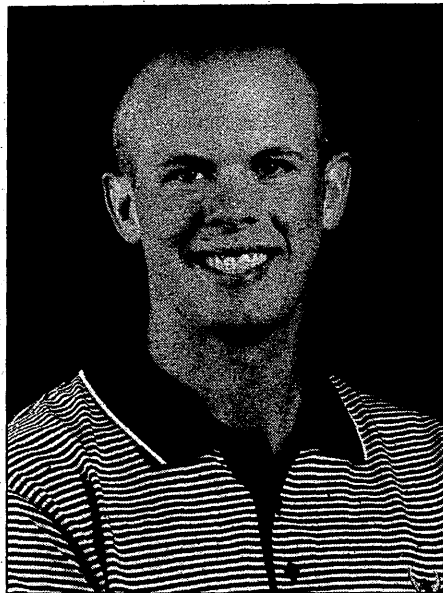
Wright said he had to hurry back to Western after being presented with a plaque at the Wellshire Golf Course to take a physical education test. He was unable to take the plaque with him when he left and was told it would be sent to him. But it never came.

"I had to leave so quickly that I had to leave the plaque and they gave me a medal," said Wright, racking his memory. "The plaque they gave me, they sent, but it never got [to Western]."

Wright said Western's Alumni Association hosted the Bill Wright Alumni Golf Tournament for five years during the 1990s. At the penultimate tournament, before the association stopped hosting the event, Dermot Cunningham, Wright's college roommate and teammate on Western's basketball team, surprised Wright with the plaque he had not seen since the day he won the championship.

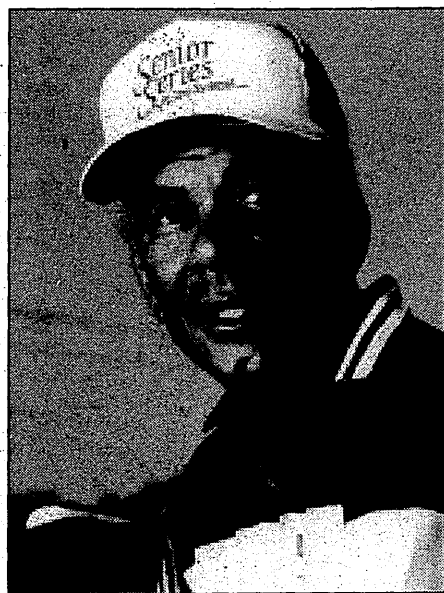
"[Cunningham] said he was just accidentally shopping through this store [where he noticed the plaque]," Wright said. "It wasn't an antique store, but it may have been an antique store. I don't know, but I got the plaque back."

Wright said he returned the plaque to Western after holding on to it for a year because he felt the university deserved to



Western alumnus Bill Wright faced adversity as a collegiate golfer in the 1950's. Wright said he could identify with Western senior Jake Koppenberg in his road to a national title.

have it more than he did. Although a test seemed to have kept Wright from his Public Links Championship plaque for nearly 30 years, he said education was his highest priority at Western.



Photos courtesy of the Western Athletic Department

lor, a Hall of Fame professional basketball player from the 1960s, had attended UW that quarter; both ended up transferring to different schools. Baylor went to Seattle University and Wright headed straight for Western.

**"Western's Bill Wright took only a few days to go from obscurity to the top ranks of amateur golf when he won the national Public Links tournament."**

- "Champ Wright Tells Story of Amateur Tourney" Western's student newspaper, The Collegian July 31, 1959

"I was here, and I had made up my mind it was the education that I was dealing with," Wright said. "I wasn't dealing with making money or excelling in either [golf or basketball]."

After spending one quarter at the University of Washington, then-basketball-coach William "Tippy Dye" Harrison told Wright he did not want to have the first African-American player on his team, which left Wright eager to transfer to a new school. Both Wright and Elgin Bay-

Wright said he came to Western because he and Dean C.W. McDonald, who had been Western's basketball coach until 1955, had a great friendship.

"Coach [Jack] Hubbard saw me out there playing basketball every day in my socks," Wright said. "He didn't know me because he was clearly new, but he wanted me to play for him."

During the 1958-1959 basketball season, Wright averaged 12.5 points per game placing him at the top of the team's scor-

ing list. By the time spring came around, he and Rudis had become close friends and developed a system for beating their rival schools in golf matches.

"[Rudis] would play the number one [spot], and I would play number two or three [spot] because you could beat that [opposing] three [spot] easily," Wright said. "We organized that, and that was one reason I was able to do what I did in terms of qualifying."

As the number two golfer, Wright would tee off before all the number one golfers and surprise the rest of the teams, Wright said. He and Rudis were the two strongest golfers at the time and because coach John Kulbitski was also Western's football coach, Wright felt he and Rudis had to take control of the team.

"[Kulbitski] knew nothing about golf," Wright said. "Absolutely nothing."

Wright said he has always seen golf as an individual sport; despite the fact that schools have golf teams.

"It's not a team sport. Period. A team will travel together, be friends together and what have you," Wright said. "But once you tee off you're not paying attention to anybody. In basketball, you have to pay attention to everybody. You just don't have to be around those people very often in golf; you don't have very many matches in golf either. Take Western Washington [University] this year: A team went someplace, and one person came back with all the goodies."

Wright said he could identify with Western senior Jake Koppenberg, Western's lone representative in the NCAA Division II National Men's Golf Tournament this year.

Going into Thursday's third round, Koppenberg was tied for 14th, six shots behind the lead golfer. He wrapped up the day Wednesday three-over par after dropping four strokes on three of the final holes.

"I'm really pulling for Jake," Wright said. "He's a fine player and I know he'll do well."

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## Porter: Sophomore makes sixth national appearance in college career

from 14

country and finished sixth nationally in the 5,000. Porter has also set a women's school record in the mile with a time of 4:46.37. She has also set school records last winter in the 3,000 at 9:47.86, in the 5,000 at 16:56.07 and in the distance medley at 11:57.17.

After Porter graduates from college, she said she plans to try out for the Olympics.

"Every athlete wants to be an Olympian," Porter said. "[Going to the Olympics] did not become real until last year when I realized I have the potential, and it would be a huge accomplishment to get there."

Porter said she does not consider herself the most talented track athlete, but she has grown to understand the concept of what it means to work hard to accomplish her dreams. In order to be well prepared for competitions, Porter said she runs about 110 miles per week and plans to increase her mileage to 125 miles during the summer.

Sophomore Megan Zukowski, who runs the 100 and 200, said Porter is a good example of someone who works hard and is an inspiration as a well-qualified runner.

"Any time of the day, you always see her running, and she is always encouraging other teammates," Zukowski said. "She goes the extra mile—literally."

Porter said her tradition is to listen to music before competitions and having pep talks with the other athletes. This helps because even though she has raced hundreds of times, she said she still gets nervous the day of competitions.

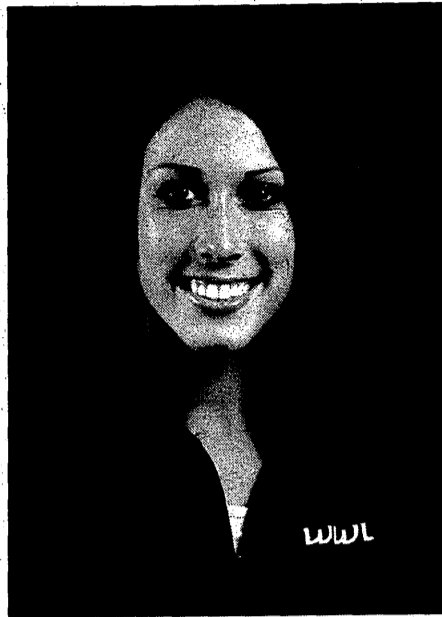


Photo courtesy of the Western Athletic Department  
**Sarah Porter competes in indoor and outdoor track as well as cross country.**

"We all [the track team] support each other with words of encouragement, which helps us to be successful," said sophomore Jordan Welling, who runs the 5,000 and the 10,000 for the men.

Welling earned All-American recognition last fall in cross-country and finished ninth in the 5,000 at the indoor track nationals. He currently holds the indoor record at Western in the 3,000 at 8:19.80 and the 5,000 at 14:21.30.

Welling said Porter works harder than anyone and sets the standard for the line of work ethic. He said she takes running seriously and is always striving to outwork and outrun other competitors.

Freshman Alex Tilley, a male track sprinter, said Porter works hard at practice, and she inspires everyone on the team.

### Accomplishments

1. Ranked fifth nationally
2. Got automatic qualifying times in both the 5,000 meter and 10,000
3. This year will be her sixth national appearance in sports
4. Striving to be honored with her third All-American title this academic year
5. In previous years, Porter has placed sixth in the 5,000
6. Porter has placed 13th in the nation in cross country
7. **School record times:**  
3,000 9:47.86  
5,000 16:50.87  
10,000 34:58.37  
Distance medley 11:57.17  
Mile 4:46.37

"When we see her do well, it shows us how we can be better and how hard work can really pay off," Tilley said.

Due to her significant dedication to running, Porter said she considers it a love/hate relationship. Because she pushes herself so hard, she said running takes a toll on her body.

"She is willing to put in more time and miles," Welling said. "She makes sacrifices, so she is one of the top runners in the nation. She makes a lot of sacrifices [most] people are not willing to make."

## RECRUITS: Women will succeed off court

from 14

and field team.

Davis said she decided to come to Western because she heard the coaching was reputable. On her official visit, she said she decided she liked the school and the girls on the team.

To get a sense of the school, Davis said she and her father made a long list of questions to ask Flick when they came on their official visit. She said she also talked to the girls on the team about Western and playing on the sports team.

"I asked a lot of the girls a lot of questions about what it's like to live up [in Bellingham] and be on the team from their perspective," Davis said. "I got a lot of my answers that way."

Outside of sports, Davis said she likes hanging out with her friends, wakeboarding and being outdoors.

The team does a lot of bonding activities so everyone can get acquainted with each other after the summer break and learn about the new teammates, Western junior and setter Kari Rice said. She said going from high school to college is a hard transition, but being a part of a sports team makes it easier because the team is a built-in support group.

"I think we have a lot of good personnel to build with and I think that we will do great. We really get along chemistry-wise," Rice said.

The volleyball team practices about 20 hours per week during the fall season, with weight training, practice and team meetings, Flick said.

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